

Facts About
Prophetstown
by
LaRue Parrill

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Edited
by
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Prophetstown Area Historical Society
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LaRue Parrill once lived at 114 W. Railroad Street. He had a wood shop at 108 W. Railroad Street. His house was moved to make way for Scott's Grocery, which is now the Bosma-Gibson Funeral Home.



A house movin'

Workmen last week jacked up the LaRue Parrill home at the corner of Lafayette and Washington and moved it to the Robinson - Miller subdivision. The property will be converted into a new

Royal Blue Supermarket. Owner Marvin "Pete" Scott said construction on the new building is expected to begin shortly, possibly next week.

The house now sits at 918 Washington St.



His wood shop was located at 108 Railroad Street.



Parrill was a local historian, who collected a good deal of information about the town of Prophetstown and its surrounding area. On the next page you will see some of that info he shared with the Echo.

LaRue Parrill
WOOD WORK
CUSTOM BUILT FURNITURE
WAGON AND TRUCK BODIES
Phone 9R2

Facts About Our City

LaRue Parrill is both an historian and archivist, and has done much research on the history of Prophetstown. He has come up with some interesting data on the early days of this city, entitling his writings: "Yes. It's a Fact." The *Echo* will publish his findings in two parts and the first is as follows:

Prophetstown has the possibility of being the oldest town in the state, inasmuch as it was an Indian village before the white settlement in 1886. [1834]

Rain and melted snow filtering through the sand hills surrounding Prophetstown produces the cleanest, clearest and water in Illinois.

The name of Washington Street dates back to the time it was the time is was the main roadway in Washington, now Prophetstown Township.

Whiteside County was, at one time, offered by the board of supervisors, to the United States government as the site for the national capital.

The first "bank" in Prophetstown was known as an exchange. Check blanks it issued were so labeled. (See the next page.)

Rock River has the swiftest current of any river in Illinois.

During the First World War, all livestock marketed from Prophetstown was shipped by rail. The railroads at that time reported more livestock from this city than any other station in the State.

Jefferson Corners was once the principal crossroads in Jefferson Township, now Portland Township. At one time it was a village with post office and stage service.

The street from the intersection of 3rd and Washington southward was once known as the Benton Street Road.

The western part of Prophetstown is sitting on a bed of very rich sand. Pilings driven down there has encountered no bedrock, which testifies to the thickness of the sand.

The number of Prophetstown young men and women serving in the Second World War who attained officer's rating was far above the national average. This reflects the high quality of education they gained.

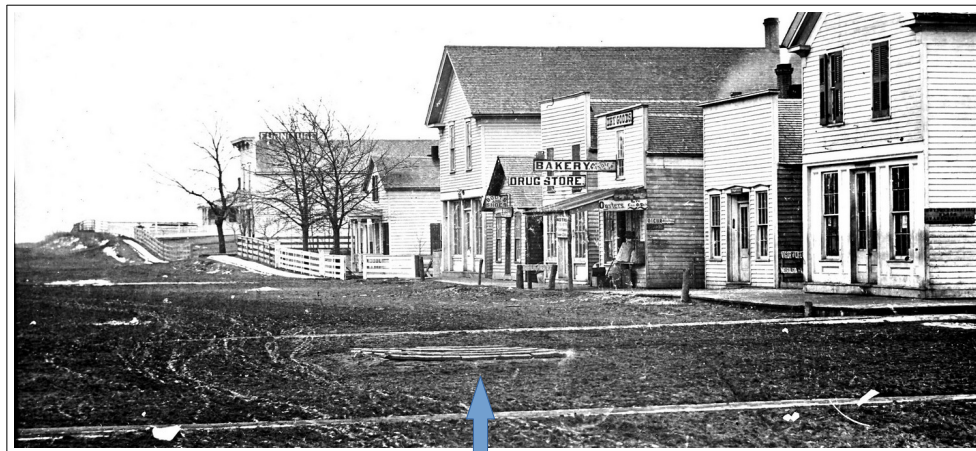
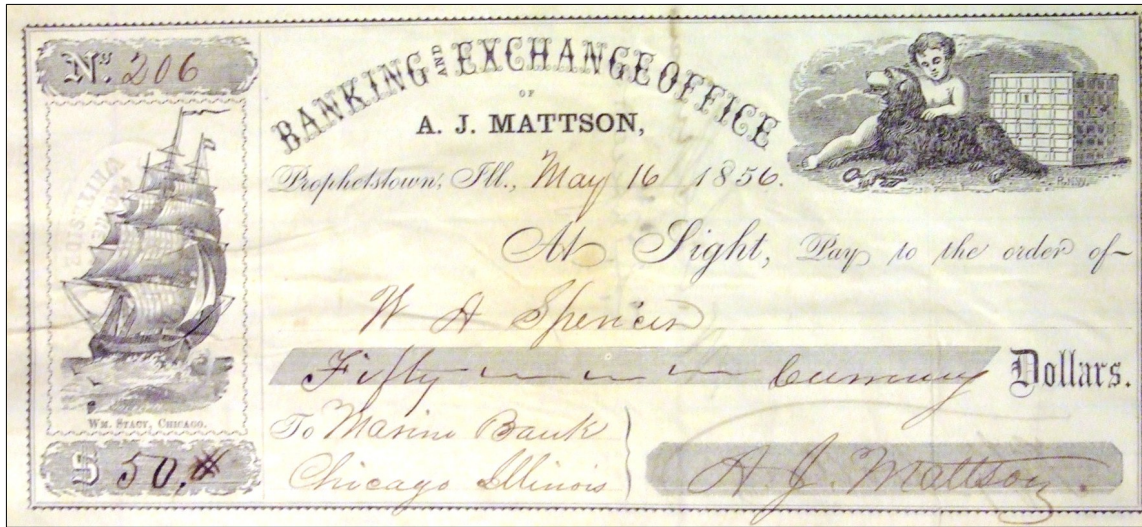
Jackson Street School, now a residence on the John Larson estate farm, was named after Jackson Street Road, now state route 172 [now Star Road]. The road was the main artery of travel from Jackson Township, now Hume, to Prophetstown.

According to Ripley, the GAR monument in the Portland (Sandytown) Cemetery is the first of its kind to have been erected in the United States.

Prophetstown is located on the west end what was once known, loosely, as the Winnebago Swamp. It extends all the way eastward to Amboy.

The depression in the intersection of 3rd and Washington streets marks the location long ago of a huge well that was dug to provide a supply for fire fighting. (See picture on the next page.)

(It is hoped by many persons that Mr. Parrill will come up with more facts about Prophetstown as he continues his studies of the history of this area. If so, they will be published in the *Echo*.)



This shows the wooden door that once covered that fire fighting well.
3rd Street looking east.