

MEMORIES OF EARLY DAYS ARE RELATED

(Continued from page 1)

Milwaukee avenue, or "Telegraph road" ran through their property, while the family and sons of Joel Sherman owned the east part to the woods on the Skokie.

All of the land of these two families was obtained direct from the government. After establishing a residence, Orestin Shepherd's parents, Levi and Sorissa Shepherd and Alonzo Shepherd, an uncle, came from New York, and an uncle and aunt of Mrs. Orestin Shepherd, William and Cynthia Canterbury came from Cambridge, England, and remained till 1867, when they went to Chicago to live. Orestin's brothers, William, Hiram, and Colonel Thomas Shepherd, also came west and bought part of Orestin's claims.

Besides Eliza Jane, the other children of Orestin Shepherd were, Sorissa who married Samuel Rhodes, and Lived in Davenport, Ia., and Mattie, who married John Williams of New York, and lived in Chicago.

Orestin Shepherd's family always kept in close touch with Chicago and its affairs. They were members of the Baptist church, of which Elder Button was the preacher.

Northfield had four divisions. Northfield is now Northbrook, and was frequently spoken of as North Northfield. In Northfield the Sherman, Steele, Galloway, Elvey, Will Davis, Adams, Siple, Hutchings, Reed, Russell, Henley and Richard families came and lived on Waukegan road.

In South Northfield the Mitchell family lived and later the Kiest family came. The South school was between what is now Northbrook and Glen View, north of Techy. Eliza Jane Shepherd taught the Mitchell and Kiest children.

In West Northfield the Russell, Bishop, Boyd, Walter, Edwards, Ilet, Lewis, Wood, Hook, Paul, Winchell, Studley Davis, Bedine, Cobb, Allison, Button, Kennicott and Hitchcock families lived.

At East Northfield the Carey and Cleary families lived in the woods on the shore of the Skokie. Emily Millen, who married Job Galloway, taught several years in the Sherman school, 75 years ago, and Eliza Jane Shepherd was one of her pupils.

In the north part of Northfield lived the family of Elder Button, a Baptist minister who had four children, Lucien, Lucy, Watson and Ida. The Snyder family came later and Elder Button taught school.

The Ranney family lived in Lake county across from the bridge where the brickyard is now. The Grannis and Lawrence families were neighbors and their children attended the Grove school on Dundee road. Alonzo Kennicott kept a store across the road from the Grove school and Dr. John Kennicott lived in the Grove next to the school, called Hickory Grove then.

A plank road was laid from Northfield to Niles, then to Chicago, and with a good team the trip to the city could be made in a day in the '60's. The Shepherd family had the first horse in Northfield.

There were no German in Northfield until after the place was settled by English and Yankee families and in social life the English-speaking people did not mingle with the Germans. The Germans were a good class of thrifty, industrious people whose economies and mode of life caused them to make a better living from the soil.

The opulent Shepherd, Winchell, Studley Phillips, Sherman and Wood families were prominent in civic affairs of the community, served on election boards and shaped the policy of the township.

Orestin Shepherd was a man of affluence and distinction, a business man in many lines of industry. He owned a brick yard that was located on the slough east of Telegraph road. Bricks in the foundation of the Walter home in Northfield were made in 1850 in the Shepherd kilns. A store, and a blacksmith shop and a commodious tavern, were also run by Mr. Shepherd. This tavern was the halfway station between Chicago and Milwaukee where lawyers remained overnight on their way to courts in both places. They traveled by stage to which from four to six horses were hitched and there was room for six passengers in the coach. The stage line was in use many years before the Northwestern railroad was built.

After Miss Shepherd's graduation from the West Northfield school about 1859 she attended Northwestern Female Academy in Evanston, where a Professor Jones was president and there were one hundred students. Frances Willard was a member of the faculty of this school.

In three years Miss Shepherd started to teach in the locality in which she had been a pupil. In the East school first, then the West, and the South Northfield schools. The last named was a brick school called the Russell school. Chester Wolf's mother, who was Matilda Schmidt, and Mrs. Silas Sherman, our 74-year-old citizen, were two of her pupils in the West Northfield school.

Sarah Winchell, a school mate, taught in Chicago for many years, and was prominent in educational circles.

"Jennie" Shepherd also taught in the Hiram Kennicott school in West Wheeling. Hiram was a brother of John and Dr. Will Kennicott.

Eliza Jane Shepherd's father's mo-

ther married Mary Ann Bennett, a niece of Francis C. Sherman of Northfield, and William Bennett married Marietta Shepherd, a double relationship of brothers and sisters.

Relatives of the Shepherds had four and woolen mills in Des Moines, Ia., and "Jennie" Shepherd spent the winter in the capital of Iowa, when she was about twenty years of age, and listened to the speeches of the legislators. She also went to Connecticut and New York to visit her eastern relatives when people traveled less frequently than they do now.

She attended the parochial school of the Lutheran church on Dundee road for two years in order to learn German so she could translate the conversation of her father's German-American employes. The little church of classic lives where this school to which all of the Lutheran children of Deerfield also went, fell down last year, after over 50 years of disuse.

Mr. Shepherd sold his large farm to a Mr. Tierney and reserved a portion upon which he built a brick house opposite the Northfield station to the west.

On October 27, 1867, Eliza Jane Shepherd married Joseph Wilson, who was born July 21, 1839, in Yorkshire, England, the son of James and Mary Woodworth Wilson. The Wilson family came to America in 1834 and made a claim in Kane county, fourteen miles west of Geneva, Ill. The Wilsons were also Baptists. James Wilson's sister was the wife of Elder Button, and Hannah Woodworth, sister of Mrs. Wilson, married Rev. Richard Appleyard, pastor of a Christian church south of Northfield. Rev. Appleyard performed the ceremony which united Jennie Shepherd and Joseph Wilson. The bride's sister, Sorissa, was her maid of honor, and their brother, Thomas H. Shepherd, was best man. The wedding took place in the family home.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilson went to Geneva where they lived for three years on a farm, outside the village. In 1870 they moved to Chicago, where Mr. Wilson entered the firm of Wilson and company, mattsers and bedding manufacturers. In 1869 Mr. Orestin Shepherd had retired from his many business interests in Northfield and moved to Chicago, also.

His home was on Jackson street between Desplaines and Halstead streets. On the Sunday of the Chicago fire, October 9, 1871, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had spent the day with the latter's parents. The Wilsons lived on West Indiana street, which was out of the fire zone. After they left the Shepherd home and had returned to their own they left their oldest child with his aunt Elizabeth Tilley.

They then returned to the fire which they watched from a safe distance on Harrison street (it began on DeKoven street) then realizing partially the extent of the disaster they returned for their child. When the fire jumped the east side of the river Mr. Wilson went to the office and secured the books of the firm and took them to his home.

The next morning the Wilson gave breakfast to the fire refugees who had crossed the bridge, until there was no more food left in the house. Streets in the saved area were piled high with household goods. William Henry Wilson, a cousin of Mr. Wilson, lived farther west and did not know of the fire until he tried to take a horse street car to go down town Monday morning. People in the western part of Chicago, who were asleep, did not know if the disaster, although those in Deerfield who were awake, were well aware of it in the night.

In 1872 Mr. and Mrs. Wilson left Chicago and bought a farm in Libertyville where they raised fruits and seeds for the publishers of the Prairie Farmer, for distribution. When Mr. Wilson's health failed they moved to Chadbourn, North Carolina, where

they remained for thirty years, and where several of their seven children married. Howard Wilson married Sally Black of Savannah. He lives in California and has three children. Frank Wilson married Jennette Roscoe, of Chicago, who was a bookkeeper in the Sheldon School in Area, and has twin boys.

Elbert and Delbert Wilson, sons of Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson were also twins.

Elbert married Mabel Gonzer in North Carolina. They live in Libertyville and have two children.

Delbert married Edna Eckart, of Edgewood, Iowa, and her two children, Ruth Wilson, married Herbert Horton of Rocky Mount, N. C. and has one child; Gertrude Wilson married Frank Olendorf, a surveyor, and spent a number of years in Mexico. They had two children, Wilson, who lives in Libertyville and Harry Olendorf, the dry goods merchant in Deerfield. Harry married Beatrice Carr, son of William Bartholomew and Margaret Carr, James Carr Olendorf, and William Carr Olendorf, the two sons of Harry Olendorf, of Deerfield are Mrs. Wilson's two great grand children. She has twelve grandchildren.

Frank Olendorf died, and a number of years after, in 1924, Gertrude Wilson Olendorf married Chester Wolf, son of Jacob and Matilda Schmidt Wolf who came to Deerfield in 1841, with the Rockenbach pioneer party from Canton St. Marie, Alsace.

After two years in the south Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilson sold their farm in Libertyville, and it is now Samuel Insull's farm. It was always one of the prettiest homes within twenty miles of Libertyville when the Wilsons owned the place.

In 1910 when Mr. Wilson's health improved they returned to Libertyville. Mr. Wilson died January 15, 1924. Since then Mrs. Wilson divides her time between the homes of her two children in Libertyville and that of her daughter, Mrs. Chester Wolf in Deerfield.

Mrs. Wilson always rode a spirited horse in her youth, and the thrills of riding behind a "spanking team" are superior to automobile riding in her estimation, however she prefers the modern style of short skirts to long dresses six yards around the bottom, on which the braid had to be frequently renewed, because of its contact with the ground. Although she remembers the time when cattle ran unconfined, and wolves were on the prairies and in the timber. Mrs. Wilson knew no hardships of pioneer life. Her family always lived in comfortable circumstances. The Shepherds erected a pioneer log house when they moved to Northfield but they built the first frame one in the village, and that is the one that their daughter recalls.

Mrs. Wilson was in school in Evanston when the Lady Elgin was wrecked on the shore of Lake Michigan and drove to Winnetka and Port Clinton (now Highland Park) where the bodies were washed upon the beach.

The waves swept over the pier like ocean waves—Mrs. Wilson has seen the ocean "running mountain high," but that day our treacherous lake was much worse.

She also remembers when a tornado swept over DesPlaines, when she was about ten or twelve years of age, and a bed quilt was blown into their yard in Northfield. It was twisted into a ball about the size of a piece of wool and had no appearance of having been a quilt.

During the Civil war Captain Amzi Kennicott, son of Dr. John Kennicott, who lived in the north end of Hickory or Kennicott grove, organized a company in Northbrook and the soldiers drilled in front of Shepherd's tavern.

Mrs. Wilson knew the Gifford, Parsons, Vedder, Easton, Tupper, Millan,

Hall, Caswell, Warren, Todd, Galloway, Hoyt, Wilmot and Clark families in Deerfield.

John K. Clark ("Indian Clark") left many a quarter of venison at her father's tavern—"Indian" walked so quietly that no one could ever tell he was near.

The Clybourne and Kinzie families came out from Chicago to attend parties and dances in the Clark, Millen, Shepherd and Sherman homes to which all of the young people in Deerfield and Northfield were invited. Carpets were taken up to enable them to dance. Simon Tupper and Lansing Ranney played the violin.

Writing masters were employed at a good salary to teach pupils in the evening schools, which accounts for the fine penmanship of the people of Mrs. Wilson's generation—and day school teachers signed contracts to teach in spelling schools held every two weeks in the evening. Because of Mrs. Wilson's span of life and remarkable memory she has been called upon by the Chicago Title and Trust company to assist in straightening out some property in Northbrook to which the deeds were not recorded by families not her own.

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