



MCHS News

May 2017

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 5 No. 3

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.

A CENTURY AGO, THEY BUILT A CHURCH

A century ago, members of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Edwardsville completed construction of a new house of worship; the third building for the small congregation founded in 1841. Those members consisted of an unusual mix of families, including descendants of some of Madison County's pioneer families.

St. Andrew's, then a mission congregation, shared a priest, Rev. Willis Cleaveland, with congregations at St. Thomas in Glen Carbon and Christ Church in Collinsville.

In 1917, the parish rolls at St. Andrew's included about 40 families including 90 communicant members. By comparison, there were a little over 5,000 people in the City of Edwardsville.

A study of the parish records between 1916-1918 reveals that nearly two-thirds of the communicants were related either by blood or marriage. This was not unusual for Edwardsville or other Madison County communities at that time. However, this was a particularly close-knit group that had much in common. As might be expected in an Anglican church, there was a larger percentage of parishioners of English descent than in the general population of Edwardsville. There was also a much higher percentage of college-educated

adults and, in an agrarian community, there were only two farm families. There was only one miner, also a common occupation in Madison County. A fifth of the heads of households were attorneys and/or judges. There were also multiple teachers, bankers, journalists, bookkeepers, and a number of employees from the U.S. Radiator Plant and N. O. Nelson Manufacturing.

The need for a new church was first reported in 1914. Afterwards there were many local news articles on efforts to raise funds for the new church building through carnivals, concerts, dances, plays, and even baby contests. Most of these were, as was the custom at that time, organized by the

industrious women of the parish.

On Sunday, April 8, 1917, over 200 people were said to have attended the first service in the new building. Earlier that week, America entered World War I.

Following on pages four through eight are short biographical sketches of some of the church families, with emphasis on those on the vestry or building advisory board, who built a new house of worship a century ago.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Edwardsville is located at the corner of Hillsboro and North Buchanan Streets, on the same block as St. Boniface Catholic Church. This photo, from the church archives, was taken circa 1960.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

2 P.M.

**MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL
MUSEUM GARDEN**

**HISTORY AND USES OF
HERBS**

Presenter: Edwardsville Garden Club

REMINDER

**The Historical Museum
Remains Closed
for Renovations**



**The Archival Library is
open regular hours.**

ABOUT US

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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

MUSEUM AND ARCHIVAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

By Mary Westerhold and Jenn Van Bibber

The excitement began with a call from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. Their representative asked if the Madison County Historical Museum and Archival Library would be interested in material related to a former Highland resident. For the National Museum, it was a small collection that would not get the deserved attention or be displayed often. The collection, donated by Sharon Vincent, contained documents and artifacts about the World War II military service of her father, Milton Siegrist. Vincent was happy to have the material transferred to Madison County and later enhanced the collection with a photo of her father during the war.

When the material arrived, the staff discovered a treasure trove of documents and artifacts. According to his service record, Siegrist was a sheet metal worker prior to his military service which began on Dec. 14, 1943. He was assigned to the 20th Army Air Force, known for its strategic bombardment of Japan culminating with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A March 1956 report from the Strategic Air Command's Office of Information Historical Division stated that the 20th Air Force dropped 5,398 tons of bombs on the enemy in 22 missions.

The B-29s used by the 20th also released leaflets alerting the Japanese people to the terms of the Potsdam Ultimatum. The warning leaflets, dropped in pre-strike missions, also warned residents to leave the area due to potential devastation. One of the leaflets was included in the collection and while it was written in Japanese, a typed translation was included. The front of the leaflet showed a fleet of B-29s with the names of Japanese cities written near the bottom and circled. The translation of the Japanese is in the box at right.

A note added later stated that of the 10 cities listed, six were bombed with high explosive incendiary bombs during the night and early morning hours of July 28-29, 1945.

The Siegrist collection (at right) contained nearly 30 items including a number of pins, patches, and ribbons related to his service. These items, combined with the documentary evidence and photographs, enrich the story of Madison County's service in World War II.



Milton Siegrist is standing at right. (Sharon Siegrist Vincent)

Translation of WW II Leaflet dropped on Japan

Read this carefully as it may save your life or the life of a relative or friend. In the next few days, the military installations in four or more of the cities on the reverse side of this leaflet will be destroyed by American bombs.

These cities contain military installations and workshops or factories which produce military goods. We are determined to destroy all the tools of the military clique which they are using to prolong this useless war. But, unfortunately, bombs have no eyes, so in accordance with American well-known humanitarian principles, the American Air Force which does not wish to injure innocent people, now give you warning to evacuate the cities named and save your lives.

America is not fighting the Japanese people but is fighting the military group which has enslaved the Japanese people.

The peace which America will bring will free the people from the oppression of the military and mean the emergence of a new and better Japan. You can restore peace by demanding new and good leaders who will end the war.

We cannot promise that only these cities will be among those attacked but at least four will be, so, heed this warning and evacuate these cities.



The Siegrist World War II donation is an important addition to the MCHS collections. (MCHS)

RECENT MCHS NEWS

MUSEUM RENOVATION UPDATE

The work of restoring the Weir House and improving the exhibits housed in the museum is slowly progressing. In 2014, the MCHS Board began the process of assessing the condition of the Weir House. An architectural firm specializing in the restoration of historic buildings was hired to provide a blueprint for the work. The estimated cost given was around \$4 million.

The Society had seed money, but would obviously need to do a major fundraising campaign. Unfortunately, our old building (1836) decided not to wait. The roof failed making it necessary to begin work before the campaign to raise the needed funds could begin!

Repair and restoration of the roof, roof timbers, dormers and chimneys has been completed along with the removal of paint at the back of the building above the porch. Paint was removed in that area so the new porch roof wouldn't be ruined later. (See photo above)

The next step is to replace the HVAC systems with one that will eliminate the use of window units that have caused damage to the windows, are unsightly on an 1836 building, and are inefficient for the humidity control required to preserve museum artifacts. The Society has enough

set aside to complete that work, but then will need to raise additional funds.

Work still to be done includes tuckpointing and the removal of paint from the exterior of the building (paint on soft brick will eventually deteriorate the brick). Repairs to the foundation and major restoration of the windows are also needed.



Inside the building, after the HVAC system is installed, every room needs rewiring, new lighting, and plaster repair before exhibits can be installed. New exhibits will be designed that tell the story of Madison County through

the artifacts donated by area residents. This will include timelines of history and profiles of people and industries. The expense to renovate and each room, including new display cases, is approximately \$70,000 per room.

Due to safety concerns, the museum cannot reopen until the HVAC work is completed. A major fundraising campaign will begin this summer where the Society's goal is to raise a minimum of \$2 million to complete the work.

Please note that although the museum is closed, the Archival Library continues to maintain regular hours.

MAY 21 PROGRAM HERBAL GARDENING

On Sunday, May 21, the Madison County Historical Society will welcome master gardeners Julie Hamilton and Ellen Nore of the Edwardsville Garden Club who will present a program on current and historical uses of herbs. The program will begin at 2 p.m. at the Madison County Archival Library and conclude with a tour of the Madison County Historical Museum's herb garden. The garden was installed and has been maintained by the Edwardsville Garden Club since 1994.

Herbs have been harvested for medicinal, culinary and household uses for centuries. For example, they can enhance the flavor of foods, ease pain, or be used as an insect repellent. The aromatic properties of herbs also make them useful in sachets, perfumes or scented lotions.

After the program, the presenters will answer questions about herbs and distribute handouts and a limited number of sample plants.

MARY'S RESEARCH TIP

Have you seen the new [Madison Historical](https://madison-historical.siue.edu/encyclopedia/) Website (<https://madison-historical.siue.edu/encyclopedia/>) yet? It is an online encyclopedia and archive that is a collaborative effort between several organizations and coordinated by the Department of Historical Studies at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The first meeting of the steering committee was held in August 2016 and the project was launched to the public in March 2017.

This online encyclopedia and archive is meant to continue the history of Madison County beyond the last history published in 1912. The content is divided into five categories: government, industry, education, law and culture. It is searchable and includes photos, articles, and oral histories (both audio and transcripts). New items will continue to be added so check it out and make it one of your favorites!

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

March - April 2017 ♦ Thank you for supporting MCHS!

\$100 James Madison

Tallin & Jessica Curran
Edwardsville Children's Museum
Don Huber
Mary Kettenbach
Roberta Mueller
Jeff & Melinda Pauk
Lisa M. Shashek

\$50 Family

Maxine & Doug Callies
Kurt Johnson
Tom Lafaver
Paul & Mary Peters
Rebecca Pinkas
Mary Zerlan

\$35 Individual

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Melissa McCanna
Ellen Nore Nordhauser
Lesa Rosenthal

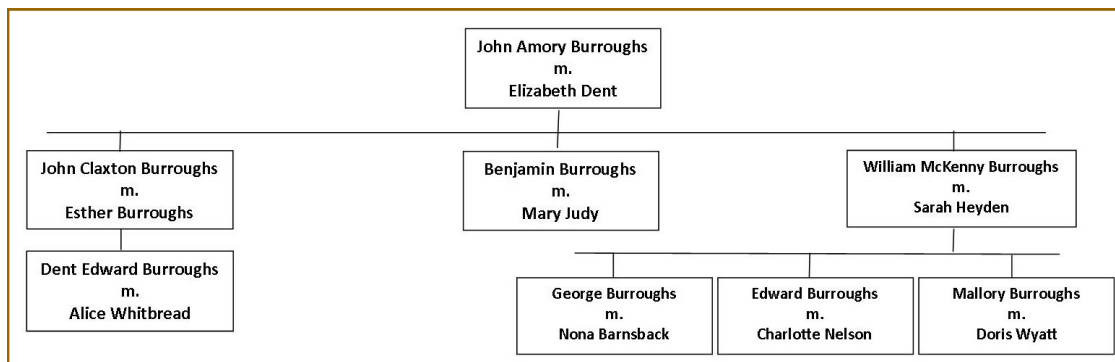
THE BURROUGHS FAMILIES OF ST. ANDREW'S PARISH

The Burroughs families of Edwardsville were all descendants of John Amory and Sarah Dent Burroughs of Charles County, Maryland. The Burroughs and Dent families were of English descent. One of their sons, John Claxton Burroughs, moved to the Edwardsville area in the mid-1850s. A second son, Benjamin, followed. A third son, William, did not move to Madison County, but six of his seven children that lived to adulthood followed their uncles to either Edwardsville or one of the surrounding communities.

When St Andrew's Church was completed in 1917, the rolls included numerous descendants of this family. Many of the Burroughs men connected with St. Andrew's were attorneys

that at some time during their careers also served as judges. Members of the Burroughs family, both men and women, tended to be well educated.

The chart below shows only descendants of John and Emily Dent Burroughs that are connected with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.



JOHN CLAXSON BURROUGH'S SON - DENT E. BURROUGHS



Portrait of Dent Edward Burroughs from the Centennial History of Madison County, Illinois and Its People 1812-1912.

A son of John Claxton Burroughs, Dent Edward Burroughs (1860-1929) and his wife, Alice Whitbread Burroughs (1862-1925), were among the parishioners at St. Andrew's in 1917. An 1894 biography stated that Mr. Burroughs was a Methodist and his wife an Episcopalian, but he eventually came around to her way of thinking since he was an active member of St. Andrew's by 1915.

After college Mr. Burroughs taught school for a time, then went into farming before starting a business as a pharmacist. He was co-owner of Burroughs & Whiteside, a successful business on Purcell Street in Edwardsville and served as president of the Retail Merchants Association.

An editorial after his death said that he "unselfishly contributed much to the upbuilding of his community, his

county, his state and his country...It is the men of his caliber who determine the character of a community. May Edwardsville have more of his kind."

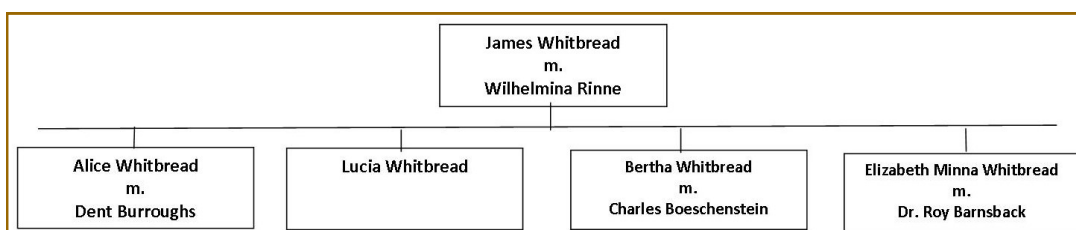
Dent and Alice had four children. Their eldest had already moved away by 1917 and the following year died of complications from the flu in the great influenza epidemic. Daughter Minna married Harry Tartt, a neighbor on St. Louis Street, and moved from the area by 1917. Still at home and listed on the St. Andrew's roster were William Dent Burroughs and his sister, Louise.

Alice Whitbread Burroughs had almost as many close relatives at St. Andrew's as her husband, including three sisters, Lucia, Bertha, and Elizabeth, in addition to her parents, nieces and nephews.

THE WHITBREAD FAMILY

The patriarch of the Whitbread family of St. Andrew's was James Whitbread (1839-1920) who was born in England. James' father started the stockyards in Venice, Illinois, and during his career James also worked with livestock and meat production. James and four of his daughters were on the roster at St. Andrew's a century ago. His daughter Alice was married to Dent Burroughs (see above), Lucia (1864-1940) never married and was a long-time mem-

ber of St. Andrew's. Elizabeth "Minna" Whitbread was the first wife of Dr. Roy Barnsback and Bertha married Charles Boeschstein. Additional information about the Boeschstein family is on page five.



THE BOESCHENSTEIN FAMILY

In many ways, Bertha Whitbread's marriage to Charles Boeschenstein had the greatest impact on St. Andrew's parish because in the next half century members of their family would be important leaders in the church.

Charles Boeschenstein was profiled in the November 2015 issue of *MCHS News*, but briefly, he was born in Highland of Swiss parents and started in the newspaper business at age 17. In 1883, at the age of 23, he purchased the *Edwardsville Intelligencer* and turned a four-page weekly newspaper into a large daily newspaper. He sold the newspaper in late 1915 and in 1917 founded the Edwardsville National Bank. He served as president until his retirement in 1948.

Running parallel to these two careers was Boeschenstein's third avocation as a politician. He ran for office only once, mayor of Edwardsville from 1887-1889, but said afterwards he could accomplish more out of office.

He was a state and national leader of the Democratic party where he worked behind closed doors to build consensus. An editorial after his death said he handled people with kid gloves; so smoothly that by the time he was done, even if they didn't agree with him, they thought he was terrific.



In this photo, taken in front of the Boeschenstein home in 1914 U. S. Vice-President Thomas Marshall (left) and Charles Boeschenstein are seated. Behind them are (from left) Elizabeth Spilman, Bertha Boeschenstein, Charles H. Spilman, Mary Hadley and Mrs. Marshall. (MCHS)

Charles and Bertha Boeschenstein held many entertainments at their beautiful home on Kansas Street including fundraisers for the church and what are today called "political meet and greets." Bertha travelled with her husband to conventions and also served as one of the hostesses at the Illinois Pavilion at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

Their three children, all college educated, included Eleanor, Charles Krome, and Harold who were listed on the St. Andrew's rolls in 1917. Eleanor married Franklin Godfrey and had three children. Their daughter married Dick H. Mudge, Jr. whose parents and grandmother were

members of St. Andrew's in 1917. Mudge family members were active participants at St. Andrew's Parish for generations.

Charles Krome Boeschenstein was a long-time staff member at the St. Louis Globe Democrat newspaper, in that way following in his father's footsteps.

Harold Boeschenstein found a career in business, rising to the position of president of Owens-Corning. During the Cold War, Harold was one a group of men, secretly recruited by President Eisenhower, known as the E-10. In case of a national emergency, they were to serve as interim administrators to keep the government running.

BENJAMIN RUDOLPH BURROUGHS

Benjamin Burroughs was born in Charles County, Maryland, in 1849. He followed his older brother, John Claxton Burroughs to Madison County in 1867. Upon arrival he taught school and worked as a hardware merchant before studying law under the supervision of Krome and Hadley. He graduated from Chicago's Union School of Law (now Northwestern) in 1876 and began his practice. He was first elected judge in 1889, and served as either a judicial or appellate judge until 1909 when he

refused his party's nomination for another term. He then served as a commissioner for the State Department of Public Aid. At one time he was considered the oldest practicing attorney in Illinois, a title that would later be taken by his nephew, George Burroughs.

In his private life he married Mary Lois Judy, the daughter of Thomas and Demaris Judy. Her grandparents, Samuel and Mary Whiteside Judy, were among the earliest settlers in Madison County.

SONS OF WILLIAM MCKENNEY BURROUGHS

Three of the sons of William McKenney and Sarah Burroughs. George, Edward and Mallory, moved from Maryland to Edwardsville where they became active members of St. Andrew's Parish.

George Dent Burroughs

Although George Burroughs was born in 1873, there are many in Edwardsville that remember him well. George lived to the great old age of 103 and at age 100, he was still taking daily walks from his home on St. Louis Street to his law office in the National Bank Building at the corner of Purcell

and N. Main Street. For many years in the 1920s, St. Andrew's vestry meetings were held at the law office.

George was born in Maryland where he attended the University of Maryland. In 1894 he and his brother William moved to Illinois to set up a law practice, encouraged by their uncle, Judge Benjamin Burroughs, who had been in Illinois since the late 1860s. (William set up a practice in Collinsville where he died in 1952.) In 1969 George was honored with an award from the Illinois Bar Association recognizing him as the longest lived and longest

Cont. on page 6

SONS OF WILLIAM MCKENNEY BURROUGHS (CONT. FROM PAGE 5)

practicing attorney in the county. By the time he retired, he had been a practicing attorney for over 80 years, but in interviews admitted to the fact that most days at the office, after he turned 100, were spent reading literature or the Bible which he highly recommended.

George was a corporate attorney who invested well over the years. In one interview it was reported that he gave property to several of the women who worked at the court house. He said, "Those girls work very hard and deserve it." He was interviewed almost every year after his 90th birthday and one constant in describing George Burroughs was the word "gentleman." His obituary was an Associated Press story carried by newspapers all over the country.

Dr. Edward L. Burroughs

Two years younger than his brother George, Edward Burroughs also completed university and dental training in Maryland before moving to Edwardsville. For many years

he had a dental office on Main Street where his office suite also had a piano...something he learned to enjoy as a young man.

He married Charlotte Nelson, the daughter of N. O. Nelson, the founder of Leclaire. Ed and Charlotte lived in the former N. O. Nelson house, across the street from Charlotte's sister, Julia Nelson Lawnin. The two brothers-in-law, Ed Burroughs and Louis Lawnin, served on both the St. Andrew's vestry and the building advisory board together.

Mallory Burroughs

The youngest brother of George and Edward, like many of the Burroughs men, was an attorney. He had a prominent law practice in Edwardsville in partnership with his brothers until his retirement. He and his wife retired to Florida to live close to their daughter Sally Burroughs Wheat. Many area residents remember their grandson, Leroy Wheat, who was a professional baseball player.

THE NELSON SISTERS

Sisters Julia and Charlotte Nelson married Louis Lawnin and Edward Burroughs respectively and were both members of St. Andrew's. Their father, N. O. Nelson was the founder of Leclaire, a cooperative village from 1890-1934 that is now an Edwardsville neighborhood.

The Nelson and Lawnin families were both from St. Louis where they were considered part of the social elite. Their homes in Leclaire were two of the largest in the village because they often entertained on a grand scale. The Lawnin mansion included a third floor ballroom and parties with well over a hundred guests were not unusual. They also hosted many of the dignitaries that came to Leclaire including Jane Adams of Hull House and author Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

Louis Lawnin was superintendent of operations at the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company in Leclaire when St. Andrew's was built and would within two years become president of the company. As a result of this connection, many of the features of St. Andrew's church were made locally in the Leclaire factories including the cornerstone, the pews, and the altar which was donated by Louis and his brother in memory of their mother, Adriane Lawnin, who died in Edwardsville in 1915.

Charlotte and Edward Burroughs were long-time

members of St. Andrew's, but in 1920, the Lawnin family returned to St. Louis where the company's corporate headquarters were located.



The Nelson sisters and their children in front of the Lawnin mansion on Jefferson Road in Leclaire. (Mary Moseley Armstrong)

MISS LOUISE FINCH

Louise Finch grew up next door to St. Andrew's, and although her parents were not members, as a young adult she joined the church. With her good friend, Eleanor Boeschstein, she attended college in Georgia and in 1918 took nurses' training through the Red Cross to assist during the flu epidemic of 1918. Louise continued her education and her work in nursing, the first five years being with the Red Cross which at that time provided medical personnel for

the military. Among other places, she worked at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., during and after WW I.

In early 1927, Louise was reassigned from the east coast to the Red Cross in St. Louis. From there she was sent to Memphis to administer assistance for the thousands of victims of the Great Flood of 1927.

Following a vacation to California in 1930, Louise and her family immediately moved to California.

ANSEL BROWN

Ansel Brown, the editor of the *Edwardsville Democrat*, was born in Madison County in 1847. He was regarded as a local historian who was very knowledgeable in large part because questions often involved his family directly. All four of his grandparents were from pioneer families who arrived before Illinois became a state.

His paternal grandparents were Dr. and Mrs. Erastus Brown who moved to the Alton area in the early 1800s, shortly after it was founded by his grandmother's brother, Rufus Easton. Alton was named for her nephew Alton Easton. His grandfather was one of the first physicians in Madison County.

After the death of his grandfather, Erastus Brown, his grandmother remarried and had additional children with Samuel Starr. One of those children, William Starr, later married Elvira Stephenson, the daughter of Col. Benjamin Stephenson and his wife Lucy.

His maternal grandparents were John T. and Lucretia Gillham Lusk who were also from two prominent pioneer families. John Lusk had the first hotel in Edwardsville and was one of the first trustees of the town after it was chartered. He is buried in one of Edwardsville's oldest cemeteries, Lusk Cemetery.

After the death of Ansel's father, Edward Brown, his mother, Sarah Lusk Brown, married John Torrence. One of his half siblings from that marriage, Gillian Lusk Torrence, married Charles Travous, another St. Andrew's family.

Ansel Brown was married late in life to a younger woman, Minnie Trost, the daughter of German immigrants. The couple had five children on the St. Andrew's roster.

Travous Family

The Travous family was related to Ansel Brown (above). Rachel Louise Travous, who used her middle name, is the only one listed with the 1916-1918 communicants, but both her parents were members of St. Andrew's. Her father, Charles was an attorney who died in 1907, but her mother, Gillian Torrence Travous, was still living when the new church was built and assisted her daughter with many fundraising projects. The Travous family lived at 824 St. Louis Street in a house designed by architect Frederick Bonsack, the same architect hired to design the new church.

Louise Travous was a dynamo. She never married, and, although she probably didn't need to work given her family's prosperity, she became a school teacher. She was a writer, reporter, editor and activist. For a year, 1927-28, she wrote and edited a small Edwardsville newspaper called *The Kickapoo*. At other times she

wrote for three different Edwardsville newspapers.

She was an incredible organizer and planned many of the larger events that raised funds to build the new St. Andrew's Church. One project was a pageant, written by Louise, starring 100 local children whose parents, of course, needed to attend. The first performance was at the Court House with 800 in attendance. There were two more performances at the Wildey Theatre that each sold out.

Louise led the effort to restore Lusk Cemetery, was an active proponent of the Madison County Historical Society and for the preservation of local history. She was active in the League of Women Voters and wasn't afraid of getting political.

In a eulogy after her death, it was said that "No community has ever had a friend or citizen to whom it owed so much and who demanded so little."

Hadley Family

Judge William Edwin Hadley was born and raised in Collinsville where he had a flourishing law practice. He married Kate Powell in 1899 and the couple lived in Collinsville except for a few years around the time St. Andrew's Church was built. Kate's brother, Maury Powell, and Judge Hadley were both members of the building advisory board. Kate Hadley was originally from Edwardsville, but her husband also had

many relatives in Edwardsville, including his uncle F. W. L. Hadley. "Hadley House," which for many years has been Edwardsville School District 7 administrative offices, was his uncle's home.

Maury Powell was also a prominent attorney but in the 1940s relocated to the Bloomington area which was closer to his wife's family. He eventually retired to Florida where he died.

LEADERSHIP

The four members of the vestry (church council) when the church was built were all closely related. The four men included brothers Edward and Mallory Burroughs, James Whitbread who was the father-in-law of their cousin, Dent Burroughs, and Louis Lawnin who was Edward's brother-in-law.

The Building Advisory Board, consisting of 11 men, included six who were related. There were six attorney/judges, three businessmen, a dentist and a carpenter:

F. H. Blackmore – Born in Canada of English parents; supervisor at U. S. Radiator Company
George Bright – Native of New York; chief clerk for U. S. Radiator Company
Benjamin R. Burroughs – Attorney and judge; uncle of Edward, Mallory, George, and Dent Burroughs
Dent E. Burroughs – Pharmacist; cousin of George, Edward and Mallory
George D. Burroughs – Attorney; brother of Edward and Mallory
Mallory Burroughs – Attorney; brother of George and Edward
Dr. Edward Burroughs – Dentist; brother of George and Mallory
William E. Hadley – Attorney and judge; brother-in-law of Maury Powell
Edward Hobson – Carpenter; from an old St. Andrew's family
Louis D. Lawnin – Superintendent of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company; his sister-in-law married Edward Burroughs
Maury Powell – Attorney; related to the Hadley family by marriage



**Madison County
Historical Society**
Opening Doors to Madison County History

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THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

The Joseph Chapman homestead was located on several acres directly across the street from St. Andrew's Church. The Chapman house was an intellectual home full of boisterous mealtime discussions about politics, literature, and issues of the day. Mrs. Chapman was a Yankee Episcopalian while her husband was a Southern Unitarian. Most of their 12 children went to church with their mother. The parents were deceased by the time the new St. Andrew's was built, but many of their children and grandchildren filled the roster.

The oldest daughter, Cecilia, married George Leverett, an abstract attorney & surveyor. They lived just down the

block on Hillsboro on part of the old homestead after it was subdivided. Leverett Lane is named for him and Chapman Street for her parents. Their daughter, Fanny Whitford, was also a member of St. Andrew's when this church was built.

A second daughter, Phoebe Jane, known as Jennie, lived next door to her sister with her husband, William H. Hall who served as mayor of Edwardsville from 1893-1895. Mr. Hall died in March 1917, just before the new church opened. Services would probably not have been at the church even if the building was completed since most Edwardsville funerals in were held at home until the mid-late 1920s.

THE HOBSON & VOTRIAN FAMILIES

The Votrian and Hobson families represented nearly a dozen members of St. Andrew's, and nearly all of them, within a few years, moved to Los Angeles, California.

The Votrian Family

Three children of James and Sarah Votrian can be found on the rolls of St. Andrew's Church in 1916, Joseph, Lester and Rusella. Joseph Votrian moved to Chicago in the 1920s where a talent scout "discovered" his youngest son, Peter. The family moved to Burbank where both of his sons found jobs as actors. The older son, Ralph, began acting as a young man and is still an actor today with a career spanning 70 years.

His sister Rusella married Frank Rotter of Leclaire, who in 1922 died of pneumonia leaving her with four young children. She remarried, but died a few years later. Their children were taken in by other members of the Rotter family.

Lester Votrian remained in Edwardsville where he worked for the Post Office and with his wife were very active members of St. Andrew's before retiring to North Carolina in 1972.

The Hobson Family

Squire John Hobson, born in England, was a farmer, then a long-time Justice of the Peace, and a founder of the Madison County Horse Thief Detective Society. Although Squire Hobson was no longer living when St. Andrew's built their new church, his wife, Sarah, and four of their children were on the rolls, including Edward who was on the Building Advisory Board.

Most of the family moved to California shortly after St. Andrew's was built. A daughter, Daisy Hobson Brown, is listed with her son Harry as a communicant. A widowed school teacher, she moved to California in 1916 to study law. By 1920 she remarried and so far as is known did not practice law. Her brother Edward's family followed and he found employment as the chief carpenter at Paramount Studios. Eventually their mother Sarah and two sisters, Abbie and Florence, both school teachers who never married, also moved to Hollywood. In the 1940 census, three Hobson sisters, Daisy, Florence and Abbie are sharing a household along with their sister Leila's son, Robert Johnson, and his wife.