

Highland Park News-Letter

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He who says advertising does not pay puts his
prejudice against the experience of thousands.

The First White Settler

The first record of permanent settlement in Lake county by a white man was by Capt. Daniel Wright who in 1834 chose a claim and built himself a cabin. To this man may without doubt rightfully be accorded the honor of erecting the first permanent home within the borders of the county.

Prior to this it is evident that trappers and traders had been at times in this part of the country as the ruins of an old fort was found in Waukegan which gave the appearance of having been burned many years before. In Waukegan also the earliest settlers found two odd characters known as Dutch John and English John. No other names were known for the time. The former came from the north while English John was from the east. The latter was a great snake hunter and would tell the boys who came with their parents to the neighborhood that the heart of the snake was the choicest of all foods.

A couple of miles west of Waukegan were also a couple of Frenchmen who had erected cabins in a clearing near the Warren town line. Practically nothing is known of these two men other than they sold their claims and left immediately after others began to arrive. They gave their titles over to the new comers.

While these men undoubtedly were in the country before the arrival of Daniel Wright they cannot rightfully be classed as settlers. They were simply adventurers and moved on to better hunting grounds at the first signs of settlement.

Capt. Wright was a Vermonter born in 1778, the son of a Revolutionary soldier, and later upon the second outbreak of war with England entered the service.

In 1834 he determined to migrate to the west and coming on horseback alone he decided that in Lake county he had found the place where he would make his future home. About a mile and a half south of the present town of Half Day he erected a cabin and sent for his wife and family. The northwestern corner of Section 26 was the exact spot chosen for his home and the claim comprised both woodland and prairie, an ideal spot for a settlement.

Fifty-six years of age and a man with a family of seven children, Capt. Wright was not the ideal frontiersman but his strength of purpose more than accounted for his other disadvantages.

Misfortunes, however, came to him at once. Several members of his family were sick upon their arrival and before the first month was ended he had laid to rest his wife and a son of six years. In October of the next year a prairie fire swept over the place and burned his winter supply of hay and it was with difficulty that he managed to save his cattle from starvation until spring came. Just a year from the time of the death of the mother

another son, a young man twentytwo years of age, died.

In January, 1836, Miss Caroline Wright, a daughter of Captain Wright, was married to William Wigham, this being the first marriage ceremony to be solemnized in the county. Hiram Kenicott, the first just justice, officiated at the service. It is worthy of note at this time that the first cabin was the scene of the first death and the first marriage and from this union the first white child to be born in the county was the result.

William Wigham Jr., who still lives and is a resident of Libertyville, claims the honor of being this child.

Notwithstanding the hardships endured and the misfortunes encountered Capt. Wright lived until December 30, 1872, when at the ripe old age of ninety-five years he was laid at rest in the Half Day cemetery.—*Libertyville Independent.*

Please Take Notice

As the names have been taken for the sixth issue of the Lake County Directory with the old numbers in, and as the Publishers are now ready for the Printers, we ask you to please send your new number to Judge Hibbard for the new issue. As this will be the last chance for insertion, please attend this matter not later than the 15th of this month.

Exercise, of the Mind

As our bodies, to be in health, must be generally exercised, so our minds, to be in health, must be cultivated, says Ruskin. You would not call a man healthy who had strong arms, but was paralytic in his feet, or one who could walk well, but had no use of his hands; nor one who could see well, if he could not hear. You would not voluntarily reduce your bodies to any such partially developed state. Much more, then, you would not, if you could help it, reduce your minds to it. Now, your minds are endowed with a vast number of gifts of totally different uses—limbs of mind, as it were, which, if you don't exercise, you cripple. One is curiosity; that is a gift, a capacity of pleasure in knowing, which, if you destroy, you make yourselves cold and dull. Another is the power of enjoying beauty or ingenuity, which, if you destroy, you make yourselves hard and cruel. Another of your limbs of mind is admiration; the power of enjoying beauty or ingenuity, which, if you destroy you make yourselves base and irreverent. Another is wit; or the power of playing with the lights on the many sides of truth, which, if you destroy, you make yourselves gloomy; and less useful and cheering to others than you might be. So that in choosing your way of work it should be your aim, as far as possible, to bring out all these faculties, as far as they exist in you; not one merely, or another, but all of them. and the way to bring out is simply to concern yourselves attentively with the subjects of each faculty. To cultivate sympathy you must be among living creatures, and thinking about them; and to cultivate admiration you must be among beautiful things and looking at them.

Great Salt Lake has another novelty—a telephone. It is the only body of water in the world where a bather can reach forth his hand and, while half submerged in the surf, can call the hello girl and talk to his friends in the city. The instrument was installed, of course, to assist in life saving efforts as well as for the use of bathers. The placing of this phone in its present position is a remarkable feat. Every joint must be air-tight; The insulation must be durable and able to withstand the action of salt water; apparatus in the instrument must be protected from the effects of salt air. It is reported that all obstacles have been overcome and that patrons of the salt bath parlors may now converse over the wire without inconvenience. The wire is conveyed in an iron pipe for a distance of 3000 feet from the shore to the lake station.

Two of a Kind

During the war with Spain in 1898 an American colonel had a big brawny Irishman named Michael Murphy as one of the units in his command. This man was in no way deficient in courage, but finding camp routine beginning to pall he determined on asking for his discharge.

One day he satisfied himself that he had hit upon the proper excuse to offer the colonel, and, putting himself into soldierly trim, asked permission to speak with the commanding officer. This was granted, and the soldier saluted and stood at "attention."

"Well, Mike, what can I do for you?" inquired the colonel.

"Well, sir," said Mike, "you see its this way. I joined the regiment in a moment of excitement. I wanted to be patriotic, but I'd been drinking when I enlisted and I didnt think of the home folks. I hadn't saved any money, and so when I came away I left next to nothing for the missus and the children. Now, today, I have a letter from my wife, and she tells me that she is in trouble. She has no money and the children are hungry. I can't borrow the money to take care of the family until the war is over, and I ought to go home."

"But, Mike," interrupted the colonel, "you ought to have thought of that before. Look here, say you go home on a furlough for a month."

"What I want is a discharge," replied Mike.

The colonel considered for a few moments. Then he said, "Your wife insists upon your returning, you say?"

"Yes, sir, she does, and she is very ill, and if I don't go I fear she will die and I'll never forgive myself—never!"

The colonel felt in the pocket of his jacket. Drawing out a letter he opened it and said, "Mike, I'm sorry that you have tried to deceive me. I did not think that you would lie. I have here a letter from your wife, and she tells me that you have tried to induce her to write to me asking for your discharge. She says that you never treated her right when you were home, that you got drunk, and were brutal and abusive. She says that she is doing well, and that it will be long before you

and make a man of you."

"Did my wife write that?" asked Mike, looking the colonel straight in the eye.

"Yes, Mike, she did," replied the colonel, steadily returning the glance.

The soldier hesitated, fumbled his hat a moment, and then said, "Colonel, may I say something to you as a man and not as the commanding officer?"

"Certainly, Mike; say what you please."

Mike drew a long breath, and then as a smile came over his face he said—

"Colonel, I want to say that the two biggest liars in the regiment are in this tent. I never had a wife!"

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that bids for the construction of a public library building in the city of Highland Park, County of Lake and State of Illinois, will be received at the office of the Architects Patton and Miller, No. 140 Dearborn street, in the city of Chicago, until Monday, September 11th, A. D., 1905, at 11 o'clock, A. M. Bids may be made for the entire construction or any designated parts thereof. All bids must be accompanied by a certified check of the usual amount, payable to the order of the president of said library board of directors. For further particulars, inquire of the architects or of Alex Robertson of this city.

LEWIS B. HIRBARD,

President of Library Board

August 30th, 1905.

Highland Park, Illinois.