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NORTHBROOK HOLDS PIONEER PAGEANT

Early Days of Town to Be Re-
called in Historical Event
Planned for Saturday

The days of the pioneers will be recalled Saturday when Northbrook day is celebrated by residents of the village. An historical pageant is planned for that day picturing the colonial background out of which the first settlers came, log cabin days, the pony express, and down through Civil war days to the present.

Mrs. Ruth Reichelt Pettis of Deerfield, who teaches in Northbrook, is chairman of the pageant committee. Organizations of the village and neighboring communities have been invited to take part in the pageant.

From Mrs. Pettis, whose mother, Mrs. Marie Ward Reichelt, wrote a history of Deerfield, comes the explanation of how Northbrook got its name.

"O'Plaine," she explains, "was what the early trappers called it. In 1840 the town was known as Sherman or Shermans after Joel Sterling Sherman and his family, who settled there. But gradually the Shermans sold their land to the German settlers who were coming in and there was another change of name—to Schermerville, after the Shermers.

Present Name Adopted in 1922

"And that name the town bore until 1922 when the villagers, desiring a less rural and more suburban sounding name, voted on three or four. Northbrook was the selection, appropriate because the north branch of the Chicago river goes past the town and because it is in the north section of Northfield township."

Joel Sherman, at one time, owned the site of the Palmer house, but let the taxes lapse on it because he thought the swampy land of Chicago would never amount to anything, and moved up to Northbrook. Another of his family, however, Francis C. Sherman, was the original owner of the Sherman house in the 1840s. The Shermans came to Northbrook in 1838 and bought 159 acres from the government at \$1.25 an acre, gradually purchasing more until they owned half the town.

The rest of the town was owned by Orestin Shepard and his wife, Sarah Wayman Shepard. Their daughter, Eliza Jane, now Mrs. Joseph Wilson, was born in 1844 and now lives in Deerfield. She is one of the many old settlers who are planning to return for the pageant.

Built First Frame House

Jennie Shepard, as Mrs. Wilson was known in her youth, was one of the earliest teachers in the Northfield locality. The Shepards erected a pioneer log cabin when they came to the locality but later built the first frame house in the village.

"Mrs. Wilson always rode a spirited horse in her youth," said Mrs. Pettis, "and in her estimation the thrills of riding behind a spanking team are superior to automobile riding."

Bricks in the foundation of the present Walters home in Northbrook were made in the Shepard kiln in 1850. A store and blacksmith shop as well as a tavern were also run by

(Continued on page 32)

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