

NUGGETS of HISTORY

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A BICENTENNIAL FOCUS OF
THE OLD MANSE, CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS
AND RALPH EMERSON, ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

By Mrs. David (Lucretia) Paddock
And Mrs. Gordon (Georganne) Eggers
(From a lecture given by Mrs.
Paddock and Mrs. Eggers)

It seems incredible that any one locale should claim to be the hometown of the American Revolution and also give claim to be the birthplace of American Literature as well, but the facts bear this out. The strength of these claims are in Concord, residing in the imposing words of Ralph Waldo Emerson of the "fight by the rude bridge" and the "shot heard round the world", as well as the imposing literary reputation of Concord's famous sons and daughters. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau, and the Alcott family lived, wrote and shaped the literature, philosophy, and lives of Americans from this very particular area of Concord Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Wm. Ellery Channing lived "just down the road a piece" at the same time. A total of at least SEVEN literary giants! The views of Concord's hills, woods and ponds inspired these writers in many ways.

Briefly, Georganne and I would like to take you back to Concord, through the eyes of Georganne's ancestors, the Emerson family, and through the writings of Nathaniel Hawthorne, who for a time occupied the Emerson home and gave to it the lasting name of "Old Manse". We will journey through time up into our own community.

Georganne will start our journey with the beginnings of our famous manse and Rev. William Emerson who built the large, darkgray, clapboard home in 1769.

What a surprise it was, at least to me, to find in my readings for today, it wasn't Ralph Waldo Emerson who had built the Old Manse, but his grandfather, William. And then to learn, William had as much eminence in this tiny town of Concord in his time, as did his very famous grandson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, some fifty years later.

The manse was built as a suitable first home for William's bride, Phebe, the daughter of his predecessor in the pulpit. It served as their home, the home of children during the ten years of his life and pastorate, but it remained her home until her death. Phebe Emerson remarried Mr. Emerson's successor, Ezra Ripley, who then took over the residence. The home remained in the Emerson-Ripley family for 170 years, three generations, before it was given to the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1939.

In 1973, Ralph Waldo Emerson's grandson's wife, who is still alive at 90 and lives in Concord, published a compilation of Rev. William Emerson's journals and letters. From these remarkable pages, the world has an authentic account-

The Old Manse, built in 1769 at Concord, Massachusetts, by Rev. William Emerson, grandfather of Ralph Waldo. Minister of the First Parish Church, he married Phoebe Bliss, daughter of his predecessor. On April 19th, 1775, the family watched the battle from a second floor window. Ralph Waldo Emerson, born in Boston, spent some of his early life here, and it was here that he wrote most of "Nature". Nathaniel Hawthorne rented the home for four years in 1842 and here wrote much of "Mosses from an Old Manse". The home remained in the Emerson-Ripley family for 170 years.



ing of most of his adult life and an insight into the life of the times. These journal entries and letters show him as an active, ardent, young minister of his church. They reveal very little of his daily life with his wife and seven children. The singing meetings so often mentioned seem to indicate his love for music, but he does not take time to write of an appreciation of beauty, of nature, or the scene around him. These he takes for granted.

The Manse now stands solitary in the field beside the infamous North Bridge. Today's bridge is the fifth one to be erected and is the most authentic. It must have been a busy home in 1776 when William (Ralph Waldo Emerson's father), Phebe, Billy, Hannah, Phebe Bliss, Mary Moody and baby Rebecca (born the day her father left for Fort Ticonderoga to serve his country as chaplain) occupied its "little boxes of rooms", the house having been built purposely with many small rooms to avoid the "block house" feeling of Phebe's mother's home. A pig barn stood behind the manse.

The inventory of his estate, done 200 years ago, reveals a glimpse of the family "fortune". We learn that

there were in the barn a horse, cow, chaise, sleigh, double sleigh, and horsecart; fifteen sheep, twenty geese, and "fowles". The land was cultivated, and the household became, to a large extent, self-sufficient as shown by the record of supplies stored in the cellar, -- twenty pounds of corn, twenty bushels of potatoes, a barrel and a half of soap, three barrels of cider, and eighty weight of beef, in addition to 120 pounds of salt pork and Phebe's side-saddle. Four pounds of worsted cloth, 236 volumes of books, and 194 pamphlets were listed as being in the house. They had three slaves doing their heavy work; they were freed by William in his final hours. Comments on the arduous hard rides from town to town on his preaching assignments, winter storms, daily preaching and lecturing schedules, agonizing deaths of children, plus the warm hospitality to visiting ministers and the delight offered by his own family and friends, appear throughout the journal. But as previously stated, rarely a mention of Phebe and the children. So much for the household and the manse. To me, his remarkable efforts and journal entries concerning the unrest before the Revolutionary War are so timely and should be revealed today. Perhaps a little background is needed to set his story.

Two hundred and one years ago, the 19th of April saw the beginning of the end of British rule in America. The climax was marked by the engagement at the North Bridge in Concord. This was the culmination of a long period of unrest and discord between Great Britain and her American colonies. For years, the colonists were bitter against the orders of the Crown, the imposition of taxes and the presence of British forces. Even so, to all there was horror in the thought of actually taking up arms against the mother country.

Therefore, when the British clashed with the colonial militia, first at Lexington and then at Concord, tension was high. Those who felt it most were men in responsible positions, and ministers were considered town officials. Rev. William Emerson was an ardent and devoted patriot. He was an excellent and most popular preacher, which allowed him the opportunity to deliver fiery speeches and sermons encouraging resistance to the tyrants. With the Provincial Congress meeting in Concord, the citizens of the town were increasingly confident in the cause of liberty and patriotism. Rev. Emerson, by invitation of Congress, officiated as Chaplain.

And so, this simple statement appears in his diary: "April 19, 1775. BATTLE AT CONCORD AND LEXINGTON." And then, an entry for April 30 ----- Preached from "THE LORD IS MY ROCK". WITH THE ARMY. THIS MONTH REMARKABLE FOR THE GREATEST EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE PRESENT AGE."

Realizing then the historical significance, he apparently sat down and wrote a complete account. His diary entry imposes upon the reader some problems of deciphering and upon you, the listener, some problems of comprehension. I hope you will allow this version of mine.

First, the battle occupied three minutes at most -- such a brief span to take on such importance. The fight as William Emerson states, occurred when General Gage, new provisional governor, sent 700 British regulars to Concord from Boston to seize colonial ammunitions and supplies hidden in various Concord homes. By striking at Concord, Gage hoped to avoid a colonial revolt and his orders state it will be necessary to secure the two bridges as soon as possible.

The mission was an ill-kept secret and was spread by Paul Revere, who accompanied Sam Prescott, as noted by Emerson, to Concord. Actually, the mission had been expected as three spies had been discovered scouting Concord a month earlier.

British troops, the redcoats, reached Lexington on April 19, where 130 minutemen were gathered on the green. At a Concord town meeting, it was voted to "raise two companies to stand at a minute's warning in case of an alarm." Thus, the first use of the phrase, "Minutemen". The minutemen were ordered not to fire. Something went wrong. A shot was fired and the British returned the volley, killing eight colonists. Knowledge of this reached Concord before the redcoats. Mr. Emerson explains the entire sequence of events. When the British arrived in Concord they broke into several groups stationing themselves to keep other minutemen from neighborhood villages from coming to the aid of the Concordians. What the redcoats didn't know is some 400 had already gathered overlooking the bridge. When they saw smoke from the tiny town, they determined to march in and save their friends. The British thought they were outnumbered, which was a serious mistake, but they retreated, attempting to tear out the planking on the bridge as they retreated. Total casualties: 273 British; 93 minutemen.

(To be continued)

BRECKENRIDGE HOUSE

A Mini-minute Speech, Given for Rockford Chapter, DAR,
January 21, 1977 by Hazel M. Hyde

"A house you could fall in love with," is the way Vi Carlson describes Breckenridge House. There you will find the little shelves that are still in the corners of the kitchen where Ellen Breckenridge must have placed some of her cups. Hugh Breckenridge and his wife Ellen must have climbed many times the tiny stairway that goes upstairs.

It is known that the Breckenridges lived in some other dwelling, possibly a temporary log cabin, awhile before the original house was completed on the southwest corner of Springbrook and Mulford Roads, across from the present Rock Valley Campus, in about the 1890's. The family is believed to have arrived in this area around 1849 or 1850.

The dry sink in the kitchen must have been the delight of Mrs. Breckenridge. One of the children was Mitchell Breckenridge and his daughter, Ina Breckenridge Bert, now lives on Old Mill Road which angles right from State Street Road. Ina lived in the original house and remembers she was about twelve years of age when the house was remodeled and enlarged. She was born there May 19, 1916. She wishes she had listened to the family tales but she does have the pictures of her parents, Mitchell and Ethel Mac Kerrall Breckenridge and their daughters. Her father had no brothers but he had three sisters. Margaret married John Ralston, Elizabeth married Earl Ralston, and Nellie married William McEachran.

Ina's parents were married in Canada. Ethel MacKerrall,



the bride of Mitchell, was born in Chatham, Ontario, Canada. He brought her back to Rockford and eventually to where his father, Hugh, had lived before him for many years. Mr. Breckenridge was in the grain and feed business in Rockford for several years. He was a member of Guilford Hope Grange and Winnebago County Farm Bureau. Mitchell was secretary of Guilford Fire Insurance and a life long farmer. Ina had a sister who became Mrs. Annetta Wells of Winnebago and had a brother Ronald H. of Decatur, Alabama. Mitchell had eight grandchildren. He died at the age of 89 in 1959, in the home where he was born March 20, 1870, to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Breckenridge.

But the house itself that now sits in Midway Village, was saved by chance, as an example of homes of the 1890's. It was separated from the larger remodeled portion of the home something like fifty years ago. The original portion was used for many things, primarily as storage

space for farm tools for a long time.

On a snowy evening there was a meeting of the Rockford Museum Board. The discussion brought out the information that a developer was going to tear down Breckenridge House which is considered to be the first homestead in Guilford Township. The big house had burned to the ground. Mary Barb Bittle (Mrs. Billy M.) and Vi Carlson (Mrs. E.W.) had come in high heels with no snow boots. But they could not wait to see the house. They drove to the place and ran through the snow to the spot where it stood. They saw as well boards with nails sticking out and were momentarily appalled at the sight. Then they examined it and their imagination and foresight enabled them to see it was a treasure.

William Ralston, near Belvidere, remembers Mr. Travers was the only Rockford house mover at that time and he is no longer in business. He sold his house moving concern to Bill Brown of the E-B House Movers of Roscoe. Mr. Ralston thought the cost of moving it was about nine hundred dollars. Since it is small it was put on a conveyance with rubber-tired wheels, about six or eight wheels in front and a shaft with about six or eight wheels on the back. The steel beams it rested on reminded Mr. Ralston of the breech of a farm wagon.

Neil Breckenridge, who died at age 63 in 1949 in the farm home in which he was born to Robert and Catherine McMillan Breckenridge was a cousin to Mitchell Breckenridge who lived in the historic Breckenridge House. Neil's father came to Guilford Township at the age of four with his grandmother who settled on their Springbrook Farm a hundred years ago. Sylva Smith Breckenridge, the widow of Neil, lives in Rockford with her sister, Miss Flora Smith. She verified the relationship and explained that since the cousins lived in the same area some confusion could have arisen concerning the families.

In September 1974, Rockford Chapter DAR met in the museum and the program was "Rockford Museum: A Heritage to Share" given by Hazel M. Hyde. Later the program was given for North Suburban Womans Club, also at the Museum. The entire speech was printed in NUGGETS OF HISTORY, Nov-Dec 1974 and Jan-Feb 1975. The Questers, an organization of collectors of antiques and interested in Preservation, found the paragraph concerned with Breckenridge House. From their inquiries, it became evident that more research would be intriguing. The Questers gained funds from their national organization to enable them to furnish the house as it was in its time as the home of Hugh Breckenridge and his family. It had been moved to Midway Village before Ina Bert was aware of it, or had considered its importance to local history.

J.L. Clarke Company has agreed to accept the project of restoring the exterior and the interior of the Breckenridge House in Midway Village at their expense. They will then turn it over to the Questers to furnish. It is hoped that some garden clubs will provide some period gardens. With the recent addition of six more acres, Midway Village now

has ten acres of space.

Ina was interested in the quotation from Proverbs 22:28, "Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set." And this historic house is truly a wonderful asset to Midway Village where it is being restored to its identity and charm.

GUILFORD HOPE GRANGE IS OLDEST GRANGE IN ILLINOIS

By Mrs. Harold B. Hyde

Mini-Minute for Rockford Chapter DAR

Surprises pop up each time a new subject for discussion is suggested. Guilford Town Hall and Guilford Center School are well known. But to find Guilford was also a town was unexpected. Guilford as a place name had appeared in old church records, especially in the marriage record under place of residence. Exploration on the shelves of Rockford Public Library brought information on the early settlers of Guilford Township and the first house in the town of Guilford.

Bateman and Selby in History of Winnebago County gave under the title "Guilford" a short narration about the earliest settlers. In August, 1835, William E. Enoch, the eldest son of Henry Enoch, accompanied by two or three men came from Will County, Illinois, on a land prospecting tour. While out on this trip, young Enoch was taken sick and returned home.

"In September following, his father, Henry Enoch, and brothers Richard H. and A.I. Enoch, started out and, following the direction of William, struck Rock River at Rockford. Leaving his sons in camp Henry Enoch started out and, going northeast from there two or three miles, he struck the spring brook known as Bucklen Creek. Believing this stream came from springs, he followed it to its source, which he found in the northeast corner of Section 11, town 44, range 2, now (1916) in the town of Guilford."

Kett's History of Winnebago County tells the story in much the same words, leading to the belief that the Enoch family must have written the story or told it repeatedly. Kett relates, "Here in the center of a great prairie he found a great spring of water some twenty-five feet in diameter, the water about twenty-four inches deep and boiling up from numerous places in the bottom through snow-white sand. The water was cold, and clear as crystal; the bank of the spring fringed with tall grass and bright prairie flowers.

"Henry Enoch was so charmed with the location, the great spring, the apparent fertility of the soil, and the general beauty of the surroundings, that he at once made up his mind to make it the future home of himself and family. He had neither stick nor cane with which to mark his "claim". Going to a thicket of hazel and young poplar trees a few rods distant, he cut a small stake, and planting it on the bank of the spring, declared it his "claim",

the only listeners being the horse he rode and the prairie birds. This location was known for many years as the big spring of "Uncle Enoch". By a strange freak of nature the spring dried up about 1872 and never again discharged a drop of water.

"Mr. Enoch made this claim his permanent home until the autumn of 1856, when he removed to Rockford, where he resided until his death in September, 1858. After making this claim, he returned to camp, informed his sons of the discovery. All repaired to it and set about building a cabin for the family, which was to be brought on the following spring. The first tree for this cabin was felled by A. I. Enoch, now of Rockford. The cabin, a small affair, was erected, when the three returned to Will county to spend the winter and return to the new home with the first approach of spring. This was the first tree felled and the first house built in the town of Guilford."

Other early settlers of Guilford were: Elisha A. Kirk, Thaddeus Davis, Sr., and his sons, David A., Thaddeus, Jr., and Daniel Davis, Harry Doolittle, J. H. Kirk, Giles C. Hard, G. L. Horton, and Dr. Charles Church.

Among the oldest settlers residing in Guilford Township about 1916 were William Mulford, then residing on the old Mulford homestead; John R. Post, supervisor for many years, and Hon. David Hunter, who came with his father, James Hunter in 1844.

A town hall was built in about 1896, the funds for which were raised by a tax levy. Its cost was about \$1,500., and the location on Guilford Center Road was five miles northeast of Rockford.

The official name of the National Grange is Patrons of Husbandry. It was founded in 1867 by Oliver H. Kelley, a government clerk, and six associates. While touring the South for the Bureau of Agriculture, he found farmers poor, discouraged, and ignorant. He devised a fraternal order that he hoped would attract farmers and give to its members a chance to learn advanced farming methods.

By 1875 there were 850,000 members in more than 21,000 Granges. Farmers used this organization to oppose unfair practices of railroads and secure the passage of state laws to limit railroad rates. When some of its projects failed, there was a decline of membership in the 1880's but with a shift in emphasis in the 1890's a large membership was built. Social, legislative, and educational programs accounted for the new upsurge of interest. The Grange is a fraternal order with a secret ritual and has about 8,000 local groups in nearly 40 states.

The Granger Cases were five cases in 1877 in which the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that within its own boundaries states could regulate property affecting the public interest. One of the most important Granger Cases was Munn v. Illinois in which the Supreme Court upheld Illinois Law.

Guilford Unit of the Winnebago County Homemakers Extension Association cooperated in a Bicentennial project called "History Notebook." They provided a one-page

summary of the history of Guilford Hope Grange Number 6. The number six means that this group is number six in the nation. It is the oldest grange in Illinois. This group of women provided most of the dates and names in the history of Guilford Grange.

On July 3, 1871, a Mr. Wilkins of Iowa came to a meeting at Guilford Center School and organized Guilford Hope Grange with nine charter members. Sylvester Scott was elected as Master. Mr. Golder, Master of the State Grange, reinstated the Grange on November 1, 1873, admitting seven additional charter members. The first regular meeting was held at the residence of A. J. Swezey. Most of the early meetings were held at the Guilford Center School on Mulford Road.

Through the early 1900's meetings were held in the homes of members. It was the period when Literary Programs were the fashion. These programs were often long and covered a variety of subjects. Talks, debates, short plays, readings of a humorous nature, or discussions of current problems were common. Refreshments were an important feature and might be dessert or in some cases an oyster supper, or a chilli supper. Activities were planned at these meetings. The range of diversions ran from picnics, rides on Rock River, play presentations, exhibits at the Seventh Street Fall Festivals, degree drill teams, softball, basketball, and bowling teams.

In March of 1932, it was decided there was a need for a Grange for the children. The Juvenile Grange was organized with Mrs. Jennie Garrett elected Matron.

Discussion was begun in 1933 concerning the purpose of the Guilford Town Hall, where meetings had been held for several years. On May 16, 1941, the Executive Committee reported that the Grange now owned Town Hall. In 1945 a basement was put under the hall and was completed for the 75th anniversary held in September of 1945. Many dinners, card parties, and dances were held to finance this remodeling project.

Since 1932, when the first committee was appointed, the Home Economics Committees have done much for the Grange. Members have brought honor to the Guilford Hope Grange with prizes won in the National Grange sewing and needlework contests, including several firsts at the state level and a second in the national contest.

The Youth and Young Married groups have been active, since being appointed in 1945. Under their leadership there have been skating and bowling parties, hay rides, and square dances.

In 1968, members began planning for a new Grange hall. Ground was broken on a tract of land, offered by the Carson Cross family on October 24, 1970. On July 10 and 11, 1971, the Guilford Hope Grange celebrated its centennial with the appropriate dedication ceremony. Mr. John W. Scott, the Master of the National Grange, was the featured speaker. A large attendance enjoyed the privilege of hearing the outstanding address. The new building is at 1947 Lyford Road.

It was a Friday night, September 18, 1953, When I saw the interior of Guilford Hope Grange Hall, formerly the Guilford Town Hall, located at the corner of Guilford and Mulford Roads. Dorothy Appel (Mrs. Henry) had asked me to give the programs and enjoy a pot luck supper. The subject of the color slides was "The Smokies" and ended with farm pictures including pictures of some of Clint Glenny's cattle.

Community service has always been an important part of Grange work, from contributing to the relief of grasshopper sufferers in Nebraska in 1875, to furnishing a room in Highland Hospital after the Belvidere tornado in April of 1967, and work done for the School of Hope in recent years. The records show Guilford Hope Grange carried out the program of the National Grange for the advancement of agriculture and the betterment of rural life. Cooperation with worthwhile community projects has been marked. Recent years have brought a greater emphasis on the social aspects of the organization.

(Photograph will appear in next issue.)

EDWARDSVILLE CREAMERY

By Edith Osborn Jones, (Mrs. C. Avery)

A Speech Given for Rockford Chapter DAR as a Mini-Minute on the Theme: Remove Not the Ancient Landmark Which Thy Fathers Have Set--Proverbs 22:28.

Edwardsville Creamery is southwest of Winnebago at the intersection of Edwardsville and Osborn Roads. It has been there since 1878. It is the oldest creamery in Illinois and still operates on a limited basis in 1976.

In the winter of 1845 a group of men and women of the Taberg, New York, Congregational Church attended a Sewing Society meeting at the home of Deacon Laney. The men talked about migrating to Illinois and became so enthusiastic, that they asked their pastor, my great grandfather James Hodges, Jr., if he would go with them as their pastor. He said that he wished to do so but could not move his family of eight children so far. The men discussed the matter then offered Rev. Hodges forty acres of wild land plus their help in building a home if he would go and be their pastor for five years. He accepted the offer. The group traveled by water and wagon and reached Winnebago Township, October 19, 1845. The land was bought from the government for probably a dollar or a dollar twenty - five cents an acre. Within the last month most of it was sold for \$2,650 an acre.

Grandfather Hodges stayed there five years and with the help of the New York group founded the Old Stone Church which stood in Winnebago Cemetery.

I have no record of ownership of the creamery land after 1850, but in 1877 it was owned by Hugh Edwards whose family owned it until the recent sale. Mr. Edwards leased one

acre to the Edwardsville Butter Company for two fully paid shares of stock plus four dollars per acre per year. That was one acre in 1877 when the Creamery Corporation bought it. The corporation owns the building and leases forty acres. Two fully paid shares were fifty dollars each.

Thirteen farmers organized the Edwardsville Butter Company in 1877. Among them were my grandfather, Webster Osborn, and N. S. Straw, grandfather of our member Olive Elsen. The building was built in 1878 with much help from its organizers, and had all the modern machinery of that period, very primitive compared with today's equipment.

Cheese was the main product followed by a smaller output of butter. Full Cream cheese sold for twelve and a half cents a pound, skim milk cheese for ten cents a pound. Farmers were paid forty cents for a hundred pounds of milk in June when milk was plentiful and one dollar forty cents in November. We dairy farmers cry now because we get only about ten dollars a hundred for milk.

The creamery was a busy place which prospered through good times and bad. Milk in old fashioned cans was hauled in horse drawn wagons or sleds. There was rivalry among haulers all trying to get their milk there ahead of others. Many had to wait long hours to get their milk processed. The place served as kind of a social center for the men, and much news was exchanged. There were no telephones then.

Each farm had a milk stand beside the road where the cans were placed for the milk man to pick up. An old fashioned gallon or half gallon crock was sent frequently to be filled with butter---no neat one-pound packages then. Government inspection had not started and flies and other unsanitary conditions were accepted as part of the business and caused little worry.

Edwardsville Creamery has had a long and useful life and is one of a few buildings still in business after almost a hundred years.

HARLEM TOWNSHIP TOWN HALL
By Mrs. Henry F. Hansing
(Concluded from last issue)

In 1964 a budget of \$31,630 for the town fund and \$34,500 for general assistance was approved. Total valuation then was 34.5 million with a road and bridge budget of \$77,723.

In 1874 Harmony Grange No. 957 held meetings in the Town Hall for a 50¢ rental fee. Kerosene lamps were purchased for the hall, and many items were bought collectively such as kerosene, coal, binder twine, flour, sugar, and salt. A 60th anniversary was celebrated in October, 1934, with ten past masters present.

Harlem Historical Society members agreed to purchase the Old Town Hall for one dollar, an offer made by the Har-

lem Board of Education in July, 1967. When the Museum Center opened on June 16, 1974, the Rockford Museum Association and Friends of the Museum incorporated into their plans the moving of the Town Hall as one of the many projects underway to make up the Midway Village.

The progress on the restoration of the interior of Town Hall is slow but the painting, stripping of wainscoting and plaster patching is being completed. Voting booths are ready to install and all the additional furnishings are stored in W. A. Whitney's warehouse.

Nearing completion is the Holcomb Bank. This work is sponsored by the First National Bank of Rockford. The hitching rail in front and the brick walk will make you think of long skirts, parasols, and buggies. The bank was organized in 1892 as a private banking partnership. This building was used until 1931 when a new building was constructed.

The committee has raised \$10,000 to move the Chamberlain Hotel from Caledonia. All of the detailing on the building is in good condition and will add much to the village.

A church will be added and the alter, baptismal font, paraments, and attendance board are at the museum along with the bell awaiting their new home. They have acquired an 1850 reed Estey organ also.

Horse-drawn wagon rides were part of Country Days held last July. An old-fashioned ice-cream social, art sale and entertainment with old-time games such as marbles, hopscotch, horseshoes and kite flying added to the display in the new industrial building, which was donated to the Park when King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden attended the ceremonies on April 17, 1976.

The Midway Village will eventually include a general store, train depot, church, log cabin, ice cream parlor, pharmacy and small "working factory".

The Rockford Museum Center received the "Forward Rockford" award from the Rockford Chamber of Commerce at their banquet June 3, 1976. It is on display in the entry of the museum center and belongs to all who have worked so hard to help the museum grow from a dream to a very great reality. Please remember the village when you are looking for a fine display for your family heirlooms and bring your friends to the museum to share a bit of old Rockford with them. The Center is open Thursday through Sunday from one to four in the afternoon.

Credits for this article go to Mary Barb Bittle for her "Short History of Harlem Village", and to Mrs. Robert Burden of the Rockford Museum Center for other historical data. (From minispeech given September 16, 1976.)

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