

of Thomas Salter, its first Postmaster, who still lives in Aurora at the advanced age of 89. About two years later, one was located at Jericho, I. S. Fitch being in charge of it. These offices are still known as Sugar Grove and Jericho, the former having been removed to Sugar Grove Station. Later, the Grouse and Winthrop offices were established, but the latter is now no longer in existence.

On the 22d day of November, 1838, a man popularly known as "Boss" Read, who still lives in Blackberry, erected for P. Y. Bliss a frame house, which is still occupied by its original owner, on its original site. In the Spring of 1839, the Methodists held their quarterly meeting in one of its rooms, before it was quite completed; but religious exercises had been introduced into the township some time previous, the first sermon having been delivered by the devout and conscientious "Father" Clarke.

On the 1st of June, 1839, Mr. Bliss filled the new building with such goods as are demanded by the country trade, and opened the first mercantile establishment in the township. Its trade extended over a territory reaching from Dundee to Yorkville, and from the borders of Kane County on the east to Johnson's and Shabbona Groves, DeKalb County, on the west. No other store in Kane County ever drew such a wide range of custom, and, according to Mr. Bliss, the annual sales exceeded those of any other in the county by thousands of dollars. In order to have exceeded the sales of any establishment by thousands, the population must have increased very rapidly during the two or three preceding years, for when, in 1837, a vote was taken for the division of Kane and De Kalb Counties, the ballot stood 170 for to 83 against the erection of the proposed new county. It is known, however, that it had increased thus rapidly, and that real estate had become proportionately dear, while, in the main, other property which had been previously introduced into the settlements at a greater expense had become relatively cheaper.

"In 1836," says Mr. Silas Reynolds, "a calf was worth \$10 in Sugar Grove, while in 1837 a yearling, in 1838 a two-year-old and in 1839 a three-year-old sold for the same price." Not at all encouraging for the farmer who had kept the calf, in 1836, with the hope that it would increase in value.

The first cemetery in the township was situated, in 1839, in the low ground near the slough, east of the residence of P. Y. Bliss, but, after interring one of the old settlers there in a grave half filled with water, the neighbors of the deceased unanimously concluded that it would be sacrilege to bury another friend in such a location, and, accordingly, a burying ground was purchased a little north of the former position and in a place adapted for the purpose. It is now surrounded by a good stone fence, and contains several elegant and costly monuments.

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