

NUGGETS of HISTORY

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STEVEN MACK AND MACKTOWN Tales of the Old French Fur Trader By Janice Schmaeng

The old French fur trader sucked on his pipe and leaned back in his chair. The tavern in Green Bay was certainly exuberant tonight. It was a few years after the War of 1812, and times were changing. The old trader sighed. These Americans. All they could think of was land and more land. Very soon more treaties would be signed by the Indians and their land in the new state of Illinois would be ceded to the United States. Then they would all be sent away across the Mississippi and what would happen to the fur trade? True, there were very few white settlers in Northern Illinois yet but soon they would come. Land speculators were busy with plans for this virgin territory and the Indian only served to irritate them and to prevent quick settlement.

But, tonight all was laughter and gaiety. Around the room were French Voyaguers and fur traders, half-breeds, rogues, American soldiers and scouts from the government, expedition exploring the Lakes Region, land speculators, and young adventurers eager to discover the delights of an untamed land. Many were the stories, songs, and the ever-present French fiddle that was the basis of their entertainment and amusement.

The young American from Detroit was eager to hear of the fur trade and the old Frenchman had much to tell. Once the French had reigned supreme over the fur trade. Now, the American Fur Company had moved into the field and controlled most of these trading posts. The old French fur trader had spent a great deal of time in the spring and fall seasons paddling his canoe up and down the rivers and streams of the Illinois territory or on hunting expeditions in the countryside. Many a trap he had set for the wild game that abounded in the forests and prairies, adding constantly to his stock of pelts. Not all the catching was done by himself. Sometimes he would barter for pelts with the Indians with whom he freely mingled. Annually, he would gather up his stock of furs, skins, and feathers and sell them at various trading posts nearest to where he was working. Perhaps, it might be here at Green Bay or the place now known as the Chicago portage, a small settlement at the lower end of Lake Michigan. Mostly, he would gather his furs from the Illinois River Valley, but on a few occasions, he has trapped along the "Sinnissippi," or Rock River, from where he had now just returned. This was the area which he was now describing to the eager young adventurer.

"You wish I tell you more aboutee dis putty vallee? I shall take much plaisir to give descript, mon ami. I shall tell you eet is magnifique! Many are de fish in de water. Many peltiries I gat in de woods."

The young man was an avid listener and the Frenchman told him of sparkling, clear water, tall groves of trees, clear of underbrush along the hilly banks of the Rock and Pecatonica Rivers. Near the waterways were swampy areas that made it difficult for a man to travel on foot or horse. Extending out away from the rivers were large, rolling expanses of prairie, where tall grasses and many beautiful wild flowers grew. Game was plentiful. Deer, squirrel, woodchuck, wild geese, ducks, crane, loon, gull, and pigeons abounded, and the timber sheltered wolves, wildcat, otter, coon, beaver, fox and muskrat. There were hickory nuts, butternuts, black walnuts and hazelnuts as well as crab apples, wild plums, grapes, and berries of many varieties. Wild honey could be obtained in considerable quantity and there were sugar maples that could be tapped for maple syrup.

The young man, Stephen Mack, was caught up in dreams of this beautiful wild land and the prosperity he thought could be gained from it. He thought of how, in 1807, his father, Stephen Mack, Sr., had left his family and prosperous mercantile business in Vermont and had gone off to the frontier country of Detroit, Michigan. The senior Mack decided to leave his family in Vermont where the educational facilities were far better than Michigan, and did not have the entire family join him until 1822. In Detroit he had built up a large business in a general store, dealing largely in furs. Recently, he had helped form an association called the Pontiac Company. As agent of this company he had purchased land in Michigan and laid out a plan for a new city to be called Pontiac, which he was in the process of developing. Stephen Mack had come west to be with his father in Detroit and, in the spirit of exploration and adventure, he had decided to join a government expedition around the lakes from Detroit or Green Bay. This is how he came to be conversing with the fur trader and wondering now if he, too, could go off to a new area and be as successful as his father.

The old man was lost in dreams also, but they were dreams of long ago. He thought of the old days when his young, powerful muscles had sent his sturdy canoe over the winding streams and he would be alone for many weeks in the quiet beauty of the wilderness. Then he would return home with his cache and staples of trade to the warmth of his family and good times with his friends. The old fur trader was a descendant of the original French settlers along that part of Illinois now known as the American Bottom. In his veins stirred the blood of the native Indian, and he had much of the wild, roving disposition of the savage. He still wore the costume of the voyageur, with his head covered in a Madras cotton handkerchief, tied around in the fashion of a night-cap. He also wore a blanket-like garment called a "capot" with a hood or cap behind for protection in inclement weather. Despite his swarthy appearance, he still maintained the manners and carriage of a French gentleman.

The two men talked until it was very late and the

laughter and song had long begun to cease. They then each bid the other adieu and went his own way to maintain his dreams in solitude.

ROCKFORD INDUSTRIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
by Mrs. Harold Beardslee Hyde
(Continued from last issue)

"Who started the organization?"

"Leo Lyons, in 1909 or 1910, I think. He was city recreation director. He left Rockford to become the superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, for many years. I believe he is now deceased."

"I know Sam Glomp is dead. Ed Rathke is not living now. If Hjalmar Johnson, of National Lock is living, he'd be quite old."



Al Goranson, past president, past chairman, and past treasurer of the Rockford Industrial Athletic Association

"When did you get interested in all this?"

"I spent 41 years at Rockford Clutch, which was listed in that yearbook as Rockford Drilling Machine. I started there in 1916. They changed the name in the 30's. It was 1917 when I served on the Board of Managers from our shop."

"Al, do you know which industrial group has been a member since it started?"

"Oh, I'm sure that would be Greenlee from the very beginning. I think you will find that in the Yearbook. I'd say Ingersoll Milling would have been in a long time, at least by 1916. Then, there's Free Sewing Machine would have been in as far back as about 1912, I'd think. You could look in the book and see when Barber-Coleman came in."

In the book it stated, "Barber-Coleman organized an Employees Association in 1913 when the baseball fans start-

ed a "Rooters Club." In 1914 the present Barber-Colman Association was founded with a charter membership of 125. Frank Smith was the first president and Tracy Shaw the first secretary."

"That would be over sixty years ago. I became active about 1917 and that would be a little earlier," he remarked.

"I see Barber Colman formed a Fish League in 1915."

"You're going to mention Ed Rathke, aren't you. He was the editor of that yearbook. He was from American Cabinet Hardward."

"That's a nice page of pictures of the 24 men who made up the Board of Management for R.I.A.A."

"Yes, the book is full of good pictures of the teams and the men who supported them."

"Who was responsible for the yearbook?"

"Well, the representatives from each industry turned in a report, enough material for a page."

"Where did they play, Al?"

"They used the school gyms years ago and also played in the city parks and at Beyer Stadium. Basketball games are played at White Eagle Gym on 15th Avenue. They used to play at the Ing sometimes. Bowling games for many years were at State and Madison. At one time we had a rifle league at State and Madison in the basement. I don't know where they have it now. They don't have any more baseball in the League. They have softball and the slow pitch ball. They are talking about spreading out on more activities, but that isn't definite enough to mention."

Reading in the yearbook you find, "The story of our Industrial League speaks of the veterans in sports, Fat Swenson who has given a greater part of his life to baseball, basketball and fighting the encroachment of softball into his domain, reviews the entire situation as follows: "According to my personal recollection, Industrial League Baseball in some form or other dates to 1909 or 1910. Enthusiasm as displayed by both players and fans reached its peak during 1914 to 1916..."

"There were great pitchers of those days to match the Fogelsongs and Zawlockis of today. Ernie Fosberg of Barber-Coleman, Sam and Bob Lenquist of Greenlee's, C. Bouton and Fred Hering of Emerson-Brantingham and Peck Palmer of Ingersolls..."

"Harry Needham and Fred (Dutch) Schmidt were a pair of umpires that definitely knew what it was all about and handled the games like veteran big league "arbeiter."

Mention is made that Walt Stutsman drew on B.C.A. files. Others who helped with the history were Fat Swenson, Art Getts, Frank Forsell, Al Goranson, Leo Lyons and many other men who were able to draw pictures from memory. Sam Glomp records went back to 1907 and 1908 when there was no association similar to the present group. Games were played on Sundays, locally and in surrounding small towns. The shops were small and equipment was scarce.

Leo Lyons, who was prominent here a long time ago in charge of parks and outdoor recreation, set the stage for an organization whereby all factories could join in a group

4 and work under a definite program.

The story also continues, "We note from our records that at one time the schedule included Hess and Hopkins, Eclipse-Trahern, Cotta Transmission, Malleable Iron, Empire Ltd., Ziock Textile, Rockford Brass, Haddorff Piano, Sundstrand Adding Machine, Al Carlson Mfg., Rockford Chair Burson Knitting, and Emerson Brantingham."

The newspapers were mentioned as giving important coverage. The most direct contact in the years 1940-41 were Hap Milne, Sports Editor of the Morning Star, Dick Day of the Rockford Register-Republic, and Morrie Owens, Sports Announcer for W.R.O.K. The death of George "Kitty" Kitteringham was noted and a word of praise said for his support of sports.

The Fourth Industrial League Banquet, held in the Faust Hotel to 450 men brought an answer to the question, "Why a banquet?" as follows:

"And now we come to the subject of, why a banquet of this type. Well, after a session of competition as strenuous as our Industrial League Basketball we need an evening to restore friendship and goodwill. We need a setting for the presentation of the annual awards, trophies and praise for those who have earned their just rewards. We need a good dinner and we need the companionship of our boys and the members of the various shop managements. We want them all to gather to enjoy themselves as one happy unit. We believe our banquet accomplishes its purpose each year and that each event will serve as a memory to us all..."

On that occasion the Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Ed Alverson, Secretary of the Greenlee Bros. Co. Among those who made brief speeches were Tim Gill and Tom Shimmin. Bill Knight introduced the speaker "Wenie" Wilson of the University of Illinois staff. County Judge Fred Kulberg, once active in Industrial League, presented the trophies. Besides the speakers hour there was a community sing. Nevas Cadets furnished the dinner Music. The committee in charge as appointed by the R.I.A.A. chairman, Al Goranson, included Clarence Tester, Ray Mc Cook, Herb Bauman and Ed Rathke.

While the banquet described is for a particular year it is a record to note that Al Goranson has only missed one of the annual banquets and that was because he was in the hospital one year at banquet time.

On June 20th, in a second interview, Al Goranson told about the Depression years. Al said, "The Board of Directors met once a month. Then the Depression came. We met in Greenlee's office and Hjalmar Johnson, Sam Glomp, and I were the only three there. Someone said, 'What are we going to do? Throw up the sponge?' I said 'As long as three come, we should continue.'

"But after that," Al continued, "attendance went up. Dues were about \$5.00 a year and it continued to grow. Now I suppose there are about 52 plants and groups such as police Department and Fire Department and others that are not manufacturing are now included.

"When they elected me president I told them all meetings will start at 8:00 P.M. sharp. If you want a later hour, then decide upon another time. We became pretty well known around the country. I remember one time I got a letter from the Chamber of Commerce in Boston. They wanted me to come there and they would pay my expense. They wanted me to start the same thing. I wrote a letter and explained it, but didn't go. Now there are similar leagues in most major cities."

Hanging on the wall in the Goranson home is a bronze scroll mounted on wood. The wording is:

Albert Goranson
In appreciation for
Your many years of
Leadership and Dedication
to the
Rockford Industrial
Athletic Association
March 1970

The Board of Managers for 1940-41 and the local industries Represented:

American Cabinet Hardware Corporation--Ed Rathke
Atwood Vacuum Machine Company--Bill Seiter
Barber-Coleman Company--Walt Stutsman
W.F. and John Barnes Company--Jack Morgan
Barnes Drill Company--Joe Greco
Burd Piston Ring Company--Fred McCalmon
J.I. Case Company--Ted Becknell
J.L. Clark Mfg. Company--Dave Johnson
Contour Hosier Mills--Mike Rowland
Ebaloy Foundries, Inc.--Herb Bauman
Elco Tool & Screw Corporation--Frank Okeberg
Free Sewing Machine Company--Jim Orebaugh
Globe Tool & Molded Products Company--Ed Ackerson
Greenlee Brothers & Company--Sam Glomp
The Ingersol Milling Machine Company--Clarence Tester
Mattison Machine Works--Fat Swenson
Mechanics Universal Joint Company--Ralph Valentine
National Lock Company--Bob Anderson
Rockford Drilling Machine Company--Gene Pellant
Rockford Drop Forge Company--George Rathke
Rockford Machine Tool Company--Howard Swenson
Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Company--Sid Edwards
Geo. D. Roper Corporation--Ray McCock
Rockford Screw Products Company--Rupert Hillman
Sundstrand Machine Tool Company--Jack Darby
The Washburn Company--Webb Hannon
Thayer Action Company--Mr. Hoffman

Representative of the write-up each member on the Board of Managers supplied is the Greenlee Bros. Squared Circle page. "Ever since the boys from Greenlees entered the field of Industrial Sports their name has been synonymous with success. Partly due to the personnel of their employees throughout the years and partly due to the keen management and foresight of Sam Glomp who has been in the back-

ground of most activities through the years. Sam has been one of the grand old men of sports as far as our association is concerned, devoting much of his time and efforts in promoting the things which are important in the lives of all of us.

"Beginning in 1908 without the equipment and uniforms we now find necessary, the shop pioneered in the field of baseball, playing in and around Rockford, mostly on the old Greenlee diamond. The first requisition for expense to equip and outfit a team was dated April 7, 1916. It consisted of the following:

12 uniforms--\$ 60.00	1 Breast protector--\$ 5.00
6 baseball bats-6.00	1 catcher's glove-- 6.50
6 baseballs-- 6.00	1 score book-- .50

"...Previous to 1905, the Tool and Machine division of the Shop had each organized a sick and benefit association. These were combined in 1917 to form the present Greenlee Squared Circle Association. Incidentally, this organization was the first of its kind in operation among factory employees. A successful pioneer in the imposing group of benefit societies established throughout the country.

"The membership includes (1940-41) about 95 percent of the employees of the plant and is responsible for much of the enthusiasm that has carried Greenlee Athletic teams to the front through so many years.

"Besides baseball, which happens to be the cradle of sports in this organization, Greenlee players have participated in tennis, golf, horseshoes, basketball, and ping pong. ... Bowling league, checkers, and cribbage tournaments all have their interested following.

"Through the years many a star shown on the horizon in Baseball, Basketball, and Bowling. Immortals as far as sports are concerned are Sam and Bob Lendquist, Fred Zitzke, Suse Nelson, Jolly Hanson, Hub Thelen, and many others beside the present crop of boys and the 1940 championship Baseball Team...

"While we owe much to the past co-operation of the Greenlee Athletic teams, we also owe much to members of the Greenlee management, who have helped the association throughout many years. Ed Alverson, Secretary, our toastmaster at the 1941 Annual Banquet and Mr. Abramson, General Works Manager, will always be remembered as friends of our Association.

"Thus reads the history of a member that has enjoyed a continual membership in the R.I.A.A. since it started. Proud to be taking a part in each years activities and willing to bow to a new Champion as each season rolls to a close."

Each page had a picture of one of its teams and a bit of history. For Rockford Drilling Machine Company, we read:

"Rockford Drilling, Al Goranson, Gene Pellant, Moon, (Leroy), Lamont (Eldon), Paulson (Wayne), Chink Antaczak, and many of the other active boys from the shop are in the same category with the salt of the earth. For here we find

that enthusiasm abounds in generous and wholesome measures where taking part in the activities of R.I.A.A. are concerned.

"We learn that Rockford Drilling first entered Industrial League Athletics in 1916 and have been creating quite a disturbance ever since. Especially in Baseball and Basketball. While they have always been involved in Bowling, the boys are mostly out for exercise, assuming that Stutz and his "bowlers" from Barber-Colman have the green lights in their favor in that sport.

"The Drillers never give up, which is an important characteristic in work or play. Take for instance the great year of the revival, 1936, when basketball blossomed forth after the Depression. Rockford Drilling finished the season losing every game. In 1938-39 they came back to win the Class B title for a crack at the Industrial League title.

"History states Al Goranson helped organize a basketball team in 1928 when equipment was purchased through the medium of a general subscription. They continued to concentrate on baseball during 1929 and 1930. During the Depression years the boys "licked their chops" and laid plans which have been materializing as far as baseball is concerned even up to the present time.

"Since 1936 and up until 1941 they have sponsored baseball, basketball, and bowling teams through the efforts of the Shop Association. Their record does not include softball you will note, but will be adopted when the present crop of baseball players apply for old age pensions, they claim.

"The first Championship trophy came to the proud winners of Class B League in Basketball in the season of 1939-40 as we mentioned before. The Drillers baseball team of 1939 won the Championship of the Industrial League behind the pitching of LaMont and Moon, and they also won the four game play-off that year to end the season.

"Prominent through the years of sport, we find the name of Al Goranson, Now Chairman of the Industrial Athletic Association (1940-41), also players including Gene Pellant, Otto Belter, Leo Pellant, John Dzielak, Floyd Palmquist, Dick Simons, Bill Ragnar, Chet Gyler, Geno Zannanni, Walt Rudolph, Eddie Nelson, Jeff Malmgren, Milt Carlson, Ben Swennes, Lefty Hoard, Geo. Schnell, Walt, Roberts, Mart Willene, Jack Brast, Joe Eckstein, Andy Rafferty, and Ed Eskelson.

"These boys are in addition to the present crop of athletes, with which this shop has furnished its quota well. Perhaps the best co-operation of any members of the Association rises from the bosom of the drillers for in them is embedded a great passion for all our Association, stands for and in the sports in which it abounds."

Sports have always been important to the people of Rockford. The present 1977 chairman of R.I.A.A. is Jack Rinaldo, an active sportsman, and he has held office for nine years. The aspects are varied with some type of physical activity available to people of differing interest

and abilities. The Rockford Industrial Athletic Association has been important in the sports field with a pioneer-vigor much appreciated in the Rockford community and by sports fans and participants.

TRIAL, EXECUTION, AND REVENGE By Billie Whitsitt

For years certain counties in northern Illinois had been increasingly annoyed by criminals -- horse thieves, counterfeiters, and robbers. Governor Thomas Ford, an early historian of Illinois, wrote: "...the new counties, such as Ogle, were so poor in revenue, and so much in debt, their orders at so great a discount, that they were not able to build good jails; and the other counties which had then refused to receive prisoners from the new counties, unless the cost of their keeping were paid in advance."

Winnebago was in much the same situation as Ogle County. Governor Ford also wrote of that period: "The honest and substantial portion of the people were now determined to take the law into their own hands; they were determined that delays, insufficient jails, changes of venue, hung juries, and perjured evidence, should no longer screen the rogue from punishment."

On June 23, 1840, when B. J. Gray had been in Rockford only a few weeks, he wrote in the ROCK RIVER EXPRESS: "It will be perceived that the citizens of Winnebago are up and doing in a work of no inconsiderable consequence to the community....Let the citizens come forward....and pledge themselves individually and collectively, to use their utmost exertions in ferreting out and bringing to justice the horse-thieves and other rogues now lurking among us...."

The night of August 17th, 1840, Buel's store and post office at Kishwaukee, in southern Winnebago County, was robbed of nine hundred dollars worth of merchandise, and an advertisement was placed in Gray's EXPRESS offering a one-hundred - dollar reward for discovering the robbers and returning the goods.

The countryside reacted immediately to the robbery, a description of that reaction being printed directly below the advertisement in the form of a very long letter signed "Veritas." Appearing in the August 29, 1840, issue of the ROCK RIVER EXPRESS, a part of it read:

"....at the break of a day, on Wednesday, the town was all bustle and confusion -- almost every man, fit for service, was preparing for diligent search of the most suspicious parts of the surrounding country; and, thank goodness these places are at a distance of at least fifteen miles from us....At 1/2 past 8 all were ready to start, and we do not know a more imposing sight than the fifty honest men of Rockford presented, in pursuit (or in search, rather) of the rogues....but all the inhabitants of the vicinity, they detected sufficient discrepancy in their testimony to war-

rant them into taking into custody a fellow of the name of Taylor Driscoll...who.... was held in bonds of one thousand dollars for his appearance to take his trial at the Winnebago County Circuit Court next month."

Judge Ford of Ogle County had had several of the criminals in his court at one time or another. He remarked on one occasion, as quoted in the HISTORY OF OGLE COUNTY by Henry R. Boss (1859): "...that he was going away on business, and should be obliged to leave his family behind him; and should the desperadoes dare to injure his family, or property during his absence, he would follow them until he overtook them, when the first tree should be their gallows; and if the injury should be done while he was trying any case, he would leave the bench and follow them up until they were exterminated. Such language as this, from a judge on the bench, assured the people that (they) had nothing to fear in a Court presided over by him; and this eventually led to the formation of the Regulators."

Thus, in the spring of 1841, the Regulators took the law into their own hands and began to make life more difficult for the criminals. This group was made up of a few hundred of the citizens of Ogle County and Winnebago County. They made the criminals uncomfortable enough by their direct tactics that their leader was finally murdered by ambush.

The leader of the Regulators was a John Campbell, a devout Presbyterian from Ogle County. On a Sunday evening, June 27th, as he walked from his barn, his wife saw two members of the Driscoll mob shoot him down. It was a cold-blooded and vicious act.

John Driscoll and his two sons were apprehended and put in jail in Oregon, but on Tuesday morning a group of men battered down the jail door and took the three prisoners to an area near Oregon called Washington Grove.

A crowd gathered quickly there, between 250 and 500 men, among them Daniel Haight and Charles Latimer, and a mob court was declared led by a lawyer, E. S. Leland. Pierce Driscoll was examined and permitted to go free for lack of evidence, but the father and remaining son William were retained. Charles A. Church, historian of Winnebago County, described the "trial":

"After further deliberation, Mr. Leland called for an expression of opinion upon the guilt of the prisoner;.... The decision was almost unanimous against them. The vote upon their punishment was equally decisive that they should be hung, then and there; and they were given one hour in which to prepare for death. The condemned men implored their executioners to change the method of death from hanging to shooting. This request was granted by a unanimous vote. The senior Driscoll had stood in the meantime with the rope around his neck...."

During this "court" Charles Latimer spoke in behalf of the people; and Jason Marsh, also of Rockford, volunteered to defend the prisoners, as part of the formality of the execution.

According to Church it was a time of great solemnity. Ministers were present who talked with the two men and led

them in prayer. Church continues:

"When the hour for execution arrived, about one hundred and twenty men were drawn up in a line, in single file. This line was divided in the center. John Driscoll was led out...made to kneel ten paces in front of the west half of the line. His eyes were blindfolded, and his arms pinioned behind him. At the signal, every gun, save one, was fired in a single volley. John Driscoll fell forward on his face without a struggle or a groan..

"William Driscoll was then brought out and placed at the same distance before the center of the other half of the line. He was blindfolded, pinioned and made to kneel upon the ground. As Judge Leland counted three, the volley of more than fifty guns was as the sound of one. William Driscoll was dead. The father and son fell about forty feet apart. A grave was dug between them ...The old man was taken and placed in the grave, without coffin or shroud; and then the son was laid by his side. Their caps were drawn over their faces, and thus they were buried, without the presence of a mourning friend...in carrying the elder Driscoll to the grave (it was) discovered that the bones of his head were literally broken to pieces, and the region of the heart perforated with bullets. In William Driscoll's vest front were found forty bullet-holes."

A sequel to this bloody scene was the legal action taken against the self-appointed "court". Church says:

"Some months after the execution of the Driscolls, the matter was brought before the attention of the grand jury in Ogle County. Judge Ford then resided at Oregon, and it is said this action was taken at his suggestion. At the September term of the Circuit court, indictments were found against one hundred and twelve citizens. Among these were ...Horace Miller, Jason Marsh and Charles Latimer, of Winnebago County...Judge Ford presided....Some of the jurors were under indictment for complicity in the affair. Several witnesses were called and pleas made; and without leaving their seats the jury returned a verdict of 'not guilty.' No one expected a conviction; but it was considered desirable to have the matter settled according to the regular form of law."

Henry R. Boss in his HISTORY OF OGLE COUNTY tells it in this manner: "The friends of the Driskells (sic) afterwards procured a bill of indictment against the Regulators, charging them with murder. The Regulators and their friends at once procured similar bills against every person who was present at the execution, the whole numbering about one hundred and twenty-five men; and as all were under indictment, it was impossible to find any witnesses, and all were cleared."

Historian Boss then adds what was apparently the consensus of the people at the time:

"The remedy adopted by the citizens was a terrible one, but we cannot call in question its wisdom. We must reflect, in judging of this matter, that the desperadoes were the most numerous, and were able to control the elections, thereby placing their own friends in power and confiding to them

the execution of laws intended as a defense against their lawlessness. It was apparently the ONLY remedy, and the early settlers showed much courage in making use of it."

There was one man who spoke out firmly against the lynching of the Driscolls, and for his unqualified statement, received an underhanded rebuke.

In the next issue of the STAR, July 1, 1841, Philander Knappen printed two letters. One was signed "Vox Populi," and John H. Thurston wrote in his "Reminiscences" that he presumed it to be written by Jacob B. Miller. We learn in this communication that the two men who were executed at Washington Grove were not the same men who killed Campbell, the leaders of the Regulators. The actual killers were David Driscoll, another son of John Driscoll, and a man named Bridge.

Miller, if he is the author of the first letter, was profoundly disturbed by the lynchings and wrote of the executed men:

"...They were escorted by the Mob to Washington Grove, ...when and where the usual one-sided exparte trial in cases of suspicion, was granted them. After raking and scraping testimony from every noon and corner of the promiscuous assemblage, some of whom were in attendance merely 'to see the fun,' even that jury could find them guilty of nothing more heinous than a blood connection to David,.... They were therefore sentenced to be executed, and one hour only was granted them to prepare for that 'journey from whence no traveler returns.'"

The other communication which Knappen printed was signed "B", and Thurston wrote that this one he knew was written by Charles Latimer, and he, Thurston, set both letters in readiness to be run off in the newspaper.

Latimer's letter was an attempt to justify the executions, even though he admitted they had the wrong man. It was a calm letter, clever in its calmness. He had helped to do the deed, and was supported by most of the people; he could afford to be calm in his justification.

It is to Knappen's credit that he printed both letters. He then made an unqualified statement of his own supporting the first one. Perhaps his best remark was that if the amount of time and energy spent in the injustices of the mob court had been used instead to procure a strong and proper jail, one of the major problems of dealing with the abundant number of criminals would have been solved. His editorial was a thoughtful commentary, carefully taking the long view of society, even as he had in his earlier days in Rockford recognized the need for everyone to be exposed to a good education.

(To be concluded in next issue)

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