

NEOGA

EVANS,
GASKILL,
MCALLISTER,
NEIGHBOUR,
FISHERS,
EVERHART

THE NEOGA NEWS
Thursday, March 26, 1931

THE OHIO SETTLERS OF ASH
GROVE TOWNSHIP, SHELBY COUNTY, ILL.
by Leonard Bowman Neighbour, Dixon, Illinois

When John CARRUTHERS of Neoga died in the fall of 1928, the instant thought in my mind was, "The last of the Ohio Contingent" :

The idea was not entirely correct, however, in fact there still survived him, his sister, Mrs Mattie E. NEIGHBOUR, his brother, Albert CARRUTHERS, and his brother-in-law, E. D. NEIGHBOUR, and if we do not confine ourselves to heads of families at the time of migration, we might also name, Mrs John DODDS and her sister, Mrs Z. T. MOWELL.

The, "Ohio Contingent", as I then had it in mind, meant the people from Tuscarawas County, Ohio, who before moving to Illinois lived in or near the village of Newcomerstown, Ohio. They were acquaintances, friends, and in many instances, relatives, and arrived in Shelby County chiefly in the years 1863 to 1872, inclusive. Only three families of them came earlier, those of John EVANS, James GASKILL and John McALLISTER; with these, however, should perhaps name Vivian P. BECK and the two BLAND families, from other localities in Ohio.

In the order and year of their coming, the Newscomerstown group may be listed about as follows:

1841-John EVANS and James GASKILL, Mrs GASKILL being a sister of EVANS. There is some disagreement as to the year, but Mrs EVANS' daughter, Mrs Jacob ZIMMER, of Shelbyville, gives it as 1841.

1856-John McALLISTER, shortly after his marriage to Malona NEIGHBOUR, in 1847, moved to Indiana and thence in time, to Shelby County, Illinois, no doubt because of their acquaintances already there.

1857-This year came Vivian BECK of Union County, Ohio, settling alongside EVANS and GASKILL, and the BLAND's, Hervey and Thomas from Wyandotte County, Ohio, settling in the west part of Ash Grove. Znae (sic) BLAND of Neoga is the son of this Hervey BLAND.

1863-This was high-water stage of the migration, being marked by the coming of the Allen GASKILL's, the G. W. FISHERS, the EVERHART's and the Morris NEIGHBOUR and Harlow NEIGHBOUR families.

The GASKILLS and FISHERS reached Illinois, (Shelby County), in April,

1863. With them came Uncle Allen GASKILL's sisters, Jane WIANDT and her family; probably Lem ZIMMERS who later married Josie WIANDT, who came when they did. At any rate he arrived soon after the War. The others of 1863 arrived in September, by wagon.

The EVERHARTs included the families of the venerable Thomas McCoy EVERHART, a pious and staunch old early-day Methodist, his son, Capt. Philip EVERHART, and a son, the Rev. M. W. (Marion Washington) EVERHART. The last named was married to a daughter of Mrs. WIANDT. He became a widely known Methodist preacher of south central Illinois.

I am inclined to think that Captain EVERHARTs arrival, since that was not until the war was ended, may not have been before 1865.

The NEIGHBOURS included the families of Morris and Harlow, each of these men being married to two of the EVERHART daughters, (Morris NEIGHBOUR MARRIED Drucilla EVERHART and Harlow NEIGHBOUR married Mary EVERHART), sisters of Capt. Philip EVERHART.

The several householders who came that fall of 1863 must have made a rather imposing caravan as they traveled. There were eight covered wagons in the party.

1865-This year came Ralph SMITH, who had married Mary McALLISTER, a sister of John McALLISTER. Mr SMITH established a general merchandise business in Neoga. Mrs Dora BLAND is his eldest daughter.

Also in 1865, John WILGUS of Newcomerstown who was married to a sister of Harlow NEIGHBOUR, joined his many friends in Shelby County. He bought a good-sized and quite well improved farm, one of thin soil, lying south a mile into Big Spring Township. He also bought a quarter section in Ash Grove, on the North side of the William BETTS farm, long thereafter continuing to be known as the, "Wilgus I60".

It was a southerly projection of the , "corn belt"; Lying quite low, was marshy, and here the glacial deposit had drifted a little farther south than in other places. In the main, the southerly limit of the black dirt was a line extending east and west. In Ash Grove it ran along the south side of the FANKBONER farm and crossed Uncle Morris NEIGHBOURs place at about the middle.

From the limit of the black dirt on south to Big Spring, where the glacial layer practically disappears, the soil had a brown shade. Further to the south it became light-colored and thin.

WILGUS also ran a sawmill near his home in Big Spring. But in a few years he sold out and returned to Ohio. William BETTS had come west with WILGUS and was joined here the following year by the family of his father, Benjamin BETTS.

1866--John CARRUTHERS came that year, bought his first 80 (acres) broke IO by I6 rods of it for an orchard plot, and then returned to Ohio to spend the winter in college at Oberlin. He had been attending at Oberlin when the war broke out, whereupon he enlisted at once. In this school his eldest brother George, was instructor. The CARRUTHERS family furnished five sons to the country's service.

The spring of 1867 John returned to Illinois and built on his 80. Capt. EVERHART, his old army friend, was the carpenter. Being a wagon maker and so familiar with tools, the Capt. took to the new work very easily.

There was a fine lifetime friendship between these two men--the Captain and the soldier. It is of interest that four of these Ohio men had been comrades in the great War. Uncle Phil had been Captain in Co. C 51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Uncle Allen (GASKILL) had gone out as one of the Lieutenants, but had been promoted to the Captaincy of Co F of the same Regiment. J. CARRUTHERS left the army as Lieutenant, and ZIMMERS was one of the bravest of Company C's rank and file. Lem, as I remember him was unusually profane. Mr CARRUTHERS, as thoes who knew him would surmise, did not approve of swearing, but I have more than once heard him quiet others criticism of his comrade with the remark, "Anyhow Lem ZIMMERS was as good a soldier as ever carried a gun".

Also this year of 1866, Robert McALLISTER, brother of John, had joined SMITH, their brother-in-law in the firm which SMITH & McALLISTER so long did business in Neoga. This store, I think the NEWS office occupies the site of it now, was the first building I set foot in when a boy of eight, with my sister, that fall I got off the cars at Neoga. Cousin, "Doc", (NEIGHBOUR), who met us at the train, left us in the store while he did some errands about town, and then we drove to Uncle Morris's (NEIGHBOUR) where sister Emma and I made our home until John CARRUTHERS and she were married, in June 1867. Our parents were dead.

I lived the next eight years, until 1875, in the CARRUTHERS home, and if I seem to say a good deal in appreciation of John CARRUTHERS, it is because of the kind of man I found him to be in thoes days of my boyhood.

Readers may have noticed my rather frequent use of the term, "uncle". I really had but one uncle among the settlers, Mr Morris NEIGHBOUR. In the case of the others, "Uncle", is only a title of courtesy. I think it was the custom among us to speak so of any older men of our acquaintances, for whom we had a feeling of affection and respect.

1867--was the year Uncle Phil ZIMMER came. He settled on the farm where he spent the rest of his days, and which children of his now hold after him.

He had been a shoemaker in Newcomerstown. His first wife, though not of the NEIGHBOUR name, was a granddaughter of one of the NEIGHBOUR's of that village.

1869-That year came Mr ZIMMER's brother-in-law, Peter DeLONG from Newscomerstown.

1870-In 1870 my brother E. D. NEIGHBOUR (Edwin D.) arrived and the following year he located in Neoga, in the harness business which he so long carried on there.

It must have been about this time too, that the FANKBONERS arrived. Mrs FANKBONER was a sister of Allen GASKILL.

1871-On March 21st this year, Jacob ZIMMER and family reached Neoga. He bought the Jim WOODS land, lying between the Philip ZIMMER and the John CARRUTHERS farms.

1872-With the coming of Albert CARRUTHERS in 1872, the Ohio migration seems to have reached its peak. Albert taught a winter term in the new schoolhouse on his brother John's place, and then returned to Ohio, married, coming back in 1876, to make Ash Grove his home. He bought the Will KENNEDY farm and this, with some added land, was his home until his recent death.

One fine citizen who came here about 1872 I think, I must mention, though he was not an Ohian, having come from Greencastle, Indiana, was old Mr PHELPS, whose son George is a well known resident of Neoga. Father PHELPS then probably 85, was a good man, and he was likewise exceedingly deaf. After harvest the year of his arrival, the men of the neighborhood had gathered at the house to help with the threshing. At noon all had taken their places around the long and bountiful table, the old gentleman at the head. The men paused expectantly, and Mr. Larkin ROBERTS, always a leader and director in any body of men, looked across the table to Mr. CARRUTHERS AND SAID, "John?" and the latter at once returned Thanks. So far, so good! But to Father PHELPS (being deaf) what had taken place was only pantomime. He saw the men in a reverent attitude and heard not a word. He concluded it was up to him, so just as John finished, the patriarch broke out, "Gr-r-eat and indulgent Father" etc, roughly his usual formula. Whatever prayer had been the case with the CARRUTHERS Blessing, there can be no doubt that the Good Lord heard Mr PHELPS, for he couldn't help it. The old man had been able to see to that!

In passing, no ordinary man was Larkin ROBERTS. He was a man of dignity both in character and appearance. Six feet tall, erect and of good proportions, full bearded with a good head, roman nose and dark flashing eyes he looked no little like the great Confederate Robert E. Lee.

I have not mentioned _____ HART nor John WORLEY. They came from Ohio and _____. They lived on a small farm next to Uncle Morris' place near Gaskill Chapel. HART moved away after a few years and WORLEY spent his days where he settled.

The BRANDTs, "Uncle Neddie" and "Uncle Ezra" and their sons are said to have come from Ohio, from Coshocton County, near Newcomerstown. The DODDS family were other Ohians of an early day, from Belmont County.

The district surrounding the Ohians in Ash Grove was already pretty fairly populated and probably had been 'so for 25 to 30 years. There were prairie groves and also the frequent small streams as there were belts of timber. The first settlers had established their homes near or in the timber patches, where they would have fuel, shelter from the winter winds and building and fencing material. That was before the days of barbed wire or even osage fences. The area in which the Ohio people located was principally open prairie and had longer remained unoccupied. This area was roughly a quadrangel, about 3 miles each way, lying in the southeast part of the Twp.

The oldest places of all, the John EVANS, the James GASKILL and the Vivian BECK properties, occupied the southwest corner of the Ohio settlement, near Gaskill Chapel. In the northwest corner, where he had purchased the John GOOD farm, was Uncle Morris NEIGHBOUR. It was on this farm that the late Leonard F. GOOD was born.

In the northeast was the FANKBONER land, and in the southeast, side by side lay the two ZIMMER farms. The entire quadrangel was roughly divided at the McALLISTER farm, into two prairie tracts--the west one known as Gaskill Prairie and the other known as Lone Tree Prairie. The latter took its name from a tall solitary oak on the Larkin ROBERTS land, about fifty rods north west from the CARRUTHERS home. It remained standing many years after the settlers came; but, like most of them, now belongs to the past.

At this landmark, some years before, the story goes, movers had halted their covered wagons that they might better care for a sick, dying child; and there under the spreading branches they made the lonely little grave which they were never to see again.

A list of the settlers already in the township when the Ohians came presents many of the names familiar there today---the STORMS, the SEXONS, the BENNETTs, the CURRYs, John WALLIS, the VEECHES, the GOODS, VanCEREN, the LOCKHARTs, the CROSSES, the CROCKETTs and COLBERTs, and Thomas KENNEDY a little to the south. All these were genuine oldtimers. Most of them had come, I think, south of Ohio; some by way of southern Indiana, following some such course as did the LINCOLNs on their way from Kentucky to Illinois.

A few families had begun to trickle from foreign sources. In the northeast there were two French families. One of these was named GAHANT. Mr FANKBONER bought them out and they left Shelby County in the late 60's.

There is a colony of French settlers in Lee County in and about the widely known "Inlet Swamp" of the Green River Valley. These lands have been drained and developed until they are highly valuable. The owners are prosperous and rated among the best citizens of the country. What was my surprise when I learned that the GEHANTS among them were the family I had known in Shelby County! Hon. Henry F. GEHANT, now deceased, represented Lee County in the Legislature, and was president of the prosperous GEHANT Banking concern of West Brooklyn, Illinois. His older sister and brothers, Frank and Laurent, had been playmates of mine at old Fremont, Shelby County in the spring of 1867, when Hattie BETTS was teacher.

There were three German families who had but recently come from the Fatherland---the DOLLS, the HUMMELS and Nick SHAFFER.

A mile farther south were some Swedish families, so new yet that they hardly felt at home in America. One fine fellow was Lassa HALL. In after years he came to be called Louis HALL. I think likely that his name was Lars the Swedish equivalent for Louis, and as near as we Americans had gotten to it was "Lars-ie" or "Lassa" He was a small wirey man of enormous surprising strength. He could carry five bushels of wheat--a load of 300 pounds. Hiram MOWELL and I, then stout boys of 15 or 16 thought we did very well when we shouldered and carried a two bushel bag of wheat, weighing 120 pounds.

On the DODDS and KENNEDY road, in a very good house for the day, lived an English gentleman; Mr Willoughby WATSON. He had a son, Elisha, of my age. One day "Lish" and I were discussing a boy friend who had done, or said some thing foolish, I don't remember what. "Why he must be an egit", said Lish. "A what?", I said. "Why, an egit. He doesn't seem to know nothink". Then I realized that Elisha was calling our friend an ordinary idiot. I don't know whatever became of the WATSONs.

Then still to the south of the KENNEDY road, were some fine families of Irish origin. Among them were the McANDREWS the EYANS, the COULTERS and the DORANS. Truly we were the, "melting pot", right in old Shelby County.

There was still good hunting in eastern Shelby. Squirrels frisked on every tree. Rabbits and quail started up at almost any step. The fields resounded with the boom of the prairie chickens morning and evening. Geese and ducks alighted on the ponds as they were making their annual flights north and south. The buffalo was gone but he had left his "wallows". The farmers called them, "scalds". They were supposed to have been mudholes in which

the buffalo delighted to wallow like a hog, and from which he carried away the soil as a plaster on his shaggy hide.

Tales were still told of the dreaded "painter", (panther) which until recently had haunted the timber bottoms. Many a time, when riding through Wabash Bottom after dark, I could fairly feel my heart stand still with fear that I might hear a panther scream, or that one might leap down on me from some overhanging limb. The animal was said to have a blood-curdling cry like the shriek of a woman in terror. But all the same----I never heard nor saw any, "painter".

Rattlesnakes were plentiful, both timber and prairie varieties. One of the latter once bit me. I saw at least one wild turkey. It was trotting along peacefully in the Lem ZIMMERS woods and came to no harm from me, an eight year old boy. Really, I didn't know it was a wild turkey until the men of the party told me so.

Wild fruit abounded in the groves and timber. Plums, black haws, black berries, gooseberries and grapes to delight the heart of boy or girl. There were also many nuts.

I must not fail to mention the wild, or passenger pigeons. So many numerous were these birds that their spring and fall flights were an awe-inspiring sight. In the woods, here and there, there were pigeon, "roosts", where they stopped for the night or perhaps for a few days rest. Frequently the limbs would snap off under the too great load of the birds.

Especially spectacular was their flight in the fall of 1871, that almost rainless year when Chicago burned and the pine woods of Michigan and the marshes of the Kankakee. There were weeks that autumn, when the prairie skies were darkened with smoke from the northern fires and the air for hundreds of miles to the south was heavy with the smoke and odor from the burning pine. The forest fires drove out the pigeons. Bewildered and terrified, they flew to the south, weeks ahead of the usual time. With their coming, there was an additional darkening of the skies, so close together did the pigeons fly. From horizon to horizon the sky was practically obscured. The flight, as I remember, lasted several days and was a marvelous sight, and I hope, never to be repeated. After that, the pigeon was nearly as extinct as the buffalo.

Like 1930, 1871 must have been an excessively dry and heated year. Jacob T. ZIMMER tells me that when his fathers family reached Illinois in March

peach trees were in bloom, and the day they first crossed the little Wabash the water was so low that he, then a boy of nine, was able to step over the beam.

There were sports and customs in Illinois that were new to the Ohio people. A boys Christmas stocking was likely to catch a stick or two of striped candy, to be sure, and perhaps an orange, but was certain of a generous supply of firecrackers. The Christmas sports of the young men were shooting at a mark, horse racing, and sometimes a, "goose-pull". The feathers were stripped from the neck of a tough old gander and the bare neck well greased; then he was up-ended, head downward, from a potential pole or the limb of a tree. The game was for the young fellows to gallop, one at a time, on horseback toward the goose, seize it by the neck and twist off its head. But the goose was usually adept at dodging, and then if caught, his neck was tough. The sportsman needed a good eye and a strong wrist. The bird itself was the prize. The victorious horseman took it home with him for a holiday dinner.

The principal social center that decade of the "60s" was, "Old Union". A log schoolhouse on the Big Spring line, 80 rods west of Uncle Neddie BRANDT's Here school was conducted for a large district. Here were held famous and largely attended spelling matches. Here there was an occasional singing-school, taught by some itinerant knight of the tuning fork. Here Uncle Allen GASKILL preached on Sundays. Here were held, "protracted meetings", and here was held the neighbor Sunday School. We committed Bible verses to memory, and recited them at the top of our voice. We were all going at once, and at top speed---all in one room. I have been a little hard of hearing ever since!

All the young people would come to Church and Sunday School on horseback. Zack HOWELL would walk a mile or two, bridle in hand, up past our house to the WILGUS "I60" to catch a colt on which to ride a half mile from his house to the school house. Horses were tied to every tree and sapling within rods of the building, and there were almost as many side-saddles to be seen as mens.

The settlers that the Ohians found already here were quite a religious folk, considering that the region was yet one of pioneers. Three denominations flourished; The Old School Baptists, Missionary Baptists, and the Disciples, then usually called Campbellites in honor of the founder, Reverend Alexander Campbell. In this regard the older settlers differed from the newcomers from Ohio. The latter were all Methodists, or, "leaned", that way strongly and expected to be buried at least after Methodist rites. Oddly enough the one Presbyterian of them all, the Reverend G. W. FISHER, belonged to Uncle Allen GASKILL's own Methodist family.

In another regard the old settlers and the new differed decidedly. The oldtimers were , practically to a man, of the strongest Democratic proclivities. The newcomers just as generally Republican. The two ZIMMER brothers, Uncle Phil and Uncle Jake were about the only two Democrats among them. In Ash Grove township, in thoes days, you might as well have no political preferences at all, as to have the Republican sort!

About 1870, the district was dissolved, and , "Old Union", was abandoned. As a school it was scattered to the four winds of heaven, or certainly to as many as three of them.

In the northeast was organized the, "Prairie District". Just north of Union, the, "Gaskill District", with its building near Uncle Allen's house. In the southeast was established the, "Water Oak"; and some of the "Union" pupils were even assigned to the, "Mud", school, north of present day Trowbridge. It was a complete breaking up and in some ways a great loss. All these districts taken together never quite replaced the picturesque, "Old Union", maybe because the times were changing any how; But the good brick church, known as Gaskill Chapel was erected about this time, and the religious services of the community were housed at that center, and there remain to this day. And in the little cemetery nestled up close to the church, almost to a man, the, "Ohio Contingent", now lie at rest. I think of pious old Uncle Neddie BRANDT. The stone at his head preaches just such a sermon as did his life:

"Remember friends as you pass by
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so you shall be...
Prepare for death and follow me."

I cannot close without a bit more personal references to some of thoes Ohio men. I never saw James GASKILL. He was a staunch and devoted Methodist. He gave the land for the churchyard, and led his neighbors in the erection of the log church which preceded Gaskill Chapel. It stood where the sycamores now do, in front of the Chapel door. It was burned during the Civil War, catching fire at the time of a revival.

Like Abraham and Lot, of old, the two men, EVANS and GASKILL, with unlimited public range for cattle, became prosperous stock raisers. To find a market for their livestock they drove it to the village of Chicago on the lake, over 200 miles to the north.

GASKILL left no children, but his name, like his brother Allen's is perpetuated in that of the church, the cemetery, school and community.

Of the men that I knew, I somehow think of Allen GASKILL, John McALLISTER, Philip EVERHART as sort of a, "Big Four". All were men of force and character, and each left his impresson on the community he had helped to build.

Allen GASKILL United his people in marriage, baptised their children and buried their dead. He left descendents, but no sons. But as with his brother James, the name is abundantly perpetuated.

John McALLISTER was a man of affairs. Like EVANS and GASKILL he was on the ground to have open range for pasture and became an unusually successful business man and stockman. He acquired a large farm and built a fine house, the first and only brick residence for miles. He left descendents and is represented in Neoga by two sons, O. G. and John.

Captain Philip EVERHART was a man that stood four-square to every wind that blew---a brave soldier, a good citizen. He was the first man in the community to give his children a college education. The family of his son, the late attorney, W. S. EVERHART, perpetuates the name in Cumberland County.

Morris (Trimmer) NEIGHBOUR was another citizen whoes character was pronounced and cleancut. He was industrious, thrifty and through-going. Readers of the NEWS were no doubt better acquainted with his son, S. W. (Doc) NEIGHBOUR, who moved to Neoga, while Uncle Morris retired to Windsor to pass his latter days.

Then if I could compress five men into four, I think I should include John CARRUTHERS in the, "Big Four". He was younger than the other other men and a teacher. With the families of the big four came preachers. These were the Reverend Allen GASKILL himself, his son-in-law, Reverend G. W. FISHER, the Reverend M. W. EVERHART and the Reverend John FOX, son-in-law to Morris NEIGHBOUR.

Preachers and teachers! Civilization itself rests on the work of men of these callings. The CARRUTHERS and the BETTS family both furnished teachers. I have mentioned Miss Hattie BETTS as the teacher at Fremont, (now Sexon) in 1867. Mrs William BETTS was a teacher of repute at old Union.

John CARRUTHERS was an outstanding teacher and the people always thought of him that way. around his farm home their were nine districts to which he gave his services, the best years of his life, usually two years at a time, in a place. They were the "GOOD", school,

the "Fremont", the "Elm Flat, and the "Prairie" school, and "Old Union"; the "Gaskill" and the "Bland, "Water Oak" and the "Mud" schools He taught winters and farmed summers. His sister Mattie, and his brother, Albert were early day teachers, and his five children have followed in his footsteps. Wherever John CARRUTHERS taught, teachers sprang up after him. (Mattie CARRUTHERS was married to Sylvanus Wood NEIGHBOUR, familiarly known as, "Doc", a son of Morris NEIGHBOUR . E/J/P)

Mention of the BETTS family recalls a talk I once had with the elder Mr BETTS, or he with me. He told me how, as a young man, he had learned what was considered the best trade of the day, that of watch-maker. At the end of his six years apprenticeship, he found factories such as Elgin and Waltham had begun to flood the market with excellent watches at prices such that hand labor could not compete. His calling had been swept away, almost in a day. Just so, we have all seen go the trade of the blacksmith, the shoemaker, the wagonmaker and the harness maker.

Philip ZIMMER was a ~~my~~ gentleman of fine mind and no little culture. I knew that Mr CARRUTHERS regarded him as probably the best read man in the settlement. His brother, Jacob, was a man of strong but rather different type. All his life a farmer, he did his work with thoroughness. He and his children were talented musicians, especially with the violin. One day he said to me regarding music, "It is the one appeal to the senses that can be indulged in to an unlimited extent, and yet do no one any harm".

But I must end my story. Stout-hearted and high-purposed people were thoes Ohio people who broke the sod of the prairie in Ash Grove township Shelby County, Illinois, two generations ago, and it is fitting that we hold their memory in lasting respect.

Family Group Sheet

Name	John CARRUTHERS¹	
Birth	9 Mar 1839	(His birth certificate said Feb. 29th but the computer wouldn't take it.)Newcomers ²
Death	4 Nov 1928	Neoga, Ill ^{1, 2}
Occupation	Teacher/Farmer	
Education	Oberlin College	
Flags	Military	
Father	Uriah CARRUTHERS (1801-1885)	
Mother	Rebecca DENNING (1810-1881)	
Other Spouses:	Sarah HILL	
Marriage	9 Jun 1867 ²	
Spouse	Emma Jones NEIGHBOUR¹	
Father	unknown NEIGHBOUR	
Children:		
1 F	Gertrude CARRUTHERS	
Spouse	SOLIDAY	
Spouse	Zimri P FERGUSON	
Marriage	26 Nov 1909	
2 F	Lulu CARRUTHERS	
Spouse	DOLL	
3 M	Frank Alvin CARRUTHERS	
Birth	1873	
Death	4 Mar 1950	Neoga, Ill
Spouse	Iva Nona CARR	
4 F	Stella May CARRUTHERS	
5 F	Mary Louise CARRUTHERS	
Notes for John CARRUTHERS	<p>1 Moved to Neoga, Ill. in 1866 - bought 80 acres - broke 10 by 16 rods for an orchard plot then returned to Ohio to spend the winter in college at Oberlin. He had been attending at Oberlin when the war broke out, whereupon he enlisted at once. He left the army as a Lieutenant. In this school his eldest brother, George was instructor. The Carruthers family furnished five sons to the country's service. In 1867 John returned to Illinois and built on his 80 acres. He became a teacher. He was thought of as an outstanding teacher in his community. Around his farm home there were 9 districts to which he gave his services, the best years of his life. Usually two years at a time, in a place. They were the "GOOD", school the "FREMONT", the "ELM FLAT", the "OLD UNION", the "GASKILL", the "BLAND", the "WATER OAK", and the "MUD" schools. He taught in the winter and farmed in the summer.</p> <p>His sister Mattie and his brother, Albert were early day teachers, and his five children have followed in his footsteps. Wherever John Carruthers taught, teachers sprang up after him. "Mattie Carruthers was married to Sylvanus Wood Neighbour, familiarly known as, "Doc", a son of Morris Neighbour. He had 5 children. Captain Everhart built his house.</p>	
Notes for Emma Jones NEIGHBOUR	<p>1 Emma and her brother, Leonard Bowman Neighbour lived with their Uncle Morris Neighbour until Emma and John Carruthers were married. Then her brother lived with them for 8 years.(until 1875) Their parents were dead.</p>	
Notes for Lulu (Child 2)	<p>Had several children</p>	
Sources	<p>1. The Neoga News - March 26, 1931 Written by Leonard Bowman Neighbour 2. Aunt Ruth</p>	

Family Group Sheet

Name	Frank Alvin CARRUTHERS	
Birth	1873	
Death	4 Mar 1950	Neoga, Ill
Father	John CARRUTHERS (1839-1928)	
Mother	Emma Jones NEIGHBOUR	
Spouse	Iva Nona CARR	
Children:		
1 F	Gertrude(twin of Lloyd) CARRUTHERS	
Birth	3 Oct 1912	Shelby County ¹
Death	15 Sep 1997	Neoga, Ill. ¹
Burial	18 Sep 1997	Grace UMC, Neoga, Ill
Occupation	worked at the Carruthers IGA and Neoga Community School District	
Spouse	Dexter L. GREESON	
Marriage	8 May 1937	Wheaton
2 M	Lloyd(Twin of Gertrude) CARRUTHERS	
Birth	3 Oct 1912	
3 M	John CARRUTHERS	
Birth	1909	
4 F	Stella Anne CARRUTHERS	
Death	Apr 1967	
Occupation	teacher	
5 M	Lester CARRUTHERS	
Death	1946	
6 F	Doris CARRUTHERS	
Death	1950	
7 F	Evelyn CARRUTHERS	
Spouse	MURPHY	
8 M	Chester CARRUTHERS	
Notes for Gertrude(twin of Lloyd) (Child 1)		
Address: 542 W. 7th St., Neoga, Ill. 62447 as of 1973		
Notes for Lloyd(Twin of Gertrude) (Child 2)		
never married		
Notes for John (Child 3)		
Live in Neoga, Ill		
Have two children a son and daughter.		
Notes for Stella Anne (Child 4)		
no children		
Notes for Lester (Child 5)		
lived in Neoga		
Notes for Doris (Child 6)		
had children who lived in Chicago area		
Notes for Evelyn (Child 7)		
Polk City, Iowa - Des Moines		

Name	Frank Alvin CARRUTHERS
Spouse	Iva Nona CARR
Notes for Evelyn (Child 7) (Continued)	
Had five children	
Sources	
1. Ancestry.com	



Gertrude Ferguson Home



Uncle Ben Ferguson

DECEMBER 29, 1927

TWICE-A-WEEK—TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Obituary

Zimri P. Ferguson

Funeral services for Zimri P. Ferguson, who passed away Thursday, were held at Ash Grove Christian church Saturday afternoon, his pastor, Rev. W. S. Hoke, officiating and being assisted by a former pastor, Rev. Ira Blythe. Singing was by a male quartet, and burial followed in Ash Grove cemetery. The obituary following was read at the services:

"Zimri P. Ferguson was born to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Ferguson in Fayette county, Ohio, March 3, 1857. He departed this life at Memorial hospital, Mattoon, Ill., about 9:00 o'clock Thursday evening, Nov. 24, 1927. He was at the time of his death 70 years, 8 months, and 21 days of age. He came with his parents to Illinois when a babe, settling in Ash Grove township, Shelby county, which has been his home practically all his life. He was married to Mrs. Sue Beard of Sabina, Ohio, in 1884, and not long after settled on the homestead which remained his home until the time of his death. In 1905 Mrs. Ferguson died. Mr. Ferguson was married to Mrs. Gertrude Soliday Nov. 26, 1909. He taught in the rural schools of this territory for a period of fifteen years, and was a successful teacher. About twenty years ago, under the ministry of Rev. R. Layton, with Rev. Gilbert Jones as evangelist, he united with the Ash Grove Christian church, and in course of time was made one of the elders of the congregation, which position he filled with credit until his leave-taking. He was a good citizen, a kind husband and father, interested in the church and community,

Horace Bassett and Mrs. W. L. Latimer of Neoga.

The pall bearers were J. W. Gray and Sylvester Clawson, two of the board of elders of which body Mr. Ferguson was the senior member, J. S. Wilson and W. A. Bennett of the board of trustees and J. F. Clawson and L. N. Kemp, his lifelong friends and closest neighbors. The floral offerings were carried by Gabe Clem, Reta Storm, Pauline Wallace, Florence Curry, Vera Bridges, Violet Kercheval, Faith Burrell and Lucille Soliday.

and was ready at all times to contribute his part of finances, of sacrifice, and service for the bettering of the health, comfort, and morals of humanity. There live to cherish his memory, his only child, Miss Bertha, who resides in the family home, and who was a source of comfort to him in his struggles of life; his beloved wife, who was a sharer of his anxieties, and helper in his plans, and a stepson, Ray Soliday, whom he loved as his own son. There are also two brothers, A. A. Ferguson of Belfontaine, Ohio, and C. H. Ferguson of Racine, Wisconsin; and two sisters, Mrs. Florence (Z. T.) Storm, and Miss Allie Ferguson, both of Windsor, who survive him, besides a number of other relatives and a host of friends."

All these relatives named above were present at the last rites except A. A. Ferguson, who was injured in a hunting accident last week and hence was unable to come. C. H. Ferguson arrived at the church just as the funeral services were about to be concluded.

Mr. Ferguson's death occurred on the eighteenth anniversary of this marriage, Thanksgiving Day, in the year 1909—but the day in that year coming on the 26th of November. He was laid to rest on the eighteenth return of their wedding. Among those in attendance at the services besides those previously named were Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Bayne and sons Vernon and Junior, Mrs. George L. Ewing and daughter Lois, all of Chicago; John Carruthers, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carruthers of Neoga; Eber Ferguson of Brownstown, Miss Inez Storm of Charleston, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Young and daughter Marie of near Neoga, John Ferguson and daughter Maud, and son Ralph of near Stewardson and Mr. and Mrs.

Gertrude C. Greeson

Gertrude C. Greeson, 84, of Neoga died at 3:25 p.m. Monday, September 15, 1997 at the Heartland Christian Village in Neoga.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Thursday, September 18 at the Grace United Methodist Church of Neoga with the Rev. Julia Melgreen of Neoga officiating. Marian Lindley played the organ and Debbie Modglin played the piano. The congregation sang "In The Garden" and "Amazing Grace" and Jim Whitaker sang "Hymn Of Promise".

She was born October 3, 1912 in Shelby County, the daughter of Frank A. and Iva Noná (Carr) Carruthers. She married Dexter Greeson May 8, 1937 in Wheaton. He preceded her in death May 26, 1974.

Survivors include one son, David Greeson and his wife Dona of Neoga; one daughter, Nancy Renshaw and her husband John of Mattoon; one sister, Mrs. Evelyn Murphy of Des Moines, Iowa; three grandchildren, Craig Greeson and his wife Wendy of Mattoon, Christopher Greeson of Bloomington/Normal and Martha Tate Roman of Chicago and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Chester, Lester, John and her twin brother, Lloyd and two sisters, Stella Anne and Doris.

Mrs. Greeson was a retired secretary for The Neoga Community School District and worked for several years at Carruther's IGA in Neoga. She was a member of the Grace United Methodist Church of Neoga, the United Methodist Women of Neoga, and was a charter member of the Neoga B.P.W. of Neoga. She was a 50 year member and past Worthy Matron of the Evergreen Chapter #96 of the Order of The Eastern Star, and was past board member of the Neoga Township Schools and Neoga District Library.

Memorials may be made to the Grace United Methodist Church Building fund of the donor's choice.

Frank Alvin Carruthers

Passed Away
Saturday evening, March 4, 1950
at the family home in Neoga.
Aged 77 yrs., 1 month.

Services at the
METHODIST CHURCH IN NEOGA,
Monday afternoon, March 6th,
AT TWO O'CLOCK.

Clergyman
Reverend Paul W. Caton.

Musie
Evelyn Richardson, Jean Snyder
Mabel Dougherty

Bearers
Leo Carruthers Clayton Doll
Roy Burrell W. D. White
Robert Allison Charles Parker

Interment
NEOGA MEMORIAL CEMETERY
1878 - 1950

Family Group Sheet

Name	Sylvanus Wood (Doc) NEIGHBOUR¹	
Birth	19 Oct 1845	Ohio ²
Death	18 Dec 1904	Neoga, Ill. ²
Burial	Gaskill Church Cemetary, Neoga, Ill. ²	
Occupation	President of the Chrisman Bank in Neoga, Ill.	
Religion	Gaskill Chapel Church	
Father	Morris (Trimmer) NEIGHBOUR	
Mother	Drucilla EVERHART	
Marriage	20 Oct 1867 ^{2, 3}	
Spouse	Martha E (Mattie) CARRUTHERS¹	
Birth	11 Feb 1846 ³	
Death	27 Aug 1934 ³	
Father	Uriah CARRUTHERS (1801-1885)	
Mother	Rebecca DENNING (1810-1881)	
Other Spouses:	BARR	
Children:		
1 F	Cora NEIGHBOUR²	
Death		died - don't know when
2 M	Robert "Bob" Burrell NEIGHBOUR²	

Notes for Sylvanus Wood (Doc) NEIGHBOUR

He was a harness maker. His brother was Leonard Bowman Neighbour. And his sister was Emma Neighbour. They moved to Neoga, Illinois around 1862. Became a very prominent man - president of the Chrisman Bank. Very well thought of by the whole community.

Notes for Martha E (Mattie) CARRUTHERS

Lived in Neoga Illinois - She was a early day teacher. They were originally from Newcomerstown, Ohio but migrated around 1863 to 1872 to Illinois (Shelby County chiefly.)

Notes for Cora (Child 1)

Had a son before she died.

Notes for Robert "Bob" Burrell (Child 2)

Bob was their nephew not their son.

Sources

1. The Neoga News - March 26, 1931 Written by Leonard Bowman Neighbour
2. Obituary report in newspaper
3. Aunt Ruth

Last Modified 6 Apr 2006

Cn

Died at Neoga, Ill.

Mr. S. W. Neighbor, who was born in Newcomerstown, Oct. 19, 1845, died on Sunday, the 18th inst., at his home in Neoga, Ill., to which neighborhood he migrated with his parents in 1863. He was married Oct. 20, 1867, to Mattie E. Carruthers, a sister of Mr. Robt. Carruthers who resides near Port Washington.

Mr. Neighbor was 18 years old when he left this community to carve his way to fortune and fame in the West. He first located near Gaskill, Ill., and engaged in farming, at which he was quite successful. In later years he became president of the Christman National Bank at Neoga, and was also a stockholder in another bank. He built an elegant home in Neoga, where he resided for several years. Their home was blessed with one living child, a daughter who died leaving a little grandchild to remind her parents of their home. Mrs. Neighbor, therefore, is the only surviving member of the family.

Neighbor was a cousin of [Name] Neighbor of this city

Neoga News 12-30-1904



Family Group Sheet

Name	BARR	
Spouse	Martha E (Mattie) CARRUTHERS¹	
Birth	11 Feb 1846 ²	
Death	27 Aug 1934 ²	
Father	Uriah CARRUTHERS (1801-1885)	
Mother	Rebecca DENNING (1810-1881)	
Other Spouses: Sylvanus Wood (Doc) NEIGHBOUR		
Children:		
1 M	Ellis BARR	
Notes for Martha E (Mattie) CARRUTHERS		
Lived in Neoga Illinois - She was a early day teacher. They were originally from Newcomerstown, Ohio but migrated around 1863 to 1872 to Illinois (Shelby County chiefly.)		
Notes for Ellis (Child 1)		
Was a Private - served at Cannes, France 1919		
Sources		
1. The Neoga News - March 26, 1931 Written by Leonard Bowman Neighbour 2. Aunt Ruth		



Eva Carruthers

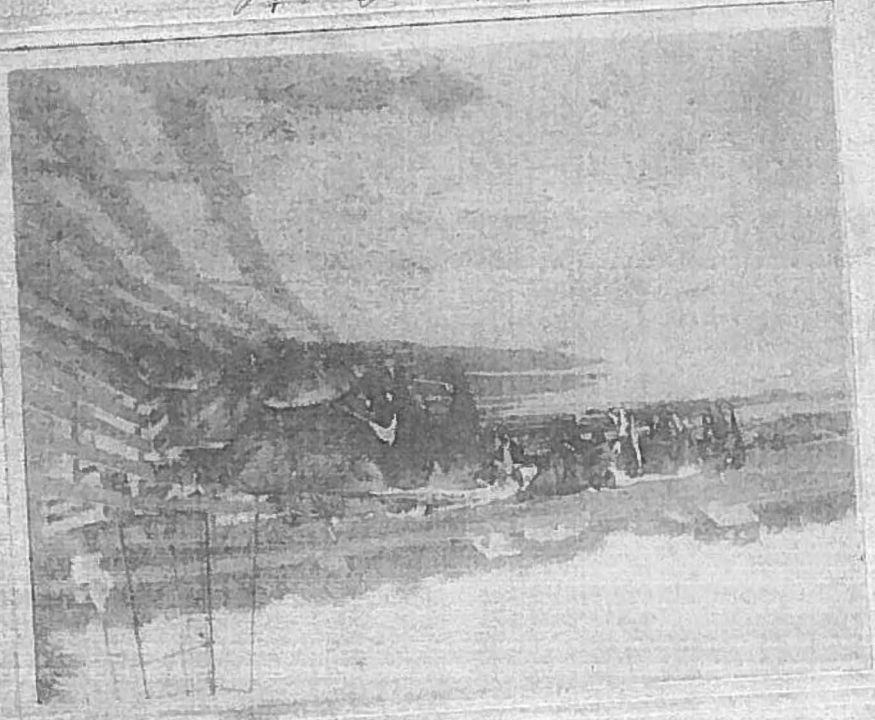


*Eva Carruthers
Mary Evangeline "Eva"*

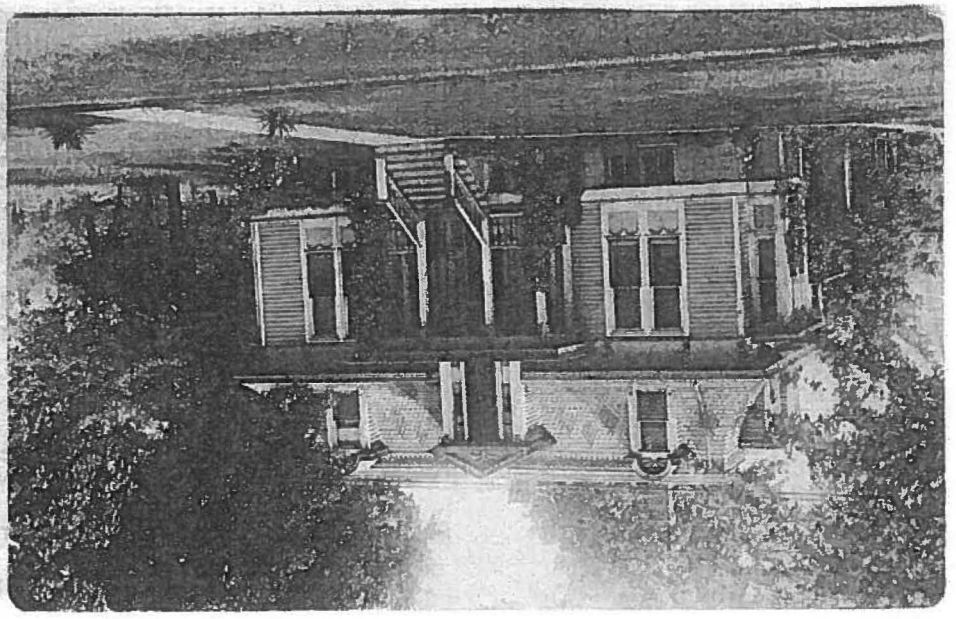


*Quint: Cora
Mather
Bob
Bernell*

Luke Davis' cattle

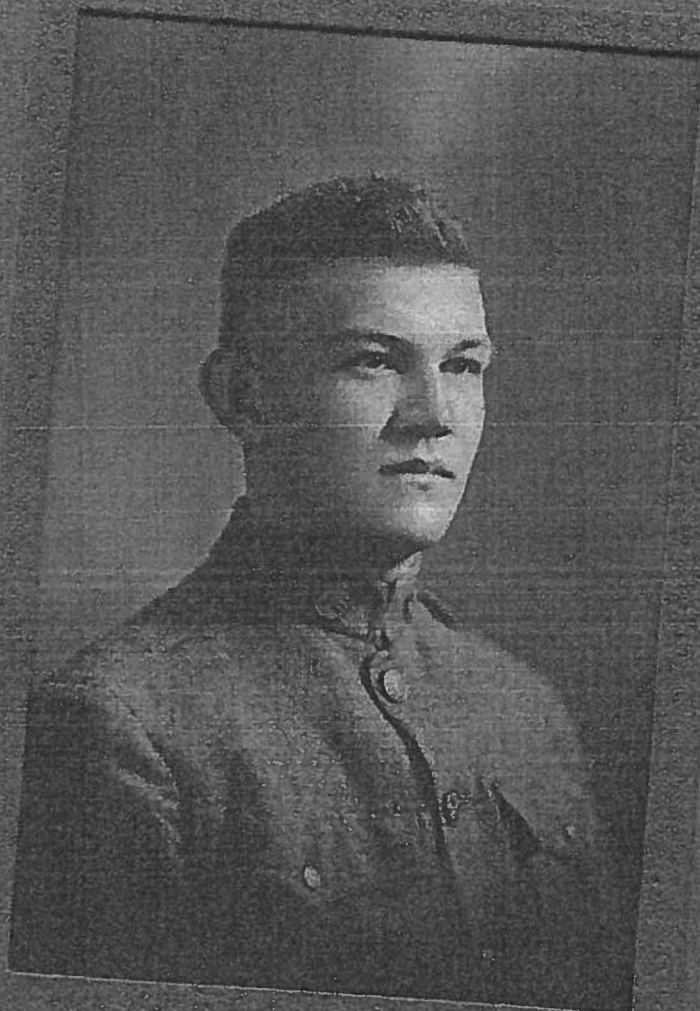


Matt + Doc Neighbors' house in
Moores, Tex.



Luke Davis' Neighbors





Ellis Smith

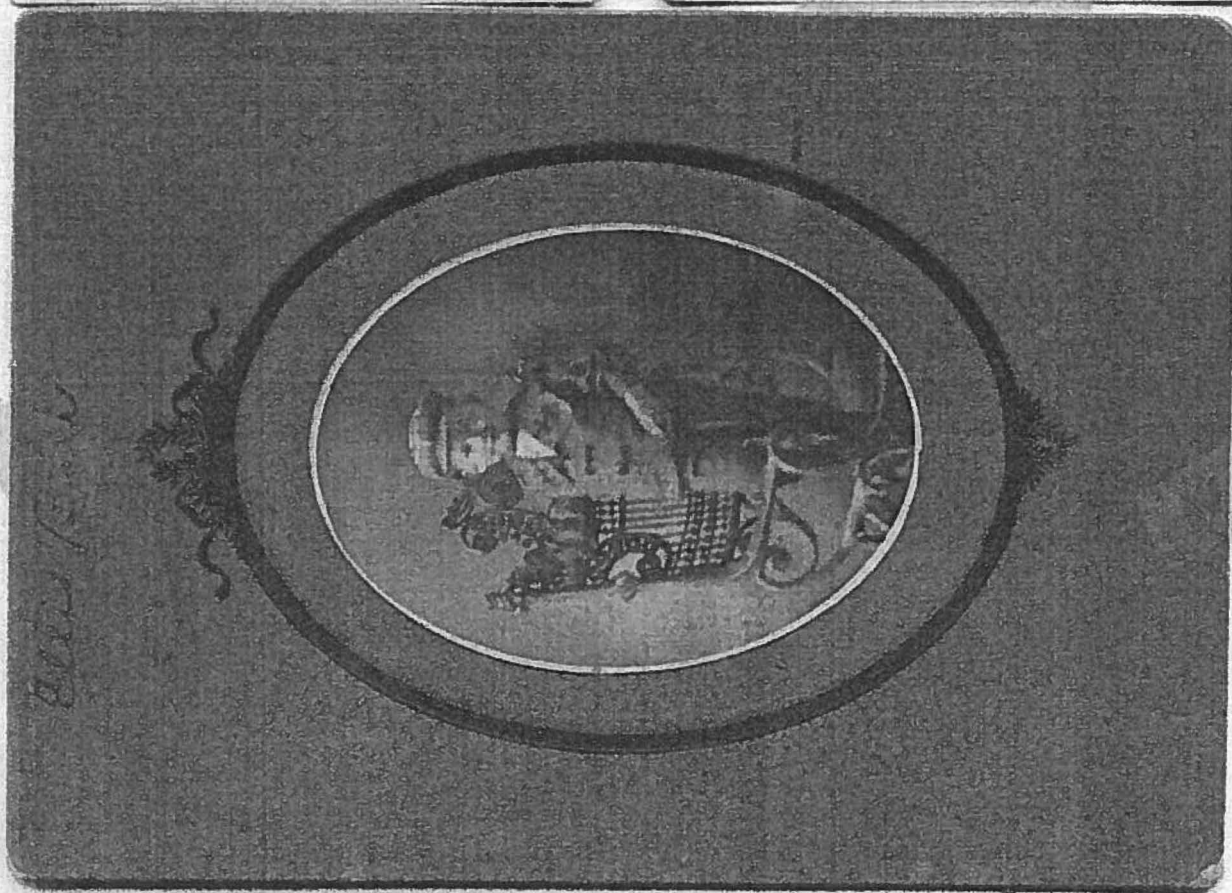
The Northside
of Illinois
Photography
1918



Ellis Barr



Ellis Barr
Eva Carruthers



Ellis Barr

Family Group Sheet

Name	Morris (Trimmer) NEIGHBOUR¹	
Father	unknown NEIGHBOUR	
Spouse	Drucilla EVERHART¹	
Father	Thomas McCoy EVERHART	
Children:		
1 M	Sylvanus Wood (Doc) NEIGHBOUR¹	
Birth	19 Oct 1845	Ohio ²
Death	18 Dec 1904	Neoga, Ill. ²
Burial	Gaskill Church Cemetary, Neoga, Ill. ²	
Occupation	President of the Chrisman Bank in Neoga, Ill.	
Spouse	Martha E (Mattie) CARRUTHERS	
Marriage	20 Oct 1867 ^{2,3}	
Notes for Morris (Trimmer) NEIGHBOUR		
Went to Ash Grove Twp. in 1863 -1His brother was Harlow and Harlow had 2 sons; Leonard Bowman and Edwin D. Harlow's wife was Mary Everhart - sister of Drucilla. Came by covered wagon. Harlow lived with with Morris until Emma married John Carruthers. Retired at Windsor.		
Notes for Sylvanus Wood (Doc) (Child 1)		
1He was a harness maker. His brother was Leonard Bowman Neighbour. And his sister was Emma Neighbour. They moved to Neoga, Illinois around 1863 ² . Became a very prominent man - president of the Chrisman Bank. Very well thought of by the whole community.		
Sources		
1. The Neoga News - March 26, 1931 Written by Leonard Bowman Neighbour 2. Obituary report in newspaper 3. Aunt Ruth		

GONE HOME.

The relentless hand of Death reaches in and takes away another of Neoga's best citizens. After several months of suffering S. W. Neighbor passed away at his home in Neoga, Sunday morning, Dec. 18, at eight o'clock. The end was not a surprise to his family and friends, for Mr. Neighbor had been confined to his house for some time with that dread disease, tuberculosis. He had been hovering near that Dark River for several days and his family and friends knew that it was only a short time until he would go on his long journey to that beautiful home above, where there is no suffering nor sorrow, to await the coming of his beloved one, left behind. Mr. Neighbor was a kind and loving husband and a true Christian. He was well liked by all who knew him and was one of Neoga's most influential citizens and one among the wealthy men of Cumberland County. He was a large stockholder in the Cumberland County Bank and President of the Christian National Bank, a land-holder. He was of a noble disposition, never giving away anyone in need. He ceased was formerly a farmer living on a farm near Neoga. When his health began to fail he moved to Neoga and built a home, where he could rest in ease and enjoy life, little realizing that the dread reaper was so near. The loss of such a good and influential man will be keenly felt in this community. Deceased was born in Ohio in 1845, came to Ill., 1863, and was married to Mattie E. Carruthers in 1867. He leaves a wife and numerous relatives to mourn their loss.

OBITUARY.

S. W. Neighbor was born in Newcomerstown, Ohio, on Oct. 19, 1845. He came to Illinois with his parents in 1863; was married to Mattie E. Carruthers on Oct. 20, 1867. To this union, but one living child blessed the home. Cora was the pride of their hearts but Providence saw best to call her home, and in her place, left a little grandson to remind them of the lost one.

At the death of Mrs. Neighbor's sister, they took the youngest child, Robert, and reared him

Husband and Maude Hancock, Mrs. Frank Bayne and Mr. Edward Bayne, with Mrs. R. D. Marsh at the instrument. The songs selected were appropriate and the singing of unusual sweetness.

The body was gently lowered into the grave, so carefully prepared. The grave was covered with choicest flowers, most worthily bestowed.

No doubt the universal respect shown in the death of Mr. Neighbor will help others to lead a noble life and emulate his virtues.

How true that, "In the midst of life, we are in death."

How appropriate the Savior's words as a warning to all, "Be ye also ready; for ye know not the day nor the hour."

and his own and he was proved faithful to their trust.

Mr. Neighbor and wife united with the Gaskill Chapel Ch. in the year 1832, under the pastorate of Rev. H. C. Turner, and everyone who knew him knew of his loyalty to his church. In his illness, he was patient and appreciative of all the attention and care given him. During the last two weeks, he was unable, most of the time, to impart the knowledge, he so much desired; but he left assurance that "All was well with his soul."

On Thanksgiving day, many of his relatives and friends met with him, in his home and at his request, Rev. J. A. Stout administered the Lord's supper. Two or three songs were sung and in the last song, "Rock of Ages," he joined in the singing and remarked that it was a happy day in his life.

S. W. Neighbor was a successful business man, upright in all his transactions, honorable in every way, and was most highly esteemed by all who knew him.

At the time of his death, he was president of the First National Bank of Chrisman and also a stockholder in the home bank at Neoga. On Monday, the day of his burial, the bank of which he was president, remained closed all day while the other bank at Chrisman closed its doors for four hours out of respect.

The loss of Mr. Neighbor at the very zenith of his usefulness and success, is felt by all classes of people.

It is a common remark by all that Neoga has lost one of her very best citizens. His loss will be keenly felt in the home, where his wife and companion of his youth had so many years found comfort and help in his wise counsel.

Mrs. Neighbor and her sister, who has for so long made her home with her, have the sympathy of the entire community in their loneliness, and in rearing the little grandson to a place of honor and usefulness such as the grandfather enjoyed.

The funeral services were conducted, Monday, by the Rev. A. L. Plowman. A short service was held at the late residence at 10:15 a. m., after which the remains were taken to Gaskill Chapel, where the deceased had for so long held church membership, and there appropriate services were held. The music was furnished by the Mission choir.