

**SAMUEL OTT AMONG FIRST SETTLERS HERE**

(Continued from page 1)

toward the Des Plaines river which followed the Mississippi water shed. As a lad Samuel Ott observed that no stream in this vicinity runs east and west.

Not one house in twenty had enough chairs on which the entire family could sit at one time. The children stood beside the table to eat.

Family visits were frequent on winter evenings. A neighbor would fill his sleigh full of straw, pack in his family and go miles to visit another settler.

The surprised housewife always managed to prepare refreshments of some kind from the storeroom. Spiritualists were consulted by some of the settlers to learn where their calves had strayed.

Samuel Ott attended the Wilmot school the first day that it was opened in the summer of 1847. The ringing of the school bell frightened the cattle that ran wild over the prairie, and when they rushed toward the school the children were alarmed. Rosilla Cadwell was the first teacher, and the only book that was used was her testament. School was opened with prayer, and the twenty-five pupils of all ages leaped the alphabet, and to read from the testament. The teacher for the winter term was a Mr. Chapman, from Michigan, and he had men pupils older than he.

Spellers were the first books bought and the first geography used gave the population of Chicago as 5,000.

All reading was done from the testament, until an Elementary reader was introduced, then Saunders readers.

Lydia Gutzler became the best speller in the Wilmot school, in Samuel Ott's time, and he remembers no other school in Deerfield except the one that stood on the Deerfield corner and faced south, called the Cadwell school. When the third Wilmot school burned about 1857, the pupils attended the Cadwell school. Students in the Wilmot school went to the Edwards school in Northfield for "spell downs."

Samuel Ott went to Naperville college in 1861. His father was one of the first organizers of this Evangelical Association church school. Samuel possesses a perpetual scholarship in the college, and can name any young person he wishes to attend it.

In the Wilmot school, at twenty-one years of age, Samuel Ott cast his first vote and his father vouched for his age. At twenty-one he was made a director of the Wilmot school and was secretary for two years. Years after, his daughter, Alice, taught in this school. At the second election of President Lincoln Mr. Ott voted for him in the Yore school. He also saw Lincoln lying in state in Chicago. The whole Deerfield community grieved for the death of their beloved Emancipator President.

Samuel Ott was pallbearer for the first person who was buried in the Northfield cemetery, Jacob Frey, a sixteen year old lad who died of typhoid fever, in 1860.

Early marriages were common in this vicinity. Often the girls were wives at sixteen, and the majority of them old women at forty. If a man could raise five dollars, and had a dollar and a half for a license, he married and prospered. If a man with \$50 came from a different locality, at least a dozen girls were ready to marry him. "Many men married without a cent, and did well."

The women knitted day and night to provide stockings and mittens for their families. They could talk and knit at the same time.

The wool came from the sheep raised on the farms. The wool was taken to Elgin to a carding machine, and after being carded was spun by the women in their homes. Extra wool was traded for a sheep scrap cloth, from which garments were made. Sarah Ott could spin a pound of wool in a day. She was an expert spinner. She would spin and walk and sing.

Elgin was the grinding place for Illinois. Farmers from this vicinity also went to Naperville to have their grain ground. The Cadwells had a corn cracking machine where they ground their own and their neighbors cornmeal.

"Nigger heads" (flat round stones) were also used to grind the corn. It was "jammed" fine and sifted. When about twelve years of age, by ox team, Samuel Ott took potatoes to Chicago to sell, and bought a calf that later developed "black leg," which many young cattle contracted in the spring.

He invented a nut shelling machine from the gear of an old fanning mill, to simplify the work of obtaining the winter supply of nut meats. Through the west slough he drove his ox team when the family attended church services in Muhlke's home, where Lorenz Ott was a class leader.

Mr. Ott remembers the log house of his father and of his grandfather, as a two room structure, the upper room a sleeping room for the older boys. In one corner of the downstairs room a portion was boarded off in which the spare bed was made. A one-legged bed with the two walls supporting the sides. This was for the visiting minister, or the school teacher. In another corner the bed for the parents was curtained off in a section reserved for sleeping purposes, and under that bed were shoved the trundle beds of the children, in the day time. Ropes were used in-

stead of springs. When he was three years of age his father bought a wild broncho pony from Indian-Clark for which he paid \$22. The horse lived to be 22 years old. They also traded their yoke of oxen for another horse, and had a team, the first horses in their neighborhood. By close economy and hard labor the Germans became more prosperous than some of their American neighbors.

The deer came in herds of about twenty in the winter and ate hay and straw through the fence in the coryard while the cattle ate inside.

Once when husking the deer came within ten feet, and again in the spring, when plowing, the deer came very close and the dog followed them into the woods, and came back so trampled by the deer that he lay around sick for a couple of days.

The pigeons came in droves of thousands; so many that they darkened the sun, as they flew south in the fall.

In foggy weather they sat on dry limbs of the oak trees and made a moaning sound, terrible to hear. When they roosted on the green trees the acorns could be heard falling, as they ate. The sound of the flying of the birds in flocks was as the roaring of an airplane, as the pigeons rushed to another spot. George Karch remembers these pigeon migrations, and also of killing hundreds.

When about ten years of age Samuel Ott wished to have a new slate pencil, so he walked several miles through the snow in the woods near his father's house, until he caught a rabbit with a forked stick. The rabbit hid in a hollow tree and the stick was run around in the tree until it became twisted in the fur of the animal when it could be brought out. Samuel then walked two miles from him home to the Deerfield corner with the live rabbit. A Mr. Cole kept a general store on the southeast corner where the gasoline filling station is now located and faced west in 1850. This store was later sold to Seth Hoyt and moved to the Carlos Hoyt lot, next to the Presbyterian church.

When the wife of the storekeeper made the trade for the rabbit she said that rabbits were plentiful, and the price had gone down, so she could give the boy but one pencil. This was his first experience in trading.

On his way to the dedication of the Calvinistic or Reformed Lutheran church on Dundee road about 1848, he went through the Frey farm, and remembers a little snow bird's nest full of eggs in the snow. The congregation and visitors at the dedication ceremony were "packed, in like herrings." Samuel Ott was the first Sunday school teacher in the Wilmot school, assisting Lyman Wilmot who was superintendent.

Until the last few years he has been superintendent and teacher in Sunday school ever since.

During the Civil war some men hid in the slough to escape service. When the Deerfield quota, in the last draft, was short four men, because of the absence of men who should have served, meetings were held in the Deerfield school. Finally \$16.00 apiece was raised to buy the services of four young men, and one of the four was a Holcomb boy. The lads went to Springfield, the war ended. They never saw service and were considerably richer than when they left Deerfield six weeks before. Samuel Ott's enlistment was discouraged by the recruiting officer because of the few men left on the farms. He was drafted three times, but his number was never drawn.

Johanna Jacob Ott, ancestor of half a thousand descendants in a century, was born November 6, 1784 and died May 16, 1865. He married Marie Magdalena (maiden name unknown and unrecorded on her tombstone in Northfield cemetery) born November 6, 1782 in Baldenheim, Elsass, and died December 8, 1867 in Deerfield. They had two daughters and five sons, Magdalena, Salome, Lorenz, Jacob, Casper, Christian and Philip. Magdalena married George Escher. Salome married Philip Brand and had eight children.

Jacob Ott married Magdalena Luther and had twelve children. This Jacob was the pioneer who led his parents and relatives to Deerfield. Casper Ott married Catherine Trier and had seven children.

Christian Ott married Christina Miller and had five children. Christian died of small pox in the Civil war.

Philip Ott married Elizabeth Salliday in Pennsylvania and had twelve children. His youngest son, Benjamin, lives in Wilmette.

Born in Baldenheim, Alsace on October 24, 1808, Lorenz Ott married Maria Ursula Rieg, born May 18, 1811, whose mother's maiden name was Peters. Lorenz Ott died February 8, 1863, and his wife died September 18, 1887.

The Lorenz Otts had seven children, Jacob, Mary, Magdalena, Sarah, Clara, Samuel and Eli. Clara died at thirteen. Jacob was born in Baldenheim in 1831. The others were all born in the United States.

In 1849 Jacob Ott with his uncles, Philip and Jacob, went to California in the Gold Rush. On the trip by water, Jacob, son of Lorenz, contracted Panama, or yellow fever, and was buried at sea.

Mary Ott married Lawrence Offerle in Warren, Pa. When they moved to Illinois, they had a store near the Northfield church, then moved to Geneseo, Illinois, and then finally to Kansas, where the town Offerle was named for them. The Offerles had six children, Abner, Minerva, Oscar, Ed-

win, Russell and Amanda, who are scattered over the Pacific slope. Eli Ott went to Ashland, Wis., after marrying Cararie of Chicago and had one daughter who married John Beck. Eli Ott died two years ago in May 1925.

Magdalena Ott was born in Deerfield township in August 1837, probably the first white child born in the vicinity.

Magdalena married Rev. Christian Ott and had six children, two of whom are now living, Elma and Hedwig. Rev. Ott was a missionary to Germany and Switzerland, and Elma was born in Germany and Hedwig in Switzerland. Elma married George Heth and has two children, Beulah and Donald. They live in Chicago. Hedwig married Mr. Whithoft and lives in Long Beach, California. Hedwig was a teacher in the Chicago schools, and on two different occasions was voted the most popular teacher, and was given trips to Germany and Jerusalem. She is now retired on a pension.

Sarah Ott married George Rockenbach and had eight children, Ella, Adelaide, Ormon, Almon, Samuel, Viola, Preston and Irene. Ella married William F. Plagge. Adelaide died in 1895.

Ormon married Mary Whitney. Almon married Elizabeth Catlow. Samuel married Emma Rosenow. Preston married Lida Landau. Viola and Irene are unmarried. The Rockenbach family has been written in another article.

Samuel Ott; the fifth child of Lorenz and Ursula Rief Ott was born May 19, 1841, on the Ott farm that was later sold to George Rockenbach who married Sarah Ott, after Samuel had lived there for twenty-five years. In 1865 Samuel moved to Geneseo, Ill. and a year later he built and furnished a home and married Mary Kiest, the daughter of Henry and Mary Kiest of Northfield (whose brothers John and Charles Kiest were ministers). The Henry Kiests came from Northern Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ott had five children, Alice, Flora, Olive, Arthur and Elmer. Alice married George Ennanta. Flora died at 13 years of age. Olive married Dr. Henry Kline. Arthur died at three years of age. Elmer married Doris Endaman, and has two daughters, Doris and Alice.

In her youth Mary Kiest Ott worked for two years for D. L. Moody, the Evangelist, and taught in the Moody church.

Rev. Hoeffle, who spent many days in the Samuel Ott home, pronounced it an ideal home.

Samuel Ott, in Geneseo, became a merchant, in partnership with his sister's husband, Lawrence Offerle, selling dry goods and groceries. His shoes he bought from John A. Reichelt, who traveled in that territory. Samuel Ott's wife died in 1907, and he went to Freeport to live with his daughter, Alice, Mrs. George Ennanta, whose husband was a clothing merchant in Freeport, until Mrs. Ennanta's death seven years later, when Mr. Ott moved to Chicago. He now makes his home with his daughter and with his son. Mr. Ott owns the apartment building in which his son resides.

The beautiful serenity of old age, from a life of right living is seen in the face of Samuel Ott. His grandfather, Jacob Ott, has 500 descendants and Samuel Ott is the oldest of those living, 250 are dead, and as many are living and scattered over the United States. The fifth generation Mr. Ott has seen—a kindly Christian man, at peace with all mankind, one who has never had trouble with a neighbor, never learned to swear, nor to use tobacco, wine nor beer, and never used an exclamation worse than "confound it."

The first real information of Andrew Jackson, the runaway slave, Samuel Ott imparts to this generation. In the winter of 1858 a Mulatto, about 28 years of age, came to the home of Lyman Wilmot, the Abolitionist, at night, via the "Underground railway," from Mississippi. The lake was frozen, so the blackman could not be sent across to Canada, therefore he had been taken to Deerfield. Mr. Wilmot brought the slave to the Lorenz Ott home to do the chores, so that the children could go to school.

Keeping a runaway slave was against the law, but the Abolitionists felt that they were in the right by disobeying an unjust law. Andrew Jackson's father was a white man, and he worked on his father's plantation where he saw his white sisters. The plantation owner was more lenient to his son than to his other slaves, and Andrew learned more than his companions, therefore the desire to be free so overcame the lad that it led him to attempt to escape, but bloodhounds tracked him, and he was brought back. In his second attempt at freedom he was successful, and he crossed the Ohio river, where he was sent on his journey north.

The man was a good worker, kept the horses clean (he had been a yard man on the plantation) and "made a nice gate of stout wood" which he said would last till the slaves were freed. When that occurred he requested Mr. Ott to destroy the gate, which sentimental request was not heeded by the thrifty farmer. When spring came, and the roads were muddy, Andrew Jackson prepared to leave. Lorenz Ott made him a new suit, and gave him money for boat fare, and Lyman Wilmot took him to Chicago, where he escaped to Canada. After reaching the slaves haven, Andrew wrote to his benefactors who had taught him to read and write, of

his safe arrival, and that was the last that they ever heard of him. Samuel Ott was fourteen years of age at the time, and he recalls much that the negro did while here.

**Local and Personal Deerfield**

Please telephone news items to 177R or mail to Box 595. To insure insertion of desired articles all items must be in the hands of the correspondent by Tuesday noon—preferably on Monday. News is desired and solicited.

Mrs. Mark Montray and daughter, Mrs. Haut, were the guests of Mrs. Montray's daughter, Mrs. Omer Lowe of Sullivan, Ill., for three weeks.

Miss Marjorie Garrity, daughter of Mrs. Frances Garrity, and great-granddaughter of Michael Ryder, a Deerfield pioneer, celebrated her eighteenth birthday anniversary with a five hundred party at her home on Waukegan and Deerfield roads, Tuesday evening. Nick Eischer, of Rogers Park, and Gertrude Pelter of Lake Forest held high scores at cards. Dancing followed with special music from radio station WHT at the request of Warren Birkenhead, one of the radio operators, who was a guest at the party. Pink and white was the color scheme of the decorations, and Miss Marjorie was the recipient of many beautiful gifts.

Rev. M. J. Andrews conducted vespers services at the Presbyterian home last Sunday afternoon. This home is located on Simpson avenue in the western part of Evanston.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fuller of "Twin Oaks" on Wilmot road, Deerfield, announce the birth of a son, Norman Paul, in the Highland Park hospital, Wednesday, Sept. 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell La Velle, (Marley Kiest) have called their daughter, who was born in the Highland Park hospital, Tuesday, the thirteenth of September, Jacqueline. Mrs. La Velle is a niece of Miss Josephine Woodman.

Mrs. E. J. Locke was called to her former home in Mississippi on account of the death of her mother last week.

Miss Louise Kersten and brothers, Fred and Charles, have moved to Chicago, where Louise will keep house for her father.

Mr. and Mrs. Burt J. Dickens, of Chicago, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Reichelt, Jr., Sunday, after a visit with their daughter in Ferry hall, Lake Forest.

Gladstone Calif, former principal of the Deerfield school has charge of the manual training department in the Quincy schools.

Mrs. Benz is spending her vacation in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Chester Wolf entertained at a luncheon Friday.

Miss Irene Rockenbach spent last week in Mount Sterling, Ill., where she had charge of a council of religious education.

Mr. Samuel Ott, of Chicago, visited his sister's husband, George Rockenbach, last week. While Mr. Ott was in Deerfield he was entertained by a number of relatives. He returned Sunday to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Kline.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Meyer motored to Minnesota to visit relatives, and in turn have had relatives visit them. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer and grandchild, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Gray, of Fairmount, Minn., have been their guests. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer have also visited in Jackson, Mich., Oshkosh and Sturgeon Bay, recently and in Rockford, Ill., were the guests of Mrs. H. R. Duell. Mrs. Duell was Florence Tupper of Deerfield.

Mrs. E. H. Willman, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Willman and son, Kress, and Richard Kress, visited in Downer's Grove, Saturday.

Miss Irene Rockenbach attended the Du Page County Sunday School convention in Downer's Grove Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Bruce Blaine attended a party at the home of Mrs. Herman Goldberg, Tuesday evening, in Kenosha, Wis.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Bingham and Mrs. Pyle of Chicago visited the Ender home, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Reeds of Joliet visited Mr. Reeds' brother, Ray Reeds, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Allardt, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Allardt, Mr. and Mrs. Bjornson, and daughter, Mary Jane, Mr. and Mrs. Steele of Chicago, were the guests of Mrs. Philip Rommel Sunday.

The Reeds and Hutchison families had a family picnic at Sunset park Saturday.

A card party will be given in the Wilmot school Friday evening for the benefit of the school. Games to be played are 500, 66 and bridge, also buncos.

Miss Tanis Greer is attending St. Mary's school in Knoxville, Ill.

Miss Dorothy Supple has gone to Montgomery, Alabama to teach gym in a girls school.

Mr. Arthur Ender, Miss Clara Ender and Mrs. Eugene Ender visited Mrs. R. D. Supple in Monmouth, Ill., where Mrs. Supple is visiting her daughter, Winifred, Mrs. Ralph Wells, who has four sons. When the Supple family lived in Deerfield, Miss Winifred taught in the Deerfield school. Virginia Supple is still in the University of Illinois. Mrs. Supple has been sending her children to school for thirty-four years.

Miss Margaret Hansen, who teaches in the Northbrook school, is living in Highland Park in the Purdy home

with two Deerfield teachers, Misses Ethel Titus and Jean Nygard. Misses Hansen, Titus and Nygard spent the week-end with the aunt of Miss Titus in Chicago.

Mrs. Leslie Brand and children who have been spending the summer at White Lake, Michigan, have returned to their home on Deerfield road.

The Dorcas Society circle number one, will meet at the home of Mrs. Irving Brand on Deerfield road, Monday evening, Sept. 26.

**The Test**  
Doctor—Just one more question Sambo. Are you married?  
"No say, doc, I earns mah own livin'."

The girls are now getting ready to make their debut, which in many cases calls for considerable debating in.

One thing this country needs is less fox trotting and more baby trotting at home.

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