

Family
History
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THE WAGGONER FAMILY

A History of the Emigrant
HANS WAGGONER
And His Descendants

By: John Garland Waggoner
Clem Morton Boling

C O N T E N T S

	Page
Introduction * * * * *	1, ii
CHAPTER	
I - Hans Waggoner * * * *	I
II - Isaac Waggoner * * * *	5
III - First Migration of Waggoners to Illinois *	12
IV - Temporary Settlers whom the Waggoners found in Moultrie County when they arrived * *	16
V - Early Governmental Organization of Region later known as Whitley Township, Moultrie County *	18
VI - The Second Caravan of Waggoners * *	19
VII - Other Members of the Waggoner Family who moved to Illinois * * * *	20
VIII - Arrival of Certain Other Pioneers in Illinois County * * * *	20
IX - Early Times in Illinois * * *	21
X - The Church of the Early Waggoners in Illinois *	24
XI - Isaac Waggoner if pensioned by the U. S. Government for Revolutionary War Services * *	25
XII - Early Births and Deaths in the Waggoner Settlement: The Graveyard on Isaac Waggoner's Farm	35
XIII - The Part Waggoners Played in the Early Official Life of Moultrie County * *	38
XIV - Waggoner Reunions * * * *	39
XV - Isaac Waggoner's Daughters * * *	50
XVI - John Waggoner * * *	52
XVII - Isaac Waggoner, Jr. * * *	66
XVIII - George Waggoner * * *	67
XIX - Amos Waggoner * * *	90
XX - Elisha Waggoner * * *	96
XXI - Gilbert Waggoner * * *	96
XXII - Joel Waggoner * * *	98
Concluding Words * * *	99

INTRODUCTION

It is a matter of regret that so many incidents and experiences of our family must be forever forgotten because in the early days many important dates, events and facts were not, to our knowledge, recorded, or, if recorded, are no longer available. Any attempt now to write a comprehensive history of the numerous members of our large family, and particularly with reference to those of more remote generations, will result in a sketch which will be incomplete at best.

However, we have endeavored to make the most of what is available, and have been able to trace the story of our family for a period of approximately two hundred years and to record something of the lives of more than a thousand of the descendants of Hans Waggoner, our emigrant ancestor.

This vast number of descendants will suggest at once the scope of the work which it was necessary to cover, and while it may be apparent to the reader that we have overlooked items which should have been included, we believe it will be found, upon investigation, that the oversight was not intentional, but was simply due to the fact that in searching out innumerable points, a few escaped our notice. It has been our constant aim to be accurate in all that we have written, and where mistakes do occur, we must beg indulgence.

As to our sources of information, we are fortunate indeed in having preserved for us such rare documents as the Revolutionary War pension papers of our ancestor, Isaac Waggoner; and in the fact that the lives of many of the older members of our family were chronicled in the official histories of those regions of the

Republic in which they lived.

Neither are we unmindful of the spirit of family solidarity which received new emphasis in the Waggoner Reunions of a few decades ago. These Reunions resulted incidentally in a body of data which became the basis for much of the recent history of our family. It was during this period that opportunity was had for consulting with older members of the family, such as Uncle Gilbert Waggoner, Aunt Narcissa Waggoner and Aunt Nancy Edwards, and it is our good fortune that there were those who could and did keep this knowledge alive and pass it on.

More recently we have had the efficient and generous contributions of Elder Thomas Edwards, and the splendid cooperation of Aunt Hannah Daugherty, the last surviving grandchild of Isaac Waggoner. We have also been able to make good use of short newspaper sketches, bearing on our family history, prepared a few years ago by Francis M. Waggoner and Martha Jay Scott. And very recently we have had the help of Nellie Boling Edwards, as a representative on the field, in making available to us data which was important.

With such inspiring cooperation, what might have appeared a tremendous task became a genuine pleasure, and we wish to take this opportunity of rendering our words of sincere appreciation.

February 6, 1923

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Canton, Illinois

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New York City

CHAPTER I

HANS WAGGONER

We have been able to trace our family back to Hans Waggoner who landed in Charleston, South Carolina, about 1730. He was a man of sturdy character and industrious habits, and came from Germany or Holland; our traditions favor the former country, our characteristics, the latter. So the Waggoners are probably of German stock. The history of South Carolina for this early period shows that in July, 1729, Carolina was purchased by the king of England and formed into two separate colonies, and immediately after this South Carolina received large accessions of emigrants from Germany and elsewhere.

Hans Waggoner was first married about 1760. We have no knowledge of the ancestry nor of the history of his first wife, except that she bore him two children, namely, George and Isaac, our ancestor.

The date of birth of this George Waggoner is not recorded, but he is believed to have been the older brother. At least, he died first, about 1818, and his brother, Isaac, was the administrator of his estate and one of the heirs of his property, George Waggoner was a farmer--a cotton-raiser of considerable wealth for that day. He was a large land-owner on the Santee River in York County, South Carolina, and had several slaves. In the first census of the United States taken in 1790, his name is included in the section described as Camden District, York County, South Carolina, as follows:

Name of Head of Family	Waggoner, George
Free White Males of 16 yrs. & upward, includ- ing heads of families	1
Free White Males under 16 years	1
Free White Females, includ- ing heads of Families	3
All other Free Persons	-
Slaves	6

A study of the United States censuses of 1790, 1800 and 1810 indicates that this George Waggoner had in all one son and four daughters, but we have no record of the lives of these children. His wife was not living at the time of the 1810 census, and he is described at that time as being "of 45 and upwards." The number of slaves he owned had increased to eight by 1810.

According to the pension claim which he filed with the United States Government, Isaac Waggoner, our ancestor, was born September 11, 1761, in Craven County, South Carolina, (later called Fairfield County) two counties South of York County, the residence of his brother, George Waggoner. These facts establish the residences of the two brothers in the north central part of the state, and suggest that the Hans Waggoner family also resided in this section of the state, at least, at that time. The detailed history of Isaac Waggoner will be taken up later.

Following the death of his first wife, Hans Waggoner married a Mrs. Fair, who had one son, Isham, by a previous marriage, who died of consumption years later at Isaac Waggoner's home in North Carolina, and within the memory of Aunt Narcissa Waggoner. Of Hans Waggoner's second marriage three children were born, namely, John, Suka and another daughter who married a Mr. Hill.

John Waggoner came to Kentucky perhaps a little earlier than our people came to Illinois. As our people came, they seem to have made a considerable stop, somewhere in Kentucky, probably with John and his people. One of John's sons and a son-in-law visited our people in Illinois about 1868. They seem to have had the two-fold purpose of visiting and looking at the country with a view to moving. They did not move, but corresponded with our people for some time. This ceased, and we do not know even in what part of the state they lived.

Suka, one of Hans Waggoner's daughters, married Mr. Ned Noberly. They had a son, Ned, who visited our people in North Carolina. Aunt Narcissa remembered him and his visits very well. His father was described as a rich farmer, cotton-raiser and slaveowner of South Carolina.

The other daughter of Hans Waggoner married a Mr. George Hill and lived near Columbia, South Carolina. They later moved to Georgia. Mr. Hill often visited our people in North Carolina. He was not a religious man and was described as being singular, peculiar and willy.

Hans Waggoner died on the Santee River, South Carolina,

(some say the Yadkin River) some time prior to 1790. At least his name does not appear in the 1790 census. He left each direct heir \$300, which was a considerable sum for that day.

At this point it might be interesting to note some observations gained from a study of the first census of the United States taken in 1790. This census shows there were Waggoners in at least three of the thirteen states. In South Carolina, the names of Isaac and George only are given as the heads of Waggoner families. In north Carolina there were nine Waggoner families. In Pennsylvania there were seventy-nine Waggoner families, including six George Waggoners and fifteen John Waggoners. Each of these Waggoner families averaged about six persons, so there were approximately five hundred Waggoners in America in 1790. Letters have been addressed to the County Clerks of all North and South Carolina counties showing Waggoners as residents in 1790, but to date we have not learned of any Waggoners living in those counties at this time.

The entire population of South Carolina in 1790, including slaves, was 249,073, and Chester County, in which Isaac Waggoner resided in 1790, had 6866.

ISAAC WAGGONER

Isaac Waggoner was born in what is now Fairfield County, South Carolina, on September, 11, 1761. We know little of his boyhood days, except that when he was nineteen years old he enrolled for service in the war for independence.

We have been in correspondence with the Revolutionary War Section of the Bureau of Pensions, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. regarding Isaac Waggoner's Revolutionary War Service, and have the following official letter bearing on that matter:

"Rev. War Section.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF PENSIONS
WASHINGTON

Oct. 4, 1922.

Mr. C. M. Boling,
N. Y. Talking Machine Co.
521 W. 57th St.
New York City

Sir:

In response to your letter of the 6th ultimo, you are advised that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S. 32578, it appears that Isaac Waggoner was born September 11, 1761, in Craven County, South Carolina, (later called Fairfield County) where he was living when he served in the South Carolina Militia, as a private as follows: for two months, from April 1781, under Captain Parrott and Colonel Bratton; for four months, from June 1781, under Captain Henry Hale and Colonel David Hopkins; for four months, from May 1782, under Captain John McCool and Colonel David Hopkins.

He was allowed pension, on his application executed June 6, 1836, while living in Shelby

County, Illinois. He died in 1838, exact date not stated, leaving ten children, whose names and that of his wife are not on record.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Hays Haymaker,
Chief Clerk."

Following this, we arranged for photographed copies of all the papers on file at Washington with respect to Isaac Waggoner's Revolutionary War service and from them we summarize his service, as follows:

In April, 1781, when he was noneteen years of age, he stood a draft in the South Carolina Militia, and was drafted into the service as a private militiaman for four months at Fairfield County (South Carolina), under the following officers, Captain Parrott, Colonel Bratton, General Sumter. Soon after being drafted, his company marched from Fairfield County to Friday? Ferry on the Congoree River--about sixty miles. He served at said Ferry for two months, being in camp and employed in guarding the Ferry to keep the enemy and Tories from crossing the Congoree River. At the end of two months, their services being no longer required, he with his company was discharged, on condition and subject to be drafted again immediately or whenever called upon, and returned home. He received only a verbal discharge.

About the last of June, 1781, after he had been home only about two weeks, he was again called as a private, under Captain Henry Hale, Colonel David Hopkins, General Richard Winn. He and his company marched to Orangeburg--about seventy-five miles, where there was an old fort, and was employed most of the time in garrison and the balance of the time on guard, in all four months. On their march to Orangeburg his company had a skirmish with the Tories, who attacked them about three miles from Orangeburg and fired upon them from the swamps, but were repulsed and driven back--his company lost one man killed, one wounded and one horse killed. Received written discharge at end of this four months' service.

In May, 1782, again called upon as a private for four

months under Captain John McCool, Colonel David Hopkins, General Richard Winn, with General Francis Marion in command a part of this time. Company marched to Orangeburg--seventy-five miles--thence to Four Holes Bridge, forty-five miles, and while on the route they joined General Greene's army which was on its march, or retreat, from old Fort Ninety-six. They separated from Greene's army at or near the Four Holes Bridge where he, his company and others lay in camp and were employed in guarding the bridge and were there two months. They then marched to Lawrence Ferry on the Santee River, forty miles, where they were ensconced for two months and employed in watching and guarding the Ferry and the enemy to keep them back. Obtained written discharge for this service.

South Carolina was a scene of warfare during the Revolution, and many of the most hotly contested battles of the war occurred within its limits. The British held the colony during 1780-1781, but General Morgan defeated the Tory, General Tarleton, at the Cowpens (near Isaac Waggoner's home) and the victory of Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781, terminated active war within the state and caused the withdrawal of the enemy to Charleston, and contributed much to the successful issue of the contest. Isaac Waggoner states in his affidavit filed with the Pension Bureau that he was near Eutaw Springs at the time of the battle but was prevented from being in the engagement by his other duties.

For those descendants of Isaac Waggoner who are interested to become members of the Societies of the Sons of the Revolution, or the Daughters of the Revolution, or organizations of a similar character, a copy of the official letter from the Pension Bureau given herein and an authenticated pedigree of descent from Isaac Waggoner is all that is necessary in filing application.

It is not known what part, if any, Isaac Waggoner's

father, brothers and older members of the Waggoner family took in the War of the Revolution, but there is a tradition in our family that at Fort Moultrie, on Sullivan Island, South Carolina, protecting Charleston Harbor, there was a battery during the Revolutionary War known as the Waggoner battery which helped to repulse the British fleet.

Physically, Isaac Waggoner was a man of good proportions, weighing about 150 pounds, and had much the same features as Gilbert Waggoner, his son, whom many of the older members of the Waggoner family well remember.

Soon after returning from the army, Isaac Waggoner married Emsey Holeyfield, a daughter of William Holeyfield. She was somewhat younger than her husband, and was described as a small woman, spare built, resembling very much her granddaughter, Aunt Nancy Edwards. She was of a retiring disposition, but of strong moral and spiritual character. She was long a member of The Baptist Church, and died in the family home in Whitley Township, Moultrie County, Illinois (present Leggett farm) in 1831.

In the 1790 census, Isaac Waggoner is listed as follows:

State of South Carolina
Camden District
Chester County

Name of head of family	Waggoner, Isaac
Free white males of 16 years & upward, including heads of families	I
Free white males under 16	I

Free white females, including heads of families	2
All other free persons	-
Slaves	-

This indicates he had one son at the time (probably William) and one daughter. They were now living in Chester County, adjoining Fairfield County, Isaac's place of birth, on the north.

Sometimes between 1790 and 1800, Isaac Waggoner and family, with his wife's people, moved to Rutherford County, North Carolina.

Extracts from the Censuses of 1800, 1810 and 1820 for Rutherford County, North Carolina, are given below:

Name of head of family	Isaac Waggoner		
	1800	1810	1820
Free white males:			
Under 10 years of age.....	3	4	2
Of 10 and under 16.....	I	I	I
Of 16 and under 26, including heads of families.....	-	-	-
Of 26 and under 45, including heads of families.....	I	I	-
Of 45 and upwards, including heads of families.....	-	-	I
Free white females:			
Under 10 years of age.....	2	2	I
Of 10 and under 16.....	I	I	-
Of 16 and under 26, including heads of families.....	-	2	I
Of 26 and under 45, including heads of families.....	I	I	-
Of 45 and upwards, including heads of families.....	-	-	I
Slaves:	-	-	-
Looms	-	I	-
Quantity in yards of homespun annually made in the family		200	-
Value in dollars (of homespun)		100	-
Number of persons engaged in Agriculture			2

The 1810 census will probably strike present-day Waggoners as unusual in that it shows that the Isaac Waggoner family made two hundred yards of homespun annually.

The Waggoners of Rutherford County, North Carolina, were farmers, owning their own land, but were not wealthy. They were honest, industrious and a highly-respected people.

Martha Scott, daughter of Amos Waggoner and granddaughter of Isaac Waggoner, had this to say about her grandfather: "It has been remarked of our grandfather, that he was a most happy man. His disposition was such, and he had such good control of his temper, passions, or whatever you please to call it, that he got along evenly and peaceably with every one. He was quiet--no quick outbursts of passion--a good Christian man. 'He overcame evil with good.' I have dear remembrances of my dear old grandfather and his happy disposition. I hope and expect to meet him in the better world when the mists have cleared away.' Isaac Waggoner was a Baptist, and the older Waggoners generally, with few exceptions, were Baptists. They were a people of humble, steadfast faith in God and trust in His great mercies.

In all, fourteen children were born to Isaac and Emsey Holeyfield Waggoner, two of whom at least were born in South Carolina, according to the census of 1790. There were eight sons and six daughters. William, the oldest, died at the age of seven years and was probably buried in South Carolina. The others were John (usually called Jack) Isaac, Jr., George, Joel, Amos, Elisha, Gilbert, Nancy, Susan, Celia, Polly, Jemima and Emsey. An account of the various branches of Isaac Waggoner's

family will be given later.

CHAPTER III

FIRST MIGRATION OF WAGGONERS TO ILLINOIS

Isaac Waggoner was a studious reader and was said to have had many books for that day. Among his books were the Bible, Pilgrim's Progress, The Holy War, and a Geography, or a history of the various states. His wife sometimes chided him for reading so much, saying, "If you have your geography, you are satisfied." Here he learned about the West and its possibilities, and decided to move to Illinois. All of his sons, except George, opposed the move, but they all finally came. Isaac Waggoner would not own slaves. This opposition to slavery was undoubtedly a primary cause of the migration.

Preparatory to moving, Isaac Waggoner sold his farm of 500 acres for \$3.00 an acre. That same year (1827) a charter was issued to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, but it was not until July 4, 1828, that work was actually begun on the first passenger railroad in America. But it was not ready for business until nearly two years later, and its location was not suited to the wants of our people. So other means of transportation had to be provided.

The following persons constituted the first group of Waggoners who started to Illinois in 1827: Isaac Waggoner and wife, Emsey Holeyfield Waggoner; Isaac's son, George, and his wife, Bethany Haney Waggoner, and their four children, Alvin, Robert, Celia and Sally; Isaac's son, Amos, and his wife, Narcissa Jay Waggoner, and their three children, Martha Joy, Isaac Vestal and James Monroe; Isaac's daughter, Polly, and her husband, Noah Webb,

and their two little girls, Synthia and Jemima; Isaac's son, Gilbert, and his wife, Patsy Bailey Waggoner (Gilbert and his wife had not been married long and were both young. Gilbert's wife was a slim bit of a girl at this time and was only about fourteen years old); Isaac's son, Elisha, and Isaac's daughter, Emsey. Twenty-one persons in all!

They left their old North Carolina home about November 22, 1827. For the journey, our ancestor, Isaac Waggoner, secured an old-fashioned four-horse wagon with scoop-bed, and he had another horse in addition to the four-horse team. His sons, Amos and Elisha, did most of the driving of this big wagon, which was covered. The driver had a saddle on the rear, left hand side wheel horse, which he rode, having a single line on the front lead horse by which he guided the leading span of horses. The other wagon, or surrey, which in those days was called "a carry-all" pulled by two horses, was driven by Isaac Waggoner, with the same kind of lines that are used today to drive a two-horse team. Isaac Waggoner and his wife rode in this surrey and frequently they would take the children in to ride with them. The large wagon was full of household goods and there was not much room for passengers. There were also two or three saddle horses in the caravan. Gilbert, Isaac's son, had a beautiful bay horse which he and his wife rode. Amos had a blind horse, which his wife would ride sometimes. Those who were old enough walked most of the way. Martha Waggoner Scott (daughter of Amos) and one of the twenty-one pioneers said of this journey: "I do know there was a lot of walking done. We did not meet many travelers. No railroads then and but few other good roads. Once in a while we would meet the

stage coach with a few people in it. They traveled in a hurry, always sounding their bugle in time for us to give them the road." Thus the little band moved over the hills and mountains, facing the northern winter winds and snows, but the record gives no account of complaints of the hardships.

The route taken to Illinois by these pioneers was as follows: They crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains through Hickory Gap, east of Knoxville, Tennessee. Near Knoxville, they made a stop for a month or so with some people by the name of Lodge. Whether these were relatives or simply old friends, we have been unable to learn. They moved on through Tennessee and by Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to the Ohio River, which they crossed at Ford's Ferry, a few miles south of Mount Vernon, Illinois. The river was about a mile wide at this point, and they were rowed across on a boat run by a horse treadwheel. Isaac's wife was an exceedingly timid woman and so dreaded to try it that she cried. Near McLeansboro, Illinois, at a place called Hamilton, Isaac was taken ill with typhoid fever, by which he almost lost his life and this sickness delayed the company two or three weeks, but about the last of March, 1828, they reached what was later to become Section 7, Township 12, Range 6 of what is now Whitley Township, Moultrie County, Illinois. They settled on the farm now owned and occupied by Tommy Leggett, lying on the south side of the road between the present Whitfield schoolhouse and Whitfield church. (See map of Moultrie County, inserted)

Martha Waggoner Scott had this to say of the region where they settled: "The country was wild. Land was not on the market

yet. We thought the prairies would never be settled. We had lots of sickness for years, mostly bilious fever, ague, or chills and fever."

Isaac Waggoner, with the assistance of his sons, George, Amos, Elisha and Gilbert, and his son-in-law, Noah Webb, immediately built a log cabin on what is now the Leggett farm. This log cabin was located back in the field, probably not far from the cemetery, where it stood for several decades. Later it was moved down near the present frame house on the farm, which was constructed about forty years ago, and used as a barn, and then it was finally torn down. This was the home of Isaac Waggoner, his wife, and his unmarried son and daughter, Elisha and Emsey. But all of the little band of pioneers made their homes there until each built a cabin for himself and family. Here they also made preparations for a crop of corn the coming season. The first settlers did not put much ground in cultivation the first year, the average number of acres being about ten. The prairie was broken for the Waggoners with ox-teams by Samuel Linley, son-in-law of John Whitley, using a sod plow which would cut and turn over a sod about eighteen to twenty inches wide.

CHAPTER IV

Temporary Settlers whom the Waggoners
found in Moultrie County when they
arrived

The following paragraphs from the "Combined History of Shelby and Moultrie Counties, Illinois," published in 1881, gives a record of the people whom the Waggoners found in Moultrie County when they arrived in 1828. Incidentally, the publishers of this volume from which we shall quote acknowledge material assistance in its preparation from J.H. Waggoner (grandson of Isaac Waggoner), Gilbert Waggoner (son of Isaac Waggoner), Gideon Edwards (son-in-law of Isaac Waggoner and Alvin Waggoner (grandson of Isaac Waggoner).

"The honor of first settling in the territory comprising Moultrie County belongs to John Whitley. He with his wife and sons John, Sharp, Mills, Randall, William, Josiah, his son-in-law, Samuel Linley, and two or three daughters, settled in Section 12, T. 12, R. 6, at the point of timber which has ever since been known as Whitley's Point, in the fall of 1826. This farm is now (1881) owned by J. M. Edmonds. Here he erected the first cabin and broke the first prairie in what is now Moultrie County. All his sons but Josiah were married, and some had children, when they came and settled in the same vicinity, as did also the son-in-law, Samuel Linley. William Price, a single man, came a short time after their arrival and married one of Whitley's daughters, and located near the old gentleman. The senior Whitley was a native of Maryland, and it is thought came from Kentucky here. He and all his sons were very fond of sport, great horsemen, and always kept a number of fine thoroughbred Kentucky race horses. They would frequently ride some distance to settlements and race for money; in fact, gambling in general seemed to be their chief occupation. The sons were all large, athletic men, and inclined to fight at the slightest provocation. It is said they and some of the Waggoners had an interesting combat at one time. Mills and Sharp Whitley and Samuel Linley emigrated to Texas about 1836 or '37,

and John, Randall, and William died several years ago in Missouri, whence they had moved. Josiah, the last known of, was living in Bond County, this state. The elder Whitley moved up the Okaw river, in Coles County, about 1838, where he died a few years later, and his wife soon followed him in death. Although none of their descendants live in the county, the name of Whitley, united as it is to township and stream, resists decay. Hal McDaniel, a native of Tennessee, who either came with the Whitley's or about the same time, squatted a mile west of them on Whitley Creek. He had a wife and four or five children, but remained here only a short time. The next settlement was made on the place now owned by Caleb Evans, in Section 1, T. 12, R. 5, in the extreme southern part of the county, by two brothers, Samuel and Jonathan Anderson. They left here about 1834.

"The next arrival was of a different class. They were permanent settlers, and today their descendants are as numerous in this locality as any family that ever settled here. We will mention the Waggoners'....."
(The Volume then gives in great detail the early Illinois history of the Waggoner family)

CHAPTER V

Early Governmental Organization of Region
later known as Whitley Township, Moultrie County

Illinois, as a state, was ten years old at the time the first Waggoners arrived from the South. The region in which they settled had become Shelby County the year before (1827). Moultrie County was organized in 1843 from parts of Shelby and Macon Counties, and the Waggoners are believed to have had some influence on the Commissioners in the naming of this new county and its county seat after the South Carolina Revolutionary General, Moultrie, for whom the fort on Sullivan Island, in Charleston harbor, was named, and with which the name of Waggoner had been traditionally associated, as related elsewhere.

Before Moultrie County was organized, government affairs of the territory in which the Waggoners resided seem to have been transacted at Nelson Station in what is now East Nelson Township (see Moultrie County map). Taxes were paid there and Court was held there. It was also the home of most of the early doctors. Mustering days were also held there.

CHAPTER VI

THE SECOND CARAVAN OF WAGGONERS

Most of the Waggoners who did not start to Illinois in 1827 collected their effects together and started in the fall of 1828. This second company consisted of John Waggoner (son of Isaac Waggoner), his wife, and daughter, Rachel, and her husband, Harmon Smith, and their children, Malinda and David Smith. Others of John's children in the group were Leah, Lisby, William, Martin, Edward M., Sally, Nancy M. and John, who died a few weeks after arriving in Illinois. Others in the company were Isaac, Jr., (son of Isaac Waggoner), and wife and children, Eda, Arina, Patsy, Liza, Delphus, Hazel, Anonymous and James S. Twenty-four in all!

The equipment for the transportation of this company of twenty-four people was entirely in keeping with the times and circumstances of the travelers. John Waggoner had three horses, one of which was fully packed. Another horse, "Dick", was partly packed and carried John's wife, and John, Jr., who was then about five years old. The third horse, "Bet", was a young horse that carried the young men alternately, usually with Nancy, John's daughter, then about seven years old, riding on behind. Isaac, brother of John, had one horse well packed. Harmon Smith had one wagon and supposedly a two-horse team. All who were able, walked and carried bundles or pillow-cases full of "truck".

John and most of the company moved on through Hickory Gap to a place near Knoxville, where they rested nine days. Harmon Smith, his family, and some of John's family delayed to finish picking Mr. Smith's cotton. They finished their task and hurried to join the rest of the caravan at Knoxville. They all journeyed

on, following it seems, about the same route that the company the year before had followed, and reached Illinois early in 1829. They were way-worn and weary and heartily accepted the cordial welcome of the former pilgrims.

CHAPTER VII

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WAGGONER FAMILY WHO MOVED TO ILLINOIS

Jemima, daughter of Isaac Waggoner, who married Mr. William Walker in North Carolina, moved to Illinois in 1830, bringing with them their children, Celia, Isaac, Nancy, John and Mart. They settled on the J. H. McCormic place in Section II, Whitley Township.

Joel, another son of Isaac Waggoner, came to Illinois in 1830 with his family but his wife was so dissatisfied with the new country that they soon returned to North Carolina and later moved to Arkansas.

CHAPTER VIII

Arrival of Certain Other Pioneers in Illinois Country

The Little, Edwards and Armantrout families, members of whom intermarried with the Waggoners arrived in the Illinois country a few years after the Waggoners, and we note their arrivals, as follows:

One of the first settlers of Whitley Township was Mr. Wright Little. He located there in 1829, near Isaac Waggoner's and lived there until his death. His daughter, Jane, married

William H. Waggoner (grandson of Isaac).

Two brothers, natives of Kentucky, John W. and Gideon Edwards, in company with two other Kentuckians, Isham and Jeduthum Hardy, settled in Whitley Township in 1830, and, historically, stand prominent among the early settlers. Gideon Edwards married Emsey, daughter of Isaac Waggoner.

In the fall of 1831, Philip Armantrout, a native of Virginia, settled with his family on what is now Section 9 of Whitley Township. Two of his daughters married grandsons of Isaac Waggoner.

CHAPTER IX

EARLY TIMES IN ILLINOIS

The conditions of this Illinois country in 1828 and the hardships with which the settlers were confronted are set forth in a decidedly interesting way in the following essay read at the Waggoner Reunion, June 19, 1880, by Miss Elvira Edwards (great granddaughter of Isaac Waggoner) and printed in the Shelbyville Democrat (Shelbyville, Illinois) of July 1, 1880:

"Some fifty-two years ago Isaac Waggoner with his family, accompanied by several of his married children and their families, bade adieu to home and friends in the sunny South and began his journey in pursuit of a home in the Northwest. After several weeks of laborious and disagreeable travel, weary and way-worn, this little company of pioneers reached the infant settlement of Whitley's Creek early in April, 1828. After looking around for a short time, most of them located in this vicinity where we are now assembled (on what is now the Tommy Leggett farm) but some settled farther up the creek.

"The country at that time bore little resemblance to its present appearance and was essentially different from the one they had just left. The timbered portion was almost an unbroken forest at that time, the marks of the ax being

few and far between. The prairie was a desolate waste with scarcely anything to recommend it to the favorable consideration of the new-comers, except the richness of its soil, a great portion of it in the spring season of the year being covered in water. When the water was dried up by the heat of the sun the ground was literally covered with shells. As the season advanced the lovely wild flowers sprang up in great variety and profusion, some red, some blue, pink, purple and yellow, which gave to the prairie a much more pleasing appearance than it had in early spring. The grass in the summer season on the low land grew to the astonishing height of eight or nine feet, but on the high and rolling land it was not so tall. Concealed beneath the prairie grass lay an immense number of snakes, among which the rattlesnake was the most formidable. After the frost of autumn killed the grass and it had become dry, it was usually set on fire by hunters, movers or some one else, and when the wind was high it burned with a speed almost equal to that of the railroad train. The roar of the advancing flame as it swept fiercely on in its resistless course, the waves of fire rolling mountain high, the clouds of smoke ascending towards Heaven, formed a scene at once beautiful, sublime and terrible. The early settlers of Whitley's Creek suffered great inconvenience from the ferocious animals that infested the country. The prairie wolves were numerous and the howl of the large timber wolf was frequently heard by the inhabitants. The catamount was occasionally seen in the the woods, and the thickets abounded with wildcats. The panther though seldom met with would sometimes break the silence of night with her awful scream. Under these circumstances it was impossible to keep sheep or raise pigs or even calves without the greatest vigilance. The impudent prairie wolf, though not very large, would sometimes show a disposition to attack a man, and it was dangerous for children to pass to a neighbor's house unless accompanied by a faithful dog. An incident occurred about the year 1832 or '33 which it may not be amiss to relate. Four or five of the Whitley Creek citizens went by invitation to help raise a house in Shelbyville, for John D. Bruster. In order to reach the place at an early hour they started long before day, and according to the custom of the country took their axes with them. They reached the Okaw bottom just at the dawn of day. Sharp Whitley and a comrade were riding a little in advance of the rest of the company, when Whitley's dog commenced a tremendous barking near by. Whitley and his friend approached the place and perceived in the dim light the form of some animal sitting on the trunk of a bending tree. Whitley alighted from his horse with his ax in his hand and at the same time the beast which proved to be a panther, sprung upon the dog killing him instantly; Whitley at the same time struck the panther a sure blow with his ax, severing the backbone of the animal. The panther uttered one dreadful scream and expired.

"At the time of the arrival of the Waggoners on Whitley's Creek the settlement consisted of John Whitley, four or five of his married sons, one son-in-law, named Linley, and one or two other families. The Waggoners built for themselves homes, such as the earlier settlers lived in, which were of a very rude character indeed. It could not well be otherwise, for there was not a lumber yard nor a saw mill probably, within fifty miles. The houses or cabins were usually built of round logs, sometimes smoothed a little with the broad ax, the floor was of hewed puncheons, the door shutters were made of shaved boards and hung with wooden hinges, the chimneys were of sticks and clay, the back, jambs and hearth of dirt. the fire-place was from six to ten feet wide.

"The dress of the early inhabitants was not uniform. Some of the men and boys wore clothing made of dressed deer skins, but the greater part wore clothing made of linen and cotton with filling of wool for winter. The dress of the women and girls was generally of home made cotton with a calico dress for Sunday. Some of them had the luxury of a linsey dress for winter. The culture of flax was introduced at a very early day and cotton was grown very soon after, and strange as it may seem was cultivated for a few years with considerable profit. The production of wool gradually increased until the supply was almost equal to the demand. The wheel and the loom were brought into use as soon as there was anything to be spun or woven. The women and girls thus furnished with material and machinery for making cloth, applied themselves diligently and resolutely to the task and in a few years the people of the new settlement were furnished with better clothing, than during the first years of their sojourn in their new home. There were at that time no cotton factories nor any machines for carding wool in this part of the state. It was admitted by all impartial persons in those days that the women worked harder than the men. We must now go back in our sketch and give a more full account of the hardships endured by the pioneers of this county. For some years after the arrival of the Waggoners the people labored under great inconveniences in regard to getting grain ground, there being no grist mill nearer than one on the Embarrass River, a few miles east of Charleston. There were no hand mills even and consequently they had to resort to the use of the pestle and mortar to convert the corn into meal. This was sometimes called 'Armstrong's Mill'. After beating a gallon of corn in the mortar for two hours they would get about a half gallon of meal, the remainder being hominy and part bran. Bread made of beaten meal was not of the best quality, being rather clammy, still it was a luxury after living on hominy for several days. There were no school houses near, neither were there any houses of worship.

"The nearest Post Office was about twenty miles distant and

if a letter had traveled four hundred miles it cost twenty-five cents to get it out of the office. Many other matters of interest in connection with the disadvantages surrounding the early settlers might be mentioned, did not the limits of this brief essay forbid. Let us be thankful that those disadvantages have in a great measure passed away and that we are now enjoying the privileges of an age of high civilization and improvement."

CHAPTER X

THE CHURCH OF THE EARLY WAGGONERS IN ILLINOIS

The following paragraph is taken from the volume, "Combined History of Shelby and Moultrie Counties, Illinois", published in 1881:

"The Old School Baptist Church of Whitley was organized about fifty years ago (1829), and was the first established in this part of the county. The first pastor was William H. Martin. The following were the first members: Isaac Waggoner and wife, Caleb Shaw and wife, Rachel Smith (granddaughter of Isaac Waggoner), William Walker (son-in-law of Isaac Waggoner) and John Edwards and wife. The only surviving early members now living (1881) are Margaret A. (Peggy) Shaw, and Narcissa Waggoner (daughter of George and granddaughter of Isaac Waggoner)"

The foregoing refers to the Church organized in 1829 by The Waggoners, Martins and other Baptists. The first church building in Whitley Township was the one built by this congregation in 1835 on Section 8--the Lynn Creek Baptist Church. It was a hewed log structure, with puncheon seats and floor. This log building was replaced by a frame building about 1860. This frame building does not stand now, but the old cemetery in which the church buildings stood is still used as a burying -ground.

Isaac Waggoner and many of his descendants made this church their regular place of worship. In addition to the persons named above, the following were known to have been members of the Lynn Creek Baptist Church: Isaac Jr., Elisha and George, sons, and

Polly Webb, Jemima Walker and Emsey Edwards, daughters, of Isaac Waggoner, and several of George Waggoner's sons and daughters. Gilbert, Elisha and Isaac, Jr., are among the older generations of Waggoners buried in the Lynn Creek cemetery. This cemetery is not situated on a public highway, but is back in the field on the present Hostetter farm, in Section 8, approximately one-half mile east of the Whitfield schoolhouse and about a quarter of a mile south of the road running east and west.

Most of the Waggoners who died previous to 1850 were buried in the graveyard on Isaac Waggoner's private property, described in a later chapter. However, following Isaac Waggoner's death and the passing of the farm to other hands, the graveyard was closed for burying and the Lynn Creek cemetery was generally used by the family.

CHAPTER XI

Isaac Waggoner is pensioned by the
United States Government for Revolutionary
War Services

It should be borne in mind that the United States Government passed no general pension laws until 1818, when it granted pensions to those who had served nine months or more in the Continental Army or Navy, but not to state troops, militia or minute men. However, by Act of Congress of June 7, 1832, pensions were granted to all officers and soldiers, whether Continental, State or Militia, who had served one or more terms. In the days of the Revolution, before there was a strong, centralized federal government, a very large proportion of the troops fought under state organizations. This was the experience of our ancestor,

Isaac Waggoner.

It is thought that the steps which our ancestor took to be pensioned by the United States Government will be interesting to all his descendants; consequently, we shall insert at this point exact copies of all affidavits and letters in his pension case, the originals of which are on file in the Pension Bureau at Washington, D. C., but photographed copies of which we have in our possession. The following typewritten copy is taken directly from these photographed copies:

"Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the
act of Congress of the 7th June, 1832

State of Illinois)
Shelby County)

On this sixth day of June, 1836, personally appeared before the County Commissioners' Court of said County, Isaac Waggoner, resident of Shelby County, aged seventy-four years on the 11th of September, 1835, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832 - That in the month of April in the year of 1781, he stood a draft in the South Carolina Militia, and was drafted into the Service as a private militiaman for four months (as he thinks) at the County of Craven (now Fairfield in the said State of South Carolina - under the following named officers to - wit, Captain Parrott (his Christian name he cannot recollect) was the Captain of his company - Col. -- Bratton was the colonel commanding the regiment, and Gen. -- Sumter in chief command (the Christian names of Col. Bratton and Gen. Sumter he cannot recollect) - the particular name or number of his regiment he cannot now remember; That soon after being drafted, he with his company marched from Fairfield Co. to Friday? Ferry on the Congoree River, about sixty miles - that he served at said Ferry two months, being in camp and employed in guarding the Ferry to keep the enemy and Tories from crossing the Congoree River - that at the end of two months, their services being no longer required, he with his company were discharged (on condition and subject to be drafted again immediately or whenever called upon) and returned home - he thinks he obtained only a verbal discharge

and not a written one.

That afterwards in the same year near the last of June (having been home only about two weeks from the before mentioned tour-- he was again called upon and stood another draft and was drafted as a militiaman (private) in the South Carolina Militia, at Craven County (now Fairfield), under Captain Henry Hale in the regiment of Col. David Hopkins and the command Gen. Richard Winn. As soon as drafted his company with himself were marched to Orangeburgh about 75 miles where there was an old forte and was employed most of the time in garrison and the balance of the time was out of the forte and near it on guard--at which time he served the full term of four months. On his march from Fairfield to Orangeburgh his company had a skirmish with the Tories, who attacked them about three miles from Orangeburgh and fired upon them from the swamps, but were repulsed and driven back - his company lost one man killed, one wounded, and one horse killed - at the end of four months he with his company were discharged, his time of service being expired, at which time he obtained a written discharge from his Captain, which has been lost for many years and cannot now be found or obtained.--

That afterwards in the year 1782 in the month of May in the same county above named he was again drafted in the South Carolina Militia as a private for the term of four months under John McCool who was Captain of his company in the regiment of Col. David Hopkins, under the command of Gen. Richard Winn - during this tour he thinks Gen. Francis Marion was along a part of the time either in command or otherwise - he marched this time from Fairfield to Orangeburgh 75 miles, thence to the Four Holes bridge 45 miles and while on the route, they joined Gen. Greene's army which was on its march or retreat from old forte ninety six - he separated from Greene's army again at or near the Four Holes bridge, where he, his company and others lay in camp and were employed in guarding the bridge - and were there two months - they then marched to Lawrences Ferry on the Santee River 40 miles, where they were ensconced for two months and employed in watching and guarding the Ferry and the enemy to keep them back - that having served his term of service (four months) out he was again discharged and obtained a written discharge, which has been lost many years and cannot be possessed? to be transmitted herewith -

He further states that he served the full term of ten months, at the times, places and under the officers named in the above declaration as stated therein - that the corps in which he served was regularly embodied and called into service by competent authority, being by the authority of the State of South Carolina or United States, as he then understood, and supposes now - and that during his term of service above stated, he was

not employed in any civil pursuit or business except in the army and the service of his country -

He also states that he was not in any general battle, but was in the engagement or skirmish above named - he was near the battle of the Eutaw Springs at the time but was prevented from being in the engagement by his other duties.

He further states that he has no other witness or evidence to prove his services except his own oath and traditionary evidence - that his only witness, personally knowing to his services, has been dead some years and that there is no one of his company near him or in this state, or elsewhere, now living who can testify for him - that he left South Carolina many years since, and has not been there for some years and upon proper inquiry cannot ascertain that any one of his company is still living to give evidence in his behalf -

He further states that some three years since he made application at the War Department for his pension but failed to obtain it for some reason why he cannot now state, that he did not immediately renew his application, because he thought he could do without it, and therefore did not trouble himself to preserve his former papers or to know what became of them - since then circumstances have made it necessary for him to renew his application, and the reason why he does not send herewith his former papers, is that he supposes they either were retained at the War Office or were returned to his attorney who kept them and has since moved out of the country so that he cannot now get them to send with this declaration -

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

(Signed) Isaac Waggoner

Sworn to and Subscribed
the day and year aforesaid
in open Court before me.

(Signed) Jos. Oliver, Clk."

(We insert at this point a photographed copy of that page of the affidavit on which appears the signature of Isaac Waggoner. Students of handwriting will find a great deal to admire in the signature of this seventy-four year old Revolutionary War soldier.)

country so that he can not now
get them to send with this declaration.

He hereby relinquishes every claim
whenever to a pension or annuity
except the present, and he declares
that his name is not on the Pension
roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed
the day and year foresaid
in open court before me

Isaac Wiggon

Jos. Chow clk

The following interrogatories being propounded
by the court to the applicant whose answer
is follows to wit:

- 1st ^Q Have you been and in what year?
and how you a matter record?
A. I was born in Coover County (since Fairfield)
in the State of South Carolina on the 11th
of Sept. 1761. I have no matter record
that I know of, nor never had.
- 2^d ^Q How were you called into service?

A. I was drafted at each time.

- 3^d ^Q Where were you living when called into
service, where have you lived since
the Revolutionary war and where do
you now live?

A. I was living in Coover Co South
Carolina - after the war moved into
Richmond County North Carolina
and since there for the last eight years
I have resided in Shelby County Illinois.

4th ^Q The names of some of the officers with
the troops where I served, were Gen. Skipton
Gen. Green, Major Col. Hopkins, W. Washington

To continue the declaration:

"The following interrogations being propounded by the Court to the applicant were answered as follows to wit:

1st & 2 - Where were you born and in what year? and have you a written record? -

Ans. I was born in Craven County (since Fairfield) in the State of South Carolina on the 11th of Sept. 1761. I have no written record that I know of, nor never had. -

3 - How were called into Service? -

Ans. I was drafted each time -

4th Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I was living in Craven County South Carolina - After the war moved into Rutherford County North Carolina and since then for the last eight years I have resided in Shelby County, Illinois -

5th The names of some of the officers with the troops

Ans. Where I served were Gen. Sumter, Gen. Greene, Marion - Col. Hopkins Washington, Gen. Pickens, Col. Bratton - Captain Parrott - Hale - McCool----He does not recollect the particular names or numbers of any regiments except those in which he served - his services were generally either in camp or field or garrison in guarding fortes, Ferries, bridges and in small skirmishes with the enemy and Tories -

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the services?

Ans. For the first term I received a verbal discharge only - For the second and third terms I received written discharges from the Captains of my companies, which have been lost many years and cannot now be found -

7th The names of persons in my neighborhood to whom I am known and who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution, are Samuel D. Hepton, a clergyman - Noah Webb, Edward Jay, William Walker and many others.

The above put and
answered and sworn to
in Open Court before me

(Signed) Isaac Waggoner

(signed) Jos. Oliver, Clk.

State of Illinois)
Shelby County)

We, Samuel D. Hepton a clergyman residing in the County of Shelby and Edward Jay & Noah Webb--residing in the same county hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Isaac Waggoner who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration - that we believe him to be seventy-four years of age that he is reputed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

(Signed) Samuel D. Hepton
his

Sworn and subscribed
the days and years
above said before me.

Noah X Webb
E mark
Edward G. Day

(signed) Jos. Oliver, Clk.

State of Illinois)
Shelby County)

Noah Webb being duly sworn saith that he formerly resided in Rutherford County North Carolina in the neighborhood where Mr. Isaac Waggoner formerly lived - and lived there for a number of years - that it was generally believed there that said Waggoner was a soldier of the Revolution, that he has heard one Isam Fair a Revolutionary soldier state that said Waggoner was a soldier of the Revolution, that he (Isam Fair) had served with him in the war, and were members of the same company, that he has heard him relate many circumstances relative to the war and to Mr. Waggoner and Mr. Fairs being in the war together. - That he has heard many other citizens of said neighborhood speak of Mr. Waggoner having been a Revolutionary soldier and he thinks it was believed by the citizens generally.---

(signed)

Sworn to and Subscribed
in open court before me.

his
Noah X Webb
mark

Jos. Oliver, Clk.

State of Illinois
Shelby County SS

Edward Jay being duly sworn saith that he was born and raised in Rutherford County North Carolina and lived there about twenty-five years in the neighborhood where Mr. Isaac Waggoner formerly lived, that it was

generally believed by the citizens of that place that said Waggoner was a soldier of the Revolution - that he has always heard old people and others speak of his having been in the war - that since coming to this State within eight years past, he has heard one Samuel Little, a revolutionary soldier, (who is now if alive, supposed to be in Texas) talk of Mr. Waggoner having been a revolutionary soldier - that he (Little) and said Waggoner lived near each other in the time of the Revolution and was knowing by hearsay & otherwise to his having been in the Revolution and firmly believed that he was justly entitled to a pension.

(Signed) Edward G. Jay

Sworn to and Subscribed
in open court before me.

Jos. Oliver, Clk.

State of Illinois)
Shelby County)

William Walker being duly sworn saith that he formerly resided a number of years in Rutherford County North Carolina in the neighborhood where Mr. Isaac Waggoner formerly lived - that it was always believed and reputed by the citizens of the county and neighborhood that said Isaac Waggoner was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states in the above declaration and that no doubt ever existed in the minds of the people on the subject but that he was entitled to his pension - that he the said Walker resides now in the neighborhood with said Waggoner and that it is believed by the people in the neighborhood that said Waggoner is a soldier of the revolution and is entitled to a pension.

(Signed) William Walker

Sworn to and Subscribed
this 6th June 1836 before me

(Signed) Jos. Oliver, Clk.

And the Said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogations prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states - and the Court further certifies, that it appears to them that Samuel D. Hepton who has signed the preceding certificate is a clergyman resident in the County of Shelby and that Noah Webb, Edward Jay and William Walker who signed the above certificates and affidavits are resident in the County of Shelby and are credible persons and that their statement is entitled to credit.

(Signed) Lemuel Dasey
Aaron McKinzie

I Joseph Oliver Clerk of the County Commissioners Court of Shelby County do hereby

certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of Isaac Waggoner for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this 6th day of June 1836.

Seal
with
Ribbon

(Signed) Jos. Oliver, Clk.

- - - - -

Shelbyville, Ill., Aug. 11, 1836

Sir:

I received a letter from the War Department relative to the papers of Isaac Waggoner for a pension under the Act of June 7, 1832 which states that there is no evidence in the department of drafts for four months as he describes in his papers, that the militia were called out only on short tours, that his statement requires explanation - In answer to this, I can only state that Mr. Waggoner has stated in his declaration all that he can state, and that he cannot give any further explanation, because he has stated all the facts as they occurred according to the best of his recollection - I have heard him relate his story a number of times, and he has always been very correct in it, and from his manner and character for truth and veracity I have no doubt but that all his statements are true - I have also frequently conversed with his neighbors who are all of the opinion that he served ten months in four months drafts as he states - Mr. Waggoner is now very old but retains a good memory - he has all the firmness and pride of a soldier of the Revolution still about him - he is very conscientious in all his statements, and under all circumstances it is entirely impossible for him either to amend or alter his papers or even to explain them further than what they explain themselves - If the evidence of the Militia service is not in the department, it is not the fault of Mr. Waggoner and does not make his statement in his papers the less correct -

The reason as I have been informed that he did not sooner apply for his pension, is that being possessed of a soldier's spirit, and being always till lately in good circumstances he felt above asking for a pension as long as he could maintain himself, but at length being reduced to poverty, by the persuasion of his friends he was induced to make application, which was done a year or two since and failed, after which time, feeling indignant at the ungrateful treatment (as he imagined) of his government he could not be for a long time prevailed upon to renew his application - However, at length being urged by necessity and almost starvation, and by the strong importuning of his friends, he has again renewed his application, which is now on file in the Department -

He has certainly made application once before, although you state

there is no evidence in the office of it - He employed an attorney who made out his papers, sent them on and had returns from them, and afterwards informed Mr. Waggoner that he had failed to get his pension - There must be some mistake in the office about it.

In Conclusion, if Mr. Waggoner obtains his pension at all, it must be from the papers now on file, as he is both unable in strict accordance with truth and unwilling to make any further statement in the matter, and therefore I have to request that you will reexamine his papers more strictly and allow him such a part of his claim as may appear just and due him. If he should only obtain a part, it would be better than for him to suffer in his old age, but still I am confident he is justly entitled to his whole claim and that it ought not be denied by a just and liberal government.

Yours,

(Signed) Daniel Gregory

I. L. Edward
Com. Pensions

- - - - -
TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Comptroller's Office,
August 23d, 1839.

Sir:

Under the set of the 6th of April, 1838, entitled "An act directing the transfer of money remaining unclaimed by certain Pensioners, and authorizing the payment of the same at the Treasury of the United States," seven of the ten children of Isaac Waggoner, a pensioner on the Roll of the Illinois Agency, at the rate of Twenty-Six Dollars and sixty-six cents per annum, under the law of the 7th June, 1832, have been paid at this Department, from the 4th of Sept., 1837, to the 4th March, 1838.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Albion K. Parris,
Comptroller.

To the Commissioner
of Pensions, Present."

The foregoing represent all the papers on file at Washington with respect to Isaac Waggoner's pension. However, we arranged for

an acquaintance in Washington, D. C., to visit the Pension Bureau personally and from the records of the department he was able to learn for us that Isaac Waggoner's pension of \$26.66 per annum became effective as of March 4, 1831, upon which date the bill granting the pension had become a law, and that the first payment amounting to one hundred forty-four dollars and some cents was made on a voucher dated September 4, 1836 and covered the time elapsed up to that date. As one of the foregoing documents indicates, the last payment was made in 1839 to seven of the children, after Isaac Waggoner's death.

CHAPTER XII

Early Births and Deaths in the Waggoner Settlement: The Graveyard on Isaac Waggoner's Farm

Speaking of the early days of what is now Moultrie County, the following from "The Combined History of Shelby and Moultrie Counties" is interesting, as recording early births and deaths in the community in which the Waggoners settled:

"Following are the names of some who were born in 1829:
William, son of George and Bethany Waggoner, (Elisha E.) son of Amos and Narcissa Waggoner..... John, Jr., a young son of John Waggoner, was the first death as near as can be ascertained. This was in a very early day (1829--Authors' note) The first place of interment was the private property of Isaac Waggoner on the farm now owned by T. Leggett. The old man Waggoner and several of his family are buried there."

One of the first burials in this ground was that of Emsey

Holeyfield Waggoner, wife of Isaac, who died in 1831, after she had been in the Illinois country three years.

This graveyard was located about a half a quarter south and a short distance west of the present house on the T. Leggett farm. According to members of the Waggoner family now living and who have been in this graveyard, there were probably as many as fifty graves in this burying place. As was the custom in graveyards in pioneer communities in those days, no tombstones were ever erected, but markers of wood were set up, and while the graveyard does not seem to have been fenced in, it was protected.

Luther Waggoner (88-year old great grandson of Isaac Waggoner) and his wife (a Whitfield), now residents of Bruce, Moultrie County, but who for decades lived on the corner across from the Whitfield Church recall a time when Polly Ann Carter, daughter of Amos Waggoner, came to their house about forty years ago, on her way to visit the grave of her grandfather (Isaac) and she took with her small stones from the creek to put on the grave. Mrs. Luther Waggoner also stated that she had been in the Leggett graveyard, and that boxes resembling chicken coops had been erected over certain of the graves.

Mrs. Luther Waggoner also states that the graveyard and the farm on which it was situated passed out of the Waggoners' hands to a Mr. Eutope Lilly who owned the so-called Leggett Farm at the time of the death of Amos Waggoner (son of Isaac) in 1854 and he refused to allow them to bury Amos Waggoner or any one else in that graveyard. This probably marked the end of this graveyard as a burying ground, and was a great disappointment, for at that time it was practically the Waggoner burying ground. The following Waggoners are known to have

been buried in this graveyard on the present Leggett farm: Isaac Waggoner, Emsey Holeyfield Waggoner (wife of Isaac), Jemima Waggoner Walker, Daughter of Isaac Waggoner, Emsey Waggoner Edwards, daughter of Isaac Waggoner, and Emsey Waggoner (wife of John Waggoner), who died in 1849. It is also believed that her husband was buried in this graveyard.

A few years later, Willis Whitfield, father of Mrs. Luther Waggoner, purchased the farm which had been owned by Europe Lilly and gave it to his son, Isaac Whitfield. This Isaac Whitfield married the woman who, after his death, married Tommy Leggett, Sr., (about 1869) and thus the farm has become known as the Leggett farm.

Roscoe Boling, great great grandson of Isaac Waggoner, married the daughter of this Tommy Leggett, Sr., about sixteen years ago and for a few years following their marriage lived with the Leggett's and helped tend the farm. He states he remembers distinctly the mounds of this graveyard, though he did not realize at the time who were buried there, and that the fields gradually encroached on the burying ground until finally the whole ground was plowed over and he doubts at this time (1923) whether any trace of the spot would be left. He thinks a slight elevation might still be noticed to mark the little silent city of our beloved dead.

Isaac Waggoner lived on the present Leggett farm from the time of his arrival in Illinois in March, 1828, until the time of his death, August 24, 1838. At his death, the farm seems to have passed to his son, Elisha. Members of the family now living can remember when Elisha Waggoner lived on this farm. In this connection we are informed that it was brought out at the time this farm was sold two

or three years ago to settle the Leggett estate that eastern capitalists who had been approached for a mortgage loan on this farm wanted to be assured that heirs of Elisha Waggoner did not have an interest in the title to this farm to this day.

CHAPTER XIII

The Part Waggoners Played in the Early Official Life of Moultrie County

As stated previously, Moultrie County, Illinois, was organized in 1843. The following paragraphs from "The Combined History of Shelby and Moultrie Counties" bearing on the early official life of Moultrie County will be interesting to Waggoners:

"The first election for county officers was held on the first Monday in April, at which time the population of the county was less than 2,000. The first officers elected were John A. Freeland, Clerk of the County Commissioners' Court; Isaac Walker (grandson of Isaac Waggoner) sheriff; A. B. Lee, Coroner; John A. Freeland, Recorder; Hugh Allison, Surveyor; David Patterson, Probate Justice; John Perryman, Preasurer and School Commissioner."

"The first marriage license was issued by John A. Freeland the 11th day of April, 1843. The contracting parties were David Strain and Mrs. Susan A. Ball. She lived in Shelby County, but the groom lived in Moultrie. They were married by, and at the house of, Squire Amos Waggoner, the father of J. H. Waggoner...."

Amos Waggoner later became Associate County Judge and died while holding this office in 1853. Isaac Walker, first sheriff of Moultrie County, died while in office, 1844. Isaac V. Waggoner (grandson of Isaac Waggoner) was elected County Treasurer in 1855, and served until March, 1859, when he died. J. H. Waggoner (grandson

Of Isaac) was elected County Treasurer in 1861 and served until 1863. Later he served as Circuit Clerk of Moultrie County for sixteen consecutive years.

A. E. D. Scott, (great grandson of Isaac Waggoner) and Louis K. Scott, his brother, filled the offices of County Treasurer and County Clerk respectively sometime after the Civil War.

Township organization in Moultrie County was effected in 1866. The first supervisor for Whitley Township was Alvin Waggoner, grandson of Isaac Waggoner.

CHAPTER XIV

WAGGONER REUNIONS

Before we proceed to the detailed histories of Isaac Waggoner's descendants, we shall give an account of the Waggoner Reunions which were held for years, the first in 1880 and the last in 1898:

The first Waggoner Reunion was held June 18, 1880, about three miles northeast of Windsor, Illinois, on what was then known as the Whitfield farm, the farm on which Isaac Waggoner settled, lived, died and was buried. The minutes of that meeting state that the Reunion was called by the united wish of many of the family but the preparation and care that rendered the day so pleasant and happy were largely due to Luther Waggoner and Thomas Edwards, assisted by H.P. Phillips and the Harrison boys. They arranged seats and secured Gibler's Band from Mattoon and prepared the program of exercises. There were probably five hundred people present.

Joseph H. Waggoner, County Clerk of Moultrie County, was elected temporary Chairman and John Garland Waggoner was elected

Secretary. After devotional exercises and music and some appropriate remarks by the Chairman, Elder Thomas Edwards gave a brief history of the family, with statistics as far as they were attainable. There were known at that time to be about three hundred fifty-five members of the Waggoner family, descendants of Isaac Waggoner. A brief, interesting essay was read by Miss Fannie Scott, great granddaughter of Isaac Waggoner, entitled, "Fifty-Two Years". The essay follows:

"We see today around us many smiling faces which we hope are the index to happy hearts--hearts filled with love and friendship. Laughing, thoughtless youth, vigorous manhood, infirm age, are here represented. As we are gathered here today, friends separated perhaps for long years meeting as one family, let us look for a moment at the past. The young think of the good old times with wonder, the old with memories saddened, yet not altogether sorrowful; saddened by the thought of the many friends who have crossed the river, yet gladdened by the remembrance of their love and friendship.

Eighteen Hundred and Twenty-eight!

Illinois has been a state but ten years; only a few small villages within its limits, its great resources hardly realized. Lonely woods, wild prairie with nothing to break the level of its vast expanse, the hunting-ground of wandering tribes of Indians--this is the home to which our grandfathers came.

Eighteen Hundred and Thirty-Eight!

The years have brought many changes! Already much has been done to better the condition of our settlers. Many have come from distant states and settled on neighboring farms. There is no longer any fear of Indians even by the most timid woman. They have even got used to chills and fever. The desperate homesickness, which was so hard to bear during the first few years, has somewhat worn away in the absorbing cares of pioneer life. New ties have been formed, friendships lasting as life itself. Altogether life is quite bearable, and the hearty, generous hospitality of those good old times is proverbial.

Eighteen Hundred and Forty-Eight!

Boys have grown to be stalwart men. Little girls

of ten years ago are now married. More land is cultivated, better houses are built, the country is becoming thickly settled.

Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight!

Our state has made rapid strides in wealth and prosperity. Railroads are building, cities springing up with astonishing rapidity. The gold excitement of the Pacific Slope does not hurt Illinois for her wise men have learned that the plow is the best mining implement; - so the Waggoners stay in Moultrie County.

Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-Eight!

The saddest ten years our country has ever known! Fellow-countrymen, friends, brothers arrayed against each other in deadly warfare. The red battle-field, the gloomy prison, the weary waiting and sickening suspense of loved ones at home, - all the horrors of war pass before our minds like some terrible dream. But it is past, let malice and hatred be put away, and kindness and charity reign in their stead.

Eighteen Hundred and Eighty!

We have celebrated our centennial with great rejoicing and much self-glorification. Truly we have great reason to rejoice, but the question must arise, does our moral and spiritual growth correspond with our material? We hope that in some measure it does. Let us as a family perform well our part in the battle of life. May the name of Waggoner ever be the synonym of truth and virtue, while we live hoping to meet in a grand reunion above.

An essay was also read by Miss Elvira Edwards on "Early Times in Illinois" which has been inserted elsewhere in this history.

Thomas Edwards introduced his statistical report with these happy remarks: "Our great grandfather, Issac Waggoner, was an honest, industrious farmer, and in religion, a Baptist. We, his descendants, claim no 'blue blood' of kings, none of John Smith, or Pocahontas, or other F. F. V's, no heritage of royalty, or wealth, but that of honest industry and true moral worth. Patriotic

hearts swell with emotion at the thought that our ancestors formed part of that heroic band that won the independence of our glorious Republic". We stated that the number of original North Carolinian Waggoners who came to Illinois, now living, was eleven.

The Secretary gave a short address on the characteristics of the family, and its greatest wants. He explained that our great family was getting scattered, that we wanted to keep a record of our Israel and hand it down to our children--we have an honorable history, worthy of preservation. By inheritance and practice, we are farmers. Our ancestors were pioneers in the civilization of this great West. However, the professions have been enriched by their children. Medicine, law, teaching, ministry and journalism, as well as public office, have engaged their talents. In war and peace, in civil and religious affairs, they have made liberal contributions.

Dr. E. E. Waggoner, editor of the Shelbyville Democrat, made a very pleasing and instructive address, closing with a motion to organize a permanent society, to be known as the "Waggoner Family." The motion unanimously carried, and Alvin Waggoner was elected President and John Garland Waggoner, Secretary. The following committees were appointed:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Gilbert Waggoner
Luther Waggoner
Joseph H. Waggoner
Robert Waggoner

COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS:

Thomas Edwards
Hesekiah Waggoner
Francis M. Waggoner

It was decided to hold the Reunions annually.

Several of the neighbors and friends added much pleasure to the occasion by short speeches, congratulating the Waggoners on their worthy history and happy fellowship.

The next Reunion of which we have an account was held near Gilbert Waggoner's home on October 4, 1882. There seems to have been a very large and enthusiastic meeting held in 1881, but we have no record of the proceedings.

The 1882 Reunion was called to order about eleven A. M. by singing, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," followed by prayer by Elder Jesse Shields.

Elder Thomas Edwards delivered the obituary address and made the report. Those passing away recently were: Narcissa Jay Waggoner, born May 7, 1805, Married Amos Waggoner, March 28, 1822, baptised 1825, died July 17, 1881 and buried at Sullivan. A. H. Edwards born in Barren County, Kentucky, July 13, 1807, married June 1, 1847 to Nancy M. Waggoner, obeyed the Gospel and united with the Christian Church on Whitley Creek in 1843, an Elder of the church 25 years, died August 29, 1881. H. P. Phillips, born December 1, 1825, in Washington County, Tennessee, married Matilda O. Waggoner 1847, died March 8, 1881. Celia Waggoner, born in North Carolina, 1824, united with the Baptist Church 1845 and died April 26, 1882. John Waggoner, (son of Gilbert) born January 9, 1838, married Susan Dutym, joined the Baptist Church, died June 12, 1881. Cynthia Scott (daughter of Davis and Sally Harrison) born December 22, 1852, married April 1875, a member of the Baptist Church, and died October 4, 1880. Riley Waggoner (son of James W.) born March 1, 1857,

died August 22, 1881. Claudia Wright, born March, 1882, died July 7, 1882. The report was followed by the song, "Go Bury Thy Sorrows."

Hon. Charles Voris made a short talk and adjournment was taken for dinner and sociability.

During the afternoon short speeches were made by Mr. Benjamin Moberly on the olden times and the progress of the State. Mr. Gordon Boling made a pleasing address, also Mr. Robert Peadro. Uncle Gilbert Waggoner made some feeling closing remarks. After the song, "Sweet by and by" the benediction was pronounced by Elder J. W. Mathers. The happy meeting close to meet under God's gracious providence one year hence.

The report of the Reunion of 1883, as reported in the Shelbyville Democrat, is here submitted:

"The descendants of Mr. Isaac Waggoner who moved his family from N. C. to what is now Moultrie County, in 1827 - 28 held their annual reunion on the farm of Mr. Gilbert Waggoner who is the only living son of Isaac.

Aug. 25, 1883, - The meeting called to order and Dr. E. E. Waggoner was called to the chair, in the absence of Mr. Alvin Waggoner, the President. The music was conducted by Elder Thomas Edwards assisted by a large number of relatives and friends. The singing was good and greatly added to the enjoying of the day. The songs were all religious and well selected. The members of the family seem, to the best of present information, to be about 500. Many of these are scattered in this and other states. But many were present with their friends, a crowd of twelve or fifteen hundred. Prayer was offered by Eld. Thos. Edwards and then the minutes of the two preceding meetings were read and approved. John Garland Waggoner delivered an address of about thirty minutes on family traits, history and the country's progress, closing with some thoughts on the growing influence of religious principles in the world. After the appointment of a committee on nomination of officers, consisting of Messrs. Gilbert Waggoner, F. M. Waggoner, Robert Waggoner and Thos. Edwards, the

meeting adjourned for dinner and sociability. Those two hours were among the most pleasant hours of the day. About 2:30 P. M. the people reassembled, when Hon. Chas. Voris, of Windsor, was called and responded in a ten minutes speech making many happy hits and good suggestions on our country's blessing and prosperity. He was followed by Dr. B. B. Everett, a friend and acquaintance of the Waggoners for forty years. He is nearly seventy-five years old and very feeble, but it seemed to cheer and enliven him to meet his many old friends. His talk was full of kind words and good wishes to the family and friends. Eld. P. P. Warren responded to a call from the chairman to speak, which he did in a very happy manner, referring to Waggoners tenacity to what they regarded as religious truth, with many other things of interest. Mr. Donta Patterson was called out and made some very feeling remarks about his enjoyment of such reunions and especially of this one with a people with whom he had been more or less associated for many years, closing by showing the great progress the country had made, especially in temperance reform. The committee on Nominations reported as follows: for Pres. Dr. E. E. Waggoner, of Shelbyville, Vice Pres., Mr. Robert Waggoner, of Gays; Secretary, Eld. J. G. Waggoner, of Greencastle, Ind. The Historical Committee consists of Messrs. Thomas Edwards, Dallas, Ira, George R., Joseph H., Wm. B., Henry Waggoner, John Walker, Mrs. Lizzie Aldridge and Miss Emsey Hardin. The executive committee consists of F. M. Martin, T. M. L. and Hezekiah Waggoner and W. A. Harrison. The report was approved.

In conclusion J. G. Waggoner made a short speech in behalf of Uncle Gilbert emphasizing the counsels as from the oldest Waggoner among us, referring to the duties of industry, honesty, sobriety and truthfulness as indispensable qualities to be a true Waggoner, also the duties to neighbors, to the sick and to the orphans. Of parents to children and children to parents, husbands to wives and wives to husbands, closing with an appeal to be true to God under whose protection and help so many blessings and so much property has attended our happy family. After singing "Sweet by and by" the assembly was dismissed with a short prayer commending all to the care of God for another year."

The Reunion of 1884 was held on Uncle Glibert Waggoner's farm. In the absence of the Secretary, Elder Thomas Edwards, prepared the minutes from which we gather facts as follows: "The day was beautiful and pleasant and at an early hour the people from different directions began to gather. Several hundred were present by eleven A. M., when the meeting was called to order by Pres. Dr. E. E. Waggoner,

of Shelbyville. After a song, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," Eld. Thomas Mathers led in prayer. Eld. Thomas Edwards gave a brief address and submitted his obituary report. Those of our family who have recently passed away are: Mrs. Sarah E. Waggoner (wife of John Garland Waggoner), daughter of Mr. Hiram Cox, born Feb. 7, 1849, and died in Pittsfield, Illinois, June 14, 1884. Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder, daughter of Gilbert Waggoner, died at her home in Butler County, Kansas, May 21, 1884. She was born March 20, 1840, and married William Snyder November 15, 1860. After a song of sympathy, the meeting was adjourned for dinner. During the intermission an artist photographed a group of about all the Waggoners present. At two P. M. the crowd was called together by music, by the Sullivan String Band. Short speeches were made by Hon. Walter Headen of Shelbyville, Hon. Charles Voris of Windsor, Elder G. W. Dolby of Bruce and Mrs. Lizzie Aldridge of Windsor. Music by the band and songs by the assembly were interspersed through the exercises. By motion the past officers were reelected, as follows: Dr. E. E. Waggoner, President, Robert Waggoner, Vice President and J. G. Waggoner, Secretary. One of the most pleasant Reunions we have ever had closed with some timely suggestions by Dr. E. E. Waggoner, a song by the assembly and prayer by Eld. Thomas Edwards."

The Reunion of 1885 was held on Uncle Gilbert's farm, with a great crowd of people, a delightful day of good fellowship and able addresses. The Secretary spoke from the following Notes: "History and characteristics of our family; our religion and industry; our country, its liberty, resources, education and religion; dangers, conflicts of capital and labor, city life and lawlessness, cheapness of human life and intemperance; Christianity, the remedy for all

our ills. He also spoke briefly in behalf of Uncle Gilbert, the patriarch of our family, 87 years old and a Christian for 60 years. He spoke of the growing faith, the longing for the house over there, of the friendships of life and the happy manner of closing our long journey.

The Reunion of 1886 is thus presented in the Shelbyville Democrat: (Issue of September 2, 1886)

"The Waggoner family held their 6th annual reunion in the grove near the Waggoner church last Saturday. There was probably the largest crowd ever present at one of these gatherings and it was an occasion of appropriate respect to the oldest family in the oldest settled township in the county. Though the Whitleys and other transient settlers arrived in this part of the county in 1826-27, the Waggoners were the first permanent settlers of the township and they came before any settlements were made in other parts of the county. The first members of the family arrived in March, 1828, about eight months before the Bones and Kennedys settled in Marrowbone township which is next to Whitley in the order of settlements. It being the oldest family in the county and very few of its members having moved away, while it is related by marriage with all the other old families, make these reunions very large affairs. There is said to be about four hundred descendants of Isaac Waggoner now living, most of whom reside in the county.....

We are sorry that we have not space to mention other members of this large family but we have not: and besides it would be giving a history of nearly every other family in the township for none have lived for any considerable time here without having one or more members married into the numerous crowd of Isaac Waggoner's descendants. Thus the Martins are about half Waggoners and it is difficult to always distinguish between the grandchildren of Philip Armantrout and those of George Waggoner. The same is true in a less degree, however, of other families. Thus, Elder Thomas Edwards, Elder J. G. Waggoner, Miss Elvira Edwards, Mrs. David Harbaugh, Mrs. Robert Armantrout, Mrs. Burt Hunt, Miss Malinda Smith, James and William Smith, Mrs. W. T. Martin, Mrs. Joseph Munson, Mrs. John Jones, Mrs. Samuel Brown, Marion, Herschel, Fragler, John and Charley Philips, Mrs. Dock Garrett, and Wesley, Allen, Posey and Frank Harrison are some of the grandchildren of John Waggoner or, as he was

familiarly known, Uncle Jackie Waggoner. It will be observed that, with one exception, none of these bear the Waggoner name. The list would be doubled were it made complete and we only name these to give some idea of the extent of the family and its relations and show why the reunion we are about to describe should be such an immense affair.

A large crowd gathered on the grounds early in the day. After devotional exercises Elder Thomas Edwards made a few remarks and was followed by Mr. W. H. Garrett who in a very entertaining speech portrayed the advancements made in the industries and all other departments since 1827 when the Waggoners drove from North Carolina to what is now Whitley Township, Moultrie County, Illinois. Elder G. W. Dalby made a short but characteristic speech full of warmth and earnestness. An adjournment for dinner was then ordered.

At two o'clock the crowd again gathered around the stand and were addressed by Hon. Chas. Voris of Windsor who was followed by Mayor W. H. Shinn of Sullivan. Both were very good speeches and were well received. Mr. Shinn said that he could not see why he had been asked to speak unless the committee wanted a variety and had chosen Mr. Garrett to represent the farmers, Rev. Dalby to give the occasion a religious aspect, himself to represent the legal fraternity and for fear something would be wanting, had selected Ex-Senator Voris who was an all purpose horse, perfectly at home in a circus or a prayer meeting, and who suited equally well in a greenback caucus, a republican convention or a democratic mass meeting. After Mayor Shinn's speech other short speeches were made, some general business was attended to and the meeting adjourned.

It was a very pleasant and profitable day to all present. One of the most enjoyable features of the program was the music, both vocal and instrumental. The crowd was estimated all the way from one to two thousand."

The Secretary did not get minutes of some interesting meetings between 1886 and 1897.

This clipping from a Sullivan newspaper is an account of the Reunion of 1897:

"The Waggoner reunion near the Baptist church that goes by that name was held yesterday and was attended by a very large crowd of people. Speeches were made by Mayor Brosam and J. T. Grider in the forenoon after which there was an adjournment for dinner. In the afternoon speeches were made by Elder Query of Indiana, Elder T. F. Weaver of Sullivan, Elder B. F. Peadro, Messrs. M. A. Mattox of

Sullivan, J. A. Waggoner of Whitley, L. H. Craig of Chicago and others. In addition to the speaking the crowd was entertained with good music, both vocal and instrumental. Measured by the pleasure and enjoyment, as well as the size of the crowd, this was one of the most successful of the annual reunions of this pioneer family. It has been sixty-nine years since the Waggoners came from North Carolina and settled on Whitley Creek. The Whitleys had come two years before and there were at that time two or three other families in what is now Moultrie County. But all of these earlier settlers were of a roving disposition and soon moved away leaving the Waggoners as the first permanent settlers of the county. Uncle Gilbert Waggoner is the only one yet living who was grown when he came from North Carolina. Uncle Alvin was then four or five years of age and there are one or two others yet living who were small children at the time this early settlement was made."

The last Reunion of which we have on account was held August 24, 1898. Alvin Waggoner, Jr., the Assistant Secretary, furnished the minutes from which we gather the following facts: There were present about three hundred Waggoners, besides a great many friends. Orations were delivered by Alvin Waggoner, Jr., on "The American Boy," by Rev. A. J. Hill on "The Flight of Years," Rev. A. E. Keller on "The Waggoner Family. The old officers were reelected.

The obituary report showed the recent death of William H., the son of George Waggoner. He was born 1828 and died September 2, 1897. Alvin Waggoner, Sr., was born September 29, 1820, and died April 9, 1898.

These were very happy, helpful, inspiring meetings, and did much to keep alive our family spirit and to inform our younger folks of the history and character of our people. For their influence and inspiration we thank our good Father and our loving people.

It may be of some interest to know how the announcements

of the Reunions were made. Besides notices in the various newspapers, a formal announcement was usually made. Here is what was on a dodger, 9 x 12, well spread out, announcing the 1890 Reunions:

"The Eleventh Annual Reunion of the Waggoner Family will be held in the grove of Gilbert Waggoner, near the Waggoner Church, Wednesday, September 24, 1890. Speeches will be made by Hon. John R. Eden, Judge James Hughes, Hon. T. N. Henry, S. W. Wright, Jr., Elder A. H. Harrold, Elder G. W. Dalby, Dr. E. R. Waggoner, W. H. Garrett and others. A good program in the way of amusements and music has been prepared. A cordial invitation is extended to every one to attend this Reunion. Bring your baskets well filled and enjoy a day with us."

CHAPTER XV

ISAAC WAGGONER'S DAUGHTERS

Unfortunately, our history of Isaac Waggoner's daughters is not as complete as that of his sons, but what data we have concerning the daughters will be presented first.

There were six daughters in all, namely, Nancy, Susan, Celia, Polly, Jemima and Emsey. We are unable to arrange them in the order of their ages, except that we know Emsey was the youngest, and was a single girl of approximately sixteen years of age when the family moved from North Carolina to Illinois. A study of Isaac Waggoner's family in 1790 (see Page 9) indicates that one of his daughters had been born at this time, but which one we do not know. In any event all of Isaac Waggoner's children were born in either South or North Carolina.

NANCY: Nancy married Mr. Dennis Carrol. They never came

to Illinois and seem never to have left North Carolina. Their descendants in 1880 seem to have been forty-five.

SUSAN: Susan married Mr. Robert Harding. They never came to Illinois, but made their home in Barrottsville, Dawson County, Georgia. She was a widow, still living in 1880, and carried on correspondence with her brother, Gilbert. She was the only living daughter of Isaac Waggoner at that time. Her descendants at that time were said to be 54.

CELIA: Celia married Mr. Elijah Walker. We seem to have no record whatever of the history of this branch of the family.

POLLY: Polly married Mr. Noah Webb in North Carolina and they had two children, Cynthia and Jemima, at the time they came to Illinois with the first caravan of Waggoners in 1827. They seem to have spent the first year in Illinois in the log cabin on the present Leggett farm, with Isaac Waggoner and the other pioneers, but the following year they settled in a small cabin, about 200 yards west of the present Whitfield church, on the west side of the road running north and south, and after a year or so they moved from this place. In all they see, to have raised a family of six or seven children. They worshipped at the Lynn Creek Church. They later moved to Osage County, Missouri, and it is said that they are all dead--that no descendants are living.

JEMIMA: Jemima married Mr. William Walker (a brother of Elijah Walker) in North Carolina, and they came to Illinois with the third group of Waggoners in 1830, settling on the farm known generations afterwards as the J. H. McCormic place, Section 11. They brought with them their children, Celia, Isaac (afterwards

first sheriff of Moultrie County) Nancy, John and Mart. Jemima was buried in the cemetery on Isaac Waggoner's land.

EMSEY: Married Gideon Edwards in Illinois in 1831, and they were the parents of two daughters, Elizabeth, who married Dr. Aldridge of Windsor, and Narcissa, who married a Mr. Tremble. Elizabeth Aldridge passed away October 18, 1922, at Bryan, Oklahoma, at the age of ninety years, the last grandchild of Isaac Waggoner, with the exception of Aunt Hannah Daugherty. Both daughters raised considerable families. Emsey died when her daughters were small and was buried in the Leggett graveyard. Her husband married a second and third wife, each of whom bore him children. Subsequently, he moved to Coles County, where he died in 1864. He filled several public offices, being County Judge of Coles County, Illinois, at the time of his death.

CHAPTER XVI

JOHN WAGGONER

(written especially by his grandson
and namesake, John Garland Waggoner)

John Waggoner, familiarly called "Jack," was the oldest son (except William who died in South Carolina at the age of seven years) of Isaac Waggoner.

Like many of the Waggoners, Grandfather was fortunate in securing a noble companion to be our grandmother. Emsey Padget, it is supposed, was born in South Carolina about 1790. Her father was John Padget, who, when an old man, was called "Grancer Padgett." His name appears in the 1790 census under

Cheraw District of South Carolina, in the northeast section of the state not far from the region in which great grandfather Isaac Waggoner resided at the time. At that time his family consisted of three sons under sixteen years of age and five females, not described. John Padget was a Baptist minister of considerable eminence. It is related that at the time of his marriage his father told him to come over and he would give him a plow-boy, but the son replied that if he would give him a horse he would come but that he could not accept a boy, because he believed slavery wrong. He never came to Illinois, but sometime after our people settled here, Mr. James Niles came from Carolina and reported that there was but one Scripture against Granger Padget, that is, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you." He also was a soldier of the Revolution, a fellow-soldier of great grandfather Isaac Waggoner.

It is not strange that the faith of grandmother Emsey Padget, the preacher's devoted daughter, like the faith of Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice, should rest like a holy benediction upon her children to the second and third generations. These seven of her descendants have devoted their lives to the ministry and missionary work of the Kingdom of God: - Henry Clay Waggoner, Thomas Edwards, Mary Edwards, Susan M. Menges, William H., Harvey G., and John G. Waggoner. Nearly all of her other offspring are devoted christians.

Grandmother is the only one of my ancestors whom I can remember. I was only five years old when she passed away (1849) at the old family home, and was buried in the Leggett Cemetery. Grand-

father John Waggoner died in 1844, and it is supposed he was also buried in this same graveyard.

My memory of grandmother is not very clear. She impressed me as being a fine-looking old lady. She wore a white cap and sat and sewed much of the time. She made a suit of jeans clothes for Mr. Dave Reed, a well-to-do farmer, who lived directly west some two miles.

Grandfather cleared the land and built him a home about one and a quarter miles directly east of his father's, the first house on the north side of the county road, after crossing Lynn Creek. The house was builded of small logs, perhaps ten inches in diameter at the larger end, and hewed a little to about six inches. The house of one room was about 18 feet wide and 20 feet long. The ceiling, if there had been any, was about eight or nine feet high. The joists were poles, on which some boards were laid which served as the resting place of such articles as were not in constant use. The cracks in the walls were stopped with chinks of wood and with mud plastered over the holes. The floor was of puncheons made of split logs. These were not fastened down, so that beneath them was a fine place to keep apples and potatoes for winter use. This was very impressive to a boy. The roof consisted of boards about two and a half feet long, resting on rafters which ran the other way from present custom and were weighted down by small logs laid upon them.

The fireplace was in the east end of the house, with dirt hearth and mud jambs about a foot thick and admitted a backlog about four feet long. The chimney at the base was a frame of split timbers and continued upward with split sticks plastered with mud.

About the last duty of the householder at night was to look up the chimney to see that it was not on fire. On the hearth and over the fire were cooked all the food for the family, large, or small. The utensils were few and simple, consisting of a long-handled frying pan, a skillet with cover in which to bake bread and a kettle to be suspended above the fire, or set on it in which to boil meat and vegetables. I was some twelve years old before I ever saw a stove, and it was some two years later when one came into our home. It was kind of a neighborhood curiosity, there being but one other in the range of my knowledge.

The two doors were made of split boards, nicely shaved, about six and a half feet long, and were hung with wooden hinges. They were fastened with a wooden latch placed on the inside. The latch was lifted from the outside, by pulling a string that had been fastened to the latch and passed through a hole to the outside. Thus the significance of the expression of welcome and hospitality, "The latch string is always on the outside."

Soon after grandmother's death, Uncle A. H. Edwards and family moved into this building, which was their home until 1855, when he built a new house just south of the old one. The old building was used for many years as a shop in which Uncle finished his leather, for he was a tanner. I was quite a lad when I helped tear down this memorable old building which was my childhood home, and where grandfather and grandmother rounded out their lives.

THE FAMILY

All grandfather's twelve children were born in North Carolina, except Aunt Matilda.

Aunt Rachel, the oldest child, married Harmon Smith and had considerable family before leaving North Carolina. They settled on a farm about a mile north of Uncle George Waggoner. Malinda, their oldest child, never married but lived to a good old age. She was kind and motherly to the younger children after her parents died and raised them to honorable manhood and womanhood. David Smith we know nothing about. Betty Smith married Mr. David Harbaugh. They became the parents of two children and made their home about a mile south of Sullivan. Killis Smith left home rather early in life and was a great wanderer and never married so far as we know. James Smith stayed in the old home and helped to raise his father's younger children. He finally married Miss Ruth Martin. They continued in the old home and became the parents of at least one child. William Smith married a Miss Holmes. They established their home north of the old family residence and were the parents of several children. Emsey Smith married Robert Armantrout and made their home near, what is now, Coles Station and raised a large family. Zuticia married George Lilly. They made their home about a mile north of the Graham Church, on the main road between Mattoon and Sullivan. They raised a considerable family. Rachel married Burl Hunt and they made their home some two miles northeast of the Whitley Creek Christian Church. They raised a family of three children, only one of whom, Frank Hunt, survives. Rachel is the only surviving child of Rachel and Harmon Smith at this writing (1923). On October 3, 1922, Rachel and her husband celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Burlington Hunt was eighty years old last May sixth, having been born in Kentucky

but living near Smysor Church since he was nine years old. For many years he was a member of the Baptist Church at Coles Station. He died December 24, 1922, and was buried at Smysor cemetery.

Uncle Asa Waggoner, the second child, died at the age of eighteen years.

Uncle Lisby Waggoner was the father of one son, Martin V. Waggoner. We called him "little Martin" on account of his size and to distinguish him from his uncle Martin. He was a soldier in the Civil War.

Celia Waggoner married a Mr. Price. They became the parents of William Price who was a brave soldier in our Civil War and fell on the battlefield. He and his cousin, Martin Waggoner, used to visit us when I was a small boy. They were fine young men. Their parents must have died when they were small, as I have no remembrance of them.

Aunt Leah married Mr. Jack Bateman. They moved in an early day to Van Zandt County, Texas. Posey Bateman, their oldest son, made quite a visit to our Whitley Creek people in 1886. He was rather a small man and resembled the Waggoners. Cousin Thomas Edwards says his talk resembled very much that of Luther Waggoner. He was quite gray and somewhat bald. From him, Cousin Thomas gathered some facts about our Texas relatives and wrote me as follows: "Four children of Aunt Leah Bateman are living, viz, Posey, married but no children, is a member of the Predestinarian Baptist Church. His postoffice is Ranger, Eastland County, Texas, Abram Bateman is married and has no children and belongs to the Christian Church. Mary

Daily has four or five children but her residence is unknown to Posey. Emsey Miller, a grass widow, has one daughter and lives near Posey.

Uncle Martin Waggoner's family is as follows: Matilday Roberts (dead) but left several children; Lisby Waggoner is living and has several children, two or three of whom are married. His post office is Will's point, Van Zandt County, Texas; William Waggoner (living) has several children and has the same post office; Margaret and Mauda, both dead, but left some married daughterⁿ. We are sorry not to know more of our Texas relatives.

Uncle William Waggoner was a rather small man, badly marked by smallpox. (He was one of the best-humored men I have ever known). He was married in what we call a runaway match to Nancy Walker. They raised a large family. I believe Luther is the oldest child. He married Miss Lizzie Whitfield, and they have raised quite a family, namely, Mary, Willis, William, Zachary and Nancy. Of time, Nancy married Henry M. Hagan, a former Ash Grove boy--now a prominent attorney in Chicago, and they have a son now attending school in the East and a son, Carl, deceased, buried at Ash Grove Cemetery. Luther and his wife are still living in Bruce, Illinois, he at the age of 86 and she at 87. Uncle William had three daughters, Malinda, Jane and Celia? and three sons, John T., William Edward and Henry Clay. John T. married Elizabeth Rutherford and they had three sons, Joseph H. of Sullivan, Alvin of Walla Walla, Washington and Luther Waggoner of Los Angeles. John T. Waggoner died years ago and is buried in Lynn Creek cemetery. John T's widow died November 28, 1922, aged 84 years. She had been a member of the Predestinarian Baptist Church since

1860. Henry Clay Waggoner was a Baptist preacher of considerable ability. Uncle William Waggoner and family kept the boarding house in Mattoon when his was about the only house and boarded the railroad men as they graded and laid the track for its first railroad. He was born in North Carolina in 1828 and died August 30, 1897, and is buried at Lynn Creek cemetery.

Aunt Sally married Davis Harrison. By a previous marriage to Miss Simms, daughter of Garland Simms and sister of my mother, he had two children. The elder, Edward Cornelius, married Rebecca Turner, daughter of John Turner, whose wife was sister to my own mother. Rebecca died recently and left no children. Edward now lives with an adopted daughter in San Antonio, Texas. James Harrison married Amanda Armantrout. Both are dead but left several children. Uncle Davis Harrison and Aunt Sally raised Edward and James and as the family lived near us, they were my most intimate playmates and companions when we were boys. Aunt Sally was the mother of six children, as follows: Wesley, Allen, Posey, Frank, Anna and Cynthia. These all married and most of them have families and are now quite scattered. Aunt Sally was rather tall, a devoted Baptist and a fond mother.

Edward Moberly Waggoner, my own dear father, was born in Rutherford County, North Carolina, February 7, 1817. Their home was just east of where the Graham Chapel now stands, about half way between Mattoon and Sullivan. He was about eleven years old when, he, with the second caravan of Waggoners, came to Illinois, and walked practically all the way. He was married in the spring of 1843 to Susan Adaline, daughter of Garland Simms, who came in an early day to Illinois from Owen County, Kentucky, and settled in the Graham

neighborhood. He and grandmother Simms, my father and mother and many others were buried a little southeast of the Chapel in a private cemetery on father's farm. The place is located by the little mounds and sunken places, but none has ever been able to help me locate the special graves of any of them.

On April 22, 1844, their first and only child was born. They called him John Garland, after the names of his two grandfathers. The sills of the old home where I was born were in place on the south side of the road a little east of the Graham Chapel and nearly opposite the graveyard, when I can first remember visiting the place. The building seems to have been one-story, about sixteen by eighteen feet and was probably divided into two rooms. After the death of my sainted mother on May 28, 1845, my beloved Aunt Nancy took me in her lap on horseback to her mother's home where love, care and training were given with affectionate attention. My father lingered about his old lonely home until March 11, 1846, when he, too, passed away. When my aunt was married she kept me with her and in her own home, where I had the blessings as of an own mother and after she had children of her own. I lost no place of affection and seemed beloved by her, her husband and children as well as if I had been her own son. I entered school at seven and each winter had such school advantages as the country community afforded, and later spent three months in Mount Zion Seminary, near Decatur, and later four years in Eureka College, graduating in 1872. In the meantime, I taught several schools, obeyed the Gospel at fifteen, was licensed to preach at twenty,

by the Church of Christ at Princeton at twenty-three, preached my first sermon in March, 1865, at the Panther Creek Church, near Eureka. Preached at Peoria, Forrest and several other places while in college, held pastorates in Princeton, Harristown, Shelbyville, Greencastle, Indiana, Pitterfield and Eureka, Illinois, Buffalo, New York, Canton and Lanark, Illinois. Have been twice married, first to Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Hiram Cox of Mattoon. She was born February 7, 1849, and died in Pittsfield June 14, 1884. We were the parents of five children, the youngest of whom, Sarah Elizabeth, Jr., died when one and a half years old.

William Hiram, our oldest son, has never married. After graduating from Eureka College and from the Divinity School of Yale University, he devoted himself to holding missionary institutes, which he has continued to do for more than twenty-five years. Edward Franklin, our second son, after finishing high school and taking considerable work in Eureka College, decided on a business career. After working for the McCormick Harvesting Company of Chicago a number of years, he was sent West to superintend the business of the International Harvester Company of Washington and part of Montana. Later he became President of the Spokane Fuel and Ice Company, which position he held until the time of his death in Spokane, May 26, 1920. He married Miss Nellie McKibbon of Chicago February 16, 1898. She is a noble woman and was a devoted wife. To them were born a daughter, Margaret, and a son, Edward Franklin, who with their faithful mother still live in Spokane, Washington.

We asked the Lord for a son whom we might train for His service and Harvey Garland was given us, being born October 16,

1874. He completed his high school work and graduated from Eureka College, was ordained to the Christian ministry and served as pastor of the churches at Mt. Morris, Thompson, Pleasant Plains, Hamilton and Macomb in Illinois, and at Allerton, Iowa, and Memphis, Missouri. He passed away at Dixon, Illinois, in his third year of pastorate there, June 1, 1922. After twenty-five years of happy, useful service he went back to our Father's house. His sermons were Biblical, earnest, encouraging and practical. His work was constructive, permanent, well-organized and aggressive. All departments of the church had his careful study, prayers and help. The young, the old, the sick, the poor and infirm--all had his careful attention. The larger interests of the Kingdom of God were included in his broad vision. He was a leader and superintendent of the Intermediate department of the Union Sunday School Association of Illinois for some years. He faithfully attended the convetions of the church, both local and international. He led the churches which he served to contribute liberally to the National Benevolent Association, Home and Foreign Missions, and our Colleges. He married Jennie Daisey Corps, December 29, 1897. She was a most devoted, helpful and loving companion in all his work. They were the parents of six children. The oldest, Mary Daisy, graduated from Eureka College and married Mr. Z. Ray Reedy who is in his third year as Superintendent of the public schools of Hamilton, where she is also a teacher. The other children are John Garland, Jr., who finished high school and entered Eureka College this fall; Carol D., Wilma Sue, Phyllis G. and Shirley, who are doing good work in the grades.

Susan Mathena, was born in Harristown, Illinois, August

1, 1877. After finishing high school she graduated from Eureka College and became the wife of Mr. Melvin Menges, October 27, 1897. Mr. Menges had graduated the previous year from Eureka College, was a promising young minister of the Church of Christ, and when married was preaching for the church at Stanford, Illinois. After some two years they were called by the Christian Foreign Missionary Society to go as missionaries to Cuba. They went and stayed about fourteen years and did a fine constructive work both at Havana and Matanzas, but were forced by health conditions to return to the States. He first took the pastorate of the church at Zamoine, Pennsylvania, and is now the pastor of the church at Jennings, Louisiana. They are the parents of two sons, Paul Stanford and Hugh Waggoner Menges.

My second marriage was to Miss Ann Augusta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fouke of Shelbyville, Illinois, January 28, 1886. She at once entered wholeheartedly into my work as pastor of the large Eureka church to which I had been called recently. Her domestic qualities were unexcelled, and her motherly love, care and help to my children is beyond my expression of gratitude. Few men, if any, have been so blessed in happy and holy companions as I. Truly they were gifts from the Lord and I praise Him for them.

Aunt Nancy Moberly Waggoner, was born in Rutherford County, North Carolina, April 13, 1821, and was the last remaining of the twelve children of John and Emsey Padget Waggoner. She came to Illinois when a child of seven or eight years, walking most of the hundreds of miles to the West, where she did her part in establishing a home for the family. She was married to Alexander H. Edwards, a well-educated Christian gentleman, recently from Barren

County, Kentucky, on June 1, 1847. They became the parents of six children, only two of whom lived to mature years. Thomas Edwards, the oldest child, was born in 1849. He had a great thirst for learning and eagerly read and appropriated the instruction from such books as were in his reach in that early day. He grew upon his father's little farm and helped in the tanyard with his father until grown. He taught school awhile, then entered the ministry, serving as efficient pastor of the churches at Shelbyville, Tuscola and Mackinaw in Illinois and in Gilroy, California. He was married early to Miss Mary Martin, a most estimable young lady, living a few miles east of Mattoon. They were the parents of one daughter, Mary, but the loving mother passed away when Mary was a small child. But her father kept her with him. His father died August 29, 1881, after which Aunt Nancy made her home with Thomas. Miss Elvira Edwards is the other living child of Aunt Nancy. She became a young lady of most excellent qualities, both natural and acquired. She obeyed the gospel in early life and was a most excellent Bible school teacher and an enthusiastic friend and worker for missions. She has been an important factor in her brother's home, ever since she entered it. She has been and still is a teacher among the Chinese of San Francisco, California.

While Cousin Thomas was preaching at Tuscola, his mother was declining in health and after about two years of patiently enduring affliction, she entered into the rest prepared for the people of God, on the Lord's evening August 11, 1889. She was full of faith, gentle devotion, of a quiet, retiring disposition given to hospitality and of generous feeling and helpfulness to the poor. I write of her as of my own mother for such she was to me. Her memory will always be

precious to me, nor can I ever be too grateful for her love and care. She rests beside her faithful and loving husband in the old Snysor Church graveyard. At this church thirty-five years before her death she accepted the Christ whom she faithfully served.

Sometime after Aunt Nancy's death, Thomas, Elvira and Mary went to California and after several years of service for the church at Gilroy, they moved to San Francisco, where they still live. They are all deeply interested in the Chinese of the city.

Through the support of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, and independently, they are devoting themselves without reserve to the spiritual uplift and education of these people.

John Waggoner, who was the babe when the Waggoners came to Illinois, died a short while after they arrived in the new country.

Matilda, the youngest of the twelve children of John and Emsey Padget Waggoner, was born in the old family home on Lynn Creek about 1830. She was married to Henderson P. Phillips who had recently come from Tennessee, and they became the parents of several children. I have not all their names, and am sorry that I do not know more about the later history of the family. Janie was the oldest child and married Mr. Joe Munson. They had considerable family. Joh, the second child, died recently in Texas. Phiena, Rusia, Marion, Charles and Hershah were other children, and possibly there were others. H. P. Phillips was born in Tennessee December 1, 1825, and died March 8, 1881.

Chapter XVII

ISAAC WAGGONER, JR.

Isaac, Jr., the third son of Isaac, Sr., was reared in the Carolinas, and married Miss Nancy Smith. He, his wife, and their eight children, Eda, Arina, Patsy, Liza, Dolphus, Hazel, Anonymous and James S. came to Illinois in 1828 with the second caravan of Waggoners. Isaac, Jr., was a Baptist and worshipped at the Lynn Creek Church. He made his home about three miles south of Sullivan. As was the case with all his brothers, except George, Isaac, Jr., was a Democrat in politics. He died July 18, 1854, and was buried in the Lynn Creek graveyard. One of the first marriages recorded in what is now Sullivan Township, Moultrie County, was that of Dolphus Waggoner, son of Isaac, Jr., and Miss Warnack in 1833. All of Isaac, Jr.'s., descendants died or moved away, and by 1880 none were left in Moultrie County.

Chapter XVIII

GEORGE WAGGONER

(written especially by his great
grandson, Clem Morton Boling)

George Waggoner, the fourth son of Isaac and Emsey Holeyfield Waggoner, was born December 12, 1794. The exact place of his birth is not known. His father's family lived in Chester County, South Carolina, at the time of the United States Census of 1790, and in Rutherford County, North Carolina, at the time of the 1800 Census. It has not been definitely established in what year Isaac Waggoner and family moved to North Carolina.

In any event, the larger part of George Waggoner's youth was passed in North Carolina, and on July 8, 1819, he married Miss Bethany Haney. Little seems to be known of the Haney family, except that, according to the Census of 1790, there were four Haney families residing in North Carolina, but none in the counties immediately adjoining Rutherford County. Bethany Haney was born July 8, 1803, and hence was married on her sixteenth birthday. Aunt Hannah Daugherty, the only surviving child of George and Bethany Haney Waggoner, says of her mother, "She was a noble woman in every respect. I can well remember her kind and sympathetic ways. She was always encouraging in her family, enduring the hardships of a new country with fortitude, and in sickness and distress was never found wanting." She was a Baptist, and worshipped regularly at the Lynn Creek Church, the church of the early Waggoners in Illinois, until the time of her death, October 20, 1854.

George and Bethany Haney Waggoner were the parents of twelve children, namely, Alvin (1820), Robert (1822), Celia (1824),

Sally (1826), William H. (1829), Isaac (1831), Elizabeth (1833),
Isaiah (1835), Heseekiah (1838), Narcissa (1840), Hannah (1842)
and Ira (1845).

The first four of these children were born in Rutherford County, North Carolina, and made the trip to Illinois with the first caravan of Waggoners in 1827, as related elsewhere. In this connection, it should be noted that George was the only one of Isaac Waggoner's sons who originally favored moving from North Carolina to Illinois.

Shortly after their arrival in Illinois, great grandfather George Waggoner bought land in what is now Section 11 of Whitley Township, Moultrie County, approximately four miles east of the settlement made by his father. Here he immediately constructed the log cabin, one room of which is standing on the old farm to this day. This old house will soon be a hundred years old, and is one of the very oldest buildings in the country. The cabin consisted of two rooms, built of walnut logs, with walnut weatherboarding, with a double chimney in the middle and fireplaces in each room. The kitchen was a log building about twenty feet from the other house.

A few years later, great grandfather entered forty acres of land from the United States Government. When I was in the home of my uncle, Philip G. Waggoner, in Mattoon, Illinois, in August, 1922, I was shown the original land patent covering this particular forty acres of land, said patent being drawn in favor of George Waggoner, dated 1838, and signed by Martin Van Buren, then President of the United States. The United States Land Office where land in this part of the country was entered at that time was located at

Vandalia (then the capital of Illinois), and great grandfather went there on horseback to negotiate the entry. This was years before the first railroad was constructed in this territory, so no short trip was involved.

This Waggoner Forty is in a very historical part of Moultrie County. It was near here (in Section 12) at what has ever since been known as Whitley's Point that the first settlement was made by John Whitley in 1826, on the farm later known as the Mrs. Anna Edmunds farm. The first school in Moultrie County was taught by Samuel Anderson in 1828 near great grandfather's cabin in Section 11. The first post-office was established in a very early day at Whitley's Point in Section 12 at Daniel Ellington's store, about a half-mile from the George Waggoner homestead. Daniel Ellington was the first postmaster and mails were received once a week, on Saturdays. In 1855 this post office was moved to Summit, now Gays.

Aunt Hannah Daugherty gives this description of her father, George Waggoner: " He was an unusually healthy man, even in old age. He was of medium size. He was a very industrious man and withstood without complaint the difficulties and hardships of pioneer life. He was a member of the Baptist Church and worshipped at the Lynn Creek Church. I have attended services with him there many times. He was always interested in politics, but never held public office. He belonged to the Whig, later Republican, party. All of his brothers were Democrats. Some of the Presidents of the United States for whom he voted were William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant. He heard Abraham

Lincoln plead law in Sullivan in 1846 and attended the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Charleston on September 18, 1858. Father did not belong to any lodge or secret order. He did not use tobacco in any form. He did not have a large collection of books, but read a good deal for that day. Some of his books were

Pilgrim's Progress
 History of the New World
 History of Christ and the Apostles
 Watt's Hymn Book
 History of the Religious Denominations
 Family Bible dated 1829."

When great grandmother died October 20, 1854, she was buried in her present grave, but the Waggoner graveyard had not been established at that time. Great grandfather immediately took steps to lay out the cemetery and the graveyard was surveyed and laid out in the fall of 1854, and the deed for the land--about one acre--was recorded December 1, 1854. This burying ground was a part of the George Waggoner farm and is located approximately three miles north of Gays, Illinois. George Waggoner died June 10, 1875, at the age of eighty-one years, and is buried alongside his wife, both graves being marked by appropriate stones. Since that time, nine of their children have been buried in this cemetery. Several of the younger generations of Waggoners are also buried there, as are also a good many other people who are not members of the Waggoner family. Any one who wishes to be buried there may be, without cost for the ground, so I am informed. After the death of Aunt Sally, the last maiden daughter of George Waggoner, in 1916, the old homestead was sold to Uncle Philip Waggoner and the proceeds divided amongst two score or more heirs. The family then decided it would be a good thing to donate money for the purpose of establishing the Waggoner

Cemetery Association. This was done in December, 1917, and the Association has a principal endowment of \$1000 at the present time, the income from which is used to keep up the cemetery, under direction of a Board of Trustees, of which Philip G. Waggoner is the present chairman.

It may be of interest to record that at the death of George Waggoner in 1875, he willed the old homestead of forty acres, together with another ten acres which he had acquired, described as laying along the highway of Ebenezer Noyes, to his maiden daughters, Celia, Narcissa and Sally.

Members of the family will also be interested to know that Aunt Hannah has a picture of great grandfather, George Waggoner.

CHILDREN OF GEORGE AND BETHANY H. WAGGONER

Alvin: Alvin, the oldest child, was born September 29, 1820, in Rutherford County, North Carolina, and was a lad of seven when his family migrated to Illinois. He married Mary A. Armantrout, (born in Moultrie County, Illinois, in 1833) daughter of Philip Armantrout, and they resided in Section 11 of Whitley Township. To them were born eight children, six of whom lived to maturity.

George D. Waggoner, oldest son of Alvin Waggoner, was born in Moultrie County November 3, 1853, and died at Hot Springs, South Dakota, August 14, 1913, from an operation for appendicitis. I am indebted to his widow, who was Ada Ferree of Knox County, Ohio, for the following sketch concerning their family:

"George D. Waggoner was the father of seven children, two dying in infancy. Alvin Waggoner, our oldest son, is a lawyer, with offices at Philip and Rapid City, South Dakota. He married Hattie Brown of Edwards

County, Illinois. Alvin was born November 23, 1879. They have one daughter, Ruth, nine years old. Owen Waggoner, second son of George D. Waggoner, was born April 13, 1883. He and his wife were killed in the tornado at Mattoon, Illinois, May 26, 1917. They left three little children, Francis, eight years old, Lucile, two years old and baby Alvin, five months old, Francis and Lucile make their home with their grandmother Waggoner. Baby Alvin's home is with his mother's sister, Maude Martin. Mary Waggoner, oldest daughter of George D. Waggoner was born August 31, 1885. She married Earl See March 18, 1908. He died March 16, 1918. One year after his death, she married Otis See, and they live in Moultrie County. Bessie Waggoner, daughter of George D. Waggoner was born January 18, 1888, and died at Philip, South Dakota, August 16, 1913. George D. Waggoner, Jr., son of George D. Waggoner, was born April 12, 1892, and died February 18, 1910 at Philip, South Dakota."

Cousin Anna Jones has contributed the following concerning the other five children of her father, Alvin Waggoner:

"Mrs. Anna Jones, born June 17, 1855. Was married to John R. Jones December 9, 1900. To this union no children were born. However, they reared an orphan, Chlorine Linzer, from a small child and sent her to Sullivan High School, from which she was graduated with the class of 1922, and is now at Lagrange Business College.

Bethany Waggoner was born December 19, 1858. Was married to Frank P. Davis, February 22, 1875. To this union were born six children, namely, Joseph, Charles M., Reuben, Daisy, Nellie and Russell.

Philip P. Waggoner was born September 29, 1864. Never married. Died December 4, 1896.

Jay Waggoner was born August 2, 1867. Was married to Nettie Osborn. To this union were born seven children, namely, Pearl, Ethel and Earl--the others dying in infancy.

Charles Cl Waggoner was born June 2, 1868. Was married to Cora Hagan November 27, 1915.

All six of these children were Republicans. They did not belong to any church but gave of their means to the church. George D. was the only one who held lodge membership. He was a member of the Odd Fellows."

Alvin Waggoner was an enterprising farmer and public-spirited man. He was a Republican, and enjoyed the distinction of

being the first supervisor ever elected by and for Whitley Township-- in the spring of 1867. He was not a member of any church but worshipped with the Baptists. He died April 9, 1899, and is buried at Waggoner Cemetery. His sickness was of short duration. He had a stroke of paralysis and only lived five days.

Robert: Robert Waggoner, my grandfather, was the second oldest child of George and Bethany Haney Waggoner, and was born in Rutherford County, North Carolina, October 18, 1822, and was a boy of five when the family left North Carolina on their long journey to Illinois. His Illinois home from the beginning was in the old homestead in Section 11, Whitley Township, Moultrie County. As a boy, he attended school, as did all his brothers and sisters, at a schoolhouse situated about a quarter of a mile north of the present location of the Waggoner Cemetery, on the north side of Whitley Creek. This school building is no longer in existence, its place having been taken by the Brick schoolhouse, some distance south of this site.

Grandfather was not a member of any church, but leaned to the Baptists and attended at Lynn Creek Church, and in later years, after his marriage, at the Waggoner Church, organized about 1880.

For seven successive summers, from 1842 to 1849, Grandfather and his older brother, Alvin, worked at the lead mines at Galena, Illinois, going in the spring and returning in the fall, spending the summers hauling lead from Galena to Chicago and Milwaukee with their yokes of oxen. Physically, Robert Waggoner was about five feet, eight inches tall and weighed about one hundred eighty pounds.

On January 15, 1851, Robert Waggoner married Margaret J. Armantrout, daughter of Philip Armantrout, a native of Virginia, who settled with his family in Section 9 of Whitley Township in 1831, after having lived for a few years in Green County, Ohio. Grandmother--"Granny", as she was affectionately known to her children and grandchildren--was born in Green County, Ohio, August 12, 1826, and was a child of five when her folks came to Illinois. Grandfather and Grandmother were married at the home of great grandfather Philip Armantrout in Section 9.

Soon after his marriage, Grandfather located on what has ever since been known as the Grandfather Robert Waggoner place in Section 15, on "The Avenue." "The Avenue" is an extension of Western Avenue, Mattoon, Illinois, and runs in an east to west direction for about ten miles--from Mattoon to the western edge of Moultrie County.

John Garland Waggoner has this to say about Grandmother: "She was a very large woman and a good cook, as I can personally testify, for I worked for Cousin Robert and lived in the family for some time." Grandmother was a member of the Waggoner (Primitive) Baptist Church and worshipped there regularly until the time of her death, January 11, 1903. She is buried at Waggoner cemetery.

Of Grandfather Robert Waggoner, John Garland Waggoner says, "Robert Waggoner was probably the most able financier of the Waggoner family." Certainly he was able to accumulate a great deal of land, and at the time of his death owned 580 acres of as good land as there was in Moultrie County. Among other things, Grandfather

was celebrated as a raiser of registered Poland-China hogs.

He was a Republican, but took no active part in politics. He had quite a few books, including "The Combined History of Shelby and Moultrie Counties, Illinois." Grandfather died March 21, 1888, of pneumonia, and is buried at Waggoner cemetery.

Robert and Margaret Armantrout Waggoner were the parents of seven children, namely, Alvin, Robert, George, Roxa, Elzy, Mary and Philip.

Alvin J., the oldest, was born January 1, 1852. On December 24, 1883, he married Miss Eliza S. Hostetter, a native of Whitley Township, born November 26, 1854. They had no children of their own, but adopted two orphans, Maude Merkle and Zion Buckalew. Maude Merkle married James Hostetter, and died November 9, 1912, at the age of about thirty-three years and was buried at Whitfield Cemetery. Mr. Buckalew is still living in Moultrie County and is about forty-three years old. Uncle Alvin--"Bub", as he was generally known--did not belong to any church but often attended the Separate Baptist Church. He was a Republican in politics and at different times held the offices of Road Commissioner and Assessor. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge. Uncle "Bub" died December 30, 1920, and is buried at Whitfield cemetery. He left a great deal of land and a large personal estate. His widow, Aunt Eliza, continues to reside in the old home place in Section 21, on "The Avenue."

Robert was the second oldest child of my grandfather. After his marriage, he lived for years across the road from Grandfather's place. At present he makes his home a few miles

south of Mattoon, Illinois. As a young man, Uncle Bob was quite active in the Masonic Lodge. In politics, he is a Republican. He is the father of seven children, namely, Walter, Fay, Frieda, Glen, Philip, Vivian and Blanche. Of these, Fay is married and has four children.

George, third child of Robert Waggoner, and namesake of his grandfather, was born April 8, 1855. He has never married, but after all his brothers and sisters married and left the old home, continued to live with and care for grandmother until she died in 1903. He still lives on and is the owner of the old Robert Waggoner farm. Uncle George is a very successful farmer. In politics, he is a Republican.

Roxa, the fourth child, was born February 2, 1857. In later life she was a member of the Smysor Christian Church but as a girl worshipped with her mother at the Waggoner Primitive Baptist Church. On October 23, 1879, Aunt Roxa married Isaac B. Hortenstine and they made their home in Section 15, on "The Avenue." Uncle Isaac died March 17, 1914 and Aunt Roxa died June 3, 1914, and they are buried at Smysor cemetery. They were the parents of two children, Margaret, born September 18, 1888, and Anna, born September 25, 1891. They attended Brick School. Margaret has never married but has made her home with her married sister on the old home place, two miles north of Gays, Illinois. Both are members of the Gays Christian Church. Anna married Henry C. Fleenor of Bristol, Virginia, on December 5, 1912. They have four children, Margaret, born October 25, 1913, Virginia and Genevieve, twins, born April 14, 1916, and Mary Ruth, born January 17, 1922.

Elsy, fifth child, was born June 2, 1860. In 1884 he

married Miss Minerva Osborne, and in 1885 their son, Robert, now of Mineral Wells, Texas, was born. Aunt Minerva died soon after this and was buried at Waggoner cemetery. In 1894 Uncle Elzy married Miss Mary Ella Pierce, and to this union one daughter, Coralie, was born, in 1895. Uncle Elzy made his home on the farm adjoining Grandfather Robert Waggoner's place on the north until about five years ago, at which time he moved near Coles Station, where he died May 27, 1922. He was a member of the Smysor Christian Church and was a Republican in politics. Aunt Mary continues to live on the farm near Coles Station. Cousin Coralie married a Mr. Wilbur and has two children, Robert and Thelma. Her address is Coles, Illinois. Cousin Robert was married in 1909.

Mary Jane, my mother (sixth child of Robert and Margaret Armantrout Waggoner) was born January 7, 1862, at the old Robert Waggoner place in Section 15 on "The Avenue." As a girl, she attended school, as did all her brothers and her sister, at Smysor school. This schoolhouse is located about a mile and a half north of the Robert Waggoner place. She worshipped at Lynn Creek Baptist Church with her mother until the Waggoner church was erected about 1880, at which time Grandmother transferred her membership there, and mother accompanied her.

On December 19, 1883, she was married to Morton Boling at the residence of Elder Thomas Edwards in Whitley. Morton Boling was born May 14, 1864, in Richland, Rush County, Indiana, the youngest child of Gordon and Sarah Trees Boling. In 1873 the Gordon Boling family migrated to Whitley Township, Moultrie County, Illinois, and settled on the farm now owned and occupied by S. A. Walker, on the northeast corner of Section 30, one-half mile south of Boling school-

house. (This schoolhouse is marked on the Moultrie County map inserted.) My great, great grandfather, Thomas Boling, served the Revolutionary War with the Virginia troops, and later moved to Kentucky, where his grandson, Gordon, was born.

Soon after their marriage mother and father settled on the forty-acre farm adjoining the Boling schoolground on the north and later added to this farm until they held in all 220 acres entirely surrounding the Boling schoolhouse. Their first house was a two-room frame building which father's older brother, John C. Boling, had built in 1872 on the site of the present dwellinghouse on the farm. In this house their five oldest children were born, and the new house was built in 1894, at which time the original house, to which one room had been added, was moved a half-quarter mile north of its first location.

My parents attended church at Waggoner Church for some time, but later worshipped at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Windsor. Neither mother nor father joined the Methodist church but supported it financially and in other ways. They always took a great interest in the Boling school and father was frequently one of the directors.

At the time of her marriage mother was small and weighed about one hundred and ten pounds but she was a rather large woman in later life and weighed one hundred eighty or ninety pounds. My first remembrance of her is as a boy of about five years old when my first teacher, Hugh Hilsaback, persuaded her to allow me to accompany him on a visit to the Boling school. Mother was always very active and industrious, and I do not recall that she was ever

bothered with sickness. She reared a large family, nine children, and had all the duties of the wife of a large farmer and stock-raiser. Our home seems always to have been the rendezvous of the neighbor's children, to the parents of whom mother was familiarly known as "Molly." She was of a very jovial disposition, but was very strict in her convictions of right and wrong. She took a rather active part in lodge affairs, being a member of the Rebekahs and Eastern Stars. Mother died of paralysis October 25, 1905, and is buried in the family lot in the Windsor cemetery. I was a boy of ten when mother passed away, but I can now appreciate distinctly how great was the loss of the family and community. Mother's funeral was perhaps the largest ever held from Boling community. There was a great gap in the family for years, but we continued to live on the farm until 1911, when the farm was sold and father retired and moved to Windsor, where he resides at the present time. Mother's last week of life formed an impression in my memory which has never left. She must have had some premonition of the stroke which was to end her life, as evidenced by her solicitude for the future welfare of her family. As a special instance of this, I recall particularly that she expressed the desire that nothing should be allowed to interfere with the school work of sister Ava, who had shown special aptitude in her studies. Her whole attitude was one of absolute fearlessness of death.

Nellie Mabel, oldest child of Morton and Mary Waggoner Boling, was born December 24, 1885. As a girl, she frequently accompanied her mother to the Waggoner Church and later became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Windsor, about 1904. On January 17, 1904, she was married to Eden Edwards of Boling school

district. After their marriage they made their home in Cripple Creek, Colorado, where Eden had employment with a gold mine company in some above-ground capacity. They returned to Illinois shortly after mother's death in 1905 and for a time lived with father's family. It was during this time that their oldest child, Mary Genevieve, was born--April 12, 1906. Later they lived in the little house to the north, where Vivian Louise was born November 8, 1908. They afterwards made their home in Windsor, where Anna Mabel was born January 5, 1911. All three daughters are members of the Methodist Church, and the two older ones are now in high school. Nellie was Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star lodge in Windsor during 1922 and is at present Treasurer of that society. She is also Secretary of the Ladies Aid and of her Sunday school class at the present time.

Roscoe Conkling, the second child, was born December 27, 1886. On December 28, 1905, he married Olive Leggett, daughter of Tommy Leggett, Sr., owner at that time of the farm on which great, great grandfather Isaac Waggoner settled in 1828. They have one son, Russell, born February 25, 1907, now a junior in the Windsor High School and the president of his class. Roscoe's made their home with the Leggett family for a few years and have since lived east of Windsor. Roscoe is a member of the Masonic Lodge, and is a very successful farmer. In appearance and characteristics he takes very much after the Waggoners.

Gordon, third child, was born December 27, 1887, and died at the age of 1 year and 27 days. He is buried at Windsor.

Doris Nancy, fourth child, was born February 2, 1890. On February 16, 1909, she married Harry Ramsey and they made their

home near Stewardson, Illinois. They had two children, Marie, born April 11, 1911, and Lester, born September 6, 1912. Mr. Ramsey died in 1912, and Doris soon after this made her home with father until July 3, 1914, when she married Richard Warner. They live east of Windsor and have four children, Roscoe, born November 4, 1916, Aileen, born August 5, 1918, Virginia, born August 25, 1920, and Richard, Jr., born January 4, 1923.

George Benton, fifth child, was born October 18, 1892. George stayed at home until about eighteen years of age and then went to South Dakota. After a year or so there, he returned to Illinois and has since been engaged in railroad work. He is now in the employ of the Santa Fe System and makes his headquarters at Chicago, his address being 2922 West 38 th Street, Chicago.

Clem Morton, born January 5, 1895. I attended Boling district school, as did all my brothers and sisters. Following this, I attended high school at Windsor and was graduated with the class of 1910-11. The next two years I spent at Sparks Business College, Shelbyville, Illinois, and was awarded first honors with the class of 1912-1913. Among other studies pursued at Sparks was that of Stenotypy, a system of phonetic writing accomplished by means of the Stenotype--a machine which was just making its appearance in the business world at that time. I happened to be one of the first three or four students to enroll for this work at Sparks--one of the pioneer schools in the Stenotype movement--and on the basis of progress made I was chosen by the St. Louis manager of the Stenotype Company to enter a training class at Indianapolis to prepare, with eight other students selected at large from the entire country, to participate in the international contest of the National Shorthand

Reporters Association to be held in August, 1914, at Atlantic City New Jersey. From that time up to August, 1914, I went through a course of training which was designed to fit us to compete in this great contest. The result of the contest was that I was awarded the world's championship medal by the National Shorthand Reporters Association for having written solid matter, from dictation, at the rate of 220 words a minute for five consecutive minutes with the greatest accuracy of any reporter competing. This medal I hold to this day, and the record has not been lowered. Following this contest I traveled in various territories of the Stenotype Company, covering in all about twenty-five states, visiting various educational institutions and generally promoting the interests of the company, and was finally made district manager of their New England territory in 1916, with offices in Boston. While I was in Boston I was a member of the Rotary Club, representing the Stenotype classification. I served with the Stenotype Company approximately five years, and in addition to my regular work with the agencies, the schools, took the opportunity of making verbatim reports of the public speeches of prominent men, including the following: Ex-Ambassador Gergard, General Leonard Wood, Ex-President Taft, W. J. Bryan, Wm. G. McAdoo, Josephus Daniels, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Ex-Gov. Allen, Ex-Senator Beveridge, Billy Sunday, Will Hays, Senator James Watson, Senator Willis, Ex-Gov. Whitman, Dr. Frank Crane, the late Mayor Mitchell of New York, Ex-Secretary Lansing, Bruce Barton and others.

On December 26, 1917, I was married in Shelbyville to Miss Augusta Christman, daughter of Mr. Ferdinand Christman. She is a graduate of the Shelbyville High School and was assistant librarian

at the time of our marriage. She is a member of the Methodist church. Our only child, Gordon Christman, was born July 20, 1920, in New York City.

Early in 1918 I resigned my position with the Stenotype Company to enroll for service in the World War, and the following is my war record as given in the volume entitled "Shelby County, Illinois, in the World War 1917-1918":

"Clem Morton Boling, Windsor, Illinois. Enrolled in U. S. Naval Reserve Force March 12, 1918, as yeoman first class; first assignment, reporter, General Court-Martial, Boston Navy Yard; made chief petty officer May 1, 1918; commissioned Ensign July 25th; under instruction United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, until September 15th; assigned to Naval Base, Montreal, Canada, until December 5th, helping fit out naval overseas transportation vessels; acted as Division Officer, Receiving Ship, Boston, during December and part of January, 1919; supply officer, Officer-Material School, Harvard University, from January 15th until discharge May 1, 1919."

In the summer of 1919 I made arrangements to report the Centenary celebration of the Methodist Episcopal Church denomination at Columbus, Ohio, and while there met Dr. S. Earl Taylor, the Director-General of that movement and who was later to become General Secretary of the Interchurch World Movement. He invited me to come to New York in the capacity of secretary to him, my chief work to be the reporting of the various meetings which they were to hold across the country. I spent almost a year at this, attending all of their meetings. It was in this connection that I experienced one of the most fascinating events of my career, that is, the privilege of being on the transcontinental tour which Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., conducted in the interests of the Interchurch World Movement, and which took us to most of the larger cities of the country. My work with the Interchurch World Movement

was finished in August, 1920, and I became Secretary to the President of the New York and Chicago Talking Machine Companies, the largest wholesale distributors in this country of Victrolas and Victor records. I am engaged in this work at the present time.

I am a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and am Progressive-Republican in politics.

Ava Catherine, seventh child of Morton and Mary Waggoner Boling, was born September 20, 1897. On November 11, 1916, she married Mr. Hallac Reynolds of Windsor, and they have one child, Catharine, born September 12, 1917. They now reside in Sullivan, Illinois.

Helen Easter, eighth child, was born April 15, 1900. She married Mr. Quimba Lemons in December, 1916, and they have two children, Mary Elizabeth, born in 1917, and William, born November 18, 1918. Mr. Lemons is a native of Ash Grove Township, Shelby County, and they live in Ash Grove at this time.

Clark, the ninth and youngest child of Morton and Mary Waggoner Boling, was born July 30, 1902. "Bud," as he is generally known to family and friends, lives at home with father in Windsor.

Philip G., youngest child of Robert and Margaret Armantrout Waggoner, was born August 2, 1865. On September 10, 1888, he married Miss Mellisa Fitzwater of Boling school district. With the exception of a few years spent in Iowa, they lived on the farm adjoining Grandfather Robert Waggoner's place on the east, until about two years ago, when they moved to Mattoon, Illinois, where they own property at 2701 Western Avenue. To them were born seven children: William G., born September 16, 1889. Member, Smysor

Christian Church. Served during the World War, as follows: Enlisted in the Navy May 1, 1917, as apprentice seaman and discharged as boatswain's mate, first class, September 25, 1919, having seen service on USS Antigone, Buitensorg, Princess Matokita and Leviathan. At present he is in business in Colorado; Edna L., born March 12, 1891. Member Christian Church. Married Ota D. Curry November 12, 1916. Mr. Curry enlisted for service in the World War September 21, 1917, and arrived in France July 6, 1918. He served valiantly through three of the battles of the World War, on the Marne, at St. Mihiel and Argonne and died of pneumonia at Coblenz December 23, 1918. His body was brought back to America several months later. Edna, his widow, has been a teacher in the Moultrie County schools and at present is taking special work at Illinois State Normal at Charleston; Helen L., born November 11, 1894. Member, Christian Church. Married Mr. C. Carnine of Whitley and they have two children, Edna C., and Clem. They make their home on Uncle Philip's home place on "The Avenue" and also farm the original Waggoner homestead forty, now owned by Uncle Philip. They are both active in the religious life of the community; Philip Bert, born March 13, 1897. At the age of fifteen he won a championship in connection with a contest in a Corngrower's Club for boys fostered by Congressman McKinley, the prize for which was a trip to Washington, D. C. Bert was brilliant in his studies and did good work at the Sullivan High School, graduating in 1919. He began his college work at the University of Illinois in the fall of 1919. He made splendid progress and gave every promise of an unusual career, when his health suddenly failed, forcing him to give up his school work, and after a few months illness he died, October 3, 1920;

George, deceased; Margaret, deceased; John G., born August, 19, 1905, John lives at home with his parents and is a student in the Mattoon High School. Physically, Uncle Philip is the largest of his family and weighs more than two hundred pounds.

CELIA: Celia, the third child of George and Bethany Hanes Waggoner, was born November 6, 1824, in Rutherford County, North Carolina, and was a child of three when the family migrated to Illinois. She became a member of the Lynn Creek Baptist Church at the age of twenty-one, but never married. She died April 26, 1882, at the old homestead, and was buried at Waggoner Cemetery.

SALLY: Sally, the fourth child, was born October 31, 1826, and was just a little over a year old when the family left North Carolina for Illinois. She lived on the old George Waggoner homestead in Section 11 for eighty years--from 1828 to 1908, and was never married. For the last twenty years of her life she was an invalid, being inflicted with rheumatism so severely that she could not walk a step, but she bore it with untiring patience, never complaining, and was tenderly cared for all those years by her sister, Narcissa, in a most endearing manner. Aunt Sally was blessed with wonderful eyesight and in her extreme old age was able to read the Bible and the daily papers without glasses. After Celia's death in 1882, Sally and Narcissa continued to live on the old homestead until 1908, at which time Narcissa's health failed and it became necessary for them to go to their sister Hannah's to live. Sally died December 11, 1916, at the age of ninety years, the last of the first group of Waggoners which left North Carolina in 1827, and was buried at Waggoner cemetery.

WILLIAM H: William, the fifth child, was born in Illinois March 12, 1829. He married Miss Jane Little, daughter of Wright Little, one of the first settlers of Whitley Township. William was not a member of any church. In politics he was a Republican. He had only one child, who died years ago, and no descendants are left. He died September 2, 1897, and was buried at Snaysor cemetery.

ISAAC: Isaac, the sixth child, was born March 19, 1831. He married Miss Elizabeth Robison and to them were born seven children.

Zion Waggoner
 George Waggoner
 Rufus Waggoner
 Martha Thomas (deceased)
 Sarah Yocum (deceased)
 Lincoln Waggoner (deceased)
 Ira Waggoner (deceased)

Isaac was a member of the Lynn Creek Baptist Church and was a Republican. He died November 13, 1905, and was buried at Waggoner cemetery.

ELIZABETH: Elizabeth, the seventh child, was born June 4, 1833. She married John D. Daugherty, a native of Shenandoah County, Virginia, and they lived in East Nelson Township, Moultrie County. They were the parents of one child, Mrs. Anna Robinson, now living at Lonepine, Montana. Aunt Elizabeth was a member of the Baptist Church. She died November 25, 1889, and is buried at Waggoner cemetery.

ISAIAH: Isaiah, the eighth child, was born August 17, 1835. He married Miss Phoebe Martin and they were the parents of seven children: Reason, Joseph, Grace (Hansy), Bethany (Davis),

Hannah (Clapp), Simeon and Malden. Uncle Isaiah united with the Lynn Creek Baptist Church in 1865 and with the same denomination in Saline County, Nebraska, whither the family had moved about 1870, living for years at Clarks, Nebraska. He was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1873 and achieved a very successful ministry. He visited Illinois in 1882 and while there preached in several Baptist churches in the Moultrie County region. In politics, he was a Democrat, the only one of George Waggoner's sons being so affiliated. He died February 22, 1916, and is buried at Polk Cemetery, Polk County, Nebraska.

HEZEKIAH: Hezekiah, the ninth child, was born June 5, 1839. He married Miss Cornelia Bullock, a native of New York, and they became the parents of seven children: (1) Milton, who has two daughters, Mrs. Edna Van Middlesworth of Gordon, Kansas, and Inez Jane, at home in Gays, and two grandsons, by his daughter Edna. Milton's wife, Mary Elisa Waggoner, a native of Grayson County, Kentucky, died December 6, 1922, at the family home in Gays, at the age of sixty-one; (2) Newton; (3) Richard, who has two children, Emily and Robert; (4) Ruth and (5) Xantippe, both of whom live with their mother on their father's old home farm in Section 23, near Gays, Illinois; (6) Mrs. Quincy Armantrout, who has two boys, Myron and Jesse, and (7) Mrs. Frances Birtle of Cisco, Illinois, who has two boys. The first six children of Uncle "Xie" live in the vicinity of Gays and not far from their old home. Hezekiah died December 27, 1910, and is buried at Waggoner cemetery.

NARCISSA: Narcissa, the tenth child, was born April 21, 1840. She was never married. She worshipped with the Baptists. She lived with her sister, Sally, at the old homestead until 1908, at

which time her health failed and they went to live with their sister, Hannah, near Sullivan, where she died February 19, 1911. She is buried at Waggoner cemetery.

HANNAH: Hannah, the eleventh child, was born November 28, 1842. She has always worshipped with the Baptists. She says of her childhood, "In our home no cards or dancing were ever allowed. It was looked on as not creditable, in those days, in our home." On December 7, 1871, she married Mr. Thomas Daugherty, and to them were born three children: Laban, born December 5, 1872, George, born June 29, 1874, and Mary, born May 1, 1880. In 1885 they moved to their present farm in East Nelson Township, Moultrie County, on the same premises that William Purvis settled on in 1830. Mr. Daugherty was a Democrat and held various Township and school offices. He died March 10, 1888. Aunt Hannah's sons are farmers and stock-raisers, and George A. served one term as County Treasurer in 1912-1914. They are Democrats. All three of Aunt Hannah's children are church members, the family being divided in its allegiance to the Baptist and Christian denominations.

Aunt Hannah is the only living grandchild of Isaac Waggoner, the Revolutionary War soldier, and is truly a marvelous link with the past. She is more than eighty years of age, but her faculties are as alert and her intellect is as clear as a person of a much younger age. She has a superb memory and her cooperation in the writing of this family history has been an inspiration. I have conferred with her personally and sent her numerous questionnaires and have always found her willing and eager to respond, and her contributions have been important indeed. In this connection, not a little credit is due her daughter, Cousin Mary, for having

helped her organize her data. Following the death of her sister, Sally, in 1916, most of her father's books and other personal possessions came to her from the old homestead. When I visited her in the summer of 1922 she very graciously made me a present of a book which had belonged to my great grandfather, and at the same time she gave my sister, Nellie, a towel which had belonged to Aunt Sally.

IRA: Ira, the youngest child of George and Bethany Haney Waggoner, was born January 21, 1845. He married Miss Cornelia Montaigne and made his home just east of the old homestead. He was not a member of any church, but was a Republican in politics. He raised a family of four children, as follows:

Mrs. Mary Mattox
 Mrs. Sally Layton
 Richard M. Waggoner
 Bert Waggoner (deceased)

Uncle Ira died December 9, 1891, and is buried at Waggoner cemetery.

In addition to their twelve children, Great grandfather and great grandmother raised an orphan boy, named Dallas Waggoner, to manhood, but whose history I can not give.

CHAPTER XIX AMOS WAGGONER

Amos, son of Isaac and Emsey Holeyfield Waggoner, was born in Rutherford County, North Carolina, October 11, 1804. He and Narcissa W. Jay were married March 28, 1822, and had three children, Martha J., Isaac V. and James M., at the time they left North Carolina in 1827 with the first caravan of Waggoners.

It does not seem to be known where Amos and family spent

the first few years in Illinois, but in 1834 he bought out the holdings of Samuel and Jonathan Anderson in Section 1, T. 12, R. 5, Moultrie County, (now known as the Misses Evans farm) one-half mile north of Bruce, and built a cabin across the little branch north of where the Evans' residence now stands. At the head of this little branch was a good spring of water, near the cabin, which is still there. Amos Waggoner built a horse mill at this place. Previous to this people in this neighborhood found the most convenient mill at Shelbyville, Illinois. In all Amos had twelve children, five of whom died in infancy.

Amos Waggoner was elected a justice of the peace and officiated as such at the first marriage in Moultrie County, April 12, 1843. The contracting parties were David Strain, a widower of Moultrie County, and Mrs. Sarah Ball, a widow of Shelby County. They came to Amos' cabin on horseback where the ceremony was performed, and afterward went away on their horses in a hand-gallop, a very happy couple.

Amos was also a farmer, stock-raiser and store keeper of a country store in Whitley Township; then with his family moved to Sullivan in the early part of 1850, where he kept a hotel, for two years, on the corner where the opera house burned a few years ago. He afterwards owned a wagon repair shop, and also made new wagons, in connection with Owen Seaney, who owned a blacksmith shop. Amos Waggoner died in Sullivan, January 23, 1854, at the age of fifty years. At the time of his death he was Associate County Judge. His widow survived until July 17, 1881, dying in Sullivan at the age of seventy-six years. Her son, Dr. E. E. Waggoner, later writing of

his mother's death says, "She was born May 7, 1805. She was a member of the Baptist Church. To her I am indebted mainly for whatever is in me that is good. But mother is gone--not dead, for the pure soul of a good, kind and loving Christian mother can never die--gone before to that Heavenly home, that House now made with hands. Thanks be to God for giving mother the power to swallow up death in victory. God bless the name of Mother."

Martha Jay Waggoner, oldest child of Amos, was born January 8, 1823, in North Carolina. She and Andrew Scott were married June 28, 1839. To them nine children were born, as follows: (1) William H. Scott, married and lived in Oregon. He had five children. (2) Narcissa A., single, and lived at home, with her mother. (3) Margaret June Scott, married James Gerking, and moved to Oregon, where she died, leaving two little girls. (4) Mary E. Scott, single, and lived with her mother. (5) Andrew E. D. Scott, lived in Sullivan and had two children. He was elected County Treasurer of Moultrie County in 1877 and served at least four years. (6) James A. Scott lived in Texas and it is thought was never married. (7) Louis K. Scott, lived in Sullivan with his mother and served one term as County Clerk. (8) Susan I. Scott, and (9) Fannie Jay Scott. Martha Jay Waggoner Scott was still living in 1913 in Long Beach, California, at the age of ninety-one years, and four of the above-mentioned children were living with her at the time.

Isaac V. Waggoner was born December 3, 1824. He married Sally A. Sims in February, 1843. To this union three daughters were born: Narcissa E., who married Thomas Reams, who had one daughter, who is now married and has one child; Martha Virginia Waggoner married Mr. Athison and had two children; Sally A. Waggoner, married.

Isaac V. Waggoner, having lost his first wife by death, was married to Sarah Bagby in 1847. To them were born six children, as follows: Amos, Polly, Caroline, Susan, John and Charlie. Isaac V. Waggoner was elected County Treasurer and Assessor of Moultrie County in 1855, and served until March, 1859, when he died in Sullivan, aged thirty-four years.

James M. Waggoner, son of Amos and Narcissa, was born March 29, 1827, and died July 20, 1830.

Elisha E. Waggoner was born May 3, 1829. He was an eminent physician, a graduate of the University of Missouri, class of 1855-56. He married Miss Amanda McHenry. They were the parents of three children, Charlie Jay, who died in childhood, Ella and Eddie. Dr. E. E. Waggoner was in several different kinds of public business, in Sullivan, including the newspaper business, and the practice of medicine. In 1858, he and his brother, J. H., purchased the Sullivan Express, which had been established the preceding year, and was the first paper published in Moultrie County. Later he moved to Shelbyville and again embarked in the newspaper business. An interesting account of his experience in this connection is given in the "History of Shelby County," edited by Mr. George D. Chafee, and published in 1910, as follows: "The Shelby County Independent began its career, August 6, 1874, with Dr. E. E. Waggoner and J. Wm. Lloyd as editors and proprietors. While the paper was called Independent, it was Democratic from the first.....Mr. Lloyd withdrew in July, 1875, and Dr. Waggoner took sole ownership and in October, 1876, he said: 'Believing that at least one of the three or four Democratic newspapers published in this county ought to bear the family name, we this week send this paper out to its many readers

and friends as the Shelbyville Democrat and hope they may be pleased with its new name.' Dr. Waggoner was a ready, lucid and forceful writer and regarded as one of the best political editors in the State, and made 'The Democrat' an influential political paper. In August, 1885, he sold to T. J. and Geo. R. Graybill." Dr. Waggoner also practiced medicine in Shelbyville, and was considered one of the leading physicians and surgeons in that city. He was Postmaster in Shelbyville under President Cleveland. He was an honored member of the Free Masons; a bright, intellectual man but too modest to pass for his full worth. He died in Shelbyville in the fall of 1900, aged seventy-two years. His widow was still living with her granddaughter, Mrs. Arthie Jay Bollinger, at Paso Robles, California, as late as 1913.

Joseph H. Waggoner, son of Amos and Narcissa, was born September 1, 1832, and married Laura Henry, daughter of Elder Bushrod W. Henry, one of the early ministers of the Christian Church, February 12, 1858. They had seven children, as follows: Oliver J., Walter B., Ione, Josie, William, Bushrod and Laura D. Joseph H. Waggoner was a member of the Christian Church and was always a Democrat. In 1858, he entered the newspaper business in Sullivan, with his brother E. E., and he was connected with the Sullivan Express until 1860. In 1861, he was elected Assessor and Treasurer of Moultrie County, and served two years. In 1864 he was elected Circuit Clerk, and was reelected for three terms, thus filling the office for sixteen years in succession. Following this, he was proprietor of an abstract office in Sullivan for years. In 1885 he and his family moved to California, settling in the city of Fresno, Fresno County, the grape and peach district of California, where he remained for a few years,

but wishing to reside on the ocean beach, he moved on to Santa Cruz, thinking the ocean breeze would be beneficial to his health, but it did not seem to benefit him, and he died at Santa Cruz in 1904, at seventy-two years. His widow and two married sons and families, and one single daughter, were residing in Los Angeles, California, as late as 1913. The sons O. J. and B. W. and the daughter were proprietors of a real estate and abstract office and were doing a prosperous business.

Folly A. Waggoner, daughter of Amos and Narcissa, was born November 8, 1834. She and Charles A. Carter were married April 10, 1855, and became the parents of three children: James W., Fannie and Nellie.

Francis M., son of Amos and Narcissa, was born February 12, 1837, according to his own statement, in his grandfather Isaac's home on the present Leggett farm, and was given his name by his oldest sister, Martha Jay, who at that time was about fifteen years old and was reading the life and history of General Francis Marion, of Revolutionary fame, which book her father had bought at Shelbyville for her. Francis M. married Emma Reams July 17, 1859, and they were the parents of two children: Effie, who married D. Wright and has one child, and little Eddie Elmer who died before he was two years old. Francis M. Waggoner wrote a series of articles for the Sullivan Progress in 1913, from which a great deal of the information concerning Amos Waggoner and his family has been taken.

Amos S., son of Amos and Narcissa Waggoner, was born February 20, 1839, and died the following November 24th.

Susan C., daughter of Amos and Narcissa Waggoner, was born March 17, 1841, and married William H. Phillips September 21,

1862. To them one child was born, Marin B. Phillips. Susan died April 8, 1873.

Martin V., son of Amos and Narcissa Waggoner, was born April 6, 1843, and died September 1, 1884.

Narcissa A., daughter of Amos and Narcissa Waggoner, was born May 24, 1845, and died July 2, 1845.

CHAPTER XX

ELISHA WAGGONER

Elisha Waggoner, son of Isaac Waggoner, was born in North Carolina and came to Illinois with the first caravan of Waggoners, a single man. He married Miss Elisabeth Kirk, and they probably continued to make their home on the present Leggett farm, with his father, Isaac. Following the death of Isaac, the farm seems to have passed to Elisha, and he is known to have lived on the farm for several years after his father's death. Members of the family now living can remember when Elisha Waggoner lived on the present Leggett farm. Elisha was a member of the Lynn Creek Baptist Church, and was a Democrat. He had four children, Celia, Lucinda, William and Riley. He later built himself a home just north of his brother Gilbert's farm in Section 6. He died in 1858 and was buried at Lynn Creek cemetery. Soon after his death, his family moved to Texas, or Missouri.

CHAPTER XXI

GILBERT WAGGONER

Gilbert Waggoner, son of Isaac and Emsey Holeyfield Waggoner, was born in Rutherford County, North Carolina, in 1808. He married Miss Martha (Patsy) Bailey, a native of Union County,

South Carolina, shortly before the first caravan of Waggoners started for Illinois in 1827, and the young couple were included in the group. It is said that Gilbert had a beautiful bay horse which he and his wife rode a part of the journey.

Gilbert and his wife built a cabin and settled on the premises near where the Whitfield residence is located, southwest of the present Whitfield Church, and resided there for several years, and then bought forty acres of land, in Section 6, from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, on the northeast corner of which is located the Waggoner Church, and raised a family of ten children: Green, Andrew J., George, John, Jackson, Henry S., Martin T., Mary, Emsey and Elizabeth J.

Jackson Waggoner, son of Gilbert and Patsy Waggoner, served in the Union Army in the Civil War, and was the father of four sons, William, Henry Scott and Roy, and five daughters, one of whom was named Lucy.

Martin Taylor Waggoner, son of Gilbert and known to his friends as "Bud", lived for years in Boling School district of Whitley Township and his daughters, Jerusha and Belle, attended school at Boling, both of them later becoming teachers of a very high order. Their father was a Democrat. He died several years ago and his widow and daughters reside in Sullivan.

Mary, daughter of Gilbert, married a Mr. Webb, and they were the parents of one child.

Elizabeth J., daughter of Gilbert, was born March 20, 1840, and married Mr. William Snyder November 15, 1860. They moved to Burton, Harvey County, Kansas, in 1871. Her children took the measles, and, as she had never had them, she wrote her parents that

she expected soon to take them and would not recover. Her prophecy proved all too true, and she passed away May 21, 1884. She and her husband were devoted members of the Christian Church. In her letter to her father she spoke with utmost faith and resignation, with the spirit, that, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me in that day." "She left her husband and five children to mourn the absence of a devoted wife and mother" so Mr. Snyder wrote after her departure. One of her sons, H. A. Snyder, was still living at Burton, Kansas, in 1890.

In the statistics of 1880, Gilbert and Patsy Waggoner had ten children, of whom eight were living, and fifty-eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, a total of seventy-five descendants. He was a Democrat in politics. He and his wife were staunch members of the Baptist church, and cheerfully furnished the land for the Church (Waggoner Primitive Church) erected on the northeast corner of their farm about 1880. He was a man of unbounded faith and a life in all good conscience before God. He was the last of Isaac Waggoner's children, unless possibly his sister, Susan Harding, outlived him, and died November 18, 1902, at the venerable age of ninety-four years and was buried at Lynn Creek cemetery. Aunt Patsy died in 1891 at the age of eighty-three years. Gilbert seems to have lived to the oldest age of any of the Waggoners.

CHAPTER XXII
JOEL WAGGONER

Joel Waggoner, son of Isaac and Emsey Holeyfield Waggoner, was born in North Carolina and married Harriett _____ . His

family came to Illinois with the second caravan of Waggoners. Joel's family consisted of Hans, George, Rufus and perhaps one other. Joel's wife was so dissatisfied in Illinois that they returned to North Carolina and later moved to Fancy Hill, Arkansas. At last word, he was said to have twenty-two descendants.

CONCLUDING WORDS

Our people were a people of faith. Not all, possibly, were obedient to the Christ, but if there were infidels in our family, we do not know of it. Our people were a law-abiding people. We have no spirit of boasting, and we may possibly have failed to honor our country's principles in every respect, and to have personally lived as we should, but if the jail door ever closed behind a Waggoner, we have no knowledge of it. We have tried to love one another and our neighbors, and to walk humbly with God. We implore His pardon of all our sins and His loving mercy upon all our weaknesses and negligence.

May we each live as to be able to say as our ancestor Isaac Waggoner said to his sons, Elisha and Gilbert, as they stood by his dying bed, "Give yourselves not trouble about my future condition."

We will become more and more scattered, but let us remember to look to the "Rock whence ye are hewn" and know that there comes a day of happy reunion.

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