
NUGGETS OF HISTORY

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HISTORY OF STAR IN THE EAST LODGE #166 A.F. & A.M.
The First Fifty Years

By Stephen Aarli



The Masonic Temple was constructed in 1914 at the corner of Park & Main. The building was torn down in 1986 to make room for the parking garage.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue presents a history of Star In The East Masonic Lodge written by one of its members, Stephen T. Aarli. The Lodge was founded nearly 150 years ago and many of the civic leaders of Rockford have been members. This history covers the first fifty years from 1855 to 1905.

Stephen Aarli is the Secretary of the Star in the East Masonic Lodge in Rockford. Mr. Aarli is also a Civil War re-enactor with Battery G of the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery. He has also been a board member and was recently elected President of the Rockford Historical Society.

Mr. Aarli has done a great deal of research about Colonel E. F. W. Ellis and his family and has done presentations to his fellow Masons and at the Camp Fuller Festival.

NOTICE TO RESEARCHERS

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 885-1740.

Thomas Powers, Editor

CORRECTION

In the last issue of Nuggets, the first page of "Dancing Girl" made reference to Freddie Cantor. This should have been Eddie Cantor. The author and editor regret the error.

History of Star In The East Lodge #166 A. F. & A. M.

The First Fifty Years

By: W. Bro. Stephen Aarli, P. M.

In The Beginning: "There Was Light"

On Monday evening February 12, 1855, the following Master Masons were present pursuant to a notice from Bro. Edward F. W. Ellis, viz. E. F. W. Ellis, George W. Reynolds, Robert H. Cotton, Charles J. Horsman, Seth G. Chellis, William Hulin, Adam McClure, Joseph I. Burns, Joseph K. Smith, William M. Bowdoin all of Star In The East Lodge and visiting Brother Duncan James Stewart from Rockford Lodge #102.

A lodge of Master Masons was duly opened in the lodge room on West State Street in the city of Rockford, IL west of the Rock River in the county of Winnebago, under and by virtue of the authority given in and by a Dispensation granted by Most Worshipful Bro. James L. Anderson Grand Master of A. F. & A. M. (Ancient Free and Accepted Masons) of Illinois, dated at Rushville, Illinois on January 19, 1855. These petitioners being duly recommended as Master Masons by Rockford Lodge #102 where most of the charter members of Star In The East Lodge last belonged. Rockford Lodge # 102 was the first Masonic Lodge in Rockford. It was founded in 1851.

In the 1855 proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, the following Masons are recorded as officers and members of the new lodge called Star in the East Lodge #166.

E. F. W. Ellis	Worshipful Master
Robert H. Cotton	Sr. Warden
William M. Bowdoin	Jr. Warden
Dugald Stewart	Treasurer
William Hulin	Secretary
Seth G. Chellis	Sr. Deacon
Joseph K. Smith	Jr. Deacon
Charles J. Horsman	Steward
B. G. Wheeler	Steward
George W. Reynolds	Steward
Joseph Burns	Tyler

Charles H. Richings, Dexter G. Clark, Adam McLure, Holder Brownell, Isaac N. Cunningham, John W. Bingham, John Platt, Thomas Carico Jr, Lyman F. Warner, Abijah Blakman, Henry Fisher, Joseph W. Seccomb, William Van Arnam, W. N. Capwell, Duncan J. Stewart, George M. Smith and James G. Manlove were charter members.

Brother Ellis was selected to serve as the Charter Master since he had been elected to the Masters chair of Felicity Lodge #102 in Felicity, Ohio in 1848, as well as in Nevada Lodge #13 located in Nevada City, California. By-Laws, which were drafted by Brothers Ellis, Cotton and Hulin at a previous meeting were presented and unanimously adopted and recorded in the minute's book. Brothers Horsman, Reynolds and Cotton were appointed a committee to furnish and procure furniture for the lodge. Six petitions for the degrees were read and referred to investigating committees. (Lodge degrees consist of three degrees. They are Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason.) A resolution was then presented and passed that due to the inclement weather the lodges dispensation was delayed until this meeting, the committees on the above petitioners were requested to report, ballots separately spread and found clear. The lodge having no further business, dispensed with labor on the third degree and resumed on the first and Mr. Isaac N. Cunningham, John W. Bingham, John Platt, Henry Fisher, Daniel O. Ketcheson and A. Blakeman were initiated as Entered Apprentice Masons.

During the time between their first meeting on February 12, 1855 until receiving their charter on October 12, 1855, there were about thirty meetings held consisting of both special and stated meetings. Approximately thirty plus petitions for degrees and affiliations were read and balloted upon with all being duly elected. Degree work was held on a regular basis with Mr. John Platt being the first candidate to be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Friday March 2, 1855. On March 9, 1855 Brother John A. Holland a Past Master of Rockford Lodge #102, presented a valuable sword to be used by the lodge and Winnebago Chapter R.A.M. (Royal Arch Masons) Also, Brothers Richings and Brownell presented an elegant Bible for the Lodge and Chapter to use. Resolutions of thanks were adopted and presented to these members for their gifts.

Work continued over the next few years with little interruption or problems. On June 19, 1857, a request was read for this lodge to recommend certain local Masons to form a new lodge. The Worshipful Master appointed Bro's Bowdoin, McClure and Seccomb as a committee to make the inquiries. On July 3, 1857, they reported favorably providing that the petitioners can exemplify the work satisfactorily. No further mention of this request was found in the lodge's minutes. So it is not certain what became of it.

On December 18, 1857, a new slate of officers were elected and installed. They were: Bro's. Seth G. Chellis, Master; H. P. Stockton, Sr. Warden; A. F. Mitchell, Jr. Warden; William Van Arnum, Treasurer; R. S. Norman, Secretary; L. F. Warner, Sr. Deacon (refused to serve); R. P. Sealy, Jr. Deacon; J. W. Seccomb and W. M. Bowdoin as Stewards. Bro. Chellis was installed by W. Bro. Ellis, but unfortunately at a stated meeting held on March 5, 1858, a committee was appointed to inquire into some difficulties between W. Bro. Chellis and several Brethren. On June 3, 1859, a Masonic trial was held and W. Brother Seth Chellis was indefinitely suspended for unmasonic conduct for obtaining monies under false pretenses. At a stated meeting held on March 1, 1861, W. Brother Chellis was expelled by vote of the lodge. At a Stated meeting held on September 3, 1858, W. Bro. Ellis reported that he had received a petition signed by several members of the lodge requesting him to fill the Masters chair for the balance of the Masonic year owing to the difficulties with the current Master. He considered it his duty under the circumstances to do so.

At a Stated Meeting held on April 2, 1858, Brother William Hulin on behalf of the lodge, presented W. Brother Ellis an engraved key stone shaped jewel as a

testimonial of the lodges appreciation for all that W. Brother Ellis had done for this lodge. This jewel was returned to the lodge in 1964 by Mr. Chandler Starr Miller and Mr. William Forbes Miller, great grandsons of Brother Ellis and is still in the lodge's possession.

During the first five years of Masonic activity, there were only two Worshipful Masters. They were W. Brother Ellis who served in 1855, 56, 57, 59 and 1860, and W. Bro. Seth G. Chellis in 1858. Some of the more prominent members during these first five years were Brothers Edward F. W. Ellis, Charles Horsman, William Hulin, Duncan J. Stewart, John Platt, Dexter G. Clark, Lyman F. Warner, H. P. Stockton, Seymore Bronson, Henry Emerson, Caleb Haight, A. Halsted, Hiram Enoch, Eben Gaylord, E. K. Conkling, Thomas Garrison and Julius Gerber. Membership grew from 29 members in 1855, to 97 members in 1860. Degree work showed a steady growth with nine new Master Masons in 1855, nineteen in 1856, nine in 1857, six in 1858, fourteen in 1859 and fifteen in 1860. There were also a number of affiliations, deaths and demits (transfers to/from other lodges) during this time, which shows a healthy and active beginning.

The Civil War Years: 1861 through 1865

In early 1861, as the rumbling of guns and the rattling of sabers could be heard slowly drifting across the country, requests for recruits were sounded in every county, town and village. Rockford was of no exception, nor were the members of Star In The East Lodge. Answering the call to arms in the defense of the Union, Worshipful Brother Edward Ellis assembled a company of recruits from Winnebago County called the "Ellis Rifles," and then left for Camp Scott in Freeport, Illinois. Bro. Ellis was elected Lt. Colonel of the 15th Illinois regiment. There were at least twenty five members of Star In The East Lodge who enlisted and served in various regiments, holding ranks from Private to Colonel.

Three members who were killed during the war and were brought home to Rockford for burial with Masonic Rites were Lt. Col. Edward Ellis, Capt. Holder Brownell and Lt. Col. George M. Smith (not to be confused with the George M. Smith who was to serve as Master in 1865-1867). Brothers Ellis and Brownell were killed at the Battle of Shiloh and Brother Smith died of wounds received at the siege of Vicksburg. Colonel Ellis' last visit to his lodge was on April 19, 1861. Services for Brother Ellis were held on April 22, 1862. On Saturday July 11, 1863, the lodge met for the purpose of conducting the Masonic Funeral service for Brother George Melancthen Smith. On August 7, 1863, a motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase a portrait of Colonel Ellis by Brother Smyard, with the lodge and chapter sharing the cost at \$15.00 each. At a later meeting, it was ordered that a suitable frame also be purchased.

In June of 1861, the secretary was instructed to prepare a list of members who had enlisted in the army to be forwarded to the Grand Secretary. The list of members at this time was short, but near the end of the war the list was closer to twenty-five members. The following members served with honor:

Capt. William D. E. Andrus	Co. D	11 th Illinois Infantry
Qtr. Master Evans Blake	H. Q.	45 th Illinois Infantry
Capt. Syria M. Budlong	Co. G	45 th Illinois Infantry
1 st Lt. Giles H. Bush	Co. G	45 th Illinois Infantry
Capt. Holder Brownell	Co. C	15 th Illinois Infantry

1 st Lt. Joseph H. Burns	Co. E	141 st Illinois Infantry
1 st Lt. Gideon V. Carr	Co. C	15 th Illinois Infantry
Capt. Elias Cospers	Co. E	74 th Illinois Infantry
Pvt. Amasa M. Corbin	Co. D	74 th Illinois Infantry
1 st Lt. Henry H. Dean	Co. D	11 th Illinois Infantry
Lt. Col. E. F. W. Ellis	Co. C	15 th Illinois Infantry
Qtr. Master Hiram R. Enoch	H. Q.	132 nd Illinois Infantry
Pvt. Duncan H. Ferguson	Co. C	74 th Illinois Infantry
Pvt. Derastus Holmes	Co. D	11 th Illinois Infantry
Pvt. J. George Manlove	Co. D	11 th Illinois Infantry
Maj. James J. Palmer	Co. F	45 th Illinois Infantry
1 st Lt. Vilroy Q. Paxon	Co. C	15 th Illinois Infantry
Sgt. Daniel Richards	Co. D	71 st Illinois Infantry
Lt. Col. Robert P. Sealy	Co. G	45 th Illinois Infantry
Lt. Col. George M. Smith	Co. G	45 th Illinois Infantry
Cpl. Barnabas Swarthout	Co. A	147 th Illinois Infantry
Pvt. Riley Van Patton	Co. D	11 th Illinois Infantry
Pvt. Henry T. Wisner	Co. C	15 th Illinois Infantry

During the Civil War years of 1861 through 1865, the following members served as Masters of the lodge. They were Bro's Seymour G. Bronson 1861, Lyman Warner 1862; H. P. Stockton 1863 and 64 and George M. Smith 1865. The lodge continued to work, grow and support the efforts of the principles of Masonry during this troublesome time.

By 1864, a proposal was presented to the offices of Robertson and Starr to rent the third floor of the Stone Block located at 124 South Main St. for the lodges meeting rooms at a rate of \$100.00 per year. This building was located on the northeast corner of South Main and Elm Streets. On June 3, 1864, resolutions were prepared for a public ceremony as the Lodge and Chapter would form a procession to the new lodge hall.

Post Civil War Years 1866 through 1880

On March 20, 1868, a communication was read from Pecatonica Lodge Number 145 inviting Star In The East Lodge to assist in laying the cornerstone of the new Methodist Church on April 9, 1868.

Again on September 4, 1868, a letter from the Grand Lodge of Illinois was read inviting this lodge to be present and assist in the ceremonies of laying the cornerstone of the new State Capital building on October 5, 1868 at high twelve, which was accepted.

At a stated meeting held on November 6, 1868, a preamble and resolution was read and adopted to divide the lodge and finances for the purpose of creating a new lodge. On November 20, 1868, a petition was presented and read by W. Bro. Henry P. Stockton to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, praying for a dispensation to charter a new lodge in Rockford to be known as E. F. W. Ellis Lodge. This petition was dated November 17, 1868 and signed by forty members of Star In The East Lodge #166 with W. Bro. Seymour Bronson to be the first Master. Ellis lodge was chartered and met for several years at the same lodge rooms with Star In The East Lodge and the Chapter R. A. M.

It was a common practice for many years that when a member of this lodge passed away, that the lodge would be called together for the purpose of processing to the home of the deceased, taking part in the funeral and conducting a Masonic service at the grave-side. Resolutions of sympathy would then be drafted, entered into the lodges minutes book with a copy being sent to the family. This lodge was deemed a west side lodge and most all of the members during these early years lived on the west side of Rockford. Burials occurred at the "West Side Cemetery" now known as Greenwood Cemetery.

On Sunday, December 12, 1869, such was the case when long time member William Hulin who had been the local Circuit Clerk in Rockford passed away and was buried with Masonic honors at Greenwood Cemetery. W. Bro. Seymour Bronson presided at the graveside.

A letter was received and read on May 20, 1870, from G. L. Nevius Post #1, Grand Army of the Republic, inviting the lodge members to join in a procession to the west side cemetery to take part in the ceremony of showering flowers on the graves of deceased soldiers.

On May 14, 1877, Brother Almariu Hollenbeck, who was employed as a mason, was killed when the dome of the new courthouse collapsed. Many others were injured. A short service was led by Bro. Reverend Kerr after which they proceeded to the west side cemetery led by the Forest City Band where the Masonic Rites were held. The Christian Union Choir also provided songs during the service.

On December 8, 1878, a service was held at the lodge hall for Bro. Major James J. Palmer, a Civil War veteran, with lodge officers and representatives from G. L. Nevius Post Number 1, G. A. R. present. Masonic services were again held at the cemetery.

During their first twenty five years of Masonic activity membership had grown from about twenty-nine members in 1855 to one hundred and twenty nine members in 1880. The following members served as Worshipful Master with one serving six terms and one serving five. They were:

Edward F. W. Ellis	1855, 56, 57, 59 and 1860
Seth G. Chellis	1858
Seymour G. Bronson	1861
Lyman F. Warner	1862
H. P. Stockton	1863 and 1864
George M. Smith	1865, 66 and 1867
Isaac J. Zimmerman	1868
E. Charles Bean	1869 and 1870
James S. Tickner	1871
Elias C. Roberts	1872
B. A. Weber	1873, 74, 77, 84, 85 and 1886
John C. Norton	1875 and 1876
Walter E. Derwent	1878 and 1879
W. L. Nevins	1880, 81, 82 and 1883

As the first twenty-five years of Masonic activity came to a close, degree work was done on a regular basis and was conducted in a professional manner to the envy of many visitors. Difficulties between members occurred on a few occasions with charges being brought before the lodge, hearings held and some form of discipline

rendered. Suspensions for nonpayment of dues were as common then as they are today.

The Second Quarter Century 1881 To 1905

Star In The East Lodges second quarter century started out with Worshipful Brother Nevins assuming the Masters chair for his second of four consecutive years as Master. It was business as usual during this time, with plenty of degree work to keep this young lodge very busy.

A petition signed by thirty-one local Masons planning to start a new lodge in South Rockford was read at a Stated Meeting held on February 6, 1885. After considerable debate, a vote was taken and was defeated by more than a two-thirds majority. At the next meeting, held on February 20, 1885, the Secretary of E. F. W. Ellis Lodge #633 was present to announce that his lodge planned to relocate to the south side of Rockford. Since Ellis Lodge and Star In The East Lodge shared lodge furnishings, joint committees were appointed to make a suitable division of the properties.

The Board of Grand Examiners of the Grand Lodge of Illinois attended a Special Meeting of the lodge on March 10, 1885, to confer a first degree. R. W. Bro. Edward Cook, President of the Board, read the slate of Officers as follows:

R. W. Bro. James Douglas, Master; R. W. Bro. W. B. Grimes, Sr. Warden; M. W. Bro. Alexander Darrah, Jr. Warden; R. W. Bro. Edward Cook, Secretary; R. W. Bro. M. D. Chamberlain, Treasurer; R. W. Bro. Charles Fenny, Sr. Deacon; R. W. Bro. J. H. Dill, Jr. Deacon; Bro. O. Borboun, Organist; Bro. O. J. Wilsey, Sr. Steward; Bro. S. Townsend, Jr. Steward, Bro. I. S. Chandler, Tyler.

The lodge was opened on the First Degree with about three hundred members and visitors present. Mr. William Thomas Oliver was in waiting and was prepared and initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason.

It was with sadness that a report was read on September 20, 1889, that M. W. Bro. Alexander Darrah, who served as Grand Master of Illinois in 1886 and 1887 had passed away and was laid to rest with Masonic honors on September 6, 1889.

A two-day School of Instruction was held at Star In The East Lodge on January 29 and 30, 1890. The Lodge was opened on all three degrees after which M. W. Brother John M. Pearson, Grand Master of Illinois, was officially received. A request for a special dispensation to raise a candidate in less than usual time was granted. Brother Charles Kinnie, an Entered Apprentice, was examined and passed to the degree of Fellow craft on the first day of the school and raised to the degree of Master Mason on the second day. R. W. Bro. Munn, Grand Secretary, gave a very complimentary talk on the ritual performed by the lodge during the school.

Brother George Manny, whose family were prominent industrialists in Rockford, was laid to rest with a Masonic service at the West Side cemetery on June 8, 1892. A short service was held first at the home of his father John P. Manny. Pallbearers were Bro's Colonel Lawler, A. C. Deming, George Forbes, Will Woodruff, Watson Pierpont and George Woodruff. The Rockford Rifles served as an escort under the command of Lt. McGrahan. Crusader Commandery #17 K. T. also served as an escort. In a bit of family history, John P. Manny was married to the sister of Chandler Starr who was the son in-law of Col. Edward F. W. Ellis, the founding Master of Star In The East Lodge.

In March of 1893, an extensive Masonic trial was held at the lodge hall, with several counts of misconduct being brought against a member of this lodge. After reviewing all of the charges, with all but two charges being dropped, the lodge voted to expel the member from all of the rights and privileges of Masonry.

Degree work continues to progress at a healthy rate as new candidates are joining at a steady pace. At the same time, Masonic services also seem to be an ever-present duty to perform as many of the original members as well as those who served during the Civil War were also passing away. Such was the case when Bro. Richard P. Loveland, Captain of the 7th Missouri who enlisted in May of 1861 passed away. He was laid to rest on November 23, 1894 with the last rites of Freemasonry.

In June of 1895, a beautifully printed Memoriam appears in the lodge's minutes for Bro. M. D. Chamberlain of Freeport, Illinois who was an ardent student and teacher of Masonic ritual. He was a member of Excelsior Lodge number 7 in Freeport.

Several social and public activities were held such as public installations, picnics or socials were often held. On September 20, 1895, an invitation was received to attend the cornerstone laying for Northern Illinois State College in Normal, Ill. on October 1, 1895, with the officers of Grand Lodge being present.

On June 19, 1896, an edict was read from M. W. Bro. Owen Scott in reference to illegal ritual books and ciphers that were, on occasion, being used by some Masons around the State. As these books were deemed illegal and not authorized by Grand Lodge, those found using them would be punished.

At a Stated meeting held on April 2, 1897, three proposals were presented for new meeting rooms for the various Masonic bodies. They were from W. A. Talcott with whom the lodge was currently renting, H. H. Hamilton and Bro. D. J. Stewart, Jr. After much debate and discussion, the lodge voted to take up the offer from Bro. Stewart, Jr., as his offer appeared to be the most suitable and affordable. His new building was to be bounded by South Main, Elm and Wyman Streets. It would be four to five stories with heat and elevator service supplied and the lodge having use of the entire floor for the sum of \$1000.00 rent per year. At the completion of the new structure, a formal dedication took place on February 11, 1898. M. W. Bro. Edward Cook along with about 200 area Masons dedicated the new lodge hall.

The year 1901 saw the appointment of W. Bro. A. G. Everett as D. D. G. M. for the district Star In The East was in. R. W. Bro. Everett served nine terms as Master of this lodge.

Masonic graveside services were still a very common practice. Bro. David Dawson was buried in the East Side (now Cedar Bluff) cemetery with Crusader Commandary serving as an escort and G. L. Nevius Post #1 providing a Military salute over the grave.

Degree work still continued at a healthy rate during the late 1880's through the beginning of the 1900's with membership at about 260 in 1905. Affiliations were common, as were demits when members relocated to other areas. Suspensions for nonpayment of dues were also an annual concern. But fortunately many members made up their dues in a timely manner.

The year 1904 saw the cornerstone laying of the Masonic Temple in Freeport as well as the cornerstone of the Home in Sullivan, Illinois.

In December of 1904, at a stated meeting of Tebala Shrine Temple, a resolution was drafted that due to the increase in membership and the growing number of visitors to the Shrine ceremonials, the current Masonic lodge rooms were no longer large enough to handle the attendees. Therefore the Masonic groups were requested

to appoint committees to look for larger facility. The Master of Star In The East Lodge, W. Bro. A. E. Elmore appointed Bro's. J. G. Manlove, W. S. Harper and H. P. Huber as a committee representing this lodge.

By September 15, 1905, several proposals for available properties were presented by the Building Committee for review. The lodge's current landlord, D. J. Stewart, Jr., informed the Masonic bodies that met in his building, that he wished to make other use of their facilities at the end of their lease. The lodge building committee secured open options on the following sites. They were the Commercial Club lot for \$9,000.00; the Presbyterian Church lot for \$12,500.00; the P. A. Bradley lot for \$15,000.00 and the W. C. Butterworth lot for \$10,000.00. The Building Committee recommended the P. A. Bradley lot, as the most suitable. Again on October 6, 1905, the committee had received the additional proposals from the H. W. Price Glove Co. on South Wyman for \$31,000.00; from Dr. Finley for his property on Wyman and Walnut for \$10,000.00; from Mr. David N. Starr for the property on the N. W. corner of S. Main and Green for \$25,000.00 and a part of the old Miller property on W. State for \$16,000.00. It gave the lodges a lot to think about and discuss in the coming months.

During the second twenty-five years, the following members served this lodge as Masters of the lodge:

B. A. Weber	1884, 85 & 86 (also 1873, 74 & 77)
W. L. Nevins	1880, 81, 82 & 83
A. G. Edwards	1887, 88, 89, 90, 92, 95, 99, 1900 & 1901
Walter B. Taylor	1891
M. B. Little	1893 & 94
I. S. Montgomery	1896, 97 & 98
Charles R. Hall	1902, 03 & 05
Arthur E. Elmore	1904

As the first fifty years were coming to a close, it appears that the Masonic Bodies were growing at a healthy rate, with membership on the rise and already beginning to out grow their lodge rooms. The next twenty-five years would see a lot of major changes not only in the Masonic world, but in the city and country as well.

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A MEMORIAL TO LYLE BAIE

By Tom Powers & Mary Lou Yankaitis

Lyle Baie, a long time member of the Rockford Historical Society passed away last month. It was my privilege to have known Lyle the last several years as a neighbor and a friend. He was a wonderful historian who was always happy to share his knowledge. When I was writing a series of articles on the history of the Edgewater Neighborhood, Lyle was an invaluable resource. I visited him in his home on Cumberland St. where he and his wife Bernice raised their six children. In addition to Rockford Historical Society, Lyle served as president of the board of Graham-Ginestra House, as a visitor guide at Rockford Museum Center and as a charter member of the Rockford Society of Model Railroaders.

Lyle will be missed by his family and all who knew him. The following was written by Mary Lou Yankaitis who was a close friend of Lyle's for many years.

Our world is poorer with the death of Lyle Baie. He epitomized the word "Gentleman," in its truest sense. Not only did he act as a Gentle Man, but, decked out in top hat at Graham-Ginestra House, he LOOKED a Gentleman! Lyle was first a family man; the care and love he lavished on his children was reciprocated during these last years of his failing health. Lyle, author of HARLEM PARK, loved Rockford history and was eager to share his knowledge. Just recently he corrected my incorrect location of the Rockford dam and carefully gave me the sites of the horse watering troughs once located on Rockford streets. We always talked of co-authoring a book—but it was not to be. In a long phone conversation with Lyle only a few month's ago, he told me he hoped he never would have to go to a nursing home. He suffered a stroke at his daughter's home and died as he would have wished. Those of us who could claim Lyle as a friend treasured his friendship and were blessed by it. Good Night, Sweet Prince! You have earned your rest, but you will be missed.

Mary Lou Yankaitis.

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Statement of Purpose: To enlighten and to educate people about their place of residence, to entertain with stories and fact, and to enrich lives regarding what is available to enjoy, to treasure and to honor.

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