

OGLE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GAZETTE

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Tom Lichty
Dawn Somers



OCHS ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday afternoon, August 24, 2025 was a beautifully warm, sunny day for the members of the Ogle County Historical Society to meet once again for the annual ice cream social held at the Oregon Depot. Our guest speaker was Sarah Flanagan whose presentation covered the history of the DAR in Rochelle, IL. Sarah explained all the different civic responsibilities the Daughters of the American Revolution have performed over the years and continue to support today.



Sarah and Arlene

After the presentation, members had a 'show and tell' of historical items they brought.



Joe and Dawn Somers arrived in their 1911 family car.



Tom Lichty displays one of the banners he had made to celebrate Monroe Center's 150th anniversary.

Mike Arians tells the history of the depot restoration.



Continued bottom of pg 5

Nicknames in Ogle County

Rob Urish grew up and went to school in Mt. Morris. He sent in an article he put together, talking about the nicknames of individuals in and around that area. Over the next few issues of the Gazette, we will present his research and ask that if you know examples of nicknames in your own location, please send their story to the OCHS email address listed on page 10. Here's the first part of Rob's article.

Nicknames. They're the playful shorthand of community memory—equal parts endearment, mischief, and local folklore. In Ogle County and beyond, these names stick more permanently than chewing gum on a shoe, often revealing more about a person's character and behavior than a census record ever could. Whether inherited on the football field, at the corner drug store, or whispered across backyard fences, nicknames connect generations with the shared language of humor and identity. In this article, we tip our hats to a few notable monikers and some of the stories behind them—proof that history isn't just found in archives, it's spoken in jest.

In many communities, the casual, public use of nicknames has declined since the mid-20th century. In the early and middle decades of the century, nicknames were woven into the social fabric—especially in small towns, schools, workplaces, and sports teams. They were usually bestowed spontaneously, without ceremony, and stuck for life.

Today, several factors have contributed to the decline in the appearance and use of nicknames:

- **Digital identities:** Online handles and usernames have replaced many informal nicknames, but they're often self-chosen and transient.
- **Cultural sensitivity:** Our society has a far greater awareness about the effects of teasing, labeling, and identity, which can make nickname-giving feel risky or inappropriate.
- **Mobility and anonymity:** As people move more frequently and communities become less tight-knit, the conditions for nickname culture—long-term familiarity and shared history—are less common.

Nonetheless, nicknames still thrive in close-knit groups: families, military units, sports teams, and certain professions.

Nicknames serve several useful social and psychological functions:

- **Affection and bonding:** They signal closeness and familiarity. A nickname says, "I know you well enough to call you something special."
- **Identity and storytelling:** Nicknames often encapsulate a story, trait, or moment—making them shorthand for a person's essence.
- **Humor and playfulness:** Many nicknames are born from inside jokes, quirks, or ironic contrasts.
- ♦ **Differentiation:** In communities with multiple people sharing the same name, nicknames help distinguish individuals (e.g., "Big Mike" vs. "Little Mike").

Beaky

The Carbaugh family came to Mount Morris in the early 1950s. Long before the proliferation of fast food, e.g., McDonald's, A&W's, Burger King's, et al, the Carbaugh family launched *Beaky's Barrel*, a root beer stand, at the corner of East Hitt Street and Carr Court in Mount Morris. (Now it is the location of the restaurant, *Across the Tracks*.) The name of the business arose from the rather prominent feature of the Carbaugh patriarch, John's, face. John's older son, Jack, inherited the same feature, and throughout his lifetime has carried the nickname "Beaky". A good student and respected member of the MMHS Class of 1962, Jack earned a degree from Western Illinois University and served as a lieutenant in an army artillery unit in Germany during the Vietnam War era. Following his discharge from the military service, he worked in real estate and machine tool business. Interestingly, the Carbaugh family launched another restaurant in the 1980s, at the corner of McKendrie Avenue and IL – 64 in Mount Morris, now known as *The Peppermill*.

Crow

Another nickname which arose from a person's physical features was bestowed on Gary Hollinger. Particularly in his youth, Gary had a rather pronounced pigeon-toed style of walking and running. "Crow Toes" was a very natural description of Gary's gait and from which the nickname "Crow" arose. Following his graduation from MMHS in 1959, Gary served a six month tour in the military and joined the Kable Printing Company in its Composition department. Ultimately Gary finished his working career in the Human Resources department and the Graphic Arts division at the Kable News Company.

Hoss

For the past century the Ballard family has sunk deep roots into the soil of Ogle County and in particular Mount Morris. A third generation member of the family, Michael W. was blessed with the nickname "Hoss" by his MMHS 1965 Classmates. At the time, Mike was a tall, well-muscled four sport athlete, although not as heavy, he reminded his Classmates of one of the main characters of the then popular TV series Bonanza, "Hoss" Cartwright, played by the actor, Dan Blocker. Following college at Arizona State University, during the Vietnam era, Hoss entered the military service where he fulfilled his passion for flying. Ballard spent his work life career with United Airlines. As Captain of a UAL 777, Hoss was returning to the United States from Europe on the morning of 9-11! Along with tens of other flights, he was routed to Gander airbase in Newfoundland. He truly lived the narrative of the stage play "Come From Away".

Pickett

Whenever Bill Wiggins spoke or smiled, he completely displayed his nickname, "Pickett". You see, his two front teeth, although not particularly prominent, had a pleasant but distinct, picket fence style gap between them, thus Bill was christened "Pickett". Gifted with a clever and expansive mind, Pickett was often the organizer of 'backyard wiffle ball tournaments' and pickup basketball games. Following several years as a computer operator at Kable News, Pickett immigrated to Virginia and spent his remaining work life in the printing business.

Some nicknames originate from unusual and memorable behavior, contractions of surnames and more

Goulet or Finney

(retired) Ogle County Board Chairman, John Finrock acquired the moniker "Goulet" from a short-lived and ill fated singing career. Factually, the singing only took place during lengthy periods of adolescent "driving around town" with his cronies. Usually his tune of choice was *Unchained Melody*, made famous by the male artist John Gary. As Gary was less well known than the renowned Robert Goulet, John's cronies thought "Goulet" the better label. Today, "Goulet" survives with John's more intimate acquaintances; but "Finney", an obvious contraction of his surname, is often used by his colleagues.

Skipper/Skip

(retired) local mortician, Louis George Finch III, has carried the nickname "Skipper" or "Skip" virtually his entire life! (Although briefly, during his Junior High days, Junior High teacher and coach, David L Rahn tested the nickname "Digger" in recognition of Skip's father's and grandfather's mortuary vocations at the time.) At a very early age, not much more than a toddler, young Finch was often seen skipping from his home to the family mortuary on East Center Street in Mt. Morris. Neighbors observed and remarked about his happy-go-lucky gait and "Skipper" or "Skip" has stuck!

Lip

Bob Zoeller acquired the nickname "Lip" because of his quick wit, especially on the basketball court. Never at a loss for words, Lip was spontaneous with a witty retort to any player's comment, friend or foe alike. A skilled and deceptive passer with a remarkable 'vertical', Lip was often the first man chosen, as teams were being decided.

(continued next quarter in 2026)

Generations of Doctors.

By Bob Diven

Oregon pioneer James Varnum Gale (1806-1881) penned this biographical sketch of Oregon's first doctor:

"William J. Mix, M.D. settled here in 1836 opposite of Daysville. He was the first physician we had near Oregon, a man of good judgement and successful in his practice. He was rather an illiterate man but became a good physician by practice and good judgement."

Dr. William Judd Mix, Sr. (1795-1850) likely began his training at age 19 assisting the surgeon attached to the South Hero (Vermont) militia commanded by his father Colonel Samuel Mix (1759-1828) during the battle of Plattsburgh, New York, which occurred on September 11, 1814, one of the two climactic battles of the War of 1812 that determined the northern boundaries of our young nation in the treaty of Ghent.

Dr. Mix later became part of the great "Yankee migration" of the early 1830s, perhaps fleeing money troubles in Pennsylvania, where he had left his former wife and their two daughters. Dr. W.J. Mix married his second wife, Eliza Wood Goodwin Mix (1810-1862), in Tecumseh, Michigan. Eliza had been married before as well. Her first husband Elijah D. Goodwin had visited Oregon where James Gale had helped him stake a claim. According to Gale, Goodwin returned to Michigan to collect his family and died soon thereafter. Eliza and William Sr. soon arrived in Ogle County where their son, Henry Augustus (1838-1903), was born.

Henry was only 12 years old when his father died in 1850, but he would grow up to attend Rush Medical College in Chicago and would graduate in time to serve first as assistant, then as surgeon, with the 64th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, joining the unit in time to be a part of Sherman's march through Georgia to the sea, returning to practice medicine in Oregon, eventually building a grand clinic and domicile known as the Mix Mansion on the west bank of the Rock River.

Henry's oldest sister Martha (1836-1877) would marry George McKenney (1823-1874) and their son George Morton McKenney (1864-1909), like his Uncle Henry, would also train at Rush. He and Henry would partner in practice until Henry's death in 1903. By all accounts George became a beloved physician in Oregon until his untimely death of food poisoning while driving across the Texas panhandle. As testimony to his standing in the community, The Ogle County Reporter of March 31, 1909, described this telling display:

"The procession to the cemetery at Daysville, where interment was made, comprehended the full extent of the distance of three miles, conveyances in the rear of the procession leaving the city after the remains had reached the cemetery."

Another daughter of Dr. William and Eliza Mix, Alice (1844-1907), would marry Lewis Cass Worthington and remove to California. Of Lewis and Alice's three daughters Lois Claire would graduate from Cooper College of Physicians in San Francisco as a doctor, while Jean Irene and Mary (Mazie) would both become dentists and have offices together in Bakersfield.

And though it may have skipped a generation or two, Dr. Mix's fourth great grandson, Benjamin Gale Diven (born in Oregon of Martha Betty Putnam and William Albert Diven), also became a medical doctor, still practicing in New Mexico, while his nephew Joshua (son of John Craig Diven and Mary Riordan Diven) is an I.C.U. nurse. A long and enduring medical legacy.



Dr. William J. Mix, Sr., and family in 1846. The future doctor Henry Augustus Mix stands by his mother Eliza. Martha, (future mother of Dr. George M. McKenney) stands center back behind younger Alice, whose three daughters will become a doctor and two dentists in California.

(Diven family collection).



One of Dr. H.A. Mix's Civil War scalpels, which Martha Betty Putnam remembered from her childhood being used to carve the Thanksgiving turkey.

(Diven family collection)



1903 portrait of Dr. George Morton McKenney.

(Diven family collection)

More of the Show and Tell Items from the Ice Cream Social



Metal hooks used in clam shell digging along the Rock River. Clam shells were used to make buttons until plastic buttons were created and produced in great quantities.

The Welty family brought several family items that had been used in Ogle County.



Frank Lowden campaign button from his run for President.



Metal tea tin designed to pour out of a hidden spout.



Cemetery Restorations Around Ogle County

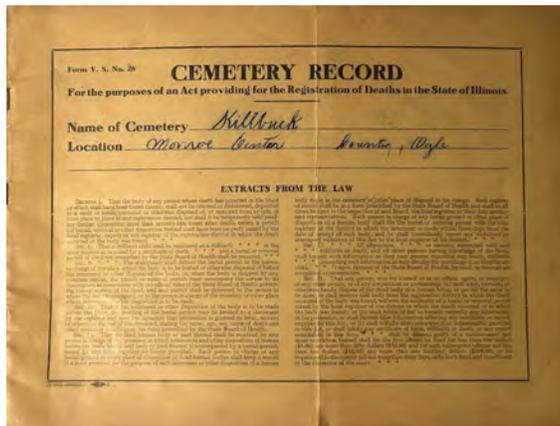
Killbuck/Kilbuck Cemetery - Monroe Township

By Tom and Melanie Lichty

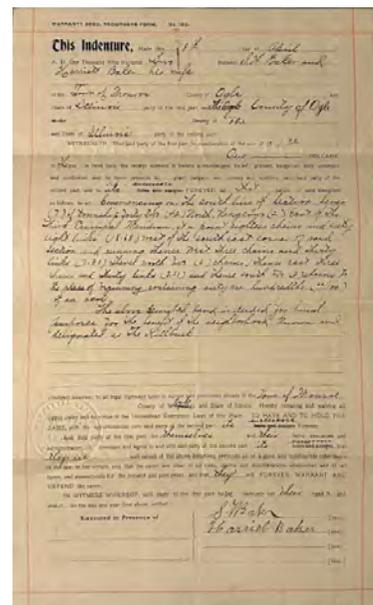
About a mile north of Highway 72, at the northeast corner of Kilbuck and Crill Roads, you'll find a small section of land that was set aside by Henry Hill for the community's use as a resting place for their departed loved ones. This intersection of two stage coach lines, was also used for the construction of a building that served the multipurpose use as religious gathering place, a school and a community center around 1860. The cemetery had been in use for nearly 30 years by then, with the one of the first recorded burials being performed around 1839, shortly after Ogle County had been opened for land grants. In 1902, Samuel and Harriet Baker, then owners of the land officially deeded the cemetery section of their farm, "for burial purposes for the benefit of the neighborhood known and designated as Killbuck". An association was established at that time to oversee the cemetery operations. As with all small communities, over time the stagecoaches stopped running, the post office closed in 1874 and the school closed in 1917. The cemetery was the only remaining evidence of the Killbuck community started nearly 60 years before.



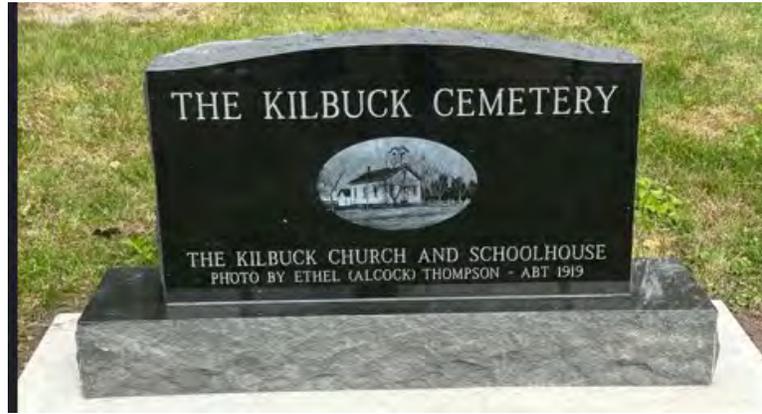
With the establishment of Monroe Center in 1875, a new community cemetery was built in town. Fewer and fewer burials occurred at Killbuck. The association disbanded and the cemetery was turned over to Monroe Township in the late 1960s. As so often happens, the little parcel of resting ground became the victim of time and lack of care until in 1993, when Eugene Thompson's family approached the township board and asked if they could purchase a burial plot for their father. At that time Tom Lichty purchased the remaining lots in the northeast corner. Tom was elected as township supervisor shortly after that meeting. A historian at heart, Tom realized the importance of preserving the cemetery and through the next 20+ years, by use of conservative budgeting and taking no increases in the supervisor's salary, he gradually built up a fund specifically for the restoration of Killbuck Cemetery. In 2023, the time to start the major renovation had arrived.



Ledger of cemetery plot sales



Deed of sale from Baker to the Killbuck Cemetery Association in 1902



Tom contacted Debbie Thompson Clausen, Gene's daughter for a genealogy report concerning the burials at the cemetery. Debbie had started the report in 1982 and after hearing Tom's plans for restoration, updated the information, finding many burials listed that were unknown previously.

In the last few months, two new monuments have been erected at the cemetery. One monument includes a picture of the Killbuck schoolhouse and a short history of the cemetery.



Large monument listing the 100 plus burials at the Killbuck Cemetery.



John Thompson helps erect and repair Henry Hill's tombstone on its new base. Hill was the first to donate land for the cemetery.



The Riseborough obelisk had fallen over and sunken below ground level. Their family was one of the first settlers in Killbuck who purchased land grants and took up farming in Monroe Township.



The Civil War had been going for two years when the toddler Louisa Riseborough passed away not long after her 2nd birthday. The inscription on the stone spelled her name wrong and it was never set out in the cemetery on her gravesite. Instead it was stored at the family farm for over 160 years. Various owners had kept the stone secure from the ravages of weather or vandalism. During a demolition project, the Bruce Thompson family found the marker and kept it safe indoors. When the cemetery restoration project started, Wayne Thompson, Bruce's son, talked to the current owner and the stone was donated back to the cemetery where it now sits alongside the 're-erected' family obelisk.



Tom Lichty uncovered Herod Stockings ' headstone and holds it in place while the monument company attaches it to the base.

A new period appropriate fence encloses the cemetery protecting it from the road. Security is installed to discourage vandalism.



Although more stones still need to be set up and repaired, the next plan is to start cleaning the stones by scrubbing off the dirt and applying D2 cleaner to those stones already fixed. Tom has a great crew working with him on this project. Beside Wayne and John Thompson, three generations of the Woodworth family, Charlie & Lisa, their daughter Josie and their granddaughter Eleanor, have all assisted in locating, identifying and doing the initial cleaning of headstones so they could be set back up in place.

A long term, well thought-out plan is coming to fruition as the Killbuck Cemetery project moves forward, preserving the old settlers graveyard that served Monroe Township in Ogle County.



As the restoration process began, the Woodworth family spent hours helping locate buried stones and setting flags out for later used in re-erecting them.



Headstones are once again, standing erect and marking the final resting places of the early settlers of Killbuck, in Monroe Township.

Ogle County Historical Society Events

Since hours of operation are limited
to visit, research or have a tour

Please call 815-732-7545 or

Email

oglecohistory@gmail.com

Around Ogle County's Museums

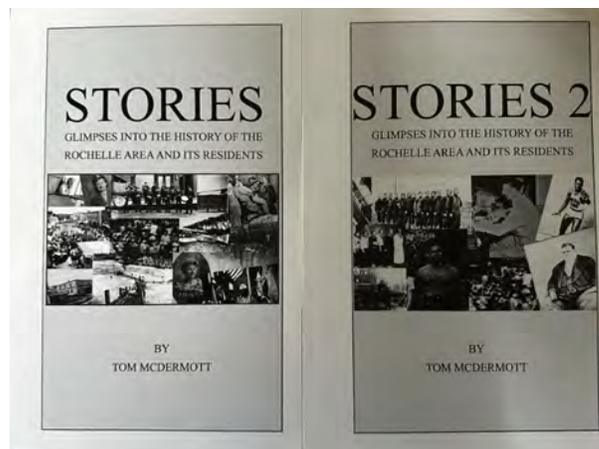
Davis Junction Museum:

We only have a few copies left of the DJ Pictorial History book left. For more information, feel free to contact Kim Smeja, museum committee president by email iamcowgirl54@gmail.com or call her at 815-994-0803.

Dec 17, 2025 - Annual Christmas Party 12-4 pm

Rochelle / Flagg Museum:

Just a few copies of the two books Tom McDermott wrote containing short stories about Rochelle's interesting people and history. Contact the museum to get your copies before they are sold out. \$20/each



Polo Museum :

They are looking for any abstracts of local properties that the museum will scan and keep digital copies of. Contact the museum if you have an abstract from the Polo area you'd like scanned.

There's a new Facebook page for information about the pioneers and old settlers in the Polo area.

Click the link to join or search name.

[\(20+\) Polo, Illinois Area, Pioneers & Old Settlers | Facebook](#)

OGLE COUNTY'S LOCAL TOWNSHIP

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Clyde Jewitt was a lifelong resident of Monroe Center. He served in the military during the Korean conflict and when he returned home, he worked for companies doing tv repairs. In 1982, after years of working for someone else, he opened up his own shop in Monroe Center. Active in community service all his life, when Clyde passed away in 2002, his building in downtown was inherited by Bill Condon who remodeled the shop into the Jewitt Community Center. Members of the community decided the space would be well used as a historical society, preserving the legacy and heritage of the community that grew up along the railroad built in 1875.

The Monroe Historical Society represents the entire township of Monroe. Originally Monroe and Lynnville township were one but with the increased population and building of railroads through both Monroe Center and Lynnville/Lindenwood, two separate townships were mapped out. Monroe Historical Society has gathered many items including genealogy records, pictures, documents and other items pertinent to the township's growth and development over the years. Tom Lichty was the first president of the group. Tom has been very influential in purchasing and preserving many of the older buildings in Monroe Center proper. Steven Rasmussen is the current President/Treasurer and Marcy Calson is the Secretary. The Woodworth family has been instrumental in setting up displays at the Jewitt Community Center depicting interesting historical events. The group also participates in yearly activities such as Memorial Day services at the Monroe Center Cemetery and Veteran's Day. Members also do presentations at the school and other local groups as requested.

Harry Gale Milligan 3/22/1895 - 5/13/1980

A great –grandson of John V Gale of Oregon, Harry lived in White Rock Twp all of his life. He studied in the rural schools, Oregon High School and Mt. Morris College before serving in WWI as a lineman in the balloon corp. While in service, he was introduced to the Hereford breed of cattle and made it his passion to produce award winning livestock.



His only son, Robert continued the tradition as did his grandsons, James and Malcomb. Many ribbons, trophies and other awards came to the Milligan farm over the next 120 years.

The Milligan descendants have chosen to share many of the family memorabilia with the OCHS by donating vintage textiles and hats, WWI items, Oregon and Mt. Morris school items, Harry's college trunk and items he used in his hobby of stone collecting and polishing as well as other unusual personal belongings.



The Ogle County Historical Society
P. O. Box 183
Oregon, IL 61061



Annual Membership Support
\$40 per household per calendar year

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____ Email _____

If you would like to volunteer your time, please indicate your area(s) of interest:

_____ Buildings and grounds _____ Fund Raising
_____ Tours / Docent Program _____ Other (please specify) _____
_____ Research _____ Data Entry

The Gazette is published quarterly.

Mail membership dues To: **The Ogle County Historical Society—PO Box 183—Oregon, IL 61061**

email newsletter articles / stories / photos to:

oglecohistory@gmail.com

Attention: Dawn Somers / Kris Gilbert