

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

May 26, 1835 – May 26, 2010

A WALK THROUGH OAK RIDGE CEMETERY

By Dr. Floyd S. Barringer, 1985

Revised 2010 by
Kathie Nenaber and Susan Cull
Westminster Presbyterian Church Archivists

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2nd Edition

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FORWARD

to the 2010 Edition

The study of charter members and early leaders of Second Presbyterian Church (now Westminster) was composed by Dr. Floyd S. Barringer in 1985 as part of the celebration of Westminster's 150th Anniversary. Dr. Barringer carried out extensive research, wrote the biographical sketches, and mapped the location of graves in Oak Ridge Cemetery to make possible a fascinating cemetery walk. Dr. Barringer's work has continued to be an extremely valuable resource for all who care about the rich history of this congregation.

The committee responsible for the 175th Anniversary of Westminster Presbyterian Church, chaired by Robert Blythe, decided to produce a new edition of Dr. Barringer's work as part of our 2010 celebration. This effort has been led by anniversary committee members and archivists Kathie Nenaber and Susan Cull. They have reformatted the booklet and updated the biographical sketches where new information has come to light. With the assistance of Robert Fox they have collected and produced new portrait and gravestone photographs to give this edition a much more expansive visual component. Following the example of Dr. Barringer they have given countless hours to this project as a true labor of love. Invaluable assistance in the design and editing of this booklet has been provided by Westminster Administrative Assistant Ann Whalen.

With great thanks to Dr. Barringer and church archivists Kathie Nenaber and Susan Cull, I commend to the Congregation this revised publication. It is a fitting tribute to the faith of our founders.

Dr. Lonnie H. Lee
Pastor/Head of Staff
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Springfield, Illinois
May 26, 2010

PROLOGUE

There were 30 charter members of the Second Presbyterian Church of Springfield. They were of diverse occupations: shopkeeper, farmer, shoemaker, clerk, cabinetmaker, judge, physician, watchmaker, lawyer, architect, miller, housewife and mother. Their average age was 29 years.

Our church was born at a revival meeting in Springfield in 1834. The leading spirits of that revival were two Congregationalist missionaries from New England: Rev. Albert Hale and Rev. Theron Baldwin.

As Easterners began to move West to settle the frontier, Congregationalist and Presbyterian church leaders were concerned about families moving into a wilderness



lacking churches, ministers and schools. In 1802, the two denominations joined in a "Plan of Union," facilitating a concerted effort to send missionaries to the frontier under the auspices of the American Home Missionary Society. The autonomous Congregational churches were less able to establish churches on the frontier. As a result, New Englanders moving west frequently became Presbyterian. Such was the case in the organization of Second Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois.

Of the 30 charter members of Second Presbyterian Church: 20 were of English origin, 6 of Scotch-Irish, 3 of French, and 1 of Dutch origin. The English were of Puritan (later Congregational) background

and settled in the New England states. Their ports of entry were Plymouth, Salem, and Boston in the 1600's. They spread through Massachusetts, into Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. To reach the Illinois country after 1790, they trekked over the Allegheny Mountains to Pittsburg, floated down the Ohio River by flatboat to Kaskaskia, and then by horse or on foot to Springfield.

The Scotch-Irish were of Presbyterian background and settled in the Middle Atlantic states. They came from Ulster and their port of entry was Philadelphia in the 1700's. They spread over Pennsylvania and into Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas, and after 1775, trekked over the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky and Tennessee, and then to Springfield.

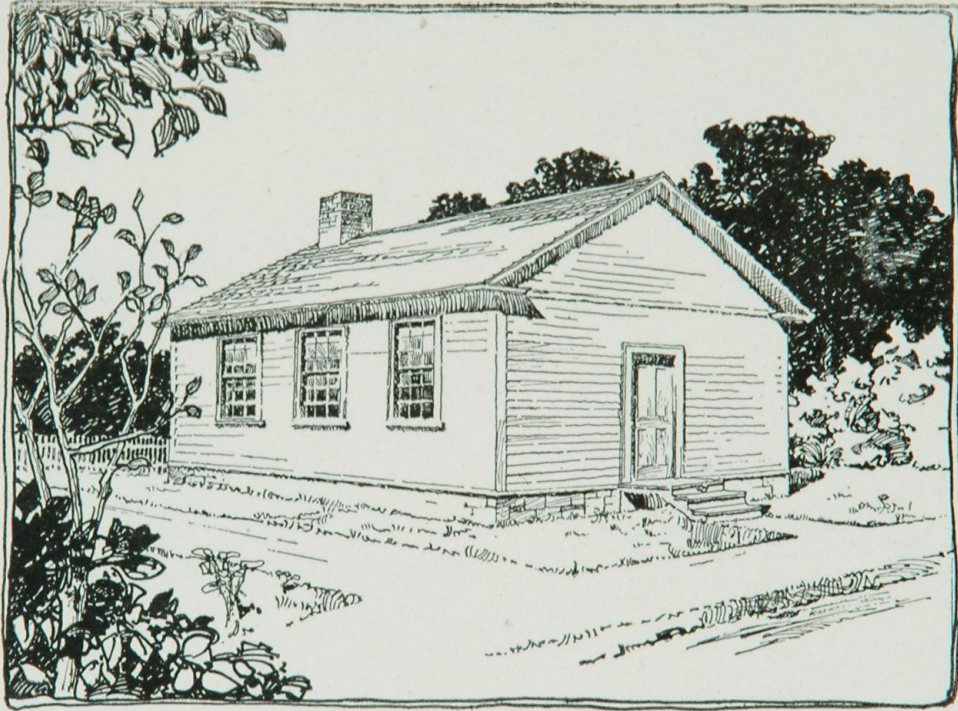
The founders of our church were moral, dour, and puritanical. They were prohibitionist and abolitionist. Their elders were the ascetic guardians of the morals of the congregation. Between 1835 and 1867, 31 members were excommunicated, most of them for "breach of the covenant vows" and "nonattendance at communion."

Today, we are thankful for the Providence that sent us the Rev. Albert Hale in our formative years, a man of great character and dedication, who welded those diverse factions together into that noble structure we know today as Westminster.

Elder Floyd Barringer
Springfield, Illinois
May 26, 1985

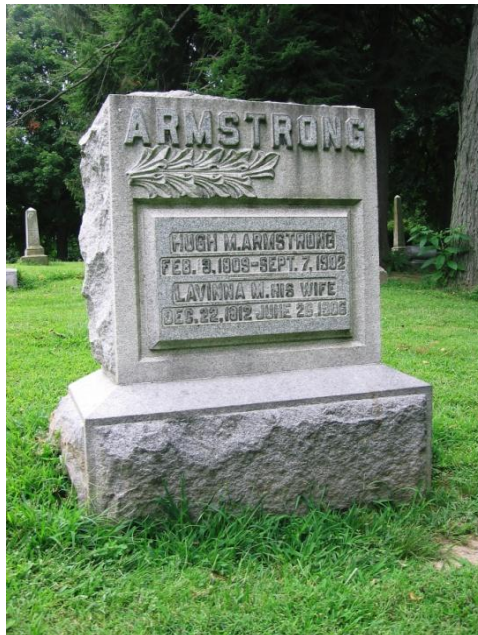


CHARTER MEMBERS AND SPOUSES



Second Church

First Building 1835 - 1839



HUGH M. ARMSTRONG

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born February 13, 1809 in Warren County, Kentucky of English origin. He came to Sangamon County in 1829 arriving in Springfield November 8, 1829.

Married: Lavinia (Lavinna) M. Dryer June 3, 1830 in Sangamon County. He served in Capt. Thomas Moffett's company in the Blackhawk War in 1832.

Occupation: hatter, Armstrong Woolen Factory (predecessor to Springfield Woolen Mills), contractor and builder.

In 1834, Armstrong and John Dryer, his father-in-law, established the Springfield Woolen Mills. It was first powered by an ox treadmill, but was greatly enlarged in 1848 and was powered by steam. In 1851, Joseph Thayer joined the firm. It was greatly expanded by the erection of a large 3-story brick building at 4th and Jackson across from the Executive Mansion. At this time, the mill employed 100 hands and shipped woolen goods all over the country, but especially to the Northwest. Hugh M. Armstrong retired as proprietor of the mill in 1866.

Home: NW corner of Third and Lawrence in 1857.

He was dismissed by letter to the Congregational Church, Batavia, Illinois on June 22, 1866, where he began farming.

Received again at Second Church by letter from the Congregational Church of Batavia, May 29, 1889.

Died: September 6, 1902 in Springfield, aged 93 years and 7 months.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery, Block A Lot 27.

LAVINIA (LAVINNA) M. DRYER ARMSTRONG

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: December 22, 1812 in New York of English origin.

She came to Sangamon County in 1819 with her father John Dryer, who in the 1820s cleared the brush from a grove, where now stands the Executive Mansion, and planted the first nursery in Sangamon County.

Married: Hugh M. Armstrong June 3, 1830 in Sangamon County and had 10 children: 5 grew to adulthood: Catherine, Cynthia, Albert H., John D., and Julia M.

Home: NW corner of Third and Lawrence in Springfield in 1857.

She was dismissed by letter from Second Church to the Congregational Church, Batavia, Illinois, on June 22, 1866.

She was received again at Second Church by letter from Congregational Church, Batavia, on November 29, 1889.

Died: June 26, 1906 in Springfield, aged 93 years, 6 months, and 4 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery, Block A Lot 27.



LUCY W. PARKS CABANISS

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: October 7, 1791 in Green County (now Barren County), Kentucky of English origin.

Married: 1809 to John M. Cabaniss in Green County, Kentucky and had several children. A daughter, Eliza Catherine (1810-1875), married Virgil Hickox of Springfield in 1839. A son, Dr. Zebulon Parks Cabaniss (1819-1855), practiced medicine in Springfield and in Petersburg.

Came to Sangamon County in 1834.

Home: 40 acres in Springfield Township, section 16 (now part of Capitol Airport) on April 18, 1834.

She was dismissed by letter on July 5, 1850 to the Presbyterian Church, Petersburg, Illinois.

Died: March 7, 1854 at Petersburg, aged 62 years and 5 months.

Buried: Old City Cemetery, Petersburg, near her son, Dr. Zebulon Parks Cabaniss.

JOHN M. CABANISS**Husband of Lucy Cabaniss**

Born about 1788 in Green County, Kentucky of French origin.

The Cabanne family came with Rene' Auguste Chouteau of Bearn, France to New Orleans in the 18th century. The Cabanne's followed Chouteau up the Mississippi River when he, according to legend, founded St. Louis in 1812.

Served as Captain of troops from Kentucky in the War of 1812.

Married in 1809 to Lucy W. Parks in Green County, Kentucky.

Came to Sangamon County in 1834.

Home: bought 40 acres in Springfield Township, section 16, from Dr. Gershom Jayne on April 18, 1834.

He was elected member of Board of Trustees of Springfield in 1838.

In April 1841, Captain Cabaniss gave a memorial address to his deceased comrade in arms, President William Henry Harrison, at a meeting held in the Rural Spottswood Hotel in Springfield.

Died c. 1850 in Springfield, aged 64 years, 10 months, and 24 days.

Buried Hutchinson Cemetery and removed to Oak Ridge Cemetery in 1870, Block 7 Lot 18, alongside his daughter, Eliza Cabaniss Hickox.



WILLIAM MASON COWGILL

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

The Puritan ancestors of William Mason Cowgill fled England in the early 1500s to Holland to escape religious persecution. About 1630, their descendants arrived in Massachusetts on the ship "Friendship" from Rotterdam and settled in Connecticut for several years. In the early 1800s, the Cowgills traveled by wagon train through Pennsylvania and settled at Lebanon, Warren County, Ohio. Here, in 1809, William Mason Cowgill was born, here he married Clementine Sayre in 1832, and the same year brought her to Springfield, Illinois. By occupation he was a merchant.

On November 17, 1846, he was dismissed by letter to the Presbyterian Church of Petersburg, Illinois, and the same year established a general store in Petersburg: William E. Cowgill Co.

Second Church was called the Abolitionist Church. On September 27, 1837, a call was issued by Elijah P. Lovejoy for an Anti-Slavery Convention at Upper Alton, Illinois. The call was answered by 245 persons from 10 counties of Illinois. This was the first public listing of abolitionists in Illinois and included the names of 11 members of Second Church, including William M. Cowgill.

Second Church was also known as a Temperance church. On February 22, 1842, Abraham Lincoln delivered a speech before the Springfield Washington Temperance Society Meeting in Second Church, concluding:

"---and when the victory shall be complete-when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth-how proud the title of that Land which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both those revolutions, that shall have ended in that victory. How nobly distinguished that People, who shall have planted and nurtured to maturity, both the political and moral freedom of their species."

A few years later a petition appeared in the Journal asking the Rev. James Smith of First Church to publish a speech he had given: "A Discourse on the Bottle: It's Evils and the Remedy". Among the petitioners were twelve members of Second Church, including William M. Cowgill.

Died: October 2, 1862 at Petersburg, aged 53 years.

Buried: Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburg, Illinois.

William Mason Cowgill is the great, great uncle of William Black formerly of Springfield and Westminster Presbyterian Church. William Black transferred his membership to Green Valley, Arizona, 1987 and left a bequest to Westminster at his death in 2008.



CLEMENTINE SAYRE COWGILL

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born in 1810 in Lebanon, Ohio of English origin.

Married: William M. Cowgill 1832 in Lebanon, Ohio and had 5 children.

She came to Springfield in 1832. She was dismissed to the Presbyterian Church, Petersburg Illinois, November 17, 1846.

Died: December 22, 1854 in Petersburg, Menard County, Illinois aged 44 years.

Buried: Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburg.



LUCY ANN POE GOURLEY

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

The Poe family was Protestant (Albigensian) and lived near Toulouse in southwest France. During the terrible persecutions carried out by the Catholic Church in the 13th century, they fled to Scotland. In 1667, John Poe participated in the Pentland Uprising against Charles II, and fled from Scotland to County Cavan in Northern Ireland. Two of John's sons emigrated to America and settled in Lancaster County, in 1739. John Jr. (born 1698) was the great grandfather of Edgar Allen Poe; Alexander (born 1703) was the great grandfather of Ann Poe of French family origin.

Ann Poe was born June 11, 1818 Chatham County, North Carolina. Ann came west with her parents in 1823. Her mother, Lucy Rebecca, died on the way and was buried in Kentucky. Her father, Jacob settled in Galatia, Illinois, where he remarried and taught school for many years. Ann could not get along with her stepmother and was sent to visit friends in Springfield in 1834.

Ann was married February 27, 1837, by Rev. Dewey Whitney in Springfield to James Gourley. They had 10 children.

- Martha Jane Gourley b. 29 Nov. 1837
- William Henry Harrison Gourley b. 25 May 1839
- Charles Sibbet Gourley b. 03 Dec 1842
- Frances Ann Gourley b. 14 Feb 1844
- Albert Franklin Gourley b. 29 Oct 1846
- Mary Louise Gourley b. 14 Feb 1849
- Caroline Alice Gourley b. 25 Jan 1851

James Thomas Gourley b. 18 Jan 1853
 Adah Emma Dora Gourley b. 17 Feb. 1855
 Maybell Clark Gourley b. 28 Nov. 1857

Their home, built in 1837, stood on the north side of Jackson between 8th and 9th Streets, next door to the Lincoln home.

Died: April 20, 1863 in Springfield, aged 44 years, 10 months, and 9 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 13, Lot 40.

Ann Poe was the great-grandmother of Frances Bone Kimble of Westminster Church and Robert G. Bone, President of Illinois State University from 1956 to 1967, and Martha J. Hollis, deceased, of Westminster Church. Great-great grandchildren are Nancy Huston, Kenneth Hollis, and Richard Hollis of Westminster. Great-great-great grandson is Christopher Hollis, who is a Deacon of the church and now lives in Japan.

JAMES GOURLEY

Husband of Lucy Gourley

Born: August 2, 1808 in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania of Scotch-Irish origin.

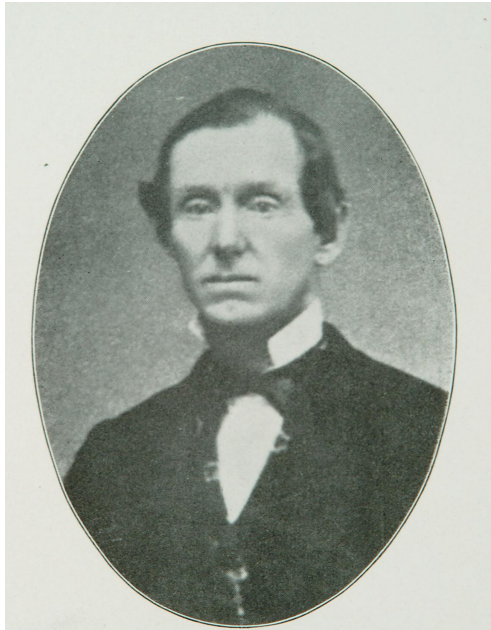
Came to Springfield in 1830.

Became a member of Second Presbyterian Church by Baptism October 1, 1837.

Occupation: Cordwainer (shoemaker), deputy sheriff, and deputy United States Marshal.

He was excommunicated from Second Church, July 27, 1868, charged with "habitual neglect of the means of grace and non-attendance at the Lord's Supper." Legend has it that Gourley reassured his neighbor, Mr. Lincoln, that one did not have to be a church member to get into heaven.

Died: March 26, 1874 in Springfield, aged 75 years, 7 months, and 24 days. Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 13 Lot 40.



ELIPHALET B. HAWLEY, JR.

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Elected Elder of Second Presbyterian Church on April 20, 1849 and served as a Ruling Elder for 35 years.

Born: May 30, 1816 in Albany, New York of English-Scottish origin.

Ancestor, Joseph Hawley came from Stratford, England to Massachusetts in 1649.

Came to Sangamon County as a child in May of 1822 down the Ohio River.

Married: Mary D. Sayre July 12, 1838 in Springfield.

Home: SW corner of Seventh and Reynolds in 1857.

Occupation: merchant (E. B. Hawley & Co., Dry Goods & Notions).

He was Chairman of the Building Committee of the third church building on the NW corner of Fourth and Monroe: 1869-72. He was an early member of Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery (1872).

Remembered best for the heroism he displayed in the Depression of 1873. The church was struggling beneath a debt of \$31,000 with every prospect of a forced sale. At an emergency congregational meeting, a subscription paper was passed through the

congregation and when it reached Elder Hawley, he rose and said: "I have no money that I can contribute to this project, but I have two lots I will gladly turn in. And here is my watch. It's about all else that I own, but I am willing to let it go for the debt." The church was saved.

The Minutes of the Session hold several tributes paid to Elder Hawley at the time of his death: "A Godly man, full of faith and good works."

Died: October 27, 1884 in Springfield, aged 68 years, 5 months, and 26 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 10 Lot 72.



MARY D. SAYRE HAWLEY

Wife of Eliphalet Hawley, Jr.

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: June 26, 1815 at Lebanon, Ohio of English origin. Came to Sangamon County in 1834.

Married: Eliphalet B. Hawley, Jr. July 12, 1838 in Springfield and had 4 children: Mary, Isabella G. (married George M Brinkerhoff, 1862), Maria D., and Benjamin.

Home: SW corner of Seventh and Reynolds in 1857.

Died: January 22, 1893 in Springfield, aged 81 years, 6 months, and 27 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 10 Lot 72.

ISABELLA G. HAWLEY**Sister of Eliphalet, Jr.**

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: November 22, 1821 at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, on the trip from Albany, New York to Illinois. The family is of English origin.

She arrived in Fulton County, Illinois in May 1822. In June 1822, her father, Eliphalet B. Hawley, Sr., drowned while crossing Spoon River near his home. The family moved to Springfield that winter and on August 9, 1823 her mother, Elizabeth Hawley, was married to John Moore.

Attended: Monticello Female Seminary at Godfrey, Illinois.

She was dismissed by letter from Second Church to Presbyterian Church, Rushville, Illinois in August, 1835, and moved there with her stepfather and mother.

Isabella taught school and was a teacher in the Rushville High School Association, founded in 1844 under the auspices of the Rushville New School Presbyterian Church.

Died: April 15, 1845 in Rushville, aged 23 years, 4 months, and 17 days.

Buried in Old Rushville Cemetery, Rushville, IL.

The Dictionary of American Biography lists a Gideon Hawley, who was born in Huntington, Connecticut in 1785, and who became a successful lawyer in Albany, New York. Hawley had an illustrious career in the field of education. He served 1812 to 1821 as the first Superintendent of Public Instruction for New York State and laid the foundations for the public elementary school system. He served as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, 1842-70, and was largely responsible for establishing the first normal school in the state at Albany.

It is most likely that Gideon Hawley was a relative, and possibly an uncle, of Isabella Hawley, whose all too short life was dedicated to teaching, an integral part of the missionary service of her day.

ISAAC A. HAWLEY

Brother of Eliphalet, Jr.

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: November 26, 1819 at Albany, New York of English origin.

Came to Sangamon County in May 1822.

Married: Eliza McCauley April 30, 1851 in Springfield and had 1 child.

Home: NW corner of Ninth and Capitol in 1857.

Occupation: clerk in dry goods store; County Treasurer 1863-65; Secretary of Sangamo Insurance Co.

Died: February 20, 1902 in Springfield, aged 82 years, 2 months, and 24 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 10 Lot 72.

NANCY R. WHITECRAFT HUMPHREYS

Charter member of Sangamo Presbyterian Church January 30, 1828.

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: 1809 in Bath County, Kentucky of English origin.

Married: Alexander B. V. Humphreys in October 1827 in Bath County, Kentucky and had 6 children.

Came to Sangamon County in December 1827.

Home: (1) Woodside Township, Section 11, Sugar Creek Timber, 3 1/2 miles SE of Springfield in 1829; (2) Christian County, South Fork Township (now the site of Tovey, Illinois originally called Humphrey, Illinois) in March of 1850.

Died February 28, 1862 in Christian County, Illinois, aged 53 years.

Buried Old Bethany Cemetery, South Fork Township, Section 32 near Lake Sanchris.



Cemetery entrance marker where Nancy and Alexander Humphreys are buried.

ALEXANDER B. V. HUMPHREYS

Husband of Nancy Humphreys

Born: November 27, 1803 in Fleming County, Kentucky of English origin.

Married: Nancy R. Whitecraft in October 1827 in Bath County, Kentucky.

Came to Sangamon County in December 1827.

Occupation: blacksmith; miller of the Elgan Saw & Grist Mill and Whitecraft Mill on Clear Creek; farmer.

Died: October 8, 1865 in Christian County, Illinois, aged 61 years, 10 months, and 11 days.

Buried: Old Bethany Cemetery, South Fork Township, Section 32.



ANN FOSTER ILES

Charter member of Sangamo Presbyterian Church January 30, 1828.

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: December 3, 1804, Flemingsburg, Kentucky of English origin.

Married: Washington Iles May 21, 1822 at Flemingsburg, Kentucky and had 11 children: Martha H. (1823), Mary E. (1825), Cordelia M. (1827), Melinda A. (1829), Ann E. (1831), Washington T. (1833), Nancy V. (1835), Elijah F. (1838), Edward (1841), Julia E. (1843), and Maria (1845).

Came to Sangamon County in 1825.

Home: Woodside Township, Section 12 (now Ash Street & Dirksen Parkway) in 1835.

Died: August 25, 1866 in Springfield, aged 61 years, 6 months, and 22 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 10 Lot 11.



WASHINGTON ILES

Husband of Ann Foster Iles

Born: July 18, 1800 in Bath County, Kentucky. His grandfather came from England.

Came to Sangamon County in 1825. His brother, Elijah Iles, was an early settler and founder of Calhoun (now Springfield) in 1820.

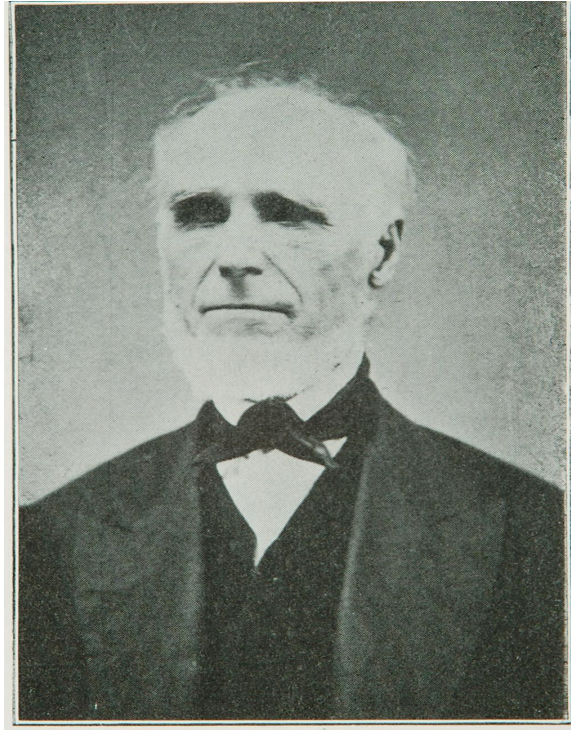
Occupation: land owner.

He served in the Winnebago and the Blackhawk Wars and aided in bringing the steamboat, Talisman, up the Sangamon River, opposite Springfield the only steamboat that ever ascended that stream so high.¹

Died: July 4, 1871 in Springfield, aged 70 years, 11 months, and 16 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 10 Lot 11.

¹ From "History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois" by John Carroll Power



THOMAS MOFFETT

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Elected Elder of Second Presbyterian Church September 20, 1835; served as a Ruling Elder for 42 years.

He taught Bible class at Second Church Sabbath School for many years.

James Conkling writes about Thomas Moffett: "he frequently performed the duties of a Chorister in the church, at the prayer meetings and social gatherings although he did not sing with the skill of more scientific leaders."

Born: April 13, 1797 in Bath County, Kentucky of Scotch-Irish origin. Came to Sangamon County November 14, 1826.

Married: (1) Eliza A. Gatton on January 22, 1829 in Morgan County; (2) unknown name. Home: west side of Third Street between Adams and Monroe in 1857.

Occupation: school teacher, first attorney to read law and become licensed in Sangamon County; Sergeant in Winnebago War in 1827; Captain Black Hawk Wars in 1832; County Commissioner, Probate Judge in 1843; County Judge in 1849; and, first president of the Old Settlers Society in 1859. Judge Moffett had various professional dealings with Abraham Lincoln. At the time of his death the *State Journal* paid tribute to him as "A highly esteemed citizen of Springfield."

The Westminster Church records include this tribute: "Notwithstanding, Brother Moffett experienced such a terrible affliction in the loss of his wife and all his children, he never swerved from the path of duty. He endured the extreme severity of his losses with Christian resignation and fortitude. They seemed to purify his heart, and to elevate his Christian character, and to increase his devotion to the religious interests of the church."

The ledgers of Thomas C. Smith tell us that at Mrs. Moffett's funeral in 1867, six carriages were needed for the funeral cortege. At the funeral of Judge Moffett in 1877 only one carriage was needed. Judge Moffett was, indeed, the "last leaf on the tree."

Died June 16, 1877 at Springfield, aged 80 years, 2 months, and 3 days. Possibly buried Oak Ridge Cemetery.²

A great, great-niece of Thomas Moffett was Mrs. Margaret Swickard of Springfield, and an Elder of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

ELIZA A. GATTON MOFFETT

Wife of Thomas Moffett

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: July 26, 1800 (1810?) in Kentucky of Scotch-Irish origin. Came to Morgan County, Illinois, with her father, Thomas Gatton, in 1824.

Married: Thomas Moffett on January 22, 1829 in Morgan County and had 8 children. Came to Springfield in 1829.

Home: west side of Third Street between Adams & Monroe in 1857.

Died: November 11, 1867 in Springfield, aged 67 years, 3 months, and 15 days.

Buried: Hutchinson Cemetery, Springfield.³ Although her name is not included in the known bodies removed to Oak Ridge, her remains almost certainly were re-interred in Block 2 with other unknown early Springfield pioneers.

² Eliza Moffett's own entry following.

³ In 2009, the director of Oak Ridge Cemetery writes: "We have reviewed our records and even searched the original hand-written interment book of Oak Ridge Cemetery. We have these old books digitized and on our data-base so we were even able to do a digital search. We do not have recorded burials of Thomas Moffett and Eliza A. Gatton Moffett."



EBENEZER STRONG PHELPS, SR.

Elected Elder of Sangamo Presbyterian Church on January 3, 1832. Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church, May 26, 1835.

Elected Elder of Second Presbyterian Church on May 26, 1835; served as a Ruling Elder for 3 years.

Born: September 3, 1788 at Northampton, Massachusetts of English origin.

William Phelps, known as “The Old Puritan” of Dorchester, Massachusetts, came from Plymouth, Devonshire, England in 1630 on the “Mary and John.”

Married: Anna Wright on February 24, 1812 at Northampton, Massachusetts. Came to Sangamon County July 26, 1831.

Home: east side of Walnut Street Road one mile north of Oak Ridge in 1835.

Occupation: watchmaker and jeweler.

On May 8, 1838, he was dismissed by letter from Second Church to Hampshire Colony Congregational Church, in Princeton, Illinois where he had previously been a member. E. S. Phelps, Sr. had proposed the organization of the Princeton church with 17 other

colonists in March of 1831 in Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts. At the founding, Phelps was immediately elected a Deacon of the church. He led the emigration of the colonists to Princeton, Illinois in May of 1831. In 1838, when Phelps returned to Princeton, he continued as a leading force in the church until his death in 1872.

Died: March 19, 1872 in Princeton, Illinois, aged 83 years, 6 months, and 16 days.

Buried in Oakland Cemetery, Princeton, Bureau County, Illinois.

Owen Lovejoy, brother of the martyred Elijah Lovejoy, became pastor of the Princeton church in 1838 and served there and in the U. S. Congress until his death in 1864. This colony was famous throughout the country as an anti-slavery center and a station on the Underground Railway.

ANNA WRIGHT PHELPS

Wife of Ebenezer, Sr.

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: May 10, 1781 at Northampton, Massachusetts of English origin.

Married: Ebenezer S. Phelps, Sr. on February 24, 1812 in Northampton and had 7 children.

Moved to Sangamon County July 26, 1831.

Home: east side of Walnut Street Road one mile north of Oak Ridge in 1835.

Dismissed by letter to Hampshire Colony Congregational Church at Princeton, Illinois May 8, 1838.

Died: July 5, 1873 in Princeton, aged 92 years, 1 month, and 25 days.

Buried: Oakland Cemetery, Princeton, Bureau County, Illinois.

JAMES R. PHELPS

Son of Anna and Ebenezer, Sr.

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born 1819 in Northampton, Massachusetts of English origin.

Came to Sangamon County with his parents July 26, 1831.

Home: east side of North Walnut Street Road one mile north of Oak Ridge in 1835.

Dismissed to Hampshire Congregational Church in Princeton May 6, 1838.

Married in Princeton to Almeda Welch of New Jersey and had 4 children.

Occupation: farmer.

Founding member of Congregational Society of Wyanet, Illinois, September 27, 1866.

Home: Section 12, P.O., Wyanet, Concord Township, Bureau County, 3 miles west of Princeton, Illinois.

Collector of Wyanet Congregational Bible Church January 5, 1871 to January 3, 1884.

Died: 1885 at Wyanet, Bureau County, Illinois, aged 66 years.

Buried: Unknown cemetery. Wyanet, Bureau County, Illinois.

EBENEZER S. PHELPS, JR.

Son of Anna and Ebenezer Phelps, Sr.

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: October 15, 1817 in Northampton, Massachusetts of English origin.

Came to Sangamon County with his parents July 26, 1831.

Home: east side of Walnut Street Road, one mile north of Oak Ridge in 1835.

He was dismissed by letter to Hampshire Colony Congregational Church of Princeton, Illinois on May 6, 1838.

Married: August 12, 1839 to Hannah M. Moore (born February 23, 1822 at Conway, Massachusetts) at Princeton and had 8 children.

He was a driver for the Underground Railway during the 1840s and 1850s.

He was received into Second Church by letter from First Presbyterian Church, Union Grove (Now renamed Mark), Putnam County, Illinois November 4, 1849.

He was dismissed again by letter from Second Church to Union Grove Presbyterian Church November 2, 1850. The Union Grove Presbyterian Church was founded by 20 families from the South who came to Union Grove to escape the evils of slavery. Here

the Rev. Aratus Kent, of Suffield, Connecticut, offered his services to the American Home Missionary Society asking to be sent "to a place so hard that no one else would take it." He preached the first sermon in 1829.

He was dismissed by letter to Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa on January 7, 1858.

He was a founding member of Congregational Society of Wyanet, Illinois on September 27, 1866 where he lived Section 12, P.O. Wyanet, Concord Township, Bureau County, Illinois.

Occupation: farmer and builder.

Clerk of Congregational Bible Church from October 1, 1866 to January 7, 1875.

He and his wife moved to a farm near Aurora, Nebraska in the Spring of 1879.

Died: 30 October 1909, Aurora, Nebraska, aged 92 years.

Buried: Aurora cemetery

CHARLES C. PHELPS

Son of Anna and Ebenezer Phelps, Sr.



Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: October 24, 1814 in Northampton, Massachusetts of English origin.

Immigrated, with the other colonists, to Princeton, Illinois in May, 1831, but then joined his parents in Springfield and remained here the rest of his life.

Married: Sophia Little on July 31, 1837 in Northampton, Massachusetts and had

8 children.

Home: SW corner of Third & Adams in 1857.

Occupation: cabinet maker

Died: March 5, 1866 in Springfield, aged 51 years, 4 months, and 9 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 11 Lot 65.



MARY M. ROGERS PLANCK

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: April 4, 1806 at Flemingsburg, Kentucky of English origin.

Married: Jacob C. Planck 1826 in Flemingsburg, Kentucky and had 9 children.

She came to Sangamon County in autumn of 1826.

Home: (1) Woodside Township, Section 1 (now East South Grand Avenue & Taylor Street) in 1835; (2) south side of Mason between 7th & 8th Streets in 1866.

She was removed from Second Church membership, having joined another church on March 5, 1843, and was received again at Second Church March 2, 1856 by letter from First Presbyterian Church of Springfield.

Died: January 12, 1867 in Springfield, aged 61 years, 9 months, 27 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 7 Lot 188

JACOB C. PLANCK

Husband of Mary Rogers Planck

Born: January 27, 1804 in Maryland, moved to Kentucky as a small boy and was of German origin.

Came to Sangamon County in autumn of 1826.

Occupation: shoemaker; carpenter.

Died: August 3, 1867 in Springfield, aged 63 years, 6 month, 6 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 7 Lot 188



JOHN FRANCIS RAGUE

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Choir leader of Second Presbyterian Church from 1835 to 1842. Previously choir leader of Sangamo Presbyterian Church from 1831-1835.

A family Bible belonging to his Presbyterian mother records that John F. Rague was born at Scotch Plains, New Jersey March 24, 1799.

He was an intimate friend of Washington Irving during his childhood.

In 1824, upon the return of the General Marquis de Lafayette to America, a reception for him was held in New York City. At the dinner on this occasion, John Rague was seated beside the General since Rague's father, then deceased, had served as a surgeon under Lafayette during the Revolution.

Rague studied architecture under Minard LeFevre in New York City.

Came to Springfield in 1831 where he served as trustee of the town in 1836.

Married: Eliza M. Van Dyke between 1831 and 1835 in Springfield.

Rague's Occupation: baker, choir leader, and architect.

He received an award of \$200 for designing the plans for the Old State Capitol and was retained as supervising architect by the commissioners at \$1,000 per year. He also served as architect for the old State Capitol of Iowa, the Old State Capitol of Wisconsin, the City Hall of Dubuque, Iowa, many schools and fine homes.

When studying his architectural style, some are led to believe that John Rague may have designed the second building of Second Presbyterian Church on Fourth Street. The church was built in the Greek Revival style for which Rague was known. Since Rague was an active member and choir leader of the church at the time and there is no record of an architect being paid for the design, it is reasonable to assume that he volunteered his services for this project.

On August 24, 1842, John F. Rague was excommunicated from the Second Presbyterian Church for "Sabbath breaking, uttering a falsehood, and trifling with the Session."

In 1843, Rague left Springfield because of business and domestic difficulties and moved to Milwaukee. He divorced his wife. He abandoned the Presbyterian Church and became a "Free Thinker."

Rague married a second time to Miss Christina Scales, an artist, and moved with her to Dubuque, Iowa in 1854. He continued as a leading architect of Iowa, but his eyesight failed in the 1860's and he became totally blind.

Died: September 24, 1877, in Dubuque, Iowa, aged 78 years 6 months.

Buried: Linwood Cemetery, Dubuque, Iowa.

ELIZA M. VAN DYKE RAGUE

Wife of John Rague

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: 1804 in New York City of Dutch origin. Came to Illinois about 1830 with her widowed mother and her sister, who married John E. Roll of Sangamo Town in 1838.

Married: 1) John F. Rague between 1831-35 in Springfield, having been a member of the choir at Sangamo Presbyterian Church under his direction. 2) Mr. St. Clair.

She was dismissed by letter to the Presbyterian Church of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on October 13, 1843 and received again at Second Church by letter from Milwaukee Presbyterian Church on May 1, 1852. She was dismissed by letter to Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, Illinois on February 28, 1855.

Having heard of John Rague's blindness, Eliza travelled to Dubuque several times to help and care for him. It was Rague's wish that upon her death, her body be brought to Dubuque and buried beside him in Linwood Cemetery. Here they lie reunited in death.

Died: August 3, 1882 at Jacksonville, aged 78 years.

Buried: Linwood Cemetery, Dubuque, Iowa.

SAMUEL H. REID, SR.

Charter member of Sangamo Presbyterian Church January 30, 1828.

Elected Elder of Sangamo Presbyterian Church on January 30, 1828.

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Elected Elder of Second Presbyterian Church on May 26, 1835; served as Ruling Elder for three months.

Born: 1781 in Richmond, Virginia of Scotch-Irish origin.

Married: (1) Elizabeth Roberts in Warren County, Kentucky and had 6 children; Elizabeth and their child Samuel Jr. (married Elizabeth Davis) were members of Second Presbyterian Church. (2) Jane Gott in 1827 in Warren County, Kentucky and had 4 children.

He came to Sangamon County in September 1827 from Kentucky.

Home: Springfield Township, Section 30 (now Washington Place, West Washington Street) in 1827.

Occupation: farmer.

Died: August 8, 1835 in Sangamon County, aged 54 years.

Buried: Hutchinson Cemetery, Springfield, and body removed to Oak Ridge Cemetery in 1884: Block B Lot 30.

JANE GOTT REID**Wife of Samuel Reid**

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born in Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky.

Married: Samuel H. Reid Sr. in 1827 and had 4 children.

She came to Sangamon County in September 1827.

Home: Springfield Township, Section 30 (now Washington Place, West Washington Street) in 1827.

Died: September 14, 1835 in Sangamon County.

Buried: Hutchinson Cemetery, Springfield. Her body was removed to Oak Ridge Cemetery in 1884: Block B Lot 30.

MARY PENTACOST SHERRILL

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born in 1802 in Charlotte County, Virginia, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Pamplin) Pentacost of French origin.

Married: November 13, 1821 in Green County, Kentucky to John Sherrill, his 3rd wife, and by him had 4 children.

John and Mary Sherrill moved with her parents in 1827 to Menard County, Illinois.

Home: SW corner of First and Jefferson in Springfield in November 1828 and were next door neighbors of the Hawley family, who were founding members of Second Presbyterian Church.

She was dismissed by letter from Second Church to the Presbyterian Church of Galena, Illinois, September 3, 1844.

Died: sometime after 1850, probably in Galena, Illinois.

Buried: probably at Galena, Illinois.

JOHN SHERRILL

Husband of Mary Sherrill

The Sherrills were of French Huguenot origin (Cherel) and escaped to Northern Ireland after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in France in 1685. They then came to America and settled first in Maryland and then in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in 1747.

John Sherrill was born in Virginia in 1784, the son of William and Janey (Hord) Sherrill. The family then moved to Rowan County, North Carolina on the Northwest Carolina frontier.

In 1810 and 1820, John Sherrill was living in Green County, Kentucky. Here he married Mary Pentacost in 1821, and in 1827 they moved to Menard County, Illinois.

John and Mary Sherrill were living in Springfield in November 1828 when John Todd

Stuart came to Springfield from Green County, Kentucky. John T. Stuart, lawyer, met Abraham Lincoln in 1832 as a major in the Black Hawk War. He later was a law partner with Lincoln in Springfield. A favorite cousin of Mary Todd Lincoln, Stuart was a frequent visitor to the White House even though he was an anti-emancipation Democrat. He was elected to the U. S. Congress in 1862.

Occupation: shoemaker.

Died: April 3, 1858.

Buried at the Old City Cemetery in Galena, Illinois.

WILLIAM C. STEPHENSON

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: 1812 in Caldwell County, Kentucky. His father came from South Carolina and his mother from North Carolina of Scotch-Irish origins. The family moved to Wayne County, Illinois in 1818 and to Sangamon County in 1825.

Home: Woodside Township, Section 24, 4 1/2 miles SE of center of Springfield (the site is now in Lake Springfield), and here William established a mission school. Began the study of medicine and graduated from the Medical College of Ohio.

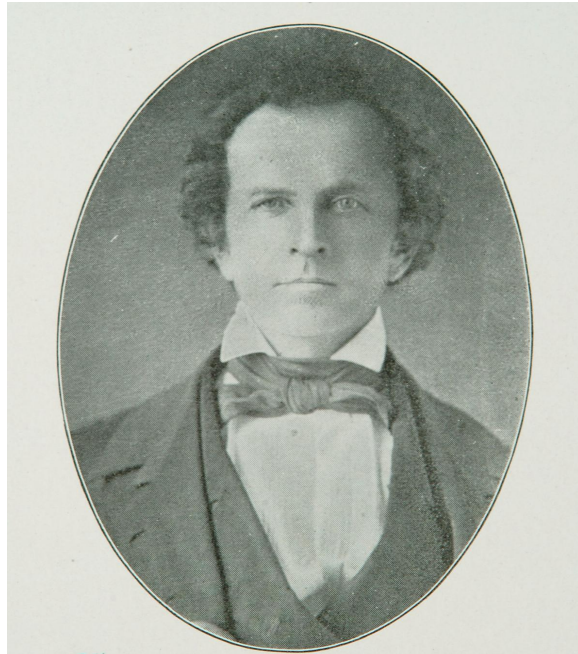
Given a letter of dismissal from Second Church to the Methodist Church of West Point, Iowa Territory on March 7, 1838. He moved to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, near West Point, where he practiced medicine the rest of his life. Presley Saunders from Sangamon County, incidentally, founded Mt. Pleasant, in 1834.

William's younger brother, Benjamin F. Stephenson, "read" medicine with him in Mt. Pleasant and then went on to attend medical lectures at Columbus, Ohio and to graduate from Rush Medical College of Chicago in 1850. Benjamin returned to practice medicine in Petersburg after serving as a surgeon in the Union Army and became famous as the founder of the GAR in 1866.

In the latter part of 1835, a Rev. John Ruble came to Mt. Pleasant as a missionary and soon after married Miss Diana C. Bowen of that place. He died in May 1836, leaving a widow and small child. Rev. Rubles' widow then married Dr. William C. Stephenson in 1838. He died eight years later, leaving no children.

Died: April 1846 in Mt. Pleasant, aged 34 years.

Buried: Old City Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.



JOHN B. WATSON

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Elected Elder of Second Presbyterian Church October 2, 1836; served 16 years as a Ruling Elder.

John was born February 10, 1800 in the York District of South Carolina and when he was 10 years old he came with his family to Randolph County, Illinois.

First Superintendent of the Second Church Sabbath School serving from 1835 to 1847.

The antecedents of John B. Watson were of Scottish origin and suffered greatly there from religious intolerance. After the Battle of Boyne in 1690, the family immigrated to County Tyrone in the north of Ireland. The family then immigrated to Pennsylvania before the French-Indian Wars of the 1750's and settled where Chambersburg now stands. The Indians harassed them constantly. They removed to the Carolinas and several fought in the Revolutionary War.

Married: Mary Gillis April 9, 1829 at Kaskaskia, Randolph County, Illinois and had 7 children.

He came to Sangamon County in 1829.

Home: west side of Second Street between Monroe and Capitol in 1829 where the State Capitol Building now stands.

Occupation: schoolteacher, county surveyor, engineer of the Great Western Railroad, and gold miner.

In hope of providing more fully for his family, he joined the gold rush to California in 1849 with the Illinois and California Mining Mutual Insurance Co. He returned after an apparently successful three years in California, arriving home on August 9, 1852.

Tragically, Watson arrived home in the middle of a cholera epidemic in Springfield. On the second morning after his return, two of his daughters died of cholera and the same evening John B. Watson died as well. (In describing the cholera epidemic some years later, Dr. George Pasfield, of Springfield, remarked "it was nothing unusual to find in the hot summer morning that three or four citizens had died of cholera morbus during the night, after a few hours of illness.")

This marked the tragic end of a member of Second Presbyterian Church with a record of great works in the past and promise of greater works yet to come.

Died: August 11, 1852 in Springfield, aged 51 years, 6 months, 1 day.

Buried: Hutchinson Cemetery, Springfield, and body removed to Oak Ridge Cemetery in 1873: Block 8 Lot 192.



MARY GILLIS WATSON

Wife of John B. Watson

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

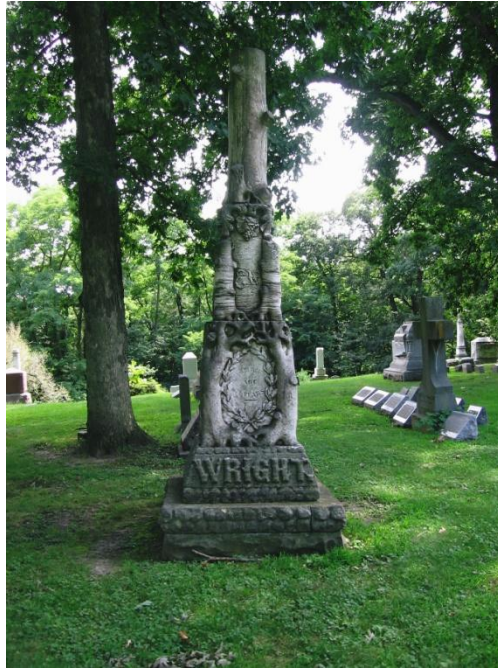
Born: January 31, 1814 in Wilmington, Delaware of Scotch-Irish origin. She was a faithful member of the Society of Friends before her marriage.

She came to Sangamon County in 1829.

Married: (1) John B. Watson, April 9, 1829 in Kaskaskia, Illinois: 7 children; (2) Judge Silas W. Robbins on December 16, 1863 in Springfield: 2 children died in infancy.

Died: January 29, 1874 in Springfield, aged 59 years, 11 months, and 2 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 8 Lot 192.



ERASTUS WRIGHT

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: January 21, 1779 in Bernardstown, Massachusetts of English origin. (Thomas Wright, his forebear, came from Essex County, England to Wethersfield, Connecticut in 1640.)

He came to Sangamon County November 21, 1821.

Married: (1) Jane Gardner June 15, 1831 in Fulton County, Illinois: 3 children; (2) Lucy Burrows, who died April 22, 1867: no children; (3) Lucy Carpenter on March 23, 1868 at Lincoln, Illinois: no children.

Home: west end of Jefferson in 1857 (now corner of Lewis and Jefferson).

Occupation: schoolteacher and county commissioner of schools for many years; land agent. Remembered by his students for the elk he rode and drove to harness. He obtained the elk in 1824, trading 80 acres of land in Schuyler County for the animal.

John Carroll Powers writes, "He was one of the earliest abolitionists and was always fearless in advocating its doctrines." He was also remembered in Second Church's history of 1885 as, "a man with a fiery nature and extreme views on the questions of the day; he was at the same time a man of earnest piety and large benevolence."



In the church records is a copy of the following letter that deeded a house and lot to Rev. Albert Hale where Hale made his home from 1847 until his death in 1891. The site was Block 16, Lot 7: #211 East Adams which is now two doors west of the Sangamo Club.

Springfield, Illinois
1st Jan. 1847

Rev. A. Hale,
Beloved Pastor:

In token of regard for your kindness and faithful Christian labors in former days, and self-denial in times of high speculation, your friend matures his long speculation design and now presents, as a New Year's Gift, a House and lot for a temporary home for yourself and the little family the Lord has given you.

Trusting they may all have a better House, "a Building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Enclosed please find Deed duly acknowledged.

Yours affectionately,
Erastus Wright

Died: November 21, 1870 in Springfield, aged 91 years, 10 months.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 14 Lot 28.

JANE GARDNER WRIGHT

Wife of Erastus Wright

Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.

Born: November 1808 in Saratoga, New York of English origin. Thomas Gardner, her forebear, came from Dorset County, England to Salem, Massachusetts in 1623. Came to Illinois with her parents.

Married: Erastus Wright June 15, 1831 in Fulton County, Illinois and had 3 children.
Home: west end of Jefferson Street.

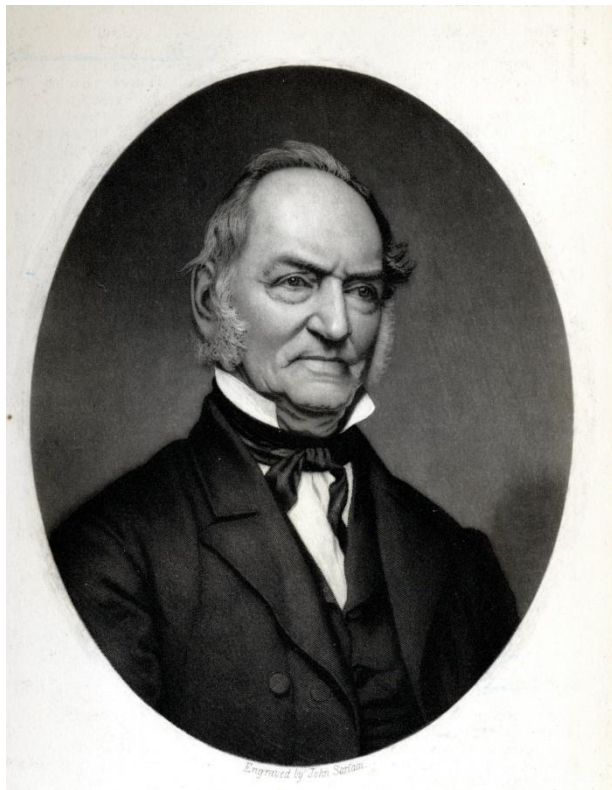
Died: January 24, 1841 in Springfield, aged 33 years, 2 months.

Buried: Hutchinson Cemetery, Springfield and body removed to Oak Ridge Cemetery in 1867: Block 14, Lot 28.

EARLY MINISTERS



1871 Pulpit



REVEREND JOHN G. BERGEN

Born: November 27, 1790 at Hightstown, New Jersey of Norwegian origin.

He graduated from Princeton College at 17, where he studied under theologian Professor John Woodhull. He was licensed to preach at 20.

Married: Margretta Henderson November 10, 1812 at Freehold, New Jersey and had 5 children.

He came to Springfield November 1828 to serve as the first pastor of the Sangamo Presbyterian Church, which was organized January 30, 1828 as a mission church by the missionary Rev. John M. Ellis.

Home: double frame house on the south side of Washington Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets in 1828.

Coincident with the dedication of First Presbyterian Church as a permanent church in 1835, the Second Presbyterian Church was organized by dissident members with the help of Rev. Bergen.

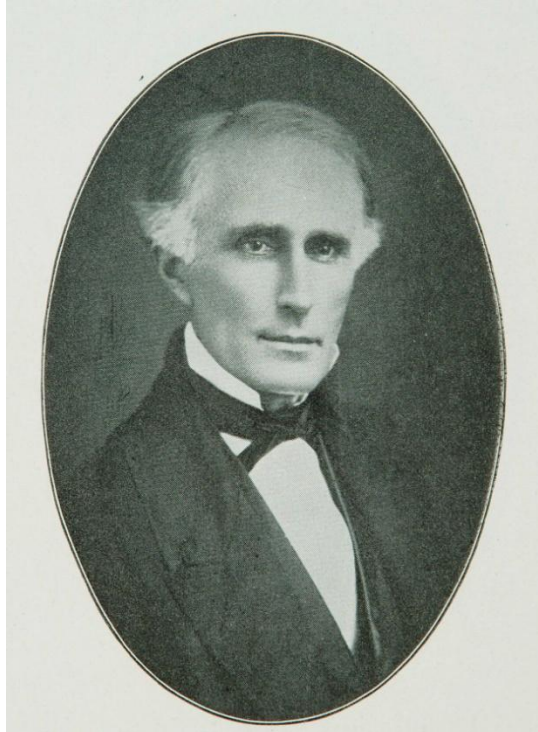
Rev. Bergen served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church until 1848 and then remained with the congregation in an unofficial capacity until his death, publishing a large number of religious tracts under the pen name of "Old Man of the Prairie."⁴ He was a member of several community organizations and served as chaplain of the State Senate.

Died: January 16, 1872 in Springfield, aged 81 years and 2 months.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 7 Lot 137.



⁴ Note this phrase on the base of his tombstone.



REVEREND ALBERT HALE

Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church from November 1, 1839 to January 1, 1867.

Samuel Hale, great-great-grandfather, (1615-1693), was born Alderly Edge (?) in Cheshire, England, and sailed from London to Roxbury, Massachusetts, on the "Elizabeth and Ann", Roger Cooper, Master, in 1635. The same year, Samuel with his brother Thomas and sister Martha, settled in Hartford, Connecticut, where, in 1637, Samuel and Thomas fought in the Pequot Indian War. In 1643, Samuel married Mary, daughter of the Rev. Henry Smith of Wethersfield. Samuel became a selectman of Wethersfield and a Deputy for Wethersfield to the Connecticut General Assembly in 1665. He died in Wethersfield.

Lieut. Samuel Hale, great-great-grandfather, (1644-1711), born Wethersfield; was a Lieut. in the Wethersfield Train Band and a Deputy for Glastonbury to the Connecticut General Assembly. He died in Glastonbury.

Capt. Jonathan Hale, great-grandfather, (1696-1772), born Glastonbury; was a Capt. in the Wethersfield Train Band and Deputy for Glastonbury to the Connecticut General Assembly. He died in Glastonbury.

Dr. Elizus Hale, grandfather, (1724-1790), born Glastonbury; was a Deputy for Glastonbury to the Connecticut General Assembly. He died in Glastonbury.

Matthew Hale, father, (1760-1840), born Glastonbury; served in the Connecticut Militia for four years in the Revolution. Married May 21, 1786 at Glastonbury to Ruth Stevens, daughter of Deacon Thomas and Mary Tryon Stevens. Matthew Hale and his wife were church members of the First Church, Glastonbury, August 30, 1797. He was excommunicated March 5, 1824 and she in May 1830.

Albert Hale was born November 29, 1799 at Glastonbury, the youngest child of Matthew and Ruth Hale. At an early age, he left home to live with an uncle in Wethersfield, where he clerked in a store. He entered Yale College and graduated in 1827. He entered New Haven Theological Seminary in 1828 and graduated in 1831. He was ordained as an evangelist. He came to Shawneetown, Illinois on November 11, 1831, under the auspices of the American Home Missionary Society. Hale was a member of the "Yale Band", 12 young men from Yale who dedicated their lives to bringing Christianity and higher education to the Illinois country.

In the spring of 1834, Rev. Albert Hale and Rev. Theron Baldwin, both Home missionaries, were in Springfield, and at the urging of Rev. John Bergen, agreed to conduct a two-week series of revival meetings. It is to these meetings that we can trace the birth of the Second Presbyterian Church. When the church was formally organized on May 26, 1835, Rev. Hale was invited to be the first pastor, but was unable to accept the call at that time.



Albert Hale and Abiah Chapin were married on March 28, 1839 at Godfrey, Illinois and came to Springfield November 1, 1839. Although a Congregationalist, he became the second pastor of Second Presbyterian Church on November 1, 1839 and served here until his retirement June 1, 1867. In 1847, his home was at 221 East Adams.⁵

After his retirement as pastor, a number of prominent citizens of Springfield subscribed a fund to pay

Rev. Hale an annual salary "to do general and necessary work among the down and out of the city". From these subscribers, he received the honorary title of "Pastor of the Ditches and Hedges." And, after 50 years of dedicated service to the people of Springfield, he was universally and affectionately known to all as "Father Hale."

Died: January 30, 1891 in Springfield, aged 91 years, 3 months, and 1 day.
Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 10 Lot 339.

⁵ See Erastus Wright, page 38

Forefathers of the Reverend Albert Hale

1. Samuel Hale: Born 1615- (?) Alderley Edge, Cheshire, England. Died November 9, 1693 at Wethersfield, Connecticut. Fought in the Pequot Indian War in 1637.
2. Lieut. Samuel Hale: Born February 7, 1644, Wethersfield, Connecticut. Died November 18, 1711 at Glastonbury, Connecticut. Was a Lieut. in the Wethersfield Train Band.
3. Capt. Jonathan Hale: Born August 21, 1696, Glastonbury, Connecticut. Died July 2, 1772 Glastonbury, Connecticut. Capt. in the Wethersfield Train Band.
4. Dr. Elizus Hale: Born January 15, 1724, Glastonbury, Connecticut. Died May 27, 1790 Glastonbury, Connecticut. Deputy for Glastonbury to General Assembly 1779-80.
5. Matthew Hale: Born December 17, 1760 Glastonbury, Connecticut. Died January 24, 1840 in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Served in the Connecticut Militia in Revolutionary War.
6. Rev. Albert Hale: Born November 29, 1799, Glastonbury, Connecticut. Died January 21, 1891 Springfield, Illinois. Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Springfield, from 1839 to 1867.

ABIAH CHAPIN HALE

Wife of Albert Hale

Born: August 23, 1806 at Newport, New Hampshire of English origin.

She graduated from Ipswich Seminary at Ipswich, Massachusetts and came to Edwardsville, Illinois in March 1831. This was in response to a call from the Rev. Theron Baldwin, published in *The Home Missionary Journal*. He advertised for teachers for the schools being organized by the "Yale Band" in the Illinois Country.

She was received into Second Church of Springfield July 11, 1835, just six weeks after its organization, by letter from the Presbyterian Church of Edwardsville, and taught in the Sabbath School for two years before returning to New Hampshire. She returned to Illinois in 1838 to teach in the Monticello Female Seminary at Godfrey, Illinois under its first president, the Rev. Theron Baldwin, the first institution in Illinois founded for the higher education of women.

Married: March 28, 1839 at Godfrey to Rev. Albert Hale and had three children.
Home: 221 East Adams Street, Springfield in 1857.

With the arrival in Springfield of the Portuguese refugees fleeing from religious

persecution in Madeira in 1840, Abiah Hale took command in organizing their relief and established the Dorcas Society of Springfield. The Dorcas Society was a non-denominational, community-wide group of women who cared for the poor and unfortunate of Springfield.

"Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple name Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died; whom, when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come unto them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber; and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes; and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive." (KJV, Acts 9: 36-41)

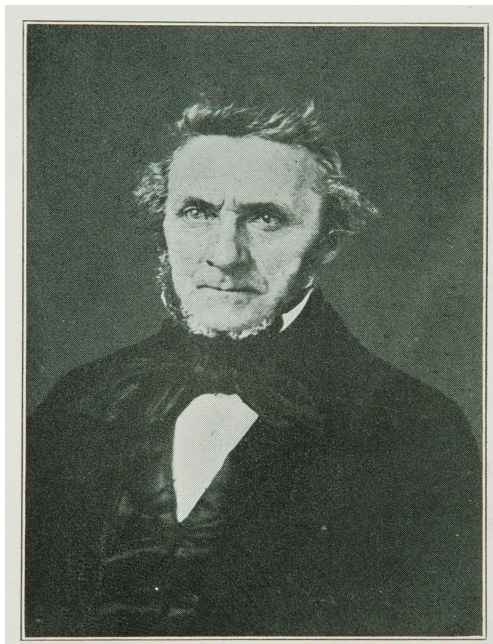
In 1863, the Dorcas Society merged with the Home for the Friendless,⁶ now the Family Service Center and the first social service agency of Sangamon County.

Died: June 10, 1864 in Springfield, aged 57 years, 9 months, 17 days.
Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 10 Lot 339.



Reverend Albert Hale and Family, circa 1864

⁶ see Page 60 for Home for the Friendless



REVEREND DEWEY WHITNEY

First pastor of Second Presbyterian Church serving from March 26, 1836 to February 1839.

Born: 1796 in Marlborough, Vermont the son of a Revolutionary War soldier of English origin. Ancestor John Whitney came from London to Watertown, Massachusetts in 1635.

Attended a theological seminary in New England and studied with Dr. Gideon Blackburn of Kentucky. He was licensed to preach on April 14, 1823 in Todd County, Kentucky.

Married: Mildred Roots Thornton in 1827 in Montgomery County, Kentucky and had 2 children.

He came to Springfield in March 1836.

Home: 10 acres on the south side of Springfield, given by Erastus Wright to Rev. Whitney for consideration of five dollars and pastoral services.

He resigned as Pastor of Second Church because of poor health in February 1839.

He moved to New York City, where he studied medicine and practiced in New York City, St. Louis, and Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Died: July 1857 near Yazoo City after a fall from a horse, aged 61 years.

Buried: Yazoo City, Mississippi.

SIGNIFICANT LEADERS



Laying the Cornerstone 1869



JENNIE E. CHAPIN

Born: May 20, 1835 in Greensboro, Vermont of English origin. The first Chapin in America was Samuel Chapin, who settled in Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1638.

Attended: Ipswich Female Seminary of Ipswich, Massachusetts.

She came to Waverly, Illinois in the 1850s to teach school.

In 1834, Cleveland J. Salter, a merchant from New Haven, Connecticut, came to Jacksonville, Illinois and bought 5000 acres of land where now stands Waverly, Illinois. He returned to New Haven to get his family and returned to Waverly in early 1835. Here he financed the construction of Waverly Seminary and a large boarding house, with the dream of making Waverly a center of higher learning on the frontier. In May 1836, the village of Waverly was platted and rapidly filled with Congregational colonists from New England. A Congregational Church was organized in June, 1836. It was to this thriving colony that Jennie Chapin came in the 1850s.

She attended Monticello Female Seminary at Godfrey, Illinois.

On November 6, 1858, she was received into the Second Presbyterian Church of Springfield by letter from the Congregational Church of Waverly. In Springfield, she made her home with the Rev. and Mrs. Hale, her uncle and aunt. And here she was a teacher in the Springfield schools for many years.

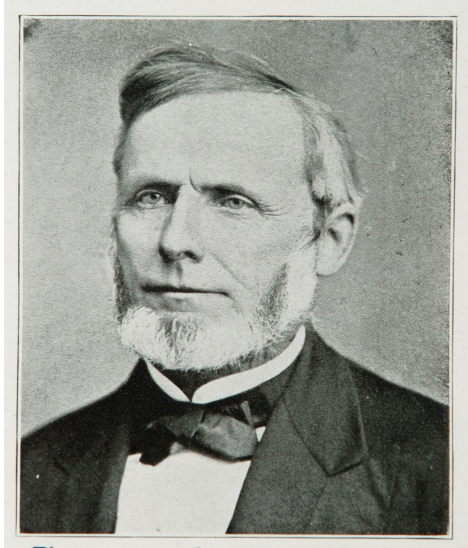
She was dismissed October 15, 1870 by letter from Second Church to the New England Congregational Church of Chicago. She was there only a short time and left to work as a missionary in Peking, China from 1870 to 1905.

On her return from China, she lived with her cousin, Sophie Hale, in Springfield at 221 East Adams and later at 118 North Glenwood.

Died: June 23, 1914 in Springfield, aged 78 years, 1 month, and 3 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 10 Lot 339.





JAMES COOK CONKLING

Elected Elder of Second Presbyterian Church on January 3, 1858; served as a Ruling Elder for 41 years.

Superintendent of Second Church Sabbath School from 1853 to 1856.

Born: October 13, 1816 in New York City. His great-great-great-great grandfather, Ananias Conkling of St. Peter's Parish, Nottingham, England, landed at Salem, Massachusetts in 1638 and removed to East Hampton, Long Island in 1650.

He graduated from Princeton in 1835 and then read law in the office of Henry A. Ford of Morristown, New Jersey for three years.

On September 21, 1841, in Baltimore, Maryland, he married Mercy (Mercie) A. Levering, who became a close friend and confidante of Mary Todd Lincoln. They had 5 children.

Home: East side of Fourth between Adams and Monroe in 1857. Later at 801 S. 6th Street.

Occupation: Attorney-at-law, State Representative (1852 and 1866), and Mayor of Springfield in 1845.

As former mayor, Conkling gave the dedicatory speech for Oak Ridge Cemetery in 1860. Abraham Lincoln is believed to have attended.⁷

He was one of the founders of the Republican Party in 1856, together with John M.

⁷ Source: *Images of America: Oak Ridge Cemetery*, Edward J. Russo and Curtis R. Mann.

Palmer, and a Lincoln elector in the convention of 1860.

On September 3, 1863, Conkling served as a chairman of the committee on arrangements for a state convention of Union men held in Springfield. Conkling wrote President Lincoln asking him to address the convention and received the following letter in response to his invitation. "The Conkling Letter" is famous as Lincoln's defense of the Emancipation Proclamation.

War Department, Washington, D.C. August 27, 1863

My Dear Conkling:

I cannot leave here now. Herewith a letter instead. You are one of the best public speakers. I have but one suggestion - read it very slowly. And Now, God bless you and all good Union men.

Yours as ever,

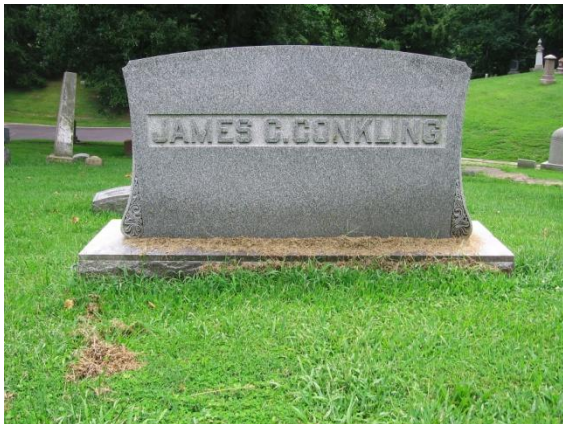
A. Lincoln

In 1868, Conkling was chair of the building committee of the third building, along with Eliphalet Hawley and Joshua S. Amos.

The Transfiguration Window in the Chancel of Westminster Presbyterian Church, the fourth church building located at Walnut and Edwards, is a memorial to James and Mercy (Mercie) Conkling, given by their son, Clinton L. Conkling.

Died: March 1, 1899 in Springfield, aged 82 years, 4 months, and 16 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 7 Lot 184.





CLINTON LEVERING CONKLING

Elected Elder of Second Presbyterian Church May 1, 1870; served as a Ruling Elder for 50 years.

Born: October 16, 1843 in Springfield, Illinois of English origin.

He graduated from Yale College in 1864, read law in his father's office, and was licensed to practice in Illinois courts in 1866.

He was received into Second Presbyterian Church by letter from the Congregational Church, Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut, May 7, 1865.

Married: Georgianna Barrell March 24, 1867 at Brooklyn, New York and had two children.

Home: SE corner Second and Lawrence in 1868.

Occupation: Attorney-at-law.

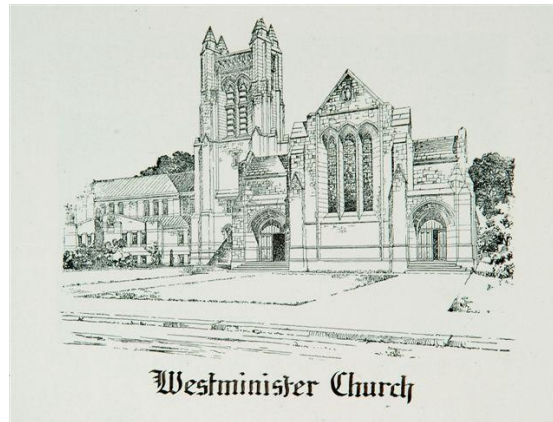
There are several memorials at Westminster testifying to Clinton Conkling's dedication to his church:

*The Window of St. Paul on the north aisle given in memory of Clinton and Georgianna Conkling.

*The Conkling Memorial Window in the Narthex given by Conkling's daughter, Katharine McCormick in memory of Mary Virginia West.

*The Katharine C. McCormick tower erected in 1954 in memory of Clinton and Georgianna Conkling.

The three-volume "Historical Data Concerning the Second Presbyterian (now Westminster) Church of Springfield, Illinois" was collected by Clinton L. Conkling and published after his death.



The greatest memorial to Clinton Conkling, however, is Westminster Church, "The Church Beautiful," since he served faithfully as chairman of the Building Committee from its beginning in 1905 until the dedication on March 8, 1908.

Died: October 12, 1920 in Springfield, aged 76 years, 11 months, and 26 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 7 Lot 119.





THOMAS STRAWBRIDGE

Born: February 8, 1798 in County Donegal, Ireland of Scotch-Irish origin.

Came to America in 1810.

Came to Sangamon County in 1823.

Home: (1) the saddler's shop on the NE corner of 4th & Jefferson in 1824; (2) 680 acre farm in Woodside Township, section 26 (the home still stands and is on the University of Illinois, Springfield campus) in 1841.

Occupation: Strawbridge was the first saddler of the county and a prosperous farmer.

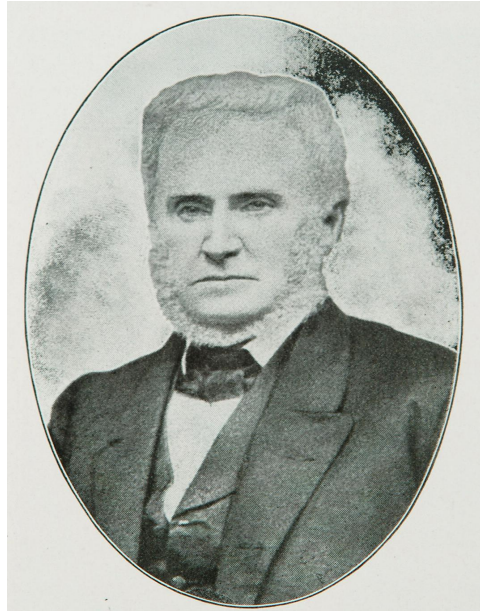
He never married but later in life shared his home with his widowed sister, Mary.

During the Civil War, it was the habit of Strawbridge to haul fresh vegetables and produce regularly out to Camp Butler for the Union soldiers training there and later for the Confederate soldiers held prisoner there.

Died: June 8, 1880 in Sangamon County, aged 82 years, 3 months, and 29 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery, Block 6 Lot 9. Strawbridge's monument includes an old-fashioned hitching post and two chairs, one holding Thomas' hat and the other Mary's cloak.

At his death, Thomas Strawbridge left a bequest of \$35,000 to the Home for the Friendless. He also left a bequest of \$1,000 to each of three churches in Springfield: First Methodist, Second Presbyterian, and Central Baptist Churches, for an annual sermon: "On the goodness, greatness, and unbounded love of Jesus as the redeemer of the world." The Strawbridge Sermon has been given from time to time at Second (now Westminster) Presbyterian Church since the first given in 1884 by the Rev. William E. Montgomery, Pastor of Glen Falls, New York.



JOSEPH THAYER

Joined Second Presbyterian Church July 11, 1835 with his wife Susan.

Elected Elder of Second Presbyterian Church on September 20, 1835 and served as a Ruling Elder for 42 years.

He was Superintendent of Second Church Sabbath School: 1848-53 and 1856-57.

Born: June 30, 1786 in Amherst, Massachusetts. His ancestors, Richard and Thomas Thayer, came from Braintree, Essex County, England to Braintree, Massachusetts in 1636.

Married in Amherst to Susannah (Susan) Cannon who was born in 1782 in Amherst and died 1836 in Springfield. They had 6 children.

Came to Sangamon County in 1834.

Home: Chenery House on the NE corner of Fourth & Washington in 1857.

Occupation: proprietor of Dry Goods Store and owner of the Springfield Woolen Mills, which he bought from Hugh M. Armstrong (Charter member of Second Church) in 1865.

In the Minutes of the Session of January 30, 1877, there is this tribute to Elder Joseph Thayer:

He was an Elder who ruled well and worthy of honor. His extensive business affairs were conducted with Christian integrity. His benevolences were the

subject of prayerful attention and Bible principle. In social and domestic life he was a Christian husband and father and gentleman, and even in his old age, his sons and friends found pleasure in his company.

Thayer gave the bell, cast in 1840, that has hung in all three towers of our church buildings. For many years this bell, and that of The First Presbyterian Church, were the only public fire alarms in the city; they also pealed on occasions of public rejoicing or sorrow.



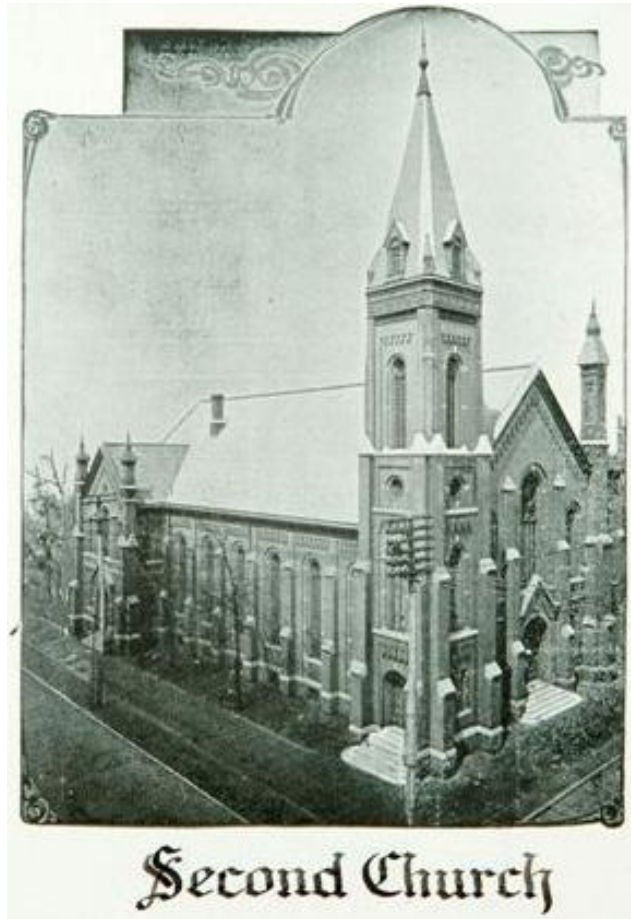
Died: January 6, 1877 in Springfield, aged 90 years, 6 months, and 2 days.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 14 Lot 15.

Two great-great granddaughters of Elder Joseph Thayer were members of Westminster Presbyterian Church: Mrs. Helen Becker and Mrs. Geneva Irwin.



APPENDICES



Third Building 1871 - 1905



LITTLE ONES OF THE HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS

The Home for the Friendless was founded in 1863 by special act of the legislature and the building was constructed on the north side of South Grand Avenue between 7th and 8th Streets, on land donated by Elijah Iles. This orphanage, the first in Springfield, with accommodations for two hundred children, cared for thousands of homeless and destitute children over many years.

In this lot are buried many of the children who died in the Home for the Friendless between 1863 and 1904.

This stone is a memorial to the many, many little children who are buried here, and is a monument to the good people of Springfield who cared for and about them.

In 1967, Dr. Floyd S. Barringer wrote “A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery” that was published by the Sangamon County Historical Society. The book inspired Paul Mueller, who grew up in the shadow of the cemetery, to advocate for a memorial for the over two hundred children and women displaced by the Civil War. These orphans and indigent war widows were aided by the Home for the Friendless when they arrived in Springfield. Mr. Mueller was saddened that the area reserved for the Home for the Friendless did not have any individual memorials. He worked with the Cemetery’s board of directors as well as local historians and history buffs to plan and finance a garden memorial

wall. Work included research to identify the individuals buried in the area. The Home for the Friendless memorial was dedicated over Memorial Day weekend in 2008.⁸



*Home for the Friendless Memorial
Oak Ridge Cemetery*

⁸ Information from article by Chris Dettro; *State-Journal Register*; June 1, 2008 & article in *Historico*: Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter; February 2010

FAMILY ORIGINS**By Floyd S. Barringer**

Hugh M. Armstrong, English
 Lavinia M. Dryer Armstrong, English
 Rev. John G. Bergen, Norwegian
 Lucy Parks Cabaniss, French
 John B. Cabaniss, French
 Jennie E. Chapin, English
 James C. Conkling, English
 Mercy I. Levering Conkling, English
 Clinton L. Conkling, English
 Georgianna Barrell Conkling, English
 William Mason Cowgill, English
 Clementine Sayre Cowgill, English
 Lucy Ann Poe Gourley, French
 James Gourley, Scotch-Irish
 Rev. Albert Hale, English
 Abiah Chapin Hale, English
 Eliphalet B. Hawley, Jr., English
 Mary D. Sayre Hawley, English
 Isaac A. Hawley, English
 A. Eliza McCauley Hawley, Scotch-Irish
 Isabella G. Hawley, English
 Nancy R. Whitecraft Humphreys, English
 Alexander B. V. Humphreys, English
 Ann Foster Iles, English
 Washington Iles, English
 Thomas Moffett, Scotch-Irish
 Eliza A. Gatton Moffett, Scotch-Irish

Ebenezer S. Phelps, Sr., English
 Anna Wright Phelps, English
 Charles C. Phelps, English
 Sophie Little Phelps, English
 Ebenezer S. Phelps, Jr., English
 Hannah A. Moore Phelps, English
 James R. Phelps, English
 Almeda Welch Phelps, English
 Mary M. Rogers Planck, English
 Jacob C. Planck, German
 John Francis Rague, French
 Eliza M. Van Dyke Rague, Dutch
 Samuel H. Reid, Sr., Scotch-Irish
 Jane Gott Reid, English
 Mary Pentacost Sherrill, French
 John Sherrill, French
 William C. Stephenson, Scotch-Irish
 Diana C. Bowen Stephenson, English
 Thomas Strawbridge, Scotch-Irish
 Joseph Thayer, English
 Susannah Cannon Thayer, English
 John B. Watson, Scotch-Irish
 Mary Gillis Watson, Scotch-Irish
 Rev. Dewey Whitney, English
 Erastus Wright, English
 Jane Gardner Wright, English

CEMETERY WALK GRAVESTONE LOCATIONS

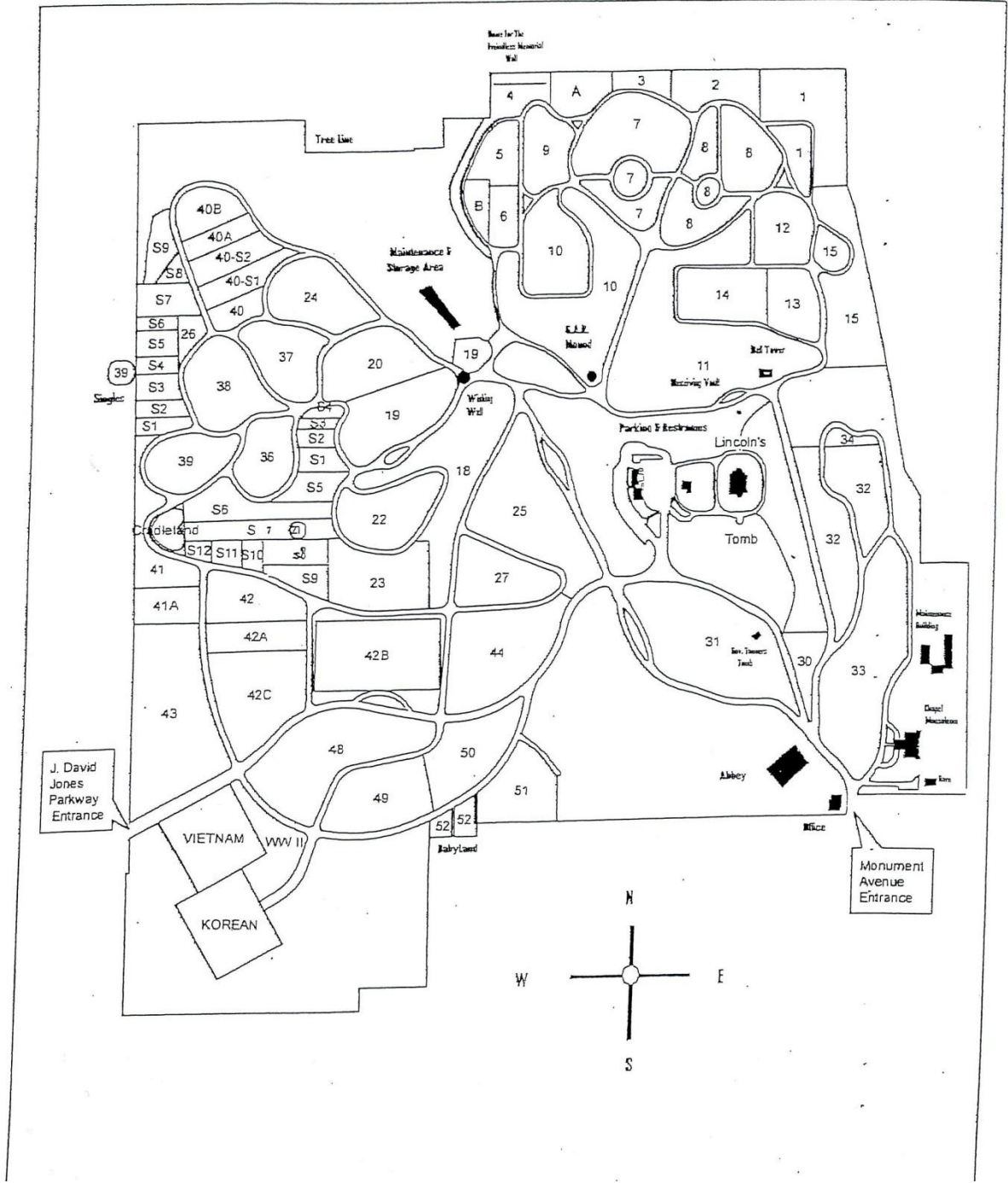
1. Rev. Albert Hale: Block 10 Lot 339
2. Abiah Chapin Hale: Block 10 Lot 339
3. Jennie E. Chapin: Block 10 Lot 339
4. Ann Foster Iles: Block 10 Lot 11
5. Eliphalet B, Hawley, Jr. : Block 10 Lot 72
6. Mary Sayre Hawley: Block 10 Lot 72
7. Isaac A. Hawley: Block 10 Lot 72
8. Thomas Strawbridge: Block 6 Lot 9
9. Samuel H. Reid, Sr.: Block B Lot 30
10. Jane Gott Reid: Block B Lot 30
11. Little Ones of the Home of the Friendless: Block 4
12. Hugh M. Armstrong: Block A Lot 27
13. Lavinia Dryer Armstrong: Block A Lot 27
14. Rev. John G. Bergen: Block 7 Lot 137
15. James C. Conkling: Block 7 Lot 184
16. Clinton L. Conkling: Block 7 Lot 119
17. Mary Rogers Planck: Block 7 Lot 188
18. John B. Watson: Block 8 Lot 192
19. Mary Gillis Watson: Block 8 Lot 192
20. Thomas Moffett: unknown
21. Eliza Gatton Moffett : unknown
22. Lucy Ann Poe Gourley: Block 13 lot 40
23. Erastus Wright: Block 14 Lot 28
24. Jane Gardner Wright: Block 14 Lot 28
25. Joseph Thayer: Block 14 Lot 15
26. Charles C. Phelps: Block 11 Lot 65

OAK RIDGE MAP WITH PATH FOR CEMETERY WALK

OAK RIDGE CEMETERY

Springfield, Illinois 217-789-2340

Block _____ Lot _____



At the dedication of Oak Ridge Cemetery, former Springfield mayor and member of Second Presbyterian Church, James Cook Conkling, reflected:

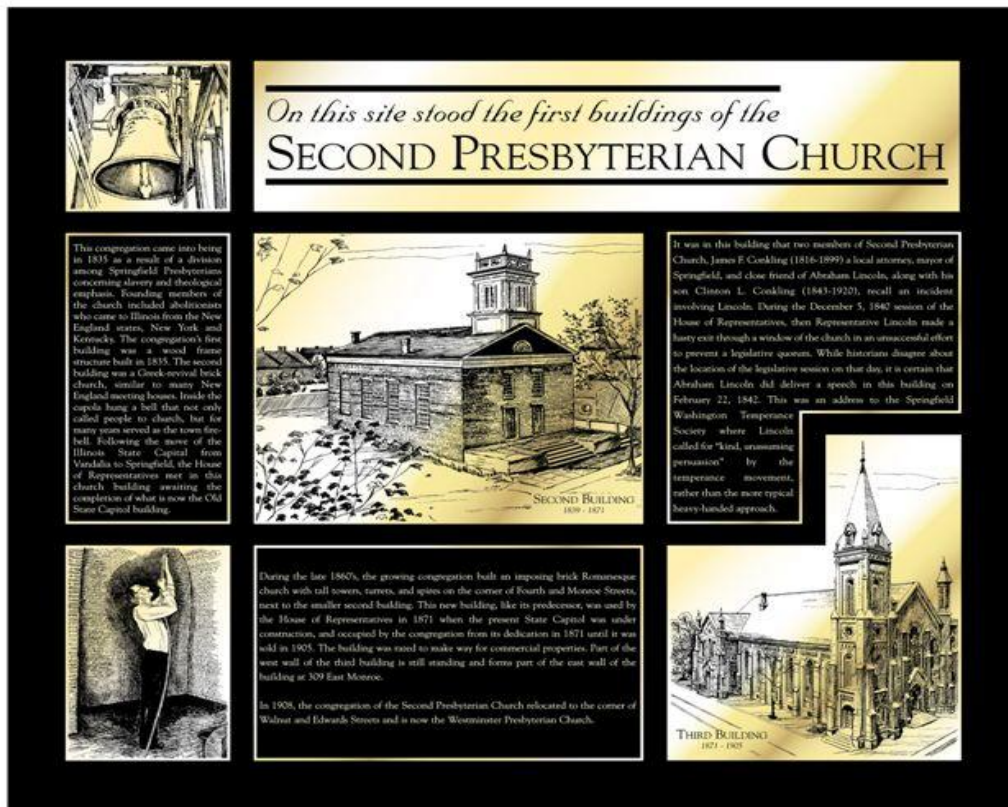
“The grave is the common inheritance of all mankind. The high and the low, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, the master and the serf, the monarch and his slave, the refined and the barbarous, are there reduced to the same level...When the fitful dream of life is over...when man has run his allotted courses and fulfilled his destiny on the earth, here he may find a resting place.”



*Oak Ridge Cemetery
Springfield, Illinois*

175TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE AND HISTORICAL SIGN

Robert Blythe, Chair
 Kathie Nenaber
 Carolyn Swanson
 Nichole Magalis
 Robert Fox
 Harry Bentsen
 Sue Cull
 Sandy Hockenyos
 Jim Kincaid
 Rance Carpenter



Historical Sign Erected in 2009 Near Fourth and Monroe Streets