

April 7, 2017

Dr. Bryan Bauer & wife Dr. Danielle Bauer
Bauer Dentistry and Orthodontics
531 E Roosevelt Rd, Suite 100
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Dr. Bauer and Dr. Bauer,

I am the Chair of the City of Wheaton Historic Commission and wish to speak with you about your planned remodeling of the Warren Wheaton home at 623 Naperville Road. First of all, I wanted to let you know that we are glad someone will be occupying this building. During the 1970s this building was also unoccupied and suffered from the neglect. It is good to see that it will once again be used for a viable purpose in our community.

Warren Lyon Wheaton along with his brother Jesse and friend Erastus Gary were the co-founders of our town. Wheaton College is named after Warren Wheaton (he donated much of the land for the college). Warren was born in 1812 in Pomfret, Connecticut. He built his home at 623 Naperville Road in 1847, finishing it in 1848 just in time to marry Harriet Rickard. After Harriet died in 1863, he married a second time to Christiana Shugg in 1877.

Lucy Wheaton, Warren and Harriet's daughter, married William H. Darling in 1887. She was a teacher at Longfellow School here in Wheaton. I believe that Lucy and William lived with her father in this house. I don't wish to make you afraid of ghosts but Warren died in 1903 in his home. Lucy inherited the house after his death. She lived there until her death in 1944. William predeceased her by five years.

I wanted to give you the enclosed articles about the Warren Wheaton house. We know from past repair work done on the house and from some of the stories from older Wheatonites, the original 1847 Warren Wheaton hand-hewn plank house is still enclosed within the walls of the 1910 structure built over the original home by Lucy Wheaton Darling and her husband. We do not know how much of the 1847 home is still extant. When I learned of your planned remodeling which will involve taking down the walls which might contain the remnants of the oldest house in Wheaton, I knew I had to contact you to discuss your remodeling plans. I have been very adamant that if the building is going to be demolished as it sometimes has been facing due to developers wanting the property, we can still extract the Warren Wheaton home to be restored in one of Wheaton's park for all to enjoy and for children to learn about their community's past.

I would love an opportunity to chat with both of you at your convenience.

Best wishes,



Nancy Flannery
816 W. Elm Street
Wheaton, IL 60189
847-767-5378 (cell)

WHEATON LEGACY OF GREAT MAN

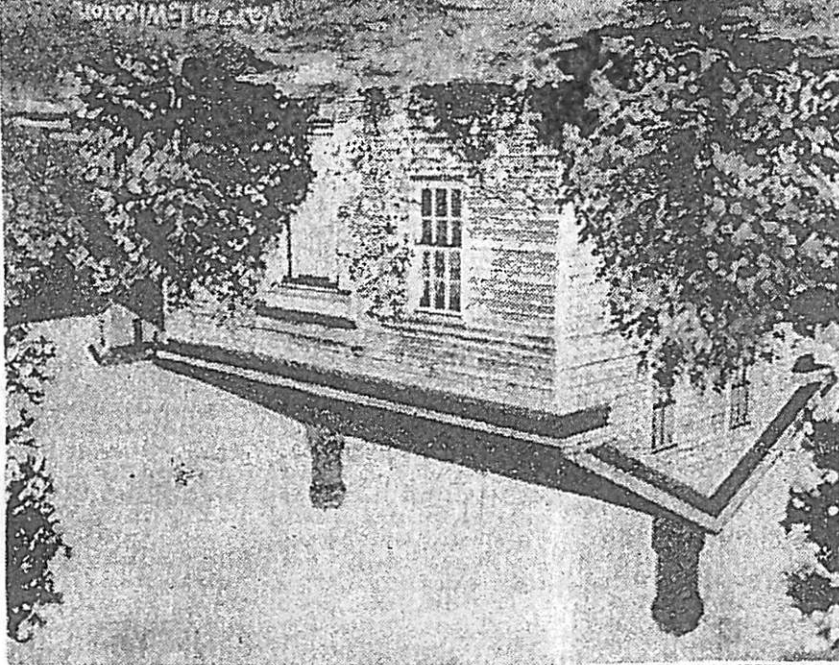
By RICHARD CRABB

The City of Wheaton even to this day is growing and advancing largely within the lengthened shadow of Warren Lyons Wheaton.

He was an extraordinary man who realized that he was living in an extraordinary time. It is in keeping with his achievements and contribution to the Wheaton community and DuPage County that the Governor of Illinois will on March 15 come to the Wheaton College campus to deliver the first WARREN L. WHEATON MEMORIAL ADDRESS.



WARREN L. WHEATON



THIS IS THE ONLY known photograph of the original Warren L. Wheaton home, the first house built in what is now the City of Wheaton. Erected in 1847, much of this house is believed to exist as a part of the residence now seen at the northeast corner of Roosevelt and Naperville Roads.

understood the importance of people having fun and recreation, especially for children. He was keenly sensitive to the feelings of others, had an immense capacity for loyalty and all his life enjoyed being with children. He had a way

He lived the last sixty years of his life on his farmstead that was located on what is now the northeast corner of the intersection of Roosevelt and Naperville Roads in Wheaton. The Wheaton farm extended north and east from this point. The barns have been taken down, but much of the original home of Warren Wheaton, built in the 1840s, still stands as a part of the expanded residence that exists today. Warren Wheaton was a serious minded person, but he

was still active in the management of his livestock at the time of his death in 1903 at the age of 91. He was still active in the management of his livestock at the time of his death in 1903 at the age of 91. He was still active in the management of his livestock at the time of his death in 1903 at the age of 91. He was still active in the management of his livestock at the time of his death in 1903 at the age of 91.

Subj Files: bio - WHEATON FAMILY
 DTHM Vertical Files - Biography - Wheaton Family

BY RICHARD CRABB
LAST OF A SERIES

The foundations for the City of Wheaton as it exists today were laid in the decade before the Civil War, in the 1850s, and the chief architect was Warren L. Wheaton.

It is this man who will be honored by Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie when the governor comes to the campus of Wheaton College, March 15, to deliver the first WARREN L. WHEATON MEMORIAL ADDRESS and discuss the future of Wheaton and the western-suburbs.

Almost all of the major features of the City of Wheaton had their beginnings in this decade of the 1850s and Warren L. Wheaton was deeply involved in each of them. His influence on the area began a decade or more before the town of Wheaton was incorporated Feb. 24, 1859.

Mr. Wheaton served in the Illinois General Assembly in the years of 1848 and 1849. He was appointed to a special committee on Township Organization and became a sponsor of the bill in the legislature that was passed into law which provides for the township government in Illinois as we know it to this day.

When he returned from his work in Springfield he participated in the organization of Milton Township in which Wheaton and Glen Ellyn are now located. He became the Milton Township supervisor in 1850.

Wheaton today is a city whose land is largely devoted to individual homes. It is a prominent point on a prominent railroad. Wheaton's public school system has long been regarded as outstanding. The institution that has given special character to the City of Wheaton and which accounts for the town being well-known in educational circles on all the continents is Wheaton College.

Warren L. Wheaton had an important role, often the determining role, in bringing each of these prominent assets of the City of Wheaton into being.

Wheaton was born in Pomfret, Connecticut, March 6, 1812, was educated there and taught school from the time he was 19 until 25. In 1837 at the age of 25, he came west to Chicago, at the time a town less than 5,000, and walked the 30 miles west to Gary's Mill. In 1838 he acquired 640 acres of land for farming, harvested his first crop of wheat in the summer of 1840. Shortly after, Jessie Wheaton, his younger brother, came west from Pomfret and acquired large farm holdings immediately to the west of Warren's land.

In 1848 Warren was married to Miss Harriett E. Rickert, also of Pomfret, Conn., but who had come to this area of Illinois with her parents when she was 10. She lived until 1863 and became the mother of six children, three of whom at-



WARREN L. WHEATON

tained adulthood, two of them spending their lives in the Wheaton community. They were Warren and Mrs. Lucy Wheaton Darling. The year before his marriage Warren L. Wheaton had built what was a very comfortable home in the 1850s on his farm. It was the first house to be built in what is now the City of Wheaton.

In the early 1850s there was much talk of building the first railroad west from Chicago to the lead mines of Galena. Captain Turner headed up the fledging railroad, the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad. There were several routes this railroad could take west, but this was settled when Warren and Jessie Wheaton invited Turner and his associates to meet with them at Jessie's home shortly after it was built in 1853.

In the course of the conference with the railroad men, Warren and Jessie Wheaton offered to give the right of way through their big farms. Turner and his associates were so overwhelmed that when the rails were laid across the farms that they erected a station and put the name of Wheaton on it. Shortly after,

the wheaton promoters laid out several blocks of homes to the north and east of the station. And four years later in 1859 the town of Wheaton was incorporated and Warren L. Wheaton became the village's first president.

At about the time the railroad came, the Methodists voted to establish an institution of higher learning at Wheaton. It was called the Illinois Institute and its main building, which is today the center of Old Main on the Wheaton College campus, was erected just east of the town as it existed then. Warren L. Wheaton was keenly interested and supported the move from the first.

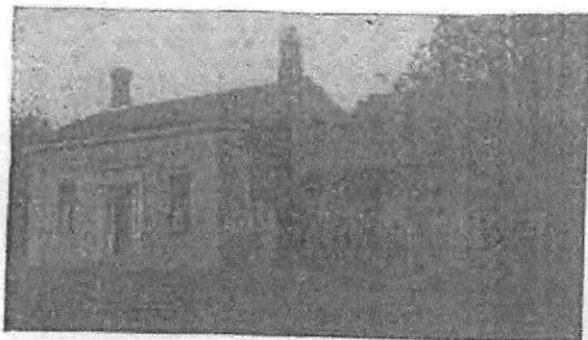
The young college encountered great financial difficulties and probably would have disappeared, even before the Civil War, had it not been for the coming of Jonathan Blanchard. Blanchard was just completing a highly successful term as president of Knox College at Galesburg. Blanchard and Warren Wheaton liked each other from their first meeting.

Blanchard said that he would turn aside the half dozen other offers he had to become president of other colleges and build an outstanding institution of higher learning if the people of the community would back the institution with all their means. Warren Wheaton became the largest contributor. His gifts included 50 acres of land and \$300 in cash. Blanchard and the college trustees changed the name to Wheaton College in honor of Warren L. Wheaton.

A friend of Wheaton's said of him nearly 40 years later, "He was physically, mentally and in every way an exceptionally strong character, well-fitted for laying the foundations of schools and city organization. His memory will live in the annals of Wheaton's history forever as one who, at whatever sacrifice of personal comfort or wealth, founded her prosperity."

Had the tribute to Wheaton been written in 1971 rather than 1892, the wording might well have remained unchanged.

IS OLDEST HOUSE—1847-1936



As constructed by Warren Wheaton Sr. in 1847



As remodeled by W. H. Darling in 1910

Will Have 90 Candles on Birthday Cake Next Fall

Daily Journal _____ 1936

If only a house could remember!

What stories would it tell—the oldest house in town? Quiet on the corner of Naperville street and Roosevelt road it stands, the aging pioneer homestead of Warren Wheaton Sr.—maple-shaded and flower-surrounded, and quite oblivious of the fact that there will be 90 candles on its birthday cake next fall. And if merry ghosts and sad ones steal through its rooms at midnight, no one knows.

It is Mrs. Lucy Wheaton Darling, daughter of the man who built the house of stuff such as dreams are made of imported from New England almost a century ago and timber rough-hewn from the prairie, who lives there now and does the remembering—and telling—of stories about the Wheaton of a day before yesterday.

Almost Burned Down

There was the time, for instance, when Wilbur Wheaton, Mrs. Darling's brother who died several years ago, almost burned the old house down.

"When Wilbur was four years old," related his sister—and she punctuated her narrative with chuckle after chuckle, "he made a bonfire up in the closet. Then he ran downstairs and whispered in my ear—'Oh, Lucy, come on upstairs. I've got a lovely bonfire!'"

six-year-old Lucy, alone in the house with the gloating culprit and the housekeeper, ran with the speed of terror for paternal help.

Bucket Brigade

"Father was at the blacksmith's office away down just this side of the tracks," she explained, "and he and the men with him threw me into a wagon, jumped in and galloped up here"—where a hastily-formed bucket brigade saved all except several windows, smashed in the ardor of amateur flame-fighting, and the floor of the closet where the "lovely bonfire" was set.

It seems that the housekeeper smoked a pipe—"although we children weren't supposed to know it"—and Wilbur had raided her supply of matches!

But that was years after the house was built, and longer still after its story really began. Actually constructed in the fall of 1847 and the spring of 1848, on the hill where it now stands, the old homestead's foundations in dream were laid in Pomfret, Conn., in 1832, by the stirring tales of pioneer life told by Erastus Gary, who had just returned from Illinois.

Hears About West

"Come on in, Warren, and hear all about the West!"—and Warren Lyon Wheaton, 20-year-old Pomfret schoolmaster, accepted the invitation which was to change, perhaps, in some small measure, the history, of yet-unthought-of DuPage county.

Snared in imagination by the challenge of wind-swept prairie country, young Warren Wheaton bided his time and, in Mrs. Darling's words: "for five years teaching, saving and the lure of the West occupied his mind and heart, and by 1837—but here is his own account:

"About May 1 I left Connecticut for the far West. By stage to Boston, by boat to New York, thence up the Hudson to Albany. Here, on the only R.R. in the state of New York, I took the train for Schenectady; from there by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo, where for two weeks we waited for the New Steamboat Madison to crowd her way through the ice into the Buffalo harbor. She started for Chicago with 1,500 passengers. In seven days she landed near the

mouth of the Chicago river. Chicago then was a village claiming 3,000 population, but no honest inhabitant believed it. Here I left my trunk and went on foot to near Warrenville, where lived Jude and Erastus Gary."

(To Be Continued)

Suburban Life

YOUR NEW WHEATON LEADER

SAVING HISTORY

Efforts seek to preserve house built by Wheaton founder

Wheaton Historic Commission Chairwoman Nancy Flannery talks Oct. 28 about the history of the Warren L. Wheaton home site at Roosevelt and Naperville roads in Wheaton.

Mack Busch
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By ERIC SCHELKOPF
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WHEATON

Wheaton Historic Commission Chairwoman Nancy Flannery is worried about the history that would be lost if a house built in 1847 and 1848 by city founder Warren Wheaton is razed to make way for a Starbucks.

"Once you lose your history, you've lost yourself," said Flannery, who opposes a proposal to raze the two-story building at the northeast corner of Roosevelt and Naperville roads in Wheaton. The building recently had housed a Coldwell Banker Real Estate office.

See HOUSE, page 2

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Votes from board members must come by Jan. 11, 2017, to put option on April ballot

By **ERIC SCHELKOPF**
eschelkopf@shawmedia.com

WHEATON – Wheaton-Warrenville Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education members are now looking at several options to fund improvements to the district’s facilities.

During a committee of the whole meeting Nov. 1, members discussed three options.

One option would be for the district to put a \$150 million referendum on the ballot to pay for all of the improvements at the district’s facilities that are being eyed.

The referendum would pay for a new early learning center at the Jefferson Early Childhood Center site, secured entry access at all the district’s elementary schools and the renovation of the library learning centers at the elementary schools. It also would pay for updating major mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems at 18 of the district’s 20 schools.

Improvements to Edison, Franklin and Monroe middle schools also are being proposed, as well as renovations to

Referendum options

■ **OPTION 1:** \$150 million referendum to pay for all of the improvements at the district’s facilities. Cost to owners of a \$320,000 home would be roughly \$200 per year in taxes.

■ **OPTION 2:** \$130 million referendum on the ballot and fund the difference through other sources – such as using operating funds and pursuing a capital fundraising campaign. Cost to owners of a \$320,000 home would be roughly \$175 per year in taxes.

■ **OPTION 3:** \$130 million referendum on the ballot and reduce the scope of the work. Cost to owners of a \$320,000 home would be roughly \$175 per year in taxes.

the library learning center at Wheaton Warrenville South High School and the technology lab at Wheaton North High School. Capital improvements throughout the district are being proposed as well, including roof replacement.

If passed, a \$150 million referendum would cost the owner of a \$320,000 home an additional \$200 or so per year in taxes.

Another option would be to put a \$130 million referendum on the ballot and fund the difference through oth-

and pursuing a capital fundraising campaign – to complete all the identified work. That option would cost owner of a \$320,000 home an additional \$175 per year in taxes.

A third option would be to put a \$130 million referendum on the ballot and reduce the scope of the work. That option also would cost the owner of a \$320,000 home an additional \$175 per year in taxes.

According to a recent community survey, 51 percent of the respondents said they would favor or strongly favor a referendum that would cost the owner of a \$320,000 home an additional \$175 per year in taxes.

That support grew to 54 percent in favor of a smaller referendum that would cost an additional \$200 per year in taxes and to 58 percent in favor of an even smaller referendum that would cost an additional \$175 per year in taxes.

“What’s going to pass?” board member Jim Mathieson said during the meeting. “I’m trying to read what the community is saying.”

Board member Jim Gambai said the board needs to have a backup plan in case the referendum doesn’t pass.

“If this doesn’t pass, what is Plan B?” he said.

Board members would have to vote by Jan. 11, 2017, whether to put a referendum on the April 4, 2017, ballot

• **HOUSE**
Continued from page 1

The house was enclosed in 1910 by Wheaton’s daughter, Lucy Darling, and her husband, William Darling, as they worked to expand the house, Flannery said. The existing 1847 structure still exists within the walls of the current structure, she said.

The house at 623 S. Naperville Road is on the Wheaton Historic Commission’s Wheaton Register of Historic Places. Flannery said the 1847 house, constructed of hand-hewn planks, is the oldest building in Wheaton.

Wheaton, this is one of the first homes you would see coming down what is now Roosevelt Road. It was a kind of symbol of Wheaton for a long time.”

Being on the register doesn’t prevent the building from being torn down, Flannery said. Northbrook-based Cornersite LLC plans to buy the property and raze the existing two-story building and construct a new 5,546-square-foot single-story, two-tenant retail building. Starbucks plans to lease a 2,048-square-foot store with a drive-thru.

The Wheaton City Council is set to vote on the project at its meeting at 7 p.m. Nov. 7. The city’s Planning and Zoning Board on Oct. 11 unanimously approved the property

Avenue and serves as a member of the historic commission, also speaking against the project during the Oct. 11 meeting.

“Wheaton owes its very existence to Warren Wheaton,” McGrath said while addressing Planning and Zoning Board members. “It would be an outrage to raze our founder’s home on its 150th anniversary.”

Resident Brenda Kramer, who lives on Indiana Street near the Warren Wheaton house, voiced concerns at the meeting about the additional cost of the proposed project would generate.

“My concern really is about public safety and what this means to the community,” Kramer said. “It’s going to increase

house in its original state was typical of the Greek Revival style. Mr. Wheaton recorded the cost of construction in his ledger as follows:

Cost of material -----	\$189.29
For Labor -----	\$232.26
Total -----	\$421.55

appending, laconically, "except my labor." The house formerly faced Roosevelt Road, but in 1910 it was remodeled by Mr. Darling and turned to front on Naperville Street. The remodeling included raising the roof $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet. According to Mrs. Darling, her father built the house low because "everyone told him that if he built on this hill he'd blow away, but he liked it, you know—in Connecticut they lived on a high hill." Not even the tornado that took the cupola off the barn in 1911 managed to dislodge the sturdy house. Other friends once scoffed at the scrawny young maples set out by Mr. Wheaton in 1847, but they, too, are still proving their tenacity.

8. The JESSE WHEATON HOUSE (*private*), 310 W. Evergreen St., is a gracious, white frame, modified colonial building. This was Jesse Wheaton's second house, erected in 1858, and contains some of his fine old furniture. It is now occupied by his granddaughter, Mrs. William Kuntze.

9. Jesse Wheaton gave the first acre of land for the WHEATON CEMETERY, lying just outside the city limits on Warrenville Rd. More land was added from time to time, including 11 acres donated by Elbert H. Gary, steel magnate and son of Erastus Gary, pioneer of Winfield Township. Buried in the cemetery are Henry T. Wilson, Erastus Gary, Warren and Jesse Wheaton, and many other early settlers of Wheaton and the surrounding countryside. The body of the famous Elbert Gary lies in a mausoleum.



Erastus Gary

III

MOTOR TOURS

building of Richardson Romanesque style. Built and endowed in 1891 by John Quincy Adams (no relation to the former President) as a memorial to his wife, it was formerly known as the Adams Memorial Library. Catalogued by Katherine Sharp, secretary to Melvil Dewey, the library was the first in Illinois to adopt the Dewey Decimel Classification. In 1923 the city took it over. The library contains 15,710 bound volumes, subscribes to 52 magazines, and 5 newspapers. Indian murals in the juvenile room were painted in 1932 by Chicago artist Otto E. Hake. The scene on the east wall depicts life in the Hopi Tribe of Pueblo Indians; that on the west represents the Blackfeet Tribe in Glacier National Park. Flanking these are panels containing reproductions of Blackfeet pictographs.

5. The PUBLIC SQUARE, bounded by Willow Ave., Naperville and Reber Sts., contains the county courthouse of 1896, part of the new courthouse, started in 1938, the sheriff's house, and the jail. Strongly contrasting with the Richardson Romanesque bulwark of the nineties is the new, less pretentious, Georgian colonial building, designed by Chicago architect R. Harold Zook. Exterior walls are Wisconsin Lannon stone with Indiana limestone trim. Upon completion of all three sections of the new courthouse the old building will be razed and the grounds landscaped back to the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin right-of-way.

When the county was formed in 1839, Naperville was selected as county seat and a courthouse was erected there. In 1857, upon Wheaton's insistence, an election was held to determine whether Naperville or Wheaton should be county seat. Naperville won the election, but Wheaton would not drop the issue, and tension between the towns mounted. In 1867 the legislature acceded to Wheaton's demands for another election and authorized one to be held in June. Although Wheaton won this election, Naperville said she had cheated, and refused to hand over the county records and other official papers. Months of wrangling left the issue at a standstill. At length the circuit court confirmed the validity of the election, and the county board of supervisors started negotiations for a new courthouse site. Warren Wheaton gave a block of land, conveyed to the county through a warranty deed dated June 20, 1868 and he and Jesse donated \$2,000 apiece toward a two-story brick building which was erected immediately.

Still Naperville held the documents. Injunctions were served and counter proceedings instituted. No one knows the exact day, but it was about four o'clock one morning in July, 1868, that a group of men from Wheaton and Glen Ellyn descended upon a sleeping Naperville. Gaining

access to the courthouse through an open window, they carried out the records and piled them in their wagon. Although Naperville awakened and put up a stiff battle, the invaders won out and returned to Wheaton about six a. m.

The affray was not without loss in both property and blood. A man named Mott had been killed in the street fighting. One section of deed records (volumes 15 through 21, for the years 1854-57) was overlooked by the Wheaton forces, and court and county papers were either overlooked or dropped in the road. The deed records were hidden for a short time in an outbuilding in Naperville, then transferred to either a bank or the courthouse in Chicago, pending the outcome of the lawsuit. *The hands of justice moved too slowly for the hands of fate, however, and the seven books went up in smoke along with most of Chicago three years later.* The court and estate papers met the same end at Naperville on the morning of the raid; the man who had charge of them feared another raid so much that he set fire to them.

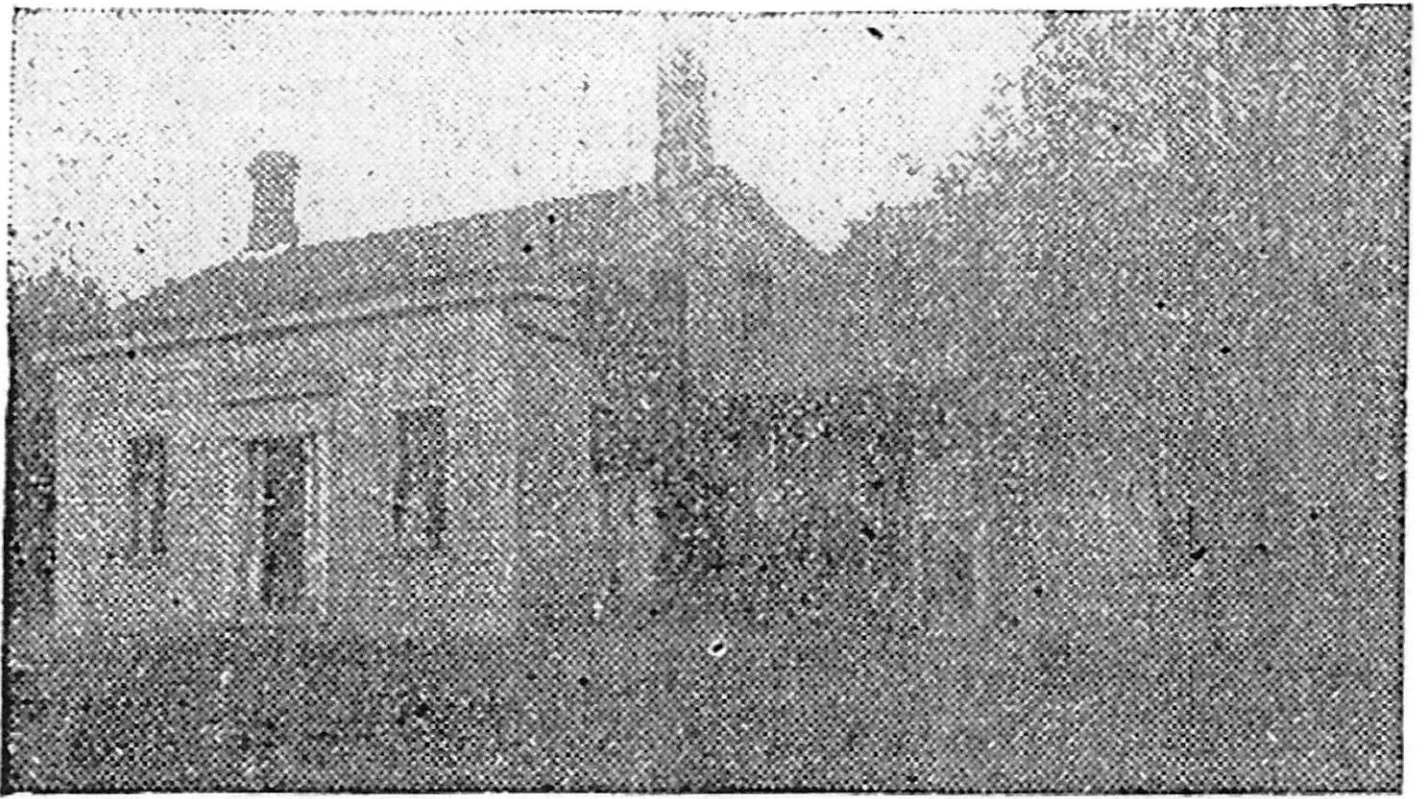
The villain in the case was a courthouse employee, who, a Wheaton sympathizer, had left a window open on the appointed night. The story goes that his fiancee "declared she would never marry a traitor and turned her life to better things."

So bitter was the feeling between the two towns that the newspapers in both places ignored the incident, Wheaton's in a spirit of self-righteousness, Naperville's out of fear. Thus many versions of the story have been handed down in memoirs and by word of mouth, the most plausible of which is the one given above. Seventy-one years have not sufficed to gain official recognition in Wheaton of the fact that the raid took place at all.

6. The CAPTAIN JONES HOMESTEAD (*private*), 504 Naperville St., was occupied by Marcellus Jones, formerly of Glen Ellyn, shortly after the Civil War. A captain in the Union Army, Jones is reputed to have fired the first shot at Gettysburg. The large house, of modified colonial design with a tall-pillared portico, was remodeled around 1900 by F. Blount.

7. The WARREN WHEATON HOUSE (*private*), northeast corner Naperville St. and Roosevelt Rd. (Alt. US 30), is considered the oldest building in the city. Built in 1847-48 by Warren Lyon Wheaton, it is now (1939) occupied by his daughter, Lucy Wheaton Darling, and her husband. Made from hand-hewn oak timbers fastened by wooden pegs, the

FROM THE WPA WRITERS PROJECT GUIDE
TO DUPAGE COUNTY



As constructed by Warren Wheaton Sr. in 1847



As remodeled by W. H. Darling in 1910

D. Ray Wilson
Editor and Publisher

David Stamps
Managing Editor

Wheaton House

Citizens' Action Needed To Save Founder's Home

There stands at the corner of Roosevelt and Naperville Roads in Wheaton an empty house, marked for an early "taking down" like a diseased elm tree with a large red X painted on its trunk.

This house could contain the most precious heritage object in the Wheaton community. The structure may include some materials, parts or even much more of the original small farm house built in 1845 on this site by Warren Wheaton, with his brother, Jessie, a founder of the city.

There can be no question but that Warren Wheaton and his family lived at this location the last 58 years of his life. He died in 1903.

This was the farmstead of the Warren Wheaton farm. Around the house there were barns for livestock and farm implements. This was the headquarters of the historic Warren Wheaton farm, parts of which he gave away from time to time for the betterment of the Wheaton community.

When it was decided to build the first railroad into central DuPage County, Warren and his brother gave enough land for the right-of-way, asking only that the railroad build a little station so that the people of the town they were about to found, could use the exciting new means of transportation.

Very soon after Wheaton was founded some of the citizens thought the town should have a college. Warren so approved of the idea that he carved up his farm again and gave an important part of it for the site—the present campus of Wheaton College.

He lived out his life as a DuPage county farmer and a good one. Although he and Mrs. Wheaton improved their small farm house from time to time, they did not enlarge or change it greatly.

A few years after the death of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wheaton, their daughter built on the same site an enlarged house. It is this house that we see standing vacant in the early 1970s.

What is not known is how the enlargement of the house was brought about. Was the original house, much of it built by Warren Wheaton with his own hands, torn down?

If so, was any of the lumber used in the new larger structure?

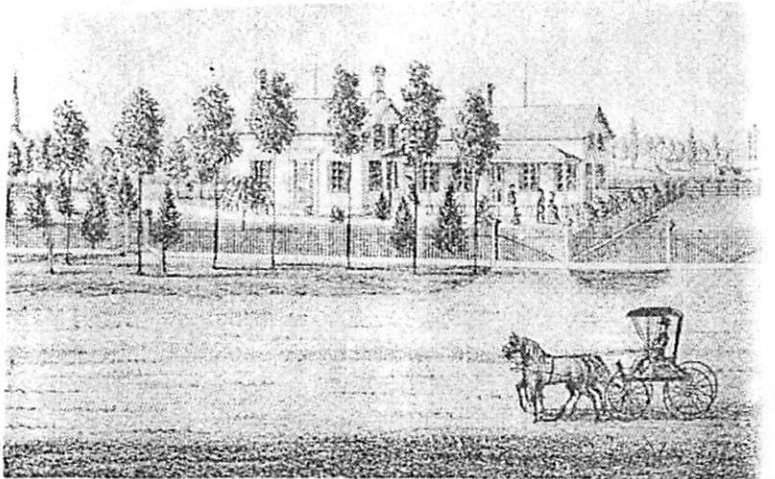
Did the family, as some believe was the case, in enlarging the house incorporate part or all of the original Warren Wheaton house into the present building at the corner of Roosevelt and Naperville?

Fortunately, there are those living in the Wheaton community who can research this question and determine exactly what happened. It is of vital interest to the Wheaton community and all of DuPage County that they do so. It is a job that needs being done now.



THIS HOUSE at the intersection of Roosevelt and Naperville Roads in Wheaton is on the site of the Warren L. Wheaton farmstead. The original house built by Wheaton in the 1840s is

incorporated into this present structure. The wing extending to the right is believed to have the pioneer house as its core.



THE WARREN L. WHEATON farmstead which stood on the northeast corner of Roosevelt and Naperville Roads in Wheaton is shown by an artist as it is shown about 1880. An addition was added to the original house built in 1840's and seen at left. At the right is the main barn. In the background is Wheaton College, also named for Warren L. Wheaton.

Mrs. Darling Continues Story About Oldest House in Town

PART II

Mrs. Darling glanced up from the manuscript from which she was reading to interpolate: "He was the oldest of 13 children, all boys but one. Some of them died. The ones that lived were all six feet or over and my grandfather used to boast that he had more than 50 feet of boys. Father came west and later seven of the others, but only one of the brothers remained. They loved the old hills, you know," she added.

But Jesse C. Wheaton, the brother who stayed, came later in the fall of 1837. On the same boat with Warren Wheaton were the Rev. Charles Gary and family, his brother, Jude, and his bride, Margaret Kimball, and Mrs. Laura Gary Rickard and daughters, Ellen and Harriet, whom Warren married in 1848 at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Harriet Gary Holt. Mrs. Harriet Rickard Wheaton was the first mistress of the oldest house—but this is jumping 10 years ahead of the story.

Nothing But Prairie Grass

"You don't jump on a prairie and start a town in a minute!" said Mrs. Darling, laughing, "When Father came here there was just nothing but prairie grass—high prairie grass, high as a man's head."

In 1837 the Gary brothers and their sister Orinda were living in a double-log cabin on their own prairie farm, where Warren Wheaton proceeded to make himself immediately useful: "Erastus Gary and myself each swung a cradle for 30 working days, cutting nearly 160 acres of small grain, lodged level with the ground."

Summer work over, the young pioneer went adventuring through more northern territory in the autumn, suffered a severe illness—possibly from exposure—during the winter, and—"In June, 1838, I made my claim where I now reside, two years before the Government survey was made. This I did by plowing a furrow around some six or seven hundred acres of prairie and calling it my own. At that time there were only two smokes in sight, Lyman Butterfield's, two and a half miles southwest and William Woodward, two and a half miles northwest."

Signed By Presidents

Engraved on old parchment, yellowed now, are the deeds to the land, one signed by President John Tyler in 1844 and several others with later dates by James K. Polk.

"You couldn't go out and buy a chunk of land and get it on one piece of paper," Mrs. Darling explained. "He plowed around it—with a yoke of oxen—when he wanted to but it didn't come on the market until later."

And when it did, the price paid was all of \$1.25 an acre!

Not yet quite ready to settle down on his plough-claimed prairie acres, Warren Wheaton returned on foot to his home in Pomfret, start-

ing Nov. 26, 1838, missing the last boat of the season from Chicago and arriving finally at journey's end on Jan. 8, 1839—with an expense account totalling \$39.40 in his pocket. Only an occasional lift shortened the plodding miles—one notation in a diary of the trip which is still in Mrs. Darling's possession reads: "To riding 25 miles with a Dutchman, 25 cents."

Returned in 1839

He returned in the spring of 1839 and lived with his brother Jesse, who came with him, and his wife, Orinda Gary Wheaton, in their "house by the spring" until his own marriage in 1848.

"Oh, no," said Mrs. Darling, "this wasn't the first house built in Wheaton. The first house was built by Peter Crosby on the east side of Main street."

But the Crosby home and Jesse Wheaton's house and other early buildings have long been only memories, leaving the house on the corner of Naperville street and Roosevelt road clear title to the distinction of being "oldest house in town", according to Mrs. Darling.

Handhewn Oak Timbers

As originally built in the fall of 1847 and spring of 1848, of hand-hewn oak timbers put together with wooden plugs, the old homestead faced on Roosevelt road and was some distance further back from what is now Naperville street. W. H. Darling moved and remodeled the structure in 1910—turning it one quarter of the way around, adding eight feet on the south and

[Continued on Page 6, Number 3]

[Continued from Page 1]

raising the roof by about three and a half feet.

Mrs. Darling explained the reason for Warren Wheaton's low-flung construction: "Everyone told him if he built on this hill he'd blow away. But he liked it, you know. In Connecticut they lived on a high hill."

Built to Stay

But the house was built to stay, in spite of dire prediction, and no usual prairie breeze—nor even the unusual cyclone which took the cupola off the old barn in 1911—has yet succeeded in dislodging it. Other scoffing friends derided the young maple trees, trimmed to grotesque poles, which were set out in 1847.

"What do you think those poles will ever amount to?" was the skeptical question which was answered then by "I do not know, but if you live and I live we will see" and now by the spacious areas of shade created in summer by the full-grown trees.

In an old ledger is recorded the cost of construction, as follows:

Cost of material	\$189.29
For labor	\$232.26
Total	\$421.55

with the remark, added in Warren Wheaton's own handwriting, "except my labor."

[To be Continued]

NEW PORTFOLIO SHOWS DU PAGE HISTORIC SITES

Eight Drawings Depict County Landmarks

BY JOANNE KNOCH
(Pictures on page 1)

While history may include any significant event, it should also encompass the places where it was made. That is the theory of the Du Page County Historical society in its latest project.

As a "first" for the county, the group will release a publication this week showing centers of Du Page activity in the mid-1800s. In a series of eight black and white drawings are depicted county landmarks, the origins of which are in prairie, log cabin, and pioneer times.

Three Still Standing

In it are reproduced a sawmill where lumber was processed for pioneer homes, a fort used for protection against the Indians, and early churches, inns, and homes. Only three of the seven landmarks are extant: Castle Inn at Hinsdale, the Warren L. Wheaton home in the suburb named for him, and Big Woods Congregational church west of Warrenville.

Other county spots will be done in future editions of the annual portfolio, according to H. A. Berens of Elmhurst, society president.

H. Gilbert Foote, artist and historical society member, presented both the idea and, later, his own drawings for the publication, which others of the society's 300 members wrote, compiled, and edited. Foote's home is less than a mile from the site of one of his subjects, Gary's Mill near West Chicago.

Copies of the portfolio will be given to members attending the group's annual dinner meeting Friday at Woodridge Country club near Lisle. They will be addressed by Richard Hagen, historical consultant to the state department of parks and memorials.

Historic Site

Originally built one story high in fear of the prairie's strong winds, the Warren Wheaton home still stands on the Roosevelt and Naperville rds. corner where it was first constructed in 1848. Since remodeled by its owners, the Wheaton family, the home was constructed of lumber from nearby the site and the lumber was sawed at Gary's mill in West Chicago.

The mill, comprising another drawing, was the center of a pioneer community after its construction in 1837. Built by Erastus Gary, Winfield township's first settler, it lost its source of power during the 1930s when the nearby Du Page river was deepened and narrowed.

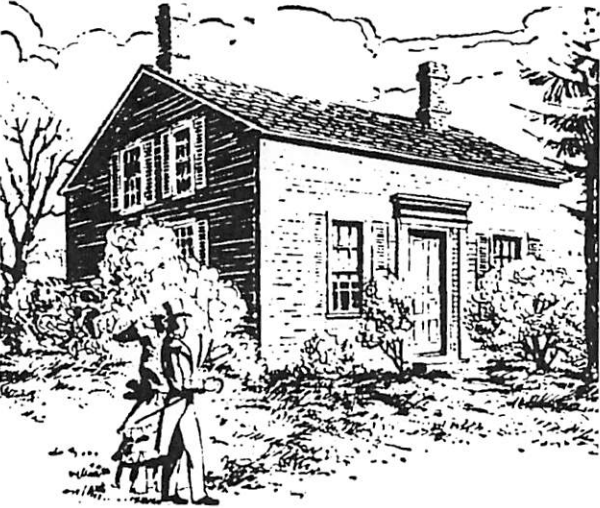
An inn where Civil war dis-

patches were read to Glen Ellyn townspeople formed a county gathering place in its time. Mansion House in the suburb, then called Danby, was built in 1852, just 18 years after Hinsdale's first inn was put up to house settlers and travelers.

A church in which Elmhurst's name was formally changed from Cottage Hill is the subject of another drawing. Byrd's Nest chapel, the first Protestant church in the suburb, was built by Thomas Barbour Bryan, reported to have been a pallbearer at Lincoln's funeral.

Others in the series are Naperville's Fort Payne, built for protection against Indians in the Black Hawk war, and Big Woods Congregational church, standing in Eola rd. south of Illinois 55 since 1851.

Sketches Recall Du Page Landmarks of Century Ago



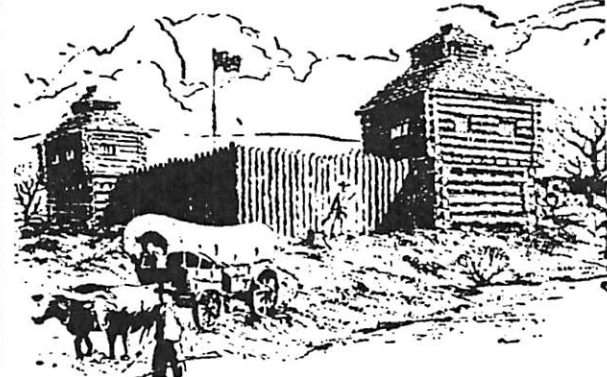
Wheaton's oldest home, built in 1848 by Warren L. Wheaton, is depicted in series of county landmark sketches done by H. Gilbert Foote, West Chicago artist. Du Page Historical society will issue first annual portfolio on county heritage this week.



Ridge and excavations remain where Gary's mill once sawed lumber for pioneer homes. Operating at Ill. 59 and Gary's Mill rd., sawmill was built in 1837 by Erastus Gary, first Winfield township settler. (Story on page 15)



Still standing in Ogden av., Hinsdale, Castle Inn formed center of suburb's activity 120 years ago. Society plans annual publication treating historic places.



Defense against Sauk Indians was object of Naperville's Fort Payne, now part of North Central college campus. Fort, with 100 foot square stockade, was named after Joliet army captain.

BY RUTH DE YOUNG.

DRIVING out Wheaton way the other day I dropped in to see Lucy Wheaton Darling. She was sitting on the wide spreading veranda of her pretty white clapboard house that has guarded the intersection of Roosevelt and Naperville roads these last 85 summers, the stately maples bowing a cordial welcome.

It was an invitation not to be declined.

For years this house . . . oldest in the town . . . has been a rendezvous for friends and acquaintances. They like its pleasant informality, also the quaint furnishings, many of which might tell the story of Wheaton complete in one volume.

This week-end there will be a goodly number of callers, without a doubt, for to Lucy Darling—Mrs. William H. Darling as she is known more formally—the holiday is more than the celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is the 100th birthday of the founding of the town to which her father, Warren L. Wheaton, and his brother, Jesse, gave their name.

"The old order has changed," Mrs. Darling mused. "Chicago has come out of the mud. We rush about in airplanes and motors and hear every word of our President-making convention over the radio. Still, however, I think Wheaton has grown up to be the kind of town Uncle Jesse, the Garys, and father wanted it to be . . . schools, homes, churches, yet with an air of quiet distinctiveness."

It was always the Garys and the Wheatons in the adolescent days of the suburb. As Daniel Webster said of Massachusetts and South Carolina, "Shoulder to shoulder they went through the revolution, hand in hand they stood around the administration of Washington," so these two pioneer families from the little New England town of Pomfret, Conn., stood "shoulder to shoulder" and went "hand in hand" for the advancement of their settlement on the prairie.

Perhaps it was the proximity of Pomfret to the cave where Gen. Putnam bearded the wolf in his lair and slew him that gave them courage and ambition to migrate west. Mrs. Darling isn't sure. But she does know that one day in 1831 Erastus Gary [his son was the late Elbert H. Gary] halted her father on the way to teach his Pomfret school room and asked him to "come in and hear about the west." He listened for an hour, then proceeded to his class, glowing with determination to save enough money to "start west."

"Uncle Erastus' enthusiasm was the result of a trip to Michigan," Mrs. Darling went on. "It was not until the following year, however . . . 1832 . . . that he set out with his brother and sister, Jude and Orinda Gary, and came to settle on what is now the farm of the Chauncey McCormicks. This, you see, is the reason for the 100th birthday party this week-end.

"By 1837 father, then 25 years old, had enough to make the trip on the S. S. Madison," she continued. "The rest of the Garys came too. The next year father went back east to close up his affairs . . . he waited so late the lake was frozen and he had to make the trip on foot . . . and then returned once more to stay."

The remaining chapters of the story tell of the marriage of Jesse Wheaton to Orinda Gary [Washington Wheaton is their son]; Warren's marriage to Harriet Elizabeth Rickard, daughter of Laura Gary; the erection of Warren Wheaton's house in 1848 for all of \$400 [this is Mrs. Darling's], and gifts by him that made possible the founding of Wheaton college.

It's a story that Mrs. Darling relates with modesty. Best of all she likes to recall the peacocks her Uncle Jude Gary used to raise on the land that now comprises the farms of the Edward N. Hurlays and Robert R. McCormicks as well as that of the Chauncey McCormicks. Or again she enjoys speaking of the cherry drop-leaf table, the mahogany mantel clock, and the early American chairs that were packed with a few more simple household belongings and brought from Pomfret almost a century ago.

"Birds and flowers are really my hobbies just like books were father's," she explained smiling. "Otherwise, you see, I might be called a collector of antiques."

Gifts Arrive for Ice Fund, Summer Camp

The first substantial gift to the TRIBUNE free ice fund arrived yesterday in response to the appeal for the hundreds of impoverished families who are in urgent need of ice. The gift was for \$25 with the request not to publish the name of the donor.

Another gift that brightened the outlook for the fund was the receipt of the first children's benefit of the season. A letter printed by hand in a most businesslike fashion and signed by Peter Rosenberg, 10 years old, Vincent Oatis, 10, and Billy Rosenberg, 8, told how the business partnership earned \$1 by conducting an orangeade stand. They promised another benefit for the fund soon.

Such gifts mean a great deal at this time because they indicate that the free ice fund will not be without its friends. The immediate need of these families, however, must not be disregarded. Summer heat is responsible for much illness among infants unless the proper care can be taken of their food. The lives of bottle fed babies are endangered when there is no ice to keep the milk from souring.

The difficulties of the past winter for poor families will be augmented this summer by the visitation of illness among the tiniest members. TRIBUNE readers can prevent much of this illness by seeing to it that ice reaches the households.

Another TRIBUNE charity maintained by readers is the Camp Algonquin fund. This summer close to 2,000 mothers and children will be given free vacations at Camp Algonquin, near Algonquin, Ill. The camp, operated by the United Charities of Chicago, opened on June 21. Yesterday 78 undernourished children joined the visitors already there. This group will stay all summer, their diet and play directed by a staff of experts.

In the past years both funds have been well supported by readers who have never missed a summer sending their gifts. It is hoped these friends will not forget this year that ice is needed more than ever and that vacations mean even more than a change from city streets to quiet countryside.

Yesterday's gifts to the ice fund are as follows:

\$25—A friend.
\$3—Leo J. Strauss.
\$1—Orangeade stand by three boys, T. A.
Total—\$29.
Previously acknowledged—\$38.94.
Grand total—\$68.94.

Gifts should be sent to the cashier

Warming Pan Insured Oldest House Against Frozen Toes

PART III

"Oh, let's stay at Uncle Warren's because they've got a warm bed!"

Children of something over half a century ago, shivering in their little shoes at the remembrance of all the icy sheets they had known too intimately in their short lives, had never a doubt as to where was the best place to spend a night of visiting in Wheaton. The town had outgrown its original descriptive title—"Wheaton's Mud-Hole"—when it came of age and was platted in 1853, but not every house in it was rich in comfort to the extent of possessing a splendid copper warming-pan with a brass top.

Frostbite Insurance

But the oldest house, the one on the corner of Naperville street and Roosevelt road, carried just such insurance against frozen toes!

Mrs. Lucy Wheaton Darling, daughter of the man who built the old homestead and present occupant, laughed and shivered a little too, as she told the story and illustrated it with the household article in question, brought from New England long ago and now propped upright against the fireplace.

It belongs to the epoch in Wheaton history when the village schoolhouse was located over on West street next to the Catholic church, when the baby-carriage factory was a flourishing concern, the post office was situated where Soukup's is now and a Universalist church occupied the present library corner on Wesley and North Main streets.

Burned Wood

"Everybody burned wood then," remembered Mrs. Darling, "and there was the cutest little stove here, like a church, the one in the front room. It had sliding doors and father used to pop corn in it when it was too cold to go to church on Sunday night. Oh, I wish I had it now!"

That was the time, too, of spelling bees, of quilting bees and strawberry festivals and oyster suppers, of apple-paring parties and soft-soap-making, of sheep-washing at Gary's saw-mill in summer and tobogganing down the long hill in front of the old house in winter.

Sheep grazed the front yard into a neat lawn, butter went swinging down into the 30-foot well to keep cool on hot days and straw

the house progressed from no sidewalks to plank-paths to concrete footways—but in it still remain fragments of an almost obliterated past.

Old documents, for instance—one dated Dec. 5, 1859, and signed "J Blanchard," with proposals for alterations of Illinois institute included, proposal number one being "call the college Wheaton college and that will at least save your heirs the expense of a good monument."

And another, shakily written, in 1902: "My folks say I must have a reception on my 90th birthday, as it will not occur again. It is March 6 and I want you to come. Boys and girls about my age and all whose folks are not willing they should go out at night, will be welcome from 3 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Other children, not afraid of the dark, please come in the evening from 7 to 9.

—Warren Wheaton."

(The End)

At Centennial Time, Wheaton Looks Proudly to Its Past: CIT
 Chicago Daily Tribune (1923-1963); Aug 13, 1959; ProQuest Historical Ne
 pg. W6

CITY TRACES A CENTURY OF DEVELOPMENT

Wheaton Has Famed Among Natives

Wheaton, Du Page county seat which will celebrate its centennial next Thursday thru Aug. 27, includes among its native sons Harold E. [Red] Grange, the former football star, and the late steel magnate, Elbert H. Gary.

It was nine years before Judge Gary was born that Warren L. and Jesse Wheaton, in 1837, staked a claim of 160 acres near the present Roosevelt road. Warren Wheaton, later the village's first president, built the community's oldest home in 1848. The house, which has been remodeled, still stands on the southeast corner of Roosevelt and Naper-ville roads, according to Mrs. Harold Dunton, a Du Page Historical society director.

Built 1st Church

Warren's brother Jesse built his house in 1858 at 310 W. Evergreen st., where his granddaughter, Mrs. William Kuntze, lives.

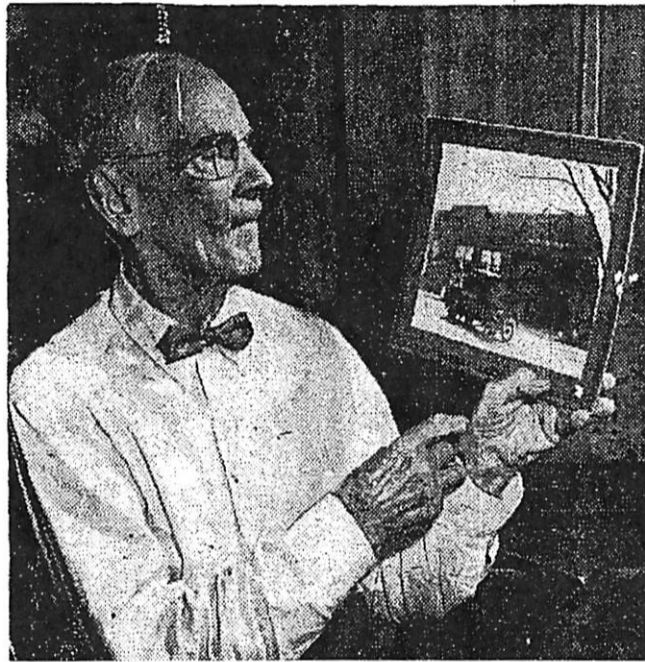
Another landmark is an apartment house at 320 E. Seminary av., which once housed Wheaton's first grammar school. The two story frame building was erected in 1847.

Four years earlier the Wesleyan Methodists, the community's first congregation, built a white church with a tall steeple at Cross street and Seminary avenue.

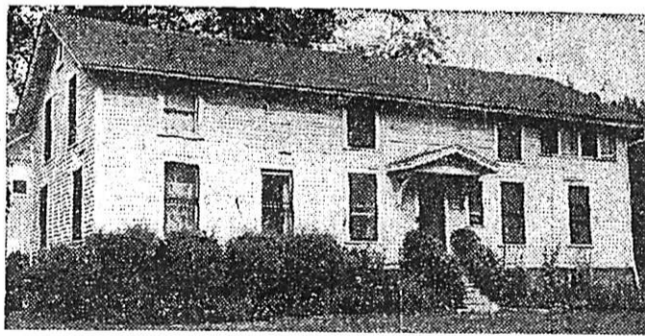
Held Dinner Party

The building since has been moved to Geneva road north of Wheaton. It is known as Pleasant Hill Community church. The Wesleyan Methodist church led in the founding of Illinois institute in 1853. In 1859 the insti-

At Centennial Time, Wheat



Wheaton, which will mark its centennial next Thursday thru Aug. 27, numbers among its residents L. C. Thompson, who is almost as old as the community itself. Thompson, of 319 E. Union av., was born in Wheaton 90 years ago next December. He is looking at a picture of an ice company he formerly owned. Harold (Red) Grange once carried ice for Thompson.



This apartment house, at 320 E. Seminary av., once housed Wheaton's first grammar school. The building was erected in 1847.

tute's name was changed to Wheaton college, named for Warren Wheaton, who gave the land on which it was built.

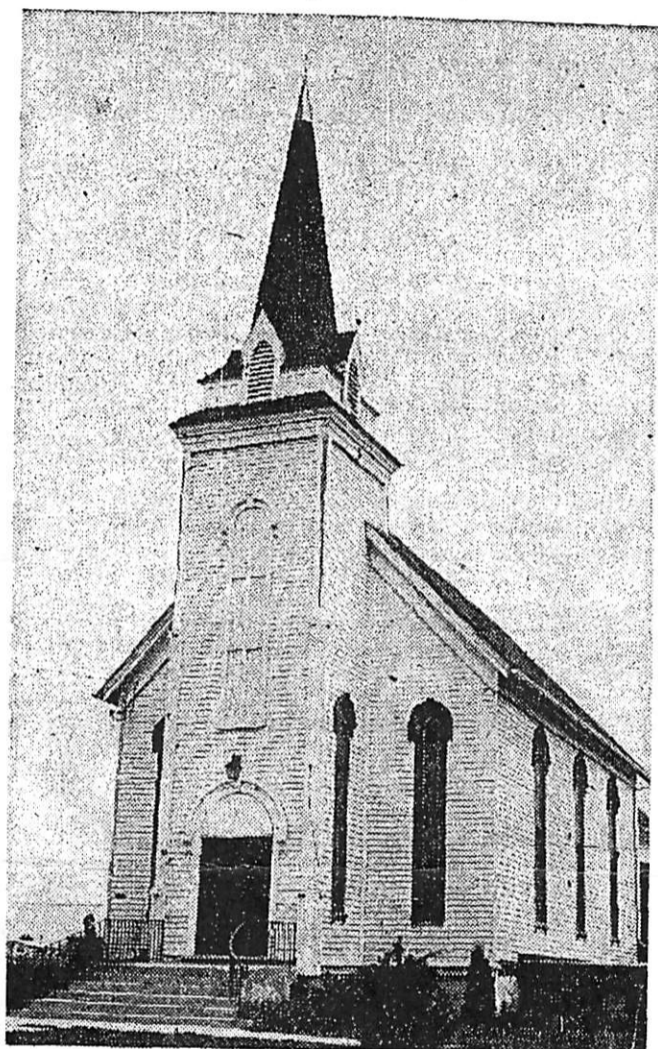
When the Galena & Chicago Union railroad company was laying tracks thru the area in 1849, Warren Wheaton held a dinner party in his new home for railroad officials. Not only did he offer to donate land for the railroad, but he also told officials that, as far as he was concerned, they could lay their tracks wherever they wanted to in the community.

Because of Warren's generosity, the railroad men put the name "Wheaton" on the

depot, and that has been the community's name ever since

Y TRACES A ...
wspapers: Chicago Tribune

on Looks Proudly to Its Past



Pleasant Hill Community church, located on Geneva road north of the city, was built in 1843 by the Wesleyan Methodist congregation. The first church to be erected in Wheaton, it originally stood at Cross street and Seminary avenue, later was moved to present site.

[TRIBUNE Photos]

Later the G. & C. U. became a village charter by the Illinois legislature until 1859. The Chicago and North Western railway.

Platted In 1853

Altho Wheaton was platted since 1839, to Wheaton. About in 1853, it was not granted \$20,000 was raised and the

new courthouse was completed the next year on four acres given to the county by Warren Wheaton. The present courthouse was built in 1897 on the same site. It cost about \$78,000.

Wheaton received a town charter in 1869 and adopted the city form of government in 1890. The first mayor was Gary, a county judge who later helped organize United States Steel corporation and founded the city of Gary, Ind.

Judge Gary was born in 1846 in Gary's Mill, a hamlet west of Wheaton where his father, Erastus, owned a saw mill. When the railroad passed north of Gary's Mill in 1849, Erastus Gary took his family to Wheaton.

Altho Judge Gary traveled a lot and lived in New York City for about six years, he always referred to Wheaton as his home. He maintained a large house where Memorial park is located. Judge Gary was buried in Wheaton cemetery in 1927.

Among Wheaton's 23,649 citizens is E. Clair Brown, 88, the oldest living graduate of Wheaton High school, from which he received a diploma in 1889. Another old-timer is L. C. Thompson, who was born in Wheaton 90 years ago next December.

Thompson formerly owned the L. C. Thompson Ice company which was situated on the southwest corner of Front and West streets. Grange was a part time summer employe who later won fame as the "Wheaton Iceman" and the "Galloping Ghost."

Grange, son of Wheaton's police chief, left his home town to become an All-American football player at the University of Illinois in 1923.

