

registration fee. For others who would like to have these papers, there are copies for sale at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site bookstore, 413 S. Eighth St., Springfield, IL, 62701-1905. The papers from the second Colloquium (1987) are available for \$2.95 (\$2.00 postage if mailed); those from the third Colloquium (1988) are \$4.95 (postage \$2.00).

Last year (1989) the papers were bound into an especially attractive, well-illustrated booklet, selling for \$9.95 (postage \$2.00). It contains the texts of the talks given by well-known Lincoln scholars and researchers - Don E. Fehrenbacher, Cullom Davis, Robert V. Bruce, Harold Holzer and George L. Painter. (George Painter is a past president of the SCHS and Cullom Davis is the present Vice-President.)

### STILL LOOKING AHEAD

Be sure to save Thursday evening, Nov. 20, for our next meeting after the Colloquium. It will be held at 7:00 P.M. in the Carnegie Room at Lincoln Library. Attorney Richard Grummon will present slides from the collection of his father, the late Reverend A. Ray Grummon, pastor of the First Methodist Church for many years. This church was one of the first in Springfield's pioneer days, in the 1820's.

### A LOOK BACK - ILLIOPOLIS, VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP

At our first fall meeting Mr. Kinahan Rule spoke on the story of his own pioneer ancestors interwoven with the history of Illiopolis, Sangamon County's easternmost township and village. Illinois had been a state since 1818 when the first settlers, a widow, Mrs. Anderson, and her family, came to the area in 1826. Mr. Rule's ancestor, James Hunter, arrived in Dec., 1828. He had been born in Virginia in 1778, the youngest son of Robert Hunter, an armor maker in Revolutionary War times. As a young man he came across the mountains to Gallatin Co., Kentucky, where he met and married Rachel Scott, a Virginia girl born in 1783. While living in Kentucky they had nine children before moving to Sangamon County in 1828. Their log cabin was located in the timber area along the Sangamon River at a bend of the old state road in Section 24. Their fourth child, also named James, married Lucinda Warnick, who died only six days after the birth of their daughter, Sarah. James left the baby with his parents when he moved to Iowa, and she was raised as their own, later sharing equally with her aunts and uncles in their estate. In 1861, in Springfield, Sarah married Sylvanus Dake, who had come to Illinois from New York, and from this family the Rules were descended. Mr. Rule's name, Kinahan, was the family name of his maternal grandfather.

The name Illiopolis came from the days when the state government was contemplating moving the capital from Vandalia. Eastern Sangamon County was described by its promoters as the geographical center of Illinois, and a city, to be called Illiopolis, was planned to be the new capital. A few lots were sold and a hotel was put up, but the city never was built because, through the efforts of the "Long Nine" - a group of legislators, including A. Lincoln - Springfield was named the capital in 1837. The hotel at "Illiopolis" burned and was never rebuilt. The original village, about 1/2 mile north of that site was first named Wilson - later changed to Illiopolis. It was planned around the railroad station and the first house was built in 1854 by the station agent. The plat of the village was recorded in Oct., 1856. Mr. Rule's Grandfather Dake worked for the railroad for a number of years. He was an engineer on the Decatur-Danville run on the Wabash when Lincoln and Douglas were passengers during the time of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. When Engineer Dake sped along at 50 miles per hour, he reported that Douglas was alarmed, but Lincoln enjoyed the run and urged Mr. Dake to go even faster! Some years later Dake left the railroad and opened a lumber yard.

The first school building was constructed in the winter of 1861-62 and was used for both school and religious services. By the turn of the century school discipline was a problem and in 1911 Mr. Patrick Sullivan was hired as administrator to "straighten things out." A strict disciplinarian, he soon had the situation in hand. Illiopolis had the only four-year high school east of Springfield until 1938-39. New high school and grade school buildings were built in 1926 but since then the grade school was closed, additions were built at the high school, and the whole system was administered in the one enlarged facility.

Early church services were held in homes or school buildings, but several little "country style" churches were built in the 1860's and 1870's. Part of the Christian Church is the only one remaining of these structures. The Methodists and Catholics have churches built since 1895. Father Charles Manuel served the community faithfully from 1877 until his death in 1901. Sarah Dake often helped in administering to the sick and needy.

The first doctor in the community was Dr. Bernard Struve. The first Catholic Mass in Illiopolis was said in his home in 1866.

Most roads were in deplorable conditions, and after the advent of the automobile it was customary to "put the car up on blocks" for the winter months because of the impassable condition of streets and roads.

Mr. Rule mentioned many of the businesses which were forerunners of those now serving the town. One still standing and in good condition is the livery stable, designed and built about 1908 or 1910 by Grandfather Thomas O. Rule for Thomas Sutherland. It has a truss supported clear span roof, with the trusses supporting a big loft. The trusses can be adjusted by turnbuckles. One fine building which was eventually lost to fire on July 4th, 1950, was the Opera House built in 1899 by the Masonic Lodge.

Entertaining over the years was done by the ladies of the village on a grand scale, guided by both Southern and Victorian traditions of hospitality. The Pickrell girls were among those who were hostesses, ordering fine foods from Springfield, which were sent on the train.

Before ending his program Mr. Rule related some of the notable occasions in the history of the town, both happy and sad. In closing, he mentioned again the help he had received from Mrs. Mildred Pfeifer, who is in her 90's, on verifying accounts of some of the village history. He also noted the spirit of friendship and helpfulness over the years of the many citizens who had contributed to the development and growth of both the village and township of Illiopolis.

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Some of the memorabilia of the Hunter - Dake - Rule families were displayed - several old weapons, a large family Bible and an 1820 Bible, the 1875 citizenship papers of Tom Kinahan, and several tin types.

Kay Watt and George Myers were our greeters at this meeting, and refreshments were served by Mary Ellen McElligott following the program.

VACHEL LINDSAY HOME BECOMES A STATE HISTORIC SITE

October, 1990, will be a significant month for the Vachel Lindsay Home with its presentation as a gift to the state of Illinois by the Vachel Lindsay Association and the Vachel Lindsay House Fund. The Home will then become a state historic site operated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The Vachel Lindsay Association will continue