

## HISTORY OF GAGES DISTRICT.

### The Indians—1.

The Illinois country was first settled by the Indians who did not use it so much for a dwelling place as for a hunting grounds. They usually made their living by hunting, but a few of the more civilized tribes cultivated the land and raised corn, etc., just for their own use. They did not raise it to sell and the women did the work while the men hunted. They were very skillful in raising corn, even with their rude implements, as the Indians taught the early settlers in the colonies that corn would grow better if a dead fish was put in the hole with the planted corn.

They made their own implements, carving them out of stone, and also using bones. Many people have in past years dug up many Indian relics and also we may sometimes find arrow heads. These Indians were called mound builders, and they hid their things in mounds. Mr. James Mogg found an Indian axe without the handle and a number of arrow heads near the shore of Gages Lake.

The ground at that time was well covered with trees making fine hunting grounds for the Indians.

There were many battles fought between the Indians and the white men at different times, but the war with Black Hawk practically ended their rule here and they retreated across the Mississippi. They were not much seen in this region after 1835.

### Trading Posts.

Many places on good water ways or at a point joining two good water ways were used as trading posts and the country around them settled, very slowly at first. These villages gradually grew and some became important. Chicago was nearest to our country that became a great city. It was settled before the Indians left this part of the country. It was given an Indian name. Waukegan, then called Little Fort, was also an Indian settlement, but not as important and did not grow as large. It owes its importance to its situation on Lake Michigan. Both were used as trading centers. Chicago was especially was important for grist milling.

The French Jesuits and explorers carefully passed over this very land when they crossed from Lake Michigan to the Illinois river. They did not spread out and settle down, however, but kept close to their forts and trading posts for protection for they were not here for the purpose of making homes as the English were, but merely to get land and trade with the Indians. We have now no traces of the French people except in a very few places and the French names on the map.

In 1848 John Gage bought 1,500 acres of land around the place now called Gages Corner. They moved here from Chicago where Mr. Gage was a miller. He and his family came to a place of many hardships and many dangers. There were no conveniences as we have them now, not even markets, yet they were willing to settle in this half wilderness. The lake and the Corner received their name from the first settlers to buy land here. Soon others followed in 1860. The country around here was quite well settled and Chicago was quite a large city.

When the settlers first came here there was many wild animals about. They killed the animals, such as wolves and deer for meat and hides, also turkeys, quails, pigeons and rabbits for meat. There was good fishing and also good trapping. There were brickyards at Grays Lake and Hainsville, but they were not there now. The old store now owned by George Battershall at Hainesville was a place where the early settlers got their supplies. There were other stores, but none remain now. Little Fort and Libertyville were also trade centers.

Adjoining the Gage farm on the south a Jones family settled on a piece of land of about 200 acres. They are the farms where Fred Chard and Walter Hawthorn now reside. There was a tree about 40 feet high on the Walter Hawthorn farm that was used as a lookout by the Indians. It has been cut down. There are the remains of an old log cabin in the

Chard woods, the Jones family lived in this cabin. They afterwards built a house where the Chard family now reside. There is a stone in the basement with the following carved on it: A. M. J., M. A. J., L. W. J., D. J.

Four of the children died of scarlet fever at that time and were buried on the farm a short distance west of the house. No stone marks the grave. There were two children left in the family, one a hopeless cripple.

The east and west roads which passes through Gages Corners, now cement, was a plank road and is now sometimes referred to as the "old plank road." There were toll gates at different places along the road where a toll was paid for driving on it. One of these was located at Hainsville at the cross road where the George Battershall store is now.

A pipe line from McHenry to Waukegan was built at the time of the World's fair in Chicago in 1893, to pipe the spring water from Waukesha to Chicago, because the water in Chicago was not pure. It lasted for a short time, but they soon had trouble. I crossed the Kapple farm which was then owned by George Kapple. It was about three feet under ground.