

ELGIN HERITAGE COMMISSION
BUILDING PLAQUE APPLICATION

Applicant Information

Name: O'Connor-Leetz Funeral Home

Street address: 364 Division

City, State, Zip: Elgin IL 60120

Nominated Property Information

Name of District:

Architectural significance rating:

Name of Property:

Address of Property:

Current owner: Donna and Tom Leetz

Owner's address: 364 Division Elgin IL 60120

Original owner: Alfred B. Church

Date of construction: 1886

Architect (if known):

Builder (if known): Andrew Magnus

Legal description: Gail Borden Subdivision Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11

Required Documentation:

Check if attached:

Current photos

Statement of Value

Building Alterations

Signature of owner _____

Date _____

Statement of Value (written by Mary Hill in 2004)

Historical/Architectural

Considered one of Elgin's wealthiest citizens, Morris C. Town lived in a magnificent mansion in West Elgin on S. Crystal Street. The house sat on a high bluff, facing the town's retail center on the east side of the Fox River and affording views reaching to Dundee and points east and west. Town came to Elgin by way of New York state in 1846. He quickly bought property to the east of James T. Gifford's Original Plat of Elgin and named it "M.C. Town's Addition." The Addition included eleven lots facing College Street between North and Division Streets.

In 1850, Town sold lots 10 and 11 at the northeast corner of College and Division Streets to Murdock Morrison. Four years later, a Deed in Trust was issued by Morrison to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Society of Elgin, conveying the two lots to the Society.

The Methodist Episcopal Society of Elgin was the forerunner of the more formally organized First Methodist Church. Its origins in Elgin date back to 1837. Solomon Hamilton, whose farm was located in today's Wing Park, was one of the members of the Elgin Class—an organized Methodist unit. The Class met in Hamilton's home. Henry Sherman joined the group and by 1839, the Class had grown to a Circuit and built a church in Elgin.

In 1856, legal transactions took place, moving lots 10 and 11 from Morrison to Hamilton, Sherman, and Edson Kimball; finally, the three men conveyed the property to five men designated as the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Society of Elgin: Benjamin Burritt, Horace Heath, Edson Kimball, Solomon Hamilton, and Horace Benham.

A new structure for church meetings was authorized by the Elgin Methodists in 1866, named the "Centenary Church," to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Methodist Church in America; it was completed in 1869. Along with the "pretentious and expensive" Centenary Church, a parsonage was maintained on Division Street—lots 10 and 11 of Town's Addition. The parsonage sat on lot 11, the corner of College and Division, as indicated on the 1855 map of Elgin, while lot 10 remained open. The Kane County Directory 1867 lists Reverend Atchison at the northeast corner of College and Division Streets.

To assist in eliminating the huge debt incurred in building the Centenary Church, the Trustees of the Center Street Methodist Episcopal Church (as it was called then) sold the parsonage on Division Street to Clarissa Church in 1876 for \$2800. It is astonishing to note that the Centenary Church, with its twin spires piercing the Elgin skyline, was torn down and replaced with the large gray edifice seen today.

Clarissa Church, married to Caleb Church, was the sister-in-law of Emeline Church Borden and aunt to Emeline's son, Alfred B. Church. Clarissa and Caleb Church came to Elgin in 1865, both employed by the milk condensing company. Caleb was Hiram Church's brother. In 1879, lots 10 and 11, known as the "Parsonage Lots," were sold by Clarissa Church to Emeline Church Borden. Alfred Church was the likely occupant of the former parsonage; Clarissa and Caleb Church then lived at 355 Division Street.

Emeline Church Borden was first married to Hiram Church; they had two sons, Alfred B. and Samuel M. Upon Hiram's passing, Emeline married Gail Borden, one of the

inventers of the food condensing process. Gail and Emeline Borden purchased a large piece of property immediately east of the Parsonage Lots and named it "Gail Borden's Subdivision." A large house was built there about 1865 for William G. Hubbard and became the home of Emeline Borden from 1874 to 1919.

In September 1886, Emeline Borden warranted the Parsonage Lots to her son, Alfred B. Church. The Elgin City Directory for 1878-79 lists Alfred B. Church at 222 Division. After the city finalized its address numbering system, in the 1894-95 directory, he is listed at 363 Division Street (the address is an error, it should be 364). The *Elgin Daily Courier*, December 24, 1886 published a review of construction in Elgin that year, part of which states:

The finest new house which the year has produced is that of Alfred B. Church, on Division Street, at the corner of College. It is an elegant structure of pressed brick and brown stone, and built in the latest and most approved style of architecture. It is heated throughout with steam, and fitted with all modern improvements. The building presents a very fine appearance, and the interior finish is a marvel of beauty and elegance. The cost of the building is \$12,000 and Andrew Magnus the erector thereof. The house will cost half as much more to complete.

The house was completed in 1887. Also constructed by Church that year was a large business block on the northwest corner of Douglas Avenue and Milwaukee Street, occupied by the Fosgate Hotel. The hotel was razed in the late 1960's to make way for the Civic Center.

Alfred B. Church's obituary in the *Elgin Daily Courier*, December 19, 1911 starts by describing him as "a capitalist and philanthropist." How his life touched the lives of everyone in Elgin is seen by his involvement on the Board of Directors of Elgin Academy, YMCA, Gail Borden Public Library, Board of Education, Old People's Home, Seybold Piano Company, Elgin Lumber Company, South Elgin Stone Company, and Home National Bank; secretary of Elgin City Railway Company and Elgin and Aurora Railway; vice president of Home Savings Bank. Along with William Grote, his business partner of thirty years, Church encouraged businesses to relocate to Elgin, had large real estate holdings, and was responsible for much residential development in the city. His largest gift to Elgin was the building used for the public library. The old Scofield home on N. Spring Street between Milwaukee and Division Streets was owned by Alfred and Samuel Church. They donated the house to the city for a public library with the stipulation that it be named for their step-father, Gail Borden. Church's wife, Mary Peterson Church, donated the land used for the YWCA on Chicago Street.

Church's passing prompted the closing of the Home National and Home Savings Banks as well as the Gail Borden Public Library for a half day. His funeral was attended by 500 friends, relatives, and business associates.

Alfred and Mary Church had moved to New York City in 1902. In early 1903, they bought a 10 foot strip off of the south side of lot 9 to make 364 Division Street a parcel composed of lots 11, 10, and part of 9. In July of '03, Church sold 364 Division Street to Thomas Loucks for \$28,000. Loucks also acquired small parts of lots 9, 8, and 7 that formed an oddly shaped parcel. Discussion of those pieces is irrelevant except to say that

that 364 Division Street and the pieces of lots 9, 8, and 7 were put into Elisabeth Louck's name in 1906, one month before a Certificate of Levy was filed against Thomas Loucks by Barrow, Wade, Guthrie and Company. The matter was satisfied by a trust deed (loan) for \$5,000 a month after that.

Thomas Loucks was "extensively engaged" in the coal business in Elgin and in southern Illinois. As stated in *Historic Illinois*, June 2004, volume 27, no. 1, p.3,

In the early twentieth century, Illinois experienced a massive "coal rush" resembling--in costs, people movement, and infrastructure development--the famed nineteenth century gold rushes of Nevada, California, and Alaska.

The "coal rush" peaked between 1904 and 1915 and brought about much development in southern Illinois, particularly towns and railroads. In 1915, Franklin County was the largest coal producer in Illinois, surpassing Williamson County's output.

In 1920, Elisabeth Loucks sold all the property to Ralph Hollembeak and two years later, it was warranted to Emil P. Johnson.

Emil P. Johnson was considered one of the oldest piano manufacturers in the United States. He was superintendent of the Western Cottage Piano and Organ Company in Ottawa, Illinois, eventually acquiring an interest in it. After selling that interest, he bought the Weaver Piano Company in Ottawa. It grew significantly and required more space which prompted Johnson to buy the Seybold Piano and Organ Company in Elgin in 1917. The combined companies were known as the E. P. Johnson Piano company. Johnson was known for making fine instruments such as the "P.C. Weaver," the "Seybold," and the "E.P. Johnson" pianos. Emil P. Johnson retired from the piano manufacturing business and took up farming before passing away in 1934.

The Depression was not kind to Emil and Edith Johnson. Taxes on the property went unpaid and in 1931, a Certificate of Levy was filed with the Kane County Sheriff. Through a tax sale, the Sheriff acquired a half interest in the property. There followed lengthy litigation; the litigation is synopsised: Henry Muntz obtained a judgment against Johnson for the back taxes which amounted to over \$6000, but Johnson failed to pay although he and Mrs. Johnson continued to live in 364 Division. The Sheriff paid Johnson \$500 in satisfaction of his homestead right and sold his half interest to Henry Muntz. Johnson filed for and was declared bankrupt in April 1932 and his wife filed a Bill of Partition to extricate herself from legal liability for the property. Emil P. Johnson died in the middle of the litigation and Mrs. Johnson had to carry on alone. She then filed an amended claim for her share of homestead and dower in Muntz's half interest and Muntz filed a cross claim for fair rental value of the property since Mrs. Johnson still lived there. The case ended up in the Illinois Supreme Court where the court upheld the Circuit Court ruling that the partition was valid and she was not entitled to her claim. In 1937, a Master in Chancery Deed for 364 Division was issued to Henry Muntz who had the highest bid at the tax sale--\$5700 (please refer back to selling price of the property in 1903!). Mrs. Johnson moved out and the house then sat empty.

In fall 1937, a petition to the zoning board for a variance to allow the house to be used for a funeral home was denied. In April 1938, Muntz sold the property to Lawrence O'Connor.

The O'Connor Funeral Home had its beginnings in Elgin in 1930. Lawrence O'Connor,

his brother William, and their father Daniel operated their business at 118 Villa Street. When 364 Division was bought and the zoning variance granted, the first floor of the house was used for the business while the upper floors became apartments for the brothers and their families. The business' owners have changed twice, but Alfred Church's magnificent house has remained a funeral home for 65 years.

Architectural

The nomination of the Elgin Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places lists 364 Division Street as architecturally and historically significant to the area. The survey for the District describes the house as "...a blending of Eastlake, Romanesque, and Chateausque detailing." The original front of the house faced Division Street and contained a porch with a pedimented roof, turned supports, and stairs with rounded spindle railings and balusters.

The Richardsonian Romanesque style was developed by Henry Hobson Richardson, a Boston architect. His style became popular in the early 1880's and was continued by others after his death in 1886. The Chateausque style occurred during the same period as the Romanesque and is distinguished by being busily castle-like in appearance. While 364 Division is certainly elegant and massive, it is at the same time, subdued.

The large, three storied house has a hipped roof, front facing and side gabled sections projecting from the facades, and a three storied, square tower topped by a four-sided pyramidal roof. The west and north facades contain an angled porte-cochere. It is built of brick and demonstrates these Romanesque elements: 1) asymmetrical facades noted in the original front, the east, and the west facades where the use of open porches is limited to only a part of the facade; 2) hipped roof with cross gables; 3) a tower; 4) masonry walls, and 5) round topped arch used over a west facade window. Additional stonework used as decoration are keystones over the same window; bands of limestone that run around the house in all levels, and stone window sills--all providing a contrasting texture to the wall surface. The wall surfaces are now smooth but were originally brick as seen in the five tall chimneys and as described in the *Elgin Daily Courier*, December 24, 1886, "It is an elegant structure of pressed brick..."

Eastlake detail, named for furniture designer Charles Eastlake, is seen in the rounded porch supports, the sunburst in the third floor east facade gable peak, the finial on the tower, incised decoration at the edges of the roof, brackets where the roof meets the wall, and the ball and stickwork in the east upper facade porch. The Eastlake details soften the masonry and straight lines of the house.

One Queen Anne element used on the house is fish scale shingles in the pedimented porch roof, the gabled roof peaks, and in the tower. Stained glass windows are used in abundance.

The house was altered to provide more first floor space. The original front and side porches were removed and a large single story addition made to the east facade in 1961. The double door entrance to said addition mimicks the original porches with paired, round porch supports in the Eastlake style.

The builder, Andrew Magnus, was a Swedish immigrant who learned the bricklaying trade under Elgin contractor E. F. Reeves and was foreman for the construction of the First Baptist Church on E. Chicago Street, now Templo Calvario. Magnus built a vast

number of structures in Elgin. A partial list of his works includes the First Congregational Church; McKinley School; the McBride Block on Douglas Avenue; the Opera House, now demolished; and the boiler house at Elgin Academy. He also worked on the construction of the Elgin National Watch Company and the Illinois Watch Case Company, and built numerous schools and private homes. He formed a partnership with Grote and Waldron to open the South Elgin Stone Quarry, the largest in the area at the time. Almost all tradesmen in Elgin apprenticed under Andrew Magnus. Upon retirement, he turned his business over to Lilly and Palm.

Andrew Magnus was well known for helping others get their businesses started and for his large real estate holdings. He started the Elgin Ice Company with Thomas McBride, eventually selling it the Knickerbocker Ice Company. Years later, he started the Home Ice Company, then turned it over to his sons.

mmh/nov04

Additional historical notes:

In 1984, the property was purchased by William and Mary Homeier, who continued to operate it as a funeral parlor, and lived there until 1999. Next, it was acquired by a subsidiary of Service Corporation International, which continued to operate the business. The upper floors remained vacant until Donna and Tom Leetz bought it in 2003. The Leetzes had been living in Chicago, where Donna worked for Kraft Foods and Tom practiced law. Tom had always wanted to own a funeral business, so when the property at 364 Division became available, they seized the opportunity and moved to Elgin. The years of vacancy took their toll on the building, so Donna and Tom devoted themselves to repairing plumbing and electrical problems and doing interior and exterior restoration.

Additional architectural notes

The house was on the Gifford Park Association House Tour in 1986, 1987 and 2009. Permits on file with the City of Elgin include

Deeds on file with the Kane County Recorder of Deeds include:

Book 23 page 311, January 4, 1850: transfer from Morris Town to M. Morrison for \$200

Book 160 page 398, July 15, 1876 (appended): Henry Sherman sells to Clarissa Church for for \$2800.

Book 241 page 128, September 3, 1886 (appended): A. B. Church buys lots 10 and 11 from Emmaline Borden for \$4000.

Book 427 page 507, February 27, 1903: Russell Weld sells part of Lot 9 to A. B. Church for \$1075

Book 430 page 232, July 1, 1903: A. B. Church sells to Thomas C. Loucks for \$28,000
Book 958 page 355, December 14, 1931: Sheriff's levy against E. P. Johnson
Book 959 page 361, June 6, 1932: Sheriff's certificate of sale to Henry Muntz for \$5828.55

Permits on file with the City of Elgin include:

1938: Electric installation
1939: zoning changed to B Residential
1939: Residential card: 3 stories, one accessory structure, funeral home
1940: electrical installation of 15 outlets
1957: repair roof
1959: street work and sidewalk replacement by City of Elgin
1960: gas work. Abandon old and replace with new construction
1961: sewer work
1961: rezone from C apartment to D commercial district
1961 (appended) building permit for a 31x60' room addition
1962: electrical permit
1965 finish room in basement
1975: re-roof garage

Throughout the years, the building and its occupants have been the subject of a number of newspaper articles:

Appended are:

12/24/1886 Daily Courier building report Church house and business block
4/23/1934 Courier News E. P. Johnson obituary
6/26/1937 Elgin Daily Courier News Muntz acquires Johnson property in a master sale
7/13/1942 Edith Johnson obituary

Not appended are:

2/1/1890 EES Obituary Emmaline Borden
3/5/1898 EES obituary Clarissa B. Church
12/19/1911 Elgin Daily Courier A. B. Church obituary
12/20/1911 Elgin Daily Courier A. B. Church funeral description
5/20/1935 Courier News obituary T. C. Loucks
4/11/1938 Elgin Daily Courier News O'Connor buys old Church home

Building Alterations

In 1961, the original front and side porches were removed, and a single-story addition was built on the east elevation.

In 2005 much exterior restoration and renovation was done; the porch on the southwest corner of the house was rebuilt to match an earlier porch shown in a 1914 photo. Note: it does not match the earliest porch seen in an 1891 photo. Columns on the west-facing porch were repaired or replaced, and all wooden elements were painted.

Addenda

Current photos

Historic photos 1891, 1914, 1948

Deeds:

Book 160 page 398, July 15, 1876 (appended): Henry Sherman sells to Clarissa Church for \$2800.

Book 241 page 128, September 3, 1886 (appended): A. B. Church buys lots 10 and 11 from Emmaline Borden for \$4000.

Survey 2014: National Register downtown district

Architectural survey 2008

Building Report 1886

City directory page 1887-88

Map 1880 Kane County

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1891 and c.1950

Map 1895

1961 building permit for a 31x60' room addition

Biographical information

1927 E. P. Johnson biography in "Elgin Past and Present"

1934 E. P. Johnson obituary

1937 article "Henry Muntz gets Johnson home"

1942 Edith Johnson obituary

1987 House Tour booklet excerpt

2009 House Tour booklet excerpt

Current Photos



South and west elevations



Porte cochere



Dormer



Bay window



Porch and window details

Elgin and Her surroundings
1891



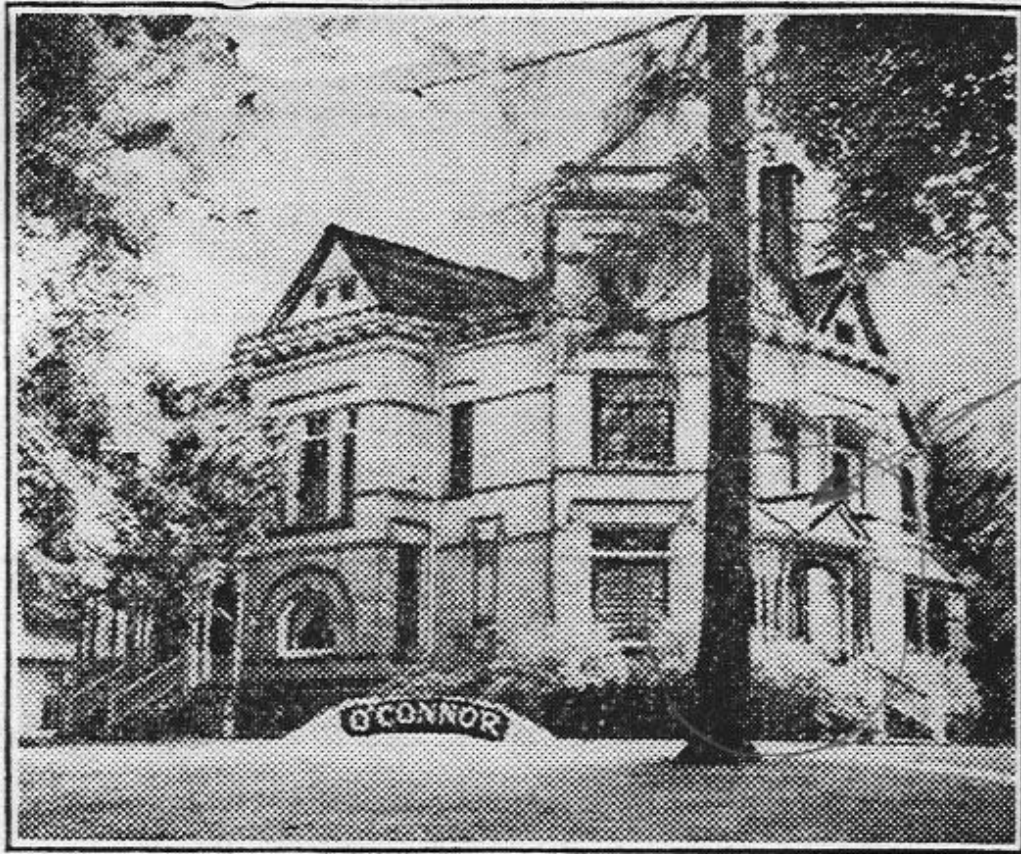
RESIDENCE A. B. CHURCH.

Elgin, Kane County 1914



1891 and 1914 photos – note altered porch in 1914

Statement.



In Account With
O'Connor Funeral Home

364 DIVISION STREET

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Dec. 3 1948

THIS INDENTURE, Made this 15th day of July in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-six BETWEEN Henry Sherman, John Bull, David T. Barclay, George A. Adams, George A. French, William Dunnington and Nancy Barlow Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Elgin Illinois parties of the first part, and Clarissa A. Church party of the second part.

WITNESSETH, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Two thousand Eight hundred Dollars in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have GRANTED, BARGAINED AND SOLD, and by these presents do GRANT, BARGAIN AND SELL, unto the said party of the second part, Two heirs and assigns, all the following described lots, pieces, or parcels of land, situated in the City of Elgin in the County of Kane and State of Illinois, to wit:

Lots Ten 10, and Eleven 11 in M. B. Lewis Addition to Elgin said lots being located on the N. W. Quarter of Sect 17. Town 41. of Range 3 - East of Third Principal Meridian, and recorded in Book 1 at Page 93 in the Recorders Office of Kane County and State of Illinois - and known now as the Parsonage of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Elgin Illinois.

Official

TOGETHER with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereto in anywise appertaining, and the reversions and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever, of the said party of the first part, either in law or equity, of, in and to the above bargained premises, with the hereditaments and appurtenances: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises above bargained and described, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, heirs and assigns FOREVER.

And the said Henry Sherman, John Bull, David T. Barclay, George A. Adams, George A. French, William Dunnington and Nancy Barlow parties of the first part, hereby expressly waive, release, sell, relinquish, unto the said party of the second part, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, all right, title, claim, demand and demand whatsoever, in and to the above bargained premises, and each and every part thereof, which is given by or results from all laws of this State pertaining to the conveyance of hereditaments.

And the said Henry Sherman, John Bull, David T. Barclay, George A. Adams, George A. French, William Dunnington and Nancy Barlow parties of the first part, for themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators, do, covenant, grant, bargain and agree, to and with the said party of the second part, heirs and assigns, that at the time of the executing and delivery of these presents, they are well advised of the premises above conveyed, and of the nature and indissoluble estate of hereditaments in law, and in, for simple, and in good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell, and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid, and that the same are free and clear from all former and other grants, bargains, sales, leases, mortgages, or other kind or variety of conveyances, and the above bargained premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, heirs and assigns, against all and every person or persons, lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, the said party of the first part, their heirs and assigns, FOREVER DEFEND.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said party of the first part, hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of

Henry Sherman, John Bull, David T. Barclay, George A. Adams, George A. French, William Dunnington and Nancy Barlow

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
KANE COUNTY. }

Clarissa A. Church

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of July 1876, at Elgin Illinois.

Henry Sherman, John Bull, David T. Barclay, George A. Adams, George A. French, William Dunnington and Nancy Barlow

Clarissa A. Church

Notarial Seal.

Deed 7/15/1876 Henry Sherman sells to Clarissa Church for \$2800

BOOK

BOOK 241 P 128

Deed Made this Nineteen day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty six BETWEEN Emmaline B. Borden, (widow) of the City of Chicago in the County of Kane and State of Illinois party of the first part, and A. B. Church of the City of Chicago in the County of Kane and State of Illinois party of the second part.

WITNESSETH, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Four Thousand (\$4,000.00) Dollars, in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the second part forever released and discharged therefrom, has granted, bargained, sold, remised, conveyed, aliened and confirmed, and by these presents do sell grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, convey, alien and confirm, unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns FOREVER, all the following described lots, pieces or parcels of land, situated in the County of Kane and State of Illinois, and known and described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 10 number 200 and Lot 11 in W. C. Lewis Addition to Chicago Kane County Illinois, according to the Plat thereof on record in the Recorder's Office of said Kane County.

TOGETHER WITH ALL AND SINGULAR the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim, or demand whatsoever, of the said party of the first part, either in law or equity, of, in and to the above bargained premises, with the hereditaments and appurtenances. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises above bargained and described, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns; FOREVER.

And the said Emmaline B. Borden party of the first part, for herself and her heirs heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant, grant, bargain and agree, to and with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that at the time of the conveying and delivery of these presents, she well settled of the premises above conveyed, as of a good, sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in law, in fee simple, and in good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid; and that the same are free and clear from all former and other grants, bargains, sales, liens, taxes, assessments and encumbrances, of what kind or nature soever; and the above bargained premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against all and every other person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, the said party of the first part shall and will WARRANT AND FOREVER DEFEND.

And the said party of the first part hereby expressly waives and releases, any and all rights, benefits, privileges, advantage and exemption, under or by virtue of any and all Statutes of the State of Illinois, providing for the exemption of homesteads from sale on execution or otherwise.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said party of the first part, she hereunto set her hand and seal, the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of

Emmaline B. Borden

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SEAL

87A
Court

No. 6

Deed 9/3/1886 Emmaline Borden sells lots 10 and 11 to A. B. Church for \$4000

2014

*Survey for National
Register nomination*



This large masonry structure represents a blending of Eastlake, Romanesque and Chateausque detailing. Note the expressive roof forms, large chimneys, three story rectangular bay, cornice detailing and circular arched window next to the porch. This home was built in 1886 and 1887 for A.B. Church, stepson of Gail Borden, Jr. In 1871 A.B. Church married Mary E. Peterson, the daughter of John B. Peterson and Oracy J. Willard (a lineal descendent of Samuel Whiting of Lynn, Massachusetts). A.B. Church was a real estate partner with William Grote and Vice President of the Home Savings Bank. In 1939/40 this residence was converted to a funeral home.

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (SEE INDEX FOR ABBREVIATIONS)
 FEDERAL _____ STATE X COUNTY X LOCAL X

NAME: Alfred B. Church Residence
 ADDRESS: 364 Division Street
 DATE: 1886-87 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Andrew Magnus
 SIGNIFICANCE: Architectural and Historical

STREET # 364
 DIRECTION
 STREET
 ABB/ UNIT DIVISION
 PIN ST
 0613179015
 ADDITIONAL PIN 0613179016, 0613179023
 LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE RATING Significant
 POTENTIAL IND NR? (Y or N) Yes
 CRITERIA Both
 CONTRIBUTING TO A NR DISTRICT? Contributing
 CONTRIBUTING SECONDARY STRUCTURE?
 LISTED ON ORIGINAL NATIONAL REGISTER SURVEY Significant



ID # \Hans Klemmer\Division 364 a.jpg
 156

GENERAL INFORMATION

CATEGORY	Building	CURRENT FUNCTION	Commercial
CONDITION	Good	HISTORIC FUNCTION	Single Family
INTEGRITY	Major alterations and/or additions	REASON for SIGNIFICANCE	Physical prominence, style, history
SECONDARY STRUCTURE	None		
SECONDARY STRUCTURE	None		

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION	Eastlake	PLAN	Irregular
DETAILS	Also Romanesque +Chateaesque	NUMBER OF STORIES	3
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	1886 <input type="checkbox"/> Circa	ROOF TYPE	Multiple
OTHER YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> Circa	ROOF MATERIAL	Asphalt Shingle
DATE SOURCE	Plaque-Historic Data	FOUNDATION	Stone/Rubble
WALL MATERIAL (current)	Masonry	PORCH	Entry
WALL MATERIAL 2 (current)	Stone	WINDOW MATERIAL	Wood
WALL MATERIAL (original)	Masonry	WINDOW MATERIAL	
WALL MATERIAL2 (original)	Stone	WINDOW TYPE	Double Hung
		WINDOW CONFIG	Varied
SIGNIFICANT FEATURES	This building blends several styles of architecture including Chateaesque, Eastlake, and Romanesque. It has many forms of massing with a steeply pitched hip roof with gabled dormers in it and fishscale shingles as a detail. Stone bands run horizontally over a rusticated stone foundation. Stained glass decorate some windows with stone banding frames. A few Eastlake touches appear in the porch columns and spindlework, and also on the second floor porch details.		
ALTERATIONS	Single story addition on east, porch enclosed, windows bricked in, inappropriate sliding and awning windows added on 3rd floor		

364 DIVISION ST

DAILY COURIER

ELGIN, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1886.

VOL. 7. NO. 76

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stores, the upper floor being devoted to offices. It is built of pressed brick and is very pretty in appearance. It was built by Andrew Magnus and Joseph Faver, at a cost of \$12,000.

During the year of 1886, considerable money has been expended on the school property of Elgin, and, as stated, two of the finest school buildings in the west have been erected. The site for the Prospect street school was bought for \$2,750. Grading and improving the lots cost \$680. The concrete walks required the outlay of \$376.62. The school building was erected by T. F. Mackay and Andrew Magnus, costing \$11,675, and the outbuildings \$1,177.23 additional, and \$1,067.83 was expended in preparing for steam heating. For furnishing the building \$1,000 was appropriated, making a total of \$18,668.70.

The Mill street school, which is similar to the Prospect street building in plan and dress circle; also direct exits from the balcony and gallery. The walls are but partially erected, hence no idea can be yet had of the effect of the furnishing and decorating, which will be metropolitan and will cost \$10,000 more.

Another decided ornament to the city is Tyrrell's building on Chicago street, the new Masonic temple, now being finished. It is a handsome three-story edifice, with a frontage of 45 feet and 80 feet deep. The front elevation, which is here shown, is of Anderson red pressed brick, with Bedford stone trimmings. There are two stores below, offices and Masonic rooms on the second floor, and the third will be one of the finest Masonic halls in the state. It is a hall within a hall. Goodrow, and Alchini of Chicago are to decorate it at a cost of about \$300. The architect is Hoag, the contractors Stryker and Haack; the cost \$15,000.

A very substantial addition to the business portion of the city is the handsome block on Grove avenue, erected by Messrs. Grote, Waldron and McClure. It is two stories in height, the lower floor being divided into four

Judge Banstead has now one of the finest homes in Elgin.

The finest new house which the year has produced is that of Alfred B. Church, on Division street, at the corner of College. It is an elegant structure of pressed brick and brown stone, and built in the latest and most approved style of architecture. It is heated throughout with steam, and fitted with all modern improvements. The building presents a very fine appearance, and the interior finish is a marvel of beauty and elegance. The cost of the building is \$12,000, and Andrew Magnus the erector thereof. The house will cost half as much more to complete.

Another one of Elgin's model homes is the residence of V. S. Lovell on Liberty street. The building is finished. It was erected by Henry Jenson and cost about \$6,000.

E. L. Gilbert, South Gifford street, also contemplates erecting a two-story brick block in place of the Nish store and market on Bridge street, West Elgin.

Wood & Sherwin have this season erected a brick factory building on Douglas and Dexter avenues, at a cost of \$4,500. It takes the place of the old wooden structure long known as Platsch's planing mill.

The fine new business block on the corner of Douglas avenue and Milwaukee street, built by A. B. Church, is one of the handsomest in the city. The front is of rough brown stone, the remainder being built of white brick. T. F. Mackay and Andrew Magnus were the builders, and the cost of the block was \$8,000.

H. W. Adams is building a beautiful home on Centre street and Jefferson avenue. It is a large frame building two stories high, and is to be finished in the best possible style and cost not less than \$5,000. Turnbull Bros are the builders.

J. W. Banstead, extensive improvement on residence and grounds, corner Bridge and Jackson streets, cost \$3,000, and an extension and other changes not completed will cost as much more.

Thomas Tefft, southwest of the city, a \$600 barn.

Arthur Rein, Center street, repairs on house, \$500.

August Notting, Etnier avenue, improvements on residence property, \$300. Elgin Gas company, building on the west side, \$300.

William Sutton, Prospect street, two-story frame dwelling, \$1,800.

E. Foss, Douglas avenue, two-story frame house, \$1,800.

John Beth, Grote & Church's addition, a frame cottage, \$1,000.

P. Pethybridge, Spring street, improvements on residence, \$250.

Mrs. D. W. Hewitt, Fulton street, repairs on residence, \$250.

George Daum, Cherry street, improving residence, \$300.

J. W. Mallett, Prospect street, improving house, \$300.

Volstorff Bros., River street, addition to, and improvements on store building, \$1,200.

Mrs. Gottbed, Etnier avenue, two-story frame dwelling, \$1,600.

Charles Brydges, two-story frame dwelling near shoe factory, \$1,500.

Mr. Rice, Raymond street, frame cottage, \$800.

G. P. Rowe, North Center street, two-story frame house, \$2,000.

C. W. Kellogg, Villa street, two-story brick dwelling, \$3,500.

Edwin Clothier, Geneva street, two-story frame house, \$2,000.

Henry Colling, Prospect street, frame dwelling, \$1,800.

Bridget Tennant, Morgan street, addition to residence, \$500.

Improvements made on the Church of the Redeemer will amount to about \$1,000.

William D. Nichols, two-story frame dwelling, \$2,500.

Frank Minard, Hickory avenue, frame cottage, \$800.

Mr. Rice, Morgan street, a two-story frame house, \$1,650.

Henry B. Willis, Prospect street, two-story frame dwelling, \$1,300.

Ed. Mann, Fulton street, two-story frame house, \$1,200.

George F. Harvey, Kimball street, improvements on residence, \$300.

J. M. Murphy, improvements on residence property, Chapel street, \$600.

Thomas Moran, two cottage Perry street, \$1,000.

Frederick M. Englebrecht, building on Walnut avenue, \$1,400.

R. Hooper, Orchard street, frame cottage, \$600.

James Hawseler, Orchard street, frame cottage, \$700.

Building the steamer "Sarah Ja" for the Henry McBride pack, \$1,500.

Grote & Church, repairs on the sings house, \$700.

A. B. Church, improvements Chicago street store building, \$500.

William Grote, improvement on residence property, Douglas avenue, \$1,000.

Herman Brueckner, dwelling, Du las avenue, \$2,500.

John Mitchell, dwelling on St. Liberty street, \$2,000.

E. K. Fowler, two-story frame dwelling, South State street, \$3,000.

A. Krogsrud, two-story brick dwelling on Grosfeld street, \$1,500.

J. Rink, dwelling on Grist street, \$1,500.

W. E. Elliott, improvement on residence, South State street, \$1,000.

John Johnson, Prospect street, two-story frame dwelling, \$2,500.

Mrs. S. P. Rose, Villa street, two-story frame dwelling, \$2,000.

Mrs. M. Harger, Brook tion to residence, \$1,500.

A. M. McArthur, South story frame dwelling, \$1,600.

Robert Thoma, South story frame dwelling, \$1,300.

John Carr, two-story frame Crystal street, \$1,200.

Fred Strubing, frame Church's addition, \$1,000.

John Beth, frame, Grob addition, \$1,000.

W. W. Church, frame Church's addition, \$900.

G. Parkina, frame, Grob addition, \$900.

Mr. Norton, St. John str to house, \$800.

Herman Brueckner, Dou frame, \$3,000.

Mrs. Poyter, Douglas av \$2,000.

C. Anderson, River st \$300.

Mr. Celtz, Franklin st \$300.

Creom City Brewing street, cold storage buildi

F. C. Lammersall, Jaffer frame, \$2,000.

Elgin Hydraulic Co., 1 River street, \$600.

James Sheehan, Park at \$1,500.

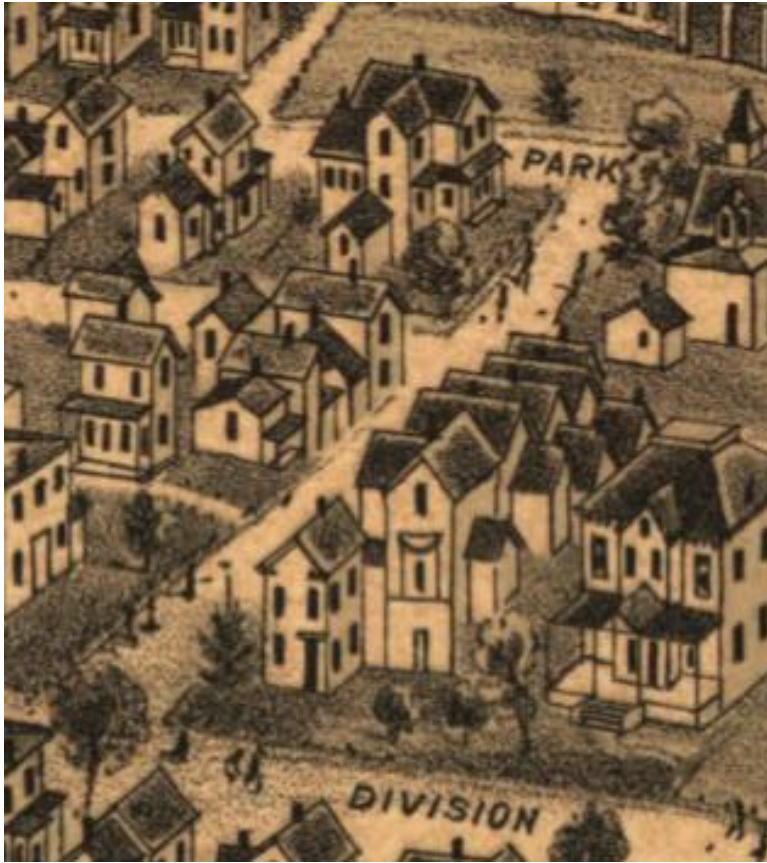
ROVELSTAD BROS., 35 Chicago St., Fine Pocket Knives, Scissors and Razors.

- Christiansen, Peter, lab, res 311 River.
- Christiansen, Vigo, C., wks watch fcty, res 188 Division.
- Christianson, Lena, domestic, 149 Villa.
- Christianson, J. P., attendant Insane Asylum.
- Christie, Althea, Miss, wks, watch fcty, bds 38 S. Liberty.
- Christie, G., wks watch fcty, bds National house.
- Christie, M. N., Mrs., wks watch fcty, res 50 S. Gifford.
- Christie, May, Miss, music teacher, res 76 Milwaukee.
- Christie, Mary S., wks Western card co., bds 129 Center.
- Christie, Stewart, mchist, res 129 Center.
- Christie, W. J., clk Simpson, res 129 Center.
- Christie, Wm.
- Christie, Willis F., res 76 Milwaukee.
- Christopherson, Bent., mail carrier, res 74 Ryerson ave.
- Christopherson, L., Miss, bds 114 Oak.
- Church, Annie, Miss, bds 106 Jewett.
- Church, A., asst. physician Insane Asylum.
- CHURCH, A. B.**, real estate and loan office 4-6 Borden block, res 204 Division.
- CHURCH, A. B.**, (Grote & Church), real est and loan, 4-6, Borden block.
- Church, Caleb C., wks cond fcty, res 37 N. Chapel.
- Church, Edwin, teamster, res 50 S. Union.
- Church, Henry, hostler, bds 66 Division.
- Church of the Redeemer, Center, s w corner of Milwaukee, Rev. J. Stewart-Smith, rector; res 28 N. Channing.
- Church, W. W., agent Singer sewing machine co., res Augusta, near Lovell.
- Church, W. W., hackman, res 86 Chicago.
- City Hall, 36-38 Grove ave.
- City Court House, W. F. Sylla, clk, 34 Grove ave.
- City Drug Store, C. A. Stone, 27 Grove ave, drugs, books and stationery.
- Clamm, Walter, wks watch fcty, bds 134 Grove ave.

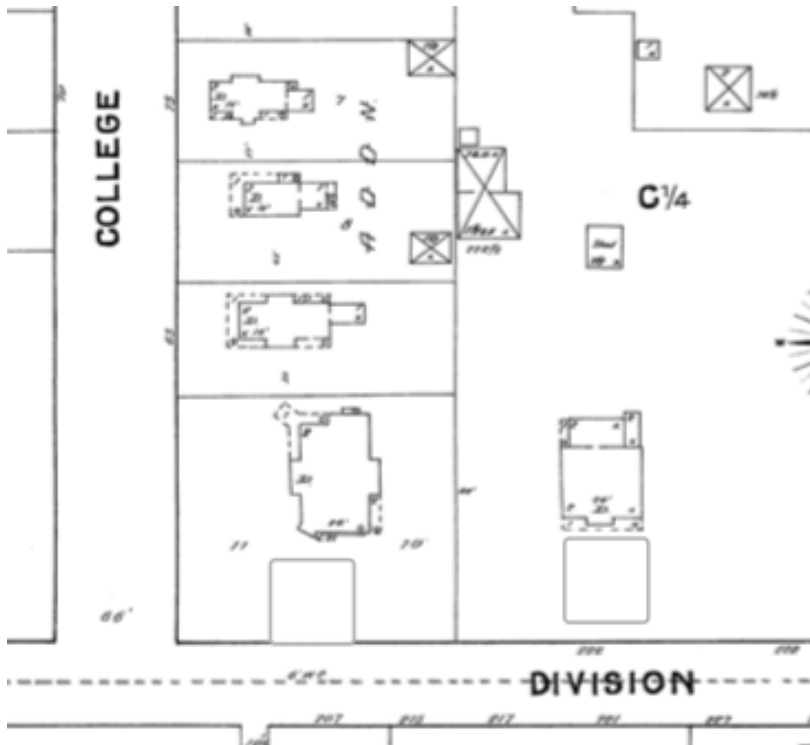
Modern Steam Laundry, 5 Town's Block, M. F. POMEROY, Prop'r. Finest Work; Lowest Prices.

Trees. { **E. H. RICKER & CO.** } Large Size Shade Trees Planted and Warranted.
359 South Street.

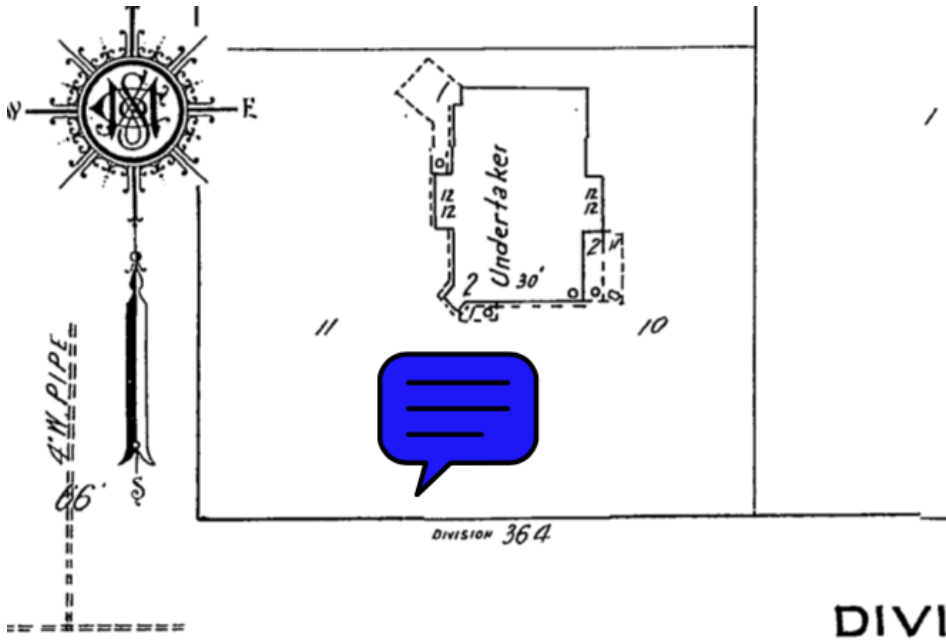
First City Directory listing 1887-88



1880 Kane County Map excerpt showing previous dwelling



1891 Sanborn Fire Insurance map excerpt



c.1950 Sanborn map showing addition



1895 Map of Elgin



CITY OF ELGIN, ILLINOIS - DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION
 Room 7, City Hall Tel. Sherwood 2-7730

APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

(TO BE SUBMITTED IN TRIPPLICATE AT CITY HALL)

NOTE: Permit will not be issued unless both sides of application are completed and one set of plans submitted.

Job Address: NO. 364 STREET DIVISION
 Nearest Cross Street _____

Owner
 Name L.S. O'CONNOR
 Address _____
 City _____ Tel. _____

Architect/Engineer
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Lic. No. _____ Tel. _____

General Contractor
 Name OWNER
 Address _____
 City _____
 Tel. _____ Bus. _____ Res. _____

OFFICE USE ONLY
 Application No. 11697
 Bldg. Permit No. _____ Date Issued _____
 B 4066 19 _____

VALUATION
 (Do not include heating, plumbing, or electrical)
 1) Building \$21,100
 2) Heating, Refrigeration, Ventilating & Air Conditioning Equipment & Ducts _____
 3) Fire Protection Equipment _____
 4) Elevator etc. _____
 5) Accessory Buildings _____
 6) _____

TOTAL VALUATION \$21,100
 Building Fee \$32.00
 Occupancy Fee _____
 Plan (Checking Fee) 8.00
 Additional Fee _____
 TOTAL FEE PAID \$40.00

By: L.S. O'Connor
 (Building Official)

Legal description of property as it appears on deed, abstract or title policy. DO NOT use description from tax bill. Make drawing on reverse side of this form.

Lot 10/11 Block _____ Subd. M.C. TOWN'S

DESCRIPTION OF WORK ADD'N. 31-0 X 60-0 ROOM ADD'N

(Circle Correct Information)	CLASS OF WORK		SPECIFICATIONS (cont'd)			
	New	Repair	Building			
1. Fire Zone: No. (Outer Fire Limits)	Alteration	Demolish	R.W. Plate (SHD)	Size	Spacing	Span
2. Type of Construction: 1 2 3 4 Temporary <input type="checkbox"/> A B C	Add'n. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Move	Girders			
3. Occupancy Group A B C D E F G H I J K L M 1 1-A 1-B 2 3 4	Equipment Install.	Sign	Joint-1st fl.			
4. Use Zone: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Parking Lot		Joint-2nd fl.			
Variation Petition for _____	Type of Building		Joint-ceil.			
per Zoning Board of Appeals Approval	Size of Building L: W: H:		Est. Studs			
Dated _____	No. of Rooms	No. families	Int. Studs			
	No. of Floors	Size of Lot	Roof Rafters			
	No. of Bldgs.	Use of Bldg.	Bearing walls			
	Now on Lot	Now on Lot	Covering			
	SPECIFICATIONS		Exterior Walls	Roof		
	Foundation		Interior Walls	Reroofing		
	Material	Exterior Piers	Fluse			
	Width of Top		Fireplace	Fl. Furnace		
	Width of Bottom		Kitchen	Water Heater		
	Depth in ground		Furnace	Gas	Oil	

In consideration of my application and attached forms being made a part thereof, and the issuance of permit I will conform to the regulations set forth in the Elgin Zoning and Building Ordinances. I also agree that all work performed under said permit will be in accordance with the plans and specifications which accompany this application, except for such changes as may be authorized or required by the Building Official.

FEE AND PLOT PLAN MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

_____ Paid (City Collector's Stamp):
 _____ Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent

1961 permit for room addition

1927

and started his career in the building in the rear of No. 9 N. Chapel St. Rapid



Oscar Ludwig

progress demanded larger space and compelled the building in 1920 of the modern up-to-date sanitary dairy plant at the corner of N. Spring and North Sts.

Mr. Ludwig in 1910 married Helen Lembke of Chicago, Illinois. They have three children and live in the splendid Newman home on Division St., which Mr. Ludwig lately purchased.

The family attends the First Congregational church.

Emil P. Johnson

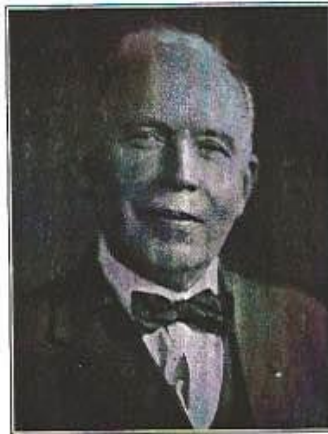
Emil P. Johnson was born on a farm near Vernamo, Sweden, in April, 1862. He came to America in July, 1882, and worked with the Western Cottage Piano and Organ Co. at Mendota, Illinois. Four years later, as a recognition of his value to the company, he was made foreman of the wood-working depart-

ment of the plant. When the company moved to Ottawa he was made superintendent of the entire plant.

Having acquired an interest in the company, in 1906 he sold his interest and bought out the P. C. Weaver Piano Co. of Ottawa, Illinois, a concern which had operated at Ottawa for a period of fifteen years.

Under the direction of Mr. Johnson the company rapidly expanded, and because of the need for larger factory space he took over the plant of the Seybold Piano and Organ Co. of Elgin, moved his equipment to Elgin and united the two plants. Since that time he has conducted the factory as the E. P. Johnson Piano Company in the production of high-grade pianos.

In 1892 Mr. Johnson married Edith Penny of Elgin, prominent in social and D. A. R. circles. The following children were born to them: Gertrude, now Mrs. Wesley Leland; Guinnette P. Johnson,



Emil P. Johnson

and Arvilla, now Mrs. Ralph F. Roth of Russell, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the First Baptist church of Elgin, Mr. Johnson having become a member of the Baptist church at Mendota in 1885.

He is a member of Medinah Temple of Chicago, is a Knight Templar, and a member of Elgin Lodge, No. 522, A. F. and A. M.; also the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and The Piano Club of Chicago.

Being always interested in agriculture, Mr. Johnson owns a large up-to-date stock farm about eight miles east of Elgin on the Grant Highway, where he maintains a herd of over two hundred pure-bred Holstein cattle and raises more than a thousand hogs every year.

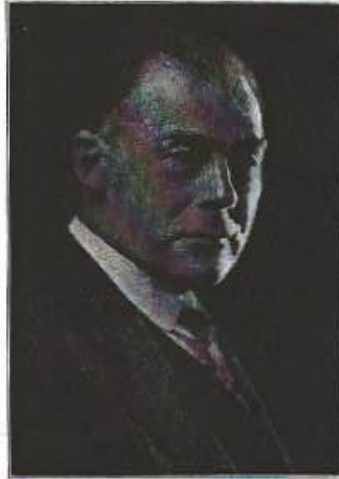
Theodore J. Schmitz

In Elgin and throughout the State of Illinois the name of Theodore J. Schmitz has long been synonymous with aggressive public service and good roads. Born in Waterbury, Connecticut, Mr. Schmitz came to this city as a young man and has made the Fox River Valley his home continuously ever since.

If ever anyone was attached to a hobby, that person is Mr. Schmitz, and his hobby is improved highways. Over a span of twenty years he has builded an unexcelled record for being the man behind the guns in many of the State's foremost highway improvement projects. His activity in this direction has not been without its partial reward, for members of the Elgin Motor Club have reflected him president of that organization for the past fourteen years. Motorists of the State, recognizing the qualifications of Mr. Schmitz, have elected him the past four years to the presidency of the Illinois State Automobile Association. He is also president of the Kane County

Good Roads Association and Fox River Trails Association.

Mr. Schmitz took a commanding part



Theodore J. Schmitz

on behalf of the first good roads legislation in Illinois, and it was through his persistent efforts that Kane County secured its initial refund of \$112,000 from the State, to be used in the building of additional roads.

Construction of the Fox River Trail from Carpentersville to Crystal Lake was consummated largely through the tireless energy of Mr. Schmitz. He is also responsible for the paving of three-fourths of a mile on Villa Street without a cent of expense to property owners or the city. Ex-Governor Frank O. Lowden recognized Mr. Schmitz's efforts on behalf of good roads by appointing him to represent the State of Illinois at the National Good Roads Conference at Little



ES 2 TRAPS

s Roosevelt

E. P. Johnson, 72, Pioneer Piano Builder, Succumbs

Emil P. Johnson, 364 Division st., one of the oldest piano manufacturers in the United States, died at Sberman hospital at 1 Sunday morning, after a critical illness of but two days. He had been in ill health for some time, although he had been fairly active in business affairs up to practically the time of his death, which was caused by a heart ailment.

Mr. Johnson entered the piano manufacturing business in Elgin in 1917, coming from Ottawa, Ill., where he had engaged in a similar industry. He was known throughout the industry as a maker of exceptionally fine instruments, his plant producing the "E. P. Johnson," the "P. C. Weaver" and "Seybold" pianos.

Born on a farm near Vernamo, Sweden, April 18, 1862, Mr. Johnson came to America in July, 1882 and worked for a time with the Western Cottage Piano & Organ Co. at Mendota, Ill. where, four years later, he was made foreman of the wood-working department. When the company later moved to Ottawa, Mr. Johnson was made superintendent of the plant. He acquired an interest in the business, selling his share in 1906 and purchasing the P. C. Weaver Piano Co. of Ottawa, which had operated in that city for the previous 15 years.

The company experienced rapid development and growth under Mr. Johnson's direction, and because of need of additional factory space he took over the plant of the Seybold Piano & Organ Co. of Elgin, moving equipment to this city, and uniting the two plants. Since that



EMIL P. JOHNSON.

time, 1917, the company was known as the E. P. Johnson Piano Co. Mr. Johnson retired from active affairs about two years ago, and in his later years had devoted himself to farming interests, having maintained a large model farm near Ontarioville.

In 1892 Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Edith Penney of Elgin. He was a member of Monitor lodge 522, A. F. & A. M., Medinah Temple Shrine, the Piano Club of Ontarioville.

(Turn To Page 2, Column 7)

ARMED BANDITS GET \$20 LOOT

Obituary E. P. Johnson April 23, 1934

DEMAND ACTION ON E. CHICAGO'S PAVING PROJECT

Insist Gas Tax Fund Used On Downtown Improvement.

A group of determined owners of business property on E. Chicago st., appeared before the city council this morning, demanding that officials take some immediate action to bring about pavement improvements that street, from Center to Douglas ave., under the program of expenditure of the city's share of the state gasoline fund.

The demand, as expressed by Postmaster Joseph Kreeger, Herb Daniels, J. A. Rowland and others, was that the council request pavement improvement on this section of E. Chicago st. instead of paving and widening improvements on a street in the vicinity of Liberty and also instead of the resurfacing project on Walnut ave., each of which will cost an estimated \$20,000.

Recall Plans For Project.

The mayor and commissioners were repeatedly reminded of the pavement project for the business section of E. Chicago st. put before the council two years ago, which the majority of the property owners affected had given assent to a project which fell by the wayside because of a reported lack of funds upon the part of the state highway department.

Mayor Myron M. Lehman, Commissioners M. H. Brighton, Walter McLean and M. A. Grow, explained that there is still possibility of obtaining allocation of funds under the Hunter law, for the use

St. John's Church Aids Shoe Cause

Four exceptionally worthwhile welfare causes were aided by residents of Elgin and environs who attended the recent Holy week noon-day services at the Elgin theater, sponsored by St. John's church.

Net proceeds of the services were divided between The Courier-News School Children's shoe fund, the Family Welfare Assn. milk fund, the Elgin Health Center and the St. John's church benevolent fund, and today checks for \$14.37 were presented, treasurers of each of the welfare agencies.

The gift to the shoe fund increased total contributions to date to \$282.44, virtually all of which has been expended for shoes.

Motivists are reminded that they too can aid the fund by simply making application for their 1934 state automobile licenses through John C. Myers' shoe fund license bureau in the editorial rooms of The Courier-News building. Mr. Myers' office hours are daily from 9 to 12 noon and from 1 to 4 p. m.

E. P. JOHNSON, 72 TAKEN BY DEATH

(Continued From Page One)

Chicago, and the Illinois Manufacturers' Assn. He was also a member of the First Baptist church of Elgin.

Besides the widow he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Wesley P. Teland of Elgin and Mrs. R. P. Roth of Russell, Kan.; a son, G. P. Johnson of Elgin; two sisters, Mrs. Irida M. Scales of Ottawa and Mrs. Stark of Sweden, and three grandchildren, Theodore Johnson of Elgin, and Edith Penney Roth and Anthony Roth of Russell.

Funeral services will be held from the late home at 2 tomorrow afternoon, Dr. Sidney W. Powell, pastor of the First Baptist church, to officiate, with burial in Bluff City cemetery. Friends may call at the Norris chapel until 11 tomorrow morning.

Murder Of Farmer Remains A Mystery

A verdict of murder by unknown persons was returned by a coroner's jury Saturday at the inquest in the death of Walton Wheeler, Boone county farmer, who was shot and beaten to death by four masked gunmen on the night of April 11, at his farm near Belvidere.

Mrs. Fiorella Wheeler, widow, testified that she believed the slayers intended to rob her husband, a wealthy land owner, and scouted the



Ceremonies accompanying the ordination and first mass of the Rev. Fr. Severin Nelles, O.F.M., tomorrow morning in St. Mary's church will be the second held since the founding of the Woodstock parish 87 years ago.

Celebrant Is Woodstock Boy

The Rev. Severin (William) Nelles, O.F.M., son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Nelles of Woodstock, was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by the Most Rev. James A. Griffin, D.D., bishop of Springfield, at Teutopolis, Ill., on Thursday. He will sing his first Solemn Mass in St. Mary's church tomorrow morning at 11. Officers of the Mass: Celebrant, Father Severin Nelles, O.F.M.; Deacon, Father F. J. Jonyane, Chicago; subdeacon, Rev. Joseph Moos, C.S.V. of Washington, D. C.; Archpriest, Father Joseph M. Egan, pastor of St. Mary's, Woodstock; master of ceremonies, Martin N. Nelles Jr., Westmont. The sermon for the occasion will be preached by Father Honoratus O.F.M., pastor of Corpus Christi church, Chicago. The liturgical music will be directed by Dr. Joseph N. Moos, organist and music director of Our Lady of Sorrows church, Chicago. The choir for the mass, consisting of a double quartet under the direction of Dr. Moos, includes Louise Moos, Mrs. Carl Oster, Mrs. Joseph N. Moos, Mrs. Charles J. Shulner, Richard Meyers, Albert Rosinski, Joseph N. Moos and Charles J. Shulner. The program will include, mass in honor of the Little Flower of Jesus by Joseph N. Moos, a contralto solo by Mrs. Joseph N. Moos and a tenor solo by Richard Meyers and the quartet. In the procession preceding the Mass, Miss Patzy Mahoney will be the little bride; Terry and Rose Marie Denk of Chicago, flower girls and Donald Conroy, Woodstock, bearer of Eucharistic symbols. Father Severin's ordination and first Mass celebration is the second to take place in St. Mary's parish since its founding 87 years ago.

Camp on Fox River, is a center of activity, having opened on Sunday for the summer camping season, north of St. Charles. Many improvements were made in the way of equipment during the past spring, but the most welcome announcement to the campers was that they would sleep on cots, furnished by the American Legion post of Elmhurst.

Three army pyramid tents and two rowboats were donated by Lombard legionnaires, while the Legion unit in Naperville furnished three other rowboats. The interest of these organizations was stimulated by Vance Donley, chairman, and other members of the Boy Scout Committee for the Legion, which visited all of the county posts. Several other donations are expected during the next few weeks.

New features include a specially constructed hall, and screens for the mess hall.

Camp director this year is Glen Westlake, scoutmaster of Lombard's Troop 51, who has served in that capacity for three previous years in DuPage scout camps. Assisting him is Harry Acre, scoutmaster of Troop 33 of Wheaton. The cook is Harold Bartlett, who is serving for the third year. A group of older boys assist as counselors and group leaders.

D. G. Varner, member of the camp committee, will serve as business manager for the first three weeks during the absence of Jack Conley of Wheaton, Scout executive, who is attending the National Jamboree at Washington, D. C. Personnel of the camp groups will change every Sunday, when new divisions are added, replacing the units homeward bound.

Name July Fourth Speaker.

Speaker at Wheaton's third annual all-day Independence Day celebration will be James Walker Milne of 831 Gables Blvd., Wheaton, according to an announcement by Mayor William E. Caldwell, Mr. Milne, a Chicago attorney, moved here a year ago. Other plans for the outing in Northside Park have also been completed, the program having been announced by Bertram J. Godfrey, program director for the city recreation council, as follows: 10 a. m. to 12 m., ball game between young and old; 12 m., picnic lunch; 1 a. m., municipal band concert; 1:15 p. m., Atty. James W. Milne's address, followed by hand selections; 2:30 p. m., foot races for children and baseball game between the Wheaton Merchants and a strong outside team; 3 p. m., horseshoe contests; 5:30 p. m., swimming and diving exhibitions, followed by picnic supper; 7:30 p. m., municipal band concert; 8:15 p. m., fireworks display.

Civic organizations will cooperate in the program, which is being defrayed by local subscription. Fireplaces and an extra drinking fountain are to be installed at the park. John P. Murray, of the local unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, will conduct a first aid station. Wheaton police, assisted by members of LaVerne T. Perrotet post No. 76, American Legion, will handle traffic and the parking problem. Prizes in the various races will consist of certificates resembling at Wheaton stores for merchandise or cash.

Widow Gets \$7,550 Award.

established in old castles along the Rhine, in picturesque English village farmhouses and deserted Dutch windmills, so that one may be found in almost any district from the Alps mountain passes to the French battlefield areas.

Robert Wahl, who attended the University of Chicago, for the last two years has instructed in journalism and dramatic art in the Todd School for Boys at Woodstock. Miss Wahl was graduated this spring from George Washington university in Washington, D. C., with a political science major. Their younger brother, William, left a week ago for a two-month vagabond cruise of the Great Lakes aboard the 40-foot yawl "Naiad" to explore North Channel, Georgian Bay. He may enter the annual yacht race to Mackinac Island.

Henry Muntz Gets Old Johnson House

Title in one of Elgin's fine old residential landmarks—the E. P. Johnson three-story brick home at the northwest corner of College and Division streets—has passed to Henry Muntz. The transaction took place this week at a master's sale in a partition suit.

Mr. Muntz had previously gained a half-interest in the Johnson property under a sheriff's deed. He bid in Mrs. Edith Johnson's interest at \$5,700, according to the records of the master in chancery. Atty. Merritt J. Little of Aurora.

Distribution of the master's sale proceeds under the partition suit has not yet been determined by the master. The purchase represents an investment for Mr. Muntz.

The Johnson place was built in the late 80's by Alfred B. Church, who was associated in local real estate ventures with the late William Grote and E. D. Waldron. The house was reputedly built at a cost of \$25,000.

Atty. Arthur L. Paulson recently obtained for the First National bank of Elgin a master's deed to business property located at the southeast corner of N. Grove and Dexter avenues. The property was foreclosure under a mortgage and bid in more than a year ago for \$22,000 at a master's sale.

The building was built by William Olinbar for ice cream manufacture and packing purposes. Rose Heidemann had more recently held title in the property. The Burlington Brewing Co. now leases the building from the bank.

'Y' Boys Enjoy Visit To P.O., Phone Office

Thirty-two boys visited the post-office, and the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. yesterday on the second "Know Elgin" tour for Y. M. C. A. boys. Postmaster Joseph Kreeger explained details of the various departments, and told of the importance of putting return addresses on mail, of the method the postoffice uses when trying to trace down letters with an illegible address.

During the visit to the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. boys were shown where the 20 large cables come into the building, enclosing

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and Mrs. Harold Collins and family, who have been vacationing at Land O'Lake, Wis., stopped in Elgin to visit Mr. Collins' parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Collins, 406 Arlington ave., enroute to their home at Fanwood, N. J. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jeanette and family of Evanston, and Mrs. John Osborne Jr. and family of Elgin, joined them at the for part of the time.

Lucille Schliep, Ontario; Vincent Bauer, Huntley; Gus Sternberg Jr., Dundee; Martha Gromer, two-year-old daughter of Atty. and Mrs. Gromer, 490 River Bluff rd.; Carol Sandstrom, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elford Strom, Crystal Lake; Robertson, 464 S. Commonwealth and Patricia Seyler, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harcyllier, Hampshire, underwent operations this morning at man hospital.

Herman J. Kind, 2 River st. and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kind and daughter Ruth and son, 406 N. Commonwealth returned Saturday from a week vacation spent at the cottage at Bear Lake, Kalamazoo, Mich.

and Mrs. Arthur Meyer have moved from 112 Summit st., to 124 Arkside ave., Chicago.

Amanda Rasmussen and Lorraine Rasmussen, 1154 an ave.; Mrs. Frank L. Miller, 12 N. Fifth st., West Dundee; Mrs. Woodrow H. Boyer, 488 nd ave., left yesterday morning to spend a week at Egg Harbor, Wis. Mrs. Miller is the former Mae Rasmussen.

John, daughter of Mr. Mrs. C. W. Johns, 69 S. al st., entered St. Joseph's hospital Friday for treatment and patient at Children's Court.

Ida M. Van Patten of rd ave., is ill at Sherman st.

Rev. Wesley J. Drummond, 1111 st., pastor of Immanuel Lutheran church, is attending the graduate department at heston college for the summer term, working towards his r's degree.

Mrs. A. L. Anderson daughter, Lois, 417 Addison turned home yesterday after o-week vacation spent at nan lake at Iron River,

Mrs. Earl Johnson of ton Heights, announce the of a daughter Saturday afn at Sherman hospital.

W. A. Kell of the Lillian nents expects to leave the part of the week to visit ighter and family at Des s, Ia.

Burnell M. Bell has returned home, 362 Wilcox ave., St. Joseph's hospital.

Walter Hoepfner, 539 Foree, has been transferred to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., to y Field, Denver, Colo.

Bauer jr., 148 Hill ave., recently underwent an ampu-

Mrs. Foneta Leatherman Hunt, 67, wife of Edward L. Hunt and a native of Hanover township, Cook county, died in a Detroit, Mich. hospital last night following a long illness. Eldest daughter of the late Abraham and Josephine Leatherman, she was born on the Leatherman farm east of Elgin on June 10, 1875.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunt were married, 47 years ago, and resided in the Elgin area for several years before moving to Toledo, and later Detroit, some 30 years ago. Of recent years the family had resided at 14877 Prevost ave., Detroit.

Besides Mr. Hunt, who is employed by Ford Motor Co., survivors are two sons, Harold and William Hunt; a sister, Miss Ida Leatherman, and five grandchildren, all of Detroit. A sister, Ethel May Leatherman, preceded Mrs. Hunt in death.

Services will be held in Detroit tomorrow afternoon, after which the body will be brought to Elgin and services will be conducted Thursday afternoon at 2 in the Wolff funeral home. The Rev. Alexander Milmine, pastor of First Congregational church, will officiate, and burial will be in Bluff City cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home after Wednesday noon.

Mrs. Edith Penney Johnson.
Mrs. Edith Penney Johnson, 80, widow of Emil P. Johnson, Elgin piano manufacturer, died at 7 last night in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Wesley F. Leland, 1050 N. Spring st. She had been a resident of Elgin since 1922.

In the 20 years she resided here, she was active in church and civic affairs. She was a member of the Brownell class, the D. A. R., the First Baptist church and past director of the Elgin Woman's club and of the Y. W. C. A.

Mrs. Johnson was born near Ottawa, July 25, 1861, and was educated at Cornell university. She was married in 1880 and spent most of her life in Ottawa. She was the daughter of Guinette E. Penney and Arvilla Wheeler Penney.

Survivors include three children, G. P. Johnson and Mrs. Leland of Elgin and Mrs. R. F. Roth of Coral Gables, Fla.; five grandchildren, Edith Penney Roth, Anthony Roth, Theodore Johnson, Alice Penney Johnson and Robert Leland.

Funeral services will be held at the Norris mortuary at 11 Tuesday morning with the Rev. Albert J. Dahly of the First Baptist church officiating. Burial will be in Bluff City cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home.

Mrs. Catherine M. Connelly.
Mrs. Catherine M. Connelly, 90, of 867 Cookane ave., widow of Dennis Connelly and a resident of the Huntley and Elgin regions for more than 70 years, died Saturday evening at the home of her son, William Connelly of Elgin Route 3, where she had been visiting for 11 days.

Mrs. Connelly was born in Ireland, on Sept. 15, 1851, and came to this country and to Huntley vicinity in 1868.

The Connelly's were married in Huntley and soon afterwards moved to Elgin where Mr. Connelly, a contractor, helped build St. Mary's church, and platted Mount Hope cemetery.

Miss Lisle Wolff, bride-to-be of Walter Fairbank, was honored Saturday when Mrs. Ennes Schartow of Carpentersville entertained at a miscellaneous abower in the Wolff home, 541 Congdon ave. Prizes in the evening's game of hearts went to the hostess, Mrs. Edith Petschow and Mrs. Elizabeth Wolff. A two-course luncheon was served at a table centered with a miniature bride under a shower umbrella. The 14 guests who presented the bride-elect with gifts came from Carpentersville, Barrington and Elgin.

and Louis Pankonin of Palatine; five daughters, Mrs. Hattie Buhr of Schaumburg township, Mrs. Minnie Busse of Mt. Prospect, Mrs. Alma Schroeder of Palatine, Mrs. Elsie Schroeder and Miss Helen Pankonin, both of Chicago; two brothers; four sisters, and 13 grandchildren.

Edward Peterson.
Edward Peterson, 63, proprietor of Coxy Inn Cabin Camp at 803 Villa st., died in Sherman hospital yesterday. He was born in Skoda, Sweden, and came to this country as a young man.

For several years Mr. Peterson operated a farm in Campton township, near Wasco, and in 1936 he came to this city and had since been proprietor of the tourist camp on Villa street.

Besides the widow, Mrs. Amelia Peterson, survivors are a son, Carter Peterson of Chicago, and a sister, Mrs. Martin Johnson of Campton township.

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday afternoon at 2 from Grace Lutheran church in Lily Lake, with the Rev. John Melvin officiating. Burial will be in Gardfield cemetery, Campton township. Friends may call at the Skoglund chapel in Geneva.

Mrs. Rosa Shipt Antcliff.
Mrs. Rosa Shipt Antcliff, 83, died at her home in Richmond yesterday morning following an extended illness.

She was born at Joliet, Nov. 15, 1856, and was married to William Antcliff on March 7, 1876. They went to Richmond in 1889. Her husband died 16 years ago.

Survivors include three sons, Robert Antcliff of Minneapolis, Minn., Will Antcliff of Genoa City, Wis., and Elmer Antcliff of Elk Horn, Wis.; four daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Carr of Richmond, Mrs. Cora Redger of Forest Park, Mrs. Mae Schuch of Redfield, S. D., and Ethel Speaker of Kenosha, Wis.; 16 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 in Richmond Community church, the Rev. Francis Kranz officiating. Burial will be at Richmond.

Mrs. Christine Hale.
Mrs. Christine Hale, 87, a resident of Elburn for many years, died Sunday morning at the home of her son, E. J. Austin of Sycamore.

Mrs. Hale had been ill several months and recently went to Sycamore because of her condition. Born July 18, 1855, she had resided most of her life in and near Elburn.

Besides the son, survivors in-



SIREN DESERTS THE SEA—Swimming chapeley Esther Williams is appropriately c in her first film appeara

Oakridge cemetery. Mr. Mellema died in Chicago on Saturday.

Besides the brother, survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Mabel Fritz, and Mrs. Lillian McIntyre.

George Todd.
Funeral services for George Todd, 82, who died Saturday in the St. Charles Convalescent home where he had been a patient for three weeks, will be held in Marion, Ind., the family home. Friends may call at the Russel C. Noeris funeral home.

Grant Lovellette.
Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon in Mt. Carmel, Ill., for Grant Lovellette, 79, who had resided in the home of a son at St. Charles for a year and died Sunday in St. Joseph's hospital, Elgin. He was the father of Harry Lovellette of South Elgin, Harry of Pineland and Jesse of St. Charles.

In Memoriam.
In memory of our daughter Pearl Rose Harney who passed away 12 years ago today, July 13. We think of her in silence.

No eyes can see us weep, But still within our aching hearts Her memory we keep.
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Harney and Sisters Betty and Elaine.

Card of Thanks.
The family of the late Henry Steffner wish in this way to thank relatives, neighbors and friends for their beautiful floral offerings and kind expressions of sympathy ex-

Spring Named

SPRING
D. Myers, field board appointed the Illinois stration, by Carter OPA direct Myers l several ye reports in s development A. D. He field repre Emergency appointed cer and Peoria, wa ficer.

Launch Course

Courses saving will municipal sioner Joh ced today. Swimming each morn the lifesav at 7 each e The pool for its first



13

364 DIVISION STREET

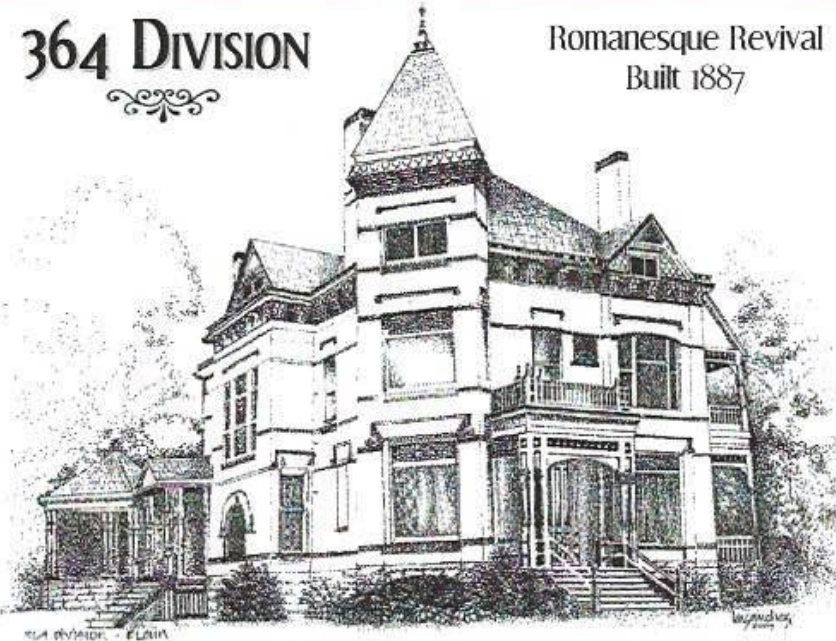
Alfred B. Church is yet another transplant from the state of New York. He was born in 1844 and arrived in Elgin at a young age with his mother and stepfather, Gail Borden of the condensed milk industry. He was affiliated in the real estate business in the firm "Grote & Church," which firm was instrumental in bringing the David C. Cook Publishing Co. to Elgin. In the 1880's, he helped to organize the Elgin City Railway Company which instituted the electric street car system in Elgin. He and his brother Samuel donated a mansion to the city for use as a library, stipulating that the library be named the "Gail Borden Public Library." Church served on the Board of Education, as city treasurer, and was a vice president of the Home Savings Bank.

This large masonry structure was built for the Church's by Andrew Magnus in 1886-87, and is a blending of Eastlake, Chateausque, and Romanesque styling. Note the steeply pitched hipped roof, the expressive roof forms and the finely detailed gabled dormer with fish scale shingles. The brick facade has brick lintels and decorative window hood motifs. Beautiful stained glass is featured. The Victorian porch and porte cochere on the west facade along with the porch columns and balled spindlework screen beneath the porch all feature fine Eastlake detailing. The second floor porch also features Eastlake detailing, including a sunburst motif.

In 1939 this building was converted to a funeral home, which necessitated certain changes. Originally having seven fireplaces and a third-floor ballroom, the second and third floors are now both living quarters.

364 DIVISION

Romanesque Revival
Built 1887



This grande dame of a Victorian-era mansion was originally built for Alfred B. Church, stepson to Gail Borden of the Borden Dairy fame. An Elgin Daily Courier, December 24, 1886 article praised the house (then under construction): "The finest new house which the year has produced ... is an elegant structure of pressed brick and brown stone, and built in the latest and most approved style of architecture. It is heated throughout with steam and fitted with all modern improvements. The building presents a very fine appearance, and the interior finish is a marvel of beauty and elegance. The cost of the building is \$12,000, and Andrew Magnus the erector thereof. The house will cost half as much more to complete."

The illustrious Mr. Church was a banker and real estate developer who partnered with former Elgin Mayor William Grote in the Elgin Improvement


Company. The two men recruited many businesses to Elgin, among them: D.C. Cook Publishing, Illinois Watch Case Company, a shoe factory, a shirt factory, the Brethren Publishing Company and the Seybold Piano and Organ Company. Church was a civic leader as well and served on several boards and charities. Fred Church moved to New York City in 1902. The following July, Thomas Loucks bought the property for \$28,000. He owned a successful coal business. Mrs. Loucks resided in the house until 1920. In 1922, the house became the home of Emil P. Johnson, a piano manufacturer who had purchased the Seybold Piano and Organ Co.

The Johnsons experienced financial trouble in the Great Depression. Lawsuits and back taxes ultimately forced a sheriff's sale. Henry Muntz purchased the property for \$5,700 and in 1937 Mrs. Johnson, who had become a widow, moved out.

Hard economic times meant hard times for many beautiful homes.

Muntz sold in 1938 to Lawrence O'Connor. The house sat vacant until 1939, when Mr. O'Connor converted the first floor to a funeral home business and the upper two floors into apartments for his family and his brother's. The home has been a funeral parlor since. In 1961, the east-facing porch was replaced by a brick addition that still functions as a chapel.

364 Division passed into different hands in 1984 with its purchase by William and Mary Homeier. They lived there until 1999, although a funeral services subsidiary of Service Corporation International acquired the building in 1998. From 1999 until the current owners, Tom and Donna Leetz, moved into the house in 2003, the upper two floors sat vacant.

The Leetzes found the upper floors to be in a shambles. So, they put on their superhero capes and began restoring this monumental property — or this grande dame with “beautiful bones,” as Donna put it. With no occupants, there were water leaks and other problems had gone undetected. From installing new plumbing and electrical wiring inside, to exterior renovations, the Leetzes have poured their hearts into bringing this beauty back while also trying to operate their funeral home business. This home is this year's “work-in-progress.” 

Architectural Notes

The exterior design of this massive home is predominately Romanesque Revival, a style associated with architect Henry H. Richardson and commonly employed for large public buildings such as courthouses, libraries, train stations, offices buildings and the like. Romanesque-influenced homes began

appearing in the 1880s. The structures were always masonry, large in size and often became local landmarks.

Typical to the style, the building sits on a rough-faced, or ashlar stone base. Not typical, however, is the extensive use of smooth brick and the red stone, used in narrow horizontal bands, provides a contrast in texture and color to the brick. These are elements of the Chateausque style. As part of their restoration, the owners stripped the paint that had been applied to the exterior, which hid this attractive detailing. Other Romanesque features are the prominent tower, large rectangular window openings with single panes of glass and occasionally used arched windows and openings. The porte-cochere is undergoing restoration. The large wooden columns you see today were once joined by decorative spindle-work friezes.



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