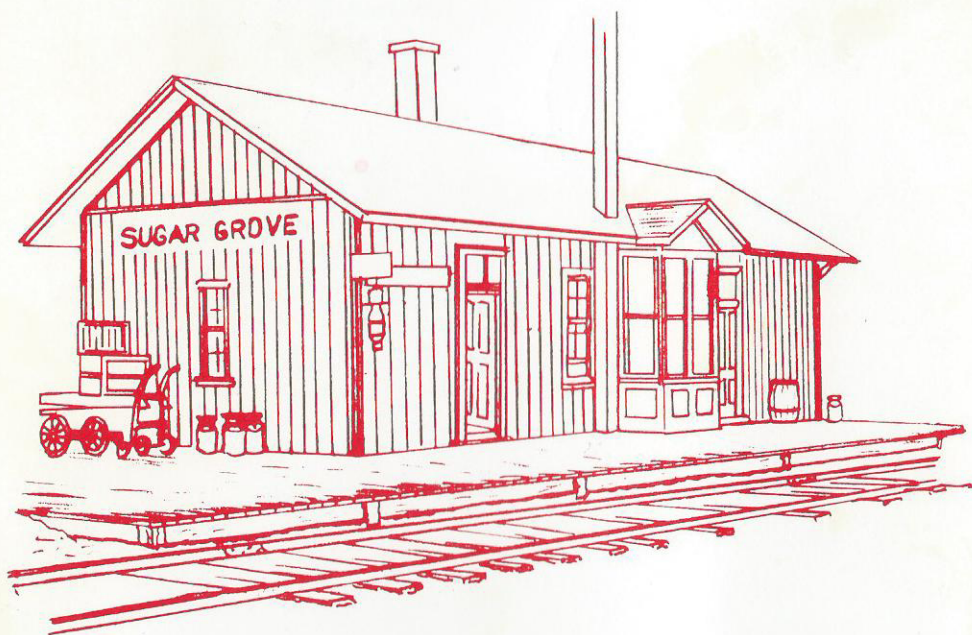


Sugar Grove

Illinois

1834 - 1984



Chicago Burlington and Quincy Depot

SIN-QUA-SIP
(Sugar Grove)

Spring of 1834 - Black Swamp, OH, six men happened to make camp together: Asa McDole from Chemung Co., NY, brothers James and Isaac Isbell, nephew Parmeno Isbell, James Carmen and Mr. Bishop, all from Medina, OH. Friendships were formed around the campfire when they discovered they all had the same destination.

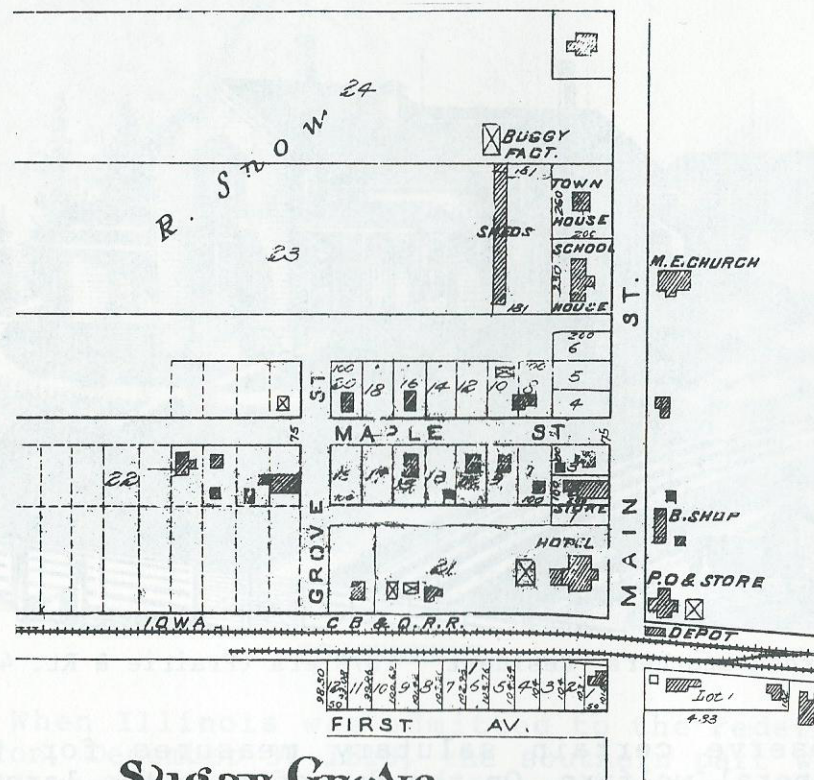
May 10, 1834 they left Oswego on the Fox River - then just two cabins. With two carts, two yoke of cattle, four cows, a couple of axes and each man his "flint lock", they followed Blackberry Creek north. An abandoned Indian sugar camp by the Mounds and creek enticed them to stay in what is now the Bliss Woods area of Sugar Grove.

Taking shelter in a brush wigwam they set about building the first log cabin. Soon after, in the area south of Merrill Road, they built a larger and better log house, preparing for the arrival in July of James and Isaac's mother, sister Miranda, brother Lyman, his wife and two children.

These first white women to see Sugar Grove also brought the first team of horses here. Claim Laws of that day allowed a man to claim what he could plow around with a team in a day. That summer they broke the first ground readying it for a crop of wheat in 1835.

The Fourth of July 1834 was a time of real patriotism. James Isbell had gone to Oswego and gotten a bottle of whisky. All drank to "Hail Columbia" and had a merry time. This was the first Honored National Birthday ever observed in Kane County.

New Settlers were coming to Sugar Grove from then on. William A. Tanner arrived in the fall of 1835 claiming the north east corner of Sugar Grove (also the north west corner of Aurora Township). In the fall of 1836 he built what was probably the first house in the township to have nails and sawed boards and a shingled roof. The first settlers were invited



Sugar Grove

SUGAR GROVE TWP.

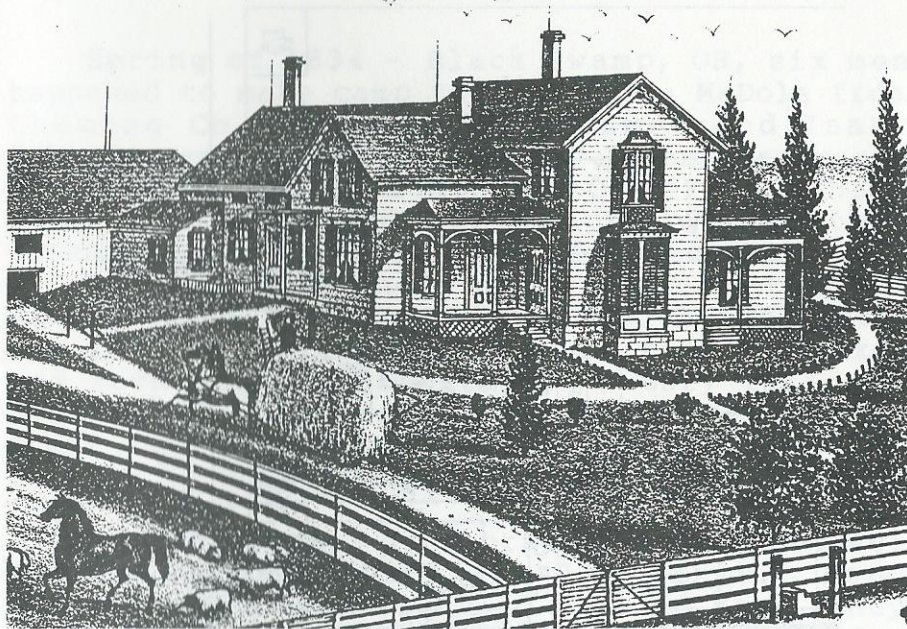
Scale 300 Feet = 1 inch.

1889 map of the Village of Sugar Grove

to the house raising. Job Isbell came with them. He sat on a log all day and refused to help because there was no whiskey. From that time on Mr. Tanner was set against whisky.

In 1839 and '40 the United States Surveyors came to survey and layout the section lines. With no thought for the odd shaped claims, the sections (one square mile) were sold at auction in Chicago in 1842.

Much injustice to the settlers would have happened if they had not formed claim organizations, placing themselves under bond to



Gordon Brothers' Resident - 1870 era (Prairie & Rt. 47)

observe certain salutary measures for the general welfare. On the day of sale the largest land owner in the tract being sold bid \$1.25 per acre to purchase the tract. At the end of the sale he then sold the land for the same amount to each settler who had land in that tract.

This attitude of working for the good of all was the ordinary in Sugar Grove. Many other areas had violence and crime over these sales. Mr. P.Y. Bliss, owner of the first store, told of Mr. I.C. Isbell coming to his store one morning and announcing that he would be killing a steer the next Saturday and Mr. Bliss should tell any of the neighbors who came to the store to come over and get a piece of beef. On Saturday a number of neighbors found the steer slaughtered, quartered and standing against a post...a knife and hatchet to cut their free beef was there also.



Prairie & Rt. 47 - 1984

GOVERNMENT

When Illinois was admitted to the Federal Union, December 3, 1818, the southern part was well populated but the north was still occupied with indians when the first settlers arrived in the 1830s.

Until August 18, 1840 mail had to be taken to Naperville, fifteen miles away, and cost 25 cents to mail. A post office was opened in the Thomas Slater home which stood at the northwest corner of Galena and Rt. 56, where the exit roads are now. Fall of 1847, Marcus White became Postmaster at Grouse, the intersection of Scott and Harter Roads, and Isaac S. Fitch was Postmaster at Jericho, the corner of Jericho and Mighell Rds. Then in August 1850 Samuel S. Ingham was Postmaster at Winthrop, Galena and Densmore Rds.

By the late 1880s Winthrop had been moved to Main Street near the railroad and all but Grouse had been closed.

Under a newly adopted State Constitution the

first town meeting in Sugar Grove was held April 2, 1850 at the home of S.G. Paull, southwest corner of Bliss Rd. and Rt. 47. Ira H. Fitch was chosen Moderator and W.B. Gillett was chosen Clerk. 102 votes were recorded. Order of business included election of Supervisors of Town, Supervisor of Roads, Clerk, Assessor, two Justices of the Peace, Two Constables and a Collector.

'Resolved that every man shall be his own Pound Master.'

'Resolved that no bull, boar, ram or stud colt shall be suffered to run at large in this township under the penalty of five dollars.'

'Voted that the next town meeting shall be held at the Town House'.

That was the total business for the year. The 1850 census lists 136 families and 720 people in the township.

Until 1914 the records of the township do not contain any woman's name other than as a land owner and then as 'widow of' a man. The Annual Meeting of 1914 - 'Motion made and seconded that Stella Myers act as Clerk. Motion prevailed'.

The Annual Meetings were held at the Town House until it burnt in 1874. In January 1874 a special town meeting was called to decide where to build a new Town Hall. The Normal and Industrial School was built that year and the new Town Hall was just north of it, where the Community House stands.

By the mid-1920s the Town Hall was too small for the many activities held there and it was in bad shape. It was sold and moved to 158 Maple Street and remodeled into a home. The farmers of the township, getting together to plan a new Community House, ran into a financial law problem and had to go to the state legislators to get some laws changed before the financing could be completed. But in 1929, the Community House was erected and has been the hub of activities ever since.

1925 electricity came to town. At that time water was a private water system owned by



Main Street - Looking north from south of tracks

Kitty Lora, owner of the West Hotel. Pipes were in the ground and the billing was just a rate - no meters. In 1948 the Sugar Grove Water District was formed, well #1 dug behind the fire house (220 Main St.) and pipes laid to all homes within the village.

The need for sewers was evident and in order to have the bonding power to finance them the village needed to incorporate, which it did July 9, 1957. The first election for village board members was very hotly contested and 78% of the eligible voters voted! But it still took till 1976 to get the sewers installed.

December 1970 the Sugar Grove Water District was dissolved and control of the water system turned over to the Village Board. Well #2 was dug and the water tower erected beside it - on Railroad St. in 1972. Well #3, smaller and used as a backup, is beside #2. Well #4 is located in Dugan Woods.

Northern Illinois Gas pipelines were laid in the Village in 1963.

The phones originally were connected by an operator, Del Carlson, who ran the Telephone Exchange on the second floor of Keck's Store.

Then a building for all the switching was built behind Keck's Store on Main Street. This was maintained for many years by one man who helped put it in. After he was no longer working, the phones didn't work too well either. No one really knew where things were. The new building on Main Street, north of Cross St., and very up to date equipment went into operation in October 1983.

TRANSPORTATION

When settlers first arrived in Sugar Grove the indian trails were the only roadways. The old map from 1840 shows a road or trail from Dixon to Aurora (roughly Galena and Rt. 30 out to Big Rock) and Prairie Rd. starting on the Dixion to Aurora Rd. at the east edge of the township. There were no north-south trails. The farmers in the northern parts of the township had to go across fields to get to the road to Aurora (also called the Chicago-Dixon Rd.). In 1845 the farmers decided to build a road across the Lake Run, about 40 rods (now Hanks Rd. where it crosses Rt. 56 by Prestbury). There was no perceptible bottom to the slough. The farmers donated over 10,000 rails and covered them with brush, straw and dirt to keep them from washing away.

By 1860 most of the roads as we know them were in except Rt. 47. It went only as far north as Harter Rd. and south as far as Jericho Rd.

The Chicago & Iowa Railroad was started with capitol from Aurora. They came to Sugar Grove for money. August 1869 a special town meeting was called 'for the purpose of voting for or against a subscription of Fifty Thousand dollars to the Chicago and Iowa Rail Road'.

Forsubscription - Thirty One votes

Against subscription - Fifty Five votes

They tried again in September for Twenty Five Thousand .

For - 25 votes

Against - 71 votes

And again in April 1870 for Five Thousand.

For - 22

Against - 61

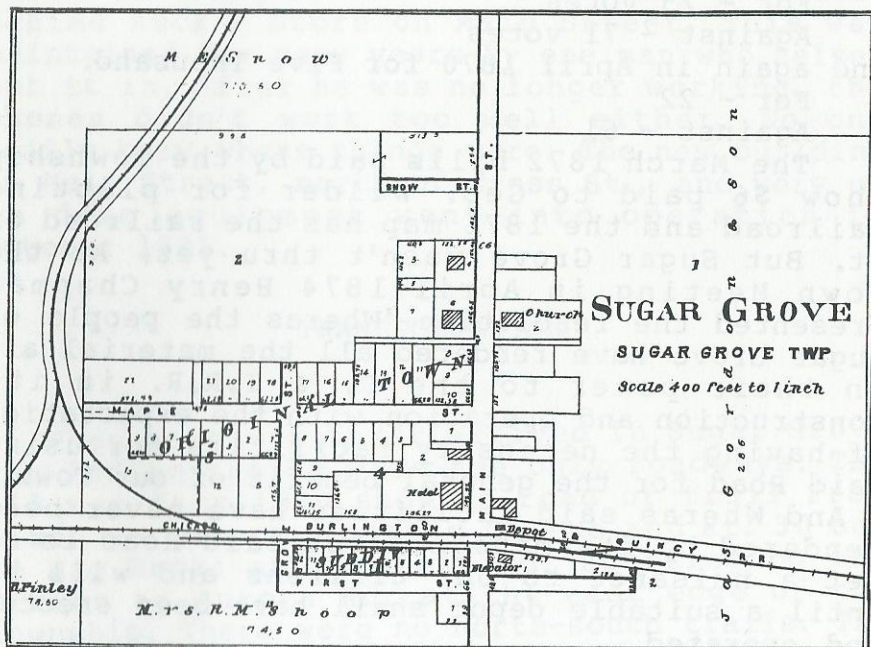
The March 1872 bills paid by the Township show \$6 paid to Geo. Wilder for platting Railroad and the 1871 map has the railroad on it. But Sugar Grove wasn't thru yet. At the Town Meeting in April 1874 Henry Chapman presented the resolution 'Wheras the people of Sugar Grove have rendered all the material aid in their power to the C. & I.R.R. in its construction and operation with the expectation of having the necessary facilities for using said Road for the general benefit of our Town.

And Wheras said facilities have never been rendered by its managers but said Road is as yet a nuisance to our citizens and will be until a suitable depot shall have been erected and operated.

Therefore Resolved that we the people anxiously and most respectfully ask the President and Directors of said Road to furnish us with such facilities as we need inside of six months from this date or we shall feel bound by the laws of equity and justice to stop the trains running on said Road until said facilities are afforded at whatever cost or what ever resort the exigencies of the case may demand. Which being seconded by Thomas Judd was adopted.'

The depot was finally built. The C.B.& Q. bought the C. & I. in 1881. A stock yard to load cattle was south of Main St. When AmTrak took over the passenger business they dicontinued passenger trains on this track. The depot was torn down in the 1970s.

The Chicago, Aurora & DeKalb Railway linked Sugar Grove to Aurora and DeKalb from 1902 to 1928. It started as gasoline driven cars - then went to steam and finally to electric cars. The present gate into the caretaker's residence of Bliss Woods Forest Preserve was the road bed and a stop for the passenger train.



1904 map of the Village of Sugar Grove

Originally Main Street in the village was Rt. 47. It met Rt. 30 north of the New Fire Station and took a jog east over to its present location and then went north. Rt. 30 went north also and turned east on Galena Blvd. to go thru Aurora. The underpass under the railroad was put in in the late 1930s and Rt. 47 moved off of Main St. During construction of the underpass a cave-in buried three men. Only two of them survived the accident.

The late 1950s saw many changes in the roads. Rt. 30 was bypassed around Aurora - south on Rt. 47 to Baseline Rd. then east. The Toll Road was put in - ending in the village at the bridge over Rt. 47 until it was extended in the mid 1970s west to the Quad cities. The Aurora Airport was constructed at that time also, over much protest from Sugar Grove.



Sugar Grove Methodist Church - 1939

CHURCHES

Rev. John Clark, a Methodist Circuit rider missionary among the indians, conducted the first church services for the white settlers in Sugar Grove. The cabin of John Morris in Jerciho was the locatin of the first services. The Methodists held their first quarterly meeting in 1839 in the frame house built by P.Y.Bliss at the corner of Bliss and Merrill Roads.

The first church was built in 1855 on Mighell Road, one mile south of Jericho Road. It stood until 1929. In 1857 the Sugar Grove Blackberry Good-Will Church was built at the northern edge of the township on Bliss Road.

As the population grew, the railroad came through, and the center of town moved from near the woods to beside the tracts, a more central location for services was neededd. Services were held in the Town Hall in the early 1870's. After this building burnt down the need for a church building was felt. In May of 1887,

Mrs. S. E. Shepardson canvassed among her neighbors and raised \$80.00, thus the start of the Methodist Church that stands on Main Street. It was built in 1888 and dedicated debt free in 1889. The Fellowship and Sunday School wing was added in 1960.

When the old church on Bliss Road was moved farther south and became a farm building, the bell from it was given to the new Methodist Church and is still in the steeple and used each Sunday. The building on Bliss Road was burned in 1964 by several Volunteer Fire Departments as a training practice.

Along with the rapid population growth in the 1960's and '70's, several other churches have come to Sugar Grove.

January 1971 a weekly Bible class started in the home of Omar and Rose Sutherland on Wheeler Rd. From these classes came the need for an independent Bible centered church. Thus, the Village Bible Church was born. The first service was held June 27, 1971 in the Sugar Grove Elementary School gym. Fall of 1975 their building was erected on the east side of Route 47, north of Bliss Rd., just south of the old freight railroad bed, using the rail bed for the driveway to the church.

In the early 1970's the Sugar Grove Christian Fellowship began meeting in homes. In the late 1970's they moved to the Bank of Sugar Grove, where they hold Sunday worship and Wednesday evening Men's Prayer Meetings.

The Bethany Community Baptist Church is on Galena Boulevard across from the Nature Trail on the old freight line railroad bed.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is on the Southeast corner of Bliss and Hanks Roads.

BUSINESS

The topography of Sugar Grove - prairie, timber and water made it ideal farming land -



Sugar Grove Supply Co.
(William E. Keck)

the first real business in the township. The Chicago-Dixon Road was a busy east-west thoroughfare. 1838 Robert Atkinson opened the first tavern along the road - near the Galena bridge over Rt. 56. Several other taverns and a stage coach stop flourished along the route.

The sawmill and dam that Asa, Rodney and Jesse McDole built in 1836-'38 was kept busy all year cutting logs - as long as the water supply held up. The freshet of 1857 washed out the dam and the fixtures were bought and moved to Marble Rock, Iowa.

Peleg Y. Bliss came to Sugar Grove in 1837. In 1839 he opened a merchandise store at the corner of Bliss and Merrill Roads. This first store drew trade from Dundee, Yorkville, Shabbona and the eastern edge of Kane County.

Dairying was an important business for many years. A two story 30' x 100' building on the Ingham farm (corner of Galena & Densmore Rds.) was the location of the Ingham & Paull Cheese Factory. 100 cows produced the milk for this

1866 operation. Sugar Grove was awarded a blue ribbon for its cheese at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. In this century the Fitch Home Farm's Dairy was where the PAG Seed Company is today (Galena Blvd. just east of Blackberry Creek). The fence posts along Galena were topped with wood milk bottles. The dairy closed around 1950.

The grain elevator and offices (now the Swim Shack) are all that is left of a lumber, grain and coal business on Main St. just south of the railroad.

J.S. Miller's Store, just north of the depot housed an ice cream parlor, a pool hall and the Post Office at one time.

When Frank Hall was principle of the Industrial School he lived above the store just north of Uncle Tom's Cabin and ran the store, the boarding house, was postmaster, managed his farm and even preached an occasional sermon on Sundays.

In 1893 Will E. Keck and a few others formed the Sugar Grove Supply Co. and bought the store building. Eventually Will bought the others out and was sole owner. His son, W.R. "Spive" Keck took over the store and it was known as Keck's Store for many years. It was a grocery and hardware and the only retail business in town until the shopping plaza was built. Mr. Keck retired and sold the business in 1980. The store is now empty - awaiting a new era.

In the early 1900s Kitty Lora owned Uncle Tom's Cabin - then known as the West Hotel. Her Sunday family style dinners drew people from all around the area. Several small cafes have fed us over the years. The House of Plenty was built in 1961 and has drawn people from far for years.

There have been several motels and in the last 20 years industry as begun to settle in the township. The Bank of Sugar Grove opened in February, 1975. Little by little Sugar Grove has been changing from a farm related town to a suburban small town.



1951 International Truck & 1945 Dodge Truck

FIRE DEPARTMENT

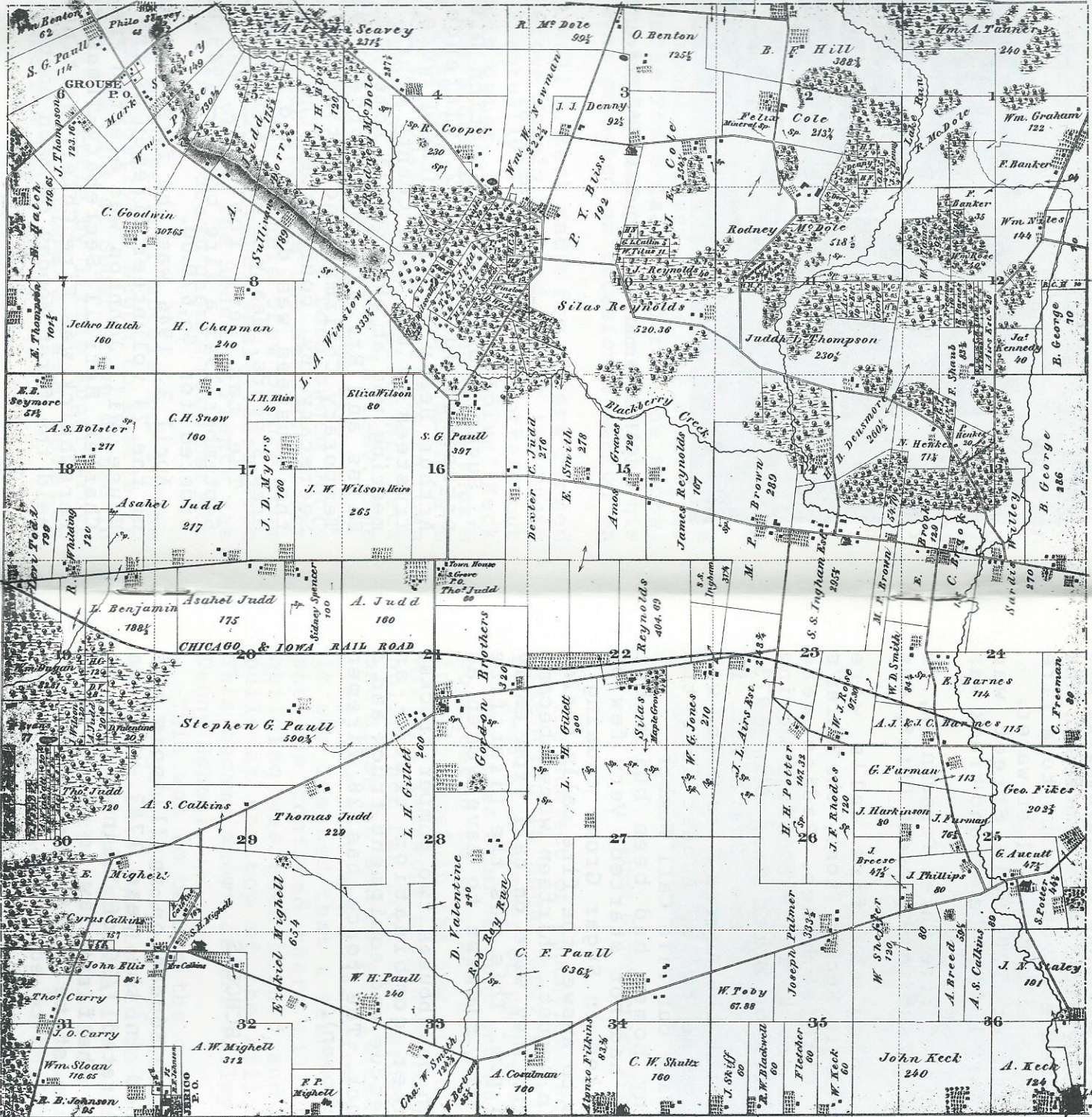
Sugar Grove Fire Protection District was organized July 9, 1942. Clarence Bolster, Arthur Healy and N.P. Cornell were appointed Trustees by the Kane County Court. The first meeting was at the Cornell home (S.E. corner of Bliss and Rt. 47). Mr. Cornell was chosen Temporary Chairman and Art Healy, Temporary Secretary. By court order the term length of the Trustees was determined by lot. Cornell drew 3 years, Healy 2 year and Bolster 1 year.

The tax levy for 1942 was \$2,500.00. September 1945 a fire truck - 1945 Dodge - was ordered for \$5,670.00.

April 3, 1946 was the first regular meeting of the 24 volunteer firemen at the Community House. Will Johnson was elected President and Charles Merrill Secretary-Treasurer, Arden Perschnick was Fire Chief. Meetings would be held the first Monday of each month.

MAP OF SUGAR GROVE TOWNSHIP

TOWN 38 N. RANGE 7 EAST.



STATISTICAL.

No. of Bushels.....	Spring Wheat.....	1870.....	10,600
.....	.....	.....	1,980
.....	.....	.....	11,500
.....	.....	.....	48,900
.....	.....	.....	5,500
.....	.....	.....	20,000
.....	.....	.....	63,150
.....	.....	.....	600
.....	.....	.....	603
.....	.....	.....	2,448
.....	.....	.....	2,115
.....	.....	.....	2,586
.....	.....	.....	336,394
.....	.....	.....	353,950

HISTORICAL.

The first settlements were made in this Township in May, 1834, by Jas. Isbell, Chauncy Isbell, Asa McDole, and James Carmon. P. Y. Bliss, one of the pioneers of this Township, erected a Store where his residence now stands, and for several years supplied his neighbors with goods. Her may be found some of the wealthiest farmers in the County, and it is generally conceded, that as a Township it is superior to any in the County.—See Map for a delineation of its natural advantages.—Population in 1870, 792.

Representative Views.

Name of Proprietor.	Name of View.	No. of Acres.	Page of Atlas.
I. Benjamin,		183½	42
Henry Chapman,		280	45
W. G. Jones,		530	45
P. Y. Bliss,		170	45
B. George,		410	45
Mark Sawyer,		120	45
B. McDole,		218	45
Gordon Brothers,		288	45
L. H. Gillett,		500	47
E. S. McDole,		500	47
H. B. Desautere,		390	47
Estate S. S. Ingham,	Ingham Estate.	336	47
C. F. Paul,		640	47
S. G. Paul,		480	47
Wm. Frick,		270	47
D. O. Todd,		270	47
John Thompson,		180	47
P. Cole,		180	47
Geo. W. Fikes,		322	48

At the September meeting, the first fire had been fought and many ideas were expressed. The President suggested everyone going to a fire should bring along a milk can full of water.

The fire barn at 220 Main Street was occupied in January 1948 and a second truck was purchased in 1951.

After the death of Fire Chief Perschnick, in 1962, Delmar Kreighbaum, our present Chief, was appointed.

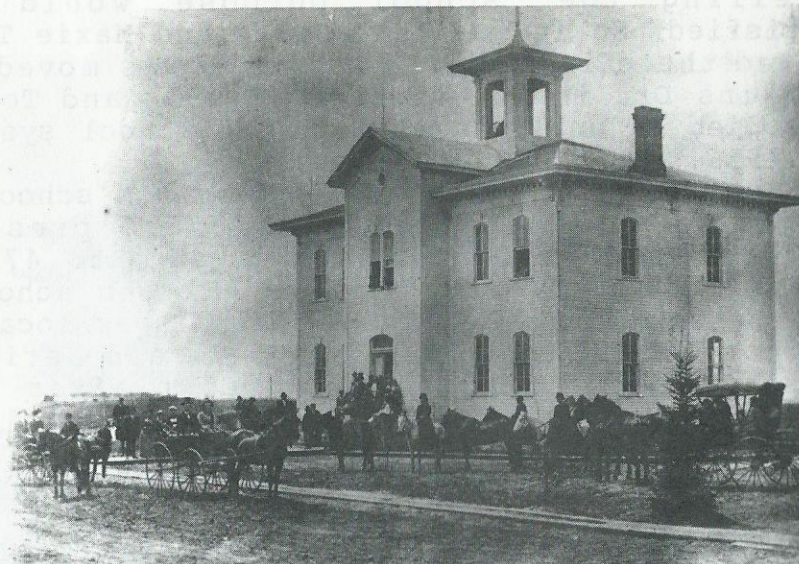
In the beginning the fire calls were answered on phones in Keck's Store, the Chief's and assistant Chiefs' homes. Radios were installed in the trucks in 1958. After moving to the new station on north Main St., 1973, plectrons and pagers were installed in firemens' homes and the Aurora Fire Dept. was answering our phone calls. August 1978 the "911" number became our Fire Call Number.

By 1972 many homes had been built but business growth had not started. Very few of the firemen worked in Sugar Grove causing a shortage of men to answer the fire calls during the day time. In August, thirteen women became active firewomen. They were on call from early morning till 5 p.m. This was the first fire department in the midwest to have women as active firemen.

The fire barn now houses two pumper trucks, a pumper-tanker combination truck, an ambulance, a rescue and equipment truck and a grass fire truck. The force has 28 firemen (including two women).

SCHOOLS

The history of Education in Illinois was first approached in the year 1787 when an ordinance consecrated 1/36 of Illinois soil to common schools. The first law to go into the statutes of this state (1818) gave 3% of all the rest of the land to education.



Sugar Grove Center School

The subject of education received very early attention in Sugar Grove. Thru the years of 1835-36-37 a number of people settled in nearby communities from Vermont and Massachusetts, then considered to be the "home of education and intelligence" in the new world. Of this group a Mr. H.B. Densmore helped build a log house in a hollow not far from the corner of Denny Road and Bliss Rd. and afterward taught there for a time. The year was 1836. A few years later when it was learned that a teacher had small pox she was confined there till her death. The building was then burned and another school built at the top of the hill east of there. This became known as the Valley View School or Denny School.

This was to become the one room school with the longest history of any in the township. The building site was leased to the school for 99 years with the stipulation that the property return to the original form when it was no longer used for school purposes. It was deemed that if the school was used for teachers

dwelling the "school purpose" would be satisfied. So it was that James and Maxie Todd moved there in 1949. The building was moved to Calkins Dr. in the village in 1952 and Todds occupied it until James left the school system in 1956.

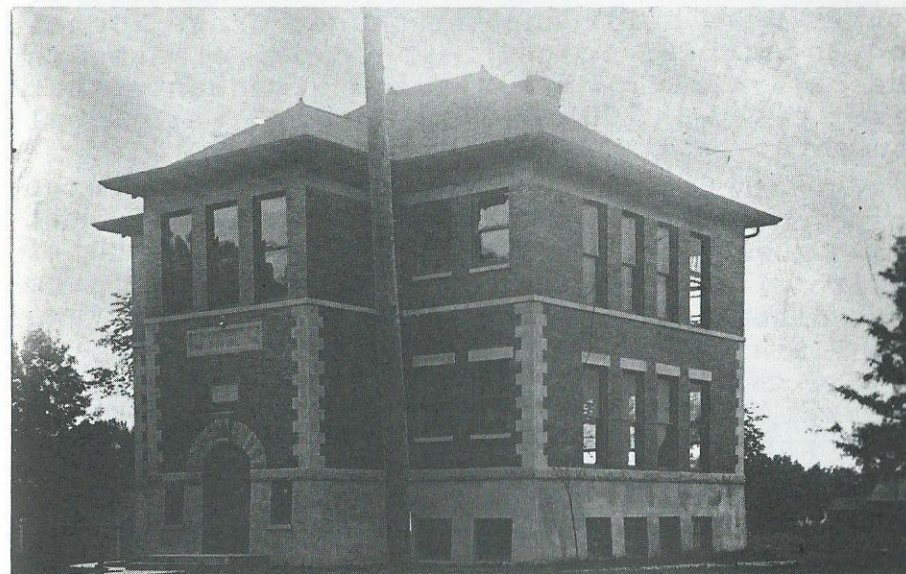
Soon after Mr. Densmore opened his school a second school was built near the present intersection of Ka-De-Ka Rd. and Rt. 47 by Jesse McDole. By 1878 there were seven schools in the township. The Jericho School was located a short distance east of Mighell and Jericho Rds. This building was torn down after the consolidation in 1949. The Bertram School is still standing and is now a dwelling at the intersection of Bertram Rd. and Rt. 30. The Ingham School at the intersection of Densmore and Galena has also been converted to a private dwelling. Another former school now converted to a private home is the old Grouse School standing high on a gravel bank on the northeast side of Harter Rd. between Rt. 47 and Scott Rd.

The original "Center School" was built in the fall of 1848. It was a two story building on the east side of Main St. about where the street now ends near the present Rt. 30. The first floor was school rooms and the second floor was a large meeting room known as the Town Hall or Town House.

History records that on the afternoon of Nov. 10, 1873 the building burned to the ground as the result of some pranks by young boys.

Mr. Thomas Judd had for some years favored the idea of an Industrial School which would teach Agriculture as well as courses preparatory to going to other vocations. He was also aware that Mr. Frank Hall, then Superintendent of West Aurora Schools had similar ideas. Thus it was that Mr. Judd, Henry Chapman, Silas Reynolds, Leonard Benjamin and Lewis Gillette went to Mr. Hall and asked him to take charge of the new school if it could be built. He agreed and signed the following:

"This is to certify that I am ready to bind myself to take charge and teach in a school, to



Sugar Grove Agricultural and Industrial School

be erected in section twenty one (21) of the township of Sugar Grove, providing funds can be raised to build and furnish a school house 36 x 54 feet and two stories high, and to provide suitable apparatus."

(signed) Frank H. Hall

Mr. Hall's salary was to be \$500.00 per year.

An all day picnic was held in the maple grove on the Judd farm on Tuesday, May 28, 1875, with the announced purpose of discussing plans for the new school. History records that 1000 people attended and all were seated at a table 168 feet long for a fine meal. The dinner was followed by a program and speakers. One of the speakers was Professor Hall and at the close of his speech he called for donations.

It took just 15 minutes to collect \$1400.00 plus subscriptions that brought the total to \$2200.00. Subsequent subscriptions and the District tax swelled the fund to \$4500.00. Mr Judd donated the land where the apartment house

now stands across from the Methodist Church. The school and a horse shed to accomadate 80 horses were built and the "Sugar Grove Normal and Industrial School" opened for classes in the fall of 1875. The average attendance that first year was 100 of which about 25 were local students.

The following year Mr. Judd built a large boarding house on the site of the present West Hotel (west side of Main St. just north of railroad) as the school attracted students from such distant communities as Waterman, Shabbona, and Plainfield to name a few.

The curriculum at that time included Latin, General History, Natural Phlosophy, Grammar, Elements of Agricultural Science, Geometry, Bookkeeping, and Arithmetic, English Literature and Music were also taught. A teaching certificate was one requirement of graduation.

It should be noted here that Mr. Hall left Sugar Grove School in 1887. Later he served as superintendant of the school for the blind at Jacksonville, IL. Among his accomplishments was the invention of the Braille-Writer machine and the stersotype-make machine. Both of these machines were widely used by the blind in the U.S.A., England, Europe, Australia and the Orient.

The original Industrial School burned to the ground in January of 1905 and the present brick veneer building was built in 1906. The original "Uncle Tom's Cabin" as the boarding house was known also was destroyed by fire while still new and was replaced by the present West Hotel.

Sometime between 1887 and 1905 the school was re-organized as school District #126 and for thirteen years maintained a high school that "would be a credit to any district in this size of state". Sugar Grove Township High School Distict #145 was created by vote in 1919 and was housed in the same building with the grade school until the spring of 1949.

Shortly after World War II a state wide movement evolved to reduce the per capita cost of eduction. A plan was advanced to divide Kane



'Uncle Tom's Cabin' - 1876

County into 3 major school districts by drawing 2 lines from east to west across the county giving each district about the same area. The townships west of the Fox River did not like this and Big Rock, Kaneville, Elburn, Maple Park, and Sugar Grove school districts drew up a map and a referendum of consolidation. This passed on May 15, 1948 and Kaneland District #302 was formed. By 1950 Big Rock Township withdrew to form the Hinckly-Big Rock District.

Persuant to the Consolidation, the fall term of 1949 saw Sugar Grove High School students bussed to Elburn for phase one of that consolidation and all one room school students were bussed into Sugar Grove. This used all three floors of the old "Normal School" for Kindergarten thru 8th grade. Two of these classes, grade 2 and 4, were housed in the two rooms west of the dinning room in the Community House. This arrangement or variations of it ran thru 1957.

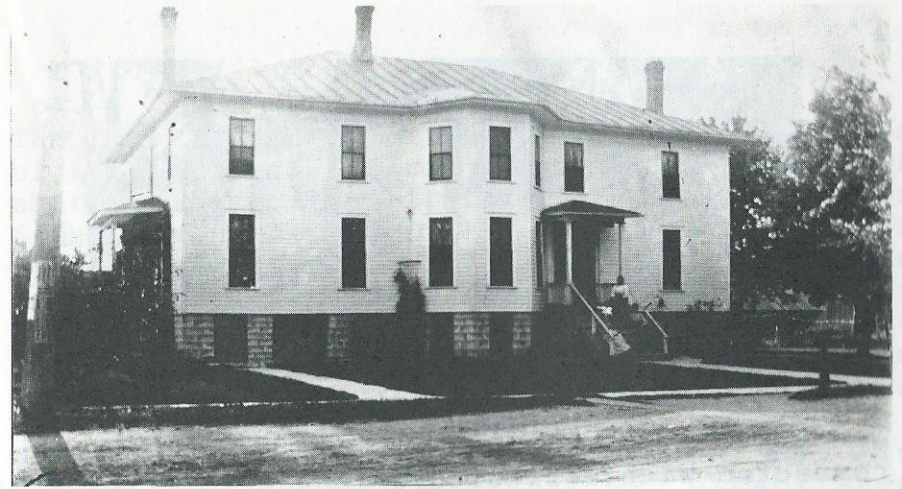
Also at this time another first entered the picture. Due to the movement of children from rural districts into the larger central location a hot lunch program became necessary. This was handled in the Community House dining room by Mrs. C.G.Frantz, Sr. with the help of Mrs. Clarence Kouth and Mrs. Fay Hayes.

It took eight years to agree on a site for the new Jr. Sr. High School and a new grade school in Sugar Grove, and get them built. The Sugar Grove Normal and Industrial School building was vacated over the Christmas Holiday break of 1957 and that building was soon sold and eventually became the Sugar Grove Apartments. The Kaneland Jr. Sr. High School opened in the fall of 1958 and the Sugar Grove School became a Kindergarten thru 6th grade facility.

Continued expansion of the village of Sugar Grove as well as more homes being built in the township resulted in the need for more class rooms. By 1965 the all purpose room on the south end of the grade school had to be partitioned off to form three class rooms. Six class rooms, a gym, library, furnas room, and additional rest rooms were added on the north end by the fall of 1966. Spring of 1970 twelve more class rooms in the round became necessary as the enrollement had climbed to 483.

This continued growth was also felt at the Kaneland Jr.Sr. High School site. At present a total separate facility is in use thus separating the Jr. high student body from the Sr. high people.

A word of praise should be expressed here for the continued attention shortly after 1965 of the diversified Occupational Training Program which gave many students the opportunity to learn their chosen trade in the work place while continueing their academic studies. This was followed by the Mid-Valley Area Vocational Center now housed in part of the Kaneland High School Complex.



West Hotel

--- ADULT EDUCATION ---

Sugar Grove Farmers Institute

The importance of adult education was not lost to the early settlers. To quote the "Past and Present of Kane County Illinois" published in 1878: 'Sugar Grove has at various periods in its history, established organizations which are seldom found in rural districts, and never excepting among a population of superior intelligence". Prominent and first among these was the Farmers Institute, organized in 1842 for mutual improvement, by the interchange of ideas upon agriculture and every theme of general interest. From the Institute's minutes: "Early in the following winter an anonymous notice was posted up at different places calling a meeting of the Farmers with a view to improve their minds and better their circumstances by a mutual interchange of opinions and a uniuon of action. So eager were the Farmers to realize the benefits of this association that they actually appointed committees & had reports in various subjects



214 Main Street in 1906

connected with agriculture long before they had a Constitution or even knew who would become members".

Finally on the 18th day of February 1843 the Constitution was adopted and signed by nine members. Over the early years 34 names appear on their membership list, but others were voted in as members in their minutes. Any member of the community could and did participate in all their activities, including writing reports to be read at the meetings. The Institute gathered weather data, had debates over such matters as whether horse or oxen were better farm animals (oxen won), had plow matches to raise money, investigated the books used at the many schools - standardized them & got them at wholesale for the schools, had speakers on farm related subjects at their meetings and many reports they made them selves. When a member made trips to other parts of the country he would do a survey of farm practices in that area and bring a report back to the members. Many of the reports and observations made by the Institute were published in the "Prairie Farmer".

The variety and scope of the accomplishments of this undertaking and the group that carried on over succeeding years are too many and varied to be enumerated here. Suffice to state that the "Sugar Grove Short Course" as it was later known continued well into the 1940s.

Library

The first Library was established in the winter of 1834 by local farmers forming a company of share holders. The first three shares went for \$10.00 each and others followed with smaller sums. The organization was named the "Farmers Library" and the books were kept at the home of S.G.Paull in section 16, and housed 264 volumes. When the Town Hall (Center School) was built, 1848, the books were housed there, so were lost when the school burned.

The second library, known as the "Independent Farmers Library" was established the winter after the first one, 1835, and was kept in the home of Col. Ingham. The two libraries were about 2 1/2 miles apart and history shows that the books were "Most industriously read".

In 1962 the local Ladies Society appointed a committee of Ester Lind, Lois Graham, and Grace McCannon to investigate getting a library for Sugar Grove. Thru much work by many citizens and donated books the library opened in the Community House July 22, 1962 with 446 books and Grace McCannon as head librarian, a post she held until 1978 when the present librarian, Pam Feather, succeeded her.

In 1963, by vote the library became a public, tax supported, township library. It moved to the former Carter Wilson house on Main St. (between the Community House and the present library) until the present building was built in 1980 on the corner of Snow and Main Streets. In 1983, by vote, the library became a Public Library District.

Since the opening of the new building many services have been added... A public access micro-computer has been purchased for patron usage as well as a copier. A physicians slide scale beam and a blood pressure cuff are also kept there. These services were possible due to the Community Club. Video game cartridges can

be checked out by patrons for home use. Library hours have been expanded from 27 to 40 hours per week. A computer terminal is presently on loan from a State Grant which allows the library access to a data base which contains the holdings of 28 libraries. This service can allow for same day service of books on direct loan from another library. Occasional adult seminars are offered in the new facility. Another program is a weekly pre-school story hour. A soft sculpture collection has been started featuring pre-historic animals and birds.

Patrons can now register to vote at the library, and two notary publics are on the staff, both services are free to patrons.

The library board is continuing to plan growth and expand library services to the residents of Sugar Grove Township.

Waubonse Community College

One more educational activity was to move into Sugar Grove Township. The idea for a Junior College for this area started in 1961. The Illinois State Legislature passed a "Jr. College Act" in July of 1965 which ignited public interest and one year later the referendum for the establishment of a Community College District was passed and District #516 was formed.

Classes were started in the fall of 1967 and were held in local high schools, churches and civic buildings in surrounding communities. The curriculum was guided by this statement quoted from the original feasibility study of Waubonse. "The Community College should meet the needs of the community - not only the personal, occupational, and cultural goals of individuals living in the community, but also the educational needs of local business and industry."

Given the past history of outstanding leadership in vocational as well as academic education of the Sugar Grove area it should come as no surprise that the Huntoon Riding Academy was purchased on Feb. 20, 1968 as the site of the Waubonse Community College Campus. The first classes at this location opened the fall of 1969. When you compare the objectives and purpose of the Sugar Grove Normal and Industrial School (1875) and the Waubonse Community College (1967) the same thread of attention to vocational and academic needs of our growing and changing society exists. The book "Values, Vision and Vitality" by Dr. E.J.Gleazer, Jr., president of the American Association of Community Colleges contains this statement: "Not many examples of this kind of approach come to mind. Relatively few colleges have had the capability of staff to undertake cooperative efforts of this kind or have envisioned such action appropriate."

ORGANIZATIONS

The high involvement in civic affairs and pursuit of knowledge has prevailed over the years not just in the schools. Sugar Grove has had many organizations carrying out these ideals. The Boy Scouts have been here since the early 1930s. Sugar Grove Farmers Club, Girl Scouts, 4H, Homemakers Extention, Grove Gardeners, American Legion, Lions Club - this partial list gives an idea of the many activities Grovetees persue.

Homemakers Extention was organized in 1918 to improve the quality of family life by education in food, health, housing, child development, and clothing. They also sponsor the 4H Club.

The Community Club, originally the Young Adult Club started thru the Methodist Church in about 1946, has contributed many things to the

community. Thru fund raising programs including plays at the Community House they installed the street lights and paid for the electricity until the villege incorporated. They are now building the pravillion in the new park.

SUGAR GROVE IS A COMMUNITY OF DOERS !!!

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Ruth Frantz
Frank Damon

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