

OLD BOSS TONE TURLEY FIRST OF FAMILY TO SETTLE IN COUNTY

Lived to 115 Years Of Age; Was Said To Be 7 Feet, 2 Inches

Nine generations of the Turley family are laid to rest in the Carlyle cemetery, southwest of Mount Pulaski.

The first Turley that settled in Sangamon county was the first white man to cross the Sangamon River five miles north of the square at Springfield, Illinois, where the Carpenter bridge now stands. In those early days there were not any bridges and the Indians were thick as hops all around this part of the country. So he evidently waded across the Sangamon river, and settled in that part of country which is now Logan county.

I never heard anyone ever say what his first name was but I did always hear them say whenever they said anything about him that the Indians always called him Old Boss Tone and also, that the Turleys originally came from the northern part of Ireland and from there they went to England. Before the tea was thrown into the ocean many of the Turleys had immigrated to this country and were present when the tea was dumped, and they were doing their part as fast as they could, not letting any grass grow under their feet either. They settled in Virginia and from there to Kentucky and years afterwards, they came to Illinois.

Boss Tone traded with the Indians and as the white people gathered in on this part of the globe, he was the one that settled all of the disputes which did gather up between the Whites and the Indians, never failing to give to the Indian the best of the bargain. Sometimes the white people would object, in that case all he would say was then you and the Indian for it which always meant that they'd do as Boss Tone told them, or the Indian would have his scalp.

18 Children

Boss Tone had a large family by his first wife; 18 children — never heard any of their names, only one, his son, Richard. Boss Tone fought in the Revolutionary War, the Turley's were found in all of the wars which were fought for our country up to the present day, and no doubt they will continue as long as the country lasts.

Just when Boss Tone's wife died I never heard anyone say, but he married a second time when he was 90, his bride of sweet 16 very much younger than his youngest child.

I forgot to mention that Boss Tone was in New York when Washington was made the first President of the United States, and did his part to place him there. He lived to the ripe old age of 115 years old and hastened his death by helping pull a horse out of the mire. He was the first one to be laid away in the Carlyle Cemetery. He stood in sock feet, 7 feet 2 inches.

Casket Was Hollowed Tree

Those days there were not any undertakers, they came into existence years and years later. So when anyone died, the neighbors just went out and cut down a tree in strict accordance to the person's size, so in this case the tree must have been real large. After chopping it down they took a saw and split it down through the center leaving the part which the body was to be placed in much larger than the top, then they hollowed out the center of the tree leaving both ends tight and the bark all on, placing a feather pillow underneath the head of the body. Just before the body was removed from the residence the other part of the tree which had been hollowed out some over the body and fastened together with wooden pegs, then placed in the big wooden wagon and driven to the cemetery with the horses moving in a very slow walk even for them. What would that kind of slowness look like now a days.

Old Boss Tone had a grocery store on Mt. Pulaski hill and hauled his groceries by wagon all the way across country from St. Louis, meeting a great many Indians on the way, but had the knack of knowing exactly the proper way of keeping on the good side of them and never going against the Indian wishes but in every case wonderfully favoring the Indians.

—From Maud Burke's Records Lincoln Visited Turleys

The Turleys moved to Springfield March 1, 1842. George W. Turley is a good friend of Lincoln and Lincoln called on them as soon as they got moved into town. He has often visited their cabin on the farm.

CAPPS NURSERY POPULAR BUSINESS IN EARLY DAYS

In the north part of Mount Pulaski, several blocks of ground between Washington and Vine Sts., ending at the Elkhart road, was the location of the Capps Bros. Nursery. It was a big business for many years, and later part of the north end was sold to Harmon F. Lushbaugh, and was known as Lushbaugh's Pasture. On this place were two rows of trees, several yards apart and between 300 and 400 feet long, extending south from the Elkhart road. In the pasture, across the road east from the cemetery, some good sized circuses would make one-day stands.

The nursery is no more, and today there are a number of fine residences occupying the land.

GEORGE W. TURLEY BUILT OWN HOME IN 1852, OF BRICK, LUMBER

Cut Timbers Which Cured 2 Years; Had Own Brick Yard

George Washington Turley decided to build a new house in 1852. Up till the new house was built they lived in a cabin which he built when he first came to Logan County. The cabin was 50 feet long and 20 feet wide, one room up and one down, there was a fire place at each end. After the new house was built it was used as a kitchen for many years.

After George Washington Turley decided to build he took his sons, Sam, Will and Budd (Thomas S.) to the timber and

began to cut the lumber which he let cure for two years. He also had a brick yard in which he made all the bricks needed. The first story was brick in between the walls.

In the late spring of 1858 he got carpenters (one was a Scotchman) and the house was started. Everything was made by hand, even the doors, window frames, floors, laths, casings and weatherboards.

The house was completed in late summer or early fall of 1855 taking about 8 to 10 weeks to build it.

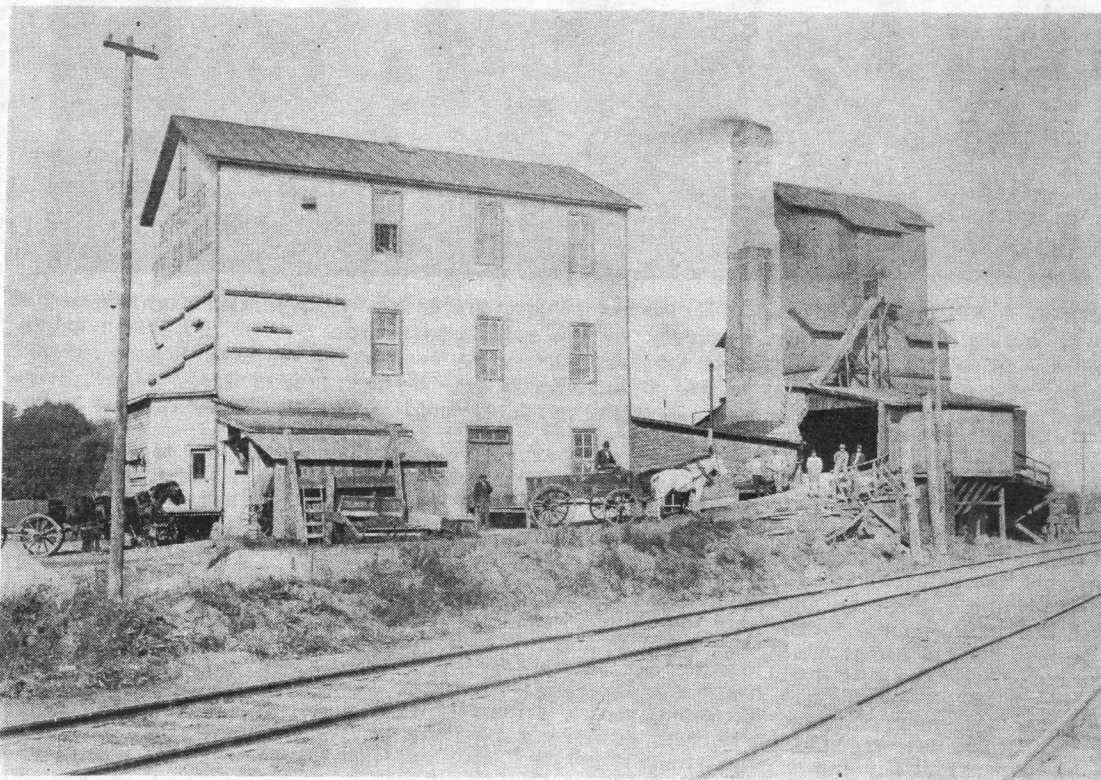
After it was built one room was furnished as a parlor with all new furniture. They covered each of the other 3 floors with hand made carpet. It took 100 yards a yard wide. Three of the rooms had fireplaces (two down and one up). They put four double beds in each of the two upstairs rooms and a bureau for each bed besides chairs and tables. Theresa was housekeeper for the first two years (she then married George H. Butler) and then Ann took charge. Lincoln was a visitor there many times.

In 1827, Thomas R. Skinner and Isaac L. Skinner, located in what is now Mt. Pulaski township, the former on sections 4 and 5, and the latter on 17. Thomas R. Skinner was one of the prominent men of the county. He was elected the first County Surveyor of Logan county, and held the office from 1839 to 1843. When the office of County Judge was created in 1849 and he was elected first incumbent of that office and served until 1857, the year of his death.

1932 ASSESSED SCHOOL VALUATION

High school assessed valuation \$3,858,637. The tax levy was .67 with \$25,000 for school administration.

The grade school had as assessed valuation of \$1,468,619 with a tax levy of .70.



FLOUR MILL AND ELEVATOR which was located on South Vine and Monroe many years ago. The Wolcott soft water plant is now on

this site. As we understand it, Mike Kautz, Sr. had the elevator there at one time before moving to west part of the city.

INTERESTING DATA ABOUT MOUNT PULASKI COMMUNITY BACK IN 1883

Three Flour Mills, Two Newspapers, and Coal Mine.

The Lincoln Herald, established in 1856, and published in later years by F. B. Mills, in its issue of Thursday, April 12, 1883, printed some interesting items from Mount Pulaski, written by S. Linn Beidler. This was more than two years before the Mount Pulaski Weekly News was founded. The information of 75 years ago should interest many readers of the Times-News. Note the following:

Mount Pulaski Correspondence
Mount Pulaski, April 10, 1883, The following gentlemen were elected to township offices last week: Amos Dillsaver, supervisor; Charles S. Landis, town clerk; George Vonderlieth, collector; Jerry Matthews, assessor; James Poe, commissioner of highways.

Advices just received from Chicago state that the recent subscription would be accepted and the telephone line from Mount Pulaski to Latham be built.

Nicholas Lang has bought a tract of nine acres of land in the south part of town from John Schick, Sr., for which he paid \$1,800, or \$200 per acre. Lands were never higher in this vicinity than now.

J. W. Whitney has purchased two lots in the south part of town from L. K. Scroggin for \$200, upon which he will immediately erect the Whitney Flats of several apartments to rent.

In the vicinity of Chestnut the following parties are fattening 1400 hogs for the June market: Isaac Allen, Nel. Wolcott, J. J. Michener, Nate Josylin, J. S. Randolph, Mr. Runyan, Ream & Cochran.

Mount Pulaski cemetery has

been nicely trimmed and cleaned up, and presents a fresh and beautiful appearance. Many elaborate monuments have been placed therein.

Christian Roos, who bought the Doten farm north of Mount Pulaski for \$70 per acre, has sold his place of 120 acres to Samuel Evans at \$75 per acre.

Dr. M. P. Phinney was called by telegram today from Indianapolis, Ind., to attend the bedside of a sick uncle.

Mount Pulaski is a live and rapidly growing town in a fine farming country, at the junction of the Peoria, Decatur & Evansville Railroad and Springfield division of the Illinois Central. It has a fine public school building, six churches, three flour mills, several elevators, two newspapers, a shaft nearly down to coal, etc. It does a large and increasing trade, and has bright prospects of future growth.

In Classified Ad Column

I have pasture for 300 head of cattle for rent. Situated 6 miles southeast of Mt. Pulaski. Call on me at the premises, or address me at Mt. Pulaski. —E. Crane.

F. Schick & Sons, General Merchandise.

E. C. Nolan, Physician and Surgery.

C. F. Poppele, Physician and Surgeon.

S. Linn Beidler, Druggist.

W. H. Kretzinger, Latham, Notary Public & Collection Agent. Collection and remittances promptly made.

Zeiss & Bekemeyer, General Merchandise, carried a two column advertisement.

The following birth items were printed:

March 22, daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. John J. Horn. March 2, son born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Turley, Mount Pulaski.

Our Best Wishes

TO OUR FRIENDS
IN
MOUNT PULASKI



FINROCK MOTOR CO.

SALES
and
SERVICE



700 E. Main
CLINTON, ILL.
Phone 419

Thank You...

As we join in offering best wishes and congratulations to Mount Pulaski on the Sil-Tennial Celebration, we'd also like to say thank you for your patronage.

Harry & Mary's

Short Orders

Sandwiches

Beer - Liquors - Wine

MOUNT PULASKI, ILL.

SW 2-3315