

News items from the *Illinois Free Trader*, Ottawa, (1849), *Kendall County Courier*, Oswego, (1853-59), *Kendall County Free Press*, Oswego, (1860-1863); *Kendall County Record* (1864-1869)

1849 - 1869

1849 (*Illinois Free Trader*)

March 23: Suicide--Henry Ford, at Long Grove, Kendall county, in a fit of insanity, on Friday of last week, shot himself by placing the muzzle of a rifle under his chin, the ball passing out under his left eye. After shooting himself, he cut his throat with a jackknife.

May 25: The county of Kendall has voted to borrow \$5,000 in order to bring up her orders to par and to get out of debt.

A new mail route has been established from Ottawa to Naperville, via Newark, Long Grove, Oswego, and Aurora on the east side of Fox River. Wm. K. Brown, contractor, to make one trip a week. The contractor informs us that he will commence service on the 1st of July.

June 11: James Lamb, a young man residing in Kendall county, in endeavoring to get some silver spoons, which were in possession of his sister, Mrs. Brownell, in Newark, in a scuffle broke the hip bone of his father, Paul Lamb, which in a few days caused his death. The young man was arrested and is now confined in jail at Oswego.

August 10: There were six deaths at Ottawa since our last publication [on Aug. 3], all of which were either from cholera directly or the result of an attack of cholera.

Aug. 17: There have, since last Friday, been 10 deaths in town of which 7 were from cholera and 3 from other diseases. Of those who died of cholera, 2 were children and 5 adults.

Aug. 25: CHOLERA AT AURORA

The scourge has broke out in Aurora, with much apparent violence. The Beacon of last Friday gives the first two days' ravages, during which period there had 9 cases occurred all of which we believe proved fatal. We have not received this week's Beacon; but by private letters received here we learn that up to last Wednesday it had raged with increasing fury; as many as 15 died in one day. We are sorry to learn that among those who died was Mrs. Eastman, wife of Dr. Eastman of that place.

Sept. 7: The Beacon of the 30th ult. reports up to the time of its going to press 45 deaths from cholera in the town of Aurora. East of Big Woods, 4 deaths. The Beacon expresses hope that the scourge had left them as there had been no new cases for 36 hours previous to publication.

1853 (*Kendall County Courier*)

June 1: Since we issued our last, our office has been removed to Judson's block, south of the National, second floor, where we will be happy to receive calls and orders for work from our friends and customers. Entrance next door south of Caughlin's Harness Shop.

A little more than ten months have expired since the first number of the *Courier* was issued. During that time we have not failed to present our subscribers with a number each week. In regard to the matter therein contained, and suitableness of manner in which our sheet has been conducted, we will leave to their judgment to approve or denounce. The present volume will end about the middle of July and it is our wish and intention to begin the next volume with a larger sheet and thus give our friends a good portion of reading matter. We not only wish to give a larger, but also a better sheet; one which will meet the approbation of the people and one that they will be pleased to support--this shall be our aim.

Now what we wish to ask of some of our patrons is, that they will settle the small accounts which we have against them for the present year's subscription so that we may be enabled to accomplish our wishes. We have a good deal outstanding, which will do us much good if we can get soon. Let all indebted call and settle or remit us the amount of their accounts immediately. Those to whom we are indebted expect us to pay up, and we have a right to expect the same from those who are indebted to us.

CITIZENS OF OSWEGO

We are requested to give notice that a meeting will be held at the Court House tomorrow (Thursday) evening, to consider the propriety of, and securing necessary facilities for, opening a road from this village to the line of the Aurora Extension Rail Road. A general turn-out is expected.

The ground has been examined and it is found that the above track can be reached in less than a mile and a quarter. Many advantages, worth of consideration, arising from a connection with this road will be discussed at the meeting.

C. [Charles] Sutherland's Boot and Shoe Store has been removed to the building formerly occupied by J.M. King, where he is prepared to furnish his customers with all articles in his line of trade at reasonable prices. The Chicago Harness Shop has also been removed to the same building. Stewart is still manufacturing fine and durable harnesses, which are hard to beat.

MARRIAGES

In this village May 19th by Wright Murphy, Esq., Mr. John Young and Miss Margaret Phillips, both of Oswego.

Thomas Speer

Begs leave to inform the Public that he has opened a new stock of Dry Goods west side of the River, Oswego, Kendall County, Illinois, consisting of Ladies Dress Goods, Black

Gro DeBibue, printed and plain Turkey Red drapery, Gingham, and Lawns, Fancy Articles, Gents Wearing Apparel, Boots & Shoes, Crockery, Tinware, and Groceries.

A Mail Stage will leave Oswego Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays via Plainfield for Joliet after the arrival of the Ottawa and Aurora stages, arriving at Joliet in time for the Eastern and Southern train of cars.

The Proprietor, A.R. Horton, Esq., will carry passengers on reasonable terms.

Office at the National Hotel, Oswego.

Business Cards:

Farmers United States Insurance Company of New York at Saratoga Springs, Oswego, Ills., L.B. Judson, Agent.

Franklin Marine and Fire insurance Company, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Risks taken for the above Company at fair rates. T.H. Jeneson, Oswego.

J.J. Cole, Land Agent, Office in the Court House, Oswego, Ills.

National Hotel By Wm. Briggs, Oswego, Illinois. A share of public patronage is respectfully solicited.

W.E. Ives, Attorney at Law and Solicitor in Chancery at Oswego, Kendall County, Illinois.

Benjamin F. Fridley, Attorney and Counselor at Law, Oswego, Kendall Co., Ill.
References: Hon. S.A. Douglas, Hon. J. Butterfield, Hon. Jas. Shields, Hon. R.M. Young, Hon. J. Wentworth, Hon. J.D. Caton.

E.S. Mudgett, Attorney at Law, Oswego, Ill. Office opposite the National [Hotel], in Ives' Building, second floor.

A.B. Ives, Attorney at Law And Solicitor in Chancery, Oswego, Kendall County, Illinois. Office opposite the National Hotel. Particular attention paid to the Collection of Debts and examination of Titles &c.

A.B. Smith, Attorney & Counselor at Law And Solicitor in Chancery. Oswego, Ills.

J.W. Helme, Attorney & Counselor at Law, Oswego, Ills.

W.P. Boyd, Attorney at Law and Notary Public, Oswego, Kendall County, Illinois. Money to Loan on Real Estate, and will buy Notes at a liberal discount.

M.A. Fenton, Commissioner of Deeds And other instruments of the Writing for the State of New York. Oswego.

Wright Murphy

Attorney & Counselor at Law, And Justice of the Peace. Oswego, Illinois

Festus Burr, Justice of the Peace, Oswego, Ill. Office opposite the National, in Ives' building, second story.

Dr. M. Davis. Can be found in the Drug Store opposite the National [Hotel], Oswego, Illinois. He does not return to his vomit (from the fact that he never left it); he is ready at all times to Physic, Blister, Bleed, and Puke, either in town or country.

C.B. Fox, M.D., Physician & Surgeon. Office over F. Coffin's Grocery Store. Residence opposite the Congregational Church.

Dr. Jewell, Physician and Druggist, Oswego, Ills. Office at his old stand.

Tailoring Establishment, Charles Samse,

Would respectfully inform the gentlemen of Oswego and vicinity that he is prepared to do all kinds of Tailoring, at the old stand of C.L. Murdock, opposite W.O. Parke's store. Having been engaged in the business for many years, he flatters himself that he can suit all who may favor him with their patronage, with good work on reasonable terms.

E.D. Bradley, Constable, Oswego, Ills. Will attend promptly to the collection of all notes and accounts entrusted to his care.

P.G. Hawley, Constable, Oswego, Ills. Will collect Notes and Accounts on reasonable terms.

West Oswego Cheap Store By Thomas Speer, Dealer in Staples & Fancy Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, &c. The subscriber is now receiving a very large and splendid assortment of merchandise at the store formerly occupied by S. Roberts on the west side of the river, Oswego, which he has lately enlarged and fitted up in style for the large assortment which he is now opening and which he is determined to sell as low as any merchant west of New York and as cheap as the same qualities can be bought in Chicago.

Oswego Clothing Store,

C.L. Murdock, Draper and Tailor.

A ready made clothing store in the building formerly occupied as a post office opposite the National.

New Goods and New Firm! Fall and Winter Arrangements. Cash paid for corn. Chapman & Reynolds, Oswego. John W. Chapman, Augustus S. Reynolds.

The firm of Robinson, Graves & Co. is this day dissolved by mutual consent and all persons indebted are requested to make immediate payment to J.A. Robinson, who is alone authorized to use the name of the firm in settlement.

D.J. Townsend
J.A. Robinson
N.W. Graves
NaAuSay, May 3, 1853

The subscriber begs leave to inform the traveling public that he intends to run during the present season a Daily Line of Stages between Aurora and Newark via Oswego and Bristol, and a tri-weekly line between Newark and Ottawa. His carriage will leave Aurora every morning after the arrival of the Chicago train and connect every other day at Ottawa with the Rock Island trains going both ways; and will leave Newark every morning and convey passengers from the above named village to Aurora in time for the afternoon train for Chicago.

Wm. F. Lutyens, Proprietor.
Newark, May 1st, 1853.

Great Arrival Of New Goods! At the Stone Store, Oswego, Illinois. W.O. Parke begs leave to inform the citizens of Oswego and the surrounding country that he has just received from the Eastern markets the largest stocks of goods.

National Hotel, Oswego, Ill., Wm. Briggs

The Proprietor of this well known establishment, after tendering his most sincere thanks for the very liberal patronage he has received for the last four years begs leave to inform his friends and the public generally that he has recently, at great expense, given it a thorough repairing, from the beak of the roof down. Several large and comfortable lodging rooms have been added in the old part and an entirely new addition has been built, 30x40, two stories; making it one of the most spacious and convenient Public Houses on Fox River. This House is pleasantly situated, directly in the center of business on the principal street in town and but a very few rods from the court house, so that persons coming here on business of any kind will find it greatly to their convenience to stop here.

In the stable a careful and attentive hostler will be found, to take care and well feed all animals given to his charge.

West Oswego Hotel.

The subscriber having taken this well known Stand, one half mile west of the village of Oswego, lately occupied by S. Roberts, would respectfully inform the traveling public that he will be happy to receive a share of their patronage, and that he will spare no pains to make their stay with him pleasant and agreeable. His Table will be furnished with the best the market affords, and meals will be prepared at all hours on short notice.

His beds will be kept clean and comfortable. His Stable will be furnished with good hay and grain and horses will receive good care.

January 1853, Wm. Strossman.

Sheep Pelts Wanted At Stolp's Woolen Factory, Aurora.

3,000 acres of land at Au Sable Grove, Kendall County, for sale, including a large manufacturing establishment consisting of a Saw Mill, Machine Shop, Blacksmith, and Woodshops.

I propose to sell together or in tracts, my land in Kendall county. A large part of it is under good cultivation, and comprises timber, arable, and meadow land in just

proportions. It is delightfully situated on the East side of Au Sable Grove, and is bounded on the north by the homestead of Major Davis.

At the edge of the Grove on this tract is located a large establishment, well furnished with suitable machinery, and adapted to the manufacture of Agricultural Implements, of which considerable quantities have heretofore been made.

There is not, perhaps, in the State, any location possessing the advantages of a home to a greater extent than this.

The necessity for a change of my residence to the State of New York is the only reason for putting this land in the market.

For further information, reference may be made to Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago; Wm. D. Townsend, Aux Sable Grove.

D.J. Townsend
Buffalo, N.Y.

Ahead of all Others! Persian Liniment The best remedy known to the world for the cure of all diseases where an outward application is needed on either Man or Beast. D.B. Jewell, Agent, Oswego, Kendall Co. Ill.

Jno. M. King, manufacturer and dealer in all kinds of tin, copper, and Sheet-Iron Ware, wholesale and Retail. The Subscriber is prepared at all times to fill any order in his line, and merchants wishing to keep a stock of Tin Ware on hand will find it to their advantage to call and see for themselves.

Cooking Stoves of late and improved patterns, kept on hand and will be sold as low as can be had at the best price west of Chicago.

Jobbing of all kinds done to order.

ALSO: Dealer in Chain and Cistern Pumps, Lead Pipe, Iron Bench Screws, Corn Shellers, Wagon Boxes, Door and Gate Springs, &c, &c.
Oswego, Jno. M. King.

The Old Established Meat market, Thomas Smith with good meats of all kinds. Corn Beef, Neat's Foot Oil, Candles kept on hand and sold cheap for cash. Cash paid for fat cattle, calves, and sheep.

Carriage and Wagon Manufactory.

The Subscriber respectfully informs the inhabitants of Oswego and surrounding country that he is prepared to do all kinds of work on the above line of business on as reasonable basis as any other establishment west of Chicago. He will attend promptly to all orders at his old stand over S.L. Bartlett's Blacksmith Shop and requests his old customers and the public generally to give him a call.

C. Kamff, Oswego.

Kendall House, Oswego, Illinois, by Beaupre & Mann.

The Undersigned having taken the above named stand wish to inform their friends in Kendall county and the traveling public that they have thoroughly repaired the building and intend to furnish good accommodations as can be found at any house in this section of country. No pains will be spared for the comfort of those putting up with them. A

hostler will be kept who will take the best care of horses. In short, every thing will be done to make this house an agreeable and pleasant resort. Beaupre & Mann, Oswego.

Discriminating Duties in favor of Home Industry by William Hoze. Having a right smart choice of Lumber on hand, would respectfully inform the inhabitants of Oswego and a heap o' folks in the vicinity, that he continues tot do a considerable of a sprinklin' at his common avocation--Wagon and Carriage Making--at his old stand opposite the residence of B.F. Fridley, Esq. on Washington street. Oswego.

1854 (*Kendall County Courier*)

April 12: Wanted at this office immediately, a good Journeyman Printer, to whom liberal wages will be paid, if of temperate habits. No intemperance person need apply--we have had enough of that sort.

A lack of help and a rush of job work is our excuse for not issuing our paper last week. We hope our friends will accept it, for it is, if anything, more mortifying to us to be obliged to make such an excuse than the non-appearance of the *Courier* was to them. We did not intend to be at all stingy of paper this week, but we made a great mistake in purchasing the article and thus we have a small martin on the side.

The *Courier* is, to be sure, a neutral paper; but can it be that it is not worthy of an intelligent and reading community on that account? The cordiality with which its weekly appearance is greeted is sufficient guarantee for us to continue our work as heretofore. When papers must be political or in other words when a publisher must become the tool of would-be party leaders, and men who are seeking more for the "loaves and fishes" of office than the welfare of the public, then we wish to retire from the editorial corps. We do not object to political papers, but on the other hand favor them as there is plenty of room in Uncle Sam's settlement for both political and neutral sheets.

On Monday next there will be a school commenced in the Union School House under the charge of a Mr. Hammond, whose services have been engaged by the Trustees. The school will be a good one and every parent should embrace this opportunity to adorn their children with learning.

We were presented a few days since with a couple of the eggs of a Shanghai fowl, owned by Mr. Harmon Parker of NaAuSay. The weight of the two is 7 ounces. Mr. Edward Mann of the "National," also presented us an egg, layed by one his Shanghai chickens not quite six months old, which weighed 3 ounces.

The proceedings of the meeting of the soldiers of 1812 held in Aurora, will be published next week.

Our citizens will notice the advertisement of Dr. Mordecai Davis in today's paper. Mr. D. has been a resident of our village for some time, and is known to be worthy of the confidence of the people. Now that he has commenced business, let him receive a liberal patronage from those who may need the different articles, which he has for sale.

Mr. J.M. Gale's advertisement says that he will be in our village soon. Now let all who wish to get their *picters tuck* be on hand in season, and let Gale furnish them with good likenesses in any style of case desired. Being the author of important improvements in the art of Daguerreotyping, by which his pictures are beautified and made to appear fresh and life-like, he has received a good patronage in every town he has visited. Do not neglect to call the Palace when it arrives.

We have received good tidings of the prosperity of the cause of Temperance in Bristol. The Main Law Ticket was triumphant at the recently election for town officers.

Oswego. The following is the vote of this Town: For Supervisor, Morris Gray received 119 votes; C.L. Murdock, 126 votes; Charles Bennett, 4 votes; Cyrus Cass, 1 vote. For Town Clerk, Festus Burr received 239 votes; Lorenzo Rank, 5 votes; J.D. Kennedy, 1 vote. For Assessor, Alexander Small, 109; L.B. Judson, 138; Addison Albee, 4. For Collector, Daniel Ashley Jr., 151; Walter Loucks, 103. For Commissioner of Highways, Elisa Doud, 241; Henry R. Cook, 235; Alford Edson, 240; William Davis, 5; William Wormley, 13; W. Silva, 3; John Wagner, 1. For Justices of the Peace, Festus Burr, 185; Wright Murphy, 129; George T. Hopkins, 99; D.B. Jewell, 50; Levi C. Gorton, 49; William M. Forbes, 30; Doctor Fox, 1; D. Jolly, 18. For Constables, Edward Mann, 230; Er Parker, 147; Lorenzo Rank, 107; P.G. Hawley, 40; J.B. Stafford, 25. For overseer of the Poor, William Hoze, 170; Walter Loucks, 1; J.W. Lilley, 13.

Marriages

By Benjamin Ricketson, Esq., Mr. G. Freeman of Chicago to Miss Jennetta Austin of NaAuSay.

Business Cards: The regular meetings of Glenn Lodge No. 141 of the I.O.O.F. are held on Tuesday evenings each week in Odd Fellows Hall, opposite the National Hotel, Oswego, Ill.

W.B. Field, Resident Daguerrian, Newark, Kendall Co. Ill. Will teach the various branches of the art, as well as take Miniatures for those who will favor him with their patronage.

Henry O. Ward, Offers his services to the citizens of Kendall County as an Auctioneer. He will attend promptly to all calls sent per mail to Kendall P.O., Kendall Co., or at his residence two miles south of Au Sable Grove.

William Clark, Barber & Hair Dresser, at the National Hotel, Oswego.

Workers Wanted to be employed in making Hedge and farming. Russell & J.H. Whiting. Tin Ware Manufactory. The Subscriber having opened a shop opposite the Post Office in Oswego will manufacture Tin Ware of the best material in the most thorough manner.

Brass, Copper, Pewter, Eggs, Rags, &c. taken in exchange. F.E. Dyer, Oswego.

Notice: The person who got the Double Barrell Gun belonging to W.O. Parke from the Kendall House last spring will save trouble by returning the same to the subscriber. M. Beaupre.

Dissolution: The co-partnership heretofore existing under the firm of Chapman & Reynolds is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business will be continued by J.W. Chapman and Goods sold at cost to close the concern and make room for new goods. J.W. Chapman, A.S. Reynolds, Oswego, April 1st, 1854.

J.M. Gale will be in Oswego again with his renowned Daguerrian Palace in a few days, nothing preventing, to stop a short time. Let all who wish his work, be prepared to get Likenesses at reduced rates. The Palace is now at Bristol. Any person wishing to engage in a profitable business with a small capital can get the desired information &c, at the Daguerrian Palace. It will require but \$600 capital to do a business that will pay in good hands \$1,000 a year; and only the half of that will be required in advance, the rest being well secured in one year.

Corn Planters. Any farmer who wishes to see the best Corn Planters in the county may call at the Nursery of the subscriber.

Russell Whiting, Oswego.

Furniture Ware Rooms: The subscriber has opened on the corner one door south of C.L. Murdock's Clothing Store, a Furniture Ware Room for the accommodation of the citizens of Oswego and surrounding County. He will keep on hand Chairs of various kinds, Bureaus, Rocking Chairs, tables, stands, Bedsteads, &c of the best quality.

P. Curtis, Oswego.

Broom Factory: The subscribers have recently commenced the manufacture of Brooms in the village of Oswego and would inform the merchants of the surrounding country that they will fill all orders promptly with a good article and at reasonable prices. The highest cash price paid for Broom Corn.

Billings & Moore.

Osage Orange Hedges Made. The undersigned will contract for making Hedges of the Osage Orange Plant next spring and will warrant them to make the thing for which they are designed. Also the Osage Orange Seed and Plants for sale.

R. & J.H. Whiting, Oswego.

1855 (*Kendall County Courier*)

March 21: We wish to say now for the last time that all persons wishing to pay their subscriptions for the *Courier* with wood must bring it along immediately. We have been not a little annoyed during every season of bad roads or bad weather this winter for the

want of this article, which would not have been so bad had we not depended upon promises.

Shall the Village of Oswego be Incorporated?

This question, we discover by notices which have been put up about town, is to be settled by an election, to be holden at the Stone School House on Friday of the present week, 23d inst.

We are pleased to observe the spirit for improvement in our town, beginning to show signs of a move. That there is much need of a change in the part of our streets termed "Walks," no one can doubt, who has been anywise observing, for the past week or two, or at any time when the streets were muddy. Last week, it being uncommonly wet, there were not walking places to be found; but plenty of places where a pedestrian might exercise his agile powers in a hop, skip, and jump, which did not seem very pleasing to many strangers attending Court. Ours has the reputation of being one of the most pleasantly located villages in Northern Illinois and in ordinary wet weather there is not one that is more free from mud. But in order to make our streets pleasant and our town agreeable, we must make some improvement and be prepared for extra-ordinary weather by constructing good side and cross-walks.

The old adage "What is everybody's business is nobody's business," still remains good and is quite applicable to our town so far as sidewalks are concerned.

We hope that the subject of incorporation will be favorably looked upon by our citizens and receive a unanimous vote "for." There is certainly much need of village officers here, that its wants may become known and cared for. Let every voter who has even a spark of that spirit necessary for the general welfare of the town attend the election and vote. Exert yourselves that the vote be in favor of incorporation.

Deaths. In this village on the 14th inst., Lydia C., daughter of Levi Cowan, aged 12 years and 4 months.

New Daguerrian Gallery! At the Kendall House, Oswego. Pictures for 1 Dollar! H.A. Hose, having spared no time or expense to become fully acquainted with the Art and possessing as he does A Superior Apparatus! Is confident that he can give entire satisfaction to all who will patronize him. Locketts, breastpins, rings, frames, cases &c. A good assortment of Fancy Cases on hand.

H.A. Hose, Oswego,
Jan. 10, 1855.

Business cards: Sons of Temperance, May Flower Division, No. 380, hold its meetings at the Court House in Oswego every Saturday evening.

All Ready! The Kendall House, by J.C. Chapman, is now open for the accommodation of travelers and boarders. Oswego, July 19, 1854.

M.G. Cooley, Corner Main and Washington Street; Call! You'll find his specimens hard to beat; House Painting done in all its branches, and Paper Hanging with its elegances. Send in your orders with a rush, for Mack is handy with the brush.

Tailoring Establishment. Charles Samse would respectfully inform the gentlemen of Oswego and vicinity that he is prepared to do all kinds of tailoring at the old stand of C.L. Murdock opposite W.O. Parke's store.

Livery Stable. The subscriber would inform his old customers and the traveling public that he will continue to keep Horses and Carriages to Let, at reasonable prices at his old stand, north end of Main Street. A carriage will run from his stable twice a day to meet the cars to and from Chicago. Carriages furnished gratis on funeral occasions, in Town, and to clergymen half price. G.T. Hopkins, Oswego.

March 28: The Corporation Election

The election holden on Friday last, that the citizens of his village might have an opportunity of deciding whether it should be incorporated resulted in a vote of 55 in favor and 17 against. We understand that an election for Corporation officers is to be holden on Saturday next, 31st inst. Too much haste cannot be used in choosing officers, as upon their action will depend the harmony of the town. No expense should be created by officers chosen except for purposes really needed for the good of all. Let such improvement as is necessary be made in the appearance of our streets; but we hope that no unnecessary or stringent laws will be made from which trouble among friends and neighbors can arise. If our laws are too strong in the beginning, differences will occur in regard to them, which will endanger the health as well as life of our incorporation.

It will be seen by a notice in today's paper that a meeting of the Stockholders of the Ottawa, Oswego, and Fox River Valley R.R. Company is to be holden at Newark on the 1st day of May.

May -- 1855

May 9: Oswego had two lodges of the International Organization of Good Templars, the Water Lily Lodge No. 31, which met over Frederick Coffin's grocery store and Harmony Lodge No. 22, which met in the Odd Fellows Hall, located on the east side of Main Street in a building located where the Oswego Fire Station is located today (2009).

John C. Chapman advertised that his Kendall House hotel "Is now open for the accommodation of travelers and boarders."

M.G. "Mac" Cooley, located at the corner of Main and Washington Street, was advertising his services as a house painter and wallpaper hanger.

J.J. Cole was advertising his land agent services in the Kendall County Court House in Oswego. "Will attend to the purchase and sale of real estate, payment of taxes, examination of lands, investigation of titles, &c."

Benjamin F. Fridley, attorney at law stated he "Will attend promptly to the collection of claims, examination of land titles, payment of taxes and other business entrusted to his care in northern Illinois.

A.B. Smith advertised he was an attorney and counselor at law and solicitor in chancery. "Will attend promptly to all business entrusted to his care in the ninth Circuit. Also in the counties of Kane, DeKalb, DuPage, will and Grundy."

J.W. Helme advertised his services as an attorney.

W.P. Boyd advertised his services as attorney at law and notary public. "A special attention paid to collecting of all kinds of money to loan on real estate and will buy noted at a liberal discount."

Wright Murphy advertised himself as an attorney and counselor at law and justice of the peace in Oswego. "Collections promptly attended to."

Doctors advertising included C.B. Fox, physician and surgeon practicing over Frederick Coffin's Grocery Store, residence opposite the Congregational Church; and Dr. Jewell, physician and druggist, Oswego, "Office at his old stand."

Charles Samse "Would respectfully inform the gentlemen of Oswego and vicinity that he is prepared to do all kinds of tailoring at his old stand of C.L. Murdock opposite W.O. Parke's store. Having been engaged in the business for many years he flatters himself that he can suit all who may favor him with their patronage with good work on reasonable terms."

Wanted: A boy 15 or 16 years of age, of good steady habits, immediately at this office as an apprentice at the printing business.

The undersigned having purchased the *Kendall County Courier* office, would respectfully solicit the patronage of all the old customers of the establishment and many new ones. He intends to furnish his subscribers with a good family newspaper, independent in principle, and having secured the services of Mr. H.S. Humphrey as conductor of the same, whose labors will be given more exclusively to its columns than heretofore, he intends that it shall be worthy of the acceptance as a county organ and medium of general intelligence. An addition has lately been made to the jobbing material of the office, which will enable me to furnish plain and fancy job printing to the satisfaction of the public, on reasonable terms.

A. Sellers.

The reason for the non-appearance of the *Courier* last week was that no paper could be obtained in time to get it to subscribers till the first of the present week. Two weeks ago yesterday and proprietor purchased paper in Chicago, which was to be sent out the next day, but none came until the latter part of last week. The size of all the country papers being the same, occasions much trouble, but we are in hopes the paper crop will be better this coming year, and undoubtedly will if any of the new discoveries of material for its manufacture are available.

A call is contained in our paper this week for a meeting of all who are opposed to the traffic in liquor to be holden at the Baptist Church in Pavilion on the 19th inst.

The body of a man was discovered floating in the river near this place on Friday morning last. It lodged against one of the islands opposite town. Coroner Winn was apprized thereof and immediately after his arrival here caused the body to be taken from the water and summoned a jury for an inquest. The verdict of the jury was that the man came to his death by drowning or from the effects of wounds upon his body.

Since the above was set in type a man and woman came down from Aurora to enquire after the body found. The clothing was recognized by the woman as that worn by her husband. He had been in the employ of Mr. McCollum of the above place and was missed about four weeks ago while on a spree. He was undoubtedly murdered. The story relative to the missing man is probably a mere conjecture.

Murdock & Co. have just received a large stock of spring and summer clothing, excelling anything of the kind brought here before and a little better than can be purchased west of New York City.

A horse and buggy was hired at Hopkins' Livery Stable in this village last week to go to Newark. The stories of the young man who obtained the rig not being very straight and he not returning at the specified time, Mr. H. started in pursuit. He traced him to, and from Newark to nearly all the R.R. stations in the Western part of the county, and finally found the horse and buggy on Thursday at Plano--the young man had left on the cars the day before.

An auction at Mr. Rising's late residence in Oswego, the following described property on June 7, 1855: One pair of very superior, matched bay mares--kind in harness and warranted sound; two years credit will be given for these, for a well secured note bearing 6 percent interest after one year. One two-seated buggy made to order in Chicago by Humphreys. A handsome silver mounted light, double harness--Chicago made. Two good cows giving milk. Two calves. A few articles household furniture consisting of one handsome hair stuffed sofa, Boston make; one sett of hair-bottomed chairs; one sett of cane seated chairs; two setts of common chairs; two rocking chairs; one mahogany bureau with mirror; two common do.; one dining table; two common tables; five bedsteads; one cooking and two parlor stoves with pipe; about sixty yards ingrain carpeting and thirty-four yards straw carpeting; washstands, &c. A fanning mill; plow with wheel coulter, 7c. One year's credit will be given for sums over five dollars. Less than five dollars, cash.

John L. Clark, Oswego,
May 7, 1855.

New Lumber Yard! The Subscriber has received and offers for sale at the Oswego Depot a stock of good lumber comprising the different grades used for Building, Fencing, &c, Which can be bought as cheap rates as at any other yard on Fox River. Produce will be taken in exchange at the highest cash prices.

L.W. Rowley, Oswego,

April 30th, 1855.

Lumber! Lumber! Support Your Own. The subscriber is now receiving and will hereafter keep constantly on hand at the Oswego Depot, a general assortment of lumber of all kinds, shingles, &c, which he will sell at as low rates as the same qualities can be purchased in Aurora. The attention of Farmers is respectfully solicited and an examination of my stock requested. All kinds of produce taken in exchange for lumber at Cash Prices.

C.M. Butler, Oswego.

Daguerreotypes. Come all ye blades and blooming maids,
Old men and matrons, too.
"Secure the shade and the substance fade,"
As you had ought to do.
My rooms are in the Kendall house,
Where I am always tied,
To take your picture and your cash,
Till you are satisfied.
I've cases now of every style-
Of every size and color,
And nice enough to hold a king
Or queen, just for a dollar.
Dear friends my time is limited,
Come quick or off I goes,
Receive my thanks for favors past,
Respectfully, H.A. Hose
Oswego, April 4, 1855

A 15 Horse Power Engine For Sale with fly wheel, pumps and all necessary pipes--all in complete order--at the NaAuSay Steam Mill, Kendall County. I.T. Townsend

Farming Implements! Harrows, Plows, Harrow teeth, Whipple trees, Neckyokes, &c., a large assortment kept constantly on hand, for cash or credit.

E.M. Gregory, Oswego.

Oswego village ordinances published this week:

Ordinance No. 10, Concerning Highways: Be it ordained by the President and Trustees of the Town of Oswego: That all persons, residing or who may reside during the year, within the limits of said Corporation being males of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, shall during the year 1855 and each succeeding year of their residence perform under the supervision of the Street Commissioner and President and Trustees, three days labor upon the streets, highways, and alleys pertaining to the Corporation to be worked and kept in repair.

Ordinance No. 11, Concerning Side-Walks: Be it ordained by the President and Trustees of the town of Oswego: That a space of ten feet in front of every town lot within the town plat of the town or village of Oswego, and at each side of every highway leading into or through the same, within the corporate limits of said town, be and hereby is appropriated, set apart, used and held for the purpose of a side-walk and for no other purpose. That hereafter it shall be unlawful and deemed a nuisance to erect a barn or stable opening up the same or to erect any pig sty or enclosure for keeping therein cows, or swine, upon the line thereof or so near thereto that the odor arising therefrom would be likely to annoy persons passing along the said side-walks, or to throw any hay or manure or other filth thereon, or suffer the same to fall or be thrown upon the same from any stable, enclosure or lot or to feed cattle, horses, hogs, or sheep upon said sidewalk or to deposit thereon any food to be eaten by any such animals.

Ordinance No. 12, Concerning Shows: That no person shall be permitted to exhibit any shows, wax figures or puppets, or perform any feats, such as circus-riding or exhibitions, or any thing of the like nature, or perform any tricks such as are played by persons generally known by the name of thimble players, rope and wire dancers, sleight of hand with cards or cups and balls or other things, unless the same be shown and performed by such person or persons without charge or compensation therefore, either directly or indirectly, unless said person or persons shall have first obtained a permit to do so from the President or one of the Trustees of said corporation and shall have paid such sum as they shall fix for such exhibition, not less than two dollars nor more than five dollars for each day's exhibition.

Ordinance No. 13, Concerning the Running at Large of Swine. Be it ordained by the President and Trustees of the town of Oswego: That the running at large of swine within the limits of the corporation is hereby declared a nuisance; and is therefore hereby forbidden.

1,000 Hens Wanted, for which the highest price will be paid in Cash at the Stone Store by W.O. Parke [All-American Male & Company building]

Discriminating Duties in favor of Home Industry. William Hoze. Having a right smart chance of lumber on hand, would respectfully inform the inhabitants of Oswego and a heap o' folks in this vicinity, that he continues to do a considerable of a business at his common avocation--Wagon and Carriage making--at his old stand opposite the residence of B.F. Fridley, Esq. on Washington street and sorter reckons he can pile the sticks together as pert and substantially as any other mechanic in the diggings called Northern Illinois. The subscriber is very highly favored with some good customers and very respectfully solicits a few more of the same sort and should he be successful in obtaining them would gladly trade off some of his poor paying customers for common lumber and thereby enable him to enlarge his shop.

Livery Stable. The subscriber would inform his old customers and the traveling public that he will continue to keep Horses and Carriages To Let, at reasonable prices at his old stand north end of Main Street. A carriage will run from his stable twice a day to meet the

cars to and from Chicago. Carriages furnished gratis on funeral occasions, in Town and to clergymen half price. Thankful for past patronage, he would respectfully solicit a continuance of the same.

G.T. Hopkins

Highest cash paid for Hides by E. Smith.

Nebraska is a Fine Country. But the subscriber is contented to stay in Oswego, and supply the citizens of the village the and country round about with as good articles in the line of Boots & Shoes, as can be manufactured in the West and at as reasonable prices. He can furnish an article of Fine Boots, which for beauty and durability, can not be excelled. Work made to order and warranted. Shop one door north of his residence. Thankful for past favors a continuance of the same is requested.

Ezra Smith.

This is the place to buy Cheap at J.B. Stafford's Boot and Shoe Store. The subscriber is in receipt of a large assortment of Ladies, Gents, and children's wear of Eastern Manufacture. He has also a good assortment of his own make, which he will warrant. Custom work made to order. You can buy Boots and shoes cheaper here than any other place in the West. Call and examine for yourselves. Remember the place--at the sign of the Big Boot, in Judson's block. Repairing done neatly.

The Old Established Meat Market. Thomas Smith Would respectfully inform his old friends and the citizens of Oswego generally that he continues at his new stand near his residence on the corner north of the Court House, where he will be happy to supply old customers and as many new ones as will patronize him with good Meats of all kinds. Corn Beef, Neat's Foot Oil, Tallow, and Candles kept on hand and sold cheap for cash. Cash paid for Fat Cattle, Calves and Sheep.

May 16: In consequence of the non-arrival of the paper, which should have been here two weeks ago, we are obliged to issue a half sheet--think that such a paper will suit better than none at all. It is hoped that this may be the last half sheet ever issued from this office--the disappointment felt by the publisher being much greater than that of the scribes and what is wanting this week, we will endeavor to make up with interest to our readers hereafter.

L.W. Rowley has lately established a Lumber Yard at the Oswego Depot, which is the second one opened this spring. We should judge from the amount that is daily drawn into the village by his team that business is flourishing. Lumber can be bought as low here as at Aurora, which farmers should remember when in need of building material. Give the new yard a call and examine the stock in trade.

A Main Law County Mass Meeting was set to be held in the Baptist Church in Pavilion on May 19 to discuss the proposed Prohibitory Liquor Law. The Oswego committee for the event included Wright Murphy, C.L. Murdock, and Festus Burr.

Miss H.L. Bennett would respectfully inform the citizens of Oswego and vicinity that she is prepared to give lessons on the piano at the residence of Mr. Foot, about a half mile east of the village. She will give lessons at the residence of pupils if preferred. Recommendations can be furnished if required from the best music teachers in New York.

May 23: The new Presbyterian Church in this village is to be dedicated on next Sabbath. This edifice for public worship has lately been completed and speaks well for the taste of its builders. It is in a good location and is a decided ornament to the town. The erection of churches cannot fail to produce a favorable impression in the minds of those looking for homes in the West, and gives a good character to the citizens of this community. We have now completed Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational houses of worship and the Baptist society will erect another, which will make the fourth in a town of about one thousand inhabitants. Their spires will be sure landmarks for good settlers.

Hon. R.N. Mathews, having removed from our county to find a home in Nebraska, the office of Notary Public was left vacant. We understand Gov. Matteson has appointed Col. Wm. Cowdrey of this town to fill said vacancy.

Wilkins' Panorama of the Land Route to California was exhibited last night at the Methodist Church to quite a respectable audience," according to *Courier* editor H.S. Humphrey. "It is a magnificent work of art. It will be shown again tonight. Persons wishing to make a journey across the plains can do it by visiting this Panorama, without the expenses and hardships attendant upon such an excursion."

We are requested to give notice the Rev. Mr. Mason, pastor of the First Universalist Church, Chicago, and editor of the *New Covenant*, will preach in this village, at the Court House, on next Sabbath, at 4 o'clock. The citizens are generally invited to attend.

Mr. Editor: You noticed in your last week's issue that the Presbyterian church would be dedicated on Sabbath the 27th. The dedication took place. The services on the occasion, led by the pastor of the church, and the Rev. J.F. Goodhue of Marengo, were solemn, lively, and interesting. After the sermon, and before the dedication, subscription papers were carried round for pledges to secure the payment of what was yet due on the building. The amount was about seven hundred dollars, all of which was subscribed for. The congregation now considers itself out of debt. At a meeting on Monday they passed the following resolution: Resolved that while we recognize God as the efficient source of all good, and ascribe to him supreme praise for guidance and for means in the building of our house of worship, we tender out thanks to the citizens of Oswego and vicinity for their very liberal and cordially pledged assistance in paying for our lots and building. We also tender our thanks for assistance from abroad and to our neighbors Mr. Dan'l Pearce Sr., Wm. P. Boyd Esq., and J.J. Cole, Esq. for money accommodations to help forward in the completion of the building. We also express our thanks to the citizens who contributed upwards of one hundred dollars for furnishing our church so comfortably.

May 30: For Sale

The undersigned, having made up his mind to leave Oswego, now offers to sell 4 lots on the south side of Van Buren street, running to the river, containing nearly one acre of land. A good barn now stands on the lots. Also his right in the Race running from the mouth of the Waubonsie to said lots, constructed for the purpose of building a shop thereon, which he is unable to complete, therefore he offers the whole at a bargain to any one wishing a good water power on easy terms if well secured. He will also sell all the lumber he has on hand consisting of Spokes, Hubs, and other wagon material; the spokes and hubs will be sold for cash. Also two lumber wagons, plows, drag chains, and a first rate fanning mill, one engine lathe not quite finished, one wood lathe, sett of blacksmith's tools, screw-plate and taps, one cross-cut saw, machine for threshing broom corn, and one tying machine, two blacksmith's vices, and a span of first rate mares, one of which has a colt, and many other things too numerous to mention. Wishing to settle up my business in town, I would give notice to all who have accounts with me to call and settle forthwith as I cannot pay without I get what is due me from others.

J. MOORE.

A good deed will be given for the lots from L.B. Judson. The whole will be sold cheap, to anyone who will go on and finish the water power.

Oswego, May 30

[In the 1850 U.S. Census of Oswego Township, John Moore was listed as a 55 year-old native of Ireland who was a wheelwright, with property worth \$200. His wife, Alma, a native of Connecticut, was 56 at that time. The couple had the following children: Joseph, 28; Thomas, 21; Almon, 17; and Hannah, 14. Also living in the household was a 28 year-old wheelwright from Canada, Lewis Burt, and George Cobb, an 18 year-old native of Michigan, whose occupation was listed as farmer. Apparently, Moore later decided against selling out. See the Sept. 5 *Courier* for more information on Moore's manufacturing project. Moore was killed when he was struck by a train March 31, 1865 while walking home from Aurora.]

June -- 1855

June 13: We have seen reports from various parts of the country, which are rather discouraging to those who have sown and expected large crops of wheat; if the crop should prove as small as is now expected in many places, there is a prospect of still higher prices than are now paid for flour. The chinch bug is destroying wheat in different sections of Southern Illinois. The corn crop so far as we are able to learn, is expected to be good. The late drought hindered its growth here, and in many parts of the state, but they with us have recently been blessed with showers.

Mr. A.B. Hall advertises this week a large stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, &c., which he will sell at living prices both to himself and customers. Mr. H. had some experience in mercantile business in eastern cities and is therefore qualified to buy as low and sell as cheap as any one in the trade. He keeps gentlemanly clerks who will be pleased to wait upon customers at all times; one of whom is Mr. L. Rank, well and favorably known hereabout, as efficient in business and delights in pleasing all. Give this store a call once, and you will be sure to call again.

Drs. Cutter & Cutcheon have been lecturing in this village during the past week on Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene to the satisfaction of all who have listened. They have been laboring under difficulties owing to the non-arrival of their Manakins, of which they have three; the Manakins arrived yesterday and the regular course of lectures was resumed last evening.

Orton's Circus performs in our village today. It combines two companies, the celebrated Oriental and Badger Circuses, making it unequaled by anything of the kind in the United States. The troupe of actors are unsurpassed by any in Europe or America. Those who have not time to attending the afternoon will be glad to see the same performance in the evening. Admission--Box 50 cts; Pitt 25. We hope they won't forget the printers.

The new steam frigate Merrimac, at the Charleston Navy Yard, is to be launched on the 14th inst.

In the election to pass the state prohibition law, Oswego Township voted in favor of prohibition, 158-80. Countywide, the prohibition issue passed 895-327.

Six good Harness Makers wanted by the subscriber. None but good workmen need apply. Apply to M. Cherry, corner of Main and Washington streets, Oswego, Ills.

June 20: The ever memorable Fourth of July, the nation's birth-day is approaching and as yet nothing has been done in our town preparatory for an observance due it by every community. We observe that flaming handbills are posted about our town, giving notice of a celebration in a neighboring village; but we sincerely hope that the citizens of Oswego will better act in commemoration of the day than to neglect its observance at home. It is their duty to celebrate in their own town; in fact, every village in the Union should be a scene of patriotic display. Let our townsmen act speedily and set on foot such arrangements as will make the town attractive and agreeable, not only to themselves but also to those in the surrounding country who may wish to spend the 4th for holiday recreation. Let Uncle Ezra's Drum beat a reveille, and set the patriotic blood of Oswego in motion; something may result therefrom.

It having become certain that the Prohibitory Liquor Law is defeated in Illinois, the general question seems to be, "what is the majority?" This is at present unanswerable, but probably it is from 8,000 to 15,000. Most of the counties in this section of the State were in favor of prohibition; but as nothing good came out of Egypt in this instance, anti-prohibition gained the day.

Hundreds of frame houses are being made in Cincinnati and shipped west to Iowa and Kansas. These houses consist of two rooms and are made, sent out, and put up for \$150 each.

Tickets have been issued by Messrs. Beaupre & Mann, the gentlemanly proprietors of the National, for a dance on the evening of the 4th. Those who may wish to meet youth and pleasure can find no better place than National Hall.

The demand for laborers in the harvest fields of Illinois is very large and urgent, and high wages are already being offered. Persons owning reaping machines have come into our city this week to secure hands and offer \$1.50 per day, and over.

June 27: The Kendall County Agricultural Society has fixed upon Wednesday and Thursday the 3d and 4th of October next for the annual exhibition of the Society in the village of Oswego; it will come off a few days earlier than formerly in order to give such as may wish to do so an opportunity of attending the fairs of neighboring counties.

The third annual Fair of the Illinois Agricultural Society is to be holden in Chicago on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th of October next.

Mr. Wm. P. Boyd of this village having lately purchased the celebrated imported French Buck Napoleon, designs to have him shorn of his fleece at the National Hotel on the 30th inst., (Saturday) which it may be well for farmers interested in improving their flocks to witness. Napoleon's fleece will doubtless be great, both in quantity and quality. Farmers come and see.

The Publisher of this paper had no connection whatever with that little obscene sheet called "The Bald Hornet" as some supposed. It was published by one of the boys in my office.

July -- 1855

July 4: Since the corporate ordinances of our city went into effect many improvements have been made in our streets, which not only add beauty to their appearance in dry, but render them far more pleasant in wet weather. The present grades prevent water from settling in the center of the street, and as it flows to the sides, well constructed drains carry it off, so that soon after a heavy shower, pedestrians can go dry shod to almost any part of the city. We congratulate the citizens of Oswego on their choice of corporation officers--they will, we doubt not, make all improvement possible with the means which are devoted for such purposes. But the great change in the streets are not the only visible signs of the advancing prosperity of Oswego. There has been seven new dwellings put in course of erection since the first of May last, some of which are now finished. The buildings on the corner of Main and Washington streets have lately been removed by the owner, Mr. L.B. Judson, to make room for a 3 story stone building, which he intends to put up this summer. We have seen a draft of the building, which, when finished, we think will be ahead of anything on Fox River. Its exact dimensions we have not learned but it is to be very large, fronting on the two above names streets and finely finished. The third story is to be built expressly for an Odd Fellows' Hall. Everything about us is looking more prosperous than ever, and although our town has been decried by those of larger

dimension, who are looking upon it as a rival, which will outstrip them ere long in point of business, as it now does in beauty and location, it is continually progressing. Every tenement is employed and a house to rent is seldom heard of; in fact, there are not houses enough to comfortably contain those wishing to live among us. Let some of our citizens turn their attention to this matter and build for the accommodation of new comers.

July 11: The 4th of July was this year greeted by the citizens of this region of our State with more than ordinary enthusiasm. At Aurora, Batavia, Oswego, Mendota, and other points along the River and Rail Road, the day was observed with the usual festivities amidst the fluttering of banners, the firing of guns, the piercing scream of the spirit-stirring fife, and toll of the martial drum, and the joyous shouts of exulting Young America with an extra shilling and a handful of fire-crackers turned loose from school and the nursery to revel in the joys of Freedom's holiday. Arrangements were made with Mr. Chapman of the Kendall House for a dinner and Washington Bushnell Esq., of Ottawa, was written to and consented to deliver an address. About 12 o'clock a procession was formed and marched to the Grove of LB. Judson when the throne of grace was addressed by Rev. Mr. [John] Van Antwerp of the Congregational Church, the Declaration read by Jno. M. Crothers Esq., after which Mr. Bushnell delivered an address. Mr. Bushnell is a young man of abilities. After the Benediction by Rev. Mr. McKenney of the Presbyterian Church, the citizens repaired to the Kendall House for dinner. In the afternoon and evening the halls of the National and the Kendall were crowded and on the flat, Messrs Bruner & Strossman had erected a large pavilion where their German friends, welcomed their fellow citizens generally to join with them in their favorite waltz to the music of an excellent brass band.

Letter from Kentucky

We give below a letter from our friend Dr. W. Danforth, formerly of this village, relative to prospects of farmers of Kentucky, who is at presently traveling in that state:

Louisville, Ky., June 30

Ed. *Courier*:

Wheat is all harvested in this vicinity and is on the whole a fair yield. Corn looks slim--grass good and just ready to cut. Ohio river much higher than usual for the season. In fine prospects of Kentucky are better than was expected, two months ago. The State is placed beyond a famine for the present season.

A trial of reaping machines came off a few miles below this city day before yesterday; but two machines entered, Manny's and the New York Reaper. Premium given to the latter.

Health of city and country good--no cholera.

Slave trade on the decline--rather loose property--not as tangible as real estate. Know Nothings said to be routed and broken up. Business on the whole brisk.

Yours truly,
W. Danforth

The wheat harvest has commenced in this vicinity and we should judge from present appearances of fields that the crop will turn out much better than was expected.

Mr. E. Mann of the National laid before us on Monday last a specimen of the production of one of his fine Shanghai Pullets, which cannot be beat in--we'll say the state. It was an egg weighing precisely one fourth of a pound.

Bullard's Mirror of New York City and the Crystal Palace has been on exhibition for the past two evenings at the M.E. Church in this village. Bullard's paintings are far more accurate than those of any other artist and will repay one for the money and time expended in seeing them. Everything is so life like in appearance that the beholder almost imagines himself on Broadway or on a call at the Custom House.

Mr. J.R. Gibbs has just opened a new store in the brick building opposite the National, where he will hereafter be found with a good stock of Merchandise on hand for sale at the very lowest rates.

July 18: In looking over the proceedings on the 4th, in many of the neighboring towns, we observed that most are highly flattered by the appearance of their citizen soldiery. Oswego is behind her sister villages in the formation of a military company, we are at a loss to say. We have the best military music in the country, which would readily become attached to a company. About a year since, an effort was made and many names obtained for the establishment of a Rifle company but finally failed for want of a sufficient number. Let those who have made endeavors to start a company renew them and commence in military practice with what they can get.

Soda Fountain--Just the drink for the present hot weather, can be found at the Drug Store of Jewell & Benhan. We have had the pleasure of experiencing the agreeable feelings resulting from a draught from the Fountain and would say to all who are oppressed with heat and a thirst, which Adam's Ale [water] will not gratify, call on Benham--he will give you relief.

In a letter to the editor, a reader of the *Courier* gave an in-depth report on the removal of a tumor from the chest of local businessman L.W. Rowley. Rowley reportedly survived the operation, which was conducted by Dr. Brownell of Chicago, assisted by Oswego doctors Fox and Davis.

July 25: The harvest is turning out so much better than anyone had dared hope, or exchanges from every direction are teeming with the glad tidings of plenty and a goodly quantity to spare for the sustenance of producers of another class.

Wanted. A good steady boy, 14 or 15 years of age, wanted as an apprentice at this office. One from the country preferred. Apply immediately.

Oswego Postmaster E.D. Bradley published a list of letters being held for delivery at the Oswego Post Office.

August -- 1855

Aug. 1: Mr. Editor: In your paper of July 11th, you published a letter from Dr. W. Danforth, dated Louisville, Ky., June 30th, in which he speaks of the harvest., Ohio River, &c., and winds up by saying that a trial of Reaping machines came off a few miles below that city "Day before yesterday; but two Machines entered, Manny's and the N. York Reaper. Premium given to the latter." I wish your readers to understand the matter as it is, and will therefore ask you to lay the following correspondence before them that they may judge of the merits of the trial for themselves.

Yours Truly, C.G. Doud.

[The letter disputed Dr. Danforth's statement, and suggested the Manny machine actually won. C.G. Doud was the local Oswego representative for the Manny & Company machine.]

The copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of Murdock & Co., is this day dissolved by mutual consent, and Murdock is hereby authorized to use the name of the late firm in liquidation of books and papers, notes and sets belonging to Murdock & Co., and will be kept by Murdock at the old stand and all persons having claims against said firm will be paid by him as they become due.

W.P. Boyd
C.L. Murdock

Aug. 8: The improvement made in Oswego this season will far exceed that of four or five years past. The Baptist Society of the village and vicinity are now constructing a large stone church, which will probably be finished ere cold weather comes. We believe Elder Edson is the main builder and architect, who being not only a worker in the vineyard of the Lord but also a good carpenter and joiner, is preparing the wood portion of the building, which will be put together as fast as the stone work will admit of it. This will make the fourth house of worship here. The stone for Judson's building on the corner of Main and Washington sts. are now being hauled and the work will soon be commenced. Two or three more wooden buildings have been erected since our last report of improvements here, and others are under contemplation. Our citizens seem to have taken the building fever, which we hope will rage until large manufacturing establishments, which may well be supported here, are using the unsurpassed privileges for water power on our river, which at present do no good to any one.

Our friend G.T. Hopkins is about to remove his livery stable to Chicago, which will put the boys in a bad fix when they wish to ride out. A few good horses and carriages can be supported here. Who'll fill the vacancy?

The advertisements of F.A. Benham & Co. have doubtless been noticed by our readers and all are made acquainted as to what manner of business they intend to follow. A Hardware Store has been needed here for some time and we hope that this establishment will receive a good patronage from the community.

We of Illinois have experienced the extremes of weather since January. At one time it was next to impossible to keep warm and now it is with the greatest difficulty we can keep cool.

As the office of Corporation Constable is now vacant, it is quite necessary that another should be appointed to take care of the hogs and pigs, which have lately been turned loose. These animals make themselves altogether too free with gardens and fields to be at all agreeable and much complaint has been made within a few days of their depredation.

Mr. Editor: I beg the privilege (through your paper) of advising my friend Doud of a slight mistake he is laboring under, relative to the trial of Manny's Machine at Louisville, Ky. I will state again that a trial of Reaping Machines occurred on the 28th of June at Louisville, which resulted in the defeat of Manny's Machine--the first premium being given to the New York Reaper; no other machines were entered for trial. On the 6th of July following (now, Mr. Doud) a trial of Mowing machines occurred at Louisville...it appears that all the machines entered did mow well and that Manny's Machine, which mowed equally well (under the favorable circumstances) being adapted to reaping also did take the premium. Do you stand corrected Mr. Doud?
Most Truly W. Danforth.

Aug. 15: Mr. Editor: Please give notice in your paper that the District School in this village is expected to commence on next Monday and that Mr. H.H. Haaff Jr., formerly of Arcade Academy in New York, is employed as principal teacher.

For the benefit of all concerned, we will say that the vacancy mentioned in our last is filled. Messrs. Beaupre & Mann, the gentlemanly proprietors of the National, are prepared to furnish those who may wish to hire, with finer and better establishments, than are usually found in Livery Stables. To those acquainted with these gentlemen it is useless for us to recommend them as all know that whatever they undertake to do for the public is well done. Their Horses and carriages are the best to be had.

Mr. E.D. Bradley has been removed from the Office of Post Master in Oswego and Samuel Roberts Esq. appointed in place...We have heard it rumored that Mr. B. did not hold his nose quite close enough to the Nebraska stone, and was too much tinctured with temperance principles to be agreeable to the crank-turner general of the P.O. Department in Northern Illinois...We can see, under the circumstances, no just cause for his removal. Mr. Roberts is an old inhabitant, and respected citizen of our town, and will undoubtedly make a good officer...it appears to us that the president is too much the dupe of political demagogues and wire-pullers to reflect great honor upon our common country.

New Establishment! Oswego Hardware Store! 1st door south of the National. F.A. Benham & Co.

Aug. 22: A rare chance! The undersigned being desirous of engaging in other business, offers the *Kendall County Courier* office for sale. Terms reasonable.
A. Sellers, Oswego.

In our last we remarked that we had no fault to find relative to the new P.O. regulations in this place except the removal. But since that time there has been another removal, one which quite all of our citizens object to. It was understood or so supposed that if the P.O. was given to Mr. Roberts it would be located somewhere within the corporation of the town, and as we are informed such a promise was given at the time the petition for the removal of Bradley was circulated. But on Thursday afternoon a new curtain was drawn up, and a scene exhibited to our villagers wholly unlooked for, being in direct opposition to the wishes of nearly all of them and certainly not down in the bill shown to those whose names or the greatest share of them accompanied Mr. R's petition to Washington. When the office fixtures were delivered to the new P.M. they were taken into a wagon and carried to his residence on the west side of the river, entirely out of the corporate limits of the village, and at least one-fourth of a mile from where the office should be, for convenience, to not only the townspeople but all of the two-thirds of the inhabitants of the township. The feelings of the citizens, of course, were greatly excited at such an outrage, and a meeting was called on Saturday afternoon to secure the return of the office within proper limits. The committee appointed to wait upon Mr. R. and request him to return the office within the bounds of the village got no decisive answer. Therefore it becomes necessary for the people to exert themselves to secure speedy action on the part of the proper authorities to return to them their just and legitimate rights.

We would like to see some improvement made in the Court House. This is not a matter in which our town's people should feel interested alone, but the inhabitants of the whole county. That a few coats of paint, of a durable quality, would make it look decidedly better, no one can doubt, and we are looking anxiously forward to the sitting of the Board of Supervisors when we expect an appropriation will be made for such purpose. We say, for the benefit of those who are obliged to attend Courts, let it be made pleasant as possible and for the good name of the country let it be painted. It is a good building and all must have a desire to see its appearance correspond with its size.

Aug. 29: We learn with regret that Mr. Roberts has given an answer to the committee appointed at the citizens' meeting to wait upon him, and request the return of the Post Office to the village, which indicates that the wishes of the inhabitants, in this matter, are to be set at naught and that our P.O. difficulties cannot be adjusted on amicable terms. Mr. R. refuses to return the office to the village, where it justly belongs, and the question to now be settled is, will the citizens of Oswego submit to such imposition, or adopt measures for the removal of Roberts? The taking of the office beyond the limits of the village was entirely unlooked for by our citizens and could not have been prevented without violent means.

A few mornings since, we dropped in at the Furniture Ware Room of Messrs. Burr & Bradley, just opened on Washington St., where they now have on hand one of the best selected assortments of Furniture of all kinds that we have seen in a long time.

Those of our subscribers who have taken their papers at the Post office, will find them, hereafter, at F. Coffin's Store. All who wish to get their mail matter on this side of the

river can do so by arrangement with Mr. Coffin, who has been chosen P.M. until post office difficulties are remedied.

September -- 1855

Sept. 5: In an effort to bypass Postmaster Roberts, who removed the post office from Oswego to his home on the west side of the Fox River, Oswego residents began mailing them with the mail agent on the Chicago & Burlington Rail Road, whose tracks passed Oswego two miles to the west.

We notice that J. Moore & Sons have completed the foundation or more properly basement story, and put up the frame of their new building, for which an engine is now ready in Chicago. It is their intention to get machinery in operation as soon as possible for turning both wood and iron and also manufacturing chairs, bedsteads, &c.

Daguerreotypes: Hose is again in town prepared to take likenesses. His work can not be easily excelled. Rooms at the Kendall House.

It is now but twenty years since the site of the present village of Oswego, was the hunting ground of the Indian chief Waubonsie and his warriors. Beneath the wide spreading branches of yonder oaks, which lift their heads high above the surrounding country, once was the Wigwam of old Walaska and his charming daughter, the River Pearl. Romance has woven its spell around its memories. Yonder field of corn was once the abode of the wild deer, the buffalo, the wolf, and their yet more wild and rude companion, the red man of the forest. Here, where the brick walls line the busy street, was nothing except a solitary and rudely constructed Indian wigwam.

Behold the change that has taken place. How altered is the scene! The sod has been broken and fields of grain have superseded wide spreading prairie with its green grassy garment. A thriving village takes the place of the Pottawatomie huts, and the shrill whistle of the locomotive has superseded the Indians' war whoop. Wonderful transformation! Who can realize it? Truth is stranger than fiction, and it needs not the latter to lend interest to our theme.

We propose giving a few brief notices of Oswego, from its origin to the present time. These have principally been gathered from conversations with John H. Wormley and other old settlers. We can go back no further than the memory and experience of the first white settlers. Beyond this all is blank. Its historic page is blotted out.

About the year 1833, a solitary wagon drawn by a span of horses might be seen, wending its way over the prairies, with nothing to guide it except the Indian trail. Within that wagon was a man, his wife and child, who had left their friends and all, in search of a home, a paradise in the west. He had seen rich soil, passed fruitful valleys, and situations possessing all the advantages that heart could wish; yet the object of his search was not reached. His beau ideal not yet obtained. Onward he passed, right on! His journey is at an end. This is the paradise, the home he has been so long seeking. "Here will I pitch my tent and spend my days." Such were the first impressions of the first white settler, on the

banks of the majestic Fox. Much was to be done to make this a fit dwelling place for civilized man. The soil must be broke, the seed sown, and a livelihood obtained. Except for a few Indian traders, our oldest inhabitants in this vicinity are Samuel Devoe and John H. Wormley. They emigrated from New York in 1833, and have been here ever since. To Mr. Devoe belongs the important distinction of being the oldest inhabitant. We are satisfied that at the time of his locating here, he would not have dared to predict what Oswego would be in 1855. Chicago was then an insignificant place, containing a half dozen families. It was almost unknown and unworthy a name. All country included within the bounds of Kendall County was wild and uncultivated with not a white inhabitant except Holderman and Hollenback, and their families, in the southern part of the county. The first pioneers had much to contend with. The Indians were continually committing their depredations. Many a sleepless night was passed by these hardy adventurers, in expectation that the next moment would find them reeking in their own blood, victims of the tomahawk or scalping knife. The scene of the first efforts of civilization, in obtaining a livelihood in this vicinity is about one mile and a half from this spot. Some of the remains of that settler's cabin are still to be seen. The first house built within the present limits of Oswego village, was of logs and stood near the present site of Mr. Loucks corncrib. Although the country was rapidly filling up with settlers, it was a long time before Oswego assumed the appearance of a burg. A store was finally opened, near the present residence of Dr. Jewell. Mr. Osborne was the proprietor. A tavern was the next thing that could show a sign, or begging board. It was situated near the present site of Coffin's grocery store. Additions were continually made, and the new fledgling of a city soon boasted of a name. The first name was Hudson and then Oswego. The town was noted for the amount of whiskey drank, the number of fights and drunken rows, the results of which were bloody noses and black eyes. This trait of character was not confined to Oswego alone. The early history of the whole west is prolific of such scenes, particularly when the land came into market. Collisions between speculators and actual settlers, of the most exciting character stain its early history. Nor was Oswego exempt from such scenes. The lands now owned by the Messrs. Pearce were in dispute between H. A. Clark and a Mr. Strawbridge. Each party prepared to contest his claim by force. Each having their friends raising companies of twenty or thirty men, and a serious knock down occurred. Firearms were resorted to, shots exchanged, and a number of serious wounds were the result.

For the next few years, the nearest gristmill was at Ottawa. Trips frequently required several days, and a heavy expense to obtain flour for bread. The waterpower at Aurora was put to early use. A dam was constructed and, a gristmill built. In this respect, the establishment of Aurora was considerably ahead of Oswego. However, Messrs. Levi and D.W. Gorton built a gristmill at an early day in Oswego, which was of great benefit to the surrounding country.

The establishment of a market greatly improved the prosperity of the whole northwestern portion of Illinois. Other than slim, unreliable home markets there was no market place for anything. The completion of the Illinois canal opened an outlet for all the surplus produce of what was then the northwest. The produce of the farmer was carried for hundreds of miles by wagon to Chicago. The roads leading there were continually thronged with teams, carrying produce to and from market.

The terrible condition of Illinois roads during a large portion of the year, was a serious obstacle to this mode of conveyance. To correct this difficulty, companies were formed to construct plank roads on the thoroughfares uniting the principal towns. Oswego was the most central of the Fox River villages and enjoyed the easiest access to Chicago and Joliet. Companies were formed; charters were obtained to connect Oswego with these important points by plank roads. The citizens of Oswego subscribed liberally to the stock and the roads were begun with fair prospects of their early completion.

In the meantime the new County of Kendall was formed. After a close contest, Oswego was selected for the county seat. A large stone courthouse, which does the county honor, was erected. With this addition to her business and prospects, Oswego rapidly outstripped all rivals in becoming a place of importance. An impetus was given to all branches of business, not witnessed in other towns. At the time the writer came to Oswego, in 1849, there was more business and bustle than at Aurora. The number of dry good stores was eight, and other establishments in proportion. The population was rapidly increasing, and capital was flowing in. It was emphatically a community of workers. Everyone seemed to have his or her hands and heads full. Its future prospects were flattering indeed. A direct communication by plank road was opened to the greatest commercial city of the west. The "one idea" of the citizens, was plank roads, before which all other projects dwindle into insignificance. That was the greatest hobby on which all was riding. The tenacity, with which that "one idea" was clung to, proved "the rock on which she split." For a time, it shut down the gate of prosperity and prostrated Oswego in the dust. In cart and wagon days, plank roads were of immense utility to towns connected in this way. But progress is the watchword of our time. Progress is a trait of character, which is largely developed in the Yankee race. It is the great secret of improvement. The world moves on. That which was of utmost importance yesterday is thrown away today. Plank roads have had their day. Roads of iron and teams of iron have superseded their necessity. The rapidity with which railroads are being extended, ramifying and interesting the country in every direction proves that a new era has dawned, in the method of communication. Instead of going to market, markets have come to us. Farmers and producers need not go out of sight of the smoke of their own chimneys to find a ready sale for all the products of their lands. We owe this happy change to railroads. As in the great march of progression, those who lag are apt to be trampled upon. So it has been with Oswego. When railroad projects first began to be promoted, Oswego was just one step behind the times. The result has been sadly to her disadvantage.

In 1850, a [rail] road was commenced from the Junction to Aurora, thereby connecting with Chicago. A committee of agents of the railroad company waited upon the citizens of Oswego, and solicited their cooperation in extending the road to Oswego. But they were met with insults. They were told that Oswego could do favorably enough without a railroad. That a plank road was the thing that would throw railroads in the shade, and monopolize the whole business of transportation. The consequence was that Oswego was without either railroads or plank roads. Aurora was for many years the terminus of the road, and a central market place for the whole surrounding country. These are facts, which have come under our observation. The leading businessmen of Oswego were at first, generally opposed to the project of railroads. Thus, as the event has proved, cutting their own throats. We knew not in what light to view these "would be philanthropists," certainly not as benefactors. Subsequently they were convinced of the railroad's utility

and endeavored by every means even by taxing the county to have one built. The people were not disposed to acquiesce and the project failed. In 1853-4 the Aurora road was extended. Oswego was left a good distance to one side. However, a station was built which is now doing a good business.

We might have extended this hasty sketch, but we have already greatly exceeded the limits we at first assigned them. It is not six months since Oswego was incorporated as a village. Already the streets are assuming more of a town appearance. Business is on the increase. I could write long paragraphs concerning the various branches of business that is pursued here. But I remember the printer's injunction, "be short." Were it not for this, I would like to speak in befitting terms of the present attractive features of Oswego, of its present prospects and its present business. A mere passing glance must suffice. We have four extensive dry goods stores, two hotels, the Kendall House and the National, four grocery stores, four blacksmith shops. We have a hardware and a drug store. There are three harness shops, four shoemaking establishments, and one clothing store. We have three wagon manufacturers, two cooper shops, two tailor shops, and four physicians. Burr and Bradley are opening extensive cabinet rooms. Moore is building a large shop for the manufacture of sash, doors, wagons, etc. When completed it will add much to the business of Oswego. There are three lumberyards running full blast at the railroad station, doing a good business.

Three churches have been completed and another is rapidly being built. These together with a good stone schoolhouse speaks well for Oswego. We have one of the most substantial bridges, which spans the Fox River. The lowering clouds, which have so long hung over her, are sweeping away. Business is again flowing in its legitimate channel. The prospects before us are bright. We are now in direct railroad connection with Chicago. We can shake hands with all the Atlantic and Western cities. We are situated in the center of the richest agricultural regions in the world. There is an unsurpassed natural beauty. We have unrivaled facilities for manufactories of all kinds. One must be dull indeed who cannot predict a glorious future for Oswego. She must thrive! She will eventually shine one of the brightest constellations of Fox River villages. All the circumstances, which surround her, point to such a destiny.

We have but given hasty and brief outline of the picture. We are satisfied time will fill it up with colors more vivid and glorious than the most sanguine now anticipate. Judson is doing much to bring this about. We hope others will do the same, and Oswego will occupy the proud position of the Queen village of the Fox River valley. Then let others more competent than we prepare its record.

Plow Boy.

Sept. 12: Since the removal of the Post Office to the other side of the river, the citizens on this side have been greatly accommodated by Mr. F. Coffin, who has not only taken the mail matter from the office and delivered it to those to whom it belonged at his store, but has also received letters and papers and sent them to the mail agents on the cars who received and mailed them. The former part of the service which he has been entrusted, he is still fulfilling; but of the latter he can do no more. The great gate of postal government has been shut against the means which communities may adopt as a partial resentment of grievances that have been, or may be forced upon them, by the power vested in those whom they honored by their support. The people deemed it but just, as the Post Office

had been taken beyond the limits of the village, that a post office pro tem be located in town; but now, in accordance with instructions from the department, if they wish to mail letters, they must lose half an hour in doing it.

I was recently presented with a copy of our new school law, enacted by our State legislature last winter. This act provided for the levying of a tax in each town to keep in operation a sufficient number of free schools for the accommodation of all the children in the township over and above the means arising from other sources. We have but few, very few, who are opposed to this law. What will be the workings of this system, time alone can tell. But from what I have seen and heard of its workings in other States, we have no hesitation in pronouncing it the thing. By it, education is made a national, not an individual, affair. The amount of an individual's property and not the amount of his children determines the amount he is to pay for the education of the young. It is urged by the opponents of this system that those who have property are taxed to educate his own, as well as the child of the poor. Shall the lucid rays of science, of wisdom, and intelligence be forever shut out from a large class of our race, simply because God has not given them paltry [unreadable] enough to buy it? Shall all that he is worth be excluded and mind, the eternal essence, all that makes the race [unreadable] be excluded from the light of knowledge and be left to toil in ignorance because poverty lifts its squalid face? No! Education is something which all should possess and let us place it within the reach of all. Hence we see no wrong in those who are blessed with property, but not with children being obliged to contribute something for the education of the indigent. Those who are more fortunate than their neighbors in the possession of property have no reason to complain of the trifling burden of which good fortune imposes upon them.

Are property holders wronged by this system of taxation? Property is the creation of law. Its ownership is regulated by law. Human beings are property in some positions, even of our own land where we boast of our enlightened civilization.

Land is property; and in our State it constitutes the bulk of all prosperity; yet it is not property in the absence of law. What idea of property in land has a Comanche Indian? To him the land is as free for his roaming as the air for his breathing or the water for his drink. The wild Bedouin will guard as his own his tent, his camel, his wife; but all the laws he observes is in the keenness of his scimitar or the fleetness of his steed.

The security of property is one of the main objects of government; but shall it be sustained by the arbitrary restraints of military power? The experience of the last year in Europe [the Crimean War], and it is the experience of all time, that there is greater security for persons and property in the general intelligence and education of the people than in an overbearing soldiery with their blood-stained bayonets. Nations are convulsed—cities are the scenes of tearful and mortal strife—fields laid waste by contending armies—revolution follows revolution and uncertainty and insecurity are stamped upon all things—and political changes are effected by war and commotion. Peace and concord, prosperity and happiness, liberty and the eternal principles of rectitude and right are the results of the intelligence and moral elevation of a people. There is moral and intellectual power in the universal education of the people, which furnishes more aiding security for persons and property and all the armies in the universe.

Property must be taxed to support armies, and why should it now be taxed to support a system of protection which precludes the necessity of armies?

Crime and pauperism are too often the results of ignorance. Is it not wise, then, to establish a system of education universal and complete, which will in a great measure prevent crime and avoid the evils of pauperism? Under the old system much time was spent in making out rate bills and in collecting them.

The negligence of many to pay their school bills and the inability of others, were constant sources of loss to teachers and directors. Under the free school system, this difficulty is removed. The teacher's pay is sure and no loss is sustained by anyone.

The rate bill system required every person to pay in proportion to the attendance of his children. How strong then was the inducement of parents to wink at absence and truancy, and how little were they inclined to second by parental authority the efforts of the teacher to enforce regularity of attendance; and we do believe that the old system was the principal cause of irregular attendance in many scholars.

Thanks to the wisdom of our legislators, we now have a system that opens the door of education to all who choose to enter. The poor need not be debarred on account of their poverty. That which is freely extended to all, all should partake.

Plow Boy

Sept. 19: Some of the old settlers of our town, have reported some errors in the article furnished by "Plow Boy," published in the *Courier* of the fifth instant. An opinion has been expressed that it would be but just for us to correct them. As we wish to render honors to which they are due, we give the following. The first settlers on the ground where our beautiful village now stands, were William Smith Wilson, who owned the first tavern, and Philip Mudgett. The first tavern in town is now standing west of Main Street, at the north end, and is known as the "old Towle Stand." Mr. Mudgett is now a resident of Iowa. When the post office was first located here, the little settlement received the name of Lodi. The first store of goods was brought in by Messrs. Hunt & McLean, and occupied a building which stood in the middle of what is now called Main Street, near the present stand of John M. Bruner. Those gentlemen laid out the town and gave it the name of Hudson. Mr. Hunt is now a resident of Naperville. The name "Oswego," was given the settlement, a few years after it was laid out, at a meeting of citizens, attended by Lewis B. Judson, Jeremiah Hunt, William S. Wilson, Messrs. McLean, Osborne, and one other whose name we have not heard. Two of them voted "Oswego." Each of the others had a different name; hence the town has since been called Oswego.

The fall term of Kendall Circuit Court is now in session in this village, Judge Hollister presiding. The number of persons in attendance is large and as usual in Court time, we have pretty damp weather.

John McEwen, the man who was arrested a few weeks since, in this town, for stealing money, deeds, bonds &c. from Wm. P. Boyd Esq., plead guilty and was sentenced to an imprisonment of one year in the Penitentiary. A letter with certificates of the former good character of the prisoner was sent to Mr. Boyd from Salem, N.J., the place he left a short time since and where his father, a much respected citizen, now resides. This is evidently his first offence and we suppose for that reason his penalty was made light as possible.

A man named William Jordan has also been sentenced to an imprisonment of one year for stealing a watch at Long Grove.

While the people of Kendall county are feeling considerably interested in their County Fair and Cattle Show, let them not fail to remember that time appointed for holding the State Fair is drawing near. Let Kendall be well represented at Chicago on the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th of October, not only by persons but in articles for exhibition.

The *Courier* was mailed last week, to each one of our Kendall P.O. subscribers. We cannot account for their non-arrival; but suppose they were put into the wrong mail at our post office.

Burr & Bradley, Retail Dealers in Furniture.

First door east from Main St. on Washington St. Have on hand Mahogany, Black-Walnut, Cherry and common furniture consisting of sofas, bureaus, card center and common tables, Lounges, Wash-Stands, Sewing-Stands, and Light-Stands; Chairs of some fifteen different varieties and a good assortment of Bedsteads, all of which are offered to the public as cheap as at any establishment west of Chicago. All kinds of Cabinet work furnished to order and repairing done on short notice. Patronage respectfully solicited. Festus Burr, E.D. Bradley, Oswego.

Henry A. Hose, Daguerreian Artist!

Would respectfully announced to the citizens of Oswego and vicinity that he has again taken rooms at the Kendall House for the purpose of accommodating all those who wish to get good and True Likenesses of themselves or friends. His terms are very low from \$1 up. Being in possession of a Superior Apparatus and all the Late Improvements, he warrants satisfaction at no charge. He will remain here until the 19th of October when he will positively leave for other parts. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

Sept. 26: As there is a large number of jobs on hand, which must be got out soon; and as it necessary that the press should be repaired, and a new inking apparatus made, in short that we may have a general fix up and be prepared to get out in season, for the future it is deemed advisable to delay an issue of the *Courier* next week. The preparations for the Fair will necessarily cause an addition to the work now on hand which must be done immediately and the printers would like to spend at least a half day at the Show, therefore we advertise readers as above. The *Courier* after the repairs will assume an appearance satisfactory to both readers and publisher and as subscribers will lose no papers by the missing of a week's issue, we are confident that they will feel gratified with its improvement thereafter.

Let it be borne in mind by every citizen of Kendall county that on the 3rd and 4th of October, Wednesday and Thursday of next week, the Third Annual Fair of the Kendall County Agricultural and Mechanical Society is to come off in Oswego. The citizens of Oswego are preparing and fencing the Public Square around the Court House, which will be in good order and convenient and all stock brought the first day will be kept free of

charge. Ladies, we want your department well-filled, as we expect company of abroad and they will expect something nice in Kendall Co. Fair. Preparations will be made by our Hotel keepers to feed all who come to Fair at a very reasonable price--seven shillings per day lodging included or thirty cents for a single meal.

Married on the 16th inst. By Rev. Mr. Benedict of Aurora, Dr. J.W. Burbridge and Miss Maggie Cherry, daughter of M. Cherry Esq. of Aux Sable Grove.

Ashel Newton, an Oswego business owner, announced his candidacy for county treasurer, "independent of party." Newton operated a tin, sheet iron and hardware store in Oswego across the street from the National Hotel where he sold stoves, tinware, chain and cistern pumps and other articles according to an advertisement in the *Courier*.

October -- 1855

Oct. 10: The report of the Census Marshal shows a large increase in the population of our County. The present number of inhabitants is 10,117, which gives an addition of 2,300 since 1850. As it becomes known that this is one of the most fertile regions of the great West, people come in and purchase farms; which not only increases population but also the value of lands. Improved farms are now worth, according to the location, from \$30 to \$60 per acre, and many, we believe, are held considerable higher than the latter figure, while others cannot be bought at any price. Kendall will still progress in such manner as to entitle her to a place in Class A, No. 1. Persons seeking homes in the Sucker State can not do better than to settle in this vicinity. Our soil is exceedingly productive and marketing facilities are unsurpassed.

The Republican Party's County Committee has issued a call for a County Convention to be held at the Academy in Long Grove on the 20th inst. At this Convention will be nominated a candidate for each of the offices of County Treasurer, School Commissioner, and Surveyor for the coming November election.

On the evening of Thursday, 18th inst., a Cotillion Party is to be given at National hotel in this place. It would be useless for us to recommend the parties at the National to those who love to "trip the light fantastic toe," for they already know that the proprietors, Messrs. Beaupre & Mann, always made such arrangements as will secure to youth a meeting with pleasure and joy.

The Third Annual Exhibition or Fair for the county of Kendall came off on Wednesday and Thursday, the 3d and 4th October, instant, and manifested a marked and gradual improvement over the former exhibitions of the county.

The subscriber would inform the public that he has opened a store in Oswego where he will keep all kinds of Furniture which the wants of the public demand at reasonable prices. We think we can sell at prices which make it worth the consideration of those who want furniture and would respectfully solicit their attention.

James Walker.

Oct. 17: As many subscribers for the *Courier* are in arrears for from one to three years, and as it is necessary that the publisher should have what is his due, which has cost him money, he has concluded to send, enclosed in this number, a bill to each person who are in arrears, showing the amount of their indebtedness and it is hoped that this reminder will bring about a general settlement of long standing accounts.

Mr. J.C. Rorice, an accomplished teacher of Penmanship, having met with sufficient encouragement, intends to give his first lesson to pupils, in this village, on tomorrow (Thursday) evening at the Stone School House. We have seen many of Rorice's specimens and do not hesitate to pronounce his style as worthy of the attention of all who may wish to acquire a neat, plain, and graceful hand in Penmanship.

Oct. 24: The *Kendall County Courier* reported the Kendall County Republican Convention approved a number of resolutions including measures complaining about the Democrats' proposal "to nationalize slavery" plus "That the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was the perpetration of a great wrong...that the assumed invasion of the Territory of Kansas by 'border ruffians' from Missouri, the seizure and control of the polls of election and the passage of unjust and tyrannical laws by a pretended Legislature of said Territory and the attempted apology for and justification of those disgraceful acts by evincing a determination of the part of the slave oligarchy to carry out their schemes to the fullest extent and at all hazards." The convention also nominated Charles L. Murdock for county treasurer, W.W. Winn for county surveyor and E.M. Smith for school commissioner.

A letter to the editor from Wright Murphy criticized Charles L. Murdock. Apparently the two argued about which of them should run for county treasurer. Murphy wanted to do so but Murdock got the Republican nomination at the county convention. [Editor's note: This is probably the root of the problems between the two families that pop up in the Alfred X. Murdock Civil War letters.]

Mr. H.A. Hose has postponed his departure from this place for two or three weeks longer, during which time he will be prepared to furnish his friends with pictures at his room in the Kendall House. At the expiration of that time he will be succeeded by Mr. E.W. Smith, to whom he has sold his entire apparatus and who will be competent to take all kinds of Daguerreotypes in the latest improvement of the arts.

For the past three or four days we have experiences in this latitude quite wintry weather. There has been a fall of snow for three nights in succession averaging about three eights of an inch each night followed by cold raw winds during the day. This we believe is the precursor of an open winter in the west.

November -- 1855

Nov. 7: The *Courier* Office has been removed to the second story of the building occupied by A. Newton as a tin and hardware store, where persons wishing to subscribe or those who wish to pay up old scores can hereafter call. Entrance through the Tin Store.

Wright Murphy Esq. requests us to say that he has withdrawn from the field and does not intend to be a candidate for the office of County Treasurer. The contest is now between Murdock and Newton.

The election coming off on Tuesday will not we surmise be without considerable excitement. We, of course, have a preference in the candidates, but as it not expected that we will come out on that point, we will not endeavor to extol one above the other in the columns of the *Courier*.

Nov. 14: The publisher of the *Courier* being desirous of increasing its circulation, and intending to give every citizen of the county an opportunity to subscribe, which as yet has never been done, the services of Mr. H.A. Hose have been secured to canvas every nook and corner of Kendall. The *Courier* has entered upon the fourth year of its existence and so far has to all appearances given good satisfaction. The expenses of the establishment are not small in amount and have to be met pretty promptly, which with a list of six hundred subscribers, part of whom are a little neglectful of duty, often makes his road a hard one to travel.

Post Office Returns--Our citizens were greeted on Monday afternoon with the good tidings that a new post master had been appointed for this town and of the return of the office to the east side of the river. The removal of the office from the village was not only disadvantageous to the residents here, but the extra one fourth mile travel was a perfect bore to those living in the surrounding country who did all their business here. The villagers had well nigh given up the idea of its restoration, until a change should take place in the administration, and had quite made up their minds to submit to the powers that be, and do the best they could in obtaining mail matter for the next eighteen months. But there were some persons who were bound not to give up until every exertion had been put forth to secure to the people the privilege which had been wantonly taken from them, and by perseverance at last have come off conquerors. On Monday news came that J.W. Chapman Esq. had been appointed P.M. for the town of Oswego; he proceeded forthwith to remove the office, and we now have it in town. Tell it in the village, publish it in the country round about, that one good thing at last has been done by the Post Office Department.

The large building recently put up by the Messrs J & T Moore will be finished in a few days and previous to putting in the engine and other machinery. A Ball and Oyster Supper is to be given in it on the 23d inst. Tom has issued tickets and intends that all who will patronize him on the occasion shall have a great old time.

At Hall's opposite the National in this village a large stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, &c., are being daily received which will be sold to the people as low as the same class of goods can be obtained in the west.

In the county election, the independents took most of the offices. Newton won the treasurer's office with 175 votes and Van Antwerp won school commissioner. W.W. Winn won as surveyor.

Nov. 21: H.A. Hose, traveling agent for the *Kendall County Courier*, will call upon the citizens of this county within the next three weeks and give them an opportunity to subscribe.

In acknowledgement of the bounteous blessings bestowed upon us the past year from the hand of the Giver of every good and perfect gift, the Governor of our State has appointed and recommended the 29th day of the present month to be observed as one of thanksgiving and prayer.

Mr. John Q. Howell advertises his Daguerrian Gallery in this week's *Courier*. Mr. Howell is an accomplished artist and has had considerable experience in the line; he is in possession of all the latest improvements in the art of Daguerreotyping which will enable him to put up pictures in locket, cases, rings, &c. in a superior style and at such prices as will prove satisfactory to all. He has fitted up a room at great expense and should be well patronized by the ladies and gentlemen of Oswego and vicinity.

Nov. 28: Ebenezer Morgan was advertising timber for sale from "Pesha Grove" [Specie Grove] near Oswego in five acre lots.

December -- 1855

Dec. 5: Who wants furniture? Walker intending to close up business here, offers his stock of Furniture to the public.

Dec. 12: An adjourned meeting of the Trustees of Oswego [Township] will be held at the Court House on Saturday next the 15th inst., at which you, as well as the School Commissioner, are requested to attend for the purpose of consultation upon matters of great interest in the schools of the town, to wit:

1st: To ascertain the amount of public funds and town tax likely to be available for school purposes for the current year and most economical plan for expending the same yet secure the benefit of good schools.

2nd: To ascertain whether any alteration in the District is desired by the inhabitants composing the same.

3rd: To ascertain what amount will be necessary to pay the teachers employed for the current year.

4th: To secure a more general interest in the schools and establish some general system of visitations and supervision of the same.

5th: To institute stated meetings of the teachers of the town for mutual instruction and consultation.

6th: To consult in relation to the practability of establishing a Union School or a high grade open to all branches taught in an Academy may be taught free of the expense attending the sending of children abroad. It is thought by the Trustees that a school of this character can be established, having all the advantages of an Academy; free to all the advanced scholars in the Town[ship] without any additional expense. It would, in fact, merely take the place of part of the school now taught in the village, so far as expense is concerned and would equalize the benefits of that expense amongst the whole Town. It is not ascertained exactly what will be the amount of funds for the present year as the tax books have not yet been made out. But it is supposed that the public funds and tax will amount to about \$2,400 for the nine Districts of the Town. All persons interested are requested to attend the meeting.

The new county school commissioner, the Rev. John VanAntwerp, promised to visit all area schools. In a letter to the *Courier* he said: "A free people must be an intelligent people. The masses are our rulers and these are educated in the common school."

Dec. 19: On Saturday evening last, a meeting of citizens of this place was held at the office of Esqrs. Helme & Smith to take into consideration the importance of a proposed Railroad from Juliet to connect with the Chicago & Burlington R.R. near this place...A road connecting us with Joliet will also give us such a connection with eastern markets as will enable our produce dealers to compete with Chicago in prices, Joliet being already connected with the east by the Cutoff road through Northern Indiana.

New Firm: Mr. C. Sutherland of this village has taken as a partner in business his son, Mr. J.H. Sutherland and the old establishment will be hereafter carried on by the firm under the name of Sutherland & Son. Mr. J.H.S. has been employed in the establishment for several years and is therefore known to his public as a dealer, gentlemanly and affable in deportment.

We learn that a barn and contents, horses, grain &c., belonging to Mr. Charles Suydam of NaAuSay was destroyed by fire on Tuesday night, 17th. Loss estimated at \$2,000.

Messrs Beaupre & Mann advertise for sale in this paper a lot of Household Furniture. The furniture can be seen at the National Hotel.

For sale or rent: The Public House in Oswego known as the National Hotel. Said house is conveniently located in the beautiful and flourishing village of Oswego, the county town of Kendall County. It is in decidedly the best location of any in town for business. The house if not sold by the first of February next will be rented for a term of years. For further particulars enquire of John Sanders esq., grocery man, Oswego or Wm. Briggs, 100 Madison street, Chicago.

Dec. 26: Bad luck as the old year goes out, we are in hope will turn up for the better as the new one comes in. The cold weather so frosted our roller that in thawing it out it was spoiled. This makes it necessary to date the inside of this paper one week in advance of the outside. [The inside pages were dated January 3, 1856]

Ere another paper is issued to our patrons the wheel of Time will have completed another revolution and the year 1855 will be numbered with the past.

1856

January

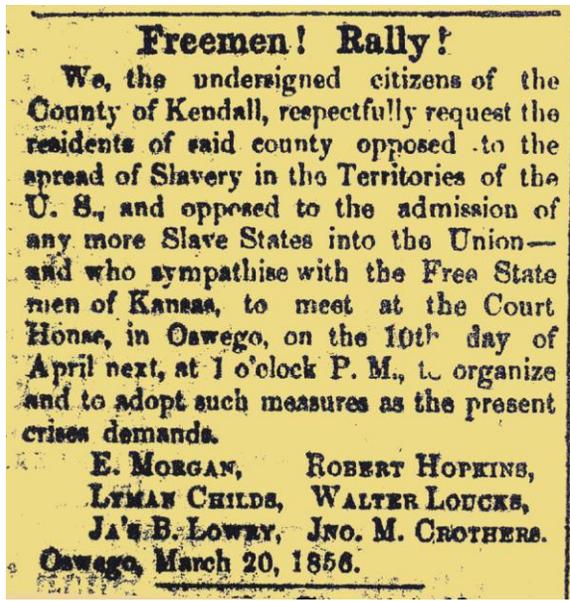
Jan. 2: "Daring Robbery," reported the Kendall *Courier* on Jan. 2, 1856. "A short time since, a party of young men entered the cellar of S.B. Minkler of the Kendall County Fruit Farm and Nursery, during the night to help themselves to his fruit. Mr. Minkler was aroused and going to the cellar was ordered to stand back by one of the party who raised a gun upon him. After taking as many apples as they chose, together with some poultry, they went a short distance to the timber and proceeded to cook their game." The thieves were not apprehended.

Another call was made upon Mr. Minkler's cellar week before last by a party of Germans, whose names are Jacob Watters, Charles Ripley, Godfree Rickenbacker, George Rickenbacker, Christopher Wenze. They were all arrested last week and supplies found in a chest belonging to one of them with the labels on them, samples which Mr. M. took to the state Fair. George Rickenbacker and Wenze were cleared at the examination, each of the others were put under \$200 bond.

Petitions were being circulated in Oswego to enact a prohibition ordinance. "Wherever there are two or three of these dram shops in a neighborhood, they never fail in causing a depreciation in the value of real estate in their immediate vicinity," the *Courier's* editor wrote.

April -- 1856

April 9: The Delinquent Tax List, published in this number has, with other duties, engaged so much of our attention that our editorial is uncommonly slim this week. The tax list is a document which has its time appointed and must be published. We shall present our usual amount of matter under the different heads in our next.



Freemen! Rally!

We, the undersigned citizens of the County of Kendall, respectfully request the residents of said county opposed to the spread of Slavery in the Territories of the U.S. and opposed to the admission of any more Slave States into the Union and who sympathize with the Free State men of Kansas, to meet at the Court House, in Oswego, on the 10th day of April next, as 1 o'clock p.m. to organize and to adopt such measures as the present crisis demands.

E. Morgan, Robert Hopkins, Lemman Childs, Walter Loucks, James B. Lowry, John M. Crothers.

March 20, 1856

New Establishment! Oswego hardware Store! 1st Door South of the National. F.A. Bentham & Co.

1859 (*Kendall County Courier*)

July 20: List of County Officers in Kendall Co., Ills, and their residences. County Clerk, J.J. Cole, Oswego; Treasurer, H.S. Humphrey, Oswego; Circuit Clerk, Geo. M. Hollenback, Oswego; Sheriff, Wright Murphy, Oswego; Deputy Sheriff, D. Ladd, Oswego; Coroner, N.C. Mighell, Little Rock; Justices of the Peace, W. Murphy, Oswego; F.A. Bentham, Oswego. Corporation Justice, F. Burr, Oswego. Constables, Fred Coffin, Oswego; D. Ladd, Oswego; D. Hall, Oswego.

1862 (*Kendall County Free Press*)

June 11: Still Going On

The fever for improving the appearance of buildings and putting up of others still continues and now the whole block on the south side of Main street presents quite a different and much better appearance than it did a few weeks since. The side-walk has been cut down to grade and made wider--the sun shade is supported with iron braces instead of posts as formerly, and all unnecessary encumbrances removed so that the whole row of buildings has assumed a light and easy look of two hundred percent improvement.

Lockwood still occupies the building next to Ricker's jewelry store, and will furnish all who give him patronage with durable Harness or other articles in his line at reasonable prices.

J.D. Kennedy's building has been fitted up by William Beaupre, who will soon open with a stock of groceries; and will also have an ice cream saloon attached to his establishment where the ladies and gents of the town may be refreshed during the coming summer.

Dr. Jewell has commenced the work of improvements on the corner opposite the Post Office. The building occupied by J.A. Durand for a lumber office has been turned half around and a front is to be put up. This is a good corner and a building will not in the least diminish its worth or appearance. We presume the Doctor will occupy it himself. Other additions and renovations are contemplated to the town, which we will notice as they occur. But we say to all who are able--continue improvements to the town.

National Hotel

This well known stand which we have said was undergoing a general renovation, has been newly papered and painted and furnished anew in a style not equaled by Hotels west of Chicago. The proprietor, Mr. M.J. Richards, will keep the house himself and will do all in his power to make the National one of the most agreeable and popular among western Hotels affording to the public all the conveniences of an orderly and respectable first class house.

The National is now open for business. The contemplated improvement in its outward appearance will not materially interfere with the calls of the public, and the proprietor will make all comfortable who stop with him. A grand anniversary festival will be given for the enjoyment of the young folks on the evening of the 4th of July.

1863 (*Kendall County Free Press*)

May 13: The Delinquent Tax List

This inevitable document we lay before the interested and uninterested readers of the Press this week. It is a story of letters and figures, founded on facts as they exist, which being known to many under whose eye it may fall will render the subject all the more impressive as a matter of careful attention.

Mr. J.F. Gibbons has removed his Photograph apparatus to rooms fitted up especially for his purpose in Smith's corner building. He has here the advantages of both side and sky light and is fully prepared to copy for any and all who desire to present friends a shadow as is a shade of the face divine. If you want good photographs, go to Gibbons.

The fruit prospects have not been so good as it now is for many seasons in this part of the country. Peach, plum, and apple trees are a mass of blossoms about three-fourths of which have good healthy looking germs.

Spring wheat is looking and doing finely; from appearances, winter wheat has been left out in the weather too much during the open winter but is not badly injured. Corn is nearly all planted and the ground being in good condition and the weather just as good as one can be asked, give good cause for good hope for a good harvest, and that's good enough.

From the Lower Mississippi we have intelligence of the capture of Grand Gulf and Port Gibson, giving our forces complete advantage over the rebels at Vicksburg. At latest advice from Gen. Grant he was moving rapidly upon Jackson, Miss., and was sending back prisoners taken in skirmishes and along the route, about 2,000 of whom are on the way to St. Louis.

It is said that Grierson's raid has excited a lively sensation in Vicksburg, and measures have been adopted to put the city in the strongest position for defense. Additional guns have been mounted and public meetings held. Pemberton has been denounced as a traitor because he thinks that Vicksburg may be captured by the Federals.

NOTICE.

I have now associated with me in the practice of medicine Dr. A.E. Van Deventer, who is fully prepared to practice the healing art in every particular. We will attend all cases which may merit our attention. Our charges will correspond with the general practice of the profession. Prompt settlement is the order.

M. Davis, M.D.; A.E. Van Deventer, M.D. Oswego.

List of County Officers in Kendall Co. and their residences: County Judge, Benjamin Ricketson; County Clerk, J.J. Cole, Oswego; Treasurer, H.S. Humphrey, Oswego; Circuit Clerk, Geo. M. Hollenback, Oswego; Sheriff, Ami D. Newton; Deputy Sheriff, D. Ladd, Oswego; Coroner, John Dunn, Kendall; Surveyor, John B. Henwood, Little Rock; Justices of the Peace, Oswego: C.L. Murdock, Wm. L. Fowler, John McKinney. Constables, H.C. Hopkins, D. Hall. Corporation Justice, C.L. Murdock. Constable, Fred Coffin.

Business Cards: Glen Lodge, International Order of the Odd Fellows meets every Tuesday evening at Odd Fellow's Hall over Mead's Store.

Sons of Temperance meets every Saturday evening in Court House Hall.

Raven Lodge, AF & AM, meet over Hall's Store on 1st and 3d Wednesday evenings of each month.

Albert Snook, Attorney at Law, Oswego.

James Felch, Attorney at Law, Yorkville.

Albert Cook, justice of the Peace, Newark.

Wright Murphy, attorney and Counselor at Law, Oswego.

S.B. Stinson, Attorney & Counselor at Law, Sandwich.

Edward Walker, notary public and justice of the peace, Fox.
N. Mead, dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Dyestuffs, Fancy Articles, Oswego.
L. Briggs, Veterinary Surgeon and Ferrier, Oswego.
National Hotel, Oswego, Illinois. M.J. Richards, Proprietor.

MACHINE SHOP!

Oswego Illinois
Eastman & Bro.

Having leased Cole's Machine Shop on the West side of the river, Oswego, are prepared to do all kinds of Machine Work or Repairing, promptly as well as any other Shop in the State. They employ none but good and skillful Mechanics, and will in every case guarantee perfect satisfaction in all work entrusted to their care.

We are manufacturing G.W. Hunt's Patent Buggy Plows, one of the best plows now in use and farmers are invited to give it an examination and trial.

Horse Shoeing done promptly and in a satisfactory manner. We have one of the best workmen in this line to be found in the State. All kinds of produce taken in exchange at Cash prices.

PICTURES!

J.W. Kimball would inform the citizens of Kendall and adjoining counties that he is now located in West Aurora near the bridge. Ambrotypes and Ferrotypes taken in the most durable and approved style. Miniatures put in Locketts, Pins, &c. Pictures which can be sent by mail without extra postage and copies made from old pictures in a manner which cannot be excelled. Pictures taken as well in cloudy as in fair weather.

1864

May

May 7: [Inaugural issue of the *Kendall County Record*] We want every family in the county to take this paper, and do not want to send out any more than will be paid for. Paper and ink are very expensive and we cannot afford to waste any material, therefore we make the following offer: For 40 cents we will send one copy of the paper for Three Months.

There may be a few counties in the State that have more expensive court-houses but we are sure none have a neater and more substantial appearance than the new building for Kendall County, at Yorkville. When we get a nice new fence enclosing the grounds, with handsome shade-trees planted herein, and the old stumps grubbed out, it will be second only in beauty and neatness to the Capitol grounds at Washington. In our opinion the gingerbread contrivance surrounding the dome is not what it should be. A flag-staff capped with a molded truck would look much better and would give an opportunity to for our country's banner on holidays and court days.

May 12: "Monday afternoon we rode up to Oswego with our friend the Supervisor from Kendall to attend the special meeting. We were pleased with our visit. The gentlemen about the court-house treated us right cordially, and we have a splendid opinion of the supervisors of Kendall county and our county officers." The meeting was called to appropriate funds for bounties to be paid to volunteers for the Civil War. "On motion, it was voted that a bounty of \$25 be paid to volunteers, bonifide residents of Kendall County, who may enlist for the hundred days' service."

In another small article, the *Record's* editor wrote: "Men of Kendall county, if the government ever wanted soldiers it wants them now! The county will give \$25 bounty to each volunteer for the hundred days. Fill up the ranks! Men are wanted to garrison the posts our brave men take as they fight their way into the enemy's country."

May 19: A squad of men, recruited in Kendall County, left Bristol Station last Thursday, under the charge of Lieut. Frank Buys to join the 132d Illinois Vols. Commanded by Col. R.M. Hough. This makes forty-five men gone from the County in Lieut. Buys' company. The regiment will leave Chicago the coming week for Washington.

June -- 1864

June 2: FIRE IN OSWEGO--On Tuesday morning between one and two o'clock, the barn of Mr. F. [Frederick] Coffin was discovered to be on fire. The neighbors on turning out found a pile of wood against the same gentleman's house across the road, which was also burning the barn was a total loss. The intention of the incendiary was evidently to burn both house and barn.

Moving--The County officers have commenced their migration to the new abode of justice and equity. The new court house is slowly drawing them towards the centre. Already the Circuit Clerk, Geo. Hollenback, Esq., has settled in the "house beneath the hill," and the Treasurer, Mr. Robert WA Carnes, making his garden preparatory to the summer and fall campaign. Come along and if Yorkville hasn't houses enough to accommodate YOU, we will try and get our capitalists to build some.

At last, Yorkville has a Post office. The deed is consummated and last Friday we saw the mail carrier deliver the mail there. Mr. Hartwell is the post master. Still we hate to change. We have an affection for the Bristol office of old, we have been there off and on for near eight years, and we still like it.

June 9: The 132d Illinois volunteers left Chicago last week for Memphis, fully armed and equipped. The men recruited by Lieut. Boys in this county are now in the "Color Company." The regiment was presented with a handsome stand of colors by the Chicago Board of Trade. There are 984 men, hale and hearty.

On June 9, 1864, the county records were moved from the courthouse in Oswego to the new courthouse in Yorkville.

June 16: THE RECORDS HAVE COME

Yorkville is the bona fide capital of Kendall County

Last Thursday, just after our paper was "off," we had the intelligence that the Records were to be moved immediately, Two of the offices were finished and the Treasurer and Circuit and County Clerks were to take possession.

And at it they went and the teams started for the borough of Oswego and in a few hours that village ceased to be the County Seat. All county business will now be done at the new Court House in this place.

Oswego will lose nothing to speak of, and we hope the citizens will stick together, be enterprising, and keep their village ahead of anything in the county. They have a splendid water power, and with a little go. aheadofness, they can made a smart, manufacturing village. They are near the railroad, and have every facility for doing a thriving business,

June 23: Letters to *Kendall County Record*: "Why don't you publish a neutral paper? You have many subscribers who are Democrats and you should say nothing to trespass on their opinions."

July -- 1864

July 7: Colonel Silas Miller, of the 36th Illinois, was badly wounded in the shoulder during one of the fights in the Kennesaw mountains, Georgia.

Again we are called upon to chronicle the death of one of our brave soldiers. One who was a favorite with all who knew him. An earnest Christian, a good citizen, kind neighbor, and brave officer, Lieutenant William H. Harkness, Co. H, 89th Illinois Volunteers. We were personally acquainted with the Lieutenant, and esteemed him highly. He was shot on the 21s ult. while on duty, erecting barricades for the protection of his men. He has found a resting place in the abode of the Great Jehovah and is free from all "wars and rumors of war" forever.

July 14: Capt. Wm. H. Harkness- - Lieutenant Harkness, lately killed in Georgia, was second lieutenant in his company. Some time ago, the first lieutenant's position being vacant, Orderly Sergeant Beeman was "jumped" into the position over Lieut. Harkness, to the dissatisfaction of many. We are glad here to record the fact that on the 28th of June, a short time after his death, a commission arrived at the regiment for him making him Captain of Company A. A deserving tribute to a brave man and it is to be regretted that he did not live to don the captain's bars.

Articles forwarded by the Specie Grove Soldiers' Aid Society during the past six months: 75 shirts; 44 prs. Drawers; 2 linen coats; 11 quilts; 6 sheets; 20 pillows; 8 pillow sacks; 69 pillow slips; 18 body wrappers; 16 arm slings; 39 handkerchiefs; 15 night caps; 12 towels; 7 pre. Socks; 1134 rolled bandages; 17 pads; 24 lbs. old cotton cloth; 442 lbs.

dried apples; 3 lbs. dried currants; 12 lbs. dried beef; 87 lbs butter; 62 doz. Eggs; 1 bbl. Pickled potatoes; 1 bundle magazines; 1 bundle newspapers; 2 packages envelopes; \$8.00 in cash.

July 21: The funeral services of Capt. Wm. H. Harkness will be held in the Baptist Church, at Pavilion next Sunday evening at 10-1/2 o'clock. Friends are invited to attend.

DURESS--Three boys from Oswego crept into one of the school houses in NaAuSay and tore up and destroyed about [unreadable] amount of books. They were arrested [and] lodged in the jail at the Court House, having been bound over before the Circuit Court.

July 28: PERSONAL--On Monday we were favored with a call from our old friend H.S. Humphrey, formerly of the *Free Press* [of Oswego], now publishing the Vandalia Union. He reports progress in his new field, although the copperheads and secessionists are pretty strong in his county. He expected the Union party to carry Fayette county at the next election. We hope it may and that friend Humphrey may wield a mighty pen for the good cause.

August -- 1864

Aug. 11: On Saturday last, at eleven o'clock in the morning, Mr. William Harris of Long Grove was called away. He died of the dropsy. He was well known in this community, and was respected as a good citizen and worthy man. Mr. Harris was born in Loudon Co. Va., February 6, 1785, and was in his eightieth year when he died. He moved to Licking Co., Ohio in an early day; being one of the pioneers of that State. In 1831 he emigrated to Putnam Co., Illinois; from there, to Hollenback's Grove in 1832, and on account of the Indian troubles, left his claim there and went to Plainfield; from there to Chicago; thence to Naperville; and finally settled in Long Grove in 1833; being the first settler and putting up the first house. In the early days he was annoyed greatly by the Indians, often having to leave his home with his family and find a hiding place in the prairies. His last hours were peaceful and quite, entire resignation characterizing his dying moments.

Aug. 25. We regret to announce the death of an old and well known citizen of this place, Lyman Bristol, at Jack's Ranch [California] on Friday last, June 13. He came to his death in a sudden and terrible manner. As he was coming down the "Virginia Hill" with a six horse team, and a wagon heavily laden with pitch, the brake got out of fix, and he checked up to repair it. The horses suddenly started, throwing him under the wheel, which passed over his left leg, breaking and terribly mangling it at the high and below the knee, and scraping the flesh from his right temple to the bone. He remained in this suffering condition up on the roadside for some two hours when he was taken in the stage to Jack's ranch, where he lived but a few minutes. Mr. B. has been a resident of Butte county for the past fourteen years. He first settled in Feather river valley in '50. Mr. Bristol was well known in this county and was the founder of the village of Bristol.

September -- 1864

Sept. 8: "Look out for the draft!" a headline in the *Kendall County Record* advised. Oswego Township's quota was 197 men, but it already had an excess of 15 men. However, draft deficits existed in Big Grove and Lisbon townships, 30 men; Bristol and Little Rock townships, 20 men; Kendall and Fox townships, 48 men; and NaAuSay and Seward townships, 50 men. In total Kendall needed 148 more volunteers. The Kendall County Board voted a special bounty totaling \$600 to persuade men to enlist.

October -- 1864

Oct. 6: It will be remembered that in 1860 a Mr. [Lyman G.] Bennett published a map of his county, which was printed and mounted by Mr. Ed Mendel of Chicago. Some 300 copies were gotten up, but Mr. Bennet took only 100 and did not pay for the balance, Mr. Mendel therefore has the balance on his hands at a great loss; wishing to dispose of these, he has deputized Mr. F.J. Westbrook as his agent to sell the remaining copies. Mr. W. has called upon us and informs us that he will sell the maps for \$3 each--a price much too low. Orders may be left at the Court House, with the County Clerk, or at the Fox River House.

Oct. 13: The Circuit Court commended in the new Court House on Tuesday morning, Judge Hollister presiding. The only business done that day was the empanelling and instruction of the Jury. A number of cases are set for this week but we have not the space to detail them.

Oct. 27: We are told by Mr. Daniel G. Johnson that Kendall is the banner county in this district, being the only one that has furnished its quota without drafting. Well done, "Little K." To be sure it has cost some labor and some money to do this, but our people are prosperous and can soon pay off their indebtedness.

November -- 1864

Nov. 10: The old Court House and grounds at Oswego were sold on Saturday last for \$750. Mr. J.S. Seely buying them for the town of Oswego. Mr. W. Thomas, of Yorkville, was the only other bidder, and went as high as \$745. Oswego deserved the building and we are glad she has got it.

The Rev. A.D. Field has been appointed minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Yorkville. Field went on to write a number of histories of the pioneer Methodist Church in Illinois, including editing the autobiography of Peter Cartwright and writing a biography of Jesse Walker.

Nov. 17: On Monday afternoon we had a splendid snow-storm which soon dressed everything out of doors in robes of white, and the river ran down through all this

whiteness like a great black monster-On Tuesday morning a few sleigh bells were jingled, but none ventured very far from home on runners for fear of a thaw. It is bad on the farmers who have not yet husked their corn.

December -- 1864

Dec. 15: DEATH OF MRS. SHABBONA

On Thursday morning last the body of Mrs. Shabbona and that of her little granddaughter were found in the Mazon, at the pine Bluff crossing. Her team was found on the bank just beyond. It is supposed that she was on her way to the residence of Samuel Holderman, and by some tip or jolt off the wagon was thrown out into the stream, and by reason of age and great bulk was unable to get out, and thus drowned in but a few inches of water. Mrs. Shabbona was the wife of the old Indian chief of that name, so well known and respected by all the earlier settlers of the section. She is supposed to have been in the neighborhood of 85 years of age, and probably weighed some 350 pounds. For several years she has walked but a trifle and then only with the aid of two canes and though we have seen her frequently we never saw her standing. But always sitting or reclining in her wagon. Her body was buried in the Morris cemetery beside that of her husband.

Dec. 22: The day of rejoicing for the little folks is coming. The night when stockings are hung by the mantel by expectant youth, and when visions of Santa Claus, St. Nicholas and Kris Kringle--a trinity--obscure the sight of our little children to all else. We sometimes think as we grow older and have no one to fill our stocking for us that Christmas is now what it used to be. But when we see the little ones all ablaze with excitement, and making great ado over the prospects of dolls, skates, story books, sleds, candy, etc., we see that the change is not in Christmas but in human nature growing more mature.

Several townships of this county will save themselves much trouble and expense by reporting to the provost Marshal at Joliet, the names of all persons in each, not liable to military duty, whose names are now probably on the rolls. Will not several towns call patriotic meetings in each and endeavor to have present at least one from every school district, when it will be very east to make this correcting.

Last Thursday a party of young men were in a drinking saloon at Oswego and being pretty full became noisy and belligerent.

1865

January

Jan. 5: Adjutant Charles F. Case of the 36th, who lost his leg at the Franklin battle, died from the effects of the amputation and his remains were brought to Oswego where they were buried. Lieut. Case was a good officer and was well liked by the regiment.

The winter term of the Circuit Court for Kendall County convenes next Monday, the 9th inst.

Issues from Jan. 19 through March 16 are missing.

February

All issues missing

March -- 1865

March 23: An act to detach the township of Somonauk from DeKalb County and annex it to Kendall County was printed on Page 2 of the *Record*.

Read J.M. Gale's advertisement," The Best lots." He offers superior inducements to those who want a home.

Part of the bridge across the river at Post's Mill gave way during the high water last week.

The dam across the river at Milford went out last week during the high water.

Latest News

The monitors of our fleet in Mobile Bay recently attacked and silenced two of the rebel batteries there, the men being driven from their guns.

From Wilmington, N.C., March 15th, it is announced that General Sherman left Fayetteville on the 14th after destroying the extensive rebel arsenal and other public property there, and was marching upon Goldsboro.

County Officers

Benjamin Ricketson, County Judge.

A.M. Hobbs, Circuit Clerk.

Jeremiah Evarts, County Clerk.

R.W. Carnes, County Treasurer.

John A. Newell, Sheriff.

M. Davis, Coroner.

W.W. Winn, Surveyor.

W.S. Coy, School Commissioner.

Board of Supervisors

John S. Seely, Oswego.
Thomas Finnie, Fox.
J.N. French, NaAuSay.
Jas. Brady, Seward.
Henry Sherrill, Big Grove.
Sherrill Bushnell, Lisbon.
J.H.T. Brady, Little rock.
G.H. Raymond, Bristol.
N.R. Hobbs, Kendall.

March 30: Lorenzo Rank reported that an oyster supper was given by the Oswego Ladies' Aid Society at the National Hotel. Proceeds: \$147.80, expenses: \$89.75.

Our farmers have been busy this week plowing and sowing grain.

A son of R.W. Carnes, Esq., our County Treasurer, was taken prisoner by the rebels in South Carolina on the 26th of last month. He was a member of the 104th Illinois, which is with Sherman's army. He was paroled and returned home on Tuesday last.

April -- 1865

April 6:

“And Richmond! Was the Cry.”
RICHMOND IS TAKEN!!!

Petersburg & Richmond Evacuated!

The great and glorious news that Richmond is captured by our forces flashed through the country on Monday and set the people wild with joy.

Yorkville and Bristol appropriately celebrated the event by illuminations, bell ringing, music and general congratulation. The “Yorkville Martial Band,” led by Mr. N.R. Hobbs, gave some soul-stirring music. The Court House steeple was illuminated, as were the houses of Messrs. Black, Dyer, Nicholson, Cooper, Smith, and many others. No need of publishing any other news this week, “Richmond has fallen!”

Did you see it? Have you rode in it? The new ‘bus. It arrived last Thursday and has been the wonder and delight of all those who occasionally journey ‘twixt the Station and Yorkville.

Messrs. Hebard and Nicholson have received their new ‘bus from Chicago and are making regular trips to and from the Station in true stage style, with gay horses and a gay driver. It is the most comfortable vehicle ever known here: Entrance in the rear and seats running along the sides. The owners have expended a large sum for it and the traveling public should patronize them and thus enable the ‘bus to pay.

We have but few particulars as yet of the capture of the rebel capital, except the fighting of the day or two preceding the evacuation. Lee's line of retreat is filled with stragglers and abandoned arms, artillery, etc. General Weitzel captured a large number of

locomotives and cars in Richmond. General Grant's prisoners are estimated at from 15,000 to 18,000.

Lee's army, in two small columns, is retreating to Lynchburg. Our forces are following. The rebel rams and forts on James river have been blown up. It is believed in Washington that Mobile is captured.

April 13: The News

The rebels in leaving Richmond evinced their usual vandalism in burning property which could no longer be of use to them but which was of value only to the people whom they had pretended to protect. The fire started by Gen. Ewell destroyed the rebel War, Treasury, and Post-office Departments, a number of churches, two banks, the Enquirer and Dispatch newspaper offices, tobacco warehouses, &c. The loss of the Treasury Department amounts to nothing except so far as the building is concerned there being nothing in it.

Headquarters Armies of U.S.

April 3--4:30 p.m.

To Hon. E.M. Stanton, Sec. of War:

Gen. Lee surrendered the army of Northern Virginia this afternoon upon terms proposed by myself. The terms are as follows: The rolls of all the officers and men to be made in the duplicate and one to be given to an officer designated by me, the other to be retained by such officers as he may designate. The officers are to give their individual paroles and not to take up arms against the government of the United States until properly exchanged and each company or regimental commander sign a like parole for the men of their commands. The arms, artillery, and public property to be packed and stacked and turned over to the officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the side arms of the officers nor their private horses or baggage. This done, each officer and man will be allowed to return to their homes and not to be disturbed by the United States authority so long as they observe their parole and the laws in force where they may reside.

Very Respectfully,

U.S. Grant, Lt. Gen.

GLORY TO GOD!

The Confederacy about to rest in Abraham's Bosom!

The Rebels on a Lee Shore:

The great army of the rebels has surrendered to Lieut. Gen. Grant and Lee, their great captain, is a prisoner and his army confiscated.

Lee has surrendered--Davis has fled, and like the dove from Noah's ark, will find no rest for the sole of his foot. Shout! Peace is at hand! Hurrah!

Glorious Night! The night of April 16th is to be remembered in Yorkville and Bristol. A general expression of joy was to be seen from every house and every countenance. The news of Lee's surrender called for a general illumination and well it was done. The two villages were a blaze of light from court house down to the humblest dwelling in the town. The cannon spoke, bonfires glared, people shouted, and drums rolled to the shrieking fife.

In our humble endeavors, we brightened up the printing office, but as we had to stay indoors for fear our sanctum would take fire, we blowed out our candle early.

Died--At the late residence of his father, Jeff. Davis, Richmond, Virginia, Southern Confederacy, aged 4 years. Death caused by strangulation. No funeral.

On Friday the 31st, ult., as Mr. John Moore, a resident of the village of Oswego, was returning home from Aurora and walking on the railroad track, he was struck by the rear car of a gravel train, which was backing down to Aurora and instantly killed, crushing his forehead, breaking his neck, and otherwise mangling the body. The wind was blowing very hard, Mr. M. was walking against it with his head down and did not see is danger, and being deaf could not hear the whistle.

Mr. Moore was 65 years of age; a member of the Methodist church; and was much respected by his friends.

A call has been issued for a meeting of all persons interested to take into consideration the practicality of re-building the bridge across Fox river at Millford.

The bed of the river has been so badly washed by the recent freshet that it is utterly impossible to use the ferry or ford, thereby compelling all to travel up by way of the bridge at Plano, and as a matter of course, all the trade and produce that naturally came here will of necessity be driven to Plano, which we are assured, is no small amount.

Our Quota. — We are told by Mr. D.G. Johnson that our quota is full, with the exception of the town of Fox, which lacks five men. They have the money, but can't get the men. They will probably commence the draft in this district next week.

The Soldier Aid Society meets tomorrow afternoon at the house of Mr. F.T. Seely, Bristol.

April 20: The columns in the pages of the Record were all bordered in black. An April 11 speech by President Lincoln outlining his views on national reconstruction was printed on the front page.

The President Assassinated.

Abraham Lincoln is Dead!

A nation is grief-stricken by the death of its great and good leader, counselor, Father. On Saturday morning, our community was stunned by the news brought in the *Tribune*, that our best of presidents had been cowardly murdered in a public assembly. Everyone felt the terrible blow and a universal sadness pervaded all minds. The great and final act of the accursed slaveholders' rebellion has culminated in this one outrageous, dastardly, and hellborn murder.

They have brought war and bloodshed on a once happy country. They have murdered our citizens and soldiers in cold blood at Lawrence and Fort Pillow. They have starved our brave boys in prison dens. They have in all things taken the most dishonorable course to accomplish their ends. And finally, they have killed their best friend, the nation's pride and glory, Abraham Lincoln.

President Johnson's Inauguration

Mr. Johnson requested that the ceremony take place at his rooms at the Kirkwood House in Washington in the morning of Saturday. Hon. S.P. Chase, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, was notified of the fact and desired to be in attendance to administer the oath of office. At the above named hour, the following gents assembled in the Vice President's room to participate in the ceremony: Hon. S.P. Chase, Hon. H. McCulloch, Attorney General Speed, F.P. Bair, Hon. Montgomery Blair, Senators Foote of Vermont, Vate of Illinois, Ramsey of Minnesota, Stewart of Nevada, Hale of New Hampshire, and General Farnsworth of Illinois.

After receiving the oath and being declared President of the United States, Mr. Johnson remarked:

"Gentlemen: I must be permitted to say that I have been almost overwhelmed by the announcement of the sad event which has so recently occurred. I feel incompetent to perform duties so important and responsible as those which have been so unexpectedly thrown upon me.

The captured prisoners of the 13th Illinois have been heard from. They are at camp near Vicksburg, upon what is called neutral ground, and are in charge of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, who have given a pledge that they shall not be allowed to escape until they are duly exchanged. Five who were too sick and weak for removal, are still in rebel hands.

April 27: Mr. Levi N. Hall has bought out Allison's drug store in Oswego.

Mr. Harkness, an old gentleman residing in the town of Kendall, and the father of the late Capt. William Harkness, died very suddenly on the morning of Thursday, the 20th inst. He had gone to the barn to do some chores and in about 20 minutes he was found there dead. He was a man very much liked by neighbors, and we are sorry to record his death.

The services in the three churches in these village last Sabbath here commemorative of the life and death of our loved President. The churches were filled and great interest was manifested by the congregations.

The remains of the late President left Washington on Friday morning and, passing through Baltimore, reached Harrisburg on that evening. They arrived at Philadelphia on Saturday, at New York on Monday morning, at Albany on Tuesday evening, at Buffalo this morning (Thursday) and will arrive at Cleveland on Friday morning, at Columbus on Saturday morning, at Indianapolis on Sunday morning, at Chicago on Monday morning (May 1st), and at Springfield on Wednesday morning.

The paroling of Lee's army, which was completed on the 13th inst., resulted in sending to their homes 26,115 men and in turning over to the Government 59 pieces of artillery, 71 stands of colors, 15,918 stands of small arms, 1,100 wagons, caissons, &c., and 4,000 horses and mules.

Mosby, the guerrilla leader who so long maintained a footing in Virginia opposite Washington, is reported to have surrendered his command to General Hancock. His force amounted to about 700 men.

The Arkansas Legislature has ratified the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery in the United States. This, we believe, makes the twenty-first State that has ratified this amendment.

Jeff. Davis is expected to organize an army in Texas and if pressed by our forces will escape into Mexico.

May – 1865

May 4: Justice is sure. Booth, the assassin, has paid the penalty of his crime with his life. After evading pursuit for two weeks past, he was at last traced from Charles county, Maryland and overtaken in company with his accomplice, Harrold, near Bowling Green, Va., about 45 miles north of Richmond. Taking refuge here in a barn, he refused to surrender, when the barn was fired. In the attempt to escape he was shot, receiving fatal wound through the neck, from which he died in two or three hours, uttering imprecations against the government and professing that he died for his country.

Many of the citizens of Kendall County paid the last duty to the dead President by visiting Chicago on Monday. It will be a day to be remembered, and handed down to their posterity.

The Specie Grove Soldiers' Aid Society will meet at the house of Mr. David C. Shepard, in the afternoon and evening of Thursday, May 11.

May 11: With this number commences volume two of the *Record*. We wish to thank the citizens of Kendall for their cordial support for the past year and hope our subscription list will increase as we grow older, as well as that the paper will grow in interest. If any gentleman or lady would give us the local items for their respective towns from week to week--say from Plano, Newark, Lisbon, Oswego, Plattville, Bristol Station, or any of the Post offices in the county--it would be taken to a great favor and be of benefit to our readers. We cannot afford to pay for correspondence, but any favor we can do in our line of business will gladly be done.

Lincoln Monument.--An association has been formed in Springfield, this State, for the purpose of soliciting funds to erect a monument to Illinois' greatest son.

The Freedmen's Aid meets tomorrow afternoon at Mr. A.H. Arnold's, Bristol.

Fish-lovers have commenced seine-hauling, and the returns are large pickerel and black bass.

The first day of June (Thursday) has been set apart by the President as a national fast day.

May 18: Jeff Davis Captured!

The wandering President of the Confederacy, Jeff Davis, was captured by a detachment of the 4th Michigan cavalry on the tenth inst., near Irwinsville, Ga. He attempted to escape in his wife's clothing, but did not succeed.

May 25: John West, commonly known as the "Duke of Wellington," who has been in jail some months for breaking into and stealing from the store of Mr. A.B. Hall in Oswego some two years ago, was brought up for trial and Tuesday, plead guilty, and was sentenced to one year in the penitentiary at Joliet.

Fox River has been pretty well hauled for fish in this vicinity for the past week, and a great draft made on it for red horse, buffaloes, and suckers. A party from Sandwich were very successful last week, and filled a large wagon box with these fish from the size of a rock-bass to a small-sized whale.

We were pleased to meet, the other day, with the good-natured countenance of our old friend, Frank Minkler, an army chum of ours with whom we have marched, eaten hard tack and bacon, and gone through the lights and shadows of army life. Mr. Minkler has many relatives in this county, whom he is visiting.

June -- 1865

June 1: Mr. Humphrey, of the *Vandalia Union*, formerly editor of the *Free Press* [of Oswego] was here last week on business. Friend H. is looking well and says his paper is in a flourishing condition. We wish him well.

The editor of this paper has received the appointment as postmaster for this village and has deputized Mr. Thos. C. Morley a disabled soldier of the 89th Illinois, to take charge of it. It will probably not be removed till the 30th of June, the end of this quarter.

Office of the Sup't of Schools of Kendall County.

It is recommended and ordered that each morning session of Schools be opened by reading in the Bible, either by teacher or scholars.

It is expected that this recommendation will be cheerfully complied with. Schools that are not furnished with Bibles can be supplied at the store of Mr. F.T. Seely, Bristol, without charge.

W.S. Coy, Sup't of Schools

June 8: It is stated with apparent correctness that our Government has made an emphatically worded demand on Great Britain for indemnity for losses suffered by our citizens by the depredations of the pirate vessels equipped at and sent out from the ports of that country.

The assassination trial is still in progress at Washington and some startling developments are being made, detrimental to the leadership of the rebellion.

As Mr. William Hawley of Oswego was driving across the bridge running over the railroad between Oswego and Montgomery on Tuesday the cars came along and passed under the bridge just as Mr. H. was on it. He was driving a horse to a skeleton wagon. The horse got frightened and commenced kicking and running. In kicking, his heels went on each side of Mr. H's face, lacerating the sides of his head. He was dragged more than 200 yards when the horse got loose from the vehicle and thus saved the life of its occupant. It was a narrow escape from death.

Persons, before crossing that bridge, should look well up and down the track to see if any trains are coming.

June 15: The last Legislature by a special act authorized the Supervisors of this county to borrow money, and the Board, acting by that authority, have asked the loan of \$80,000 to defray the indebtedness of the county to soldiers, and to take up numerous small outstanding accounts. Those loaning money to the county under this set will receive bonds payable ten years from date--or after three years if the Board so decide--having coupons attached by which the interest can be collected annually.

Our whole debt--military and court house--does not exceed \$150,000, and proper measures have been made by our State Legislature for taxing property sufficiently to pay all debts in not more than ten years.

Farmers and business men! You owe it to the county that you invest your money in these bonds. The war for the Union has caused this debt, and in honor we are bound to pay it before we can say "it is finished!"

"Marshall, editor of the Kendall *Clarion*, has been appointed Postmaster. He deputizes a disabled soldier of the 89th to take charge of the business for him.--*Aurora Beacon*."

We don't publish any such paper, friend *Beacon*. We are not given to blowing, even through the medium of a clarion. Our mission is simply to record the happenings in Kendall and the news of the day. The editor of the *Clarion* was a sharp fellow, and blew his trumpet to some purpose in his short sojourn among the Kendallites. He did not leave for want of wind, but to do his "country some service" in the old 36th. He is now resting on his laurels in the rural village of Mason among the wolverines in Michigan.

A Good Move.--Superintendent Coy has advised and directed that a portion of the Bible be read in the public schools every morning. The people will be glad to know that the word of God is made paramount in the schools their children attend, and it is hoped that the teachers will give it due attention. Mr. Coy deserves credit for his effort in this direction. He has procured a donation from the Bible society of a sufficient number of Bibles to supply all districts. They may be had of Mr. F.T. Seely, at the Post Office in Bristol.

June 22: Bristol Station, June 18th.

Friend Marshall:

In last week's *Record*, you state that "Superintendent Coy has advised and directed that a portion of the Bible be read in the public schools every morning," and that "he has procured a donation from the Bible Society of a sufficient number of Bibles to supply all districts."

Although it is desirable that all should be familiar with the Scriptures, I doubt the propriety of introducing the Bible into our district schools. There are some persons in the community who regard the Scriptures as too sacred to be read in the public schools. If Mr. Coy's order is carried into effect, these persons will at least require their children to leave the schoolroom while the Scriptures are being read. Again, there are others who maintain that the only word of God is written in his works, and boundless as the universe; and that it is not the Word of God, but the words of men that is bound in a book. Those persons are opposed to their children being taught to reverence the Bible as the Word of God.

Now, as all who desire their children to read and become familiar with the Scriptures have ample opportunity in the family circle, the Sunday school, and the church, I hope Superintendent Coy will rescind the order relating to this matter and thus avoid one cause of contention and preserve our district schools free from sectarian bias and prejudice.

Respectfully Yours,
James Bertram.

Remarks: We do not think our correspondent's objections are sufficient to exclude the Bible from the schools. They are very lame and will not prove themselves. We should like to hear from others on this subject.

Having received from the Supervisors of the County of Kendall the appointment of Commissioner to take the census of the said county for the year 1865, the undersigned would desire to call the attention of the heads of each family in the county to the instructions and provisions contained in the law in order that each family may be ready to furnish the answers to the several interrogatories with as little delay as possible--the time afforded for taking the same being very brief and limited.

Dan'l Haigh
Commissioner
Bristol, June 15, 1865.

The evidence already taken in the assassination trial is said to cover 4,000 pages of cap paper.

Welcome Home.

The citizens of Plano gave one of the most successful receptions in the behalf of the returned Companies F and K, 127th Illinois Volunteers, on Tuesday last, that was ever seen in this county. Steward's Grove was fitted up with stand, seats, and tables, and the trees tastefully labeled with names of battles in which the regiment had been engaged--"Jackson," "Vicksburg," "Dallas," "Atlanta," and a dozen others.

Need we say anything of the late rains, which have rejoiced the hearts of our farmers! Does not every stalk and blade show forth praises? Grain of all kinds is growing splendidly, and we have every assurance of good crops.

We have heard there is to be a reception at Bristol Station tomorrow (Friday), complimentary to the boys of the 89th volunteers.

June 29: Pursuant to call, a meeting was held in the Court House on Monday afternoon for the purpose of making arrangements to gather contributions in this county for the erection of a monument to our late president, at Springfield.

J.N. French, Esq. of NaAuSay was appointed chairman of the meeting.

The following gentlemen were duly elected to act as treasurers in their respective towns, viz.:

L. Rank, Oswego.

F.T. Seely, Bristol.

N.C. Mighell, Little Rock.

T.J. Phillips, Fox.

N.H. Horns, Kendall.

J.N. French, NaAuSay.

Andrew Chapman, Seward.

Jervis Moore, Lisbon.

W.M. Sweetland, Big Grove.

J.R. Marshall was elected permanent secretary and the town committees are to report to him.

Last Wednesday, the citizens of Oswego gave a picnic to the company of the 127th Illinois that went from that town, commanded by Capt. Bunn. The meeting was in the grove south of the town where addresses, music and good eating were the order of the day. John S. Seely Esq., was the chairman on the occasion and Rev. Mr. Brown made the welcome address.

Those remaining of the company are a fine-looking body of men. All that remain! Their number was about 90 when mustered in and we saw about 30 who have returned. Many were mustered out by the bullet and disease, and have had their reception long ago from the Great Captain above. it was a sad sight to many who had no boys to welcome to see others so happy in the presence of their friends.

We saw many a handkerchief trying to hide the falling tear. Weep not! They fill a patriot's grave--their death has not been in vain, and as you see others greet their loved ones, feel that yours is near you in the spirit and does not regret the life given to a country's cause.

It would be a source of pleasure and great interest to our readers to have a list of all the men who have belonged to the companies from this county--the casualties and general history of the company--published in the home paper.

Capt. Schriver, Little, Bunn, Beeman, and Lieut. Boomer, will you do us the kindness, your companies the justice, and their friends the honor to attend to this? It will not take much of your time.

In a letter to the editor, C.L. of Newark refutes John Bertram's previous letter and contends that the Bible should be read in the county's common schools.

It is as good as a treat to see Father Parker of Oswego play the fife. He plays all over, and his soul seems to enter into the instrument and find relief through the movement of the fingers. Father P. is the very embodiment of a fifer at an old-fashioned muster or training day.

The people of Bristol Station gave the 89th a grand reception at that place yesterday.

July -- 1865

July 6: Last Tuesday, the citizens at Bristol Station and vicinity received Company H, 89th Illinois Volunteers with a hearty welcome. The company was formed at the hotel and preceded by the Yorkville Band, marched to the grounds prepared for the occasion just north of the Station. There, a welcome sight met the boys. The grove presented an animated scene and there was many an Anna there who will be mated before another June. The speakers stand was decorated with the Stars and Stripes and seats were properly arranged.

After the boys and the audience were seated, Rev. James Brewer gave them a "welcome home" in a short address, which was replied by Rev. W.M. Haigh on the part of the soldiers. After music by the Aurora Band, Dr. Forrester of Aurora commenced an oration in honor of our soldiers, which was interrupted by a call to dinner.

All of our Soldiers' Aid Societies in the county have a sum of money left in their treasuries which would do a great deal of good if properly dispensed. It could be disposed of in no better way than to donate it to the indigent families of those brave men who have fallen during the war, who are residing in our midst. It is a soldiers' fund and no other means of disposal is just or proper. Let those societies meet and vote the money to some family or families that have lost their provider by the war.

The troops of the Texas expedition are concentrating on the coast of that state preparatory to advancing into the interior. Gen. Granger is in command, with headquarters at Galveston. Gen. Sheridan has gone to that city on a tour of inspection.

Everybody and their friends went to Aurora on the Fourth. Lumber wagons, buggies, sulkies, go-carts, and anything on wheels, was above par.

The \$1,000 race between a horse and a steam carriage at New Haven, Conn., resulted in the signal defeat of the latter. But they are going to try it again as the steam man alleges bad fodder, which means coal.

The crowd at Aurora on the Fourth was immense and the display grand.

The Threshers of Kendall County are requested to meet at the Fox River House in Yorkville on Saturday, July 15, to form a list of prices for this season's work and other business.

Married at the Fox River House, Yorkville on Friday, the 23d inst., by Rev. Wm. T. Hill, Mr. Elias Snyder of Will County to Miss Mary E. Tremane of Oswego, Kendall County.

July 13: W.S.M.B., a former resident of this city, engaged during the rebellion in schools at Macon, Ga., Marion, etc., has returned to the city at the first opportunity offered for getting out of the rebellious States. Prof. M.'s card will be found in another column.--
Aurora Beacon.

Every town throughout the North is receiving the addition of some former resident who has been within the rebel lines during the war and now that the rebellion is played out and the chivalry are whipped, come back to take their former position in the business and social circle. The story is always "that they came as soon as they could get out of the rebel power."--Stuff! That story is old and should be dropped. If they were good union men they would have been sent North or drafted into the rebel army--but it is more likely that they could curse the Yankees as well as the most noble Southron while they were there and deny all ideas of union and liberty.

Last Friday, Mr. Henry Dunbar hired a horse and buggy to a couple of young bloods to go to Oswego and return the same night--they failed to fulfill the bargain in that respect, nor did they return at all. On Monday morning, Sheriff Newell took the matter in hand and on that day, with Ed Dunbar, found the horse and buggy at Morris, but the men had departed. The property was recovered by paying the livery charges.

The men that hired the buggy are supposed to be the same that robbed a livery stable keeper at Aurora last week. A man has been arrested in Chicago on suspicion by an Aurora officer.

Mr. Jas. Carns has added a soda fountain to his ice cream saloon over Dixon's hardware store, from which he dispenses the cooling beverage in metropolitan style.

July 20: Mr. H.S. Humphrey, formerly editor of the *Kendall County Free Press* in Oswego, is Special Master in Chancery of the Fayette County Circuit Court. Humphrey is a lucky editor to get county office.

Lt. Col. Bjerg of the 147th Illinois, has been dishonorably dismissed the service for false muster.

The 20th Illinois is mustered out, and on their way home. Company K, from this county, are expected home here next week.

Maj. F.A. Emmons of this county is now chief medical officer of the 2d Separate Division at Dalton, Ga.

July 27: The annual interest on the public debt that is payable in gold amounts to \$58 millions of dollars.

Mr. Editor:--In a recent number of your paper you took occasion to make some observations concerning Yankees who have remained South during the rebellion, and have now come North. You intimate that those parties could not have remained there unless they had been committed in favor of the rebellion. Inasmuch as my initials headed your article, I conceive myself to be referred to, and take this opportunity of replying. I am not aware that I have ever in any manner, save by my presence in the country, aided or abetted the rebellion. I have never belonged to the army or paid any Confederate tax; neither have I ever taken any oath of allegiance to that government. All men, whether unionists or secesh, were obliged to assent to the doctrines of the rebellion. Nevertheless, all the men of northern birth who remained South during the war, with only two exceptions, among my acquaintance, were Union men at heart. Circumstances obliged many men to remain in the Confederacy who would have left if there had seemed to be any practicable way of exit. I am, and have been always, in favor of the Union and with this declaration of my sentiments,
I remain yours,
W.S.B. Matthews.

August -- 1865

Aug. 3: Reception at Newark

Last Tuesday the citizens of this place and vicinity turned out and gave Company K, 20th Illinois Volunteers, a warm reception and hearty welcome home.

The telegraph tells us that "General" Robert E. Lee is at the Clifton House, Niagara Falls. The government should keep watch of Mr. Lee, or he will be like the Dutchman's flea-- when you've got your finger on him, he is not there. So it may be with Mr. Lee; when we want him, he will be non est. He is guilty of the crime of treason and should suffer for it.

The 36th Ill. is now in New Orleans on duty at Sheridan's headquarters. The remainder of their corps goes to San Antonio, Tex. The regiment arrived at New Orleans on the 23d-- since which time there has been but little sickness among them.

Mudd, Arnold Spangler, and O'Laughlin--the assassination conspirators--were at Hilton Head, S.C. on the 20th ultimo, en route for the Dry Tortugas.

Aug. 10: Adjutant General Thomas states that at the close of the rebellion there were 110,000 colored troops in the army, about 100,000 of whom are still in the service.

The Fowler Institute at Newark, one of the county's only high schools, advertised the following tuition rates: Common English, \$20; Middle Year Studies, \$25; Senior Year Studies, \$30; Music on piano or other instrument, use of instrument, \$12, Advanced payment was required.

The Court House yard is now all enclosed by a fence, but the approaches are in a bad condition, especially in bad weather. No doubt as soon as can be, there will be steps laid at the gates and walks made to the doors of the Court House.

Through W.S. Coy, Esq., we have received notice of a grand basket picnic to be held at Oswego next Tuesday, the 15th inst. It is intended to be one of the best picnics ever held in the County and the ladies and gentlemen of every town are respectfully invited to be present and have a good time.

Aug. 17: The Marsh Reaper.--We had the pleasure the other day of witnessing the operation of this celebrated reaper in the field of John Armstrong, and was much pleased with it. It will do all that is claimed for it and is bound to work a revolution in the harvest field. The peculiar advantage of this machine consists principally of a revolving canvas rake or straw carrier upon the platform of the reaper which carries the grain into an elevated concave, bringing it into a position on the reaper can bind it as fast as an ordinary reaper can cut it. Thus with two men to bind and a boy to drive, the work of seven hands is done and with far less waste than by any other kind.

There is a paper published at Tuscola, Douglas County, Illinois by two men formerly from this county, named Sellers, which has about as mean a record as any newspaper can show. Last summer and fall, they carried the banner of "Lincoln & Johnson" at the mast and supported that ticket through the campaign. After the election--by being bought or through inherent meanness--they turned tail and came out--copperhead! We are told that they have turned their jacket several times before. We congratulate Kendall County and the Union party on being rid of such dough-faces.--We never get a paper from them but what it attacks some principle they formerly sustained, and that was all the principle they ever had.

On the 1st of May there were 1,050,000 men in the army. Of these, above 700,000 have been mustered out.

Aug. 24: Fowler Institute.--This institution was erected in the year 1854 by the gentleman whose name it bears at a cost of \$6,000. After its completion, Miss J. Washburn was called to take charge of the school. Under her judicious management it grew and prospered. Finally, she left it and went to Aurora to take the position of preceptress [a woman who is an instructor; teacher; tutor; or head of a school] in Clark Seminary; it then passed into the hands of Rev. John Higby. He became its principal and employed J.N. Wilmarth as principal teacher; but he not being the man fitted for the place, the school ran down and he was compelled to leave it. The present principal, Prof. A.J. Anderson, a graduate of Knox College, came here four years ago and had to go to work to resurrect the school and reestablish its reputation. He has now one of the best schools in this section.

The fall term begins on Monday, Sept. 4th.

Aug. 31: Great quantities of grain have been passing through this place for the past few weeks enroute for the [Bristol] Station. It shows that less trade goes to Morris than formerly. The Railroad Company must be offering inducements to our farmers to turn the tide of travel in that direction.

September -- 1865

Sept. 7: It is recommended by the undersigned that the Primary Meetings for the selection of delegates be held in the several towns on Saturday, the 16th inst., at 3 o'clock p.m., at the usual place of holding elections.

A.K. Wheeler

West Matlock

L.B. Judson

David H. Shonts

I. Crooker

Republican County Committee.

By order of the War Department, Camp Douglas at Chicago has ceased to be a military post of the United States.

Messrs. Knock & Tilton at Bristol Station have their sugar mill and evaporators in working order, ready to crush the cane and prepare the syrup in a masterly manner.

The ladies of the Freedmen's Aid Society, wishing to obtain funds to promote the object of their society, will sell refreshments for that purpose during the Kendall County Agricultural Fair, commencing Sept. 19th.

Died.

On Saturday morning at quarter past one o'clock, Arnold Rickard, eldest son of Lewis Rickard Esq., of Bristol, aged 24 years.

Arnold was a member of the 127th Illinois volunteers, and was discharged last fall for disability—he having contracted a chronic rheumatism while in the service. He has been unwell ever since, and other disease fastening on him, he quietly passed away and is now “where the wicket cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.” The funeral services were held at the father's residence on Sunday and the remains were buried at Oak Grove cemetery, near Bristol Station.

On Saturday at the residence of his father, John Sanford, Esq., Joseph Sanford, late of the 156th Illinois Regiment, aged 19 years. Joseph enlisted last spring and was sent home about four weeks ago, ill from consumption.

Sept. 14: The Fowler Institute at Newark opened on Monday the 4th inst., with 100 students, and the numbers increasing daily. An effort is being made by the citizens of this place to purchase the Lutyens Hotel and turn the same into a boarding house for the better accommodation of students.

Sept. 21: The Kendall County Fair opened Sept. 19 in the Village of Bristol, now the north side of Yorkville.

Population of Kendall County

We have received the following figures in relation to the census of the county for the year 1865 from Daniel Haigh, Esq., Census Commissioner.

Oswego, 1,924; Bristol, 1,388; Little Rock, 1,666; Fox, 1,161; Kendall, 1,489; NaAuSay, 1,037; Seward, 941; Lisbon, 1,302; Big Grove, 1,721. Total: 12,689

Farms in county, by township

Oswego, 180; Little Rock, 139; Kendall, 173; Seward, 143; Big Grove, 159; Bristol, 135; Fox, 160; NaAuSay, 136; Lisbon, 172. Total farms, 1,395.

There are seven flouring or grist mills, five sawmills, and one paper mill.

There are 79 common (public grade) schools with a total average daily attendance of 2,089.75 students. There was one academy (high school) with an average of 90 scholars.

The number of troops furnished by the State of Illinois from April 17 1861 to April 30, 1865 was 256,257.

Sept. 28: The 156th Illinois has been mustered out of service. They enlisted last spring for the \$500 bounty and earned it pretty easily in six months.

We have received from Mr. Mullenix of Oswego a copy of Barrett's life of Lincoln, of which we are very proud. It is a splendid book and a copy should be owned by every family in the county. Mr. M. is now ready to deliver it to subscribers.

From the census returns already in, it is estimated that the population of Illinois is over 2,500,000.

October -- 1865

Oct. 5: The population of Grundy County is returned as 12,959. Only a little larger than Kendall, yet that county supports two papers.

Oct. 12: It is mortifying to us in Kendall to know that in all the counties in the State ours is the only one showing, by the returns, a decrease in the population. Between 1860 and 1865, the county's population decreased by 335.

We give below a few figures in relation to the population and wealth of our county:

Population, 12,689; militia, 2,281; value of manufactures, \$76,870, livestock, \$1,208,910, grain products, \$1,566,545, other agricultural products, \$337,060; number of pounds of wool, 75,173; flouring and grist mills, 7; saw mills, 5; academies, 1; number of pupils, 98; number of common schools, 79; number of pupils 2,098.

Population in 1860, 13,074; decrease, 385.

Capt. Hemenway of the 36th Illinois Veterans is at his home in little Rock on a visit. The regiment is at New Orleans, where the captain will return in a few days.

Oct. 19:

Oct. 26:

November -- 1865

December -- 1865

Hurd's Chequered Drug Store in Aurora (so named because of its black and white checkerboard paint job) advertised gifts, juvenile books, and toys for children suited for the holidays. The store was located on River Street on Aurora's West Side.

1866

January

February -- 1866

Feb. 2:

Feb. 9:

Feb. 16: Rev. M. Williams is pastor of the Congregational Church; Rev. Budd is pastor of the Presbyterian Church. There are 65 in the higher dept. of the school, 70 in the intermediate department, and 70 in the lower department. West Roberts had perfect attendance.

March -- 1866

March 1:

March 8:

March 15: There was a light fall of snow here Sunday night.

March 22: Last Wednesday night, the 14h, the two prisoners confined in the county jail escaped. They had been supplied with tools by someone outside and sawed off one of the

bars in a window on the west side of the jail, worked the lower end out of the mason work, and thus made a hole 6-1/2 inches by about 15, with which they managed to crawl. It is a narrow place for a man to get out. One of the party was Joseph Duvall, alias John Williams, who was under arrest for stealing a horse. The other was James Roberts who was in duress for larceny of a rifle and some small articles.

The bill declaring persons born in this country to be citizens, excepting Indians not taxed, and to secure all persons in the enjoyment of their civil rights has finally passed both houses of Congress and will soon be presented to the president.

March 29: As is well known in this county, there is an extensive bed of coal south of Ottawa known as "The Vermillion Coal Fields." a company of capitalists have purchased the bulk of these lands and are going to develop their resources at once. There is one drawback in regard to these operations. The mines will be from 12 to 14 miles from railroad or canal, and the company with some road to build a branch to its lands and the people of Ottawa want the coal to be brought there and shipped by canal and by a railroad through the Fox River Valley. This is what particularly interests our readers.

The question of incorporating the town of Yorkville is being again agitated and we agree in advising a consolidation of the towns of Yorkville and Bristol before a step of this kind be taken. As there is merely a river between the two places we see no good reason why they should not be united.

Sleigh bells on the 28th of March! Last Saturday it snowed all day and the snow lay on the ground to a depth of two or three inches. On Tuesday night the snow fell fast and thick and on Wednesday morning the jingle of bells was heard and the farmers hitched on to the "old bobs" again and took as we hope the last sleigh ride of the season. Robins and meadowlarks look glum and as they stand on the icy limbs of the trees, lift first one foot and then the other to try and keep warm. To sum all up, the weather is unseasonable.

The accidental president, Andrew Johnson, has vetoed the "civil rights bill" and returned it to the Senate. We hope our representatives in Congress will stiffen their backbones and pass it over his head.

There was a meeting held at Ottawa last Saturday to consider the subject of building a [rail]road along the Fox River.

April -- 1866

April 5: The meetings in the several towns in this county for the election of town[ship] officers took place last Tuesday and passed off very quietly.

Elected in Oswego were Supervisor, Dr. M. Davis; Clerk, John Lockwood; Assessor, C.L. Murdock; Collector, W.S. Hunt; Road Commissioner, Wm. Wagner; Justices, Wm. L. Fowler and R. Gray; Constables, J.P. Mullenix and Cole Harrick; Poormaster, Geo. Parker.

In the early part of January, a few of our citizens seeing that intemperance was gaining too strong a hold upon those determined to break loose from its fatal business and they formed Camp No. 1, Independent Order of Temperance.

April 12: The Mansfield Post Office in this county has been changed to Millbrook. P.S. Lott, Esq. is the postmaster.

I will hold public examinations of teachers as follows:

In Oswego, on Saturday, April 21st.

In Lisbon, on Saturday, April 14th.

The examination will commence at 10 o'clock a.m. at the school houses in said places. I think this will accommodate teachers better than one examination.

W.S. Coy, School Sup't.

Bristol, April 3 1866.

April 19: Yorkville: It looks good to see Capt. Hebard's big 'bus running between here and the Station again. Capt. is bound to give the traveling public the best and easiest vehicle to ride in that the roads will allow. This stage line is now a regular institution, and run on time and in an accommodating manner.

April 26: The town[ship] of Oswego pledged to purchase \$30,000 stock in the Fox River Valley Rail Road which will run from Elgin to Ottawa.

The *Aurora Beacon* came to us last week in a new style and was full of reading matter and advertisements. It now contains eight pages and is the largest paper in the state. Knickerbocker knows how to run a paper, and the merchants of Aurora know how to sustain one and by that means increase their own business.

May -- 1866

May 3: We mentioned two weeks ago that a committee of citizens of Ottawa would meet like committees from towns on Fox River at Chicago in the beginning of the present week to confer in reference to the proposed railroad from the Vermillion coal fields up the Fox River Valley. That committee has returned and from a brief conversation with Mr. Bushnell, one of its members, we are enabled to state briefly the result of their mission.

They met committees from Newark, Yorkville, Oswego, Aurora, Geneva, &c., at the Tremont House in waiting and soon found after a conference with them that the people along the line of the proposed road are more than waked up on the subject. They are brimful of enthusiasm and earnestness and so far as local aid is concerned, no railroad project ever found the people on its route more willing to contribute to the extent of their ability and to make sacrifices to aid a company in the construction of the road. Newark, Yorkville, Oswego, and other villages interested offer to secure the right of way, make

donations, and to take stock at the rate of from ten to thirty dollars each, and the towns in Kendall county offer to grade the road through their towns.

The father of Major General Schofield is now a resident of Bristol. He moved there with his family last week.

May 10: With this number ends the second year of the *Record*. Two years are added to the past since we first embarked on the perilous enterprise of establishing a local paper in this county. Two years that have been fraught with more vital national events and greater questions of political economy than a score of years in ordinary times. Two years that have seen the downfall of the most gigantic rebellion of the earth's history--seen the assassination of the loved leader of the people--seen the abolition of the great curse of slavery from the land--seen all men made free in their civil and religious liberties--seen the might and power of the American people in their self-government. And now, we again are a great people in the eyes of the world.

The people of Kendall County have done well by us. Continue your well-doing. We hope to commence on the third year of our editorial career better prepared than ever to give satisfaction.

The inhuman butchery of negroes at Memphis last week, under the name of "riot," could only have been planned and executed by the fiends that committed the massacre at Fort Pillow, the sacking of Lawrence, the brutal treatment of prisoners at Andersonville, and other barbarities unworthy of the name of man.

The safe in P.H. Merritt's store at Bristol Station was blown open with gunpowder on Saturday night last, and about \$25 worth of postage stamps stolen. There was no money in the safe. The thieves also robbed the money drawer of about \$10 in fractional currency and took a lot of dry-goods from the shelves. Total loss is only \$150.

It is now understood that Jeff Davis will be tried in the United States Circuit Court. Judge Underwood of the city of Norfolk, Va. Chief Justice Chase will presided and Attorney General Speed will prosecute, assisted by Judge Clifford of Massachusetts and Wm. R. Evarts of New York, as counsel on the part of the prosecution.

May 17: Admiral Rebel Pirate Raphael Semmes, the commander of the late formidable (to merchant vessels) Alabama has been elected Probate judge in Mobile. Thus 'treason is made odious.'

On the night of the 5th a mob broke open the building occupied by the Freedmen's Bureau at Meridian, Miss., and after ransacking it completely, set it on fire and burned it to the ground.

On May 24, Capt. William Fowler of Oswego announced his candidacy for Kendall County Sheriff in the November general election.

The directors of the Ottawa, Oswego and Fox River Valley Rail Road, which was formed under an 1852 charter, met at the Aurora House on May 22 to examine and discuss the propriety of actually building the railroad. Much interest was manifest in the enterprise and a determination expressed that the road shall be built. The general cry from the people of Kane and Kendall counties for cheaper fuel seems to have awakened this slumbering enterprise into new and more vigorous life. The meeting was well attended by influential gentlemen from Ottawa, Newark, Yorkville, Oswego, Aurora, Batavia, and St. Charles all expressing the opinion that the road be built. The railroad's proposed route was from St. Charles south along the Fox River to Ottawa. Coal companies along the route promised to sell coal at heavily discounted prices.

June -- 1866

June 14: The 14th Annual Fair of the Kendall County Agricultural and Mechanical Society was set for Sept. 18-20 at the fairgrounds in Bristol. "The Society having erected at great expense a beautiful and commodious hall confidently expect that the exhibits of paintings and the fine arts, needlework and household fabrics will be far superior to any ever held in the County."

June 21: The 12th Illinois Calvary, the last regiment in the service from the State, has been mustered out and paid off--Lieut. Asher B. Hall, formerly of Oswego, quartermaster of the regiment, is going to settle in Texas with a number of other officers.

August -- 1866

Aug. 23: Come: Soldiers, Mechanics, Farmers, Laborers, Business Men and Ladies--all who are in favor of keeping our country out of the hands of southern rebels and northern copperheads who murdered our beloved Lincoln, are requested to meet in Aurora on Monday, August 27th, for the purpose of attending a Soldiers' Reunion and hearing Maj. Gen. John A. Logan and others discuss the political questions of the day.

Last Thursday night while Mr. James Greenfield and family were at a Sunday School concert in Oswego, his house was entered by some thieving rascal and U.S. Bonds and money to the amount of \$1,200 or \$1,300 was stolen. The loss is great to Mr. Greenfield as it was his all. The thief has not been arrested yet.

Aug. 23: *Record* editor John Redmond Marshall took a tour of Oswego: Last Friday afternoon we made a short call at Oswego, and found that it had improved greatly in business since we were last there. A good local trade is done in the village, and the people are alive to their interests and the interests of the town. Our young friend, Levi H. Hall, the druggist was busily engaged in making neater and already neat store. The pride he shows in keeping everything in its place is very commendable. He has a large stock of drugs, as well as a fine collection of stationery and books. The Oswego folks should be proud of such a fine drug store, and give the your

proprietor every encouragement in the way of a generous patronage. Across the way we saw the smiling face of Fred Coffin or, as he is much our senior, we should say F. Coffin, Esq. On crossing the street we found that he had a well appointed grocery store, and a goodly show of crockery on his shelves. He has been in business about a year, and has established a good trade already.

Mr. W. A. Hawley also has a store well stocked with groceries. Mr. G. H. Teller has the largest store in the village, and it is a fine one. He keeps dry goods, boots, shoes, groceries and general merchandise. Mr. O. H. Sherwood is an old dealer, and takes his share of the trade in the grocery line. In the shoe trade, Mr. Frederick Sierp, displays good taste and good leather in the manufacture of boots and shoes for ladies, gentlemen or children. Mr. Sierp has the reputation of being an excellent workman. There are also two other shoe stores, and a harness shop nearby. A neat looking meat market is also seen on Main Street. We saw a hardware store on that street, but did not have time to look in. The people of Oswego are alive on the railroad question, and if all along the proposed route are as earnest in the matter as they are, the road will be built. Next Saturday a town meeting will be held to vote for or against the township of Oswego taking stock to the amount of \$25,000 in the enterprise. Mr. Judson informed us that the town will surely vote the tax, as there are but half a dozen opposed to granting the appropriation. We had a friendly chat with friend Rank, the postmaster, who is a cheerful fellow. Mr. Rank makes a good postmaster, and we hope the people of Oswego will endeavor to retain him.

Up a pair of stairs we found A. B. Smith, Esq., who protects the legal rights and wants of Oswegoans. He is a good fellow in the main, barring some of his opinions, and can make a half-hour pass very pleasantly in chatting.

If the Fox River Railroad is built, Oswego will make one of the best points for a business town on the river. It has many advantages, which would soon be developed, and has splendid mill privileges along its riverfront. We wish them success as a village and as individuals.

Aug. 30: Last Friday afternoon we made a short call at Oswego and found that it had improved greatly in business since we last were there. A good local trade is done in the village and the people are alive of their interests and the interests of their town next Saturday and town meeting will be held to vote for or against the township of Oswego taking stock to the amount of \$25,000 in the proposed railroad. Mr. [Lewis B.] Judson informed us that the town will surely vote the tax as there are but half a dozen opposed to granting the appropriation. If the Fox River R.R. is built, Oswego will make one of the best points for a business town that there is on the river--it has many advantages which would soon be developed, and has splendid mill privileges along its river front.

September -- 1866

Sept. 6: The people of the township of Oswego held a meeting last Saturday to vote for or against taking stock in the F.R.V.R.R. The result is flattering to our purposes for a railroad. The vote was 220 for and 51 against giving the town bonds for the proposed road. The amount to be taken is \$25,000. The other towns on the road are expected to

take hold a once, and swell the amount to \$350,000. Oswego has led in the matter, so who will follow?

October -- 1866

Oct. 13: The Kendall County Agricultural Fair commences NEXT TUESDAY, the 10h inst., on the grounds of the Society at Bristol. It is a fair for the People--the whole people of the county and not from two or three individuals.

Oct. 25: Winter showed its shadow on Tuesday last by a thick fall of snow, which filled the air for an hour or more. At night under the clear moon, the roads and walks glittered with particles of ice and in the morning the ground was frozen quite stiff.

November -- 1866

In state, Congressional, and local elections in Oswego Township, 259 voters cast Republican ballots while only 56 voters went with the Democrats. Voters selected a state treasurer, state school superintendent, Congressmen, state representatives, and a county sheriff and coroner.

Nov. 22: Next Thursday is the day set aside by the President and by our Governor as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for his many blessings conferred upon the nation and upon this state. This is a relic of the New England fathers, which, under the honored Lincoln, became National property.

December -- 1866

Dec. 6: The *Record* reported the arrest of John H. Surratt, described as "one of the assassins of President Lincoln," in Alexandria, Egypt. Surratt was the son of Mary F. Surratt, who was executed July 7, 1865 for her part in the plot to kill the President.

1867

January

Jan. 17: Flour is selling here at \$5.75 a hundred. It is awful on a man that has flour to buy, but good for those having wheat to sell. For the first time this winter, we have good sleighing and anything that will slide is on the road.

Jan. 31: Last Thursday night the concert at Oswego wound up with a grand snow-storm and on Friday morning the pure stuff was eight inches deep, and very evenly laid. The

weather since has been cold, consequently, sleighing is good. There has not been so deep a snow before for some years.

A bill is in the legislature to re-apportion the State on the basis of the census of 1865. As far as representation is concerned, Kendall is very well satisfied with the present arrangement."

February -- 1867

Feb. 14: Mr. Sellers was formerly a resident of Bristol, and is now editor of the *Clinton Advocate*.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN OSWEGO!

It is not often we are called upon to record the fact of an extensive conflagration in our county, but now have that ditty to perform and no doubt the people of Kendall will feel grieved at the great loss, which has befallen one of their villages.

On Saturday night last, Feb. 9th, at 10.30 p.m., fire was discovered in Hawley's grocery store, in Oswego, on the south side of Main Street. When the door of the store was first broken open, the smoke and heat in the room was so dense that it was impossible to enter and discover the cause of the fire. The supposed cause was that a very hot fire had been kept in the stove all day, the pipe of which ran very close to the wooden ceiling, and on leaving the store, the stove had been filled tip full with coal making the pipe so hot as to ignite the pine boards and thence fired the building.

This store was in the third building from the corner west.

The first building on the southern corner was occupied by a watch and clock repairer.

Small one story house, loss about \$900.

The next was Lockwood's harness shop with Smith & Hawley's law office upstairs; loss about \$1,500.

The building that first took fire was owned by J.D. Kennedy, Esq., and valued at \$1,000--no insurance. Hawley's stock of groceries was not insured. Up stairs was occupied by W.L. Fowler, justice of the peace.

The next building was occupied as a meat market by Young and Snook, and upstairs by Mrs. Gates, a widow lady. She lost all her furniture and clothing and narrowly escaped suffocation in the smoke. She made her escape in her night dress. Her loss is indeed a heavy one. The building was owned by Mr. L.B. [Lewis Brinsmaid] Judson and worth about \$600; not insured.

Mr. M.S. Richard's hardware store and tin shop was in the next building. Stock and tools nearly all lost. He owned the building, which was insured for \$600, and \$400 insurance on the stock. Mr. R's loss is serious, as he was doing a large business and a store of that kind is indispensable in a village.

The next building was owned by L.N. [Levi Newton] Hall, the druggist, and was occupied by himself and Mr. F. [Frederick] Sierp, a boot dealer below, and up stairs was Odd Fellows Hall. The building was insured in the Aurora Company for \$1,000. Mr. Sierp was insured for \$600 on his stock, but it will not begin to cover the loss, as he is thrown out of a flourishing business.

The Odd Fellows saved their regalia and the most of their furniture. Mr. Hall, the druggist, had his stock insured for \$1,500 in the Peoria Company. He estimates his loss at \$1,500 above insurance. A great deal of his stock was taken out of the store, but from its nature (so many glass jars) it was greatly damaged. He has now the store opposite, formerly unoccupied by M. Whitman, where he is fixing up for business again. Mr. David Hall had about \$500 worth of goods stored in this building, which were all lost. No insurances.

Next was the National Hotel, owned and managed by Moses F. Richards, Esq. The burning of this was a serious loss to Oswego, as a hotel is necessary, and this was a good one. The building was worth \$2,000. The furniture was mostly saved. Building and contents insured in the Aurora Company for \$3,500.

It was by great effort that the barns belonging to the hotel were saved. One had taken fire, but by hard work the fire was extinguished by the citizens--snow was the extinguisher used principally. Had these barns got into a blaze, the flames would have crossed the street and burned several dwellings. The dwellings on the north side of Main Street were in danger several times from the great heat created by the burning block.

The once busy street now presents a sorry sight. Ragged brick walls, charred and blackened ruins, battered stoves, cups, &c., are all that remain to mark the places where stood Oswego's business block and Hotel.

This great accident is of course discouraging to the villagers at the present time, but they will take courage and place handsome substantial stores where the old and tried buildings stood.

From what we could learn of the parties burned out, the total loss is estimated at \$12,000. Insured for \$7,500--of which the Aurora Company has \$6,500. But while estimating this loss it must be borne in mind that to replace new buildings of this capacity of those burned, will cost as much again.

The town and corporation records were also burned.

Feb. 21: Last Thursday was a loose day in these villages--the weather got warm on Wednesday, rain set in, the river began to rise, the ice broke up. At Oswego, the water covered the flats, but did no damage to the bridge.

On Tuesday there was a heavy snow storm, snow falling to the depth of six inches during the day. The roads are in a bad condition and teaming is at a standstill.

March -- 1867

March 7: The Rev. R. Rudd, Presbyterian minister, Oswego, gratefully acknowledges the kindness of his friends in Oswego and the neighborhood for the donation visit held on his account in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, Feb. 20, amounting to \$124.

March 14: J.H. Morgan, after a residence of 23 years in this county removed to Iroquois County to carry on a large stock farm. He has not sold his farm in NaAuSay.

The county board passed an ordinance setting the county circuit court at two terms, one to be held the third Tuesday of January and one on the fourth Tuesday of May. Those were the only two court dates at the courthouse in Yorkville.

March 28: The directors of the proposed Fox River Valley Rail Road decided to commence work from Aurora south as soon as \$37,000 per mile in construction costs had been secured. It was resolved to commence the work at Aurora and work south. [The railroad started operations in 1870.]

April -- 1867

April 18: The Oswego Brass Band. This band of amateur musicians paid Yorkville and Bristol a visit last Saturday and enlivened the citizens by some well-performed music. Mr. Wm. Danforth is the leader. The band gives an exhibition and concert tonight and tomorrow night at the old Court House in Oswego to raise funds to buy new instruments. They play well for amateurs.

April 25: There was a light fall of snow on Tuesday morning.

May -- 1867

May 2: To be Re-Built

The block of buildings that was burned down in Oswego last winter is to be replaced. The rubbish is being cleared away and soon phoenix-like, a new look will spring from the ashes. The new stores are to have brick fronts and stone side walks.

Mr. E.D. Hunt, the passenger and freight agent at Bristol Station, has resigned his position, taking effect on Tuesday last, and a new agent has been appointed. Mr. Hunt has been connected with the road for ten years and in that time has given daily his undivided attention to his business. Hereafter he will devote his attention to the buying and selling of grain at the Station.

May 16: From D.C. Pratt, photographic artist, Aurora, we have received a fine, large picture of the radical orator, Wendell Phillips. It is taken in Pratt's usual elegant style.

From Hon. B.C. Cook we learn that he has obtained an order from the authorities at Washington for the survey of Fox River, with the intention of making it navigable as high up as Yorkville or Oswego. The surveying party are expected to commence operations some time in June, when it will be demonstrated to the people whether we can have water communication with New Orleans or not. The plan would be to dam the river at intervals, and build locks at these dams to send the boats through. The thing is done on the St. Joseph River in Michigan and on many other streams and it affords cheaper transportation than by railroad. Make the Fox River navigable by this means and at every dam there will be a factory or factories of some kind and villages and towns will spring

up in profusion. Farmers will have a market for their grain, which will compete with New York direct, and the days of railroad monopoly in this section will be past. Make this great improvement, and who can tell of the great future of the Fox River Valley, with its immense agricultural resources, its factories and their population increasing tendencies. A railroad now would be of incalculable benefit to our people but the probability of having it is not certain, but with the river improvement such would be the rapid settlement of the country around that the railroad would be an absolute necessity.

May 30: The *Record* reported the results of a public meeting held May 25 at Millington to discuss making the Fox River navigable. A survey by the U.S. War Department was to take place during the summer of 1867. The proposal called for installing locks and dams to make the river navigable from the Illinois & Michigan Canal feeder dam at Dayton north to Millington. Officials noted the river's flow was often slow during the summer, but suggested that Fox Lake near the river's headwaters could be enlarged to create an impoundment from which water could be released when needed to assure navigation during the months when the stream was not frozen.

Muggins heard Fox River say, "I will be dammed before they navigate me!"

Platt & Bro.--The Messrs Platt, at Plattville, have added largely to their stock of merchandise this spring and are giving out larger towns a strong opposition in point of trade. They sell very cheap and the people for miles in that vicinity are buying all their goods at this firm. Their prices are very moderate.

June -- 1867

June 13: The "Weekly Aurora" is the name of a new paper published by Mr. Dudley Randall at Aurora. It is a small sheet, but very pungent. We wish it prosperity.

June 20: In Oswego today for the first time since the fire last February destroyed the main part of the town, I was surprised and pleased to see the improvements making. The large and substantial foundations of stone and brick now taking the place of the debris of the burnt district give promise that the enterprise of Oswego will be developed to such an extent that the trade of the rich country surrounding will be secured at home instead of seeking Aurora and other points. I do not see why Oswego cannot afford to supply the farmers with merchandise at as low rates as he can buy elsewhere. The promise of improvements now making is that Oswego intends to lead. Business is improving and all seem cheerful.

Yorkville: The farmers around here ought certainly to be thankful for never did corn or small grain look better.

Yesterday morning while Jim Carns, our omnibus driver, was waiting at Bristol Station, his horses took fright at a hand-car and ran away. Twelve or 14 passengers were mangled and the driver was thrown from his seat and killed--or doubtless would have been but for

the fact that neither passengers nor driver were in the vehicle and the horses were stopped before any damage was done.

The Bristol Base Ball Club was organized on Tuesday evening last.

A great many of our Kendall County people when in Chicago stop at the City Hotel and are always satisfied with the way that Ainsworth keeps a hotel. Friend Teller, of Oswego, always makes the "City" his stopping place, and is therefore stout and hearty Mr. Paul Hawley has commenced going to the same house and expects in a few months to outweigh Teller.

July -- 1867

July 18: A brush between horses owned by Mr. Wrenn of Aurora and Ed Mann of Oswego took place on Wrenn's track near Finley's, Aurora, on Saturday afternoon, last. Mann's horse was beaten.

Kendall County residents were invited to participate in the Kendall County Fair, scheduled for Oct. 8-10 at the fairgrounds in Yorkville. A total of \$1,000 in premiums and prizes were to be offered. Events scheduled included horse racing, livestock and produce judging, games, and other events.

July 25: Oswego is still making improvements and among them is a new cheese factory on the west side of the river. The old stone machine shop has been fitted up by Messrs Roe & Seely into a neat and thorough factory for the manufacture of cheese. These gentlemen are both from that renowned dairy district, Orange County, N.Y. Mr. Roe has been 12 years in the milk and cheese business and understand it in all its branches. On Tuesday we called on him and he showed the operations of the factory and gave us much general information in regard to dairies, etc. The factory commenced operation on the 6th day of May last and has been constantly at work since. They use 1,500 quarts of milk a day from about 175 cows. They do not work on shares as some factories do, but buy the milk for cash. [This is the home at the west end of the Oswego Bridge known today as Turtle Rock.]

The bridge crossing the river at this place has been condemned by the Highway Commissioners--the lower timbers having rotted very much. A new iron bridge is talked of to cost about \$13,000.

Main Street is alive with masons and carpenters getting up the new brick block, which is to be completed this fall.

L.N. Hall has his drug store fitted up almost as good as in the old place, and when he gets into his new store it will be perfectly splendid. Hall takes great interest in his business and will do well anywhere.

Mr. Fred Coffin dispenses groceries, etc. to the people as he has done these many years.

Some scamp entered the cheese factory through an open window on Monday night and stole some currency from the drawer. If it had been a thousand dollars he would have taken it all the same.

The worthy postmaster, Mr. Lawrence Rank, continues to place us under obligations by getting subscribers for our paper.

The Odd Fellows, since the fire, have met in the Mason's hall. The lodge is in a flourishing condition.

Wheat harvest has commenced, and there is promise of good grain.

Yorkville: A special meeting of the Kendall County Horse Protection Association was held at the Court House in Yorkville on Tuesday [July 23] to consider the claim of Charles Gray of Oswego, who has had a horse stolen.

The *Record* announced the members of the Kendall Base Ball Club's First Nine, including James Springer, F. Cook, N.G. Gable, H. Chapel, Jas. Springer, J. Beeman, T. Murley, A. Welch, W.M. Giesel, and S. Cook.

August -- 1867

Aug. 1: Last Friday a team and wagon load of coal backed off the Oswego bridge and one of the horses was killed and the other badly injured. The wagon was broken to pieces. The driver had driven up to the approach of the bridge and the horses were just on the bank when he stopped them for some purpose. The horse could not hold the load and went over the abutment.

Our farmers are now busy in the harvest fields gathering a good crop of wheat. We have heard different estimates made as to the yield per acre--some farmers not expecting more than 12 bushels while others expect twenty to twenty-five.

Aug. 15: To the disappointment of many, the yield of wheat this season in proportion to the straw is very light. The crop through the county will not average more than 12 bushels to the acre so many heads were blighted. Oats are heavy, and the amount raised in the county will be greater than at any previous season. Corn is suffering from drought, though in some parts of the county on Friday last, a good shower of rain fell.

Since the above was put in type we have had a glorious rain.

Aug. 22: In response to a gibe in the *Tama Union* that took *Record* Editor Marshall to task for including "three full columns" of baseball, Marshall replied on Aug. 22: "That's 'sarcasm' Brother Ingham. We fill our paper with matter that is interesting to our readers,

and not to self-glorification and extended puffs of the *New Covenant* and *Manford's Magazine*."

Aug. 29: Kendall County residents were warned to keep their weeds cut. A state law passed Feb. 9, 1867 requiring all persons to keep Canada thistles cut was reprinted on the *Record's* front page.

September -- 1867

Sept. 5: The station master at Montgomery, Charles M. Howard, was seriously hurt on Saturday last. He was preparing a car loaded with corn for the next passing freight train and arranging a link bold so that it would fall easily when the gravel train came upon the side track and bunted the car he was at work upon, bushing it upon him. As he was thrown down, his legs fall across the track and both were badly mangled below the knee. It was found necessary to amputate both of Mr. Howard's legs, one just below the knee, the other just above the ankle.

Married: Aug. 25 at Oswego, George W. Kimball and Miss Cora Minkler.

Died, on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 25, at the residence of L.S. Chittenden, Titus Howe Esq., aged 76 years. Mr. Howe was one of the oldest residents of Kendall County. He built the first dam at Yorkville, the site now owned by Messrs Black.

Sept. 12: Mr. Howard, the station master at Montgomery whose serious injuries we noted last week died on Monday. He was buried yesterday.

They have a base ball club in Newark. They played a game with the Sandwich Juniors last week and the result was a tie--62-62. A club has been formed near Pavilion, which we think will be a good one judging from the material in that section.

Sept. 26: At the meeting of the board of directors of the Ottawa, Oswego and Fox River Valley Rail Road: "A petition from the citizens of Unionville was presented requesting that the name of the station at the coal fields be "Streator."

The request was granted. The railroad was planned to connect St. Charles with the coal fields in the southern Fox Valley.

Federal engineers were working to survey the Fox River through Kendall County. "A report will be ready for Congress at its next session, when we may know something of the cost to make our river navigable. Lewis Steward Esq. Of Plano estimated that the dams and locks can be built for \$200,000 and is sanguine that the work will be done, as the improvement in the water power will more than pay the cost of the work. The Fox River Valley is sure to be a great manufacturing district at no distant day."

Married in Oswego Sept. 19th, at the residence of Charles Sutherland Esq., by the Rev. D.J. Baldwin, Mr. Antone Miller and Miss Louise Peters.

October -- 1867

Oct. 3: Flies for the past week have been perfectly ravenous and annoy horses and cattle very much, while in the house they are opposed to your taking an after dinner nap.

Tuesday was a very windy day, the dust blowing through the streets in clouds. Everything was full of dust, stores houses, eyes, hair, and victuals. On Monday morning there was a good deal of frost.

The Kendall County Agricultural Fair began Tuesday, Oct. 6, on the fairgrounds in Bristol Township near Bristol. "A fine brass band has been secured, and its music will add a new charm to the Fair," the *Record* promised.

An enraged sow attacked Oswego Township farmer Jake Deater when he attempted to shoo the pig out of his corn field. The pig severely injured the farmer before his son arrived and drove the animal off with the help of the family dog.

Oct. 17: Work has commenced on the new bridge at Oswego. It will be one of the finest bridges on the river. [The new iron bridge, the first metal bridge across the river at Oswego, cost \$17,000.]

November -- 1867

Nov. 7: We publish this week a letter from some friend in Oswego who did not send his name. We do not generally publish anonymous communications but as this contains nothing personal, we waive the rule. Write again, L. and send you name for our benefit alone. We want an Oswego correspondent.

Oswego is alive and is doing the best she can. More has been done the last summer in building than has been done in the past ten years. Six fine brick and stone front buildings have been erected and are now nearly complete. The builders are Messrs. Judson, Shepard, Chapman, Greenfield, Richards, and Hall. They will have the finest block in Kendall County.

We are also erecting a new Iron Bridge and expect to have it finished in about six weeks.

Mr. Jackson was here last week taking subscriptions for the FRVRR. He says our citizens have done much better than he expected. About eighteen thousand dollars has been subscribed in the town alone. Pitch in; Oswego will not be behind the times and we will soon be disturbed from our slumber by the rumbling of cars over the new road.

Yorkville: At last we have moved, and are proud of our new quarters. Our new office is a neat little one story brick, 22x40 feet, with a ceiling inside ten feet high. It was built by

Mr. Samuel Atkinson of Bristol, who has done his work well, rapidly and at a reasonable price. The building cost a little over \$800 and it will require some time to make the money to pay for it. We have made arrangements with Mr. Atkinson to build an addition on the rear of our building for a steam engine to propel power presses, when the Fox River Railroad is completed.

Nov. 14: Dr. Mudd, the Lincoln conspirator who is prisoner in the Dry Tortugas, faithfully attended the sick during the yellow fever epidemic there, all the other surgeons being prostrated. He did not lose a case, and in consideration of his services, efforts are being made to obtain a pardon for him.

At our town meeting last spring, it was voted to remodel and refit the old court house, and make a high school of it. In accordance with the vote, the committee has been busy for three or four weeks taking out the old seats, laying the floor, &c. They now have the new desks (Sherwood's Patent of Chicago) neatly and commodiously arranged. Prof. Thorp, the present teacher of the public school is to take charge of the new room.

The builders of the new block will be fortunate if it is not burned down before it is completed and notwithstanding the notices posted up at each front, prohibiting smoking in or about the buildings, spectators will go in with their pipes in full blast while the floor is covered with shavings and it is said if they are inquired of in regard to the notices the response is generally: "Oh, I'll be careful. I never set anything on fire yet."

The piers of the new bridge are now being put up, by J.W. Chapman, Esq., who is sub-contractor for this part of the work, and we will soon have a splendid Iron Bridge (King's Patent) which will excel any on the Fox River. [The tied arch (also called a bowstring arch) truss iron bridge was designed and built by the King Iron Bridge & Manufacturing Company of Cleveland, Ohio. The design was patented by the owner, Zenas King.]

The old courthouse will be refitted and a high school made of it. Prof. Thorpe will be in charge.

Mr. L.B. Judson dedicates his new hall in Oswego on the 27th inst., by a grand party.

Nov. 28: The long looked for and welcome rain has come at last and man and beast rejoice at the abundance of water where but a few days ago all was dry and discouraging. No doubt but the thirsty cattle on the prairies lowed a hymn of thanksgiving and the good housewife sang a cheerful song as she listened to the noisy fall of water into the empty cistern Never was rain so welcome.

The House Judiciary Committee issued a report declaring that President Andrew Johnson was guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors, and recommended he be impeached by the full house.

December -- 1867

Dec. 5: The plank and timber of the old bridge at Oswego is to be sold at auction on Saturday next at one o'clock afternoon.

Frescoers are at work patching up the ceiling of the Court room where the plastering has fallen, caused by the roof leaking. The ceiling and walls of the court house are all more or less weather stained by the leaky roof, and something should be done to prevent further damage.

On Thursday night last it snowed. Friday night was cold--very cold. The thermometer went down nearly to zero and on Saturday morning the river was frozen over above and below the dam.

Dec. 12: We have at last a genuine Oswego advertisement and we earnestly request our readers in that vicinity to give the advertiser, Mr. L.N. Hall, a liberal patronage that his neighbors may see that it is good to advertise and do likewise. Mr. Hall has a splendid new store and is fitting it up at great expense; he's an energetic young man and will fulfill his promises. Call and see him in the new block.

We noticed a long letter in the *Chicago Journal* of Friday on the currency theory from a correspondent at Oswego signing himself "L.R." It is an able letter and shows that Oswego may possess the ability for a future Secretary of the Treasury. "L.R." supports his case with elaborate argument for which we have not room. The scheme would entirely overthrow our present monetary system. [The article was probably written by Lorenzo Rank, who was soon to become the *Record's* regular Oswego correspondent.]

Dec. 25: According to custom, no paper will be issued from this office next week, as we wish to enjoy the holidays.

At a special town meeting in Oswego on Tuesday, an additional \$25,000 tax was voted to aid the F.R.V.R.R. Oswego is a live town on the railroad question.

A rainy, warm, slushy Christmas, ugh! It is a legendary day of snow and ice-skating and sleigh-riding, big fires, overcoats and furs. But such was not the Christmas 1867. The thermometer stood 50 degrees above zero and the rain fell like on an April day.

From the *Weekly Aurora*: A route for the Fox River Valley Railroad was surveyed from Montgomery to this place last Thursday coming up the narrow street or alley between River and Lake street and crossing Galena street west of the Huntoon House. We are informed that Chief Engineer Wilson, who had charge of the surveying party, which came here offered to take the contract for constructing the bridge across the river at Montgomery for \$14,000.

January

Jan. 2: No paper issued.

Jan. 9: Burglars entered Fred Coffin's store week before last through the window and carried off some two or three hundred dollars worth of goods. Thieves are getting plenty again.

A new Mormon Bible has just been published in Plano by a publishing committee composed of Elder Joseph Smith, Messrs. Israel L. Rogers and Ebenezer Robinson. It purports to be translated and corrected by the Spirit of Revelation through Joseph Smith Jr., the Seer, in pursuance of the commandment of God.

Jan. 16: About two inches of snow fell on Monday night, but the roads were so rough that it does not make sleighing.

The thermometer stood at 6 below zero on Sunday morning at eight o'clock and at seven o'clock Monday morning was 13 below--this was the coldest morning of the winter.

Jan. 23: Mr. D. Platt has resigned his position as postmaster at Plattville. He will please accept our thanks for many favors received through his hands.

Our sheriff, Mr. Seely, has two boarders for a short time. One, John Small, was arrested in Chicago last Friday and brought to Yorkville to be tried for stealing a horse from Charles Davis of Oswego. John Robinson, the other, is brought here for trial as being concerned in the robbery of Mr. Wormley's house last summer.

A party of engineers under direction of the Fox River R.R. Company is surveying a new route for the [rail]road from Millford following the river bank by Post's dam and on to Yorkville, there to connect with the survey already made. It is said that this route is as short and cheaper than the line running across country back from the river, that there is less grading, and the right of way can be had much cheaper.

Oyster Pie: Strain the liquor from the oysters, and put it on to boil with butter and pepper and a thickening of breadcrumbs and milk well beaten together, and after boiling a few minutes throw in the oysters. Let them remain five minutes, take them off, and when warm add the beaten yolks of three eggs. Line a butter dish with a rich paste and fit with white paper or a clean napkin to support a lid of paste and bake it. When lightly browned take of the lid, remove the napkin, pour in the oysters, set a few minutes in the oven, and send to table hot.

Jan. 30: The thermometer on Tuesday morning at seven o'clock showed 16 below zero.

February -- 1868

Feb. 6: L.N Hall at Oswego has a magnificent stock of Valentines. Young ladies and gentlemen, call and see.

On Monday morning (Feb. 1) the thermometer showed 18° below zero--the coldest this winter: J.R. Marshall

Married at Oswego, January 30th, 1868 by Rev. R. Rudd, Mr. Henry Coulter of Jackson N.Y. and Miss Phebe T. Small, daughter of Alexander Small, Esq., of Oswego.

Feb. 13: Mr. J.A. Judson and H. Howell of Aurora have opened a first class restaurant and confectionary store in the basement of Judson's building. The traveling public will be served with warm meals and a good dish of oysters at any time by calling at the new restaurant. [James Augustus Judson was L.B. Judson's son]

The young folks are having a good time sleigh-riding generally, we should judge as we constantly hear the jingling of bells and their merry voices.

The Odd Fellows occupied their new hall over the drug store last Tuesday evening; they have as good a room as can be found west of Chicago, all newly furnished.

We expect some news in regard to the Rail Road as Mr. Chapman went to Ottawa the first of this week. The greatest part of the subscribers are paying the one percent on their subscriptions to defray the necessary expenses.

Feb. 20: Mr. J.W. Chapman has returned [from Ottawa] and gives us some cheering news in regard to the Rail-road. It is no longer looked upon as a speculative matter, but a certainty. Let every one keep working and helping the great enterprise, for now is the time or never. If it is allowed to grow cold it will never survive.

Feb. 27: L.N. Hall, Oswego--this gentleman deserves more than a passing notice for the manner in which he has fitted up a drug store in Oswego. We can say with truth that it is the neatest and best drug store this side of Chicago--not excepting Aurora...He is a young man barely out of his minority, and displays business qualities as a merchant of twenty years' experience....If the people of Oswego and vicinity do not make him rich they do not deserve a railroad or a name as a town.

March -- 1868

March 5: The *Record* carried a number of articles about the pending impeachment of President Andrew Johnson by Congress.

The most severe snowstorm known in this section for years came upon us Sunday last. The snow fell unceasingly in a perfect cloud all the afternoon and part of the night and at night the wind blew terrifically, piling up the snow in drifts. On Monday night the

weather grew colder and Tuesday morning the thermometer showed 12° below zero--
March has come in like a lion; we look for it to go out like a lamb.

March 12: The Freshet of '68.

The "breaking up" of 1868 has been unusually severe and disastrous in the destruction of property. Last year our freshet began about the 12th or 13th of February and this year it took place on Friday and Saturday, the 6th and 7th of March. It commenced raining on Thursday afternoon and continued till Saturday night, carrying off the snow into the streams and raising them rapidly. We have heard that one of the piers of the new bridge at Oswego was badly damaged by the ice, and that travel over it was impeded for some time till the beams were shored up by blocks. Post's bridge across the river opposite Plano was carried away, piers and all. The greatest loss, however, to our county is the destruction of the new bridge at Milford [Millington], which was only finished last summer at heavy cost. Three spans of this bridge were lost, and as it was built mostly by private subscription, the damage is severely felt.

The hedge plants advertised by Mr. Havenhill in another column are the finest lot we have ever seen.

March 19: it is estimated it will cost \$3,000 to repair the Milford bridge.

March 26: The Latter-Day Saints Herald, Joseph Smith's paper, published at Plano, has a circulation of about 1,500.

Many of our subscribers complain that they do not receive their papers regularly, and sometimes not at all. Especially is this the case at Pavilion and Lewis post offices. The fault is not ours. The papers are mailed regularly every Thursday and postmasters must be remiss in their duties if the papers fail to reach their destinations.

Mr. John Chapman of Oswego has been informing the editor of the *Weekly Aurora* that everything is working right so far, for the construction of the Fox River R.R. in an independent manner. Mr. Chapman lifts a lead from the minds of the people. They will now be satisfied that the F.R.V.R.R. will be built or, that it will not be built. This is evident. Mr. C. and several others have stated several times during the last two years that the road was a success, but the thermometer of public opinion from a fever heat has gone down and down till it is now below the freezing point, and unless something is done this spring that is tangible, it will get as far below zero that no assertion of Mr. Chapman's will affect it.

April -- 1868

April 2: The weather for the past week has been splendid, and farmers are in high glee at the fine prospects for a pleasant season.

April 9: In Oswego there was some excitement. The caucus on Saturday split for political reasons--some not wanting to go into a union caucus--and two tickets were nominated--both Republican--one headed by L.B. Judson for supervisor and the other with John S. Seely for supervisor. Part of both tickets were elected. Mr. Judson received 164 votes and Mr. Seely 118. The following are the new town officers: L.B. Judson, supervisor; L.N. Hall, town clerk; Joseph Ervin, collector; David Hall, assessor; A. Edson, road commissioner.

April 16: There was a right smart fall of snow on Sunday morning last, and farmers have not been so pert at their work since. The robins have turned to "blue" birds in consequence of the cold and many of our citizens have to take their gardens in over night to prevent the green peas, radishes, etc. which they planted through misplaced confidence, from freezing or taking cold.

April 23: Lewis Steward of Plano was one of the vice presidents at the Democratic State Convention at Springfield.

The CB&Q Railroad Company have finally commenced work for laying double track from Mendota eastward. They have 13 miles of double track from Chicago to Lyons, leaving about 7 miles to complete a double track well ballasted road from Chicago to Mendota.

April 30: The body of one of the men who was drowned at Aurora a few days ago was found in the river at Oswego on Wednesday morning. It was taken to Aurora.

An advertisement in the *Record* headed "Special Notice!" announced that "J.A. Kenny has bought the entire stock of goods of G.H. Teller consisting of dry goods and groceries, boots and shoes, crockery and glassware, clothing, hats, caps, Yankee notions, and many other kinds of goods too numerous to mention such as are kept in a well selected general assorted store. I will continue the business at the same old stand, known for several years as the New Stone Store in Oswego. "Live and Let Live" will be my motto to the last.

May -- 1868

May 7: We would call the attention of our readers to the new advertisement of N. Goldsmith & Co., in another column. They have just opened a new clothing place in the new Union Block, Oswego.

Married: On the 30th inst., at the residence of Jas. G. Barr Esq., by Rev. Chas. Button, Wm. L. Fowler Esq., and Mrs. Martha B. Murphy, both of Oswego. [She was the widow of Wright Murphy, and the mother of Robinson Barr Murphy.]

May 14: Kendall County residents were reminded to pay their Internal Revenue Taxes for the year 1869. Taxes payable in Kendall County would be submitted to Daniel Haigh, deputy collector, at Bristol on May 18 and 19.

May 21: J.W. Helme Esq., well known in this County and throughout this judicial district, died at his residence in Oswego on Friday last, (the 15th) aged 76 years. He was at one time Judge of our county and has been for some time Master in Chancery. His funeral services were observed in the Baptist Church, Oswego, on Sunday last. He was buried in the cemetery near Bristol Station.

May 28: The record reported that President Andrew Johnson had been acquitted by the U.S. Senate following his impeachment trial in Washington, D.C. "In consequence of the acquittal, Secretary Stanton has resigned his position as Secretary of War, and turned the office over to the President. We are in the hands of the Phillatlear."

June -- 1868

June 4: Under the headline "The Law in Relation to Cattle Running at Large," the *Record* reported from Oswego "That from and after the first day of March, A.D. 1868, and for all time thereafter, it shall not be lawful for the owners of domestic animals of the species of horse, cattle, mule, ass, sheep, hog, and goat to suffer the same to run at large in the county.

The ladies of Oswego will give a strawberry festival on Friday eve, June 5th, at Judson's Hall, in that place. Proceeds, for the purpose of refurnishing the Presbyterian church. All are cordially invited to attend.

In Oswego on Saturday we called on J.A. Kenney Esq., who keeps the largest and best store in that town. We found him busy, and with a store full of first-class goods. Our readers should patronize him liberally as he advertises in the *Record*.

General Schofield has been confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of War. He was in his youth a resident of Kendall County, his father preaching in Bristol many years ago.

The *Aurora Herald* of last week says: "The beautiful Scotch Granite monument, that has been so much admired by our citizens at the works of Mr. Andrus on River Street, was sold one day this week to Moses Cherry Esq., of AuSable Grove for the sum of \$600. We had hoped that this rare specimen of granite might have been kept for our own Cemetery."

Oswego, Ills. SPECIAL NOTICE! Changed Hands. J.A. Kenny has bought the entire stock of goods of G.H. Teller, consisting of dry goods and groceries, boots and shoes, crockery and glassware, clothing, hats, caps, Yankee notions, and many other kinds of goods too numerous to mention, as are kept in a well selected general assorted store. I will continue the business at the same old stand, known for several years as the New Stone Store, in Oswego, Ill.

Base ball hereabouts is played out. None of the clubs have reorganized as yet. It was run in the ground last year--they played too often, too hard, and too long. Croquet is the game

now--the boys find it more pleasant to play with the girls than to be running about with a great big lot of men.

June 11: "General Schofield, the newly confirmed Secretary of War, is the son of Lott Schofield, an old Baptist minister of Kendall County." -- *Aurora Beacon*

This will be news to our friend Lott Scofield, who will feel justly proud of so promising a son. If we mistake not, the Secretary of War is an older man than Lott. The father of General Schofield is the Rev. James Schofield, formerly of Bristol, and who moved to Missouri last summer. Lott is from another branch of the family, we believe.

Many of the leading merchants in Yorkville, Bristol Plano, and Oswego advertise liberally with us, and pay us promptly and willingly--they are the life of the County and do much for the prosperity of our village, but there is a lack of manufacturing and professional advertising that will give people the idea that Kendall County is nothing but a purely agricultural district, while the truth is that we have in our borders a variety of manufactures, trades, and professions that do not appear through the County paper.

Yorkville: The dam has been so far repaired that the Yorkville Flouring Mill has commenced running again under the management of Mr. W.J. Chapman. During the late suspension, the mill has been thoroughly repaired and put to better working order than ever before. All the machinery for grinding, bolting, etc., is as good as can be.

The trial of Jeff Davis has again been postponed, till November. No valid reason is assigned. If the Government and Mr. Chase think the people of the United States are to be fooled with month by month, they are mistaken. What do we care for Davis! Let them discharge him, and not carry on the farce of pretending trial any longer. Nothing will be don with him in any event. Treason is not to be "made odious" in this manner, it appears.

June 18: Fell asleep in Jesus, June 11th, 1868, at her residence near Oswego, Christine, wife, of G.B. Boesenecker, aged 31 years, two months, and four days. She embraced religion about ten years ago and united with the Evangelical church of which she remained a faithful member until her death. Husband, Child, and many friends mourn her death.

There will be a strawberry and ice cream festival at Judson's Hall, Oswego, on Tuesday of next week (June 23d), for the benefit of the Congregational Church. The committee is making preparation for a good time. All are invited. Admission to hall 10 cents.

The firm of Judson & Howell of Oswego has dissolved partnership. Mr. Judson, son of L.B., continues the business.

On Saturday next, the 20th, there will be a public sale of horses, wagons farming tools, etc. at the residence of L.B. Judson, Esq., in the village of Oswego.

June 25: The Sons of Temperance will hold a strawberry and ice cream festival at Judson's Hall, Oswego, Ill., Tuesday evening, June 30. All are invited to attend. Refreshments served as called for at reasonable rates.

After a few days of intense heat, the thermometer fell below temperate and thick clothing was again donned. Saturday and Sunday were cold days and on Monday morning a light frost surprised the growing crops. No injury is done that we have heard of.

July -- 1868

July 9: The weather for the past two weeks has been unmistakably warm--in fact, we may say without exaggeration that it has been hot! With the thermometer high up in the nineties, manual or brain labor is an irksome task. Saturday, the 4th, was one of the hottest days of the season.

Mr. James Lyons, now living in Bristol, was a soldier in the 89th Illinois and served in that regiment until his health failed, when he was transferred to the invalid corps. At the close of the war, he was discharged but his constitution was broken and he has become wholly unable to work and has a large family dependent on him for their sustenance. He has tried hard to keep work, but from repeated bleeding at the lungs he has been obliged to give it up. Dr. Ballou, the government pension agent at Sandwich, has examined him and says he is entitled to a full pension. The necessary papers have been made out and forwarded to Washington. Dr. Ballou says Lyons' left lung is entirely gone and that he is utterly unfit for work. It will be some time before he can realize any money from the pension (if it is allowed) and in the meantime he is depending on the charities of the people.

Here now is a worthy case for our citizens. He lost his health in the cause of the country, and shall he and his family suffer on that account? Let it not be said that our country's defenders shall come to want in the loyal county of Kendall.

July 16: The road up the river runs along through a very fine section of farming county. The growing crops look fine. The grass is already fast falling before the rapid click click of the mowers. Farmers are evidently living up to the old saying, "Make hay while the sun shines." Corn is looking splendid and promises a bountiful yield. The grain sways back and forth, staggering under its precious load, fast ripening for the golden harvest time. All through the trip we saw the fruitage about to be garnered to gladden the sturdy, honest farmer in the joyous harvest home. But enough of this, The county is full of just such life, just such homely joys, just such sturdy toil, just such abundant rewards.

Oswego is a fine little town, just back from the river on a bluff. It is without a railroad, and quiet. Neither screaming whistle nor rushing iron steed disturbs its serene repose. There is underneath the surface, life. Oswego is not one of those do nothing dead towns. Business is active. Stocks are above par. Life, and with it, trade runs quietly but surely. There is not yet that enterprise which should mark every western town. There is not that launching out into new channels of business, which might be. There is not that go-ahead attentiveness which builds up a town. Thus Oswego remains what it was yesterday and

will be tomorrow, unless its people wake up and work more earnestly to build up their own interests. It is not always wise to venture, but to venture nothing is to have nothing. These country villages may do a big trade, may live fast, may see their streets teeming with activity, but they must first take the right steps to secure the desired results.

When our merchants furnish as good quality goods, and as great a variety as can be obtained in Aurora, then the trade will be diverted from Aurora and stop nearer home. It will take capital. It will take business enterprise, but it will guarantee success. Let our merchants determine to keep this county trade at home. Let them sell quality goods. Let them make their wares known to the people and let them grow rich.

Oswego has recently shown a commendable enterprise in erecting a fine large brick block. This block contains six large elegant stores. All of these but one are already in successful operation, their occupants are undoubtedly getting rich fast.

As an evidence of what may be done we mention an instance. Mr. D. M. Haight came to Oswego in April and occupied one of the new stores. The first month he did a small trade. The second month his trade amounted to nearly \$2,000. The third month, June, it was increased more than a thousand dollars. Mr. Haight is a gentleman and understands his business. He keeps a splendid assortment of goods and, is well repaid. One gentleman informed us that his trade, amounting to about \$500 per year, formerly went to Aurora. Since the recent enterprise facilities have opened it has stopped there. Others will do likewise.

Oswego now offers fine inducements for trade. The Goldsmith Brothers in the clothing line are not to be excelled, and are perfect gentlemen. They have a large stock of goods and keep up with the times.

L. N. Hall has one of the neatest and most commodious drug stores outside of Chicago. Such enterprise as he has managed must meet with abundant success.

Across the way Mr. J. A. Kenney keeps a well-selected stock of dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes. Mr. Kenney knows how to wait upon his customers in a gentlemanly manner.

August -- 1868

Aug. 13: The call of the town committee for the Republican voters of Oswego to assemble at Judson's Hall last Saturday evening for the purpose of organizing a Grant and Colfax club was answered by a large number of her citizens. L.B. Judson was chosen temporary president and C.G. Doud secretary. On motion, J.S. Seely, L. Rank, L.N. Hall, D.B. Jewell, and E. Morgan were appointed to draft resolutions and report on a permanent organization....The Democrats of this town are organized and at work. They have a sign post up in front of their rooms with the following inscription: Democratic Club rooms. One currency and Equal taxation for all."

Aug. 20: The Democracy of Kendall County met in mass convention at the Court House in Yorkville in Saturday morning, August 13th, at eleven o'clock. William Cowdrey of Oswego was called to the chair. John Cliggitt of Oswego was elected secretary.

Last Sunday, Mr. O.E. Judson had his hay stacks destroyed by fire, and one side of his barn badly damaged. Had not the wind been favorable, he must have lost his barn and grain stacks. It is supposed some one had been smoking and a spark of fire from his pipe or cigar did the mischief. His loss is about \$300. Let farmers and all take warning and not go near their barns or stacks while smoking. [Orville E. Judson was L.B. Judson's brother]

September -- 1868

Sept. 26: The *Record* reported a heavy frost and a fair amount of ice formed on Sept. 24.

The second reunion of the 36th Volunteer Infantry Regiment--nicknamed the Fox River Regiment--was set for Oct. 7, 1868 in Elgin. "All persons ever connected with the Regiment are invited to be present."

October -- 1868

Oct. 1: Haight's' store [located at the northeast corner of Main and Washington streets] was entered and about \$250 worth of butter (the most of it already prepared for shipment), taken therefrom. The entrance was effected by a boring process...These robbers better not come a second time for one of the clerks will hereafter sleep on the premises. Also a buggy of the lightning rod company disappeared on the same night.

Oct. 15: Ku Klux Outrages in Ottawa: *Kendall County Record* editor J.R. Marshall reported what he termed "A series of the most detestable and diabolical outrages that have ever been perpetrated in Illinois" happened when a mob of toughs attacked a Republican parade in Ottawa. Several Republican marchers were seriously injured, including two residents of Lisbon in Kendall County.

On Oct. 15, 1868, Justice of the Peace W.L. Fowler married Isaac S. Bartlett and Miss Alice Minkler, both of Oswego.

Oct. 29: In an ad in the *Record*, J.A. Kenney announced he had moved his business from the stone building at Main and Jackson in Oswego to "the second room in the south end of the new brick block, where I will be glad to see one and all of many old friends and hope to make many new ones." Kenney advertised salt by the barrel, nice beaver overcoats from \$15-\$25, and the highest market prices in cash paid for butter, eggs, and lard.

November -- 1868

Kendall County voted overwhelmingly for Republican U.S. Grant for President. 1,935 Republican ballots were cast compared with 535 Democratic ballots.

Nov. 19: Lorenzo Rank writes his first column as reporter for the *Kendall County Record*.

Nov. 26: George W. Kimball last week hired a horse and buggy to a man to go to Kendall and back. Not returning on time, George started out looking for him--finding he had not been at Kendall, George went to Joliet where he found the horse and buffalo robe; buggy, horse and man are missing.

December -- 1868

Dec. 17: The mercury on Friday morning stood at 17 degrees Fahrenheit below zero.

Til Strossman, who for a number of years has kept the well known milliner shop over Sutherland's Store and was familiar to everybody is no more; she got married and moved to Aurora.

1869

January

Jan. 7: Oswego has quietly drifted through the holidays...We have passed into the year '69 without effecting any apparent change. Our people look, act, and live just about the same as they did in the old year. A few boys resolved to quit chewing tobacco on New Year's day and nobly did they stick to their resolution until late in the forenoon of the day; one even resisted the temptation to take a chaw until after dinner.

A general revival of the school took place the three days previous to the holidays, which I understand was very satisfactory to all concerned. The high School also had an exhibition which was much enjoyed.

The Calico Ball on Christmas night was a very pleasant affair to those who love to dance; the streaked and striped patterns were mostly wore, which by the way were not in harmony with my taste. There was also a kind of one-horse ball got up on New Year's night.

A certain Miss Jacobs, a lady who during the war spent a portion of her time in doing hospital labor in the Potomac army, who is now engaged in the Sunday School cause, addressed, last evening, in the Baptist church, quite a respectable audience, largely composed of Sunday school children upon that subject.

Jan. 21: One reason why I am in favor of woman suffrage is that it would stimulate them for a more practical education, it would direct their thoughts into new channels, open a

field of new scenery, it would create in them new desires and new aspirations; all this would follow from sheer necessity.

Wollenweber's place has changed hands, Geo. Troll is the new proprietor.

Jan. 28: We learn that a contract was made between the Directors and Oliver Young, Esq., of the Vermilion Coal Company, for building the line from Streator to Geneva, a distance of about 71 miles, the work to be commenced as soon as certain conditions precedent are fulfilled by the railroad Company, and to be completed ready for business the whole length, within eighteen months....The object of the Directors to build this road and run it independently, with a view to making it a valuable road to the public and a paying one to the stockholders.

Attention Farmers!

Go to the Oswego Mills to get your grists ground. We have just put in a large Sandwich Corn-Sheller into our Mill for the accommodation of those who have no convenient way of shelling corn. Bring along your corn and wheat grists and you will receive prompt attention and dissatisfaction guaranteed. No extra charge will be made for shelling.

C.W. Switzer & Bro.

Jan. 28: There seems to be a great deal more noise connected with the liquor traffic than there used to be. I have participated in a great many drunks, and of all sizes, but never have heard such noise as now-a-days. Whether this owing to the people or liquor, I am not prepared to say; think there is something explosive in the liquor; wonder if it is not mixed with nitro-glycerin.

Late on Saturday night, a scene of the practical workings of woman's rights was exhibited--a street row--those engaged all more or less "how came you so," in the thickest of it were two ladies showing just as much courage as anybody. There was no striking. All conducted on the pulling and hauling order; for this reason I could not say whether or not ladies can fight, but can vouch that they can make a heap of noise.

Mr. Wilcox is delivering a course of lectures on temperance. He too is very noisy. Seems to be trying to counteract with noise the noise resulting from the liquor traffic.

February -- 1869

Feb. 4: The dance at Chapman's Hall on Friday night was a pleasant affair but there was an afterpiece of a quite contrary nature. It seems Mark Chapman refused to sell at ticket to Bob Jolly. Bob, being highly incensed, at not being able to dance and share in the fun, provided himself with a club and waited for Mark outside. As he came out on the sidewalk, he was set upon by Bob and pretty severely beaten. Bob is under arrest.

Geo. Haag was in town Sat. night and got drunk, not an unusual thing, but on this occasion he rather over did it. It affected him peculiarly stimulating extraordinarily his

business faculties. He just delighted to do business--a horse trade was the consequence--it proved to be (to him) a damaging one--a writ of replevin [an action to recover personal property said or claimed to be unlawfully taken] followed.

Gordon Hopkins died last Friday at the advanced age of 72 years; sick but a day or two.

Feb. 11: The all-absorbing topic of interest to the people living along the banks of the Fox River, and to those who live within ten miles of that stream is again renewed and seems nearer a culminating point than ever before. We allude to the building of the Fox River Valley [rail] road, of course.

Robert Jolly, who was under arrest for assaulting M.C. Chapman, has left for parts unknown.

George Haag and J.H. Gray have settled their suit in regard to the horse trade without any trial. I understand that George has joined the Sons of Temperance.

The monthly Sunday School Union Concert was held in the Church occupied by the Methodists last Sunday evening--a large congregation present, more than could be comfortably seated.

Feb. 18: Nothing has occurred different from the ordinary routine of things except the movement made in the temperance cause. First there was a corporation which was in session two days. I did not get a report of the proceedings. Its object, as near as I could learn, is to organize a religious political party, making the temperance question the main issue. Meetings were held evenings, and a number of those in attendance delivered themselves of speeches, some of which were rather intemperate.

J.C. Stoughton spoke here on temperance Sunday afternoon. The meeting was to be at the Baptist church but the trustees of said church opposed that part of it, so it was held in the temperance hall. Stoughton is a very good speaker. He also made an explanation concerning certain charges made against him while Chaplain of the 127th Reg., Ill Vol.

Advertisement: Oswego: Take Notice.

J.A. Kenney!

I have moved my stock of Goods to the Second room in the South end of the new brick block where I will be glad to see one and all of my old friends and hope to make many new ones. I have just received a new and large stock of fall and winter goods, which will be sold as cheap as the cheapest. My stock in part consists of dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes, hats, caps, Yankee notions. Also a full line of First-Class groceries, crockery, and glassware; salt by the pound or barrel.

Feb. 25. The *Record* reported that the remains of John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, had been released to his brother, Edwin Booth by order of President Andrew Johnson.

March -- 1869

March 4: In view of the approaching corporation election, a meeting was held in Chapman's Hall a week ago last Friday evening for the purpose of harmonizing the conflicting elements on the liquor question. The extremists from either side were poorly represented and the conservatives had it pretty much their own way.

Oliver H. Sherwood was buried last Sunday. Aged 47 years. So we go.

March 11: No Oswegoan expects to get into President Grant's Cabinet.

N. Goldsmith & Bro. have closed their store in this town. What goods there remained they removed to Aurora.

March 18: The old folks' ball last week, although not as large as anticipated, was otherwise an entire success.

The meeting of the new temperance party last night was pretty much wholly occupied in making speeches; the most of which were of a denunciatory nature, especially on the side of the conservatives. The manner and spirit in which at least one of them debated himself was hurting their cause.

March 25: Died: Monday, March 15, 1869, Warren Morgan, son of E. [Ebenezer] Morgan Esq. He was 18 years of age and died of congestion of the lungs at the residence of his father in Oswego township.

April -- 1869

April 1: Next Saturday is to be our corporation election. The question of license or prohibition, by long usage, is now recognized as the standing issue in such contests; nothing else is mentioned or taken into consideration, it seems that no other interest needs a corporate government. I have been trying hard to get correct information in regard to the doings connected with this election, and have made inquiry to the effect on both sides and of men whom I believed to be posted, but the answer was invariably, "don't know." Judging from their wise look and the manner in which such answer was given, it would appear that a great deal of significance was attached to that simple "don't know." It reminds me very much of the old Know-Nothing times of '53. According to my humble opinion this tendency to secret political working is fraught with danger, and therefore have refused to identify myself with either one or the other and owing to this position I am deprived of nearly all information in connection with this interesting election.

The Methodists are again occupying their own church.

The funerals during the last week were a child from Batavia; Levi Cowan, aged 64; and James Marquis of Aurora, about 30 years of age.

The firm of Richards & Son has been changed to Richards, Edson & Co.

Charles Danforth has purchased a farm near Montgomery.

A controversy as to whether Mr. Taylor or Mr. Goodier shall occupy the old court house for a select school is now on the carpet. So far it has been confined to the school directors, certain trustees, and the immediate friends of the respective teachers, but there is danger of its becoming general.

April 8: Last Saturday was our corporation election. When we touch the affairs of the corporation all party divisions are extinguished, all political ties broken; it is the Finnegans versus Temperance and vice versa. Results of election--a Finnegan victory.

April 15: Farley has commenced active operation in the lightning rod business. Several houses in the town were rodded last week, among which are Snook's, Bunn's, and Wollenweber's.

Dudley and also a Herald man were down from Aurora last week looking after their interest in the newspaper line.

A Railroad Ball is advertised for next Friday evening. I presume a Railroad Ball will differ from other balls on time being much faster, about 40 miles an hours, there may also be longer trains, more steam generated, more dust kicked up than there is at ordinary balls.

Snowed here nearly all day April 13, cold this morning.

April 22: Sunday afternoon about half after five, Oswego was visited by a hurricane. The damaged caused by it, although considerable, was not of a serious nature. Mrs. Christable Brown's stable was blown to the ground; no injury was done to Earl Sutherland's horses that were in it. Loucks' sheepyard was damaged and some damage done to other out buildings. VanEvra also sustained some damage to our buildings and fences. Butch Smith's tight board fence was pretty much all wrecked or blown down. The back addition to the VanSickle house (unoccupied) was demolished.

License to sell liquor under the new administration are \$100 per annum. No gaming of any kind is permitted in such establishments.

The postmaster is selling the new style of postage stamps. [In 1868, the Post Office contracted with the National Bank Note Company to produce new stamps with a variety of designs that came out in 1869 including the Pony Express, the S.S. Adriatic, a locomotive, and the landing of Christopher Columbus. The unconventional stamps proved unpopular with a population who was accustomed to stamps bearing classic

portrayals of Washington, Franklin and other forefathers. They were recalled with a year by the Post Office Department.]

The organization of the Oswego manufacturing company is about completed--the stock will be in the market in a few days.

The Railroad Ball musically and fashionably considered was a great success.

NaAuSay: This town had something of a time with the Copperheads at the town meeting last week. A few renegade Republicans after helping to nominate the Republican ticket and expressing great satisfaction that it was just the thing, worked slyly and underhandedly for the Copperhead ticket. They succeeded in defeating the Republican nominee for Collector and our worthy candidate for Supervisor was only elected by some 12 majority. The copperhead candidate was a Scotchman. Has only recently become a citizen and is reported to have said that a Union soldier who went south to fight was as bad as a Rebel, and that Republican governments had proved to be failures, and Monarchical governments were the best in the world.

April 29: George Parker is building a large barn on his farm near the Depot [then located where Light Road now crosses the CB&Q main line] and has a number of the building mechanics employed.

Mr. White Feather, a Shawnee Indian, will deliver a lecture on Indian life, customs, &c., on Wednesday evening.

May -- 1869

May 6: The other night a couple of dogs went across the river and killed about 15 of Roberts' sheep and more or less wounded about as many more; which acct has not improved the reputation of dogs.

White Feather did not secure a large audience. His lecture and performance were however quite interesting.

Tomorrow evening a blind man is to lecture on temperance.

A miserable piece of vandalism was perpetrated yesterday; that large, noble and widespreading willow tree on Main street, nearly opposite the Congregational Church was cut down. Such acts of despoiling the beauty of the town cannot be too much condemned.

Some of the officers of the O.O. & F.R.V.R.R. are now in town for the purpose, I understand, of arranging the final conditions between the company and the Town of Oswego.

May 13: The Illinois Press Association--A Swindle Exposed

While the Illinois Press Association have been indulging in an excursion to Mobile and other Southern localities, it turns out that about one-third of the excursionists never had any connection with the press, and are consequentially imposters. For this outrage the officers of the so-called "Press Association" must be held responsible.

May 20: The Great Cow Rebellion

The great sensation of Oswego last week was the cow rebellion. It happened this way: The corporation powers that be ordained that all cattle should be prohibited from running at large in the village streets. A lot of cows soon were in the pound. Cow owners were filled with indignation, denouncing it as a piece of highhanded legislation, a crushing down of the poor, etc. The government backed down. The cows are now enjoying the liberty of the streets. As for myself in that struggle, I was on the side of the cow; am too much of a calf, that is, like milk too well to go back on her.

Uncle Doud, one of our oldest settlers died very suddenly while on a visit at Amboy. His age was 77 years. His remains arrived on the 2 o'clock train May 18, after which the funeral took place. And so we go.

May 27: Unusual quietness has been reigning in Oswego the last week; no public doings of any kind.

A law suit in regard to the guarantee of the payment of a note was tried yesterday. The parties were P.G. Hawley and others plaintiffs, and Frank Goodwin defendant. The charge of venue was taken from Esq. Burr to Esq. Fowler, the verdict was rendered in favor of the defendant.

June -- 1869

June 3: Absolutely nothing occurred during the past week worth mentioning, there was rather more than the usual number of drunks or if not more they were at least of a better quality.

On Thursday evening last was commenced the suite of Lauriston Walker against Wm. Noble Davis to recover for the loss of cattle by plaintiff from a disease said to have been conveyed by Texas cattle belonging to Major Davis. This suit was commenced last fall, and is one of great moment to Davis, as these were several parties who lost cattle in the same manner who will probably claim damages of the plaintiff in this suit is successful.

June 10: Quietude pervaded during the past week. The Walker-Davis cattle suit supplies a part of the street talk.

A little disagreement between the town authorities and a few individuals about the drinking of whiskey occurred one afternoon. It was claimed on the one hand that in this land of liberty a man had the right to drink all the whiskey he had a mind to, provided he

pays for it; that all laws calculated to abridge this right were clearly unconstitutional and null and void; that Oswego was not much of a place and its city fathers no very great men. On the other hand it was held that the power existed in the town government to terminate a spree after it having been kept up a reasonable time.

June 17: Geo. Parker is building a new house for a residence, which when completed will be one of the nicest in this part of the country.

John Young is getting celebrated for building the iron post door-yard fence--he is putting them up for Coffin and Murdock.

Judson has moved his barn out of town. Considering the size, 35x75, it was rather a big move and proved very successful. In order to get it through Moonlight avenue, the row of Locust trees adorning the south side of it had to be cut down.

A three-wheel Velocipede was in town and its working qualities were exhibited. By careful management and by going very slow, it could be propelled over some portions of our sidewalks; and by the way the most of the sidewalks all over town are very much out of repairs; in some places they endanger a person's life and skirts by walking over them, especially is this the case about the postoffice.

June 24: Farley has moved his office to the Kendall House.

Bushnell, Cameron, and another man of Ottawa were in town one day last week looking after the interests of the O.O. & F.R.V.R.R. Co.

A yearling bull, the property of Abe Emmons, was killed by lightning during the Friday storm.

Major Townsend, an ex-sheriff of Kendall county, spent the Sunday with his friends in Oswego.

An Aurora Auctioneer was in town last Saturday selling clothing, &c.

The new mail arrangement displeases everybody. It causes the carrier an extra and special trip; it gives the business men insufficient time to answer their letters, and it interferes with postmaster's quietly enjoying his dinner.

Owing to the state of the weather the Clergy had to preach to slim congregations on Sunday forenoon.

Much foggy during last night. No rain today up to now.

July -- 1869

July 1: The past week has principally been spent in grumbling and fault-finding, not only were chronic grumblers busy but everybody else was more or less grumbling; the general cause for grumbling was the weather, but there were also numerous special causes furnishing food for grumblers.

July 8: The term of school expired last Friday on the afternoon of which a public examination was held. From outside information and appearances, I am warranted in saying that the term just closed was a prosperous one and gave general satisfaction. The teachers employed in the school were Fanny Porter, Mary E. Murphy and Florence C. Child. Mr. Goodier's term of select school also expired on the same day.

Probably owing to the approach of the 4th, a good deal of hilarity, stimulated by whiskey and lager has been manifested among a certain class during the week; on one occasion, young Aleck Dano got his countenance disfigured, caused by bringing it in contact with Earl Sutherland's fist or boot.

Some boys more patriotic than honest broke during last night a light out of Coffin's store window, and stole some fire crackers.

A large flag is suspended across the street from the Drug store to Coffin's and the cannon is fired on the old National lot.

I suppose you have been informed of the tornado which struck Charles Suydam's place in the town of NaAuSay, demolishing his barn and out buildings, and a portion of his house and orchard on Friday last; and by the way, William Cooney received some slight damage to his buildings.

July 15: On Monday afternoon we drove up to Oswego to see how our neighbors were prospering these dull times. On the road, special attention was paid to the growing crops. We could see nothing anywhere to discourage the farmers between Bristol and Oswego. The corn looked very fine, as clean as it ever is. Wheat appeared to be better than average and we hear of no rust to injure it. Mr. Munday was cutting a field of barley, which stood magnificently. Charley Roberts was just going into his barley as we drove along but the rain that came up in the afternoon stopped operations. The farmers along this road have every reason to rejoice at their good fortune while so many of their fellow laborers south of them are in the weeds and water.

Driving into Oswego we saw the head of A. B. Smith at a window in Union block, and called at his office to hear the news. A. B. complains of dull times, is sanguine the railroad will soon be through the town and the land will be worth more. He took us down to see the "learned hog" on exhibition there but the show was closed and "we couldn't see it." A clerk at Hall's drug store suggests that learned hogs could be seen most anywhere without going to that show. Nothing personal.

Looking across the river we saw on of the finest, if not the best, house in Kendall County. Mr. Parker, the miller, has built it this season. It will cost, when completed, between six and eight thousand dollars.

Ran in to see Levi Hall, but he had gone to attend a funeral of Mrs. Frank Barry. His store looks as neat as usual. His stock is unsurpassed by any druggist.

Looking into Kenney's we found the same quiet, gentlemanly man of old, who is one of the most affable people in Oswego and an excellent merchant as well. His store looked well.

Haight has had a big rush of business judging from the front windows. Several panes are broken, caused probably by the fall in prices that has been inaugurated at this store. He undoubtedly does a very large trade.

Saw a man going about with a handkerchief tied around his neck, and his head inclined to one side. It was Rank, the postmaster, who has a carbuncle on his neck, and was afflicted greatly. He did not look cheerful.

The saloons were driving a good business.

Fred Coffin was at his post in his well-filled store. Couldn't go to Oswego without calling on Fred.

Mr. Fosgate, of Bristol, has opened an agricultural warehouse in the old "Stone Store."

Down the street further we saw Mr. Young's warehouse well filled with farm machinery of all kinds. He has the finest assortment in Oswego and is liberally patronized by the farmers thereabouts.

Kimball, the liveryman, looked fat and hearty, and is doing a good business.

Looked for "I. B. Urstrulie," but he was probably out looking for items and was not to be seen. ["U. R. Strulie" was the *Record* correspondent, Oswego Postmaster Lorenzo Rank.]

Mr. J. R. Simons was in town looking for a reaper. He says last year he got 100 bushels of barley from four acres of ground, This year he has twelve acres in and will get much more.

The wagon makers and blacksmiths were all busy at work, and seemed to have plenty to do.

Jul 29: Our railroad men are very sanguine that visible operations will be commenced on the O.O. & F.R.V.R.R. (the title of this road is altogether too long) within a few weeks.

Mr. Brooks is the superintendent of a ball to be given at Chapman's Hall a week from this evening.

Lowry's minstrels, representing American citizens of African descent, are advertised to perform here next Saturday evening.

August -- 1869

Aug. 5: The early risers of Oswego, on last Wednesday morning, enjoyed the privilege of witnessing (free of charge) an out door performance of a portion of Bailey's Menagerie [precursor to Barnum Bailey's Circus]. About half an hour was given to the Elephants to take a bath in the river, which they enjoyed hugely by rolling and flouncing about, squirting water over themselves and ingeniously cleaning their eyes and ears. The Camels were also driven in, but they didn't seem inclined to sport in the water and merely took a drink and soaked their feet. The bridge offered a good place to see the

performance, which took place right above it. Owing to its being so early in the morning, some of the spectators were uncombed and not in full dress; one of our leading men forgot himself so far as to appear there without a hat.

Fred Sierp and Brenan, who several weeks ago established a shoe shop in Ottawa, have also moved their families there.

The corpse of Andrew J. Haynes, who was murderously shot dead by one Collier, at Marion, Arkansas, arrived last Thursday and was buried next day in the Cemetery near Morgan's. The funeral service was performed by a Rev. Mr. Barna in the Presbyterian church.

A suit for bastardy, was brought by the people in behalf of a Miss Minard, before Justice Fowler, one day last week; the defendant is a young man by the name of Hawley, of Kankakee County; the examination of it was postponed till to-day in order to allow the defense to procure as alleged, the attendance of important witnesses.

The other day John Chapman got it into his head that all the Mayweeds should be cut down. He wanted the Corporation to hire a squad of men and set them at mowing; he wanted everybody to cut them about their premises; he started out with a file and a hoe to himself cut them on the premises of the widows' the spasm lasted not quite three quarters of an hour.

At the school meeting yesterday, Geo. Parker was elected director to succeed P.G. Hawley. A 10 months school was voted.

Henry Hopkins is at work refitting the half mile track in Paul Hawley's pasture.

Great preparations are being made for observing the Eclipse next Saturday; already have pieces of glass been smoked and spyglasses adjusted on the long range.

Yorkville: The roads are dusty.

The eclipse next Saturday.

The wheat harvest is about over. The best wheat will not yield more than ten bushels per acre on an average.

The Texas cattle suit of Walker vs. Davis has been taken to Bureau County on a change of venue.

Mr. L.G. Bennett is engaged in drafting a new map of Kendall County. It will be ready in the fall.

The double track on the CB&Q Road is laid from Aurora to Oswego Station.

The surveyors of the F.R.V. Railroad were at Milford on Monday, permanently locating the line of the road. There is now a proposition to run the road through Newark, that village we are informed, proposing to guarantee \$20,000 to the Company for that purpose.

Mr. Crum delivers ice to any part of these villages. Leave orders at his Stable. He has a nice lot of the cooling article in his ice-houses.

Murder of a Kendall Co.

Man in the South

The Southern papers are fond of telling us that the stories of the murder of Union men in the South are lies gotten up by the Republican papers for political effect and they are believed by the Democrats generally. That they are not lies was demonstrated last week at Oswego by the arrival of the body of Capt. Andrew J. Haynes, who was shot by a KuKlux in Marion, Arkansas on the 15th of July. Capt. Haynes lived near the Ament farm before the war and enlisted as a private in 1861, in Company C. Fourth Illinois Cavalry, from Oswego and before the first year was passed had won a very enviable reputation as a true man and a brave fighter. All of the members of the Fourth Cavalry remember the fight he had under the store in Tippah County, Tennessee, with the notorious guerilla chief, John Porter; nor will they forget how he captured and hung Mat. Luston (half brother to General Forrest) for shooting women and children on a captured steamer.

In 1863 he organized Company K of the Third United States Colored Cavalry, which he commanded till its muster out. In August 1864, he with Captain Edland of Tonica, charged a battery of six pieces at Woodville, Miss., capturing a large number of prisoners and killing seventy-two men at their guns. In December 1864 he led 200 negroes in a charge across Black River bridge, with nothing but the ties to walk on and a battery raking them at point-blank range. The success and bravery of the charge resulted in a special order by the Secretary of War. But it is unnecessary to review the many battles and skirmishes he was in, and from none of which he came without new honor. After the war he was engaged in running a plantation. He had, by his active Republican principles, incurred the dislike of the rebels in Crittenden county, and they sought his life. The facts of the murder are these:

It appears that Captain Haynes had just returned from a trip to Memphis, had just stepped out of the hack which runs from Mound City to Marion, dropped into Justice Wilson's office for a moment, and started to walk home to his place, a mile or mile and a half distant. On the best of terms with all the citizens of the county, he had no apprehensions of danger. He had, however, barely turned to corner of Mrs. McAlister's when Clarence Collier, who had apparently been lying in wait for him, came out of a grocery on the opposite corner of the street Haynes was leaving, and without a word of warning, drew a bead upon him with a double-barreled shotgun and fired. The charge took effect in Captain Haynes' left side. The assassin instantly discharged the contents of the second barrel into his back. The Captain fell upon his face a corpse. But the vengeance of the brutal fiend was not satisfied. He advanced toward his prostrate victim and emptied his revolver into his body, riddling it with balls. Two lodged in his head. The assassin coolly

returned to the grocery whence he had issued to do his bloody work, received his coat, mounted a horse, evidently prepared for the occasion, and rode out of town undisturbed. Clarence Collier, the assassin, is a young man, only 21 years of age. As young as he is, it is said that he has killed no less than five men. We are informed that Haynes and Collier had never had any hard words. The relations between them are understood to have been of an entirely friendly character.

Captain Haynes was about thirty years old. He leaves a mother and two brothers living in Mazon, Grundy Co He was buried on Friday last.

When will these outrages cease? Not till Government makes an example of these Southern cut throats.

Aug. 12: Henry C. Cutter is building a new residence which when completed will be one of the best in the country.

The ball last week was not successful.

The defendant in the bastardy suit before Justice Fowler was bound over to the Circuit Court for trial.

Thos. E. Hill of the Aurora Herald was in town one day last week looking after his interest of said paper.

Owing to a defective switch, a freight train ran off the track at the station last Thursday; no great damage done; one of their men sprained his ankle in jumping off.

The eclipse on last Saturday was an entire success; it came off precisely at the time it was advertised. It will not be necessary for me to describe the different stages of it, because nearly everybody had the opportunity to see for themselves; suffice it to say that it didn't get very dark, probably owing to Venus coming out and shining quite brightly. If we Oswegoans want to see a circus, or a balloon ascension, or hear a strong-minded woman lecture, we will have to go to Aurora for it, but not so with the eclipse. Aurora with all her greatness couldn't get any better show than we did. For once, we were independent of Aurora.

Wm. W. Pearce and Emma Miner, quite a young couple, also got married one day last week.

Yorkville; Counterfeits of Government issues are now over-running the county. A dispatch from Washington says: "All efforts to discover the source of the die of the \$10 not greenback counterfeit have thus far failed. Work on the new plate is being pushed forward with all possible dispatch. Besides the legal-tender series, new fact plates for the National Bank note currency are being prepared."

Remember the ice cream festival at Morgan's Hall, Bristol Station, tonight for the benefit of the Methodist Church.

A freight train got off the track at Oswego station on Thursday morning damaging several cars. None of the hands on the train were hurt.

The eclipse passed off on Saturday as advertised and as it has been discussed by the city papers and seen by the County at large, we will say nothing more about it. It was a grand sight.

Good assortment of wall paper at Hall's Drug Store, Oswego.

The Kendall County Woman's Suffrage Association will hold a convention at Union Hall, Yorkville, on Thursday and Friday, August 19 and 20, 1869.

Mrs. Livermore of Chicago will be present and give all information on this momentous question that is desired.

Let the women of Bristol and Kendall come out in force.

Aug. 19: The town is quiet, business dull, money tight and items scarce.

Asher B. Hall, Sheriff of Harris County, Texas, is here on a visit. He looks and acts almost precisely as he did years ago, when selling goods here; about the only change discernable in him is politics. I learn that he intends to visit Washington before returning. He seems highly pleased with Texas, especially the city of Houston, where he resides. He reports Houston and the larger cities quite orderly, but that here is a great deal of lawlessness prevailing throughout the State in some portion a perfect reign of terror. He thinks that Jack Hamilton may possibly get elected; he however, is not a Hamiltonian.

Railroad accidents are getting quite frequent about our Depot, the last by which six lives were extinguished in less time than a person can (to use a homely phrase) say scat, occurred yesterday morning. George Inman's turkeys went down on the track to pick up some gravel to help digest their breakfast, and while so engaged the train came along and killed six of them.

It is reported that another wet goods establishment will be opened in Thomas Smith's brick building.

The poor prairie chickens are now declared outlaws; their rights to life are at present not to be respected; a number of men arrived here last Saturday for the purpose of making war upon them.

Aug. 26: Celia Hughes, an old colored lady, was buried on Sunday last.

Suits of assault with a deadly weapon, of breaking the peace, and civil action of replevin [an action to recover personal property said or claimed to be unlawfully taken] was commenced yesterday before Justice Fowler by Leonard Burkhart against J.G. Haag. It appears that a stud colt of Burkhart's was taken up by Haag, being on his premises and doing mischief; that when Burkhart went to get his colt, a dispute arose in regard to the

damages in which harsh language was used (in German I presume) and that even a shotgun was exhibited.

P.S.--The Burkhart-Haag suits above mentioned have been mutually settled by the said parties.

Crazy Mary, I presume, is a woman's rights woman in favor of enjoying equal privileges with man; at least her conduct yesterday showed that she thought she had a right to have a spree; accordingly she managed to get into quite a hilarious condition and did a good deal of talking while promenading up and down Wash. St., at the same time whispering to those within eighty rods of her what she thought of mankind generally and a certain proscribed race in particular, not using the choicest language at all times. Along in the evening she became more restive and sat down in the street entertaining a lot of boys. Constable Lockwood came along and undertook to make some arrests, which caused Mary to scatter herself and the performance closed.

P.S.—The Burkhart-Haag suits above mentioned have been mutually settled by the said parties.

September -- 1869

Sept. 2: The Surveyors of the O.O. & F.R.V.R.R. [Ottawa Oswego & Fox River Valley Rail Road] extended their operations through this village last Saturday; the survey is running on the west side lots of Adams street, diagonally crossing said street near and at the junction of Washington street, thence running on the east side of it to the Waubensee, on the other side of which it runs partly on Water street.

One day last week a portion of Major Davis's Cherokee cattle were taken through here to Bristol Station for shipment, some little trouble was experienced in getting them through the town.

A lot of the town cows broke one day for the second time into Earl Sutherland's corn on the flat; they were taken to the pound, the owners of the cows compromised the matter with him.

Thomas Smith, more familiarly known as Butcher Smith, died last week of a consumption disease, which had been preying on him for several years. His funeral was on Saturday, which was attended by the order of Odd Fellows.

Yorkville: Mr. John H. Wormley of Oswego called on us last Saturday and brought with him a basket of splendid tomatoes and early apples. The tomatoes are a familiar kind called the "Peach," being somewhat the shape of that fruit and the apples were of several fine varieties.

The third annual reunion of the 36th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, will be held at Monmouth, Warren County, on the 8th day of October 1869.

Sept. 9: Jacob Goodnight has returned from Michigan, leaving his family at Ann Arbor for the present. I believe he intends to make this his permanent residence.

John H. Gray has moved to Aurora. Also, Mr. Brooks has moved his family there.

D.M. Haight has gone to New York. E. Parker is clerking in his store.

The biggest novelty we now have is John Chapman as an apostate from the Democratic faith; he now not only admits that Democracy is a waning condition but he insists that it is dead now, and its funeral is already an event of the past. Free trade, white men's government, State rights and squatting sovereignty are all dead to him now.

There is a call in circulation for a ratification meeting in regard to the birth of the National prohibition party to be held next Saturday.

Loucks, Mason, and Read, I think, were the only delegates that attended the Chicago Convention from this town. Hoze was appointed on one of them, and by the way, he was one of the leading spirits in the movement up to the time of crossing the river Jordan, when he became alarmed, exclaiming, "Boys, we shall surely fall into the hands of the Philistines; I cannot go any farther with you; I prefer to remain in the wilderness.

At the Republican caucus last Saturday a full set of delegates were appointed; being that I am not posted in regard to the different rings and cliques, I am able to report as to which triumphed—Seely, Dave Hall, and Rank were appointed executive town committee.

Yorkville: Velocipede riding at the County Fair.

D.M. Haight, the enterprising Oswego Merchant, is now in the Eastern market, buying an extensive stock of desirable goods to meet the wants of his largely increasing business. We wish to call attention of our readers to his extensive and popular establishment.

Sept. 16: Yorkville: Corn is ripening rapidly.

Our paper is issued a little earlier than usual this week.

Fox River Valley R.R.

The work upon the Fox River Valley Rail Road is being driven with great energy. The whole distance south of the river is graded and ready for the iron, and several hundred hands are now at work in the northern edge of this city, in Dayton, and other points up the river. The two end piers or abutments of the bridge across the Illinois river at this city are completed and the cribs ready for two more piers. The stone work will be ready for the superstructure in about 40 days; and the wood work of the bridge is being rapidly framed, and as soon as a couple more piers are finished, the builder will commence putting it up.

The determination is to have the iron horse from Streater at Ottawa before the 1st of December, and to have the whole road done before another year is gone.—*Ottawa Free Trader*.

Aurora: One day last week a dozen Vermonters and their wives sat down to table under the hospitable roof of Hon. A.K. Wheeler of this city. All were old acquaintances in the Green Mountain State, though some had not met in 25 years. Eight of those present, though yet hale and hearty, were over 60 years of age.

We learn from one of the officers of the F.R.V, Read, who came up from below last Thursday, that the work of grading from Streater to Ottawa, a distance of 17 miles, is completed and the greater portion of the distance tied, and that lat Monday some 250 men commenced grading the track north of Ottawa. Work upon the Illinois river bridge is progressing finely.

We also learn that the company confidently expect to commence work between this city and Oswego within one or two weeks.

Dr. Cook of this city heard the other day from his "long lost brother,; Peter, who settled in Kendall county in 1836 and crossed the plains with his family to California ten years ago. Peter is now in Puget's Sound; his oldest son, John J., at Vancouver's Island; his oldest daughter, Ellen, at Sacramento; Susan is at White Pine; Theresa at Virginia City; and Nevada at Olympia, Washington Territory; August at Shasta, Oregon. The children all are married. From the Herald.

Thomas King of Wheatland reports 207-1/2 pounds of honey made by one swarm of his bees since the 13th of June up to September 4th.

Sept. 23: A new livery stable is to be established on Washington street, the foundation of it is partly dug and the stone for it quarried in the street near by.

Dave Hall last Saturday was the chief of a special police to attend to the Circus crowd, nothing remarkable occurred, all behaved in a very orderly manner, the circus gave general satisfaction.

An extraordinary long law suit terminated this morning; it was commenced before Justice Burr by Ira N. Mather against L.B. Judson, John Kelly, Alexander Dano, Anson Dano, and Michael Burk for trespass in cutting hay on land rented by Mather of Judson, as alleged. Te suit commenced last Friday; a change of venue was taken to Justice Fowler; the legal gentlemen who conducted it were on the side of the plaintiff, Mr. Annis, of Aurora, and P.G. Hawley; defence, A.B. Smith. The jury retired about 9 o'clock last night bringing in a verdict this morning about 3 o'clock of \$35 in favor of plaintiff.

Some gentlemen had quite a free and easy time at Troll's Saloon yesterday afternoon; I suppose they were anti prohibitionists.

Yorkville: Small bills are very scarce. It would accommodate the public if the Government would issue more one's and two's and less fives.

We are obliged to omit several articles this week for various reasons. The proceedings of the temperance party at Oswego and the Sunday School Convention. They shall both have place next week.

The Kendall County National Prohibition Party will hold a Mass Convention in Yorkville on Saturday, Sept. 25th, 1869 and nominate County officers and Delegate to the Constitutional Convention to be supported at the coming November elections.

Sept. 30: The Oswego Union Sewing Society's peach festival of last week was not well attended; the proceeds of it are to go towards buying a hearse, but this generation need not expect the benefits of one unless funds for the same are raised by some other means.

Ezra Smith and wife have returned from an extensive tour through the Eastern States.

Mr. Beaupre and family, now residents of DeKalb Centre, have been here on a visit to friends.

A.B. Hall has started to return to Texas.

A little unpleasantness one day last week between James Hughes and Charles Jolly

Our railroad men seem to be very busy at present, visible operations are to be commenced within a short time, so they say.

The funeral of William Telzlaff took place Sept. 28th.

Yorkville: Convention of the Prohibition Party

On Saturday morning a Mass Convention of the Prohibition Party of Kendall County met in Union Hall, Yorkville, for the purpose of putting in nomination candidates for county officers and a member of the Constitutional Convention.

The Convention was temporarily organized by making J.B. Lowry chairman and C.W. Beck secretary. The following committee was appointed on permanent organization—W. Loucks, D.C. Beck, E. Moulton, and Rufus Gray.

On assembling in the afternoon the numbers were augmented by the presence of several lookers-on from these villages. The greater number of the party men here present were from Oswego where the movement took its start and where the organization is strongest. The committee on organization recommended Ephraim Moulton of Pavilion for President and C.W. Beck of Plano for Secretary. The report was adopted and the officers took their places.

Light frost on Saturday night; a heavier one on Monday night, which made vegetation wilt.

The new M.E. Church at Bristol Station will be dedicated Sunday, Oct. 17. Rev. E.O. Haven, LL.D., president of the Northwestern University, will preach at 10 o'clock.

October -- 1869

Oct. 7: This community during the past week have been very quiet; there was a show of slight of hand performance one evening; the attendance and show were both thin.

The oldest boy of Chris Hanni was buried yesterday; he was 11 years of age and died from the effects of fire.

A bright meteor went through the atmosphere near by this place on evening last week.

Mr. Samuel West got into difficulties by entering into some speculations in hides. He had an examination before Justice Fowler, by whom he was bound over to the Circuit Court. For the present Mr. West has separated himself from his family, is staying at Yorkville, boarding and lodging in the basement of the Court house [the Kendall County Jail].

The fall term of school commenced yesterday, the principal is a stranger, a Mr. Vorhees, I believe. The lady teachers are Miss Mary F. Porter, Miss Josephine Forbes, and Miss Anna Brown.

Yorkville: Grading will be commenced on the Fox River Valley Railroad in this county next Monday.

Rejoice!

L.B. Judson, Esq. of Oswego, one of the Directors of the company, came up from Ottawa on Friday last and told us the following good news: He saw three miles of the new road graded this side of Ottawa and there are parties at work 12 miles this side of that city. He saw the contract to grade the road from the Fox River House in Yorkville to the east end of the bridge at Montgomery.

He is now making preparations to commence the work and will "throw" dirt at Oswego next Monday, working from Oswego up to Montgomery. When he gets the work fairly started there and gets a good foreman, he will commence to Yorkville and work up to Oswego.

It makes us feel good.

The towns on the river in the county will have a name and place on Railroad maps and in Railroad guides. No more will we be at the tender mercies of hack drivers, but will "wait for the train," and ride as becomes travelers of the 19th Century.

Workmen are repairing Black's dam.

Tuesday, the 12th inst., and Tuesday, the 26th, are the days set by law for registering voters.

A five year old boy named Weidert lost a leg in Aurora by falling under a moving train. He had been trying to get on the cars.

We understand that the Road Commissioners of Bristol have served a notice on Mr. Gale ordering him to open the road he fenced up last spring.

Friday, the 24th ult., witnessed the most tremendous financial tornado that ever visited Wall Street. A number of leading capitalists and stock gamblers, headed by Fisk and Gould, first secretly bought up the bulk of the gold on the market (and much that had no existence!) and then formed a conspiracy to put the price up to an enormous figure, knowing that those who had sold gold short would not be able to find the coin in the market with which to fill their contracts. The crash came when Secretary Boutwell ordered the sale of four millions of gold with the privilege reserved to the government of accepting bids to any amount and at any price. The Ring could not hold out against the government's gold hoard and surrendered.

Oct. 14: Work on the Railroad is now commenced; the ground through town was broken yesterday; the initiatory ceremonies were limited to a short speech from John W. Chapman, briefly showing the auspiciousness of the enterprise and that everything connected with it augurs success. He welcomed the shovel and spade saying there were the basis to greatness to wealth, to civilization, and to many other things...Judson with a spade broke the first ground and Hoze conducted the first wheelbarrow full of dirt; to-day a gang of from 15 to 20 men and several teams are at work.

Mrs. Mary Lyon, 70 years of age, was buried last Saturday.

The ball last Friday evening proved a failure.

Coffin's horse, while hitched near the depot last night, got scared by a train, broke loose, and ran all the way to town. The wagon was considerable broke, which was done by coming to a stop in front of their store.

During last week, the population was considerable augmented, not only in number but in heft also for Teller and Ed. English have returned.

The Oswego Union Sewing Society is hard at work earning money to buy a hearse. Are we to think the dead of that village reach their final resting place in lumber wagons?--
Aurora Beacon.

Oswego is a place noted for its longevity and there has been no occasion as yet to carry the dead in lumber wagons. Some of the older inhabitants having become tired of living, want to go to a better world and the people of that village are going to get a hearse to carry out this dream of their aged friends.

Yorkville: It is a common practice and a good one--in many parts of the state to hold religious meetings in public houses in the country districts, and some persons opposed to Christianity are opposed to it. In Lee County, the following case came into court: "The

inhabitants of a certain school district in Lee county had long been accustomed to use their school house for religious meetings, and lately, by private subscription, had fitted it up handsomely with a bell, blinds, curtains and other improvements for no other purpose than the use of the people in religious meetings. So soon as this was done, a few tax payers who were hostile to these meeting, applied for an injunction, forbidding its use for this purpose, and after an exciting struggle the injunction was granted."

National Thanksgiving has been appointed for the 18th of next month.

Jack Frost asserted his sway on Tuesday night and commenced his reign in earnest. Ice was formed on standing water an eighth of an inch thick.

Col. Cowdry returned from a visit to Minnesota last week. He is much pleased with the beautiful country in that state and speaks in the highest terms of its cities and towns. He favored us with a late St. Paul paper.

The Rev. I.B. Smith of Turner Junction is before the Grand Jury of Kane County on charge of drowning his wife in Poplar Creek near Elgin last spring. It is reported that he had effected insurance on his wife to the amount of \$9,000 before her death.

D.M. Haight, the thriving Oswego merchant, was in Yorkville on Monday and made us a short call. We like his style and prophecy for him a successful business career. He speaks well of Oswego as a trading point and has built up a business there of nearly \$50,000 a year. Mr. Height bases his success on the fact that he pays Aurora prices, or higher, for all farm produce in cash; hence the farmers in that vicinity always go to his store. He has lately returned from the East, where he bought a large stock of goods.

Oct. 21: The grading of the Railroad is progressing rapidly, it is done through the corporation except some filling on the north bank of the Waubensee, and is extended north as far as the centre of Troy.

The front of Coffin's store has been painted anew.

VanDoozer & VanDriesen have moved their broom shop to the east side of Main Street in the Smith block.

William H. Coffin and Henrietta Harris entered into an alliance--that is, they got married.

James Lockwood, who has spent a number of years out in the Territories (the biggest portion at Fort Fetterman, Wyoming Territory, where he held the position of Post Saddler) has returned; he looks well and brought home some Indian trophies.

Mr. Young, the principal contractor of the F.R.V.R.R is in town this morning.

Yorkville: Burglars infest Aurora like vermin. The Beacon of last week contained some half-dozen cases where these house thieves have operated.

A couple of immigrant wagons paraded through Yorkville on Saturday en route for Quincy. They were covered with painted cloth, and looked very comfortable.

Some half-dozen copies of the *Record* were missed from the Oswego package last week, and the missing subscribers justly complain. We are of the opinion, and most know it, that the package was opened on the cars and the papers taken out.

Oct. 28: No Oswego news column.

Yorkville: First snow of the season last Friday. It was light and only lasted a day.

Thanksgiving on the 18th of next month.

Workmen are engaged about two miles below Yorkville grading for the Railroad.

Our County Surveyor, Mr. L.G. Bennett, has moved his family to Yorkville, keeping house in Mr. Lee's house on the hill.

The route is finally established for the Fox River Rail Road, and contrary to all expectations, it does not make a point at Post's Mill dam. Mr. Post has always been an earnest advocate of this enterprise and has expended a great amount of labor and capital in making new roads and bridges and approaches for a bridge across the river with the expectation of having a Rail Road Depot there. He has also staked out lots on the south bank of the river for a town and is now preparing to erect a new house for himself at this place. The nearest that the Rail Road comes to this location is fully 1-1.2 miles distant. If Post's dam was one of the points agreed upon by the company, why did they not live up to it? Mr. Post says the understanding has always been that his water power should be a point for a Depot, and the route as now established leaving him out in the cold will damage him more than \$1,000 in means already expended.

November -- 1869

Nov. 4: Some barley stacked near the railroad, belonging to O.H. Hopkins was burned recently, caused, I believe, by the railroad men setting the dry grass nearby on fire.

The Hon. John P. VanDorston of Vandalia spent several days with us during last week.

C.H. Farr, a temperance lecturer, has been visiting us.

The transaction of the horse and jackass trade last Saturday would have furnished a good theme for a moralist.

The election today [Nov. 2] has been so far very quiet, the vote doubtless will be light-- now eleven o'clock and but 26 votes cast.

Yorkville: Farmers have commenced husking corn.

The [I&M] canal will be closed for the season on the 15th inst. A hint to those who draw grain to points on the canal.

Our Coroner, Lyman Childs, has gone East to spend the winter. In the meantime, all deaths by foul means and all misdemeanors of the sheriff are strictly prohibited.

Marsh, Steward & Co. are now manufacturing the 1870 Harvesters, 1,200 to 1,500 of them. That big pile of lumber looks like business. They paid out over \$3,000 to their employees last Saturday night.

Miss Kate Bennett, sister of our County Surveyor, was painfully and seriously injured by a kerosene explosion on Wednesday night of last week at the residence of her father near Oswego Station. She had lit a lamp in which there was but little oil; after it had burned a short time, she took it up to carry to the kitchen for the purpose of filling it. On the way, she turned the wick down a little, when the lamp exploded and Miss Bennett was in flames. Her brother was in the yard, heard her screams, and ran to her assistance. Seeing the difficulty, he threw his sister to the floor and another sister brought a blanket with which the flames were extinguished. The unfortunate lady was badly burned from the neck to a little below the waste. Unless inflammation sets in the injuries were not fatal, though very serious.

Nov. 11: One evening last week the sky was illuminated towards the south showing there was a big fire of some kind; for the purpose of ascertaining what it was and also to procure an item, I hitched up, took a beeline and went to where it was; it proved to be the big slough; the fire was a grand sight extending over a large space.

The hotel and saloon on Washington Street, kept by J. Johnson (not the ex-President) was broken up last Saturday. Landlord and boarders all moved away together.

Yorkville: An Apology--We are ashamed to go before our readers this week in this condition, but circumstance over which we had no control has forced us to issue a half sheet this week. It is the first time in six years, and shall be the last if it is a possible thing. We ask pardon.

Large quantities of coal pass through town every day from Morris. Next fall, we can get our coal from the vermilion mines b the Fox River R.R.

The great fire on Wednesday night of last week, which illuminated these villages, and nearly the whole county, was caused by the burning of the Big Slough south of the Aux Sable Grove.

Nov. 18: Before Justice Fowler on complaint of Sophia Scott, her husband was fined \$10 for ill treatment of her.

On Friday last at 7:15 p.m., a phenomenon was observed in the sky, being a reddish streak, apparently rays of light, extending over about 10 degrees; being somewhat misty at the time, stars of the first magnitude were but dimly visible.

The butcher's big dog, being locked in the market last night, worked himself through the window, spoiling it badly.

Yorkville: Hon. Amos Kendall, Postmaster General under President Jackson, died at Washington Friday forenoon.

Big fall of snow on Tuesday. Sleighs out Tuesday.

Business is lively on the Fox River Railroad. A large force is employed on the job crossing the road by J.M. Bullard's. About 40 hands are now at work, mostly with teams. It begins to look as if they meant to have a railroad. There is a good amount of grading done and the dry weather is very favorable for the progression of the work.

The excessive rains the past spring and summer have washed away many of the bridges in Kendall county, and very many of them have not been rebuilt yet. In some places, the stone work is one and the timber is on the ground. Why don't the authorities hurry up the work, get them built, and the approaches made before the ground freezes?

There is a prospect that letter postage within the United States will be reduced to one cent. The reform is now being agitated. It is low enough now. A person who cannot pay three cents on a letter as prices are now has no need of sending many.

The Ottawa Republican of last week says: "The Illinois River bridge will be completed in about three weeks. The grading is all done between this city and Streator, and the iron is expected daily. The cars will run from here to Streator in six weeks at least before the first day of January. The work is rapidly going forward all along the line. Thirty thousand dollars worth of grading is already done north of Ottawa.

Nov. 25: Thanksgiving was observed in the usual manner by eating a turkey or chicken-pie dinner, religious services were observed in the Presbyterian church, the Methodist minister preached the sermon. Business was not generally suspended.

The accumulation of snow on the awnings caused the one of Mr. Cooke to break down the other day.

December -- 1869

Dec. 2: Complaints are made against the village cows for eating without invitation the hay out of farmer's wagons and sleighs when in town.

I accidentally overheard a lady express her opinion concerning myself in connection with my last week's report of the Literary Association, it was something like the following: "Whoever it is that reports for the *Record* from this town is very much out of place in his natural calling which doubtless is that of driving an oxen."

Dec. 9: Oswego was very quiet during the past week; two weddings may be considered as the principal events; in both cases, gentlemen from abroad married Oswego ladies.

A panorama of a portion of the City of New York was exhibited here for two evenings.

Col. Cowdrey, one of the old settlers, is gone to that bourne from which no traveler returns; he was buried yesterday; the services were at the house, and a large concourse of his friends and neighbors were in attendance. And so we go.

Yorkville: Monday was warm and spring-like.

The number of hogs packed in Chicago thus far for this season add up to 211,668, against 173,104 last season.

The Ottawa Free Trader says: "The bridge for the Ottawa and Fox River Valley R.R. at Ottawa is completed but the iron for the road from Streator to Ottawa is said to be frozen in on the New York [Erie] canal, so that the track will probably not be laid to Streator before spring. The grading of the road from Ottawa northward is proceeding with great rapidity.

Our readers will be surprised, as we were, to learn that Col. William Cowdry, of Oswego, so long a citizen of this county, is dead. He died on Saturday last at his residence from disease of the heart and was buried on Monday. His illness was short, very short, and his sudden departure shocked his friends. Col. Cowdry was a gentleman of great social qualities and was a general favorite. A strong Democrat, he stood high in the councils of that party. Had his party been in the ascendancy here, he would have held high office in the county and state. We shall all miss him--miss his genial greeting and his kindly smile. We little thought a few weeks ago when we saw him that he would so soon penetrate the mysteries of the Unknown.

Dec. 16: A new hotel sign in front of the Smith House is about the only new thing Oswego can boast of this week.

The ladies of Oswego will hold a sociable and oyster supper in Chapman's Hall Thursday evening, Dec. 23d. Oysters served in the best possible manner.

Mr. Kinney has been absent on business in the southern part of the state has returned.

The Literary association met last evening and debated the resolution that the press exerts more influence than the pulpit and forum. Mr. Teller was selected for umpire. Principal

disputants on the affirmative, D.M. Haight; negative, A.J. Parkhurst. Decision in favor of the affirmative.

The question (as near as I remember,) Resolved, that Andrew Johnson is entitled to the gratitude of the American people for his patriotism and statesmanship exhibited during his presidential term of office. This was a firebrand thrown in the camp. Several Republican members were in favor of the question. During the wrangling debate that followed, pretty much all the spectators and some of the members left for home and when the vote for the adoption of it was taken, it was found to be a tie. I have not time, nor would I be competent to describe the parliamentary mess they got into. Suffice it to say they worked themselves into a deadlock and like the fly in the molasses, the more they worked to get out of it, the deeper they would get in; in some roundabout parliamentary manner and adjournment was finally reached.

Yorkville: The busiest men in town are the blacksmiths.

There were 23 murders in Chicago the past year, and only one person hung for the crime.

The citizens of Plainfield are highly indignant because the Northwestern College is to be removed from there to Naperville. Public meetings have been held, and money subscribed to contest the removal in the courts.

In Yorkville, like many other places just now, money is very close, but not close enough to be reached.

Next week, the *Record* will be issued for the last time in 1869. We take our customary holiday Christmas week.

Died at his residence in Oswego, Ill, December 4th, surrounded by a large and affectionate family, of disease of the heart, Col. William Cowdrey in the 59th year of his age.

Col. Cowdrey was born in Orange County, N.Y., and resided there until 1838 when he came west in search of a farm home. He visited Chicago; from thence he passed to the Ohio river, then down the river to its confluence with the Mississippi, from thence to St. Louis, up the Illinois and Fox rivers, and finally purchased a claim on Big Rock creek, in what was then a portion of Kane county. He then returned east to New York. The following spring or summer started with his family, consisting of a wife, and two small children, with his own team for his new home in what was at that time called the far West. It is unnecessary to speak of the trials and hardships endured on the journey. Suffice it to say they finally reached their desired destination, but remained only one year upon the place which he had purchased the year previously. At the solicitation of Major Davis and the Messrs. Townsends, he removed to the AuxSable Grove at the time of the Land Sale. Soon after, he purchased a farm just east of the Grove, where he remained until 1854 when he purchased and removed to the place where he has since resided. The Colonel was an earnest and tried Democrat, and has held several offices of both honor and profit. He has left a large circle of friends and acquaintances who will long remember the cordial welcome with which they were ever met at the Colonel's home.

Dec. 23: The annual election of officers of Raven Lodge (Masonic) took place on last Wednesday evening. They also changed their meetings from Wednesday to Saturday.

Duane Van Driesen has opened a confectionary and cigar store in Ezra Smith's building.

A suit was tried before the Police Justice on yesterday afternoon, in which a lady (!) was charged with keeping a disorderly house, the charge was not sustained; said suit grew out of an affair which combines the romantic with the tragical, embraces quite a number of persons and is composed of several different elements, the most prominent seems to be whiskey, card playing, shooting, men wounded, but won't acknowledge the corn; what makes it more sensational, the shooting was done by the lady who figures in this transaction.

Yorkville: Railroad hands hereabouts now get \$1.50 a day.

Thermometer on Monday morning at 7 o'clock was 5 above zero.

The city of Ottawa is hard up. The authorities propose to cut Washington Square into building lots and sell them to pay off the indebtedness of the city.