

## SOME FIRST THINGS AND EARLY HAPPENINGS.

The first white settler within the present boundaries of Lake County was Captain Daniel Wright.

The first home built was Captain Wright's log cabin, on the west bank of Des Plaines River, about one and one-half miles north of the present boundary line between Lake and Cook Counties. This was erected in the early summer of 1834.

The first family to arrive was that of Captain Wright, who reached their new home in August, 1834.

The first death was that of a son of this pioneer, Daniel B. Wright by name, who passed away September 7, 1834, aged six years. The wife, Mrs. Ruth Wright, died but three days later, and another son, George H. Wright, was buried only a year afterward, aged twenty-two.

The first white child born in the county was Albert B. Steele, June 20, 1835. He was the son of Richard Steele, who located with his family about two and one-half miles south of the site of the present village of Libertyville, in the spring of 1835.

Other early births in the county were: Ann Maria Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Jones, June 27, 1836, in Warren Township; James P., son of Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Norton, July 9, 1836, in Libertyville Township; Sarah Catharine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Landon, July 27, 1836, and Osbert Paddock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Philo Paddock, in October, 1836, the two latter in Benton Township. John Gleason, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gleason, and Jane Delanty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Delanty, were born as early as 1836.

The first store in the county was opened

by Hiram Kennicott, near the old mill a mile south of Half Day, in 1835. This merchant was also the first Justice of the Peace and before him was the first contested law suit.

William Easton opened a store at Half Day in a log building which is, still standing, in 1838.

The first couple married were William Whigham, Sr., and Miss Caroline Wright, a daughter of the first settler. The ceremony took place in January, 1836. Esquire Kennicott officiating.

The first clergyman to locate in the county was Rev. Samuel Hurlbutt. He was a Methodist, and came in 1837, stopping for a time north of Libertyville, teaching school at Half Day and taking a claim and building a home on section 23 in Fremont.

The first physician was Dr. Jesse H. Foster, who came to Libertyville in 1837. He practiced medicine, kept tavern, carried on a farm and through a long life was always an active and public spirited citizen.

The first school was taught in the fall of 1836, by Miss Laura B. Sprague, at Half Day.

The first Post Office was established at Half Day, August 22, 1836. Seth Washburn was its Postmaster. The second Post Office was established November 4, 1836, near the bank of the Des Plaines, a few rods south of Saugatuck bridge, Samuel Brooks being the Postmaster.

The first church organization was formed in a log house, the home of Alfred Payne, in the present township of Fremont, February 20, 1838. Rev. John Blatchford came out from Chicago to act as Moderator and assist in perfecting the organization. Those joining at this time were: Elisha, Cornelia A., Hiram and Melinda Clark; Ira, Phoebe and Sarah Harden; Oliver L., Mary, Alfred and Mercy Payne; Matthew and Lucy Hoffman; Nancy Gridley, Paulina Norton and Emeline A. Schanck,—sixteen in all. The church was Presbyterian in form, but in 1840 changed to Congregational and still maintains its organization. For a time meetings were held at private houses and school houses, then in a church at Libertyville and since 1856 in its own edifice at Ivanhoe.

The first church building erected was a Catholic edifice of logs, near Highland Park, and was known as St. Mary's.

The first church and the first church building in Waukegan were of the Congregational denomination.

The first railroad track laid in the county was that part of the present Northwestern system which crosses the township of Cuba, in 1854. About the same time the Chicago & Milwaukee road, was constructed, the completion of the road from the south to Waukegan being celebrated in January, 1855.

The first county seat after Lake County was organized was named Burlington, and was located where Libertyville now stands.

The first legal proceeding ever had in the county probably arose over a dispute regarding the occupancy of a "claim" near Gurnee. Ezekiel Boyland occupied the land, and a Mr. Blaisdell ineffectually sought to displace him. This was in January, 1836.

The first school house erected was at Independence Grove (Libertyville) in the autumn of 1836. It was made of hewed logs and was mainly constructed through the voluntary efforts of the young bachelors of the neighborhood.

The first blacksmith was a Mr. Morse, who, after working a few months near Half Day, located at Libertyville in 1835. Mathias Mason was a close second.

The first County Fair was held at Waukegan in 1852.

The first newspaper was the Little Fort Porcupine and Democratic Banner, which presented its first issue March 4, 1845, and continued about two years. N. W. Fuller was its publisher and A. B. Wynkoop its editor.

The first election at which Lake County pioneers were permitted to vote was October 17, 1835. The polling place was six miles south of Wheeling and but thirty-two votes were cast. This was while Cook County embraced all of northeastern Illinois, but it is understood that fully one-half of the voters in the precinct were from north of the present county line. Under the State Constitution of 1818 a residence of only six months was required and all who came prior to April 17, 1835, had the right to vote. The territory embraced all of Lake and a considerable part of Cook County and was called Lake precinct.

The first murder occurred at the old Goodale tavern stand in September, 1847. Silas Marble, a peddler, was the victim. The men suspected of and tried for the crime were acquitted by the jury.

The first entry in the docket of the Lake County Circuit Court is entitled Samuel Hurlbutt

v.s. William Easton. A school had been taught at Half Day by Rev. Samuel Hurlbutt, the teacher's compensation being provided for by circulating a subscription paper. The defendant had subscribed ten dollars which he neglected or refused to pay. The records show judgment for the plaintiff.

The first Probate Justice of the Peace was Arthur Patterson and the first matter brought before him related to the settlement of the estate of Samuel Tiebout. Wm. H. Hawkins was administrator. This was October 7, 1839. The estates of William Whigam, Sr., Daniel Merrill, George W. Buckman, Samuel K. Dearborn and Timothy Keyes were also administered on in 1839 and 1840.

The first water power saw mills in the county were started about simultaneously in 1835, one by Jacob Miller, east of Millburn, the other by Hiram Kennicott, south of Half Day. The first steam saw mill was that of Seth Paine, started in 1843, at Lake Zurich.

The first land entries were made June 18, 1840, by Mark Bangs, Mark Bangs, Jr., Daniel Hubbard and Elisha Hubbard, and covered eighty acres in section 21 and the south half of section 26, Township 44 North, Range 9 East, where the village of Wauconda is located.

The first assessment of taxable property was made in June, 1838, by Lewis G. Schanck, County Treasurer and ex-officio Assessor.

The first telegraph line in Lake County was erected in January, 1848. The wires ran from Milwaukee to Chicago.

May 29, 1836, a mail passed through the county, enroute from Milwaukee to Chicago. Prior to that time "runners" had occasionally made the trip, but this was probably the date of the first regular and permanent service.

Nelson Landon was probably the first man to keep sheep in the county. These he purchased from Phelps Nash, who brought a small flock from Vermont.

The first house in Grant was built by E. S. Johannott, on section 36; the second by Harley Clark, on the north bank of Fish Lake; the third and fourth houses by Chester Hamilton and Mr. Willard. Mr. Hamilton's was the first frame house in the township. The first frame barn in Avon was on the claim of Mr. Marble and was erected by Chester Hamilton.

## CHAPTER XII.

*Public Officials—Representatives in Congress—Members of the General Assembly—Of Boards of Equalization and Constitutional Conventions—Judges, Clerks, and Sheriffs—Other Officers—Who They Were and When They Served—Complete List of Post Offices and Postmasters—Some Statistics.*

## DISTRICT OFFICIALS.

Since the settlement of the county the following named persons have served the public in an official capacity:

*Representatives in Congress.*—1835-9, William L. May, Democrat, Sangamon County; 1839-43, John T. Stuart, Whig, Sangamon County; 1843-51, John Wentworth, Democrat, Cook County; 1851-3, Richard S. Maloney, Democrat, Boone County; 1853-63, Elihu B. Washburne, Whig and Republican, Jo Daviess County; 1863-73, John F. Farnsworth, Republican, Kane County; 1873-6, Charles B. Farwell, Republican, Cook County; 1876-7, John V. LeMoyne, Democrat, Cook County, vice Farwell, unseated; 1877-9, Lorenzo Brentano, Republican, Cook County; 1879-81, Hiram Barber, Jr., Republican, Cook County; 1881-3, Charles B. Farwell, Republican, Cook County; 1883-6, Reuben Ellwood, Republican, De Kalb County; 1886-95, Albert J. Hopkins, Republican, Kane County; 1895-1903, George Edmund Foss, Republican, Cook County.

*Members of the State Board of Equalization.*—1867-8, James Y. Cory, Lake County; 1868-71, William A. McConnell, McHenry County; 1871-2, C. D. Parsons, McHenry County, vice McConnell, resigned; 1872-6, Homer Willmarth, Cook County; 1876-80, Samuel B. Chase, Cook County; 1880-4, Christian Busse, Cook County; 1884-92, H. S. Williams, McHenry County; 1892-6, George W. Eldridge, McHenry County; 1896-1900, Edward S. Taylor, Cook County; 1900-4, James McComb, Cook County.

*Delegates to Constitutional Convention.*—1847, Horace Butler and Hurlbut Swan; 1862, Elisha P. Ferry; 1870, Elijah M. Haines.

*Judges of the Appellate Court* most closely identified with Lake County have been Theodore D. Murphy, of McHenry County; William K. McAllister, of Cook County, and Clark W. Upton, of Lake County.



CHARLES ADDISON PARTRIDGE.

General Grand Army of the Republic 1886-1902.  
For detailed sketch see page 413.

ber 25, 1842. Began practicing law at Lima, Indiana, in 1878; removed to Waukegan 1879; served as City Attorney 1882-1894; president and manager of the Waukegan Abstract Company, which he organized in 1891, having conducted the business since 1884; politically a Republican and a member of Waukegan Post, G. A. R.; elected Judge of the County Court of Lake County November, 1894, and is now (1902) serving his second term in that office.

WILLARD JONES (deceased). Born in Franklin County, New York, September 16, 1799; his father died about 1803, when the family was living in Saratoga County, New York; removed to Chautauqua County, New York, and, in 1833, came to Chicago (then Fort Dearborn), where he purchased lots at \$200 each; settled in 1835



WILLARD JONES.

and built his house on the Indian trail in what is now the township of Warren, Lake County; he resided continuously on the farm until his death in May, 1872; he was a Justice of the Peace in Lake County as early as 1839; for many years he was a member of the Baptist Church; in political opinion a Democrat prior to 1856, at which time he became a Republican and continued as such to the time of his death; his son, the Hon. D. L. Jones, is now (1902) County Judge of Lake County.



DEWITT L. JONES.

DEWITT L. JONES, Waukegan, Ill., Jurist. Born Warren Township, Lake County, Ill., Septem-