

EMANCIPATOR



...DIED 1865.

s Tribute

me to Accept the Great of Abraham Lincoln as ruler That Ever Lived.

Douglas, to whom he put the question at Freeport that saved the United States, came to know him as his master—and held his hat for him while he took the oath of office as president. Fremont, the "soldier statesman," whom he made—and unmade—learned the same lesson. So did McClellan, the "Young Napoleon." So did Seward, who went into the cabinet prepared and expecting to take the reins of government. So did Chase, the "indispensable man," who resigned once too often—and, thanks to Lincoln's magnanimity, administered to him the second oath of office.

Even Stanton, that saturnine Titan of the cabinet, who was in the habit of referring to Lincoln as the "original gorilla," who openly prophesied that Jeff Davis would be in the White House within six months, who believed himself called into the cabinet for the express purpose of holding up the hands of an impotent president—even Stanton learned his lesson. It took him a long time, but he learned it well. When Lincoln drew his last breath Stanton said: "There lies the most perfect ruler of Men the world has ever seen."

But it was not until the homely face and ungainly figure of Lincoln were gone from the sight, and his pointed jest was no longer heard, that the American people began to see Lincoln as he was, not as we had assumed him to be. And year by year we are coming to know him better.

We know now, among other things, that this self-made man from the log cabin was truly an educated man; that this backwoods circuit rider was not only an honest lawyer, but a great lawyer; that this past master of the art of story-telling used his art with a purpose; that this cross-roads debater and political stump speaker was an orator to whom it was given to speak words that are immortal—words that are as much a part of the national heritage as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

We know now—not some of us, but all of us—that this man who saved the union by force of arms and brought peace out of the hell of civil war did these great things in an even greater spirit; that he wrought "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

And we know now that this man, who was so human that he did not seem to be great, was yet a lonely soul, set apart for a great work and aware of his mission. The time may come when we shall forget in part his "infinite jest," but never the infinite sadness of his deep-lined face.

Providence raised up Abraham Lincoln. And we are just beginning to understand.



(Concluded from last week.)

POLITICAL HISTORY OF GLENCOE

POLITICAL HISTORY OF GLENCOE An Address at the Meeting of the Glencoe Men's Club by James Kent Calhoun, President of the Village.

Charles E. Browne was the first to see in Glencoe fine possibilities for a residence suburb and he did much in establishing and developing this village. When a boy of nineteen he left his home and went to Troy, N. Y. where he joined an uncle in the summer of 1835 and together they walked to Chicago. That winter he taught school at the corner of LaSalle and Washington streets where the Chamber of Commerce now stands. At the close of school the latter part of February, 1836, he decided to locate on higher ground. He walked north, passing through this portion of country on his way to Milwaukee. He made the entire journey on foot. I have often heard him tell of that trip and dwell upon the natural beauties which he found at this particular locality. He remained in and about Milwaukee until 1865, when he made Evanston his permanent home. Here he engaged in the real estate business and took an active part in the development of Evanston and Glencoe.

Mr. Dietrich, the father of the Dietrich family in Glencoe, was the first man to make matches in the city of Chicago. He owned a thirty acre tract at the corner of Division and North State streets. There he made a scant living for his family making matches by hand and selling them. In 1843 he sold his property and took his family up north, settling on the Green Bay road just inside of what is now our north limits, in a log house which stood very close to the site where the Widow Schramm's house now stands. When Miss Dietrich married Mr. Schramm he was an engineer, blacksmith and locksmith at Libertyville and received \$12.00 per month. Mrs. Schramm made both ends meet and saved fifty cents out of his first month's pay (a voice from the audience—"Did she put it in the Bank?") That I am unable to say, but you may be interested in knowing that there was a bank in this locality at that time, and a large one too. When I asked where it was I was directed to the foot of Park avenue. I went down there but found it was only a bluff.

At that time there were four families in this immediate vicinity; that of Anson H. Taylor, Michael Gormley, (who owned and occupied the present site of the Skokie Country Club), the Turnbull family, who live up the Green Bay road just north of our present village limits and a short distance south of the County line, and a family by the name of Ludwig, who lived where August Beinhlich now lives.

Franklin Newhall came to Chicago from Massachusetts in 1844, the greater portion of the way by canal boat. Shortly after reaching Chicago he engaged in the apple business at which he was doing fairly well until the panic of 1857. At that time he had his funds in a private bank owned by a Mr. Tinkham, who was as honest as the day was long, but who, with many others, was carried down in the crash, taking with him four or five thousand dollars of Mr. Newhall's money. Mr. Newhall found himself somewhat handicapped but started out bravely to regain his fortune. He laid in a small supply of apples that fall and did fairly well. One day in early January Mr. Tinkham came into his store on South Water street and wanted to know if he could not cancel his debt by turning over to Mr. Newhall some of his property and suggested that he had forty acres of land on the Lake Shore and an undivided 1-3 interest in 60 acres adjoining it; also a 30 acre tract of low land, (Skokie land) at a point about 19 miles north of Chicago. This property he offered to deed to Mr. Newhall in settlement of his claim. He described the property so accurately that Mr. Newhall had no trouble in locating

it the next day when he drove out to Glencoe. He was favorably impressed with the offer and the deal was closed. In this round-about way, Mr. Newhall first became interested in "Newhall's Wood" early in 1858. This was ten years before the village was incorporated and Glencoe was more commonly known as the Gurnee Stock Farm.

The Gurnee residence was a portion of what is now Mrs. George Ligare's home and the old stock barn was the one used as a livery by Mr. Maloney until it burned last September.

The first school house built in this neighborhood was in about the year 1850 and was located on the East side of Green Bay road on what is now the Mortimer property, just back of the residence occupied by Mr. J. L. Lane. The people in this district met and cut down trees and hewed the timbers and built a log school house, which was probably used until the 60's. The first "Board of School Directors" were Simon Meany, Michael Gormley and Mathias Schramm,—this was in the early 60's. The first tax levy for school purposes was "one dollar on the hundred dollars" and the teacher's salary was \$20.00 per month in 1859 and 1860.

In about the year 1862 a frame school house was built. It was located about three hundred feet north of South avenue on the east side of what is now Green Bay road. Later this building was moved across the track fronting south on South avenue, opposite the old store at the corner of South avenue and did service until about 1872 when it was abandoned and sold to Mr. A. W. Fletcher for \$60.00. He removed the building to the north side of Park avenue just west of the alley running north and south between Grove and Bluff streets, where it was occupied for many years as a private residence. About two years ago the building was again sold and is now located down near Hubbard Woods in what is known as the North Shore Subdivision. Both of these school houses were used before the village of Glencoe was incorporated. After the incorporation school was held for a time in the west wing of what is now the Congregational church. The oldest school house built by the Village of Glencoe was in the winter of 1872. This was located on Greenwood avenue where Mr. West's house now stands. 198 feet of ground cost the Village at that time \$1,000 and the contract price for the building was \$3,138.40. This building was destroyed by fire in about the year 1876 and a second building was erected on this site in 1877 at a cost of \$3,100. This building was used for school purposes until about the year 1899, when our handsome brick building which we now use was erected at a cost of a few dollars less than \$20,000. The old buildings and ground were sold at auction and brought \$1,900. The building was removed to Vernon avenue just south of Mr. Beck's store, where it now stands, remodeled into stores and flats.

After the incorporation of the Village of Glencoe, the management of the school was in the hands of the Village Council until the year 1893, when a Board of Directors was elected. The first board of directors consisted of Mrs. Andrew MacLeish, Alexander L. Dewar and Wm. H. Johnson. During their administration they purchased the five acre block on which our present school building is located, at a cost of \$5,000. During a later administration the south end of our territory was lost to the Village of Winnetka. We have on the north a strip of territory belonging to the school district which is not a portion of the Village. This territory extends from the northern line of the Village to the north line of Cook County.

The school passed into the hands of the Board of Education in the year 1896. The first Board of Education consisted of Mr. Forsyth, President, Mrs. E. M. Culver, Mrs. Andrew MacLeish, Mrs. Jennie Hurford, Mr. Granville D. Hall, John Plummer and Jas. K. Calhoun.

Returning to village matters—in the early 50's a coterie of men acquired title to different pieces of property in New Trier along what is now known as the Chicago and Northwestern railroad; a Mr. Dungee acquired title to the property where the Wilmette Depot is located; a Mr. Peck the property where the Winnetka Depot is located; a Mr. Walter S. Gurnee purchased the property where the Glencoe Depot stands; a Mr. Coe the property at Ravinia, and Lawyer Blodgett, better known as Judge Blodgett, acquired a large tract at Little Fort, which is now Waukegan.

It developed later on that all of these men were interested as officers,

The North Shore News-Letter

directors or stockholders in what was to be known as the Chicago and Milwaukee Railroad Company and to Lawyer Blodgett fell the task of securing the right-of-way from Chicago to Little Fort. It was during one of Mr. Blodgett's visits to Glencoe that my friend Mr. Newhall relates this incident, which shows that the lawyer, who was later on to be the dignified judge, had a good deal of the boy in him:

"As they were walking near the Lake Shore, Mr. Blodgett spied an eagle's nest in the top of one of the large trees and wanted to get some of the young eagles, and after a good deal of effort, he succeeded in climbing the tree. As he reached his hand over the nest and took one of the young eagles, they set up a shrill scream which soon brought the mother bird to the rescue. For a time it looked as if Mr. Blodgett would be badly beaten with the mother bird's wings and claws by her talons. He, however, had presence of mind enough to drop the young birds and make a hasty descent from the tree, a birdless but a wiser man."

Speaking of presence of mind recalls a story of a Jew who was traveling with his wife on a train which was running at a high rate of speed. The train left the track and was badly wrecked, and at first it was feared that many had been killed or badly injured, although it developed later that no one had been hurt. However, our friend the Jew was rushing about in a frantic manner intent upon securing damages, when one of his fellow passengers said "Why how will you get damages, no one was hurt?" "Oh but there was," the Jew replied, "You see I had the presence of mind to kick my wife in the face."

Work was begun on the Chicago & Milwaukee railroad in the year 1852 and trains were running as far as Little Fort in the year 1855. Walter S. Gurnee was President of the Road and intended making his home at Glencoe. He was a man of considerable wealth for those times and had traveled extensively. He cleared his farm and imported a great number of Norway Maples, Scotch Elms, English Hawthornes and other ornamental trees and shrubbery and, in addition, planted an apple orchard and a pear orchard. A beautiful hawthorne hedge used to line the way of the Northwestern just west of where the depot now stands.

There are two versions of the origin of the name "Glencoe;" one is that it was named for the renowned Scotch valley of that name; the other that Mr. Gurnee desired to honor his wife, whose maiden name was Coe, and having in mind the number of ravines and glens around him, decided to name the place Coe's glen, or Glencoe.

Alexander Hammond, a retired doctor and farmer from Rockford, Illinois, in looking about for a spot for a home learned that the Gurnee farm of Glencoe was for sale. In about the year 1867 he saw it and was infatuated with its beauty and possibilities and bought it from Mr. Gurnee. Dr. Hammond, however, was not a practical business man and therefore was unable to develop the property as a town site. About this time, Charles E. Browne, who was doing a real estate business in Evanston, and who was a practical real estate man, contracted to buy the Gurnee farm, or Glencoe. On the 7th of February 1868, the deal was closed, embracing a tract of 683 acres, more or less. This is the original contract (holding up document). The terms of the contract were that Browne was to pay Hammond \$50,000 for the property and that Browne was to raise a company of eight other men to join in the subdivision of Glencoe. The result was that the subdivision of Glencoe was recorded October 19th, 1868 and the Village was incorporated on the 28th of the following March.

The agreement was that each of the ten men should take one share of stock, paying \$5,000. They were also to subscribe \$500.00 to the erection of a church and school room and agreed to pay \$100 a year for five years for the maintenance of the pastor and \$50 a year for five years for the maintenance of a school teacher and \$100 during the year 1868 for roads, park and shrubbery. They also agreed to donate in perpetuity for park purposes the block fronting on the lake between Park and Hazel avenues. The original ten men were as follows:

- L. L. Greenleaf,
 - Chas. H. Morse,
 - Philo Judson,
 - Gov. John L. Beveridge,
 - C. L. Jenks,
 - Dr. John F. Starr,
 - Steven P. Lunt,
 - Dr. John Nutt,
 - Hon. Charles E. Browne,
 - Dr. Alexander Hammond.
- The houses which they built are occupied by the following at the present time:
- Mr. C. H. Howard,
 - Mr. R. S. Hurford,

- Mr. Wm. H. Johnson,
- Dr. F. P. Patton,
- Dr. O. D. Swain,
- Mr. H. C. Holloway,
- Mr. C. W. Hess,
- Mr. R. W. Stevens,
- Mr. C. D. Grasset,
- Mr. H. R. Parsons,
- Mr. L. H. Cox.

One of the original houses was burned about three years ago. This was on the site where Mr. Plummer's house now stands.

Mr. Franklin Newhall who acquired his property in Glencoe before the Village was started, joined the company in making the division and also agreed to build a home, which was completed in the summer of 1869. Dr. John Nutt and Mr. Franklin Newhall, with their families, moved into their new home on July 4th, 1869.

The Congregational church building was completed during the year. At that time it was a church but in October, 1872, it was decided to make it a Congregational church.

The first village election was probably held in April 1870. The polling place in the early years was in the depot which at that time stood across the track from the present structure. The building since been moved farther north and is now used as a freight depot.

Mr. Michael Schindler was our first station agent in the early years and his wife used to flag the trains which stopped for passengers only.

Unfortunately the early council records were burned in the Chicago fire, October 8th and 9th, 1871, and we have no official record of the first council elected in the Village of Glencoe. Mr. Franklin Newhall, who was here at that time, is of the opinion, that Mr. Judson was the first president of the Village. The first council of which we have a record was elected in April, 1871, consisting of Peter N. Sherwood, President; Dr. John F. Starr, Dr. John Nutt, Hovey, Newhall and Plummer, Councilmen.

Almost the first bill passed for payment by the above council was "B. Newhall, sawing wood, \$3.00." A little later on we had "W. Willmarth, Janitor, \$6.00."

You may be interested in knowing that the first cattle ordinance was passed on the 6th of May, 1871, and when I came here ten years later, the cattle were still running at large.

At the meeting above referred to the council outlined the duties of the Street Commissioner, and did not find that this order has been repealed. At that time Dietrich was Street Commissioner. Here is a pointer for our present council who have been trying to devise ways and means of procuring additional help on our streets during the summer months. The street commissioner was directed to collect a poll tax of \$2.00 from every man over the age of 21 and under the age of 50. The individual was to have the privilege of working two days on the street in lieu of paying \$2.00 in cash. The penalty for non-payment or refusal to work on the street was a fine of \$4.00, which was collected through due process of law.

The first Board of Health was appointed August 29th, 1872, and consisted of Michael Gormley and Alexander Hammond.

About this time village politics began to play an important part in the history of our village. You remember that Taylorsport was started long before the Village of Glencoe was in existence and Alexander H. Taylor was a political factor at that time. He was the first Justice of the Peace and was succeeded by Michael Gormley who held the office for many years. Mr. Gormley was also a member of the first Board of School Directors, who had charge of the old log school and later on the frame school house, to which I have referred, and he was also Treasurer for schools for many years. I mention these facts to show you that these people were interested in the welfare of this locality before the Glencoe company acquired title to the property.

The election returns of April 1st, 1873, were as follows: For President,—Dr. John Nutt. For Councilmen,—John Felt, Alexander Hammond, C. L. Jenks, Fred W. Newhall and H. B. Willmarth.

Dr. Nutt was out of the village at the time and for some months thereafter, and as a result, failed to qualify, the council electing in place H. B. Willmarth. Shortly thereafter, C. L. Jenks removed to the city and E. L. Taylor was elected councilman. Fred W. Newhall failed to qualify and Michael Gormley was elected in his stead. Apparently one was elected to fill Mr. Willmarth's vacancy on the council when he became President. Dr. Hammond failed to attend meetings during the following January and the council declared his seat vacant and elected Mr. Burns to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Gormley, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Burns and Mr. Felt were all residents of this territory before the Glencoe company was organized and this was the first time they had been in power since they had been deposed by the company who outnumbered them at the polls. They immediately proceeded to make their future election sure and one of the first acts of their body was to pass an ordinance dividing the village into four wards. This ordinance was posted February 12, 1874, and became operative at the election held the following April.

The division into wards was as follows:

South avenue was the dividing line between the north and the south, and the railroad between the east and the west. That portion of the village lying south of South avenue and west of the railroad was known as the first ward. All that portion lying south of South avenue and east of the railroad was known as the second ward, and the territory lying north of South avenue and east of the railroad track together with blocks No. 21-23-33 and that portion of block 20 on which the Hammond and Newberry houses stood, and block 44 were included in the third ward. This territory which included the blocks lying between Vernon avenue and the right-of-way of the Chicago & Northwestern was included in the third ward because of the fact that there were five voters in this territory who could be counted on by the Glencoe company. The remainder of the village was known as the fourth ward.

The ordinance provided that the president should be elected by the village at large and two councilmen from each ward.

These divisions bunched the Glencoe company and their political friends in the third ward and while they outnumbered the voters in the other three wards they were unable to control the elections.

Some of you have the opinion that Mr. James F. Dennis has held office continuously since the Village was started. The records show that Mr. Dennis was not elected to office until the year 1875. However, he held three offices during that year. He was first elected as Collector; later on resigned that office and was appointed Treasurer, and still later in the year resigned the office of Treasurer and was elected Councilman. Some of the older residents had an idea that at one time Frank Schramm had been Street Commissioner since the Village was organized. The records show that Frank was elected Street Commissioner on the 3d of April, 1877, and I can certify that he filled the office very acceptably for a number of years.

During the years which followed the division of the Village into wards, there was a constant striving each spring by the party out of power to regain control of village affairs and the boundaries of the wards were changed from time to time as the population shifted, the last change resulting in three wards instead of four, which reduced the number of councilmen to six. The longed for chance to abolish the wards in the Village came at the meeting held March 1st, 1881. At that meeting the roll call showed the President and three councilmen present which constituted a quorum—three councilmen were absent. An ordinance was presented and passed abolishing the wards in the Village of Glencoe, and at the following April election the President and five members of the council were elected from the Village at large.

Those elections were very interesting to many of us. There was no attempt at a caucus or a public meeting. The tickets were usually prepared at some star chamber session and the voters in general had no knowledge of whom the candidates would be until they came to the polls on the morning of the election. The polling place for many years was in the depot; later on the school house on Greenwood avenue served as the polling place until the village hall was built in 1894. Since its erection, the village elections have been held in the council chamber.

I might continue indefinitely by speaking of the later developments such as paved streets beginning with Sheridan road, the water system, sewers, viaduct, electric road, cement walks, and our well-advertised "bumps," but these are matters of record known to most of you.

Gentlemen, Glencoe has been my home for the past twenty-six years and as I have watched her improvement during that period and studied closely her growth before that time, from earliest beginnings, I feel the force of Marcus Aurelius' words—he says—"Whatever happens at all, happens as it should. Thou wilt find this true, if thou shouldst watch narrowly."

I thank you.
JAMES K. CALHOUN.