

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

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STEPHEN MACK, JR.
FUR TRADER AND BUSINESSMAN
THE TOWN OF PECATONIC
By Thomas A. Powers

*Stephen Mack & J.P. Bradstreet (to others)
Claim*

By All that part of sec. 23 Township 1st
Range one East of 3^d principal Meridian
which lies on the west side of Rock River
and on the south side of the Pekalobica ran-
ging the south half & two small fractions
of the north half of said section also a timber
lot lying part on the north east quarter of
sec. 22 & part on the north west quarter
of section 23 Township & Range as above &
bounded as follows viz. south by Pekalobica
River on the north east & west by two slen-
gin or marshes which empty into Pekalobica
one on the east & the other on the west of said
timber lot the remaining boundary is at the
north west end of 3^d Grove where the 2^d mark
is approach to within a few rods of each
other and at which place the line crosses
from one to the other and is designated
by one or more marked trees - 3^d timber
lot computed to contain 80 Acres
More or less.

*This May 18. 1836
J. Talbot Secy.*

*St. Mack also claims the west half of
Section 26 Range 1 East 3. 11. Town 46
N. M. Transferred by order from Luce to
Mather*

J. B. Halmon Secy.

Original Land Claim as filed on behalf of Stephen Mack, Jr. and J.P. Bradstreet on May 18, 1836 and recorded in the book kept by the Rockton area "Mutual Claim Society". This book was used to challenge the Polish land claim. (Courtesy: Rockford Public Library)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue of NUGGETS is a double issue. The summer issue was delayed. To make up for it, this issue is longer than normal. It is a continuation of the history of Stephen Mack and the town he founded. A town that he called Pecatonic, but which has come to be commonly known as Macktown. The story of Stephen Mack echoes many of the common themes of life on the early nineteenth century frontier. This issue picks up his story on the verge of settlement on the Illinois frontier.

The research that went into these articles is not the work of one person. A number of people have helped research the life of Stephen Mack. I would particularly like to thank Jim McAfee for his assistance in researching this article. Jim has done a great deal of research relating to Stephen Mack, the town of Pecatonic and the other early settlers in the town. His willingness to share his knowledge and point me to other resources was a great help.

WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

If you have a subject that you have researched, or an idea for an article that you would like to pursue, give me a call. I would like to encourage original research into some aspects of local history that have not been adequately pursued. I can be reached at 968-5055.

Thomas Powers, Editor

2001 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, November 11, 2001
3:00 p.m.

The Rockford Historical Society annual membership meeting will be held on November 11th at Midway Village. The meeting will include the election of officers and board members for next year and a report on the cemetery walk held at Greenwood Cemetery. There will also be a program on a subject to be announced later.

**STEPHEN MACK, JR.
FUR TRADER AND BUSINESSMAN
THE TOWN OF PECATONIC**

In 1833 the northern third of Illinois was still mostly wilderness. The French had explored the Illinois country and established trading posts as far back as 1673, yet as recently as 1800 the population of the Illinois territory was only 2,458. However, the pace of growth was accelerating. After the War of 1812 when many of the Indian tribes had sided with the British, a large influx of settlers began to arrive in the Illinois Territory. By 1820 the population of the new state had grown to 55,211, virtually all of them in southern and central Illinois. About this time there were also about 15,000 Indians in the state, almost all of them in the northern half of the state. By 1830 the population of the state had reached 157,445 and was continuing to grow rapidly. Almost all of these early settlers chose the southern or central part of the state. The only town of any size in northern Illinois in 1833 was Galena. Chicago was just beginning to grow from a trading post with a few dozen inhabitants. In 1833 Chicago's population was 370. By 1837 it had grown to 4,170. Outside of these two towns were a few small settlements and a number of Indian traders such as Stephen Mack.

The Blackhawk War is often considered the pivotal event that spurred settlement into northern Illinois. Many soldiers and militia volunteers who saw service in the war saw the beautiful prairies and woodlands of northern Illinois and

southern Wisconsin and came back after the war to settle. However, there were many other factors that made this area ripe for settlement at this time.

There was mounting pressure to open the land up for settlement. Lead had been discovered in the Galena area and had made that city a boomtown. Many would-be miners were attracted to the area and that created friction with the Indians, some of whom had mined the lead themselves. Also, the best land in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and southern Illinois was rapidly being claimed by settlers and speculators. The open prairie in northern Illinois was looking increasingly attractive. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 also increased the stream of settlers coming from New York and New England and in 1832 the first Great Lakes steamships arrived at Chicago. For these reasons, the U.S. Government negotiated a series of treaties with the local tribes to remove them permanently from Illinois.

Between 1828 and 1837, several treaties were signed with the Winnebago, Potawatomi, Menominee, Chippewa, Sauk and Fox tribes. In the treaty of 1829, the Winnebago gave up almost all their lands in Illinois west of the Rock River. They retained a small area in northern Winnebago County along with some of their lands in Wisconsin. In 1832 they gave up the last of their land in Illinois. In 1833

the Pottawatomie, Chippewa and Ottawa ceded five million acres of land in northeastern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. This cleared the way for settlement, although land had to be surveyed before it could be offered for sale by the government. In 1837 the Winnebago gave up the last of their land in Wisconsin and were moved west of the Mississippi.

In 1834 Stephen Mack and his family were still living at the Winnebago village named Howaniga on the Rock River. It was located two miles upstream from the future site of Pecatonic. Although the treaties had banished the Indians across the Mississippi, many of them still resided in the area and traded with Mack. In 1835 the first settlers in northern

Winnebago County other than Mack began to arrive. Thomas Talcott came through that summer looking for a place to start a town and a business. He found Mack still at Howaniga, but making plans to move to the mouth of the Pecatonica River. He told Talcott of his plans. Talcott decided to stake his claim on the north side of the river, across from Mack's claim. In August of that year, Robert Cross arrived. He would be the first settler in what would later be called Roscoe. He too found Mack at his trading post at Howaniga. Later that fall Mack moved permanently to the site he would call Pecatonic, the name the Indians used for the winding river that began at the base of the bluff. The word means "Crooked River"

THE SITE

The location that Stephen Mack chose for the town of Pecatonic was the high ground south of the confluence of the Rock and the Pecatonica Rivers. Since he was the first one here, he could have picked any site. He clearly felt that this was the best place for a town, and with good reason.

The town site was at the top of a hill high enough above the river to escape spring floods. The confluence of two major rivers created currents and other conditions that made ideal breeding grounds for freshwater clams and mussels. The banks of the rivers were wooded, but not far away were open prairie and rich soil ideal for growing crops. These conditions did not escape the notice of the original inhabitants of the area. Archaeological

excavations have uncovered projectile points indicating the presence of hunters from as far back as the Early Archaic Period (8,000 – 6,000 BC). Many more recent artifacts from the Woodland Period (1,500 BC – AD 900) have been found that indicate that the site was used periodically as a campsite.

There is a large shell midden along the riverbank. A midden is a large pile of shells that were discarded by the Indians after removing the meat. The evidence indicates that the Indians camped at the top of the hill, waded into the river to collect the clams, cooked them on the river's edge and discarded the shells right there. They probably dried the meat to use over the winter. Over several hundred years the midden grew to about one

hundred meters long and one meter deep. It currently extends into the bank about seven meters, but some of it washes away each year due to spring floods and boat wakes.

In addition to the natural resources of the area, Stephen Mack recognized the value of the rivers for navigation. Both the Rock and the Pecatonic were thought to be navigable by steamship. It would be seventeen more years before the railroad would reach Winnebago County. Travel by wagon across the

prairie had many hardships. There were many rivers, creeks and swamps that had to be crossed. There were almost no roads and even fewer bridges. Settlers were few and far between, and there were bandits. Steamships could bring your crop or your product to market and could return with manufactured goods that could not be easily obtained otherwise. Mack was convinced that if he built his town there, the steamships would come.

LAND SPECULATION AND THE FOUNDING OF PECATONIC

Since the Revolutionary War, land had been put on the market in various territories and states after the land had been acquired from the Indians and surveyed. Settlement in the west accelerated after the War of 1812. The British, who had controlled several forts in the area and had allied themselves with the Indians, were finally driven out. More and more Indians were driven west of the Mississippi, freeing up the land east of the river for settlement. The terms for buying land from the government had gradually been loosened since the original Land Ordinance of 1785, which specified that land was to be sold in whole sections only (640 acres). A series of laws reduced the minimum acreage as well as the price. By 1817 a settler or speculator could purchase as little as eighty acres at \$2.00 / acre. The land could be held for forty days for a down payment of 5% after which an additional 20% was due. The remaining 75% was due in three annual installments. By 1834 the

minimum purchase had been reduced to forty acres at \$1.25 / acre. The wave of land speculation that had been sweeping the west for many years was approaching a fever pitch.

It was in this environment that Stephen Mack decided to start a town. Many people saw that land prices in the west were skyrocketing. If you could purchase a good town site for \$1.25 / acre from the government, then lay out blocks and lots that could be sold for many times that amount, you could make a fortune. Many people with money were buying up choice land along rivers and canals for potential town sites. In the past, farmers had settled areas first and towns had arisen later as other businesses followed the farmers. Now the towns were being laid out first with the hope that the people would follow. Some towns started in this fashion flourished. Many did not. Mack had seen his father successfully found the town of Pontiac, Michigan in 1818. He had lived in the Rock River valley for at

least a dozen years and he knew the area better than anyone. Who better to found a new town?

Sometime in early 1835 Mack began corresponding with John P. Bradstreet about becoming his partner in this new venture. Not much is known about Bradstreet. He may have been a fur trader like Mack. He was originally from Albany, New York, but he also lived in Chicago, St Louis and Des Moines. He probably never lived in Pecatonic. Mack's other partner was John Baptiste Beaubien. Beaubien was an agent of the American Fur Company in Chicago. Beaubien had many years of experience. He was an important man in Chicago and Mack would certainly have known him since his earliest days in the fur trade.

We do not know why Mack felt it necessary to take on partners. After all, he could have purchased the land himself and then if he were successful he would not have had to share the profits. But there were two factors that probably led to his decision. They were risk and money. By 1835 land speculation was reaching a fever pitch. Speculators in the Chicago area where Mack still had connections were buying land as fast as it came on the market. They were hoping to make their fortunes reselling potential town sites, but there was a lot of competition. There were a lot of future town sites that failed, leaving the speculators high and dry. By taking on partners you could share the risk. There was more to building a successful town than just buying the land and laying out lots. You had to build roads and maybe bridges. You had to convince settlers to come to your town. That

might involve advertising. You had to build or encourage others to build businesses to provide employment. Providing a school encouraged potential settlers. All of these things required money and some degree of expertise. Partners could share the expense and provide some of the expertise.

Beginning in 1836, you also had to have cash! This was important. All land sales from the government had to be made in U.S. currency. This meant gold or silver coin. Paper money issued by private banks was not accepted. Most people did not have much money. Their assets were their homes, their farm animals and equipment, or if they had a trade, the tools of their trade. Cash was scarce so people traded for what they needed. Someone with money was at a decided advantage when it came to buying land. As land prices escalated due to speculation, back in Washington, President Andrew Jackson was destroying the federal banking system and transferring all federal assets to a few chosen state banks. Things came to a head in March of 1837 when a depression known as the Panic of 1837 began. By the end of the year 618 banks had failed and land prices plummeted. It wasn't until 1843 that things began to improve.

The government surveyor, Donald Spaulding, came through the Rockton area in December of 1835, laying out township and section lines. On May 18, 1836 Mack and Bradstreet filed a claim for the portion of section 23 in township 46 that lies south of the river. This claim was filed with the local "Mutual Claim Society" since the

land had not yet been put up for sale by the government. Just before the land was put up for sale, Count Klopiski claimed all of Rockford and Rockton townships for his Polish exiles. The U.S. government had granted these exiles 36 sections of land provided that they choose unoccupied land in adjacent townships in Illinois or Michigan. Count Klopiski claimed land in two non-adjacent townships, some of which was already settled. When the rest of Winnebago County was put up for sale later in 1836, these two townships were held out. It would be seven years before the claims of the Polish exiles were wiped out by Act of Congress and the original settlers were able to get clear title to their land. The "Mutual Claim Society" was created to protect the rights of the early settlers. They recorded their claims in record books and kept track of purchases and sales. When the land was finally cleared for sale in 1843, these books were used to record claims at the land office in Dixon.

In 1838 Mack's second partner, John Baptiste Beaubain entered the picture. He purchased an Indian float from Joseph Thibeau; an Indian trader who was the first settler in what would become Beloit, Wisconsin. He then sold approximately two-thirds of the land to Mack and Bradstreet.

Indian floats were land grants that were negotiated as part of some of the Indian treaties. Many of the fur traders had taken Indian wives who bore them children. These children, being half-Indian were entitled to some compensation for the loss of the land by the tribe. Since they were usually not going west to the new

reservation with the rest of the tribe, they were granted one or occasionally two sections of land to do with as they wished. Sometimes the wives were granted land as well. They were called floats by the early settlers because they could be used to claim any section of land they wished, subject to review by a board of commissioners. Many of these floats were sold to speculators or settlers who used them to claim the best piece of property they could find.

Joseph Thibeau had married a Winnebago Indian woman and they had three children. In the Treaty of Prairie du Chien signed in 1829, each of his children had been granted one section of land. His daughter Theresa died in infancy so the float went to Joseph. It was this float, sold to John Beaubain for \$800 on January 17, 1838, that became the site of Pecatonic. On June 2, 1838, Beaubain sold selected blocks and lots to his partners Mack and Bradstreet. It is clear that the site had already been platted and recorded. However, the original plat has been lost to history. The three partners did not simply divide the town site in thirds. It appears that they sat down with a map and divided the choicest lots among them. Each of the three partners received a long list of specific blocks and lots.

The question arises; why did Mack, Bradstreet and Beaubain purchase the land in 1838 that they had already claimed in 1836? The claim they had made in 1836 had not yet been perfected. The land had still not been offered for sale by the government due to the conflict arising

THE TOWN OF PECATONIC IS ESTABLISHED

In the 1830s and early 1840s, the name Pecatonic referred to both the settlement south of the river founded by Mack, and the settlement north of the river founded by William & Thomas Talcott. It seems clear that right from the start, William Talcott wanted to start his own town, not to be part of Mack's. To avoid confusion, in the future I will refer to Mack's settlement as Mack's town or Macktown, although it was never referred to by that name during his life. In Rockford, rival settlements on opposite sides of the river quickly joined together into a single town although rivalries exist to this day. In Rockton, the rivalry was so strong that two separate communities arose on opposite sides of the river, one of which thrived while the other was destined to die out.

The rise and fall of Mack's town took place over a fifteen to twenty year span from 1835 to the early 1850s. During the late 1830s, hundreds of new settlers poured into Winnebago County and many of these settled in what would later be called Rockton Township. In the fall of 1836 twenty male residents of Pecatonic voted in the presidential election, although none are known to have lived in Mack's town. During the next few years the settlements on both sides of the river began to grow.

Who were the first settlers in Mack's town other than himself? We don't know. The three most likely candidates appear in the records by 1837. They include Daniel Fairchild, Eli Hayes and Martin Ormsby. Daniel Fairchild arrived in 1836 and settled

south of the river adjacent to the platted area of Pecatonic. Eli and Sophronia Hayes were the first occupants of a double log cabin built by Stephen Mack. Because of their willingness to entertain travelers, this became known as the Hayes Tavern. The Hayes' were here by 1837 and possibly earlier. Martin and Maria Ormsby were also here by 1837 and settled south of the river.

In 1838 Mack established a ferry across the Rock River. William Hulin, one of the earliest settlers in Pecatonic, first operated the ferry. Later, Jesse Blinn took it over until the bridge was built. Ferries were regulated by the government to prevent price gouging. Fares were set for teams of horses with wagons, single riders, and men on foot. In 1842 or 1843, Stephen Mack built a bridge across the Rock River at the site of the ferry. This was the first bridge across the Rock River in Illinois. The bridge was built with a 36-foot draw to accommodate the steamboats that Mack was sure would come. Mack provided much of the labor and almost all of the money to build this bridge to connect the two communities. For the rest of his life he tried unsuccessfully to get the County to take over responsibility for maintaining this bridge.

Stephen Mack always felt that education was important, both for his own children and for those of the other settlers in Pecatonic. The first school in Pecatonic was established on the second floor above Sylvester Stevens' carpentry shop. It was reached by an

outside staircase and was built about 1838 or 1839. This building was later moved across the river into Rockton where it still stands today and is used as a private residence. It is the only building still standing that is known to have been moved into Rockton from Pecatonic. About 1846 a new school building was built, south of Stephen Mack's house.

In the fall of 1838 William Talcott finished digging the millrace that ran between the Pecatonica and the Rock Rivers. The race provided a source of water power. The current turned a water wheel that in turn was connected with gears and belts to various kinds of machinery. Soon mills of various kinds were being built along the race. A gristmill was built where corn and wheat could be ground into flour. Three saw mills were built to provide the lumber needed to build houses and barns in the growing community. A few years later a furniture factory was established. It was the first in the area. This was the first mill race on the Rock River and it gave Pecatonic a big advantage over other nearby communities in attracting businesses and settlers. It also was one of the factors that led to the downfall of Mack's town.

Merrill Mack, Stephen's cousin, came to Pecatonic in the summer of 1840 or possibly earlier. He went into business with Stephen at his trading post and later in many other enterprises. Merrill traveled to St. Louis and New York buying merchandise for the store and conducting other business. Stephen and Merrill also bought land together. He was apparently not a very good

businessman. When he died on March 25, 1844, he left his business in bankruptcy. Stephen Mack wrote to his sister reporting the death of their cousin and stating that it had cost him \$2,000 to settle his debts.

Despite setbacks such as this, Stephen Mack was a successful businessman. In 1845 in a letter to his sister he outlines his circumstances. He still has his store, but he was in the process of getting out of that business. (Possibly selling out to William Whitman.) He owned 1000 acres of good land and was preparing to go into farming. He owned three good houses and one poor one as well as two barns. By the end of 1844 he owned 36% of the 240+ lots in Pecatonic outright, and he owned an additional 20% jointly. He and his wife Ho-no-ne-gah now had nine children.

In 1845, a committee had been established to find an appropriate location for a Female Seminary. Stephen Mack wrote to the committee and offered them a parcel of land in Pecatonic if they would locate there. The committee chose instead a site in Rockford. This school would become the Rockford Female Seminary and later Rockford College.

William Whitman first came to Pecatonic in 1841 and resided in the Hayes Tavern. He bought the land where the stone trading post now stands in 1845. Carr in his book, *The History of Rockton*, reported that he built the trading post in 1846. Archaeologists who have studied it report that the building may have been built in sections over a period of years. At the time, the trading post was located on the principal north-south

road through the county. It was just south of Mack's bridge across the Rock River. New settlers, farmers taking their crops to market or taking wheat or corn to the grist mill on the race, or travelers visiting friends or relatives would have traveled past Whitman's store. No list of his inventory exists,

but it was probably more of a general store than a trading post, catering to the needs of the townspeople and nearby farmers. By the late 1840s there were few if any Indians left in the area and the fur trade was virtually over. This period in the late 1840s was when Macktown was at its peak.

THE DECLINE OF MACKTOWN

Many factors led to the decline and ultimate abandonment of Macktown. Although it was founded with a great deal of promise, the seeds of its downfall began to take root within a very short period of time.

Land speculators who did not live there owned much of the land in the town. Not only the original three partners, but secondary buyers who purchased lots from Mack, Bradstreet and Beaubien in the hopes that the land would increase in value so that they could sell it at a profit. We know from other sources that there were people living in Pecatonic who never purchased land there. They were probably living on land that they rented from the owner, or were simply squatters. After the Panic of 1837, the value of over inflated land dropped sharply. It is hard to judge whether the land in Macktown was over inflated, but a fair percentage of the lots remained in the hands of speculators and were never sold to actual settlers.

In 1838 William Talcott platted out what would become the Village of Rockton. He did not file it with the County Recorder until May 30, 1844, probably due to the Polish claim. That same year, the millrace was

completed. This immediately brought businesses to the north side of the river and more settlers as well. Mack had set up his ferry also in 1838, but roads were primitive and bridges practically nonexistent. At a time when land was available on either side of the river, it made sense to many people to settle in or near Talcott's town rather than Mack's.

One of the reasons that Stephen Mack had picked this site at the confluence of the two rivers was his hope that there would be regular steamboat traffic up and down the two rivers. This never materialized. Since land transportation was very difficult, steamships were a major means of getting crops to market and delivering finished goods that had been manufactured elsewhere. Although both rivers were considered navigable at the time, only one steamship ever docked at Pecatonic and it choose to dock on the north side of the river. This was a hardship on Rockton as well, but they had fewer other obstacles to overcome.

On April 10, 1850, Stephen Mack died from a sudden illness. He had been the founder, principal landowner and leading citizen of the town. He had lost his beloved wife Ho-no-ne-gah

three years earlier. He left behind eight children between the ages of four and nineteen. This was surely a major blow to the community.

Perhaps the final blow was the loss of the bridge. In the spring of 1851, an ice dam broke loose and the resulting flood washed away Stephen Mack's bridge. This bridge which had been built and maintained by Stephen Mack was the link between the two communities. Another bridge had already been built half a mile downstream at the site of the present Rockton Bridge. The north-south road moved over to the new bridge. Now all the traffic that had passed through Pecatonic, (The settlement on the

north side of the river officially took the name of Rockton in 1847.) bypassed the town and left it a backwater.

The remaining settlers moved into Rockton or moved elsewhere. Some left for the gold rush in California. Some of the houses in Pecatonic were jacked up and moved across the river into Rockton. Some were scavenged for timber to build new homes. Some were simply abandoned. Whitman left his trading post in 1853. The town was probably completely abandoned by the mid 1850s. By 1898 when Carr wrote *The History of Rockton*, the only thing left was the stone trading post and Stephen Mack's house.

CONCLUSION

I started out by saying that the story of Stephen Mack's life is in many respects the story of life on the American frontier in the first half of the nineteenth century. Like many other young men who had fought in the Revolutionary War, his father later went west, becoming one of the pioneer settlers in Michigan. He became a successful fur trader, a trade he passed on to his son. He also became a land speculator, becoming one of the founders of the town of Pontiac, Michigan. These were both common occupations for men of his era. Stephen's mother Temperance also played a part in history. After the death of her husband she became one of the earliest converts of the Mormon Church. She followed her nephew

Joseph Smith and his church west to Nauvoo, and later to Salt Lake City.

Stephen Jr. followed in his father's footsteps, coming west to northern Illinois at a time when it was still a wilderness. He became a fur trader and married an Indian maiden as many fur traders did. He became one of the first property owners in Chicago when the town was first platted in 1830. He later founded his own town, Pecatonic, which he hoped would become a successful settlement. While his town ultimately failed to thrive, he was a successful business and family man who was respected by his peers. The presence of schools, roads, parks and businesses named after Stephen Mack and his wife Ho-no-ne-gah attest to his enduring legacy in the area.

TODAY

The site of the original town of Pecatonic is once again the location of much activity. It has been declared a National Historic Site. The Macktown Living History Education Center (M.L.H.E.C.) (formerly the Macktown Restoration Foundation) has been organized with ambitious goals. Their goal is to learn as much as possible about life in the 1830s and 1840s in northern Illinois, and to pass this information on through educational programs aimed at both children and adults. The long-term goal is to set up a living history museum with as many of the original homes and businesses as possible reconstructed. They have sponsored several archaeological digs at the town site. The M.L.H.E.C. holds several events each year including the Gathering, an 1830s era fur traders

rendezvous, and an 1830s Christmas Breakfast held in early December.

Midwest Archaeological Research Services, Inc. (M.A.R.S.) led by Dr. Rochelle Lurie, has been responsible for the archaeological work done on the site. They have located the cellar of the Hayes Tavern and unearthed many artifacts both historical and pre-historical. They have excavated a cistern located outside the Whitman Trading Post, the cellar of the trading post, and other sites. Future goals include locating the foundations, cellars or outhouses of other buildings in the town. They have also excavated the shell midden left by the Indians along the bank of the river.

The M.L.H.E.C. and M.A.R.S. continue to help us all to learn more about this important part of our local history.

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Results of Efforts to Relocate the Circa 1835 Macktown-Rockford Road and a Phase I

Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of Macktown, Winnebago County, Illinois. Prepared by Rochelle Lurie and M. Catherine Bird, Midwest Archaeological Research Services, Inc. Submitted to Winnebago County Forest Preserve and Macktown Restoration Foundation. January 15, 1994.

Records of Land Sales located in the office of the Winnebago County Recorder of Deeds, Courthouse Annex, Rockford, Illinois.

Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales. Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office records web site. www.glorerecords.blm.gov.

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