

and, of course, some others in the earlier days with whom I am not at all acquainted. If I recall correctly, the hay loft of the stable was used as a skating rink for a time during the ownership of John Craig.

In 1922, Robert Holt moved to Yates City from Hanna City, and purchased the livery stable building, dismantled it, used the material together with considerable new lumber, and built a modern mill for the grinding of grain into stock food. This was a line of business the village had not enjoyed for a good many years, but which prospered from the start, growing to a nice volume. Unfortunately Mr. Holt's health failed and after some time the business was sold to Charles Brown of Oneida, who conducted it along the same line for some years, and also purchased the two elevators from the Bank of Yates City, which had come into their possession about that time. He wrecked both of them and rebuilt the fine metal covered elevator that now stands near the railroad track.

Mr. Brown's health also failed and he sold the mill and elevator to Ernest Graves of Elmwood, Illinois. He employed Mrs. Roberta Moore as the active manager. They now enjoy a large volume of business.

Another early business in the village, which enjoyed a nice volume of trade, was the mill. It stood on the ground now occupied by the apartment house owned by Mrs. Mae Hitchcock. The building was erected by Wm. H. Beeson in 1868, but he sold the business and building to Bass Bevans in 1869, and he carried on for quite a long time. The building was destroyed by fire in the 1880's, and the ground remained unoccupied until A. J. Kightlinger purchased it and erected the building now owned by Mrs. Hitchcock. He carried on the hotel business in it, as previously related, until that also began to pass out of existence because of the advent of the automobile.

Going back to the center of town, on its northwest corner, were vacant lots where now stand the post office and the grocery business, operated for many years by J. B. Switzer, but at the present time by Carl Feldner. These open lots were oft times used in the early days as a good location for the speaker's stand for political rallies, and that was where the torch light parade always ended.

These vacant lots, in later years, were purchased by some one whose name does not come to mind, and the corner building, which is now the post office and the barber shop of Asa Braham at the north end, was first constructed.

Over the years since it was built, it has been occupied by several different lines of business, mostly, however, by the grocery business carried

on by J. W. Dixon, Harve Truitt, C. V. Bird, and some others not now recalled. Later H. E. Kjellenberg owned and operated the "Quality Store" there and sold groceries, dry goods, shoes, and men's furnishings.

The building now occupied by Mr. Feldner as a grocery, which was built somewhat later, has also housed various lines of business. Among them was the hardware business by Joseph Cecil, and again by E. J. H. North, followed by Kenton Ware in the picture show business, when silent movies were a means of entertainment, followed again by Roscoe Blair in the auto repair business, and now, at this time, it is a grocery store.

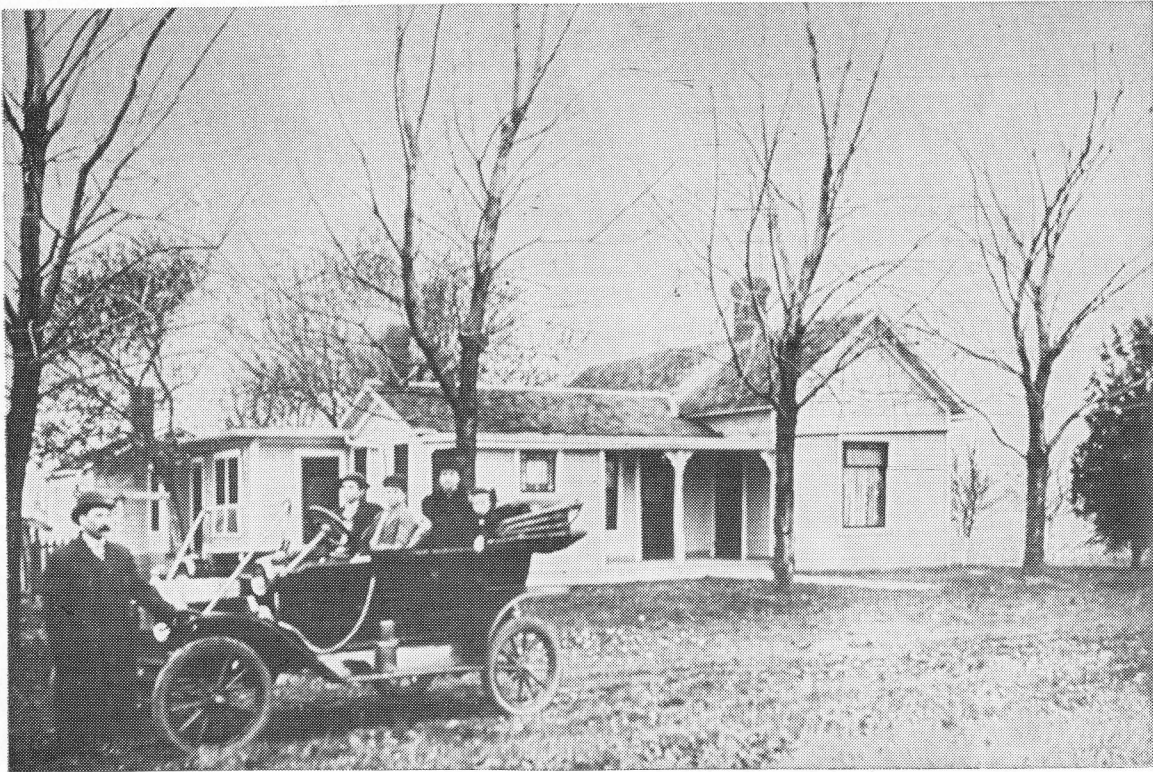
West of these lots stood the two story brick building, which still remains there. It was occupied for many years by C. A. Stetson as a dry goods store, and he lived upstairs with his family. In later years, it was occupied by various lines of business, but, at this time, it is the restaurant and billiard parlor operated by Stuart Switzer. The second story is the residence of Darvin Prouty and the telephone switchboard, which is operated by him as the owner of the telephone line.

For many years, Martin Jordan conducted a grocery store in the one story frame building west of the Stetson dry goods store. This building still stands. It was purchased by Samuel Stone, now deceased, and moved about fifteen feet farther west.

Mr. James A. Hensley built the one story frame building west and conducted the post office in it. It was so occupied for some time but it came into the possession of Samuel Stone, who conducted a harness and repair shop for some years. At the present time it is unoccupied.

The next two story frame building west was occupied by Sam Conner and Ed Taylor and his brother Perry Taylor as a barber shop for quite some time. Other lines of business followed but usually only for a short time. It was finally purchased by Emerson Parks and torn down. A new cement block building was then erected in which he conducted a farm machinery business for some years. At this time, it is occupied as a tavern by George Kefauver.

Including the building just described, and west to the corner of Main and the next street, Elizabeth, all the buildings that occupied that ground have been changed. We must first recite that the first one west of the one previously described was a two story, frame, metal covered building, constructed by John H. Conner, a retired farmer. Here he operated a furniture business for some years but discontinued it. L. D. Fletcher purchased the building and remodeled



FORMER HOME OF GEORGE T. DAVEY AND FAMILY, and 1912 Model T Ford

it into an opera house with stage, curtain and side wings, and ample chairs for seating. In it all sorts of public doings were held. From his ownership, it passed to Arwine and Rosabel Garrison, who continued its use as a play house for some time. It finally came into the ownership of Cecil Coykendall, who dismantled the building and sold the ground to the Village. This is where the brick building now stands that houses the engines, pressure tank, water softening equipment and fire engines of the Village and Township.

Just beyond this building stood a one story frame building erected by L. F. Conner. He used it as a carpenter shop and watch and clock repair shop. He was followed by Wm. H. Nash in the carpenter business.

Still beyond that and next to the corner stood, what was originally, the Presbyterian Church. This, when sold, was purchased by R. C. Matthews and moved to this location from where it had stood one block north. He operated a livery stable and horse barn for some years. When the Township took steps and elected a board of Library Trustees for a public library, they purchased this ground and also that on which the carpenter shop stood and proceeded to move the shop to the west side of South Union Street, a short distance north of Market

Street, where Mr. Nash continued to use it as his shop in the carpenter business.

In 1931, H. E. Kjellenberg and D. W. Antrim opened a printing business in the cement block building, owned by Mr. Kjellenberg, located a few feet north of the carpenter shop above mentioned.

In 1938, D. W. Antrim purchased the carpenter shop from Mr. Nash, who had discontinued it. They moved the printing equipment there and have continued, as Hilfred & Dewey's Print Shop, to serve the community in a much needed line of business.

Since the livery barn building had already been purchased by Lee Barrett and moved to the rear of the lot now owned by Arthur Johnson and converted into a barn to house his horses, grain, etc., they proceeded to erect the building, which is our present library. It was built in 1922 and is more fully described in an article in this book by another writer.

The intersection of Main and Union streets, which is the center of the Village, seems to be a good place to start from in describing the various business houses on the streets in different quarters of town, so we will return now to the bank building on the southeast corner of these two streets. Since the history of the