

Nuggets of History

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NUGGETS OF HISTORY BECOMES A QUARTERLY

At a recent Directors' meeting, the Board of Directors of the Rockford Historical Society voted to change the former bi-monthly paper, NUGGETS OF HISTORY, to a quarterly of twelve pages. For a dozen years we have produced eight pages every two months. By publishing twelve pages every three months instead, we will save postage and the cost of envelopes, and it is hoped that it will also result in more flexibility, efficiency, and a better paper.

GO IT WHILE YOU'RE YOUNG!

By Hazel M. Hyde

(Concluded from last issue)

A cry of joy! A miracle happened! A long thread as fine as a spider web spun down from the spoon to the bubbling liquid. Everyone rushed back to butter a plate or a tin pie pan. The thick golden-liquid was poured by portions into plates.

Boys and girls poured out onto the porch, forgetting the cold, and started pushing the taffy toward the center of the plates with a fork, as it hardened. It would then ooze out to the sides again and the boys now took the plates and were repeating the process until the taffy stayed in a ball. Calls of "Ours is ready!" "Hey is this ready to pull?" filled the air. Some were afraid it might end up in a hardened glob. "You can't take it up too soon either or you will burn your hands." After a few burnt hands, everyone learned the lesson.

Then everyone buttered his hands, scarcely noticing the dainty flower mold mark on the top of the home churned round pats of butter. The taffy didn't stick to the buttered hands.

A couple might take turns as they first began to pull. The main idea was to pull fast, never twisting the strands, and try to get the air into the taffy. It would become light and porous. The taffy glistened and grew translucent. "If you twist the strands it will force the air out," someone warned. They all dreaded a thin sticky substance, but hope was high.

The time had arrived to pull the stands in doubles. "Pull as far as you can pull." Lay them on buttered plates and mark with a knife at one inch intervals for cutting. If well done, the taffy was thick and brittle and the boys could snap off the pieces where they were marked. Some couples needed to use scissors to cut the pieces.

If any taffy was left over after it had become hard, it was wrapped in small squares of paper and the ends were twisted. It could be a nice treat on the sleigh ride home. Everyone became adept through long practice in making and

pulling the candy. A few became equally skilled in secreting some pieces in a pocket or muff to be taken out as a sweet surprise.

Yarns of the "good old days" must include the fun and excitement of the taffy pull. No wonder John Thurston said, "Go it while you're young."

THE DEDICATION ADDRESS AT GETTYSBURG By Clem Burns

Let us think back in time to the evening of July 7, 1863, in our nation's capitol; worried days; sleepless nights; the paucity of news from the two great battle-fields; one a short hundred miles to the north; and the second, nearly a thousand miles southwest; but not greatly relieved by the final word of Grant's action before Vicksburg; nor by final and official word of the defeat of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.

We know that a group of citizens, led by a brass band, moved to the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue, to congratulate the President, and rally in the good news from the two Armies. Mr. Lincoln's words were few: "Fellow citizens, I am glad to see you tonight, and yet I will not say I thank you for this call; rather do I most sincerely thank the almighty God for this occasion on which you have called. How long is it? eighty odd years, since on the Fourth of July, for the first time in the history of the world, a nation, by its representatives, assembled, and declared as a self evident truth that 'All men are created equal.'"

We note that in this first reference to the time elapsed, Mr. Lincoln did not have the term of years in mind, but the next time he made reference, he would know, and mention in a way never to be forgotten. The battle on the gently rolling hills of southern Pennsylvania was over, but we must remember that over 20,000 soldiers of both sides lay in homes, tents, public buildings, of all kinds, and in forgotten wooded areas, and in overlooked areas, orchards and wheat fields, and in the shelter of stone fences, common at that time, prior to the development of steel wire fencing. Many of these never to regain gainful occupations because of physical condition. These are over and above the 7,000 of both sides, who would never rise again.

The Red Cross and the Salvation Army were not organized at this time, nor the Medical corps as such; but the Sanitary and Christian Commission of the day, forerunners, came with personnel, medicine and supplies as these and transportation were available. And we must recall that anesthetic was new, and so in short supply; and also that medical personnel from this, our own area, rallied to the assistance, so sorely needed.

Burial parties were organized, and system brought out of the efforts to inter the remains on a temporary registration plan. For we must remember that our government, to this time had no plan for cemeteries to include Civil War soldiers of the Union, as most of those fallen from the

northern ranks were in the South in hostile territory, though a small number had been identified by relatives and returned to their home areas.

Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania, realizing that the several thousand fallen Union soldiers presented a problem, asked an attorney of Gettysburg, a Mr. Wills, to study what might be feasibly done. The counselor suggested that an administrative unit, such as a National Soldier's Cemetery Corporation, with members from each of the northern states having lost men at this battle; and so authorized to own and manage free from local control; and Mr. Wills was asked to contact the governors of the 18 states involved; he having already purchased for the State of Pennsylvania, a sizable parcel, near the local cemetery, and near one of the high points of the July 1st action; and considered by military historians as most important in the overall action.

It is interesting to note the costs were to be portioned to the states on the basis of their individual Congressional representation; to some this was not important, but Illinois contributed \$12,000, but had only 6 burials there; Massachusetts paid \$8,000, with 158 burials. New York and Pennsylvania each had many men lost there, but were populous states; but there was said to be no dissent to this plan.

The initial plan for the grounds included an area, reserved for a monument to be erected later, and is the site of the temporary platform for the speakers of the day; this was originally set for late October; but later it was changed to meet Mr. Edward Everett's convenience, he having been asked to be the principal speaker. Mr. Everett was a nationally known orator, an Attic professor at Harvard and later president there, a Congressman, U. S. Senator, Governor of Massachusetts, minister to Great Britain, and Secretary of State.

Dates and details having been resolved, formal invitations were sent to dignitaries, military and national, including the Vice President. But as late as November 2, Counselor Wills wrote to Mr. Lincoln, stating the desire: "That, after the oration, you, as Chief Executive of the Nation, formally set apart these grounds by a few appropriate remarks". And inviting Mr. Lincoln to stay at his home in Gettysburg.

Mr. Lincoln was given a draft of Mr. Everett's address. He asked that arrangements be made for a special train for the group accompanying him (and it is interesting to note that some cabinet members asked to be excused because of official business pressure); among those planned for the train were the Marine Band, a military guard of honor, various secretaries and legates, military personnel, and a Baltimore group, including a band and a glee club.

It is on this trip, November 18, that the story originated that Mr. Lincoln was observed making notes on the back of an old envelope; others mention a sheet of paper, and it is also reported by an onlooker at the Union Station in Washington, that he had several sheets of foolscap in hand. A group, including a band, serenaded Mr. Lincoln at

the Wills home and called for a speech, but he "begged to be excused", stating that he had no speech prepared.

It is apparent that Mr. Lincoln had a draft prepared in Washington, but may not have had it in fully developed form, being on White House stationery for the first sheet and the second sheet on plain paper. It is now generally accepted that he revised or completed it in the Wills home, having retired early.

Mr. Lincoln was provided with a horse for the morning trip to the cemetery, and some confusion was reported in the handling of the parade; but all had to wait for Mr. Everett, who was thirty minutes late. After a prayer by the Reverend Stockton, and a selection by the Marine Band, Mr. Everett spoke; some saying one hour and 57 minutes; others say longer; but the fact is that very few can locate a copy, and few have read it. It was noted that Mr. Lincoln offered congratulations to Mr. Everett. The Baltimore Glee Club then rendered an ode, and Marshal Lamont introduced the President of the United States.

We must realize that Mr. Lincoln's words were not addressed only to the many gathered, for he spoke to the North, the South, and the entire world; and that he spoke in two minutes or slightly more; and in short words for the "little" man to grasp, appreciate, 204 of his words being of one syllable, 50 of two syllables, and only 18 of three or more syllables. Almost all of his words were of Anglo Saxon derivation, with possibly 46 of Latin origin.

And Mr. Lincoln's words were these:

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we can not consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have, thus far, so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

CHIEF BLACK HAWK
By Frances Conklin French

Chief Black Hawk was born at the Sac Village on Rock River a short distance above its confluence with the Mississippi. The population has estimated to have been 11,000. The village itself was remarkable. It was laid out in lots, blocks, streets and alleys, with even a village square. The hodensotes, or lodges were long, bark covered loghouses and were from 18 to 40 feet wide. Many of them housed the entire family. Their public square was used for many events. The courts of justice feasts, meetings, feats of strength, war dances, etc. were all held there. In 1824 Saukenuk was well guarded, a palisaded village of 10,000, laid out with straight rows of elm-bark lodges with broad streets and alleys between all, leading toward the great square that reached wide and was hard-packed, from Rock River back toward the hills. The council house, set in a corner of the brush palisade, with its back toward the river, faced the square and the whole of the village. It was the largest Indian village west of the Alleghenies during his time. Its palisade of timbers had two gates--one north and one south, offering the protection typical of such a permanent village. Lodges, at least in summer, were made of poles and covered with bark principally from elm. Mat covered lodges were warmer and more secure in winter. More than one family lived in each lodge which had only one entrance facing the east. A smoke hole in the roof for each family living there was characteristic, since each family had its own fire. If there were three generations in one house there would be three smoke holes. The Fox called themselves Mesquakie. The richness of the valley, the thick woods, fruit trees and excellent hunting and abundance of fish made it a truly "happy hunting ground." Cutting Marsh a missionary who visited the Sauk and Fox tribes in 1834 described Black Hawk's lodge as a "specimen of neatness and good order, surrounded by melonvines." Black Hawk's wife was Asshewequa or "Singing Bird". He had two sons. One, Young Whirling Thunder, was an object of admiration when Black Hawk toured the East. He also had an adopted son, Chaske. His father was first chief and called Py-e-sa. He is described as hook-nosed, hollow-cheeked, a warrior. His most distinguishing feature was the bald head with a tuft of hair on top. The tuft was known to have been fastened with the tail of a deer or an elk. Black Hawk was probably five feet eight inches in height, thin and wiry and had the most piercing eyes ever seen in a human head. From the letters of Stephen Mack from Chicago to his sister, Black Hawk is described as follows: One would think Napoleon Bonaparte had risen from the grave and presented himself in the person of Black Hawk and that the spirit of his millions of heroes were concentrated in the five to six hundred warriors led by that chief. They were brave and subtle and it is dangerous to encounter them without overwhelming force. The Sauk and Fox Indians were often at war with the Osages. Black Hawk described the last battle

with them in dance form. He was then only 19 and had led 200 warriors. When an equal number came against him the fight was most desperate. Among other dances performed in the village square was the national dance. The chiefs and old warriors take seats on mats which have been spread at the upper end of the square. The crane dance, war, hunting, scalp, gratitude, prayer and calumet dances were others done in the village square. The calumet dance was done sometimes to strengthen peace or to unite themselves for some great war. The pipe for this dance was most unusual. The pipe was fashioned from red stone, polished like marble, one end served as receptacle for tobacco while other end fit into the stem. Mats of the prairie Indians were woven without looms. They were made of animal or vegetable fibers as were their sashes and bags. Rushes, corn husks and bark were used for mats, also. Twining and plaiting, sometimes on the diagonal was the technique. Women usually make about 300 floor mats every year. Pictures of Black Hawk show him wearing medallions obtained from the French, British and Americans, in trade. In an effort to pacify the Indians--and subtly encourage warriors to turn to farming, the government awarded them medals. Medals were symbols of rank and authority and had become a part of tribal legend. After the war of 1812, Britain struck a special medal to mark its appreciation for the military service of her Indian allies. Black Hawk fought under four flags, which may account for his fondness for them. Indian games such as LaCrosse, games of chance, wrestling, horse racing, running, throwing, stone throwing, chasing cloud shadows in the hills or swinging from tree branches were games played by all Indians. Canoes of the Indians were both birch bark and dug-outs. Canoe making was done by curving ribs of cedar which had been softened in water and which were covered with birchbark. Sometimes boats were made of buffalo hides and willow bands and these were tub-like in appearance. Papyriferais is the name ascribed to the type of birch used for canoe making and hut building as it is easily peeled, never regenerates. Birch bark is not plentiful in Rock River Valley today but one sees quite a bit of it in Southern Wisconsin. When Black Hawk was 13 years old, ribbon came into use as an Indian decoration. Southern tribes of the Lakes area which included the Fox and Sauk, uses strips of cloth sewn into place on a strip of leather. These were used as garters and were four to five inches wide, tied around the leg above the knee. The clothing of Black Hawk was usually buck skin or the hide of a deer, which had been tanned by either wetting it and exposing it to smoke or rubbing it with the brain of a deer until the hide was soft. His leggings, moccasins and poncho shirt were white. "White creatures, white birds and animals, like the rare white buffalo are special charges of the manitou." The pipe bag, a beaded bag, given him by Tecumseh was Black Hawk's most cherished possession, the one thing he had not given away when he made himself poor after the death of his son. Usually a Sauk mourned the loss of a close relative from six months to a year. He blackened his

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face, neglected his personal appearance and remained comparatively inactive. Indian tools were hoes, knives and scraper made from bone, using the large flat blade of the buffalo and were typical of all Prairie Indians. Deer and bear scapulae were made into scoops and spoons. Flutes and whistles were made from the long bones of birds and were used for dance music or to summon someone. Ears, hair and elbows and ankles were often ornamented with bracelets of bear claws but bear claw collars were more common. The antler roach or spreader, in the Sauk tribe, was straight. Black Hawk is most commonly shown with a tomahawk, since he was a warrior. Spears were used for hunting and for putting fire to a sail. The name Sauk comes from Osakiwug, meaning "people of the yellow earth". The earliest known home of the Sauks is Saginaw Bay, which is named after them. Every Sauk baby has a birth color. The mother says when it is born whether it will be yellow or white. Later, in war, the whites try to get more than the yellow. And a man always uses his birth color when he paints for war, putting on other color along with it. War paint was red, black, blue and white. The red for courage and pride, black for death, blue for cruel and cunning and deceit. White for riches and generosity. Black Hawk treasured his medicine bag. When asked if he worshiped it, he replied "No, it's only a sign we can see, a sign of a source of help we cannot see." Medicine was made from roots of trees, berries or grass. Clam shell beads were made by the Sauk and Fox Indians. The Sauk and Fox Indians often set upon the Menominee, in war and in raiding. Low Red Moon, of the Menominees tribe said "A belt of beads, clamshell beads by the hundreds all sewn together." No Indian tribe had complex writing as do the whites. Winter counts and stories memorized by the story tellers served as tribal history. Life then had a contemporaneous aspect which meant immediate experience of life not continuous analysis. Everyone in Saukenuk did some drawing, picturing on skins or bark the stories of his own deeds or marking records of happenings of the tribe. Sauk and Fox tribes never made pottery. Black Hawk became a warrior at the age of 15. He was sly, cunning, brave, clever, and his military tactics were of the best. He attacked from the rear cut off supplies, covered his tracks well and was excellent in concealing his whereabouts and enjoyed the element of surprise. The Battle of Wisconsin Heights was a defeat for the Sauk Indians but Lt. Cooke, when he came into Atkinson's camp at Blue Mounds, made the following comment: After all of their boasting, the simple fact was, that Black Hawk, although encumbered with the women, children and baggage of his whole band, covering himself by a small party, accomplished that most difficult of military operations, to wit: the passage of a river---in the presence of three regiments of American volunteers.

(Next part will be on Trails, Ceremonies, Ft. Armstrong and third part will be conclusion and summary)

BI-CENTENNIAL UPSURGE OF INTEREST IN HAIGHT

By Hazel M. Hyde

Over a hundred and forty years ago Daniel Shaw Haight arrived on the east side of the Rock River to become the first settler of what is now East Rockford. It is an incredible record of achievement in which he became the first postmaster, first sheriff, first hotel keeper, and had quarters in his home for the first session of the county court. As early as 1836 he was a road commissioner, and he built a house which served as quarters for church service. From the years 1835 to 1847, a block of twelve years of time, he provided a great many services to this pioneer settlement, situated midway between Galena and Chicago. When both east and west settlements were incorporated into one town, Daniel Haight was named president of the town trustees.

Haight was involved in the early services which led to the formation of Centennial United Methodist Church, formerly known as First Methodist Church and renamed in the Centennial Year of our Nation in 1876.

He helped to organize the Universalist Church in the year of 1841, according to Ashton Johnson. This religious group came to be called the United Unitarian and Universalist Church in 1867. Meetings were held first in the home of Daniel Shaw Haight. A brick school house was serving both the Methodists and Universalists in 1841. The Methodists decided to move into the downstairs of the Methodist parsonage, since it

was considered advisable by each group to have a separate meeting place.

Charles A. Church, in HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS AND HISTORY OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY, gave the following information: "The first settler of what is now East Rockford was Daniel Shaw Haight, who arrived April 9, 1835. Mr. Haight came to Illinois from Bolton, Warren County, New York. A year or two previous to his appearance on Rock River he had selected a claim near Geneva, Kane County. He sold the claim, and in company of two or three men came to Rockford on a tour of inspection. He selected a tract of land, which comprised a large part of what is now East Rockford."

Mr Haight was a family man, who intended to establish a permanent home. We are given a description of his wife and a few words about Haight himself by Mr. Church, "Mr. Haight went back to Geneva for his family, and in May he



Hazel M. Hyde

returned to Rockford with his wife and child; Miss Carey who was Mrs. Haight's sister, and a hired man.

"Mrs. Mary Haight and her sister were the first white women to settle in the county, as it was supposed they preceded by two or three weeks the arrival of Mrs. Kent. Mrs. Haight appears to have been equal to the duties and trials of pioneer life. She had no acquaintance with books or literature; but she possessed a good mind, and was alert shrewd and affable to strangers.

"Mr. Haight was a rugged, roistering pioneer, and a shrewd man of affairs."

The way pioneers prepared temporary shelters is described by Mr. Church. He describes also the early home that was built. "Upon his arrival Mr. Haight put up a tent under a large burr oak tree, which his family occupied until his cabin was completed. This dwelling, built in the summer of 1835, was the first structure on the East side. It was built on the eastern part of the lot which now forms the northeast corner of State and Madison streets. This spot was at the brow of the table-land, from which the descent was rapid toward the river. The house was built in regular pioneer style, without the use of a single nail. The main part was about eighteen feet square, built of oak logs. It had a puncheon floor, two windows and a door. The cellar was simple an excavation under the center. 'Such a house,' says Mr. Thurston, 'may be built with an axe and an auger, and is a warm, comfortable dwelling.' Mr. Haight made an addition in '36."



Hazel Hyde in front of the Hyde residence at 1518 Comanche Drive

When no nails are used, one method is called pinning. A pin or small peg, often made of hickory, is used to fasten parts together, according to Mr. Clifford Whitney who removed some hickory pins from a corn crib several years ago and these were used well before 1900.

According to PIO-NEER TOWN, a book about Rockford, "No nails were used in building it (the Haight cabin). The logs were chopped to fit into each other at the corners. Where the logs could be fitted together, holes were made and wooden pegs fitted in. The window frame, the door frame, and the door

were pegged together There were two windows and a door. The windows were called ventilators. They were so tiny they let in very little light.

"Haight's cabin had a puncheon floor. Puncheon floors were made by splitting logs through the center. Few of the early settlers had tools for smoothing the split side of the logs so the floors were rough Even the boards for making door frames and window frames had to be chopped out of logs."

Miss Emma Lundgren, who researched the pioneer homes in Rockford, had this to say, "The first frame house in Winnebago County was built about a mile east of Rockford. Haight had the first frame house in Rockford.

"About a year after he came here Haight hired some carpenters to build a large frame house near his cabin.



Haight's frame house built on East State Street; later located on northeast corner of South Second and Walnut Streets

While this was being built, he had a smaller house put up close by. He moved into it as soon as the walls were up and the roof was on, so Haight's family was the first family in Rockford to move from a log cabin into a frame house.

"The settlement was three years old before there was any brick even for chimneys. The first brick was made about three miles northeast of Rockford. A year later a tiny brick house was built on North First Street across from the park that was called, long ago, the public square."

Ashton Johnson in his HISTORY OF ROCKFORD spoke of early citizens and their homes. (See: NUGGETS OF HISTORY Vol. IX, No. 3, May-June, 1972, p. 6) He wrote, "The Haight home, besides being the first residence in East Rockford, also served as the first hotel, town meeting hall, post office, and circuit court room." Thurston, too, wrote of the first meeting of the Circuit Court in Haight's home. The first court convened at the home of Daniel S. Haight, October 6, 1837. According to Ash Johnson in "From the Days That Belong to the Ages", "Hon. Daniel Stone, Galena, was the presiding judge, while Seth B. Farwell served as state's attorney pro tem and James Mitchell, Jo Daviess County Clerk. Petit jurors who served at the initial ses-

sion included Edward Cating, James B. Martyn, Joel Pike, William Pepper, Richard Montague, Isaac Cunningham, Thatcher Blake, Henry Thurston, David Goodrich, James Jackson, and Cyrus C. Jenks."

The town that Haight established on the east bank of Rock River was about one half mile north of the Rock Ford. His cabin soon became a store.

A post office was opened at 107 South Madison Street. (NUGGETS, July-August, 1965, p.4.) On August 13, 1837, Haight was appointed postmaster. Mail was brought from the post offices of Chicago, Vandalia, or Galena for the opening of the Rockford post office. Until 1840 Haight continued as postmaster, being succeeded by Mr. Edward Warren.

The first mail was carried on horseback. The second mail was delivered "by carrier". The third delivery was by open wagon with two horses. In January, 1838, a stagecoach service was established between Chicago and Rockford by Frink and Walker of Chicago. Haight's barn was one of the stage coach stops. In those early days postage on a letter



Could this be Haight's barn? This barn appears in several books as the first meeting place of certain churches as well as Rockford College.

was twenty-five cents and stamps were not used.

Billie Whitsitt found as a result of research that Haight owned part of Rockford House, a small hotel built in 1837. Of this hotel, Mrs. Edward Wench said, "He built an Inn at East State and Madison Street in 1837, he and Charles S. Oliver, which was later called East Side Inn. The third story was reached by a ladder; the floor being divided into two rooms. His hired man John escorted the guest up the ladder when he retired."

Taylor Decker in investigating the early cemeteries of Rockford found that here, too, Haight had shown himself a public spirited man. Mr. Decker found, "At an early date Daniel S. Haight gave an acre of ground for a cemetery on the east side of the river. It was on Longwood Street about ten rods north of East State Street. It was little used and finally abandoned and those burials were moved to other ground. (NUGGETS, July-August, 1972, p. 6).

In an interview in the spring of 1975, Frances Haight Wench (Mrs. Edward J.) brought to attention the fact that Daniel Haight arrived on the east side of Rock River, April 9, 1835, just a year later than Thatcher Blake, Germanicus Kent and Lewis Lemon had settled in 1834 on the west bank

of the river. (Only about eight months after the west side settlement, which was in August, 1834.) While not a lineal descendant of Daniel Haight, there is a common ancestor, so Mrs. Wench began to compile a list of the services rendered to the young settlement by Haight. She first learned that Charles Church credits Daniel Shaw Haight with platting all of the original East Rockford, November 7, 1843. Amazed as new facets of his work appeared, she brought this to the attention of several societies interest in history.

Rockford Colony of National Society of New England Women had been searching for a Bicentennial Project. Colony No. 34 in Rockford had been organized May 23, 1923, by Carrie Ashton Johnson. A society with over fifty years of service to the community needed something historic to commemorate. Marion Knighton McGhee (Mrs. Harold) in an interview on February 8, 1976, outlined the prospective dedication program for dedicating a boulder with a plaque stating some of Mr. Haight's biography. The boulder was placed in Haight Park, facing Jefferson Street. Due to weather conditions, April 9, 1976, was chosen for the date for the ceremony. Plans included inviting persons presently holding positions in which Mr. Haight had some involvement. This would probably include the postmaster, sheriff, road commissioners, as well as other prominent persons. Many individuals whose families came early to this area would be present, as well as a good attendance of persons interested in giving recognition to this first settler in the east side of Rockford. Since these interviews, the dedication has been held following the original plans in most particulars.

It was fitting that Daniel Shaw Haight's name should be honored and remembered. A park was named for him. This is the land that he gave at one time as a public square. He had once hoped that the court house would be placed on the east side. Mr. Church wrote of this piece of land: "Haight Park occupies a position in East Rockford corresponding to that of Haskell Park on the west side. It derives its name from the original owner, Daniel Shaw Haight, the first white settler in East Rockford."

(Concluded in next issue)



Built by Daniel S. Haight on North First Street, this structure was used as an early courthouse; it was later converted to a house.

NUGGETS OF HISTORY is published quarterly by the Rockford Historical Society. Editor: R.H. Borden; Associate Editor: Hazel Hyde; Assistant Editor: Timothy Borden; President: Clement V. Burns; Membership Chairman: Stuart K. Golding; Typist: Mrs. Warren Burlend. Address correspondence to Hazel A. Kluck, Secretary, 1614 Huffman Boulevard 61103