

**EARLY LEE COUNTY, BEING  
SOME CHAPTERS IN THE  
HISTORY OF THE EARLY DAYS  
IN LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649505326

Early Lee County, Being Some Chapters in the History of the Early Days in Lee County, Illinois  
by William D. Barge

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**WILLIAM D. BARGE**

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Illinois

BY  
WILLIAM D. BARGE

CHICAGO  
1918  
NEW YORK  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

## PREFACE

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This is not an effort to write a history of any man or any locality. The sole purpose of the work is the collection and preservation of the scarce and almost inaccessible evidence of some of the men and events prominent in the early days of Lee County. It was not prepared to sustain any theory or tradition, but every effort within my power has been made to learn all the facts concerning these men and events and state them correctly.

Some old traditions have been shattered, but they were not sustained by the facts, and many of them had no foundation except the loose talk of persons who were ignorant of the matters of which they spoke. Some of my old beliefs, held and cherished since early childhood, have been dispelled, but they were founded upon misinformation.

Reference is made to some public record, report or document whenever one could be found. When such evidence could not be had, my resort was to newspapers, private letters or records or books written or published about that time, in the belief that such contemporaneous statements are more likely to be free from error than those made years afterwards. In some instances the private records and the public records differ, and the latter are followed, the entries being contemporaneous with the event. Every statement of fact is based on evidence of one of the kinds mentioned, though references have been omitted in some places.

All Indian words appearing on John Dixon's account books are given in the form used there. Other Indian words are given as shown in the Eighteenth Annual Re-

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port of the Bureau of American Ethnology, except when in quotations.

I acknowledge my indebtedness to Mrs. Caroline M. Newberry, Pontiac, Michigan, the only living child of Stephen Mack; Henry S. Dixon and George C. Dixon of Dixon, Illinois; William C. Andrus, Grand Detour, Illinois, and John Blackhawk, Black River Falls, Wisconsin, for assistance without which this work could not have been finished.

WILLIAM D. BARGE.

Chicago, June, 1918.

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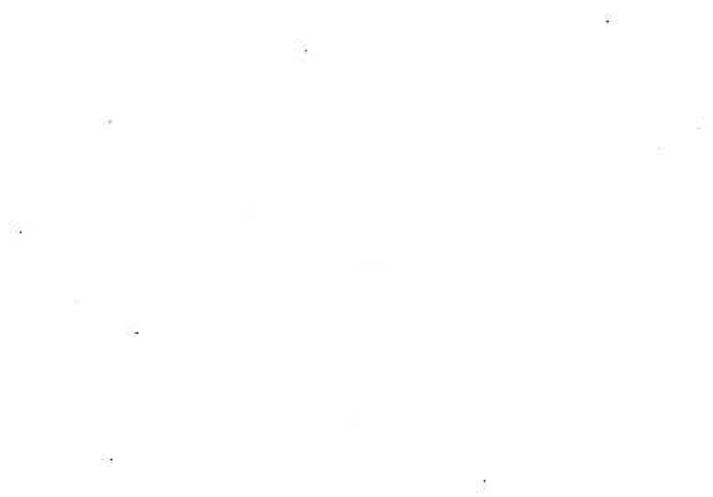


Figure 1. The relationship between the number of children and the number of children who are not in school.

where  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  are parameters to be estimated,  $\epsilon_i$  is the error term, and  $i$  indexes the children.

Figure 1 shows the relationship between the number of children and the number of children who are not in school.

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## EARLY LEE COUNTY

### LA SALLIER.

In 1835, Joseph Crawford found some decaying logs and other ruins of an old habitation at the Grand Detour on the bank of Franklin Creek, about thirty-five rods from Rock river. There was plainly visible an excavation as though made for use as a cellar, and other evidences of the existence, at an earlier date, of a log cabin.

On the authority of a statement made to him by Gurdon S. Hubbard, Rufus Blanchard told the writer that one La Sallier, a Frenchman, built a trading post on the south side of the river, near Grand Detour, in 1822, and occupied it for some time. The location is shown on Blanchard's *Historical Map of Illinois*. The writer called Mr. Crawford's attention to this statement of Blanchard, and it was then that Mr. Crawford told me of his discovery.

That there was a trading post on Rock river in the winter of 1802-1803 is clearly shown by the *Personal Narrative of Capt. Thomas G. Anderson*, who says he spent that winter "with the Winnebagoes on Rock river. They were the most filthy, most obstinate and the bravest people of any Indian tribe I have met with. Here I had a half-breed in opposition in the trade. Our houses were about half a mile apart, and between us was a very high hill, over which we had to pass by a little path through the bushes." (*Wis. His. Coll.*, vol. 9, pp. 137, 152.) He does not state at what point on the river this post was located, but we know it was not at the site of La Sallier's house, for he says the hill stood at least three hundred feet above the water in the river. He does not give the name of his competitor.

The house mentioned by Anderson was not the cabin at Crabapple Point, on the northwesterly shore of Lake Koshkonong, that is said (*American Archeologist*, v. 7,

p. 78; *Peet, Prehistoric America, v. 2, p. 269*) to have been occupied, at a time that is not stated, by "Le Sallier"; for the ground there was only twenty to sixty feet above the water. That cabin was in ruins in 1839.

*The Archeologist* says, without mentioning the time, that Thiebeau, who was employed by Juneau of Milwaukee, occupied a cabin on the southeasterly shore of this lake, and that is said have disappeared in 1838.

In *Waubun*, Mrs. Kinzie says that John Kinzie arrived in Chicago in 1804, and later established trading posts "at Rock River with the Winnebagoes and the Pottawatamies," and that these posts contributed to that at Chicago, but she does not say at what particular places or in what year these posts were established.

Kinzie evidently had many trading posts, as he had twenty trading licenses in 1803 (Letter of September 10, 1803, from William Burnett to Gov. W. H. Harrison of Indiana Territory; *Hurlbut's Chicago Antiquities, p. 70*), and some of them appear to have been used at trading posts in Illinois. Though so extensively engaged in the fur trade, he was an independent trader, and had no connection with the American Fur Company until 1825, when he succeeded John Crafts as its representative at Chicago. (*Andreas History of Chicago, vol. 1, p. 96.*) He was Indian sub-agent at Chicago, 1820-1822, and his son, John H., was in the fur trade at Milwaukee in 1821 when he was ordered to close his concern and leave the place, having been detected selling whiskey to the Indians. (*Am. State Papers, Indian Affairs, v. 2, p. 360.*)

La Sallier was in the service of this company as early as 1813, and was on Rock River in 1822. The fact that La Sallier was occupying this post in 1822 is some evidence that it was established by the American Fur Company. While this is but slight evidence, it is stronger than any evidence supporting any other theory.

The account books kept by John Kinzie were delivered