



MCHS News

July 2017

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 5 No. 4

715 N Main Street
Edwardsville, IL
62025

Archival Library Hours:

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

Museum :

The museum is currently closed for renovation

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.

MONTGOMERY STATION - ESTABLISHED 1893

Few remember the days when Montgomery Station was a thriving community of farm families who gathered at the country store, met for platform dances, and worked together to feed thrashing crews.

The small community was established in 1893, changed its name to Mont in 1898, moved to a new location in 1913, and by the 1940s was fading away. The area surrounding Mont Station was settled over 200 years ago by some of Madison County's earliest pioneer families, many of whom stayed in the vicinity for generations. Their stories will be told here, but first, an over-all history of Mont, which is located on Old Troy Road, about four miles south of Edwardsville near the crossroads of Edwardsville, Pin Oak, Collinsville, and Jarvis townships. Today most of Mont is part of Glen Carbon.

Montgomery Station was established when Nelson Montgomery donated land in 1892 for a railroad line and depot. Troy Road (now Old Troy Road) which passed through this farm community was at that time the main road leading from Edwardsville to Troy or Collinsville. When the state highway system was created, it became Route 159 until the highway was moved in the late 1930s. Route 159 from Edwardsville to Maryville as we know it today did not exist.

The first railroad to go through Montgomery Station was the St. Louis and Eastern Railway which merged with another small railroad to become the Illinois Central in 1900. The railroad through Montgomery Station was completed by 1893 and a small depot was built on the north side of the tracks about a quarter mile east of Old Troy

Road. That same year, Valier and Spies of Marine, Illinois, built a wooden grain elevator nearby on the south side of the tracks. In the next few years, Nelson Montgomery's son, Zephaniah Job Montgomery, built a six-room house on the south side of the tracks near the depot (1895), added a store building (1897), and established a post office (1898). "Zeph" Montgomery became the station agent, the manager of the grain elevator, general store proprietor, and the postmaster of "Mont." The post office shortened the

name because Illinois already had a Montgomery post office. Since 1898 it has been known as Mont or Mont Station.

In September 1903, Zeph Montgomery laid out the town of Mont on the south side of Mont Road. The small village included six blocks, several streets, and over 70 building lots. Three years later, he moved to St. Louis and turned over operation of the store, elevator and depot to his oldest son, Nelson Montgomery. On Oct. 14, 1908, the following advertisement

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The Montgomery family at Mont Station circa 1906. At left is Alice (Koch) Montgomery and on the tracks is her son, Zephaniah William Montgomery. The baby's father, Nelson, and grandparents are at right. (Michael Montgomery and Peggy Montgomery Frye)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

2 P.M.

MADISON COUNTY ARCHIVAL LIBRARY

STEEL & SOLIDARITY

IN GRANITE CITY

Presenter: Gary Gaines

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

ARCHIVAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

By Mary Westerhold

The collection at the Archival Library is varied but also lacking. There is a great deal of information from early in the history of the county until about 1930, including photos, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, books, manuscripts, family histories, and individuals' memories of people, places, and events.

However, from about 1930 until current times, our collection needs improvement. It is difficult to consider your own lifetime as history, but if you think about events that you have witnessed such as changes in cities, towns, and rural areas, buildings remodeled, repurposed, or torn down, transportation changes including new roads, removal of railroads, etc., you will realize how much "history has happened." Our collection covers ALL of Madison County, and we rely on donations from individ-

uals, businesses, churches, etc., who are willing to share their history with us.

If you or someone you know is willing to share photos, documents, etc., stop by the Archival Library at 801 North Main Street in Edwardsville, or mail the information (addressed to my attention--Mary Westerhold) or email me at mtwesterhold@co.madison.il.us. If you have photos that you want to keep, we can scan them and add the digital image to the collection and return the original photo to you. Please call if you have any questions (618) 656-7569.

Stop by and visit us even if you do not have anything to donate. We love to show off our collection and help with research!

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

By Jenn Van Bibber



Immigrant trunk donated to the Madison County Historical Society by Gregory Drexelius. The inscription "Everh. Hunsche" is shown below right.

Everhard Hermann Rudolf Hunsche boarded a ship for America in 1860 with his belongings in tow. At nearly sixty years old, he was on his way to join his son, Friedrich Wilhelm Conrad Hunsche, who had arrived in the states nine years earlier and established a farm near Troy. The wooden trunk shown here may have been one of a number of trunks Hunsche brought with him through the Port of

New Orleans on his way to St. Louis and then to his son's home.

German immigrants in the mid-to-late 19th century, had to first get permission to leave their village, in this case, Lienen, Germany. They also needed a statement from the local tax collector to confirm all taxes were paid, and a statement of their military status from a military commander. The immigrant then presented these documents to a German district judge and petitioned for a pass.

During the approximately 11-week journey, the immigrant's trunks (boxes, sacks, or barrels) were clearly marked with the number of the owner's cabin. So the "No. 1" painted clearly on the front of this trunk may have been the number of his cabin, rather than an inventory number.



MARY'S RESEARCH TIP

DNA. By now you have heard about DNA testing for genealogy, mostly from Ancestry. (They DO know how to market their products!) Did you know that there are other companies that do DNA testing for genealogy? Many family history researchers test with all of the companies to ensure more family connections.

DNA testing can be very confusing, but since it is a hot topic right now, there is also an abundance of information. A good place to start

for free information written for anyone to understand is the website of the International Society for Genetic Genealogy (<https://isogg.org/>). There are also many publications available and if you attend any of the national or local genealogy conferences, there are many speakers on the topic. Access the free resources available and learn all you can so if you do decide to do one or more DNA tests, you will have a better understanding of the results.

JON PARKIN NEW MUSEUM SUPERINTENDENT

An award-winning educator, Jon L. Parkin, of Edwardsville, has been hired as Superintendent of the Madison County Historical Museum and Archival Library in Edwardsville. Parkin began working in the position part-time on June 5. After fulfilling a commitment to teach a summer class for the Edwardsville School District 7, he started full-time employment in July.

Parkin, 60, grew up in Evanston, Illinois, but has spent more than half his life in Madison County. As a social studies teacher at Edwardsville High School, he has a reputation as a creative and innovative educator. He hopes his new position will give him a fresh venue for creating educational opportunities for students in Madison County by providing the tools teachers need to make history relevant and exciting.

Parkin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography from Roosevelt University, Chicago, and a Master of Science degree in geography from SIUE. He has taught high school students the lessons of history, civics, sociology and geography since 1992. Along the way he has mentored 12 student teachers.

He looks forward to the opportunity to learn even more about Madison County's history and share that knowledge with area residents, especially students. An avid historian, Parkin belongs to numerous historical organizations, regularly participates in re-enactments depicting life during the War of 1812 and/or the Civil War, and served on the Edwardsville Historic Preservation Commission and on the Goshen Preservation Alliance board.



Jon Parkin in Civil War garb prior to an educational program on the Civil War.

When asked what most appealed to him regarding his new position, Parkin said, "I love to teach, but I am always looking for opportunities to learn." In 2003 he became one of only two District 7 teachers to obtain National Board Certification. In 2008, he was one of nine candidates nationwide to participate in the Library of Congress Ambassador Network of Teachers, a program that promotes the use of primary sources in research. He was also one of two local teachers to receive the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award in 2012.

Parkin takes on his new position at a time when the museum is closed for renovations. His most pressing task is to create a timeline of what needs to be done and work with Madison County and the Madison County Historical Society Board to re-open the Madison County Historical Museum as soon as possible.

Parkin is married to the former Vera Jones, a native of Edwardsville, whom he met while she attended Northwestern University in Evanston. They have two adult children.

The museum has not had a permanent director since the Nov 30 retirement of long-time Superintendent Suzanne Dietrich. Since then, Mary Westerhold, Archival Library Research Manager, has been serving as Interim Superintendent in addition to her other duties as Archival Library Research Manager. Until museum renovations are completed, Parkin can be found in his temporary office at the Archival Library at 801 N. Main Street, next door to the museum.

RECENT MCHS NEWS

NORMA GLAZEBROOK RETIRES

After 20 years of service, Norma Helwig Glazebrook, Alton, is taking a well-deserved retirement from the MCHS Board. Glazebrook took a seat on the MCHS Board in 1997, making her the board's longest serving member. Over the years she has led numerous committees and in recent years provided property management services for the society. Glazebrook is active in many community organizations for which she is the recipient of numerous awards for her dedication and leadership, including the Gordon F. Moore Service Above Award for outstanding community service and the Studs Terkel Humanities Award. The Madison County Historical Society is grateful for her years of service toward the preservation of Madison County History.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

This newsletter would not have been possible without the cooperation of current and past residents of Mont Station and descendants of the early families. They provided such a wealth of information that all could not be included here. Visit the Madison County Archival Library to learn more.

Special thanks to the following for sharing their memories and photographs: Lee Bollinger, Roy Bouse, Doris Danna, Elizabeth Edwards, Nancy Fischer, Gary Forshaw, Jamie Foster, Peggy Montgomery Frye, Richard Kinder, Jim Kovarik, Bob Kubicek, Mildred Loyet, Jack Mckeckan, Michael Montgomery, Barb Pafford, Kenneth & Diane Rinkel, Kevin Rinkel, Paul Rinkel, Robert Rinkel, Marilyn Sulc, Dennis Svoboda and William Shaffer,

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

May - June 2017 ♦ Thank you for supporting MCHS!

\$100 James Madison
Kevin Rinkel

\$50 Family
Richard and Sandra Kinder

\$35 Individual
Mark Waldemer
Roy O. Walker
Charlotte K. Digue

STORY OF MONT STATION (CONT FROM PAGE 1)



The Zephaniah Job Montgomery family in front of their home near the Mont Depot. There may have been another store building, but it is known that the left side of the house was once also used for a store (Peggy Montgomery Frye)

appeared in the *Edwardsville Intelligencer*: "For Sale – Mont, with all improvements. Zephaniah Montgomery." Four months later it was purchased by an Edwardsville contractor, Joseph Hlad and his wife, Mary Kubicek Hlad.

In April 1909, the Hlads celebrated the opening of their store and their fifth wedding anniversary with a party at Mont that included live music, dancing and special transportation to bring Edwardsville family and friends to the party. For Mary Ann Kubicek Hlad, this was a homecoming of sorts since she grew up on a farm west of Mont. Although her father was gone by this time, killed in a railroad accident in 1899, her mother and siblings were still nearby along with other Eastern European families that began moving into the area in the 1890s.

Joseph became the new postmaster, elevator manager, station agent, and store proprietor, taking the place of Nelson Montgomery who moved across the street to a new house he built on one of the lots in the village of Mont. That home still

exists, but it would be the only house built in the newly-platted Mont because change was coming.

The Illinois Central Railroad ran in an east-west direction through Mont. In 1913 a north-south railroad line, the Illinois Terminal "Belt Line," was added just west of Old Troy Road. In order to provide easier access to this second railroad, Hlad, called the unofficial "Mayor of Mont," purchased two acres of ground from Frank Zajicek on the west side of Old Troy Road and moved the village a quarter mile west. A new two-story store building was built by Hlad, and Valier and Spies erected a modern concrete fire-proof grain elevator.

A spur off the Illinois Terminal was a connector to the Illinois Central creating a triangle of tracks that became known as the "lost three acres" or "hobo jungle." The hobo jungle had a good spring, and hobos, who often found short-term farm work or a meal in the vicinity, found that it was a place where they could hop a train in any direction. A Glen Carbon water tower and an MCT bike trailhead are located in the triangle today.

Joseph Hlad's new store was much larger and included living quarters for the family on the second floor. Joseph was an intelligent, ambitious young man. The store was large enough to become a community gathering place which he encouraged. In 1919, Joseph and other local men meeting at the store decided to create the Farmer's Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. A public organizational meeting at

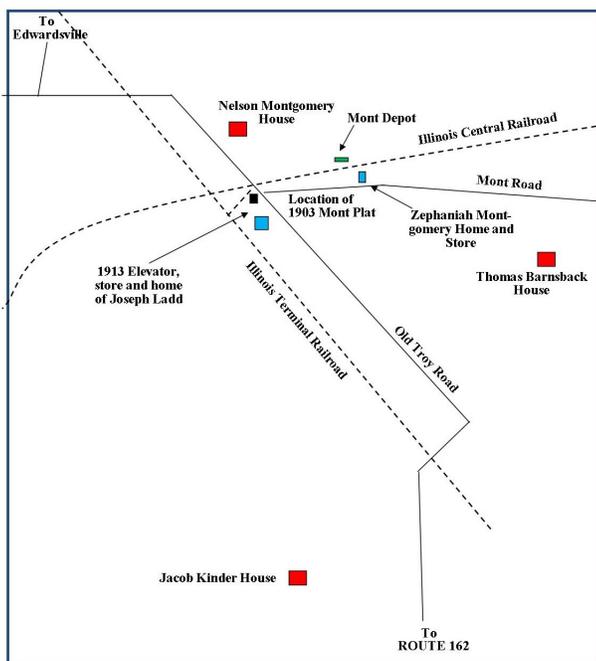


The 1913 store at Mont Station. (Michael Montgomery and Glen Carbon Heritage Museum)

the court house the following year resulted in the formation of the Madison Mutual Automobile Insurance Company which is still in business today, although "Automobile" has been dropped from the name to reflect the diversity of policies now offered. Joseph Hlad was named secretary of the new firm and a premium of \$20 for a life-time membership in the association was established.

Joseph's wife, the former Mary Ann Kubicek, had grown up near Mont Station, so already knew the neighbors. She hosted large quilting parties at their home above the store, and Joseph set up a platform across the road for dances every weekend featuring some of the most popular local bands. The dances attracted people from a considerable distance away since they could come by train. Joseph also

Cont. on page 5



This sketch of Mont Station locations in 1913 shows where key buildings were located. It is not drawn to scale.

STORY OF MONT STATION

organized community sales of farm equipment and served on local boards in his unofficial capacity as Mayor of Mont.

While living at Mont, the extended Hlad family all changed their name to "Ladd," which was how the name was pronounced by most in the community. So it was Joseph and Mary Ladd who returned to Edwardsville in the mid-1920s, selling the property to Leonard and Hilda (Neubauer) Scheibal in 1927. The Scheibals continued to operate the general store while living in the apartment above the shop and, like previous owners, they were managers of the Valier and Spies grain elevator. They also continued the tradition of holding platform dances on summer weekends.

The year 1937 was a critical time for Mont. After decades of discussion, Route 159 was moved to its present day location, running straight south from Edwardsville to Maryville. The streetcar that had previously followed that path was gone and the new highway followed the old rail bed. Mont was by-passed and Old Troy Road became a road traveled only by local residents or people who went out to the country to buy fresh eggs from Mont farmers.

The Schiebals sold the property in the late 1930s, after which it became, what has been described by those who remember it, as a "rather seedy tavern." The platform dances no longer attracted a crowd welcomed by the neighborhood. Frenchy's Tavern was followed by the Mont Station Tavern where in 1940 the owner shot and killed his wife in the tavern. The following year it reopened as the Almont Tavern that clearly advertised "under new management." By 1942 the building was out of the tavern business and was converted to three or four apartments, depending on the time period. In August 1995, a building permit was issued for destruction of the 1913 store building and the work was completed by October. The site of this building is an empty lot on the south side of the old grain elevator.

The railroad depot at Mont stayed in its original location when Mont was moved and at one time had telegraph operators on duty 24-hours-a-day. Although it was razed in the late 1940s, those who remember it can still find the overgrown remains of the concrete platform. The last activity at the grain elevator was in the late 1960s.

In the early 1980s, the railroad tracks for both lines were removed so that the only remnants of the "new" Mont Station are the grain elevator shown at right, the paths of the railroads that have been converted to bicycle trails, and the memories of those whose families lived at Mont Station for generations.



Above is a view of the 1913 Mont grain elevator taken in 1981. The elevator is still there but the smaller buildings are gone. Below is the Old Troy Road bridge over the Illinois Central tracks at Mont Station. It was removed in the early 1980s shortly after this picture was taken. Almost everyone interviewed about Mont Station mentioned the bridge. It was only about 12 feet wide so vehicles were unable to pass on it, but at the same time it was so steep, that drivers couldn't tell if anyone was coming from the opposite direction. Bob Kubicek said when he was learning to drive, his parents told him to honk at the base of the bridge, roll down his window to see if he could hear anyone else coming, then proceed with caution. If drivers met another vehicle, someone had to back down. All agreed it was much less complicated at night when headlights could be seen coming over the bridge. (William Shaffer)



THE PRE-CIVIL WAR HOMES OF MONT STATION

In the area surrounding Mont Station are three two-story brick pre-Civil War homes, all built for members of the same family.

The farthest south from Mont is the Kinder Place built for Captain Jacob J. Kinder and his wife, Sophia Pierce Kinder. A quarter mile north of Mont on Old Troy Road is the home of Nelson and Eleanor Kinder Montgomery. Eleanor and Jacob were siblings. East of Mont on Mont Road is a private lane leading back to what was once the home of Thomas and Nancy Jane Montgomery Barnsback. Nancy and Nelson Montgomery were also siblings.

It isn't known exactly when these homes were built, as no records have yet been discovered to provide that information.

However, 80-year-old Marlin Rinkel, whose family has owned the Barnsback house since 1920, remembers that when he was ten, they celebrated the centennial of the house which would date it at about 1847. A reference in the 1882 county history says Thomas Barnsback began improving his farm in 1854. Given the Federal style of the buildings and the surviving architectural detail, a date circa 1850 seems reasonable. All three houses were pictured in the 1873 Atlas of Madison County surrounded by mature trees and established farms.

The plat maps of this area of Madison County show ownership changes over the years, but often it was an inherited property. Although the name might have changed, the property remained in the same family.

NELSON MONTGOMERY HOME

Nelson and Eleanor Kinder Montgomery were born into pioneer Madison County families; the Montgomerys arriving in 1814 and the Kinders a few years earlier in October 1811. Nelson and Eleanor (often called Ellen) were married in 1838 and had eight children.

All of the children that married found their spouses in the neighborhood with two of the brothers marrying McKittrick cousins and a third marrying his first cousin. Listed here are the children with the surname of their spouses: Ann (Wood), Nancy (Jarvis), Mary Matilda (Barnsback), Phoebe, Zephaniah (McKittrick), Robert (McKittrick), William (Kinder) and Sarah Isabel. Sarah Isabel died as a child, and Phoebe never married.

In the 1882 county history, Nelson Montgomery was called, "one of the staunch and wealthy men of the county." His farm surrounding the house on Old Troy Road consisted of 573 acres, but he owned over 1,000 acres in Madison County and another 2,300+ acres elsewhere in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. Newspaper articles can be found that describe his "scouting trips," where he and others went in search of good land in those states. One of his sons, William, managed the farm in Missouri.



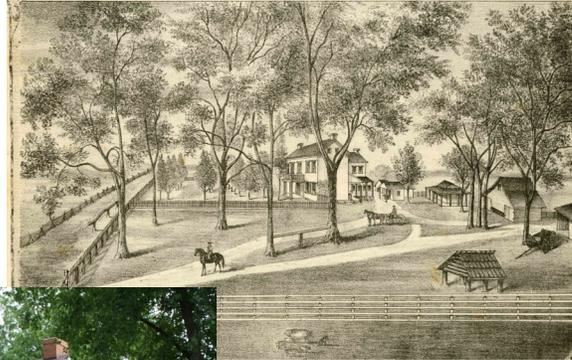
The Nelson Montgomery Farm as depicted in the 1873 Madison County Atlas and as it appears today (MCHS)

He was known for his breeding programs, especially for his horses, an interest he famously passed on to his daughter, Phoebe. Southeast of the house, where suburban homes have sprouted in recent years, there was once a large barn with a racetrack next to it. Horsemen came from long distances to obtain stock or breed horses from Nelson Montgomery's stable.

"Uncle Nelson" as the newspapers called him in his later years, remained active in the affairs of his farm until his death at age 79. While out riding a week before his death,

there was an accident which caused injuries that proved fatal. He was a man of great ambition, recognizing the value of donating ground for the railroad, and continuing to increase his wealth into his golden years.

Nelson's property, estimated to be worth \$150,000-\$200,000 in 1895, was inherited by his children with the house and buildings going to his son Robert and the railroad depot and property surrounding it to his son, Zephaniah. Eleanor was given a lifetime legacy to live in the house, but chose to purchase a house on St. Louis Street in Edwardsville with her daughter Phoebe. They were just down the street from another daughter, Mary Matilda Barnsback.



Robert Montgomery moved to property he inherited in Missouri, so sold the Montgomery house and surrounding acreage to Charles Schmidt. Schmidt owned it only a few years before selling it in 1922 to William Svoboda, a farmer who had worked as a hired man for the Montgomery family in earlier years and who had rented the fields as late as 1910. The Svoboda family lived in the house and farmed the surrounding acreage, adding to the property purchased from the Montgomery family as finances allowed.

William was married to Minnie Shashek Svoboda who contributed greatly to the family's coffers. She was an insurance agent for the Farm Bureau, and for decades was the state's leading sales agent. A grandson said she had one rule when it came to purchasing additional property for the farm. She had to be able to see it from the house. For that reason, they never purchased ground south of the Illinois Central Railroad. The trees along the tracks put it out of her sightline. The Svoboda family owned the Montgomery house until the 1980s. The current owners have been working on restoring the home for several years, but there was a tremendous amount of work to be done to save this beautiful historic home.

THE THOMAS BARNSBACK HOME

Several branches of the Berensbach family settled in Madison County more than 200 years ago. They were originally from Germany, but made numerous stops along the way before arriving in Madison County in 1809. They changed their name to Barnsback about 1840. Thousands of acres of farm ground were owned by the Barnsbacks in the early days.

Prominent among those in the Mont Station area were brothers William and Thomas Barnsback, the sons of George and Mary Barnsback.

Thomas Barnsback (1817-1880) was married to Nancy Jane Montgomery (1821-1902). The 1882 county history called Thomas "more than ordinarily successful." He acquired a large farm and was known for his superior breeding programs. The Barnsback home is one of three surviving brick homes built

near Mont Station circa 1850. After the death of Thomas and Nancy, the farm near Mont was passed to their daughter, Nannie Barnsback Burroughs, the wife of Daniel S. Burroughs. Although many of Daniel's siblings were prominent residents of Madison County, Daniel and Nannie lived in Missouri. Nannie leased the farm until 1920 when it was sold to a nearby farmer, George Charles Rinkel.

The sale of the farm made headlines as one of the largest sales in county history. According to the news article, approximately 350 acres were sold at a total price of over \$74,000. The price ranged from \$200 - \$250 per acre.

George Rinkel was the son of Theobald and Eva Rinkel, successful farmers from near Carpenter. After purchasing the Barnsback farm, George continued to work his original farm

THE THOMAS BARNSBACK HOME (CONT FROM PAGE 6)

nearby as well as the new property with his sons, Clarence and George, Jr. and a number of hired hands. George Sr. was an ambitious, hard-working man. In addition to crops, he bred horses and cattle, was an active member of the Madison County Farm Bureau, and had a portable dance floor that he would loan to area farmers for country dances.

The Rinkel farm was just east of the township line from the rest of Mont Station, so the

children attended Maple Grove School in Pin Oak Township, rather than the Acme School in Edwardsville Township like the others at Mont. According to descendants, the Rinkel boys were often late for school as they weren't allowed to go until their chores were completed. But at the same time, the Rinkels held fundraisers to help support the school.

George, Jr. remained on the farm, but after his marriage Clarence moved to Webster Groves where he worked for a dairy. He returned to Mont with his family in 1936 when he purchased what had been the Zephaniah Montgomery home next to the Mont Depot.

George, Sr. was killed in a tractor accident in 1940, but his family continues to occupy the same farm ground nearly a century later. The Rinkel family has worked the Barnsback farm as well as the farm next to it for four generations. There have been just two families in over 160 years.

Although the Barnsback and Rinkel families are not closely related, they can be found on the same family tree, as can all of the Mont families explored here.



The Thomas Barnsback Farm as depicted in the 1873 Madison Count atlas. (MCHS)

THE WILLIAM BARNSBACK HOME

Another property near Mont possessed by only two families since the farm was established is what is known as the William Barnsback farm. William occupied his father's original homestead, located just south of the farm owned by his brother Thomas. At his death the farm was continued by one of his sons, William Barnsback Jr., who died in 1924. Within a few years, the farm was purchased by Edward Jacob Bollinger whose family still owns the property.

According to Lee Bollinger, when his grandfather, Edward Bollinger, bought the William Barnsback farm, the neighbors "thought the farm was played out and that he would starve." But Edward added limestone and manure to the soil and made it a productive farm again.

The original Barnsback home, likely older than the three brick houses remaining, was torn down in 1949 and replaced with a modern home.

PHOEBE MONTGOMERY'S FAMOUS HORSE

In 1906, Phoebe Montgomery, who shared her father's love of horses, bought a horse named "Joe Joker."

The horse raced with a cart or harness, but without a driver. He set time records for this stunt and was featured at state fairs throughout the Midwest.

In 1915 Joe Joker raced for a St. Louis film company against another Montgomery horse on Troy Road in Edwardsville. He won, although the other horse had a driver.



Phoebe Montgomery with Joe Joker. (MCHS)

The Jacob Kinder Home

George and Isabella Kinder came to Madison County in 1811 from Kentucky with two children, two-year-old Jacob and his baby sister Jane. They settled on ground near what would become Mont Station where they estab-

lished a farm and increased their family to include seven additional children.

The home of their son, Capt. Jacob Jefferson Kinder, built before the Civil War with bricks made on-site, remains standing and is well-preserved. Kinder was a soldier in two wars, both the Blackhawk War and, as it was then called, the "Battle of the Rebellion." When Kinder left for the Civil War, he left behind his wife, Sophia, and 14 children, including a newborn. He was gone for three years with Company F of the Illinois 117th Infantry. According to "The Patriotism of Illinois," a military history written in 1866, the 117th Illinois "participated in six battles and 33 skirmishes. They traveled 778 miles by rail, 6,191 by water and 2,307 on foot; a total of 9,276 miles."

Oral histories tell of Sophia keeping watch for her husband from the widow's walk of the house where she would also go to smoke her pipe. But perhaps, being a single mother of 14 children, there were other reasons for her to escape to the roof.

When in Memphis, the captain received a letter from his wife saying she would not allow her daughters to be visited by able-bodied men. The letter was quoted in a Louisville newspaper which said her reasoning was that the proper place for men thus described was



Captain Jacob Kinder

(Richard Kinder)



Madison County Historical Society

Opening Doors to Madison County History

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THE JACOB KINDER HOME (CONT FROM PAGE 7)

in the army. "If they are not there then they are cowardly, shirking their duty to their country."

Jacob (1809-1885) and Sophia (1817-1893) occupied the home during their lifetimes. After Jacob's death, Sophia shared the house with her son Robert and his family. Around the turn of the century, the house and surrounding farm were sold to Joseph Bousek (later changed to Bouse) whose family would occupy the house until 1966. Joseph was a self-made man, arriving in America in 1881 with nothing, he worked hard to save the funds needed to purchase a farm.



This photo of the Kinder house was taken in 1976 for the Edwardsville Intelligencer. The house had just been restored by the Fischer family. (Nancy Fischer)

Two generations of the Bouse family lived in the house as it passed from Joseph Sr. to Joseph Jr. and his family. They brought a number of modern improvements, but it was still country living. The house was wired for electricity in 1951 and had an indoor bath using cistern water, but they still had to go out to the well for drinking water. The next owners began to remodel the house, but due to illness left the house uninhabited for a number of years before selling to Earl and Nancy Fischer in 1972. It took several years for the Fischers to restore the home. There have been a number of owners since then.

THE ZAJICEK FAMILY



The Frank Zajicek family purchased land on the west side of Old Troy Road and south of Mont in 1891. They are shown here in front of their home in an undated photograph. (Courtesy of Bob Kubicek)

Rest in Peace

Almost all of the old families of Mont Station are buried in one of two nearby cemeteries. Oaklawn Cemetery is located west of Mont on ground first donated by the Barnsback family in about 1850. In the early years it was known as the Barnsback Burying Ground, but in 1881 the name was changed to Oaklawn as more and more families were represented. It is the final resting place for the Montgomery, Kinder, Barnsback, McKittrick, Scheibal, and other families

The second cemetery is the Buck Road Cemetery on Route 162 which was established about 1865 as the Czech Catholic Cemetery. Early burials and records were completed by a conversation and a handshake, so details are unknown. The earliest record of the name "Buck Road" is in 1908, but it is assumed it came from the cemetery being near the road to a farm owned by a family named Buck. The cemetery was and is the Bohemian Cemetery where the Zajicek, Kubicek, Kovarik and other Eastern European families who settled in Mont Station or Glen Carbon still bury their loved ones.