



Madison County Historical Society

MCHS News

May 2016

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 4 No. 2

715 N Main Street
Edwardsville, IL
62025

Hours:

Wed-Fri 9 am - 4 pm
Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm
Group Tours Available

Free Admission

Museum Phone:
618-656-7562

Library Phone:
618-656-7569

Web Address:
madcohistory.org

E-mail:
info@madcohistory.org

About Us:

The MCHS museum complex, consisting of a modern archival library, a museum in the 1836 Weir House and the Helms Collection Center, is owned by the nonprofit Madison County Historical Society and operated jointly with Madison County.

The Madison County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

SNOW BIRDS, SETTLERS, AND SAVING HISTORY

They called themselves "Snow Birds" because they were living in Madison County during the winter of 1830-1831, the year of the deep snow. After several unsuccessful attempts, they organized in 1887, the 75th anniversary of Madison County. The group decided to officially call themselves the Madison County Old Settlers' Union since there were

also "Old Settlers" organizations in the surrounding Illinois counties, but, informally, they were known as the "Snow Birds." In later years the nickname would be mistakenly attributed to their white hair which is an understandable error. By the time the organization disbanded in 1922, there were few members with memories of the year of the deep snow.

Continued on page 4



MAY-JUNE CALENDAR

Continuing Mini Exhibits

WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

Dolls from the past are sometimes considered "creepy" by today's standards.

~

DISCOVERING THE HISTORY BEHIND THE MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

~

CIVIL DEFENSE

Featuring a fallout shelter emergency kit.

Program

SUNDAY, MAY 22 - 2 P.M.

HISTORY SHOW & TELL

REMEMBERING THE OLD SETTLERS' UNION

Presenter: Cindy Reinhardt

Madison County Archival Library

See details on page 3.

Coming Exhibit

MID-MAY

ARCHAEOLOGY OF MADISON COUNTY:

CHANGING TIMES

Madison County Historical Museum

See details on page 3.

ABOUT US

MCHS BOARD

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Archival Research Asst.
Jenn Walta
Curator
Casey Weeks
Asst. Curator

VOLUNTEERS

There are abundant and varied opportunities for volunteers at either the museum or the archival library. Please call if interested.

MEMBERSHIPS

Several membership levels are available to those interested in supporting the work of preserving Madison County history through an MCHS membership. Memberships run on the calendar year, Jan 1-Dec 31. Applications are available on our web site, at the MCHS Museum or at the Archival Library.

PUBLICATIONS

MCHS NEWS

6 issues annually
Cindy Reinhardt, Editor

WEB SITE

madcohistory.org

ARCHIVAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

By Mary Westerhold, Archival Research Manager

As is the case with many home improvement projects, one completed library project creates another one. The completion of the probate project (see the March 2016 newsletter) has created a new project for the volunteers and staff of the Archival Library, and that is a complete index of the 200 boxes of guardianship files.

An index already exists for these boxes, both alphabetical and by individual box. However, when working with these files, it was discovered that a more in-depth index would be helpful. Over the many years of compiling the probate file boxes, the files were recorded in different ways - sometimes by the name of the deceased, sometimes by a child's name, and even occasionally by the guardian's name. The difference is not surprising when you consider that

the files date from 1813 to the 1950's and were handled over the years by many people.

To easily locate a file, the staff and volunteers are expanding the index. For each file, the following information is recorded: name of the deceased, names of all the children included in the file, name of the guardian, and the name on the outside of the file. This information is then entered into a spreadsheet and when all of the boxes are finished, the index will be printed and included with the other probate indexes. The spreadsheet is also searchable on the library computers as the project is in progress.

This project is time consuming, but all of the volunteers agreed that it was needed. Thanks again to our dedicated volunteers!

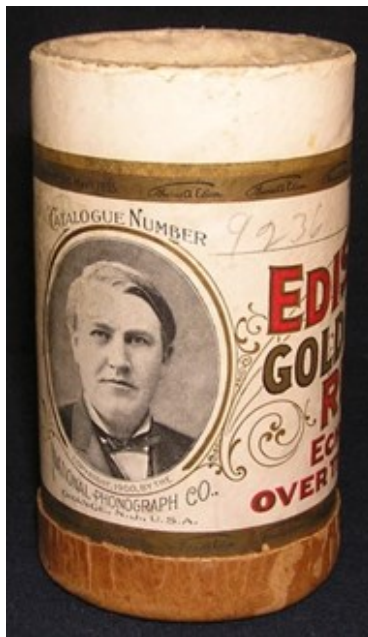
MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

By Jenn Walta, Curator

Edison Wax Cylinders

Thanks to new museum volunteer, Brooke Schlatweiler, the Society's collection of Edison wax cylinders is being cataloged and photographed. The images and information will be available to search on the website by the end of May.

The small black cylinders and storage cabinet were donated to the museum by Mrs. Arno Meyer in 1966. Her father, David Jones of Collinsville, purchased a player with a number of cylinders in St. Louis in 1910. Jones brought them home on the street car, and the family stayed up until 3 a.m. listening to the recordings for the first time. Mr. Jones was Sheriff of Madison County (1906-1910) at that time.



The "Gold-Moulded" process of making wax cylinders began in 1902 although most of the recordings at the museum are from 1905 and 1907.

According to the University of California Santa Barbara library website, a recording was made by creating a metal mold from a wax master. Then, a brown wax blank was placed inside the metal mold and heated. As the temperature increased and the wax blank expanded, the grooves would be

pressed into the blank. After the newly recorded cylinder cooled, it was removed from the mold. They were called "gold" because of the trace levels of gold that were used to create the initial mold.

CURRENT NEWS

New Exhibit on Archaeology

“Archaeology of Madison County: Changing Times,” an exhibit by SIUE Anthropology major Maudie Knicley, will open at the Historical Museum in mid-May. The work focusing on past and present archaeology is part of her Senior Assignment.

Knicley has been working with two major collections of the Historical Museum and Archival Library as well as referencing work being conducted in Madison County today by SIUE’s Archaeological Field School Director, Julie Zimmerman Holt.

According to Knicley, the goals of the exhibit are to “create and promote a sense of self in history, but also to show the slow process of how collecting and asking questions turned into a science over the years.”

She hopes that the exhibit will create an interest in archaeology by demonstrating that archaeology has been going on here in Madison County for many years and is an important part of Madison County’s history.

Virtual Exhibits on Website

MCHS recently purchased a software package that will allow staff at the Historical Museum and Archival Library to create “virtual exhibits” of items from the collections. The first two, one on the 100th anniversary of the Madison County Court House and a second on “Toys for Teaching: Through the Ages” are available on the web site now.

A third exhibit, by asst. curator Casey Weeks, will be posted in June and includes items from the MCHS fire arms collection. The exhibits are made possible through an Edwardsville Community Foundation grant.

History “Show & Tell” Remembering the Old Settlers’ Union Sunday, May 22 - 2 p.m.

For 35 years (1887-1922) the Snow Birds of Madison County’s Old Settlers’ Union met to share memories of earlier times. Another part of their meeting was showing “antiquities” from the early days of Madison County.

Like the Snow Birds at their reunions, MCHS invites area residents to bring items of historical interest to “show and tell” at the program. Also following their lead, those without artifacts are invited to come share in this oral tradition of relating stories from the past.

Participants will be asked to show the item they have brought and tell the story behind it in brief remarks of 2-3 minutes. Items should be at least 50 years old and from Madison County. Suggested items might be family photographs, farm or household implements, school programs, a piece of needlework, business memorabilia, wartime letters, artwork, etc. With permission, items will be photographed and the stories preserved through a virtual exhibit.

The program will be held at the Madison County Archival Library and is free and open to the public.

Work to Begin Soon

Phase One of the restoration work recommended in last fall’s assessment of the Weir House will begin soon with reconstruction of the roof and chimneys. Donations for this work are greatly appreciated.

2016 NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Mar-Apr ♦ Thank you for supporting MCHS!

Edward Coles \$ 250

Edna Grench

James Madison \$100

Sue Buckley

Roberta Mueller

Six Mile Regional Library District

Carol Wetzell

Family \$50

Judy Chapman

Murray & Mary Harbke

Pat & Don Jacoby

Thomas Kelahan

Gracie Koeller

Larry & Betty Krapf

Bill & Susan Lucco

Paul & Mary Peters

Paul and Barb Pizzini

Byron & Marty Walters

Individual \$35

Collinsville Historical Museum

Joann Condellone

Joyce Giaquinta

Norma Helwig Glazebrook

Robert Gusewelle

Nancy A. Hess

Esther Kacer

Beverly Kane

John Klueter

Melissa McCanna

Rowena McClinton

Ellen Nore Nordhauser

Lois Noto

Rebecca Pinkas

Martin Porter

Don Reaka

Virginia Schlueter

Margaret Simons

SNOW BIRDS, SETTLERS, AND SAVING HISTORY (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

Volney P. Richmond of Fort Russell Township organized that first meeting and served as the group's first president. His family came to Madison County in 1819. Larkin C. Keown, born in Madison County in 1830, would be a long-time secretary for the group. A committee of five plus a trustee from each of the county's townships completed the organization. Qualifications for membership were that, whether born here or not, you must have lived in Madison County for at least 50 years.

The Old Settlers' Union meetings brought together people who had experienced Madison County history or who had heard the stories first-hand from their parents and grandparents. The meetings became a way to preserve the oral tradition of the county's heritage.

Eventually they settled on a schedule of annual meetings on the first Wednesday in June at St. John's M. E. Church at the corner of Second and St. Louis Streets in Edwardsville. The day would begin with an informal business meeting, followed by "greetings and the shaking of hands" mentioned in most of the minutes. Then a meal would be served or they would open "picnic" boxes brought for the occasion. After lunch there were a number of prepared "papers" but much of the afternoon was spent reminiscing as participants, one after another, rose to tell their stories.

Attendees also brought items from early Madison County history, personal family items, musical instruments, farming tools, household implements, historic documents, etc., that could be viewed and discussed around what they called "the antiques table."

Although membership was limited to those in the county for fifty years or more, other residents were encouraged to attend and hear the stories of the old-timers.

Later meetings were more formal with a program of musical selections and speeches, but those early meetings where old friends and neighbors gathered were special times.

The last meeting of the Old Settlers' Union was held in 1922. It wasn't intended as their last

so there was no fanfare, but their meeting place was torn down in the spring of 1923 in preparation for the construction of a new St. John's M. E. Church.

Another factor that may have influenced the decision to disband was the successful organization of the Madison County Historical Society in 1921 by a committee of the Old Settlers' Union. In the end, after 35 years, many of those who had been in the county for at least 50 years were probably no longer considered "settlers."

The secretary's records of the Madison County Old Settlers' Union were donated to the Madison County Historical Society in 1937.

Front page photograph

Taken at the Madison County Old Settlers' Union meeting in 1913, the photo on page 1 includes some of the older members in attendance at that meeting. The oldest were awarded flowers.

Seated left to right: Edwin Wood, Margaret Springer, William Bradford Johnson, Mary Willoughby, Margaret Fruit, Dr. S. P. Wiedman, Mrs. M. A. Skinner, Caroline Burton

Back row: Sarah Clark Lanham, C. D. Kneedler, Mrs. T. V. Whiteside, Anton Weineke, Mrs. Joseph White, Joseph Bosomworth, Mrs. C. D. Kneedler, Eliza McKittrick, Mrs. Robert Friday, Rhoda Phillips, T. V. Whiteside (rear), Mrs. R. C. Gillham, Jesse Renfro, Mrs. Schaefer, C. O. Buckley, Jane Reynolds (MCHS)



The above photograph was taken at the 1892 meeting of the Madison County Old Settlers' Union. The oldest attendees (birth dates follow their names below) were awarded bouquets of flowers which can be seen here. There would have been a much larger group at the meeting, but usually only the oldest were included in the portrait.

In the above picture: Front row, left to right: unidentified, unidentified, Mary Barnsback (1802); John W. Coventry (1809) and his wife, Kate Coventry, Polly Tindall Denton (1807), Mrs. John Weaver, and Richard MacDonald (1810).

Back row, Thomas J. Lewis, Charles Fagenroth, Cornelius Arbuthnot, Mrs. Arbuthnot, Russell Newman, Elizabeth Belk Newman, John J. Vollentine, Larkin C. Keown, Eleanor Kinder Montgomery (Mrs. Nelson), Thomas Barnett, William C. Cotter, Abram Allen, Michael G. Dale, Nelson Montgomery, John Weaver, George Campbell Lusk and Sidney Robinson. (MCHS)

Winter of the Deep Snow

The winter of 1830-1831 was a difficult one for Illinois pioneers.

Between Christmas 1830 and New Year's 1831 more than three feet of snow fell in Central Illinois followed by freezing rain that formed a solid crust. Additional snow fell intermittently over a period of six weeks and the wind often whipped the snow about so that visibility was limited. Travel was difficult, if not impossible, through drifts that reached heights nearly as tall as the residents. Temperatures remained frigid and the snow didn't melt until March. When the thaw finally began it was followed by flooding and an exceptionally cool summer in which, according to a Sangamon County history, "every month except July experienced a freeze."

Some pioneer families were trapped in cabins that were not built for such extreme conditions and many were forced to survive on ground meal, usually corn, which was all they could access during the severe weather. Stockpiles of wood for the fire also

were depleted with no easy way to replenish them.

Despite conditions, out of desperation Joseph Faulkner, a Jerseyville farmer, drove his wagon and oxen into Alton to purchase supplies for his family. Unfortunately, like others in Illinois that winter, he died of exposure on his way home.

With the ground covered and frozen for such a long length of time, wildlife also suffered. It was said that the deer became so emaciated that near the end men wearing snow shoes could run them down to kill them for food, but by then there was little meat left on them. It was several years before wild life populations were restored in Illinois.

Conditions during the winter of the deep snow were so severe that for a generation afterwards Illinois residents referred to events as before or after the year of the deep snow. If you survived it, you were proud to be called a "snow bird."

Organizing to Preserve History

The people of Alton were leaders in promoting the preservation of Madison County and Illinois history. Numerous times over the years, Alton newspapers rallied readers to form groups to record the County's history, and there were several attempts including an earlier Old Settlers' Society that met for a few years in the early 1870s and a more successful Illinois Literary and Historical Society founded at Shurtleff College in 1843. In 1858, after a few years of inactivity, the group revised its constitution and reorganized as the Illinois Historical Society before again lapsing into inactivity.

The first Madison County Historical Society was organized in Alton in 1903. It failed to take hold and a second attempt was made when a committee of the Old Settlers Union organized a Madison County Historical

Society in June 1916 with a constitution, elected representatives and permission from the county to use a room in the brand new court house for a museum. But it too lasted less than a year. In 1921, many from the same group successfully re-organized. This year marks the 95th anniversary of MCHS.



Loomis Hall at Shurtleff College where the Illinois Literary and Historical Society was founded in 1843. (MCHS)

to support the Illinois State Historical Library and to encourage research and writing on various aspects of Illinois history. Since 1997, they have been an independent not-for-profit organization whose goal remains to champion research, writing and education in Illinois history.

Old Settlers' Union Stories

June 1, 1898

"After business had been laid aside the meeting was given over to reminiscence by members, and to say they were interesting does not adequately express it."

"Z. B. Job's narration of the incidents of the time when three Englishmen murdered a peddler on the road between Troy and St. Jacob, and, how, when the men came into town on horseback, displaying a black flag, they were unhorsed in what is now lowertown and the leaders lodged in the jail by a determined band of citizens, sounded like a page from a work of fiction instead of real history."

"The crime so enraged the people that a fair jury could not be secured and Mr. Job sent deputies up Silver Creek to find persons who had not heard of it and were in consequence unprejudiced, and impress them to serve as a jury. The three murderers were executed in 1857."

"Rev. Asa Snell told of how a man working with a plow with a wooden mould board, drawn by two, four, and sometimes six oxen would break an average of one acre of prairie a day."

"W. D. Renfro, Troy spoke of the method of paying for grinding. When they arrived at the mill the owner would take one eighth as his toil. Then the corn would be ground between millstones turned by the horses that had carried the grain to the mill."

As published in the *Edwardsville Intelligencer*, June 3, 1898.

MAJOR BOOKS RECORDING MADISON COUNTY HISTORY

Madison County is fortunate to have numerous publications relating its history, although most of them were written and published as for-profit enterprises which tended to color the tone of biographical information. Companies that published these books would come to town, interview prominent citizens, hire locals to write parts of the books and prepare portraits for inclusion in the books. Most families had to pay to be included and the books were sold after they were completed. Most were republished in later years and can still be found in many Madison County homes.

There were three atlases and four comprehensive histories published, the last in 1912 for the Centennial of Madison County.

The earliest book is the *Gazetteer of Madison County* published in 1866 which had a focus on Alton. It was meant to be a presentation of the current affairs in Madison County with population figures, lists of residents (some but not all), and statistics about various businesses and industries. As an afterthought it included a section on Madison County History.

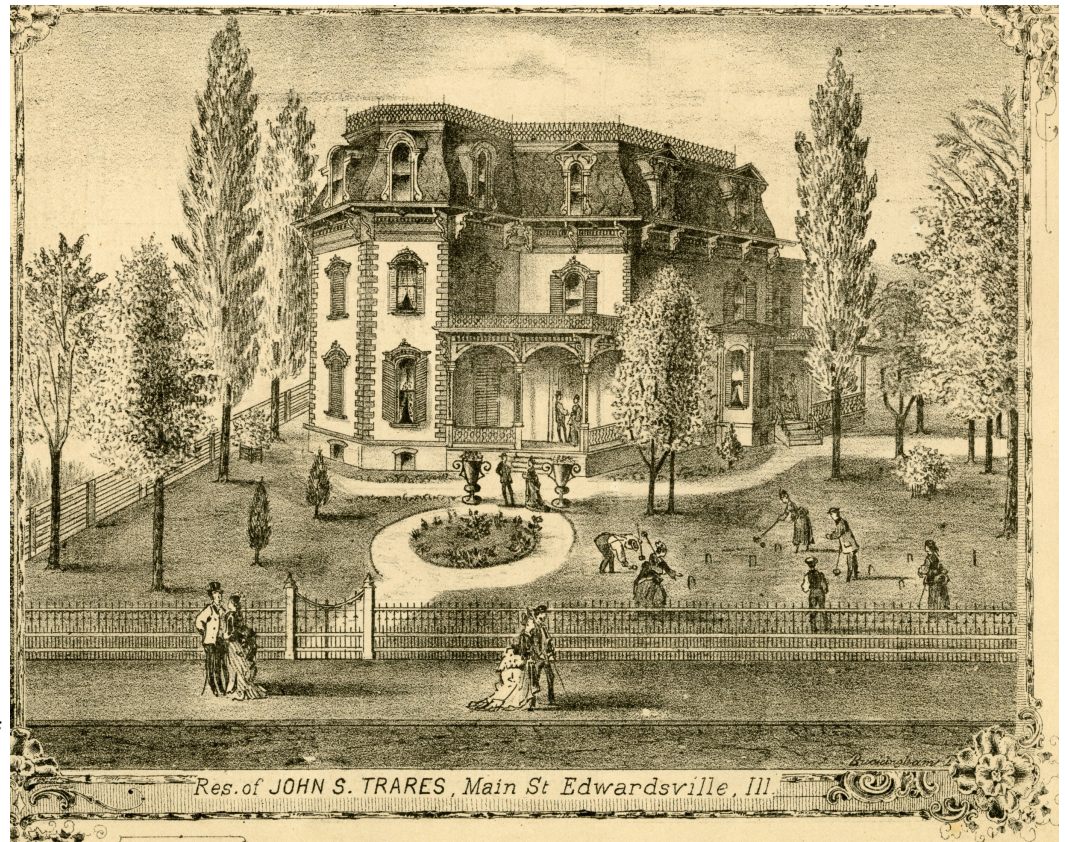
The Illustrated Encyclopedia and Atlas Map of Madison County, Ill. was "carefully compiled from personal examinations and surveys" according to its title page. It was published in 1873 by Brink, McCormick & Company. In addition to the township and city maps, there were sections on Madison County history, and many illustrations of farm or business properties. The book also included portraits and biographical sketches of leading citizens.

In 1882 W. R. Brink & Co. published an illustrated *History of Madison County, Illinois*. Brink travelled the country making these books in numerous counties, but his Madison County volume was a special project since Madison County was his home. There were no maps like in his previous atlas, but there were over 600 pages of Madison County history with sections for each city and township and expanded biographical sections.

Ten years later H. Riniker, Robert Hagnauer and George Dickson published the *New Atlas of Madison County, State of Illinois* which was a simple atlas of city, village and township plat maps. Although there are no biographies, it is still a good source of information for those researching Madison County today because it gives the names of property owners and bulk population figures from the lost 1890 census.

The 1894 *Portrait and Biographical Record of Madison County* featured "prominent and representative citizens of Madison County." This book has not been reproduced, but, thanks to the combined efforts of MCHS, the Edwardsville Public Library and Madison County Genealogical Society, the book is available online at www.idaillinois.org.

The 1906 *Standard Atlas of Madison County, Illinois* was compiled and published by George Ogle and Company. Like the 1892 atlas, it was a collection of city, village and township plat maps, but it also had a portrait section in the back as well as a "Patron's reference directory" which provided very brief biographical information. It was the first atlas to use photographs.



Above is one of over two hundred property illustrations in the 1873 Brink McCormick Atlas of Madison County. It shows the Trares house which today is occupied by the Weber and Rodney Funeral Home on Main Street in Edwardsville.

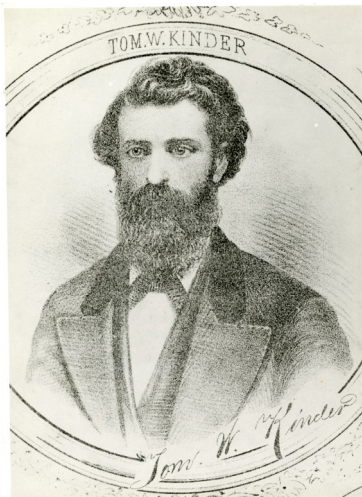
The last of these early published records, and the most comprehensive, is W. T. Norton's *Centennial History of Madison County, Illinois and its People*. Originally published in 1912 in two volumes, this 1,208-page book was reproduced in 1970 as a single volume.

It is the first county history to use portrait photography instead of hand drawn sketches of the subjects featured in the book. Wilbur T. Norton, a former editor at two different Alton newspapers, recruited other local editors and writers who wrote their town's section of the book.

Mr. Kinder Didn't Like His Portrait

Edwardsville Intelligencer
October 27, 1875

"A case of considerable interest and importance to a number of our citizens came to a conclusion in the circuit court Monday. It was the case of Brink, McCormick & Co., against Thos. W. Kinder. The defendant was sued on a contract involving the sum of \$75, which he agreed to pay Brink, McCormick & Co. for the insertion in their atlas of his portrait and history. The defense claimed that the portrait was burlesque, (and no one disputes it), and that the history was glaringly inaccurate, so much so that it subjected him to ridicule. The defendant, however, had given his note, or contract, payable when the company furnished him an Atlas containing his portrait and history. No matter whether the picture resembled the subject or not, the court and



jury decided that the obligation would stand in law, and a verdict was consequently given for the plaintiffs. Now the only remedy left for the defendant is to sue the company for damages. Had that portrait appeared (earlier), he would in all probability be a single man to-day, and would have just cause to lay his damages at ten thousand dollars. Take a look at all the portraits. There is Wm. E. Wheeler, one of the handsomest men in the state. Look at his picture. You will find it only by observing the signature.... Mr. Wheeler is a far-seeing kind of man, but his portrait makes him appear to be looking in two opposite directions. But we have no idea that Mr. Brink intended to make fun of the good people of Madison county. We sincerely believe that he is under the impression that the picture gallery in his Atlas is a work of art."

Minutes of the Old Settlers Union

The minutes of the Madison County Old Settlers' Union are fascinating to explore. Each year's record gave an outline of the meeting and entertainment as well as a report from the memorial committee telling which old-timers, whether members of the Union or not, had passed away in the past year.

There was also a list of items brought for viewing on the antiquities table. For example, the relics at the 1897 reunion included a buckskin coat made in Indian style and skins dressed by General Samuel Whiteside. Other items mentioned were a napkin "spun and woven by Mrs. Bucknell's grandmother seventy years ago" and a sword carried in the Ranger Service in 1872 and 1873 by Capt. George Kinder.

Depending on the secretary, there might also be notes on some of the stories told at the meeting. At the 1900 meeting, Volney Richmond talked of many things from the old days including an unusual custom.

In his words, "One custom was, if a difficulty came up between two neighbors they would go to town next Saturday early and get pretty full of liquor and when they next met in the street a fight came off and that usually ended their trouble, and when they met afterwards they would be peaceable and friendly. It was not an unusual thing to see a man with one eye gone — a part of an ear or a finger bitten off in a fight in the streets — they were good men too, except for this habit. I

Continued on page 8

Wesley Raymond Brink - Recorder of History

W. R Brink is a name familiar to any Madison County historian, because he authored both the 1873 atlas and the 1882 county history. Born in Frenchtown, New Jersey, Feb. 23, 1851, he followed an older brother to Illinois where he studied law. He was admitted to the bar, but found an entirely different vocation before starting a law practice.

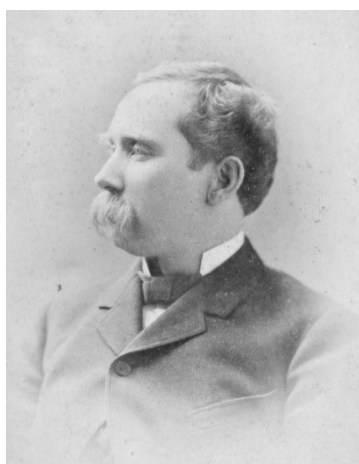
Brink was asked by a friend to join him in the business of publishing atlases and county histories. His daughter Florence once asked why he didn't return to law, and was told "The work I am doing is more important than anything I could accomplish in the practice of law and it will be more important as time passes."

Brink published dozens of atlases and county histories in Missouri and Illinois and then branched out to edit publications in other areas of the country. He would be gone from his home on St. Louis Street in Edwardsville for weeks at a time,

keeping in touch with his family through daily correspondence. Brink hired excellent writers and artists to compile his historical books which are generally considered some of the best of the genre. One of the artists hired

was his younger brother Ordemus E. Brink, who suffered sun stroke while sitting for hours in the hot Illinois sun sketching family estates.

In Dec 1873 Brink married Eleanor Gillespie whose family settled in Madison County in 1819 and were well-known community leaders. As a result, the Brink family enjoyed social prominence, and the income earned by Brink was substantial enough to afford a life of privilege. Although much of the family's wealth was eventually lost to poor investments. Brink's history business remained sound. In 1902 he was in Salt Lake City, Utah, working on a history of that area with his son, Sherman, when he died suddenly at the age of 52.



*Major Wesley Raymond Brink
(1851-1902) MCHS*

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know some of said men now but have forgotten their failings. I have seen 3 or 4 such fights in Edwardsville in one afternoon. All that part of old timers has passed away and the new old settlers will be glad to forget them."

Others over the years also commented on the improvements in educational, Christian and charitable institutions that were not as well developed in the rough pioneer days of Madison County.

There were also stories of hospitality, of times when families living in two-room cabins would welcome unexpected visitors of a half dozen or more while "today" a resident with a ten-room house and servants could be distressed to learn company was coming unexpectedly.

The Old Settlers recognized that although old times were the "good old days" in many ways, they also appreciated the many improvements made since pioneer days.

MORE OLD SETTLER STORIES

June 5, 1895

Edwardsville Intelligencer

"William Hadley arrived in this county June 2, 1817, and has been intimately connected with its history and affairs ever since. In the early years of his residence here he knew almost every man in it. At that time St. Louis was a small village, the settlements were far apart, and beyond Alton there was not a town in the state, Chicago not having been thought of for many years afterward. People wore homemade clothing, and such a suit as worn nowadays would have cost \$75 or more. Later on, when Chicago was built, it took a journey of eight or nine days to reach it, while now the same can be accomplished in as many hours."

June 6, 1900

Old Settlers Union Minutes

From a paper submitted by Volney Richmond: Most of you know I came to this county in 1819 and I came wearing (eastern)

clothes - was not born here but imported, and at that time the Eastern people went under the name, by the natives, of "Blue Bellied Yankees." I was called it many times. Sometimes we resented it, but finally wore it out and we were considered pretty good citizens.

My first recollection of farm work was driving two pair of oxen for a man to plow and break corn land with a plow made of about 5 lbs. of iron and the rest wood. I persuaded him to let me hold the plow a little and he drive, so I got hold of the handles, and my ears were about level with the handles...the plow did not run very steady at best and there were old roots in the land and soon one of them and the plow came together and a little boy's head and plow handle came together too, and the little boy came down. When he got up he wanted to change the plow for a whip and thought he could drive oxen better than he could hold the plow.

MARY'S RESEARCH TIP

Researching in old newspapers is much easier than it was just a few years ago. More and more companies are offering subscriptions to databases of digitized and searchable editions of newspapers. In addition, many libraries offer free access to one or more of these databases. Being able to search for a name or event is much easier than scrolling through rolls of microfilm for hours. However, be sure to check the dates of the newspapers that are available in the online databases. For example, at newspapers.com there are no editions of the *Edwardsville Intelligencer* between Sept 13, 1898, and Jan 1, 1908. However, the papers in those years are available on microfilm. The newer microfilm readers like the one at the Archival Library allow you to save images to a USB flash drive (aka thumb drive, jump drive, etc.) so you can review them at home at a later date.