

Edgar County Genealogical Society

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February, 2021

WELCOME 2021

These are unusual times. Throughout time I am sure people have thought the same thing. Today it is important to stay as safe as you can, but there is no guarantee of a smooth, un-eventual course. In these days of more quiet days (too early and cold to work much in the yard or a garden), one can turn to organizing drawers, closets, rooms, AND genealogy records.

It is a good time to make a master index of the missing information of your ancestors. You may plan trips for the future to visit libraries in the areas where your ancestors lived. Many times the small local library may have information that has not been documented online. Of course, every day more information appears on line.

If any member has a Edgar County connected piece of family history (for example, a letter or diary), I would appreciate receiving it for publishing it in a quarterly.

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From *Paris Daily Beacon-News*, Paris, IL, April 15, 1929, page 3

Judgment Given in Hound Dog Case for the Plaintiff

A judgement of \$40 and costs was awarded to Preston **Dubree**, Grandview township farmer, against Abe **Archer**, Elbridge township man, by Justice of Peace T. E. **Garner** this morning following the arguments in the "hound dog case," which were presented this morning.

The evidence was offered Saturday morning, and was to the effect that **Archer** had sold a hound dog to **Dubree**, taking in payment a check for \$40. The dog was identified as a stolen animal, which had been purchased by **Archer** from a man named **Patterson**, Terre Haute for \$20. The dog was returned to its former owner, Clyde **Wright**, Terre Haute, who was present at the hearing and produced a photograph and registration papers, showing that the canine was of pure bred stock and was his property.

Considerable stress was laid, in the arguments, made by Attorney Fred **Rhoads**, for the defendant, and Attorney W. H. **Hickman**, for the plaintiff, as to the length of the dog's ears, which measured, according the evidence, 26 inches from tip to tip.

Mr. **Archer** will be obliged to refund the forty bucks and pay costs, or appeal the case and take a chance with the higher court reversing the decision.

New Book Published

George Roger **Stanley** is the author of *Country Schools are only a Memory, A trip in time from the first school in Edgar County to what they are today.* Contact Mr. Roger Stanley at rogerstanley769@yahoo.com for further information.

Coming Events

Meetings

At this time all meetings are on hold. We will reevaluate monthly. The quarterly meetings and programs will resume at some time.

Check our Facebook page or webpage anytime for the latest updates!

Society Information

Society Officers 2019-2020

President
Judy **Cash**
Vice President
Jenny **Barkley**
Program Chair

Secretary
Teresa **Pennington**
Treasurer
Monica **Brunelle**
Newsletter Editor
Monica **Brunelle**
Director
Phyllis **Sutton**
Webmaster
Teresa **Pennington**

The Society welcomes Ancestor Charts from ECGS members for publication. Charts must be typed or clearly printed on 8 1/2" X 11" paper. A letter, signed and dated by the submitter must be included with the charts, giving permission to ECGS to publish the charts in the next available Newsletter issue. After publication all charts will be placed in the files of the Genealogy Library for reference by other family researchers. Please be sure to include your name, address (snail and email) and current date on each chart.

Membership:
Individual \$25 annually
Single Life \$150
Annual Year: July 1 - June 30

Newsletter published:
August, November,
February, May
Each membership receives one volume (four issues) of the Newsletter annually.

Fees received after March 1st will be applied to the coming year, unless you state otherwise on membership application.

Meetings

The Society presents four programs yearly, including

the Annual Business Meeting in June. Those are announced in the Newsletter, the Prairie Press, on our website and Facebook pages.

Queries:

Each member is entitled to at least one query published annually in the Newsletter, more as space permits. Non-Members are charged \$2 per query. Please limit each query to 10 typed lines, including your name and address. A query should provide at least 3 items: name(s), date(s) and location(s).

Address Changes:

If your address is changing for any reason (moving or 911 address change) ECGS must be notified. We ARE NOT responsible for lost copies of the Newsletter. Replacement cost is \$3 per issue.

ILLINOIS STATE
Genealogical Society
#361R27
Founded in 1984

ECGS Meeting

No meeting was held in December, because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The next meeting is not scheduled at this time. At this time it is probably going in June, 2021. Check the website or Facebook page.

From *Paris Beacon-News*, Paris, Illinois, October 12, 1954, page 2

HOME COMING IS OBSERVED BY HUME CHURCH

Homecoming was observed Sunday at Hume Methodist church during the morning worship and a special program in the afternoon. A basket dinner was served at noon in the church basement on tables decorated with fall flowers.

Joe **Milam** announced the afternoon program, a fellowship service, which opened with a prelude by Joetta **Waltz**. The pastor, Rev. Paul **Meridith**, gave the invocation and welcome, with a response by Miss Helen **Thompson** of Danville from the congregation.

Group singing was led by Wilmer **Strawn**, and vocal selections were given by Mrs. Ester **Lungren**. Rev. Robert **Williams**, pastor of the Newman Presbyterian church, gave the message.

Musical numbers included a trumpet solo by Leanne **Burroughs** and a vocal trio composed of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest **Jones** and Mrs. Norma **Roller**. Writesman **Long** also rendered musical selections.

A memorial service was conducted by Mrs. Clara **Baum** and Mrs. Laura **Jones**.

Edgar County Genealogy Library

LIBRARY CLOSED - Temporarily

The Edgar County Genealogy Library is currently closed except by appointment, because the coronavirus quarantine is in effect in Illinois and Indiana. Appointments can be made by phone—leave a message— or email at ecgl@edgarcountygenealogy.org or by regular mail. Remember the phone, email, and mail are only checked once a week at the end of each week. Check the website at www.edgarcountygenealogy.org to find the exact date when the library will reopen.



408 N Main
Paris, IL 61944-1549

217-463-4209

Hours:
Temporarily closed

Closed all holidays

Call for appointments during off hours or during inclement weather

BLACKHAWK WAR SOLDIERS OF EDGAR COUNTY

In 1832, there was a call for volunteers to fight the Indians led by Chief Blackhawk returning to Illinois from Iowa. Three companies from Edgar County were formed. These companies were led by Captain Isaac **Sanford**, Captain Robert **Griffin**, and Captain Jonathan **Mayo**. In this issue the men of Captain **Griffin's** company are listed. The reference for this information is *Record of the Services of Illinois Soldiers in the Black Hawk War (1831-32) and the Mexican War (1846-48)*, by Isaac H. Elliott, Journal Company, Printers and Binders, Springfield, ILL, 1902. This book is available at the Edgar County Genealogy Library.

BLACK HAWK WAR SOLDIERS

CAPTAIN ROBERT GRIFFIN'S COMPANY

1st Regiment, 2nd Brigade of Illinois Mounted Volunteers, called into the service of the United States, on the requisition of Gen. **Atkinson**, by the Governor's proclamation, dated May 15, 1832. This company was organized in Edgar County, May 10, 1832. Mustered out August 15, 1832, by order of Brig. Gen. **Atkinson**.

NAME AND RANK	REMARKS
<i>Captain</i> Robert Griffin	Two buckets, ax, tub, lost. Mud Lake to Dixon
<i>First Lieutenant</i> George Moke	One halter lost on the march
<i>Second Lieutenant</i> Wm N. Redman	Detailed to Dixon, supposed to be discharged
<i>Sergeants</i> Jesse Raper	
George Phillips	Detailed to Dixon, supposed to be discharged
Edmund Minor	Absent with leave
George Redman	Absent with leave, supposed to be discharged
<i>Corporals</i> James McCoy	
Wm P. Hicklin	Absent with leave, 1 horse lost
Wm H. Faulkner	
Addison M. Qurvy	Absent with leave, supposed to be discharged
<i>Privates</i> Alexander , Edmund	Absent without leave, supposed discharged
Bryant , William	

Librarians:

*Linda Barrett
Judy Cash
Catherin Entrican
Monica Brunelle
Joy Van Meter*

Craig, John	Horse and equipments lost at Fort Wilbourn
Coe, James (Vermilion Co)	Detailed to Dixon, supposed to be discharged
Clapp, Levi	
Darnal, Wm	Horse, etc, lost; disch. on Surgeon's certificate
Downs, Abraham	Absent without leave
Davis, Samuel	Furloughed August 13, 1832
Dick, Ferdinand	Detailed to Dixon, supposed to be discharged
Elledge, William	Detailed to Ft. Hamilton to hunt horses
Flood, William	
Fears, William	One camp kettle lost on forced march
Flack, James	Furlough
Furness, John	Detailed to Dixon; 1 horse lost
Green, William	
Harbaugh, Jacob	
Hensley, George H.	Equipage lost
Jones, Thomas	Absent without leave, supposed discharged
Lacksu, Tobias J.	
Lamb, Arthur	
May, William	Horse and equipage lost
Martin, Moses	Left at Fort Wilbourn, sick
Nobles, Jonathan B.	
Owslar, Henry	
Patterson, Jonathan	Detailed to Ft. Dixon; 1 horse, etc., lost
Packet, John	Detailed to Dixon, supposed to be discharged
Parish, James	Detailed to Dixon, supposed to be discharged
Rockhold, Ezekiel	Horses and equipage lost
Stewart, Joseph H.	Detailed to Dixon, supposed to be discharged
Sizemon, Martin	Absent without leave
Southerland, R. B.	
Snyder, William	Horses and equipage lost
Smith, Samuel	
Tennery, Isaac H.	
Tennery, Patrick C.	
Thompson, John S.	Absent without leave
Tade, John	Detailed to Dixon, supposed to be discharged
Wayne, George W.	
Wright, Joseph	

From *The Paris Beacon*, Paris, Illinois, November 18, 1887, page 1

An Edgar County Horse Race for One Thousand Dollars

Ever since the last day of the Edgar county horse races at Sheppard's race track there has been a boastful spirit prevailing in the classic confines of Sims township, arising from the alleged superiority in the speed of the horses in that region. For, be it known, in the estimation of a Big Creeker, a "hoss" that can't run a "quatash" in less than a minute is of but little use on earth. This widespread feeling of confidence in the running qualities of their horses eventually centered upon J. E. **Perisho's** five year-old bay mare, Nellie F. When a man, named **Oder**, living near Palermo, Ill., ventured to assert that he owned a three-year-old that could run the tail off of **Perisho's** mare, and a purse of \$500 was quickly made up by **Perisho's** friends, which they invited **Oder** to take with him if he could beat the mare in a 300 yard race. After a few preliminaries **Oder** covered the bet, and the race took place at Sheppard's track last Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a big crowd of men with sporting proclivities.

From half past two until after five the riders of both horses "jockeyed" with other, making one false start, and finally getting away the **Perisho** mare slightly in the lead, which she steadily increased, and won the race by over two lengths.

The result of the race created the wildest enthusiasm among the Big Creekers, and, of course, several aching voids in the pockets of **Oder's** backers. A rough estimate on the amount of money changing hands places it at over \$1000. It was not until the twinkling stars of midnight shone down upon a sleeping city that the last denizen of Big Creek started for his home in a state of exhilaration more or less intense, according to the size of his winnings.

From *Chrisman Weekly Courier*, Chrisman, Edgar County, IL, August 9, 1918, page 1
SOME CO. D MEN "GO OVER THE TOP"

Mrs. Perry **Hall**, South Main Street in Paris, has received an intensely interesting letter from her son, Frank A. **Hall**, member of Company D, who is "Somewhere in France." After speaking of personal matters, young **Hall** says:

"I have seen quite a lot of German prisoners, some of them are just young boys, and others are older men, they are all glad to be taken prisoners. They say that they did not think there were any Americans here yet. They thought that we were English dressed in American clothes. I just received your letter of June 12th and a line from Aunt Maria, was glad to hear from you. You said you had gotten no word from me since the card of my safe arrival over seas. I wrote a letter when I first got here, but the boat was sunk on its way back, so you would not get it. The Germans dropped some bombs here a week ago, but they never hurt any one. You should have seen the holes they made in the ground. The English aeroplanes finally shot the German plane down, and that ended it all.

Some of our boys have gone "over the top". George **Gale** and Joe **Duck**, Ralph **Donovan**, Bernie **Blackburn** all came back without a scratch. George **Gale** helped capture 15 Germans. They lost a lieutenant, who was with them. We are not any ways near the front now. This war is not as bad as you hear it is. You hear almost anything over there. Everybody seems to think it will be over before winter if Japan comes in. We get papers over here. They are printed here at Paris."

Note: Frank **Hall** - 17 Aug 1895 - 20 Jul 1967

George **Gale** - 29 Jul 1898 - 29 Dec 1950

Josiah Ray "Joe" **Duck** - 30 Jul 1895 - 17 Apr 1979

Ralph **Donovan** - 5 Mar 1887 - 7 Dec 1981

Bernard "Bernie" **Blackburn** - 29 Sep 1897 - 24 Apr 1978

Mrs. Perry (Sarah **Bartlett**) **Hall** - 3 Jul 1855 - 14 Jan 1951

From *Paris Daily Beacon-News*, Paris, IL, October 14, 1943, page 1

Paris Officer Dies In Airplane Crash At Western Field

Death of Sgt. William A. **Entrican**, 21, one of five sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. **Entrican**, 108 North Austin street, in the armed forces of the United States, brings Edgar county's World War II casualty list to twelve. Sgt. **Entrican** was killed Wednesday in an airplane crash near Pocatello Army Air Base, Idaho.

Sgt. **Entrican** enlisted March 20, 1942 in the Air Corps and was sent to Merced Field, California where he was graduated as an airplane mechanic. He was then sent to Texas where he received training and graduated one month ago as an aerial gunner. At the time of his death by accident he was in training at Pocatello Field, studying airplane engines. He flew over Paris only two weeks ago with a crew from the Idaho field, circling the **Entrican** home.

Sgt. **Entrican** was ordered overseas sometime ago, but his orders cancelled pending completion of a crew.

The body will be brought to Paris to the Ziercn funeral home for funeral services. Burial will be at Edgar cemetery. The time of the service is being withheld pending arrival of the body.

He is survived by his parents and four brothers in the armed forces including Francis, a member of Company M, Illinois Reserve Militia at Paris; Kenneth, with a Military Police detachment at Fort Custer, Mich.; Pvt. Donald, with a medical detachment in foreign service; Pvt. Howard in Los Angeles, Calif.; and Pvt. Charles at Seattle, Wash. He has two brothers at home, Olin and Paul, and one sister Thelda, also at home.

From *Paris Daily Beacon-News*, Paris, IL, October 14, 1943, page 3

Rites This Afternoon

Sgt. William A. Entrican

Edgar county's twelfth World War II casualty

Funeral rites for Sergeant William A. **Entrican**, Edgar county's twelfth soldier to lose his life in World War II, were held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at United Brethren church, with the pastor, Rev. B. C. **Dutton**, officiating.

Pallbearers were members of Company M Illinois Reserve Militia of which Francis **Entrican**, brother of the deceased, is a member.

Mrs. Leonard **Vidito** and Mrs. Marie **Davidson** sang "The Eastern Gate" and "Going Down the Valley One by One."

Flowers were cared for by Misses Goldie **Milburn**, Delpha and Norma **Brown**, Kathleen **Cunningham**, Betty **Landis**, Doris **Davis**, and Marilyn **Willison**. At Edgar cemetery there was a firing squad from Company M.

Sgt. **Entrican** was killed instantly on Wednesday evening October 13 at Pocatello Army Air Base, Idaho together with three others of the crew, who were residents of Bicknell, Ind., Evansville, Ind., and Cleveland, O. Only one man escaped death, and he received injuries, which were not considered serious. He was thrown 300 feet from the wreckage. The plane crashed at low attitude after motor trouble developed while the pilot was attempting to make a landing.

Accompanying the body to Paris was Sergeant George W. **Smith**, who is located at the Pocatello base.

Sergeant **Entrican** was born February 22, 1922, a son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. **Entrican**, 108 North Austin street. He enlisted on March 30, 1942, and received his basic mechanical training at Merced, Calif. and was graduated there on March 15, 1943. At Kingman, Ariz. on April 28 he was graduated as an aerial gunner. From there he was transferred to Pocatello where he became a first engineer on flying fortresses. Four of his brothers are in the armed forces and one is now in service overseas.

Entrican Family

Mr. William Atwood **Entrican** and Flossie Onalia **Bell Entrican** were the parents of eight sons and one daughter.

Francis William **Entrican** (26 Jun 1914 – 25 May 1961)

Served in Company M, Illinois Reserve Militia in Paris, Illinois.

Cleo Kenneth (Lightning) **Entrican** (28 Sep 1917 – 17 Jan 1973)

Served with Military Police Detachment in Fort Custer, Michigan

Donald Edward (Don) **Entrican** (16 Dec 1919 – 20 Jul 1997)

Served with a medical detachment in foreign service.

William Atwood (Little Bill or Billy) **Entrican, Jr.** (22 Feb 1922 – 13 Oct 1943)

Served in Army Air Force – see article

Howard Eugene **Entrican** (7 Mar 1925 – 19 Nov 1974)

Served in Army in Los Angeles in 1943.

Charles Albert (Bud) **Entrican** (23 Mar 1925 – 3 Jan 1995)

Served in Army in Seattle, Wash.

Clinton Olin **Entrican** (26 Mar 1928 – 20 Apr 2003)

Paul Dean **Entrican** (10 Jun 1929 – 3 Aug 2014)

Served in Air Force.

Thelda Maxine **Entrican Eslinger Pitts** (14 Sep 1931 – Living in Paris, IL)

From “World War II Honor List of Dead and Missing State of Illinois”, Published by War Department, June, 1946. The soldiers are listed by county. The information is available on FOLD3. A key to grade or rank and a key to type of casualty are listed at the end of the list.

World War II Casualty List for Edgar County

Babb , James M.	PFC	DOI
Barry , Edward E.	PFC	KIA
Bell , Robert E.	FL O	DNB
Burton , Lee O.	CPL	DNB
Chapman , Ogle O.	PFC	KIA
Clark , Robert J.	PVT	KIA
Cravins , Harvey	PFC	DOW
Cummings , Merle T.	1 LT	KIA
Downing , Charles F.	2 LT	KIA
Entrican , William A.	SGT	DNB
Farr , Olin K.	1 LT	KIA
Forcum , Ted F.	1 LT	KIA
Fultz , John A.	TEC 5	KIA
George , Earl M.	PFC	KIA
Gill , Arthur J.	PFC	DNB
Gillispy , Howard W.	S SG	KIA
Glaze , Charles M.	PVT	DNB
Grover , Norman C.	PFC	DOW
Handley , James D.	2 LT	DNB
Hickman , Verlon	PVT	KIA
Hoult , Matthew, Jr.	PFC	KIA
Huffman , James	1 SG	DNB
Hughes , Lawrence L.	1 LT	KIA
Kelly , Carl E.	PFC	KIA
Koontz , James S.	PVT	KIA
Lawler , Jack D.	CAPT	KIA

McConas , David W.	TEC 3	DNB
McConchie , Alden W.	CPL	KIA
Mercer , Harold L.	CPL	DNB
Mitchell , Harold E.	PVT	KIA
Murray , Raleigh P.	S SG	KIA
Newell , Freeman W.	PVT	KIA
Ogden , Orville L.	PFC	KIA
Parish , James M.	PVT	DOW
Perrin , Hyde O.	PVT	KIA
Planck , Isaac E.	PVT	KIA
Poor , Walter T.	S SG	DNB
Rhoads , Roy L.	PFC	KIA
Roth , George W.	PFC	KIA
Scott , Paul R.	S SG	DOW
Sharpe , Charles W.	SGT	KIA
Smith , Glen E.	PVT	KIA
Smith , Lawrence O.	PFC	DOW
Smith , Russell F.	1 SGT	DOW
Strait , Henry N.	SGT	KIA
Taber , Henry C.	CAPT	DOW
Trimble , Arthur A.	PFC	DNB
Tweedy , Clyde E.	T SG	DNB
Tyler , Charles R.	T SG	KIA
Updegraff , Charles R.	PFC	DOW
Walton , Wilbur W.	C WO	KIA
Whalin , Simon G.	PVT	KIA
Williams , Herbert P.	PFC	KIA
Willoughby , Robert E.	PFC	DOW
Wood , William C.	SGT	DNB

Keys to Grade or Rank: CAPT, Captain; 1 LT, First Lieutenant; 2 LT, Second Lieutenant; C WO, Chief Warrant Officer; FL O, Flight Officer; 1 SG, First Sergeant; S SG, Staff Sergeant; TEC3, Technician Third Grade; TEC4, Technician Fourth Grade; PFC, Private First Grade; PVT, Private.

Keys to Type of Casualty: KIA, Killed in Action; DOW, Wounded, but later died of wounds; DOI, Died of Injuries, which were received in action; DNB, Died in non-battle (includes sickness, homicide, suicide, or accidents outside the combat areas) ; M, Missing.

From *Paris Daily Beacon-News*, Paris, IL, November 11, 1930, page 1

PAINFUL BURNS FOR OLIVER MAN IN EXPLOSION

Murry **Milligan**, 30, tenant on the Drake farm, one-half mile east of Oliver, Ill., is lying in a critical condition at his home from burns received at 6:30 o'clock this morning, when a two gallon can of kerosene which he held in his hands, exploded.

Attired in his nightclothes he attempted to start the fire in a heating stove, and to hasten the blaze poured a small quantity of the oil on the coals. Immediately there was a blaze, which ignited the kerosene in the can, resulting in an explosion.

Enveloped in flames, Mr. **Milligan** ran into the yard screaming. Residents of Oliver, including his father, John **Milligan**, who conducts a general store on Route One, heard his cry of agony and looking toward the **Milligan** home saw the human torch running around the yard.

Mrs. **Milligan**, who was in bed at the time of the explosion, heard her husband scream and ran to his assistance with a bucket of water. After tearing away his garment and putting out the blaze she ran in her night clothes and barefooted to the home of a neighbor, quite a distance away, to call a doctor. When neighbors arrived at the **Milligan** home they found the suffering man rolling in the dirt in the garden.

His body is severely burned from his head to his knees, and the attending physician gives out little hope for his recovery.

*Note: Murray Clayton **Mulligan** 3 Jul 1904 – 11 Nov 1930. Buried in Forsythe Cemetery, Clark County, IL*

*Father: John W. **Mulligan** 13 Jun 1877 – 1 Jul 1962*

The New Providence Presbyterian Church is located in Elbridge Township just off the East Terre Haute Road on 2250 E Road. This article was written in 1961. There is a longer history written in 2004 for the 175th anniversary written by Richard **Webster**. The history is in the Genealogy Library.

HOME COMING 1961

The organization of the New Providence Church extends back into antiquity and its history is somewhat legendary. Tradition has it that five families, the **Ewings, McNutts, Rays, Arts, and Tuckers**, came from Maryville, Tennessee where they had been members of the Providence Presbyterian church. At an organization meeting at the home of Martin **Ray** on May 16, 1829, the name of New Providence was chosen for the new Church.

However, as early as 1817, charter members of the New Providence congregation were communicants of the Hopewell Presbyterian church on the banks of Sugar Creek just over the state line in Vigo County in the Wabash Presbytery: and later worshiped at New Hope in southeastern Edgar County. Historians tell us that after several immigrants from the Carolinas had moved in, the Hopewell congregation did not see eye to eye on the slavery and liquor questions, and the Illinois contingent withdrew to the west for New Hope, later New Providence.

The first New Providence congregation worshiped in the homes of its members until 1832 when Benjamin and Sally **Hunsaker**, deeded gratis to the trustees of the church three acres of land located just north of the winding lower Terre Haute road, a short distance southeast of Elbridge. On this tract of land the first church, a log structure, was built in 1833, and New Providence Cemetery, one of the oldest burying grounds in the country, was platted. Services were held regularly in the log church until about 1850, when the side road connecting it with the Lower Terre Haute Road was closed and another road extending north, called the New Providence Road was opened a quarter mile to the east. When this happened, the church trustees built a frame church on an acre of land bordering on the new road which site was donated by John **Campbell**.

The charter members of the original New Providence Congregation included, Thomas and Mary **Art**, Ellen, Alexander, Margaret, George, Jane and Rachel **Ewing**, John and Elizabeth **McNutt**, Martin **Ray** and Elizabeth and Anna **Tucker**. It is of interest that several descendants of the original charter members are still worshipping here.

The first elders were Martin **Ray**, John **McNutt**, and Alexander **Ewing**. The pastors prior to 1862, in order named were Rev. John **Campbell**, Joseph **Butler**, Joseph **Wilson**, N.F. **Taylor** and E.A. **Deming**. During the late 1800's and early 1900's the church was served by Presbyterian ministers, some from Terre Haute, Indiana and from Chrisman, Ill. The manse then in use stood about a quarter mile north of the recent church, on land belonging the **McNutt** Family. The house is gone but the well is still in use.

The church has a very colorful history, which had its bright and dark side, but since 1944 the congregation has once again been able to support a full time minister. Prior to that, ministers of every denomination were invited to speak at irregular intervals. However, Sunday School was held throughout the years.

In 1944 the church joined the Parish of the More Abundant Life. A group of nine churches in the Presbytery of Mattoon, then under the able direction of Rev. Harry E. **Bicksler**. Student Ministers from McCormick Theological Seminary then began to serve the Church.

In 1947, the frame church constructed in 1850 was considered unsafe to hold meetings in, and the congregation moved to the spare store room at Elbridge while the old church was being torn down and the new one constructed. With the help of people, both far and near, we held the first service in the New Church on Christmas Eve, 1947 and dedicate the new church May 23, 1948.

In 1949, the church purchased the New Providence school and grounds with the intent of making it into a manse, which was completed in 1954. In 1958, the church purchased 27 acres of land just north of the present church building for a Youth Camp. Last year the men of the Church, with the help of men from other churches in the parish began clearing trees and brush from a portion of this site and in August of 1960, a lake was constructed. On this plot the whole Mattoon Presbytery hopes to some day have all the facilities of a permanent Youth Camp.

This historical statement was compiled by: Mrs. Helen **Staley**, Mrs. Mary **Staley**, and Mrs. Alice **Sturgell**.

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