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Lake Zurich Residents Recall Experiences of Old Civil War Times

The hundreds of summer homes dotting the bank of Lake Zurich, which is one of the quietest and most beautiful of the vacation retreats in the county went through its era of uncertainty and sadness during the Civil war, according to the oldest residents of the community.

There are very few of these residents whose memory runs back 65 years but from among these people an interesting story is told of how the villagers gathered their information on the progress of the Civil war.

Lake Zurich and Ela township, in which it is located, contributed nearly all of its able bodied men of military age to the Union cause. Naturally there was considerable consternation day in and day out over the casualty list.

News traveled slowly then compared to the present day and according to the older residents all of the families who had contributed men to the service met once a day in a building known as "Old Humanity" where a clerk from the village store would mount a cracker box and read the news of the war from the only paper coming into the community.

Many of these people listened to the readings and left knowing that a son or brother had been killed or sorely wounded in action. Others left after they had heard of the recital of an especially vicious battle knowing that the loved one still lived because his name had not been listed among those killed.

Lake Zurich was given birth about 1835 when the first white settlers came there. Most of these people traced their ancestry to the Germans and the district still has a large number of names of German origin in its directories.

The lake, which would cover close to a square mile, was named by Seth Paine, one of the earliest settlers. The village drew its name from the lake.

Louis O. Brockway, county recorder, was born in that vicinity and his father was among the first residents.

Infant Mortality Is Reported Low in Co.

Falling to a new low level of 61.5 per 1,000 birth, the infant mortality rate last year gives fresh evidence that Illinois is one of the most healthful states in the union. The announcement was made here today by Dr. Andy Hall, state health director, who pointed out that 426 fewer infant deaths occurred last year in Illinois than in 1928. The number of infant deaths last year was 7,907 against 13,109 in 1913, a drop of 5,202 in the course of 11 years.

The state statistics show 72 infant deaths in Lake county in 1929 a rate of 44 per 1,000. There were 24 infant deaths in Waukegan during the same period, a rate of 47.2 per 1,000 deaths.

The infant death rate in the United States was 68 in 1928, the latest figures available. This indicates that the rate in Illinois is much below the average.

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