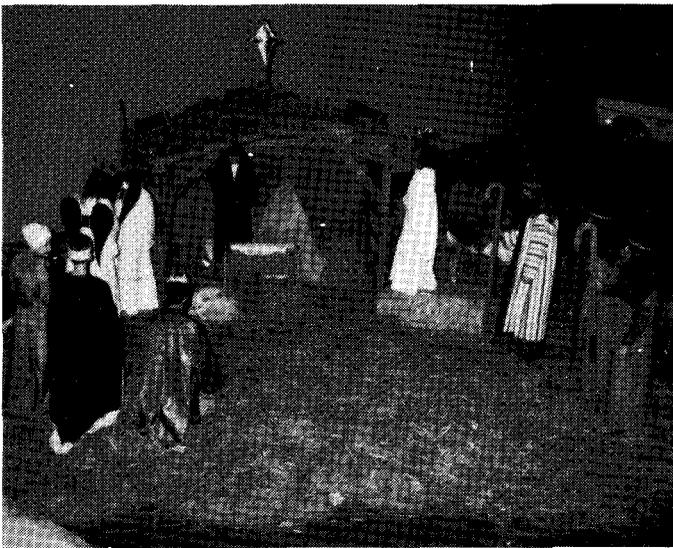


## CHAPTER 5

# Churches



Area residents look forward to seeing the Christian Church youth present their live nativity scene each year.



Travelers on Route 51 are welcomed by the above sign.  
Photos by Howard Knight

The histories of the churches that were once an important part of the neighboring township communities, and of the churches, now, in Moweaqua are from many sources. Generous, dedicated people interested in a particular church assembled the material from personal recollections, family journals, historical studies, articles published in newspapers of an earlier day and church records.

These condensations can only give a part of each story. It is hoped that the memories invoked will make the stories complete for the special pleasure of each reader.

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On May 31, 1867, in accordance with the appointment of Sangamon Presbytery, a committee, consisting of Rev. C. Loudon, Rev. S. W. Mitchel and Elder S. H. Wilson, met to organize a Presbyterian Church at Moweaqua, Illinois. Rev. S. W. Mitchel acted as moderator and Rev. C. Loudon as clerk.

The charter members were as follows: F. N. Chamberlain, Ann Chamberlain, Eleanor Gray, Mercy Hudson, John G. Stewart, Mary Stewart, Lewis Long, Mrs. Lewis Long, J. J. Potter, Mary Jane Potter, Saphronia Hardy, Mrs. Mary Jane Smith, Mary Jane Deffenbacker, Delia A. Rice, and Carrie J. Catherwood.

Lewis Long and F. M. Chamberlain were elected elders. The name chosen for the church was The Presbyterian Church of Moweaqua. Services were held in the Baptist Church twice a month until the Presbyterian Church was built, which was begun in 1871, and dedicated in 1872. The size of the church was thirty-six feet by fifty feet. It was a white frame structure, located on the west side of the park.

The first move toward building a new church was a congregational meeting at the home of Frank Snell on March 25, 1913. In October, the finance committee was instructed to solicit the congregation for funds. Nearly \$6,000 was subscribed as a nucleus. The trustees were instructed to take over the Thomas Hudson property in which Mr. Hudson had left the church an equity of \$1,000. In consideration of the responsibility of building a church and purchasing a manse, the congregation decided to assume self-support to become effective September, 1915. The church had been a home mission for forty years. The first shovel full of earth was thrown on Monday morning, July 26, 1915, by Mrs. Rebecca Hudson, widow of the late Thomas Hudson. The corner stone was laid by the Pastor Rev. S. A. Teague, September 26, 1915.

On May 7, 1916, a large congregation assembled to dedicate the new church. The guest speaker was the Rev. Edgar P. Hill. Assisting in the ceremonies were Rev. W. A. Sears, of the Assumption Presbyterian Church, Rev. E. V. Young of the Methodist Church, Frank Welton of the Disciples Church and Frank Woodhull of the Baptist Church.

It was an auspicious occasion that proved "the great end for which the church stand was greater than denominationalism".

In 1917 the original Presbyterian Church was torn down and the lot sold. It became 317 Hanover Street.

The following ministers served the church from 1916 thru 1964: Reverends Teague, Campbell, Burkett, Sabin, Scrogg, Madden, Bease, and McEvers.

So few members of the congregation were left in 1964, it was decided they could no longer maintain a Presbyterian Church in Moweaqua.

The last service was held January 19, 1964. It was the wish of these people that the building continue to serve as a church.

## SANNER CHAPEL

We owe much to the pioneers of the early days who settled in and around this community. They came to a wilderness and made homes that counted for God. A Methodist Episcopal Sunday School was organized at the Maple Grove School House sometime before the church society was organized in 1875 by the Rev. Howard of Moweaqua, Illinois. The membership in 1875 was 25.

In 1879, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Johnson gave an acre of ground for a site for the new church in the northeast corner of section 20. The Johnson's were paying for a home at the time and didn't feel that they could contribute cash towards substantial money gift, other members contributed also, substantial money gift and other members contributed, also, and in a very short time enough funds were in the hands of the official board to erect a new church. The contract for the new church was let to A. H. Graham, Moweaqua, Illinois. The cost was not to exceed \$1,200.00. Everyone was enthusiastic. The first load of lumber to arrive was hauled by Will Barber, a young boy in his teens. This first load of lumber consisted of the heavy sills, drawn by a yoke of oxen. These heavy sills were purchased from the Moweaqua sawmill. The men of the community hauled the rest of the material for the church from the Moweaqua Lumber Co. where it was purchased.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sanner, Sr., gave so willingly and wholeheartedly it was decided to call the church Sanner Chapel in honor of them. Mrs. Hiram Johnson cooked the dinners for the carpenters who lived in Moweaqua and came out daily to work on the new church.

The work on the church was begun in the fall of 1879 and was finished in time to be dedicated in December, 1879, by Presiding Elder Dr. David Gay of the Triple Circuit including Bethany and St. Mary's. Later Todd's Point was added to the circuit.

Music was early considered a vital part in church worship at Sanner Chapel. An organ was purchased and used in the church and Sunday School services at Maple Grove schoolhouse. Later in 1879, it was transferred to Sanner Chapel and used at the dedication services. This organ was used until 1919.

In 1885, the church building was enlarged. Rev. David T. Black held a six week revival in January and February of that year; over 100 were converted. A tradition was started and continues to this day of having a Christmas Eve and Easter program.

In the fall of 1904, Sanner Chapel severed its connections with the Bethany Circuit and became a charge. In 1905 the church decided to build a parsonage not to exceed \$1200.00 in cost. Mrs. Winslow of Decatur, Illinois, who owned the ground south of the church, donated one-half acre for the parsonage site. In 1919 the young people under the leadership of Dan Noland bought a piano.

In 1926 the Ladies Aid was organized. Mrs. Arthur Smull was the first president. In the fall of 1929, under the

leadership of Rev. E. H. McKee a basement was constructed under the church. A furnace was installed at this time bringing an end to the stoves in the sanctuary.

Lilly Wise, primary Sunday School teacher, kept a cradle roll from 1899 to 1934. There were 134 babies in this roll.

Sanner Chapel observed a special service on Sunday, July 23, 1950, to celebrate its 75th anniversary. Mrs. Sadie Rogers Steele had compiled a scrapbook of the church history of the first 75 years of existence.

A combination piano-organ was purchased in 1958. The organ is used at church services and the piano at Sunday School.

In 1963 the parsonage was torn down and the lumber used to build an annex to the church. In the winter of 1966, a Memorial Fund was started under the leadership of Rev. George Garris. Many items have been purchased for the church in memory of members and friends. Air conditioning was installed on August 26, 1973. Rev. Rodney Miller now pastors this congregation.

## UNION PREDESTINARIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

The first church in Flat Branch Township, Shelby County, Illinois, was built on James Tolly's land on Section 12 near where he first settled in 1833. A schoolhouse was built that year, and it has been assumed that this first church was built that year or soon thereafter. It was built of hewed logs, and was erected by the Baptist denomination. This church burned and the congregation erected the church building which stood on the northwest corner of section 12, Flat Branch Township, Town Thirteen, Range two East of the 3rd principal meridian, Shelby County, Illinois, approximately six miles southeast of Moweaqua.

In 1881, a history of Shelby County, Illinois stated that Union Church was the only denomination of this order in the county. In that year, the church had about fifty members.

At the meeting in April 1852 the church clerk reported that the church books and papers had been destroyed by fire, and delegates were sent to Okaw Association to obtain a new Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.

The regular meeting of the church was held on Saturday before the third Lord's Day in each month. Eventually this was changed to Sunday.

At the December 1867 meeting, the members passed a resolution to build a new meeting house to be used for divine service. It was to be the following dimensions: thirty feet wide by forty feet long, nine feet between the floor and ceiling, to be made of good material, and was to be completed in good workmanlike manner according to the specifications agreed upon.

At the January 1868 meeting, the members decided to vote to build on a lot of ground proposed to be donated by W. Armstrong on the Shelbyville-Moweaqua road, half a mile southeast of Milligan's saw mill. They agreed to change the height of the meeting house from nine to fourteen feet.

At the May 1868 meeting it was agreed to change the place of building from the W. Armstrong site to a lot of ground donated by James R. Scribner at the locations named in the first paragraph. The trustees were ordered to meet the same afternoon and stake off ground for the building.

Church meetings were held at Long Grove Schoolhouse, at Center Schoolhouse, and at homes of members until the new church was built.

The new meeting house was never referred to again in the minutes, but since the church was still standing in 1967 at the second location decided upon, it is assumed that it was built in 1868. The location was at Pleak, Illinois (Pleak's Corner, as some called it). At one time Pleak, Illinois, was a thriving village with several churches, a schoolhouse, a general store with a lodge room above, a blacksmith shop, a doctor's office and several houses. All are now gone with the exception of one house.

August 1924 was the last recorded meeting date in the records until 1947. Although meetings had been held, no record was kept.

In 1947 the church was repaired by means of donations of money and labor. The next entry in the records was Sunday, February, 1953 when a meeting was held at the church with Elder Harold Janes preaching. On September 9, 1964 with Elder Eugene Janes presiding a service and business meeting was held at which new officers and trustees were elected.

The baptismal rites of immersion took place on Flat Branch Creek north of where Flat Branch Townhouse, Shelby County, Illinois now stands. Family names of members from a listing dating back to 1852 include: Lamb, Scribner, Tolly, Modlin, Thompson, Bryson, Jesse, Proctor, Hill, Goodwin, Casey, Denton and Portwood.

Now, in 1976, the building has been torn down and only the memories remain.

## THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MOWEAQUA

The history of the First Baptist Church dates back to the year 1864, when ten people chartered a Baptist Organization in the small village of Moweaqua. They were Mr. and Mrs. Washington Gregory (ancestors of the late Mary and Jamie Gregory), Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. Abner Smith and Aunt Lizzie Polk (as she is remembered) and her husband. They held worship services in their respective homes until a membership necessitated a church building.

On April 19, 1870, a church building was completed at a cost of \$5,000 and was dedicated for divine worship by Rev. R. R. Coon. It was one of the best and largest of the public buildings in the village. It was a frame structure standing on the present site. It faced west and had two entrances. Two large drum stoves heated the church.

On the night of December 6, 1890, the Baptist Church had the misfortune of a terrible fire, in which the building and its contents were destroyed, with the exception of the bell and the Bible. This bell, which had been used to call people to worship for the previous twenty years, was rescued by Brother J. W. Gregory. The large Bible, which lay upon the pulpit made a very lasting impression upon the population of the village who had assembled at the scene of the fire. As the building was being consumed, this Bible and the pulpit could be seen through the flames and seemed to send out the message that "God's Word stands to the last". Finally the Book fell into the baptistry and only the margins of the leaves were scorched. Some of these leaves are in the possession of the present members and are highly treasured. Some are under glass in the minister's study.



First Baptist Church of Moweaqua

Immediately the membership set out to raise funds for a new building. In just a few days a meeting was held when committees were appointed and subscriptions started for the erection of a new building. Excavation was started at once; as the building progressed, funds swelled.

Sunday, November 29, 1891, was a red letter day in the history of the Baptist Church. The present building was dedicated to the service of God. The church was packed to capacity long before the hour of the service. Dr. Ray, of St. Louis, delivered the address. Rev. Coon, the first pastor, assisted in the dedication. At the close of the service it was reported that the cost of the building was \$7,500 of which \$3,900 had been secured.

The church building at that time was the finest in town and today, although the oldest in town is in a good state of repair. The baptistry, built in 1870 in the first structure was in use until 1976 when extensive remodeling was done to the whole building. Down through the years, regular church and Sunday School services have been held. Wednesday night prayer services have been continuous from the early days.

The first marriage in this building took place December 24, 1894, and was that of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Adamson.

The church was admitted to the Springfield Association in 1865. The Moweaqua Church entertained the Springfield Association for the first time in 1884 and several of our pastors have served as Moderators of the Association. Other meetings were held here in 1895, 1904, 1911 and 1919. These meetings lasted for three or four days.

The church was affiliated with the Northern Baptist Convention, now known as the American Baptist Convention, in 1908.

Revival or protracted meetings, as these were sometimes called, were held practically every year, lasting from three to six weeks — one lasted seven weeks. In early 1897, Rev. Jo B. Rogers was called from Kentucky to hold one of these meetings.

The Women's Missionary Society was organized in 1892. This group has contributed much to both home and foreign mission, through studies of the mission fields, financial aid and White Cross work and contributions.

The Baptist Sunday School Picnics will be remembered by many in the community as special annual events held on the second Thursday in August. Bountiful dinners were served to the public under a big tent in the Moweaqua Park. It was estimated that one year 5,000 people attended this event from here and the surrounding communities. Band concerts and other interesting features made up of local talent, as well as entertainment from out of town, furnished all day programs for these occasions. Every member of the church was used in the planning and promotion of this annual affair. These picnics were held from 1899 to 1917 when they had to be discontinued because of World War I.

The parsonage was built in 1899. Rev. Jo B. Rogers was the first occupant.

Within the membership were those who decided to withdraw from the congregation and organize a church of their own. This occurred in 1945.

In 1946 the exterior of the building was repaired and painted and a fund started for the redecoration of the main auditorium and the Sunday School room. On September 28, 1947 the church was re-dedicated to the service of Christ, as a challenge to the members to go forward unitedly, steadily and persistently to further His service through the surrender of their hearts and lives to Him.

Foreseeing a future need for church building expansion, J. E. Gregory deeded the lot north of the church in memory of his wife, Deborah Ann, to the congregation in 1899. Under the impetus of Rev. Allan Simpson, an educational annex was planned and use made of this lot. The ground-breaking ceremony was held Sunday morning, August 4, 1957. Later, in 1959, the sanctuary and Sunday School room were completely renovated. A sound system was purchased with money from a bequest left by Mary Gregory.

In 1961 the boulevards south and west of the church were cleared, graded and rocked to provide more parking space for the church-goers' cars. In 1963, the old basement was remodeled, making five classrooms. Gas furnaces were installed in the church and parsonage.

In anticipation of and preparatory for the centennial services to be held in September 1964, a beautiful Conn electric organ was purchased and was dedicated at the celebration. With funds raised for the purpose, 150 new hymnals were also purchased.

Music has always been an important part of our worship services. Under the leadership of Rev. Allan Simpson, the choir gave inspirational Christmas and Easter cantatas attended by many people of the community. Our music is now in the hands of Mark Gregory and is still a beautiful part of our devotions.

This congregation has proudly and humbly given the following sons and daughter to the full-time service of our Lord and Saviour:

James Cawile (deceased)	Clifford Lanter
Ernest Poole (deceased)	Paul Raycroft
Harold Leaf	Maude Adamson Raycroft
Curtis Leaf	James Eckhardt
Earl Muller	Keith Jacobs

Rev. Ernest V. Liddle has initiated a number of special organizations during his three year ministry. Among these are the Men's Brotherhood, which meets every alternate month with good attendance and interesting programs, and the Junior Church which meets during the adult church hour.

In 1973 the parsonage was completely renovated with air conditioning added, the rooms all carpeted and redecorated and a carport erected.

The outside of the church building was tuck-pointed and stained in 1975 and central air conditioning was installed to cool the complete building.

The year of our nation's bicentennial — 1976 — finds the First Baptist Church looking forward with great anticipation to a completely remodeled sanctuary and basement, replacing the antique baptistry which was a part of the old church built in 1870.

## THE MOWEAQUA METHODIST CHURCH

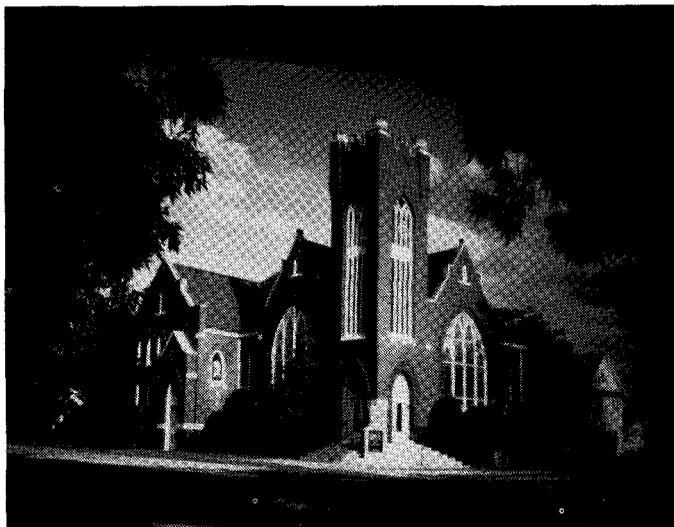
The cabin home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schneider, west of town where the "Old Homestead" now stands, was the first meeting place for Methodists in this community.

A preacher of any denomination, especially circuit riders, found lodging with the Schneiders, (now changed to Snyder) and they later gave the site where the present church stands, and the city park, to the town.

From 1837 on, their home was open for occasional services. When a circuit rider would be passing their way, the people would come from a great distance in wagons in which they would sleep during the night (as travel on the roads after dark was unsafe at that early date). They "broke bread" with the Schneiders in their home and the preaching service was ended early enough for them to reach their cabin homes by night fall. Folks were hungry for the word of God in those days, and traveled far and endured hardships to hear it. Methodism was entrenched in the heart and lives of these early settlers.

In 1852 the first class was formed by the Rev. Peter Ketchum as a part of the Taylorville Circuit. In 1852-1853, a church was organized with 30 charter members, and a modest frame building was erected on the site just west of Dawson & Wikoff's Funeral Home and served as a place of worship for 21 years. It was a low frame building with small windows, high benches and an amen corner where the white haired men responded with a loud "Amen".

Moweaqua Methodist Church



When they got an organ, Grandma Mittlekauff threw up her hands and said, "The Devil is in this place" and walked out never to be reconciled to an organ. Up until that time B. H. McHenry led the singing with a tuning fork.

Miss Aileen Day said that when her father brought his bride to the old Day home in 1862 — not 2 blocks from the church — the mud was so deep in winter that friends from the country loaded them into a wagon and took them to church every Sunday.

Under the pastorate of the Rev. Ira Emerson and the leadership of such men of Methodism as Geo. A. Jacobs, Michael Schneider, B. H. McHenry, J. E. Ayars, and J. W. Hughes, a new, commodious brick building was erected. The citizens of the town and country, irrespective of creeds, subscribed toward the building of the church which was dedicated on February 3, 1876 by Bishop Thos. Bowman.

The church was a long room with straight up and down benches and had two amen corners one on either side of the pulpit.

After 31 years, the feeling became quite general that in order to meet the present day need of the congregation, and to plan larger and better things for the future, a new, larger building was needed. J. T. Haslam, Ralph Ayars and Karl Snyder were appointed to solicit a \$15,000 subscription fund to begin the enterprise. The old church was abandoned March 10, 1907; the first brick of the new one laid July 1; the corner stone laid July 25; and the church was dedicated before the old year closed on December 29, 1907.

On that day the final amount of money was raised so that the church might be dedicated. The complete cost was \$23,500. The auditorium has bowled floor and the choir space was designed to seat about 30 persons. The pipe organ was installed in 1913 due to the perseverance of Mrs. Louisa Hedges and her loyal Sunday School class.

The large window on the west in memory of Michael and Margaret Schneider, is the Resurrection scene. The one on the north, in memory of Geo. A. Jacobs, is the Gethsemane scene. The two smaller windows are in memory of Mrs. A Greaves and B. H. McHenry. One represents our Savior knocking at the door, and the other, our Lord as the Good Shepherd. Other memorial windows are for John W. Friedley, James G. Stewart and Josiah W. Brooks.

The United Methodist Church of 1976 looks from the outside much as it did when built. The inside has been remodeled at different times to accomodate the needs. The last redecoration was done in 1974 and rededicated on Sunday, December 1, 1974. The organ was rebuilt in 1971 and made as new. The Haslam property east of the church was purchased in 1968 and later leveled and the lot seeded.

In January of 1970 the name of the First Methodist Church was changed to First United Methodist Church to reflect the union between the former Methodist and the former Evangelical United Brethren churches.

## CAMPBELLITE CHURCH

Mr. A. D. Northcutt, a pioneer settler of Flat Branch Township, located here in 1851. He first lived on the Old Hammer Homestead and became owner of much land. Mr. Northcutt was also a preacher, and he helped to organize and build the only church in Prairieton Township.

The church was officially known as the New Liberty Christian Church. It was also called First Liberty Church and commonly called the Campbellite Church. The Campbellite name was applied because of their New Testament pattern of belief and practice. Thomas Alexander Campbell had come from Scotland and had established and influenced congregations in the new world.

The location of the church was 2 miles west and 1 mile south of Moweaqua on a 3 acre tract. It was situated on a knoll on the south banks of Flat Branch Creek with a cemetery and dug well nearby.

The property was sold November, 1863, to the trustees of the New Liberty Christian Church by Washington Crooks and his wife. The church trustees were Thomas J. Adams, A. D. Northcutt and Washington Crooks.

In 1918 John Wyckoff, Catherine Wyckoff and D. T. Workman, all of the living members of the church, appeared in Christian County Court and stated that the building had not been used since 1902. They asked to sell the property to Amy Adams. The sale was consummated for \$650.00 and the amount was invested in Liberty Bonds.

Later the investment was used to extend the Bilyeu Cemetery to the Moweaqua Road.

The only thing left that invokes memories of the old church is the Campbellite Bridge which takes one over Flat Branch to a knoll that is still wooded.

## LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

In 1955 the congregation of Locust Grove Church paid tribute to the men and women who founded this church one hundred years ago, with a centennial service and celebration. Some of the first settlers who were instrumental in this worthy cause were: Jacob and Sarah Stump and Isaac and Elizabeth Longenbaugh who came to this community from Ohio by covered wagon. They settled on the exact spot now known as the "Uncle Ike Longenbaugh Homestead".

Early Shelby County history informs us that the Locust Grove Church was the first church to be organized and built in the area known as Pickaway Township. John Casey, a Grove resident, was chosen as chairman of the first board of supervisors when the county was divided into townships in 1860, and the tract of land whereon Locust Grove Church and cemetery are now located was first owned in 1850 by Elijah Bryson, who sold it in 1853 to James S. Waggoner.

While early county records do not disclose the names of the first ministers of the church, nor the building in which the services were held, they do list the sale of this 80 acre tract in 1856 to Obed Klar and Daniel Moll. The community of Obed received its name from the former man.

In 1859 Obed Klar deeded one half acre of land in the southwest corner of forty acres to George C. Hott and Daniel Moll, who with himself served as trustees of the Locust Grove Church of the United Brethren in Christ. In the year 1875 Daniel Moll deeded a tract of land sixty feet by one hundred and twenty feet in the northwest corner of the south forty to Samuel Melcher, Obed Klar, Emmanuel Oman and Samuel Weakley, who were the trustees of the Grove Church at that time.

The present church building, which was dedicated July 18, 1920, is the third building which has been erected here. The one before was struck by lightning and burned in 1918.

According to W. R. Bridgman the church was host to the annual conference and the Missionary Conference in 1880. His accounts of the early revival when people traveled by farm wagons, rode horseback, or walked are truly inspiring. He also tells of Sunday School picnics, chicken and fish fries, and even a rabbit supper.

In 1946 the Locust Grove Church of the United Brethren in Christ merged with the Evangelical Church. In 1968 the Locust Grove Evangelical United Brethren Church became known as the Locust Grove United Methodist Church due to the merging with the Methodist Church. In 1973, the Locust Grove United Methodist Church became an independent church. It is now known as Locust Grove Church.

## FAME EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The history of Fame Church is a story of small beginnings, hard work and conquering faith. Available data states that in 1868, at a log school house on the east side of the road near what is now Ludwig Cemetery, John Sellars, David and Lanson Osborn organized a Sunday School. Rev. Lindley of the Moweaqua Methodist Church was engaged as pastor. During his pastorate, a revival was conducted with many converts, some of whom became charter members.

In April, 1876 at the Illinois Evangelical Conference held in Naperville, the Assumption Mission was formed consisting of Grace and Ridge Churches. For several years religious meetings were held in the Fame School which was ¼ mile east of the present church building. Fame Class was organized in 1883 and was included in the Assumption Mission. Due to the untiring efforts of William Snyder of the Moweaqua Methodist Church, Phillip Ludwig from Salem German Church and Lewis Osborn, Sunday School and prayer meetings were held regularly.

After a time membership grew and an adequate building was needed. On March 26, 1895, Lanson Osborn donated the land where the church was to be. Fame Church was dedicated in November, 1895. With building and land valued at \$2,600.00

For a number of years, pastors served the three appointments. Ridge Church was detached in 1896 and Grace Church was disbanded about 1915. Ministers then devoted full time to Fame. In 1902, the name was changed from Assumption to Radford Mission. A parsonage was built adjacent to the church in 1901 with a value of \$1,400.00 for house, barn and other buildings.

Forty-six years later the church was remodeled with an annex, and full basement added. This was rededicated in October, 1941.

In November, 1945, after half a century, the church celebrated a Golden Jubilee. The newly remodeled parsonage was rededicated at this service.

Fame became a self supporting church in 1953. In the years that followed many improvements were made to the building.

The congregation rejoiced in August, 1966, when one of its sons, Charles Jacobs, answered God's call to the ministry and left to further his education at Bob Jones University. He is now in full ministry at Danville, Illinois.

On April 30, 1967, Fame Church withdrew from the Illinois Conference and as an independent church called its

first pastor in July, 1970. A new constitution was written by the trustees and adopted by the congregation. The name was changed to Fame Evangelical Church. In 1972 the church was granted independence from the United Methodist Church. In April, 1967 the first Annual Missionary Convention was held.

In 1973 extensive remodeling was completed and the church bell was removed from the belfry and mounted in front of the building.

The minister, in 1976, is Dean Cooper. Herman Zindel is the Sunday School Superintendent.

## GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH

In the fall of 1950 Rev. George Ward and Rev. Herman Morris and their families came to Moweauqua from Arkansas. With the Lord leading these families a church was established.

In the spring of 1951 a revival was held by Rev. Virgil Smith; there were 19 conversions. At this time the meetings were held in a building on Main Street, where the golf shop is now located.

On June 8, 1951, the church was organized as the Moweauqua General Baptist Church. The pastors were Rev. George Ward and Rev. Herman Morris. Sister Wanda



General Baptist Church

Morris was the first church clerk. The first conference meeting recorded in our records took place June 23, 1951. A total of 24 members went into the church when it was organized.

Rev. Ward returned to Arkansas, and in September of 1951 Rev. Herman Morris was elected pastor. The first deacons were Bro. Thurman Morris and Bro. Wilfred Donoho. In July of 1951 the church started looking for a lot upon which to build. Rev. Vernon Cunningham was called to pastor the church in March 29, 1953. In the fall of 1953, the church bought a lot in the 400 block East Warren Street.

The church building was erected and moved into in 1954. The first trustees were elected July 31, 1954. They were Bro. Thurman Morris, Bro. Herman Morris and Bro. Sid Dowd.

In April of 1955 the church elected Rev. Lloyd Stone as pastor. Rev. Carlos Downen was elected as pastor in 1960. In 1963 Rev. Richard Brown was elected as pastor.

In the years between 1955 and 1963 several class rooms were added to the church. As the church continued to grow, a search began for a larger building. In June 1964, the church bought the Presbyterian Church property. The new church dedication services were held the second Sunday in October, 1964.

In September, 1965, Rev. Brown left the church for the Home Mission Field and on November 3, 1965, Rev. David Winberry was elected pastor. March, 1967, marked the purchase of the parsonage. August 14, 1967, Rev. Cecil Winberry became pastor. In September, 1971, Rev. Van Johnson was elected pastor, followed on November 8, 1972 by Rev. Jerry Gregory. He left us August 18, 1975, for the Mission field in Jamaica. On January 28, 1976, Rev. Elden Hedges was elected pastor.

The 25th anniversary of our founding will be observed on June 8, 1976.

## SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the years before the establishment of a Catholic Church in Moweauqua a few families of the old settlers had Mass celebrated for them in a section house on the Illinois Central Railroad property. The priest who said the Mass came from Assumption, Illinois.

With the opening of the mine in 1890, more Catholic families came into the community. They were anxious to have a church established near their homes. Father Maurer of the Macon Parish was designated to study the feasibility of a Catholic Church in Moweauqua.

On December 12, 1894, it was announced that Father Maurer had closed a deal with Esquire Prescott for four lots in Grandview Addition, south of Josiah Berry's residence, for the sum of \$440. By December 19, 1894, work had commenced on the new Catholic Church. Ed Corrington had the contract for the foundation of brick work.

The first service was held Sunday, April 14, 1895 in the Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church. Father Maurer of Macon, Illinois, served as pastor to the new mission church. Father Maurer was succeeded by the Rev. Patrick Lyons in 1905.

In 1921 Rev. Michael Donohue became pastor of the Macon Parish and the Moweauqua Mission. During his pastorate a mine disaster occurred, on Christmas Eve, 1932. Fifty-four miners lost their lives, twenty of whom were members of St. Francis de Sales Church.

In succession, Fathers Goyke, Connolly, Horn and Sheahan served the parishes.

Father Anthony Tamulis became pastor in 1959. During his tenure the church was renovated and a large all-purpose room was added to the original structure. It was named McGrath Hall in memory of the family whose bequest had made its construction possible.

In September, 1971, Father John Freeman became pastor of St. Mary's Church, Assumption. The Moweauqua parish became the mission of the Assumption Church. Father

Freeman had taken up the mission work begun for the first settlers by the Assumption parish.

A gift from the family of Steve and Nellie Geletka in memory of their parents enabled the church to be air conditioned.

The church membership is forty families. A confraternity school for religious instruction has been organized with the assistance of the nuns from the Assumption Catholic School. Classes are held weekly, during the school year, in McGrath Hall.



St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church

## LITTLE FLOCK BAPTIST CHURCH

On April 25, 1857, nine people met to organize the "Baptists on Lake Fork". This small group met the fourth Saturday afternoon of each month in a log schoolhouse one mile west and one-half mile south of the present location. Elder Willis Watson served as pastor in these early years of the church.

The nine founders were: Chamberlain and Emily Marts, James D. Pound, Calvin and Jane Thomas, John and Elizabeth Thomas, and Elder Willis Watson and his wife Phobe.

In 1861 a church was raised just west of the present building and served by traveling pastors. By 1902, the congregation required more room and a new building was built and dedicated May 25, 1903. The old building was sold and moved.

In 1920, the church was called Little Flock North but by 1925 it had adopted its present title, Little Flock Missionary Baptist Church.

On June 13, 1953 lightning struck the church's belfry and fire destroyed the building. Church members, neighbors, and the Moweaqua Volunteer Fire Dept. managed to save all of the contents of the church except the bell.

After meeting in a vacant house for a year, the congregation was able to move into the building that is now known as Little Flock Missionary Baptist. On June 13, 1954, the construction was dedicated and now serves the community as an independent Baptist Church. Little Flock Cemetery lies immediately to the west and south of the building.

## GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

In this Bicentennial year, Grace Baptist Church cannot make a claim to being one of the oldest churches in the town of Moweaqua. It was not organized until April 11, 1945, when a meeting was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Muller. There were twenty Charter Members assembled for church services on April 18, 1945 in the Chester Hodge Hall on North Main Street, where they continued to hold services for about four years.

A new church building was erected on a lot purchased from Brown Bros. on South Main Street and was dedicated on June 5, 1949. Rev. Raymond Jostes was the first pastor leading the church through the construction of the new building until 1951, when Rev. Jerry McDaniel came to lead the church for the next year.

Rev. Raymond Rose pastored the church for the next eleven years. During that time the church membership grew until there was need for extensive remodeling of the inside of the church in 1958. Church services were held in the all-purpose room of the school during the remodeling.

While Rev. Frank Euler was pastor, the church purchased the former Nazarene Church building on North Main Street in 1965. After repairing and painting the interior, services were held in April of 1966. The building that had been used by the church for sixteen years was sold to become a restaurant and later an apartment building. In 1966, the church purchased a house to be used as a parsonage for Rev. James Albright. A room was added and the house remodeled to be used by Rev. James McCoy, Rev. Lee Fanning, and Rev. Robert Utzke and their families and then sold in 1974.

Rev. Robert Utzke led the church in an extensive remodeling of the present church building.

Rev. Robert Anderson was the pastor briefly during the summer of 1975 before he died at the age of 81.

The present pastor, Rev. Howard K. Miller hopes to lead the church to greater things in the future.



Grace Baptist Church

## SALEM GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH

The church known as the Salem German Methodist Church once stood on a plot of land 1 mile east and 3½ miles south of Moweauqua. That parcel of land was part of the Ludwig Farm.

In the year 1866, Brother Winter, who was preaching at the Boody German Methodist Church, and Brother Neidermeyer of Decatur came to Moweauqua and started the Salem German Methodist Church. The first regular pastor to serve the mission church was John Ritter. He was followed by John Naumann, L. Harmel, Brother Heinz, L. Tanner, Brother Hener, C. W. Simon and C. R. Imsher.

The church building was completed in 1878. A few years later, a parsonage was built across the road east of the church on about an acre of land given by John Pistorius. The firm of Meyer and Son of Decatur, Illinois had glazed and papered the parsonage in 1886 and then covered it with three coats of prime white lead.

At one time there were 50 adult members of the church. Among them were these names: Nye, Heitmeyer, Elmers, Schneider, Winter, Hoewing, Fieker, Schable, Pistorius, Ludwig, and Ellrich.

In 1881 the Moweauqua congregation was organized as a church and left the mission status. The first pastor was E. H. Boab who served until 1884.

About the time of World War I, the congregation began to decline because the German language was objectionable to many people. The occasional services were conducted by Rev. Schulz who came by train from Springfield.

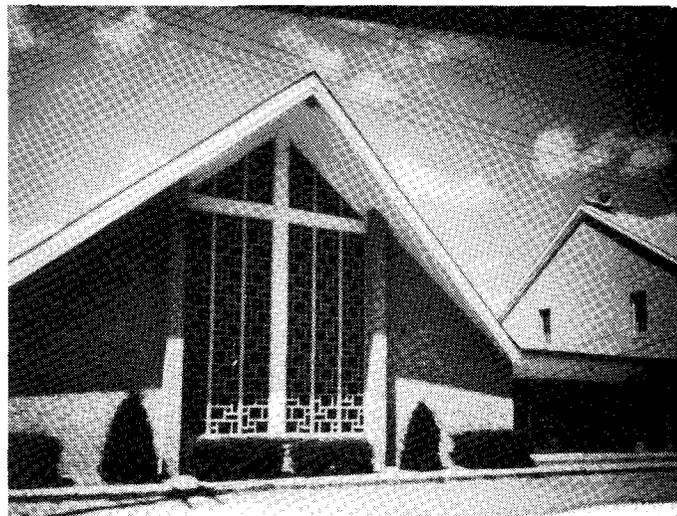
Members began to transfer to other congregations and in 1920 the church building was sold at auction.

The Ludwig Cemetery, once the grave yard of the German Methodist Church, is today's reminder of a former place of worship.

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH

During the summer of 1896 Mrs. Sarah Rice and her daughters Edna and Sue, under the leadership of Bro. L. M. Doughty, who preached at Assumption, started the Moweauqua First Christian Church patterned after the New Testament Church. Mr. Doughty preached on Sundays in Mrs. Rice's home, and visited people during the week.

In December, Brother Doughty held a short meeting in the old Presbyterian Church located on the west side of the city park. Several were added to the church, and at the close of the meeting the church was organized with 41 charter members. Memberships were brought from Old Liberty, Pleaks Corner, Blue Mound, Assumption and other Christian Churches.



Christian Church

Brother A. R. Spicer, a student at Eureka College, began preaching half-time in January, 1897. Services were held in the Ribelin Hall. When a tent meeting held in August ended, 137 had been added to the church.

Plans progressed rapidly for a new church house. The lot where the church now stands was purchased from Ezekiel Prescott and erection began at once. The corner stone was laid October 16, 1897, with all the churches in town having a part in the service.

The parsonage was purchased from Bert Garrett in 1920, and soon after a second story was added to the parsonage.

During the twenties, the church secured a new variety of seed corn. A number of members planted the corn. Each kept enough corn to replenish his seed and gave an acre of corn to the church. This was called "God's Acre of Corn".

The church grew in numbers, and on October 6, 1963, plans were presented to the congregation for expansion of the existing facilities. Almost a year later, ground breaking services were held, and on the following day, September 21, 1964, actual construction of the new building began. The new addition included an auditorium, classrooms, nursery, minister's study and library and was dedicated on May 16, 1965.

During the year 1974 a new parsonage was built to replace the original building which was razed.

The congregation has produced several ministers: P. E. Mangers, J. Ray Kirk, Mr. Harris (from Fame Church), Lyle Jesse, Harley E. Hudson, Clare and Joanie Lambdin.

The accomplishments of the church members were always equalled by the inspiration and courage of the minister serving at the time. The stories of their special talents, and their influence on the lives of the church members would make a very special book about the ministers.

# THE MOWEAQUA NEWS

VOLUME 50  
EUGENE SNYDER, PUBLISHER

MOWEAQUA, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 30, 1932  
Devoted to the Best Interests of a Live Town and Country, and an Entertaining People.

NUMBER 52  
ONLY TWO DOLLARS A YEAR

## To the Bereaved FAMILIES of Moweaqua

The Directors, Officers and Employees of this bank extend their heartfelt sympathies to you and yours in this hour of sorrow and distress.

While no word we might voice would restore the peace and tranquility that formerly prevailed, we do know that sympathy of all the surrounding communities is being cast around us, and that as one people, we will be able, that much sooner, to adjust our selves to this trying ordeal.



## ENTERTAINED THEIR HOLLYWOOD GUESTS

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Carr entertained to a chicken dinner Thursday the 22nd, the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stanley and his four RKO boys from Hollywood, Cal., and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jacobs and daughter Kathryn of Assumption.

The dinner was given in honor of their birthdays. Their son Bernard Carr, Mr. Henry Jacobs, Mrs. Frank Stanley and Earl Strass, the world's best trick rider.

The table was decorated in Christmas colors with a miniature tree for center piece and four large red candies. A cake baked by Mrs. Bernard Carr and decorated with birthday candies was lighted at the table.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stanley and his company of four cowboys have been playing at the Avon Theatre at Decatur this week and broadcast each morning from station WJBL at Decatur. They will be at Moweaqua and Sullivan next week and will broadcast from the Radio station WJZL in Tuscola. On January 5 to 8 they will be in Clinton.

During the day at the Carr home Mrs. Kathryn Jacobs entertained with several musical selections on the piano.

In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stanley and his cowboys entertained with a two and one-half hour concert with musical numbers and singing. They played the following musical instruments, two violins, two guitars, one banjo, two harmonicas, one piano, and accordion.

Art Hogue the Oklahoma cowboy, and Buckley Davis the Montana cowboy sang several vocal selections.

Mr. and Mrs. Nate Wise and son and daughter were visitors in the evening.

Mrs. Walter Carr has a cousin in Hollywood, who plays in the movies and who owns and trains the Huskie dogs, that are shown in all Eskimo pictures.

**UNION SERVICES FOR WEEK OF PRAYER**

The four churches will join in observing the national week of prayer. The services will be held in the Presbyterian church each evening from January 3 to January 8, beginning at seven o'clock. The local pastors will have charge of all the meetings and everybody is urged to attend and join in an effort for the community good, and moral stimulation to a richer life.

**CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**  
Eugene PERMANENT WAVE \$4.00  
**ELITE BEAUTY SHOPPE & COSMETICS**

## WEDDING BELLS

A pretty little wedding occurred in the home of Mrs. Ben Winter, southeast of Moweaqua, Thursday evening, Dec. 22, when her daughter Doris L. became the bride of Raymond G. Schmalz. Promptly at 7:30 p. m. Miss Trema Stivers sang "I Love You Truly" and Miss Lydia Winter who had played the march at the marriage of the bride's mother some thirty years ago played "Mendelssohn's March" which they entered the living room. Rev. H. C. Farley the bride's pastor, officiated in a short impressive service. About thirty relatives and close friends were present.

After the congratulations a dainty buffet supper was served by Mrs. Karl Winter, Miss Lulu Stivers, Misses Lydia, Anna and Grace Winter, at small tables placed about the house.

A simple floral design consisting of holly, ferns and Christmas cactus blossoms and sweet alyssum banking half red and white candles in crystal sticks made a pretty decoration for the bride's table.

Miss Lydia Winter and Virginia Parley played several musical selections also a duet during the evening. The bride was attired in light blue crepe and carried a bouquet of pink sweet peas and alyssum.

Mrs. Schmalz was born and reared in Paine church community where she has many friends. Mr. Schmalz is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Schmalz living in Locust Grove community and has many friends who wish them happiness and prosperity.

They will reside with the bride's mother where Mr. Schmalz expects to engage in farming. They received a number of beautiful and useful gifts.

**CHRISTMAS EVE MARRIAGE**

Charles L. Huggins and Miss Harriet D. Hilvey of Mason were married Christmas eve by Rev. J. R. Hastings in the Baptist parsonage. The couple were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey S. Huggins of Taylorville. The ceremony was at 8 o'clock.

Mrs. Charles Huggins formerly lived here and attended the Moweaqua High school, graduating in 1920.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

On account of illness next Monday for New Years, and also on account of the fact that there will still be a great deal more of interest concerning the mine disaster, we will probably be a late late, issuing the paper on Thursday instead of Wednesday.

**OPENS GROCERY STORE**

Have opened for business and have a great line of groceries as cheap as you can get them anywhere. Also buy cream. Come and see us. Clarks Store, Bedford, Ill.

## Fifty-four Men Trapped In Local Mine Following a Terrific Explosion

### All Bodies Have Been Recovered

### ALL WERE DEAD

Fifty-four men were trapped in the mine here Saturday morning shortly after 3 o'clock by an explosion 225 feet below the ground level. A dozen men labored frantically to rescue them or reclaim the dead and injured.

No sign of life emanated from the blocked passageway. No noises were heard, no odor of gas was detected. Rescue squads were confronted with a wall of silence and probable death.

As the afternoon began and confidence to obtain any sort of signal from the imprisoned men faded, fears grew that the fall of rock had been huge, and that if the miners were not killed by the fall or by the gas they would pump air to them. Repeated efforts to drive through the dirt met resistance at almost every turn, and word from the depths of the shaft indicated that air pipes were colliding with large chunks of rock and slate, making it virtually certain that early in the afternoon fresh air had not reached the entrapped miners.

**Time of Blast Uncertain**

When the explosion occurred is not known. The first intimation of the tragedy came to Ibra Adams and Frank Floski, cagers at the foot of the shaft. About 11:15 a. m. they noticed that the flow of air under the ground was reversed; that is instead of flowing into the mine passages it was flowing out toward the center and top. Dust particles in excessive numbers were contained in the current.

No noise was heard by the two cagers, which was not unusual since the positions are a half mile from the scene of the actual fall.

They immediately notified Will Herlihy, the pit boss, who with Chas. Smith, the mine inspector at Moweaqua, went down the shaft and to the tunnel where the disaster occurred, which was about one-half mile north of the central entrance.

They found a large fall of dirt, coal and slate at the tunnel mouth, which had torn down what is known as the overcast, equivalent to a ventilating system. From the mine shaft there are two conveyor systems, one for the coal and one to move air to the working miners. Where the air conveyor enters a tunnel it is passed over the coal conveyor much like a railroad trestle. This portion is known as the overcast.

**Fear Gas Menace.**

The fact that the fall of dirt broke the overcast made it extremely questionable how much air remained in the passage where the miners were trapped, providing that gas already had not killed the 54 men.

Herculean efforts by the shift of miners which was not working had not succeeded in pushing through the barricade to obtain an entry for the oxygen.

**Blasting in Shaft**

Blasting of coal in the tunnel is the last thing done before the miners leave the shaft in the evening.

The last blasting was done Thursday at 3:15 p. m.

**Fire Thursday Night**

Thursday night fire broke out in the "room" or passage where the blasting was performed, which also is not an unusual occurrence. All day Friday the miners spent walling up the room where the fire was smoldering, since that is the accepted manner of extinguishing fires below ground in mines.

Friday afternoon the passage in which the fire occurred was inspected by Mr. Smith, pronounced completed and constructed so the fire soon would be smothered.

**Rescuers Arrive**

Glenn A. Shaffer, of Pana, owner of the property from which the mine is leased in a cooperative venture, telephoned immediately to Mayor Charles E. Barnett of Pana, to rush the Pana fire department to the scene to facilitate the rescue work.

John G. Milhouse, state director of the department of mines and minerals, rushed to the scene from Springfield with the state rescue squad, two state inspectors and an assistant, took over direction of the rescue work, and aided by miners not on duty at the time proceeded to rebuild the walls at the nose of the collapse, and force through a passage into which air was pumped in the hope it would reach the trapped men.

The rescue men worked continually from the time of the accident all day Saturday and Saturday night and it was about 10 o'clock Sunday morning, almost twenty-eight hours after the explosion began, they reacted any of the imprisoned men. They found twelve men under the

- The men who met death in the disaster are as follows:
- Jim Birley
  - Tom Birley
  - Kenneth Board
  - George Burrell, Jr.
  - Ed Campbell
  - Charles Campbell
  - Julius Castiglione
  - Ray C. Catherwood
  - David Cooley
  - Andy Corby, Sr.
  - John Corby
  - Andy Corby, Jr.
  - Joe Crall
  - Chester Cravens
  - Mike Crislock
  - Zelva Davis
  - Arthur Dove
  - Earl Dowd
  - Mike Floski
  - Lynn Green
  - Leonard Hartman
  - Charles Hartman
  - John Hartwell
  - Oliver Hudson
  - Tom Jackson
  - Joe Jurick
  - Max Jurick
  - Andrew Kapella
  - Charles McDonald, Sr.
  - Carl McDonald
  - Charles McDonald, Jr.
  - Mike Negri
  - Joe Negri
  - George Oades
  - Mike Potelak
  - Andy Potelak, Jr.
  - Roy Portwood
  - Ray Retherford
  - Charles Roff
  - Jim Roff
  - Mike Rogalis
  - Raymond Sarver
  - Verne Sarver
  - Sam Siskeloff, Jr.
  - Andy Smeroda
  - Andy Supena
  - John Supena
  - Moach Thompson, Jr.
  - Andy Tirpak
  - Mike Tirpak
  - Charles Woodring
  - Charles Woodring
  - Tom Davidson, Stoughton
  - Louis Kabachek, Stoughton

first fall to be reached in the main entry. They were found in their cars covered by immense fall of rock and dirt, and were undoubtedly killed instantly. It took from 10 o'clock in the morning until 2:30 in the afternoon to get these men to the top. The twelve men in this bunch, the first ones to be brought up were:

- Andy Potelak, Jr.
- Ray G. Oatwood
- Andy Tirpak
- Sam Siskeloff, Jr.
- Andy Supena
- Chas. McDonald, Sr.
- Mike Floski
- Chas. Woodring
- John Corby
- Mike Tirpak
- John Supena
- Dave Cooley

After getting these men to the top it was found necessary to make some repairs and changes in the air system before they could go further into the passageway. It was known that it would take nearly all of Sunday night to do this, and the waiting was awful.

Early Monday sixteen men were found in the south part of the mine and soon after eleven more were found about 160 yards farther south. All were dead.

Deadly after damp finished the work of the sealing blast that had killed those in the main entry.

**Last Hope Goes**

Fragile hope had been held that workers in the south tip of the "T" shaped tunnel might have barricaded themselves against the lethal fumes. But a mile and a quarter from the main shaft and 750 feet beneath the earth's surface, those bodies were discovered. It had been thought that only 25 were in that section.

The explosion centered in the north wing and none ventured a hope that any of the 15 there escaped alive.

During the morning Glenn Shaffer, owner of the mine properties brought word up to the mouth of the pit, that the rescue crews had encountered a wave of air indicating the fresh air they were forcing in had struck a barricade ahead and flowed back to them.

Shaffer hoped the trapped miners had built the barricade to fend off lethal gases and some might still live. Minutes later came the tragic news that the above bodies had been found. They could not be taken out at once.

**As Blast Came**

The rescue workers, daring death and the perilous rock falls of the "wrecked" bowels, came upon the 27 dead Monday near the mine cars in which they had just ridden to work Saturday morning.

They were not burned. Apparently they had run a short distance from the cars, trying to find a refuge from the gases that poured toward them from the focus of the explosion a half mile back. But one by one they had fallen, as the after-damp swept through the tunnel.

For a while Sunday night rescuers were buoyed up by the hope that some of the men in the south sub-entry of the mine might have been able to barricade themselves in rooms off the entry way and thus escape the deadly black damp.

**Body of the fortieth victim** was found about 3 o'clock Tuesday morning and was identified as that of Thomas Jackson.

It was located late Monday night, just beyond the barricade at the entrance to the north entry which was built Sunday to divert air into the south passage where 27 bodies were found Monday. Sinks were placed over the south passage Monday night after a last thorough search confirmed the belief that it held no more men. Only the bodies of two men known to have been driven into the mine by two of the victims of Saturday's explosion were found deep in the workings.

The body removed from the shaft Tuesday was burned and torn though it had been found in a clear area. The general belief was that it was that of Tom Jackson, because of the size and the fact that he was in the habit of waiting at the point where the body was found, to throw the switch for the mine train as it came to carry the men into the north entry.

**Wednesday**

No bodies were brought up Wednesday, although seven were found, and brought up Thursday morning. The other seven men were found Thursday and were brought up Thursday night. Mike Potelak was the last man to be brought to the top, being taken out at 8:56 p. m., almost six days after the accident. His son Andy Potelak, Jr. was the first man to be brought up.

This completed the recovery of all the bodies and that is the end of that part of the disaster.

As soon as the last bodies reached the surface Thursday, they were placed in caskets and sealed, with orders of the undertaker that they should not be opened. The pleas of relatives of some of the victims could not change this rule.

The caskets were arranged in a barn next to the mine, where it was planned they should remain until taken to the funerals today, Friday.

**Rescue squads from many places** and from long distances were here and done everything that could possibly be done. Will Decker of this city, who formerly was a member of a mine rescue squad, and several years ago was engineer here and was entirely familiar with this mine, was called upon for help. He worked all day Saturday and helped to direct the work until other squads arrived.

**JOHN G. HUDSON DIED THURSDAY**

John G. Hudson died Thursday, Dec. 29, at 8:55 p. m. at the age of 73 years. He had been ill for four years. He was born Sept. 4, 1858 in Birmingham, England and came to this country when four years old. The funeral will be held at the Presbyterian church, Saturday, Dec. 31, at 2:30 p. m.

**SHELBYVILLE COAL**

Fifty of the mine mined Shelbyville coal on hands at all times. G. Root & Co., Shelbyville, Phone 62.

### OUR OWN

Our own are our own forever; God taketh not back His gift; They may pass beyond our vision, but our souls shall find them out. When the waiting is all accomplished and the deathly shadow lift, And glory is given for grieving, and the surety of God for doubt.

We may find the waiting better, and count the silence long; God knoweth we are dust, and He pitieth our gain; And when faith has grown to fullness, and the silence changed to song, We shall eat the fruit of patience, and shall hunger not again.

So sorrowing hearts who dumbly in darkness and all alone Sit musing a dear lost presence and the joy of a vanished day, Be comforted with this message, that our own are forever our own, And God, who gave the gracious gift, He takes it never away.

—Susan Colledge

Selected by

STATE BANK OF MOWEAQUA

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## THE MOWEAQUA NEWS

MOWEAQUA, ILLINOIS

### Every Moweaqua Home Affected by Mine Disaster

Moweaqua is a town that lives by explosion was the subject of conversation. City officials Saturday evening said that the mine disaster has affected directly or indirectly every home in the town. They added that probably every family had been represented among the groups that had been loaded on trucks before the word of the explosion reached the surface Saturday morning. When news of the accident came to the office, mine officials ordered that coal be hauled, but the last of the coal that everywhere the mine had been sold.

## NOTICE

### The Moweaqua Coal Corporation

Has a Car of

# COAL

on the tracks at the Farmers Elevator. Any one wanting coal, Call Them.

## MOWEAQUA COAL CORP.