

This folks, is the start of the “Trivia and not so Trivial” section...with this list relating specifically to the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area. The “Story of the Week” will always be on top...those items not yet “storied” or “expanded” following randomly.

This isn't intended as a definitive history of “The Land of Goshen”, but rather to identify the most interesting events...or those having major impact, (the “Not so Trivial”), or interesting because it's unexpected or unusual (the “Trivial”.)

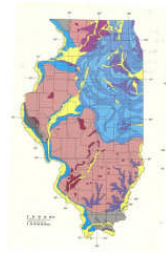
Friends are requested to contribute....either with new stories, or with corrections or twists to existing stories. Contribute or comment by any means....but Merrill@homerejo.com would work fine.

We need to give special credit to Bill Nunes, the most prolific chronicler of local history, whose several books delivered many of these topics. The Madison County Historical Library and other friends helped...as did our own considerable library. But much of this came from files and clippings we've gathered from everywhere over many years. We hope you find it more than interesting...and come back once in a while.

All of this points to the fact that this is an interesting place to live...because a lot went on here before. And it all adds to the fun of living here now!

STORY

0001: The Edwardsville area at one time, 100,000 years ago, under the **Illinois Glacier**, which covered almost of Illinois, but didn't touch Missouri. It defined the course of the lower Illinois River and the Mississippi River, but left the American Bottoms (which it presumably did not cover,) as a flat flood plain. The Wisconsin Glacier, 15,000 years ago did not cover the area, but put is in another "ice age", because as the blue area on the map shows, the glacier ebbed and flowed for many years from the northeast corner of Illinois, reaching central Illinois and creating Lake Michigan, (and others). Ironically, neither glacier touched Calhoun County, just to the north of us and on the west side of the glacier-defined Illinois River, and visitors today will view a different topography there. One way or another, the glaciers also created the clay “bluffs” we live on in Madison County, and left huge piles of “drift” in places, notably around Lebanon. A significant moraine created was the one now used for the Lebanon Road, between Lebanon and Belleville, no doubt an Indian trail before that.



1816: **Thomas Kirkpatrick is considered to be the founder of Edwardsville.** He platted a town on his land in 1816, on the flat land above Cahokia Creek, now the north end of Edwardsville and named it for his political patron Ninian Edwards, who was then Territorial Governor at the capital in Kaskaskia, but spent a lot of time in Edwardsville. Mr. Kirkpatrick's cabin was later used as the first courthouse in Madison County, and he does have a street named after him in Edwardsville, off north main to his former homesite. By various measures, Edwardsville is one of the earliest cities in Illinois, officially claimed as third oldest city, (behind Shawneetown and Kaskaskia.) Interestingly, Mr. Kirkpatrick left Madison County, making a new and final home somewhere in Indiana.



1805: The site of the **first Methodist Church in Illinois, Bethel Campground**, was just to the right of the lane to modern-day Lakewood, off Glen Carbon Road. It was the site of many early camp-meetings and revivals and the simple church that was ultimately built was destroyed by fire. It was the mother church for Salem at Wanda, St. John's in Edwardsville, Ebenezer, Cedar Grove and others. One prominent circuit rider preacher was Bishop McKendree, after whom McKendree College in Lebanon was named. A substantial monument memorializing the event sits still just to the left of the Lakewood entrance. It was built alongside what was then the terminal portion of The Goshen Road, our next subject. The topography is beautiful. One can imagine the idyllic setting for a pioneer religious campground. A small cemetery later accompanied, and at least one stone bore the name of "Gillham", a very prominent Pioneer family.



1799: Reverend David Badgley gazed upon the country from the top of the bluffs, likened it to the Biblical Land of Milk and Honey, and labeled it... **The Land of Goshen!** And in a real way, it still is! Reverend Badgley had entered Illinois in 1797, with a party from Virginia of 154 newcomers. Stepping off flatboats at Fort Massac, at the extreme southern end of Illinois, the party slogged for weeks through swamps and mud before reaching New Design, a newer American community just south of modern Waterloo, where they settled. Scorching heat and wretched food and shelter triggered sickness, half dying before winter, many survivors dispersing. The Reverend had organized new Design's Baptist Church, Illinois' first Protestant church, no doubt disquieting surrounding French Catholic residents. Reverend Badgley was probably Illinois' first Protestant clergyman.



1805: **The Goshen Road**, an important pioneer road, established before 1805, brought settlers from Shawneetown, on the Kentucky Border, directly to the Edwardsville - Glen Carbon area. It probably followed a trail that existed because native Americans and even buffalo traveled from SW Illinois to the salt deposits near Equality. At the northern terminus, one branch turned north, the other south, believed to be down what is now Glen Carbon Road, ending at what is now Garden Kingdom. The main "road" was never more than a trail. When real roads came, it quickly fell into disuse.



1926: **Highway 66** was completed and opened in 1926. It passed right through Edwardsville, from NE to SW. It carried nationwide traffic from Chicago to California and was 2448 miles in total length Chicago to California. Nat King Cole made song popular but it was recorded by 18 famous artists and more than 100 not-so-famous.

1806: **Glen Carbon Road** is an historic pioneer road, (and this author and others believe it was the terminus of the famous Goshen Road. Whenever older roads did not follow compass directions in a straight line, it's almost certain that they existed before Illinois was surveyed, before 1806 or so. That means they usually followed older "Native American" trails, or even, buffalo paths. Glen Carbon Road is surely in that category. It's has an unusual alignment in that it passes over no creeks from the top at Highway 159 until the bridge spanning Judy Creek at the bottom of the hill. Bethel, the early Methodist campground and church was established in 1805, certainly very early in our local history



1858: When the famous **Lincoln Douglas debate** was held in nearby Alton in October of 1858, a band from Edwardsville provided music for the event. The subject of the debate was slavery. . The winner in the congressional election was Stephen Douglas. Estimates of attendance ranged from 6000-10,000, Alton's population only a fraction of that.

1500: **Cahokia Mounds** remains a world-class area feature. The main mound is more than 100 feet high, and made of earth carried in baskets or pots by human labor. The largest mound is larger than the pyramids in volume and in its footprint of 14 acres.

1812: **Ninian Edwards ordered the construction of Fort Russell** soon after the United States declared war on England in 1812. It was named after Colonel Russell, commander of the United States Army troops of the West. Indian unrest accompanied the war, agitated by the British and Ninian Edwards and his family probably lived within the walls of the fort for a period of time.

1858: **The Civil War divided** a well-known team of Edwardsville Lawyers. At the Lincoln Douglas debate in Alton in 1858, Joseph Sloss spoke for Stephen Douglas while S. Rutherford warmed up the crowd for Abraham Lincoln. Sloss later entered the Confederate Army, Rutherford the Union Army. .

1858: **Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas both campaigned Edwardsville** on the same day, September 11, 1858. They did not meet. Lincoln often timed his appearances to follow those of Douglas in order to get his ideas out to the crowd that Douglas had attracted. The Republican parade intended to honor Lincoln fizzled, because Lincoln was not initially popular in Edwardsville, nor was the Republican Party. He was far more popular in surrounding towns. He lost this election.

1812: **Edwardsville easily became the "County Seat" of Madison County**, when the county was carved out of the Illinois Territory. The county was named after the then-president of the United States, James Madison. It originally was far larger than it is now, reduced in size as mid-Illinois was developed and counties formed.

1826: **The first brick courthouse** was built on the old Town Square in 1826, in the vicinity of Rusty's Restaurant. In 1857 another was built in the new Town Square to the south, near the present courthouse. At about the same time, the federal land office was closed.

1816: Edwardsville citizens take pride in their town status as the **third oldest officially recognized city** by the state of Illinois as determined by state records. Shawneetown, clearly the oldest, (on the Ohio River), was chartered by the territorial legislature in December of 1814. The second General Assembly of the new state, in 1821, officially granted charters to Belleville, Carmi, Edwardsville and Vandalia, the new state capitol.

1860: **Old Troy Road**, between Edwardsville and Troy has been an important a connector between Troy and Edwardsville for a long time. It first followed the termination of the old Goshen Road, which may have followed an Indian footpath and Buffalo Trail even before that. At one time it was called State Aid # 1, because it was the first highway in the state of Illinois to be subsidized with state funds...the first "state highway" therefore, later to be returned to County ownership.

1932: **Illinois Route 159** has become such an important road in modern times that it's hard to believe it was a late comer in the road systems we enjoy. Routes route 157 and an old Troy Rd. preceded it by far. It was first built in 1929. But before that date, an interurban electric railway traversed roughly the same alignment from Collinsville to Edwardsville.

1942: County Clerk **Eulalia Hotz was the first female Madison County official** elected, in November of 1942. Her brother Norbert Hotz held the office before her and her father Joseph Hotz was clerk before that. During the 1950s she campaigned for office in a 1925 model T. Ford painted hot pink emblazoned with the slogan "Good old-fashioned courtesy and service combined with modern efficiency."

1824: Until 1824, Edwardsville was the location of a major **Indian Agency office** of the federal government. Various tribes, but especially Kickapoo and Kaskaskia, came for land payments. It was located across 2nd street from Rusty's. A mound existed on the corner of what is now Eden Church parking lot, called a "Prayer Mound", where Indians purportedly prayed before they entered the Indian Agency Office. The office was under the control of the Territorial Governor until statehood in 1818, (in Kaskaskia), and Benjamin Stephenson came to town originally to operate the agency. The office was closed in 1826. The building survived until _____.

1819: The **Prairie Band of Kickapoo** ceded their interests in a huge part of Illinois in a ceremony just outside of Fort Russell, north of Edwardsville in 1819. 10 million acres in the center of Illinois was sold by the Kickapoo Indian Tribe to the United States, for \$ 32,000 plus trinkets...about 1/3 of a cent per acre.

1820: One of the first permanent residents of The Land of Goshen was **Col. Samuel Judy**, who built a brick home where Garden Kingdom now is, very near an Indian Mound. His original Swiss name was Tschudi. Judy Creek was named after him.

1968: On the ticker tape shown in the Book Depository room in Dallas, when stopped at the precise moment **President Kennedy** was shot, the news story just reported on the ticker tape was of the results of a prominent trial in Edwardsville. The bullet that killed Kennedy was manufactured by Western Cartridge in East Alton

1858: **The Klingel House** on N. Main St once housed Edwardsville's only brewery. The house was built in 1858 by the Richer Brothers. Tunnels led to several caves in the Cahokia Creek bluffs nearby where beer was stored for aging. It closed in 1870.

1816: Edwardsville's "**Federal Land Office**" was opened 2 years before Illinois became a state. and the third of ten such offices. In the thirty months from the fall of 1834 to the spring of 1837, the American people generated the largest land office business in the history of the Republic.

1858: The **American Legion builds a golf course**, and literally, it was constructed by its members, mostly on Saturdays and Sundays. It has become a major amenity of the area. They did in most of the work was done on Saturdays and Sundays.

1885: **Liberty Street** was the original road to Alton and Springfield. When North Main was constructed using a new bridge across the Cahokia Creek, Liberty Street became secondary and today its importance only a memory.

1906: Industrialist Andrew Carnegie contributed money to build a new **Edwardsville public Library** in 1906, plus more than 2800 other libraries in towns across America. Land for city park had been set aside in the 1820s by Ninian Edwards and Benjamin Stevenson.

1858: While campaigning for congress in 1858, 2 years before he became president, in a losing effort against Stephen Douglas, **Lincoln spoke in Edwardsville**. The speech was noted on the cover of Life magazine of February, 1991. The date of the speech was 9/11/1858...ironics!

1912: **Lincoln School**, with classrooms on street level and a basement gymnasium and assembly Hall, opened in 1912. It served African American students and later, integrated classes until it was closed in 1972.

1815: The **90th Meridian passes through Edwardsville** Township. That means we're exactly one fourth of the way around the world from Greenwich England. Meridian Road supposedly was named because it was presumed to follow the 90th Meridian.

1813: **Thomas Kirkpatrick built a water powered flour mill** on the Cahokia Creek and operated it and a tavern for several years. People came from far and wide with horse and wagon to have wheat ground into flour. Later oxen powered several local mills, then steam and finally, electricity. Mills were an important local pioneer feature of every community.

1905: **The LeClaire area** remains as an example of enlightened industrialism. Created by N. O. Nelson, LeClaire was not to be an ordinary factory town. It was a true experiment in cooperative management based on Nelson's belief in living by the golden rule.

1850: Edward Koenig, on property once owned by Thomas Kirkpatrick in the north of Edwardsville, made a living **making "pear beer"** in the 1850's, from hundreds of pear trees he planted on his property. Two brick caverns for ageing were built along Liberty Street, one now caved in, the other presumably intact.

1890: **The Richards Brick Company** was founded in 1890 by Ben Richards and Thomas Springer and remains important today at its historic location on Springer Avenue. It once had a smokestack of 175 feet...the second-highest in Southern Illinois.

1896: The **Schwarz Sisters Orchestra** played many concerts in Edwardsville between 1896 in 1900 and under the direction of William Thomas, husband of the eldest daughter, Jesse. There were eight sisters in the band.. Six Schwarz brothers had a separate band.

1958: The **Alestle**, Student newspaper named for Alton was so named from the letters beginning the words of Alton, Edwardsville and E. St. Louis, where SIUE had campuses.

1850: In the 1850s **stagecoach travel** between Edwardsville and St. Louis was easily available most days of the week for the modest sum of \$1.25 each way.

1818: **In the census of 1818**, required for statehood, only 18 households were counted in Edwardsville housing 166 people. 17 of these were slaves or servants while four were "free persons of color." Eight of the slaves belonged to Benjamin Stevenson, register of the land office whose house still stands on Troy Rd., and four belonged to Ninian Edwards, who was counted a resident in the census, but who was making a transition from Territorial Governor to US Senator, moving to Edwardsville from Kaskaskia.

1915: **The "Yellow Hammer"** was the name affectionately given to a yellow colored electric streetcar that bore travelers between Edwardsville and Collinsville on an electric railroad that was built along a route where Illinois 159 now exists. A great story exists of its demise in 1918.

1901: On September 3 1901, the **first electric railroad car** arrived in Edwardsville after a 45 minute trip from Collinsville. It became part of an extensive network of electric passenger cars that served to carry passengers into St. Louis and throughout the state, until the automobile took over that function for good.

1920: **Carrie Nations, the famous suffragette**, once appeared in Edwardsville and spent the night in the county Jail. She offended the local sheriff by jerking a lit cigar from his mouth and stomping on it. He was looking for an excuse and she gave it to him.

1838: The **Three Mile House** became a stagecoach stop on the St. Louis to Springfield run. Located 3 miles from Goshen (Glen Carbon), it became an area fixture for many years. Considered haunted and possibly a stop on the "underground railway" it burned in 1980, and was spoken of in the book, "Haunted Illinois".

2005: The Edwardsville area and Madison county has the most extensive **hiking and bike trail system** in the state and one of the finest in the nation. Virtually every railroad right-of-way has been converted in a "Rails to Trails" program.

1835: **Camp Wheeler, a Civilian Conservation Corps** camp housing up to 223 men opened northeast of Edwardsville. After the Great Depression a number of construction projects were handled by the WPA, with a contingency in Edwardsville.

1903: **Coal mining** was very important in the history of Edwardsville and Glen Carbon. One of the most prominent mines in the township was Donk # 2, on Center Grove Road. A half mile away, the **upper lake in Lakewood** was built by the mine to supply its water, and was carefully built over non-undermined area, to prevent any possibility of leakage. The lake still exists. The lead-shielded direct-current electrical cable was removed in World War II for the metal's importance to the war effort. The pipe itself is only a rusty remainder.

1912: The **Centennial Monument**, a graceful and permanent feature of the Madison County Centennial still stands in City Park, east of the library. It stands 16 feet high, is sculpted of Georgia marble and was made by a Chicago sculptor. Its 4 sides represent plenty, virtue, justice and wisdom, each of its four sides.

1783: After about 1783 the grand floodplain along the Mississippi became known as the **Great American Bottoms**. Parts of it had been previously cleared by Indian men for fields of corn cultivated by their women. Covered with grass otherwise, it was part of the "Land of Goshen" viewed by David Badgley and remains an important geographical and agricultural feature.

1910: **Automobiles were first required to be registered** in 1910. The fee was \$ 2.00. Less than 2000 were registered in that first year. Now it's many millions.

0001: **The bluffs** we live on and which we enjoy for its rolling topography were created after the retreat of the glaciers, when westerly winds picked up soil particles from the mud flats that came to be known as "The American Bottoms", and deposited them as a gigantic sand dune would be created.

1820: **Vandalia** was named as a permanent location for the capitol of Illinois. Just 2 years after Illinois became a state, it recognized that Kaskaskia was no longer the center of the state's activity...(nor would Vandalia remain so for long)

1818: As Illinois achieved statehood, the **first capital was named at Kaskaskia**, the site of the territorial capitol....in the same rented brick building. Ironically, this first "capitol" fell into the Mississippi River in a flood of 1881.

1958: In the history of SW Illinois, **two Clark brothers made important history**...from a big family in Virginia, George Rogers, the oldest, made a revolutionary war raid on Kaskaskia and Cahokia in 1778 at the age of 22, and William, the youngest, was of "Lewis and Clark" fame in the historic 1803 expedition.

1850: **The most prevalent disease in Illinois** from 1820 to 1850 was...malaria. It was part of the awful insect populations of the period, both flies and mosquitos that bothered man and beast. A farmer bringing a load of wheat to the Kirckpatrick Mill wrote that he rested his horses by day, protected by surrounding fires, and traveled by night, simply to avoid the awesome flies, although he had to put up with more mosquitos.

1903: **A major flood of the Mississippi River**, before levees were built, backed water up on the American Bottoms all the way to the rise of the bluffs in western Edwardsville Township. The only high ground was near Granite City. The last railroad right of way was one between downtown St. Louis and Edwardsville. That was the last time the bottoms were totally flooded, remaining dry in the great flood of 1993.

1993: **The Mississippi River flood of 1993** is generally regarded as the worst in recorded Illinois history. Edwardsville and Glen Carbon remained high and dry, untouched except that it sent a lot of citizens to help with sandbagging along various levees that remained in place, but threatened.

1818: **Five governors** in the early days of statehood, came from the Edwardsville area, in testimony of the area's importance in the state. There were Shadrack Bond, Ninian Edwards, Edward Coles, John Reynolds and Joseph Dineen. Ninian Edwards became a first US Senator and claimed Edwardsville as his home in the census of 1820.

1927: **Route 66 became important to Edwardville**....a culture surrounding it. Called Earnie's Roadhouse and a host of other names, Tourist Haven in nearby Hamel became a Route 66 feature, and is still operating. Cathcart's Cafe in Edwardsville was another. In easterly Edwardsville, it featured "Dead Man's Curve", so many accidents happened there. No telling how many famous persons, or even criminals, passed through our town in that long period. Route 66 ceased to be important when the interstates were built in the 1950s, but parts survived as frontage roads or other local roads. Burma Shave and many other kinds of road signs were common, but only the roofing signs advertising Meramec Caverns and Mail Pouch Tobacco survived Lady Bird's "Highway Beautification Act of 1965". John Steinbeck in "The Grapes of Wrath" called it "The Mother Road". It's famous shield went into logo of Phillips 66

1850: Many of the early pioneer roads were "**Plank Roads.**" They were "paved" with wooden planks, usually slabs with the bark down, creating a flat upper service surface. The so-called American Bottom Plank Road, paved in July of 1850, was a good example. Other plank roads preceeded Highway 157 from Edwardsville to Collinsville and old Highway 40 between Troy and Collinsville.

1918: **Influenza** struck Edwardsville-Glen Carbon as the first World War came to a close in October of 1918. Part of a worldwide epidemic that year, a reported 25 to 30 cases in early October in Edwardsville alone grew to 600 with 19 deaths by November and October of 1918. A proclamation of Mayor Hotz closed most businesses on and off for weeks. Schools were closed for over a month. It was a deadly aftermath of World War I.

1816: In 1816, two years before Illinois became a state, Edwardsville was established as a **United States Land Office**. Benjamin Stevenson was appointed as the first administrator. In February of 1819, public land sold at 50 cents an acre up to 80 acres; 75 cents for 160 acres and 1. for up to 640 acres. Later it was rounded to \$ 1.00 per acre. Some land was distributed for service in the war of 1812, and even in the Revolutionary War.

1803: The **Lewis and Clark Expedition** encampment was built at the mouth of nearby Wood River. It was supposed to go to LaCharette in Missouri, but the Spanish Governor there had not yet received official notice of the transfer of land from the Louisiana Territory, so would not permit it. Illinois therefore has most of the ceremony regarding the preparation for the voyage, and a major museum and lots of attention that could easily have gone to Missouri.

1928: Derigibles plied the skies around Edwardsville-Glen Carbon. Scott AFB, established at the start of World War I, had become the nation's center for lighter-than-air aircraft, and had a huge hanger for them, 2nd largest in the USA.

1957: **SIUE came to town** in 1957 and has achieved a "settled-in" look and function. While most residents welcomed it, the displaced landowners had mixed emotions. A few considered it downright unwelcome. The unusual feature was that 2600 acres were acquired, paid for entirely by the local community. It gives the campus the rare quality of appearing to be located in the center of a park. It's still considered visionary and is the largest campus in State of Illinois.

1870: Uncommon, but not quite rare; an **unusual bird** is a unique year round resident of SW Illinois. Introduced from Europe in 1870, it has never gotten more than 50 miles from St. Louis. It is, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow. The author has pictures of some taken in the Dunlap Lake area.

1820: **Benjamin E. Stevenson built his home** on Buchanan Street, south of the park. He had been appointed to serve the new land office in 1815. The home has been awesomely restored.

1805: **The official United States Survey begins in Madison County.** The fields around Edwardsville and in all of Illinois are awesomely regular in their north-south, east-west orientation, and nothing like the patchwork quality of the eastern United States or Europe, especially prominent from the air. The Plat Act of 1785 provided for this wonderful organization. Some of the earliest claims of land in the township however, were made before the state was surveyed. Most of these were along what is now Bluff Road, spanning bottom land and bluffs...for farming and for housing. To this day, these claims stand out as "irregular". It's incredible to know that surveyors actually traversed all of Illinois and its incredibly varied, sometimes very rough topography....and supporting themselves as they did it. Lincoln as a lad was a surveyor's helper for a time.

1970: **Cliff swallows** are shy and seldom seen...(Their habitat is uncommon, and similar to other swallows, are probably seldom identified as such.) But a huge colony exists in a cliff of clay on the south side of the new bike trail between Glen Carbon and Illinois 157....(formerly along the old Illinois Central railroad tracks.)

1848: **The telegraph** linked Chicago, Springfield and St. Louis, including Alton, heralding a new era in communications and helping railroads develop more rapidly and more safely. They helped avoid collisions and disasters, and fostered efficiency, manufacturing specialization and economic integration and coordination. Within a year or two, most communities had a telegraph office, and every train station anywhere was equipped with one. The invention came just before the emerging prominence of Abraham Lincoln and his campaigns, and a decade before the Civil War, where both sides used it as the chief method of communication.

1778: Before statehood in 1818, we were in the **Illinois Territory**. Even before that, we were part of the **Northwest Territory**, added in 1778. That was originally under the jurisdiction of the State of Virginia, where Patrick Henry was governor. The territorial capital was at Kaskaskia, in a rented brick building. In 1784, Thomas Jefferson chaired a committee to establish government in an Illinois Territory. Virginia ceded the Illinois Territory to the US in 1802, when we became The Illinois territory.

1900: **The Wabash Railroad served Edwardsville with "The Blue Bird"**, a fine passenger train between St. Louis and Chicago with daily runs. Edwardsville was its first stop after leaving St. Louis. The Wabash Cannon Ball was another famous Wabash Railroad train, immortalized in song made famous by Gene Krupa and others, with Dizzy Dean perpetuating the mystic around it. The Cannon Ball never used the St. Louis to Chicago tracks. The song predated the train by many years and the lyrics refer to stations never served by the real Cannon Ball.

1957; The **record rainfall** for all time occurred on June 14, 1957. E. St. Louis recorded more than 16 inches in a 24 hour period. (Local rainfall averages about 35 inches in Southern Illinois, less in northern Illinois.

1913: Illinois passed a law in 1913 giving women the right to vote in presidential and state elections which became a model for other states. Illinois was the first state east of the Mississippi to pass suffrage laws, pre-empting the Constitutional Amendment by 7 years

1819: A nucleus of **free African-Americans** was formed in Edwardsville in 1820. When the Virginian and, later governor, Edward Coles came to Edwardsville as Registrar of Public Lands. He brought inherited slaves whom he not only freed, but bought and gave land to them in Pin Oak Township. There's much more to this incredible story...continuing today.

1820: Land for the downtown **Edwardsville City Park** was set aside in the 1820s by Ninian Edwards and Benjamin Stevenson, (U. S. Senator and Indian Agent, respectively), certainly farsighted actions of the political leaders of that day. Later the public library was built on the west side of the tract.

1852: The Alton and Springfield, the **first railroad in Madison County** was opened. It became immediately important to our area, tying it more closely to Springfield. Lincoln rode the train in the campaigns of 1858, to and from appearances in the Lincoln-Douglas debates and otherwise. The buggy ride from Alton to Edwardsville completed any trip involving Edwardsville.

1944: Edwardsville had its share of **local heroes** in all of the major conflicts. A singular event occurred late in World War II when Joyce Bardelmeier flying a Dauntless dive bomber was given credit for sinking a Japanese destroyer. He received the Navy Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his exploits.

1936: **Amelia Ehrhardt** was a guest in Edwardsville for a day. Dorothy Fink, a deputy Madison County clerk for many years invited Miss Ehrhardt to speak here on October 21, 1936. She was reported as pleasant and "just like one of us."

1850: **Castor oil** was once a major product of the Edwardsville area. Promoted by blank blank, who had developed a pressing mill in the area and who distributed seeds to surrounding farmers, the production of castor oil one year reached 30,000 gallons. It was used not only as a human and animal medicament, but also as a lubricant in pre-oil days.

1905: **A great deal of Edwardsville Township was mined** when coal was king. Glen Carbon's very name means "Valley of Coal". A great deal of the area in the township remains undermined, but subsidence has not been serious in the township. The state of Illinois compiles records of subsidence damage from an office on the SIUE campus.

1972: The **Cottonwood area** of Glen Carbon was named for the historic fact that a one room station on the electric interurban existed at the southeast corner of Glen Carbon Road and Highway 159....at least until 1918. Because of a big Cottonwood tree on the corner, it was called Cottonwood Station. There's a great story about its demise in a blizzard of 1818.

1912: In September of 1912 Edwardsville celebrated the **Madison County Centennial**, and in 1962, its Susqicentennial. These celebrate the fact that Madison County was formed before Illinois became a state and while it was still in The Illinois Territory. A centennial monument still stands in the city park.

1855: A **Madison County Agricultural Fair** was held in Edwardsville in September of 1855 along what is now St. Louis Street. Originally known as Fair Avenue, the name was changed when it became a part of the main road to St. Louis.

1914: The **fourth and present courthouse** was completed in 1914 and was an occasion where Granite City plotted to steal the county seat from Edwardsville. At the dedication of the courthouse, Uncle Joe Cannon spoke, a popular congressman from Danville. (Uncle Joe Cannon had the distinction of being on the cover of the first ever "Time" magazine.)

1845: A mysterious disease called "**Milk Sickness**" killed many people in SW Illinois until the cause became known. Lincoln's mother died of it (in Kentucky.) Finally, it was discovered to be caused by drinking milk from cows which had eaten the poisonous weed "Snakeroot" (The author, practicing veterinary medicine in the 1960's, also saw snakeroot poisoning in livestock grazing in pastures along Illinois 162 at the top of the bluffs.)

1894: An **Edwardsville Gun Club** was organized in 1894, meeting every saturday at the driving park for several years. It has existed until today, when it has a facility in Pin Oak Township for social gatherings and shooting. It's the oldest gun club in the state.