

DIES



Pvt. Marian McShea, niece of Mrs. Cora Leeper of Owaneco, died recently in the Rosecrans Field hospital in St. Joseph, Mo., following an attack of pneumonia. Private McShea enlisted in the Woman's Army Corps on May 17, 1944. She received her basic training at Des Moines, Ia., and was later transferred to Rosecrans field. She received most of her grade and junior high school education in Owaneco where she resided for a time in the home of her great aunt, Mrs. Leeper.

**Marian McShea, 25,  
Former Resident  
Of Owaneco Dies** *Aug '44*

Miss Marian McShea, 25, former Owaneco resident, died Wednesday evening at Camp Rosecrans Field, St. Joseph, Mo., from pneumonia and complications which developed following a tonsillectomy.

Miss McShea was the daughter of Royal McShea of Medicine Lodge, Kan., formerly of Owaneco. She was born July 14, 1919. She entered the Women's Army corps on May 17, 1944. Miss McShea attended the Owaneco grade and high schools, later going to Alva, Okla., where she attended teachers college. She also attended the University of Kansas. She was the niece of Miss Cora Leeper of Owaneco, in whose home she was reared in her youth. Miss Leeper and Mrs. Margaret Pape, a sister of Marion, and Nancy Mathews left Wednesday night for Kansas to attend the funeral.

**Former Owaneco  
Youth Dies In  
Army Hospital** *1944*

Glenn Spence, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Spence of Indianapolis, Ind., former Owaneco resident, died in an army hospital at Richmond, Va., at 7 o'clock last Saturday evening, following a few days' illness from spinal meningitis.

He enlisted in the United States army in January, 1941. He was a graduate of a high school at Indianapolis, Ind., his parents having moved to that city from Owaneco several years ago.

The body will be taken to Indianapolis, where funeral services will be held in the Christian church, of which he was a member. Burial will be at Princeton, Ind.

Owaneco relatives who have gone to Indianapolis for the rites are his grandmother, Mrs. William Spence, and his uncles and aunt, John Spence and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Bundy.

*Killed in action*



Captain Theodore W. Large, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. Guy Large of Owaneco, has been on duty with the armored forces in North Africa since the landing at Casablanca, French Morocco last December. He has been in the army since last June 1941.

**Owaneco War Hero Is Killed  
In Action In France Sept. 2** *-44*

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Large of Owaneco, received word from Adjutant General Ulio of the War department, this morning that their son, Capt. Ted Large, 25, was killed in action on September 2. The place of his death was not given in the message but the telegram stated that a letter would follow.

Captain Large enlisted in the army in June, 1941, following his graduation from the University of Illinois. He had been overseas since December, 1942, and had served in the African, Sicilian and Italian campaign before going to Italy.

On August 7 he was written up in the Stars and Stripes, a soldier newspaper. The article told how Captain Large had his company posted at the most important road junction before the Seine and how they had trapped a large number of German soldiers and vehicles, including tanks, etc.

Besides his parents, Captain Large is survived by one sister, Emma May Large, a teacher in



the Pekin High school; two brothers, Joe, who is in an advanced communications unit in the Admiralty Islands and Donald, at home, and a half sister, Mrs. Harry Butterfield, of Rosamond.

## Cornerstone Opened, Pastors Honored at Owaneco



CELEBRATING ITS 125th ANNIVERSARY of history Sunday, May 22, was Owaneco United Methodist Church. Seven past ministers of the church who attended were honored, and are pictured with the current minister and the guest speaker.

From left are the Reverends John Martin of Springfield, John Payne of Spring Valley, Minn.; Clarence Hamm of Mitchell, S.D.; Dewey Hermes of Ellis Grove, Dr. Fran Nestler of Decatur, district superintendent and sermonist; Pastor Mike Crawford; David Pease of Macomb, Barbara Zwetz of Port Byron, and David Cha of Oakland, Calif.

(Duffy Lowrance Photos)

"Endless Line of Splendor" was the topic of Dr. Frank Nestler at the 125th anniversary celebration of Owaneco United Methodist Church, Sunday, May 22. Dr. Nestler is district superintendent of the United Methodist Church.

Over 200 persons attended the worship service at which Dr. Nestler spoke, as well as approximately the same number for the afternoon program.

The development of the Methodist religion in England and its spread to America was told by Dr. Nestler. Brothers Charles and John Wesley were influential in promoting Methodism in the United States. Faith, greatness and splendor were attributes of those people who had the foresight to build the Owaneco church, he said, knowing that it would last 125 years. The forefathers planned that the church would provide for future generations, not just for themselves. He concluded that the present congregation should follow that example, by also providing for future generations.

During the service, LeRoy Speagle of Owaneco was presented a certificate for being a member of the church the longest time. Sidney Eickleberry of Pana, as the oldest member, was also given a certificate of recognition.

Following lunch provided by the church, there was an afternoon program in which former pastors participated. (See accompanying photo.) Also part of the recognition service were Mrs. Ethel Large, daughter of the late



THE CORNERSTONE of the 1917-built church was opened during the 125th year celebration of Owaneco United Methodist Church, Sunday, May 22.

Frank Diss, lay leader, holds the copper box removed from the cornerstone. It contained 24 items, including a leatherbound Bible, then-current lists of names such as the church's membership, Building Committee and Epworth League, newspapers, and other items.

The articles will be on display at the church the next few weeks.

Rev. Guy Dewhirst, and Mrs. Mary Jean Baldwin of Pana, wife of the late Rev. Lee Baldwin. The Reverends Dewhirst and Baldwin were former pastors.

Frank Diss, lay leader of the church, reflected on the ministry of the congregation. Lucille Seiler of Buckeye United Methodist Church talked about the cooperation of the Owaneco and Buckeye churches, as they serve together.

### Cornerstone Opened

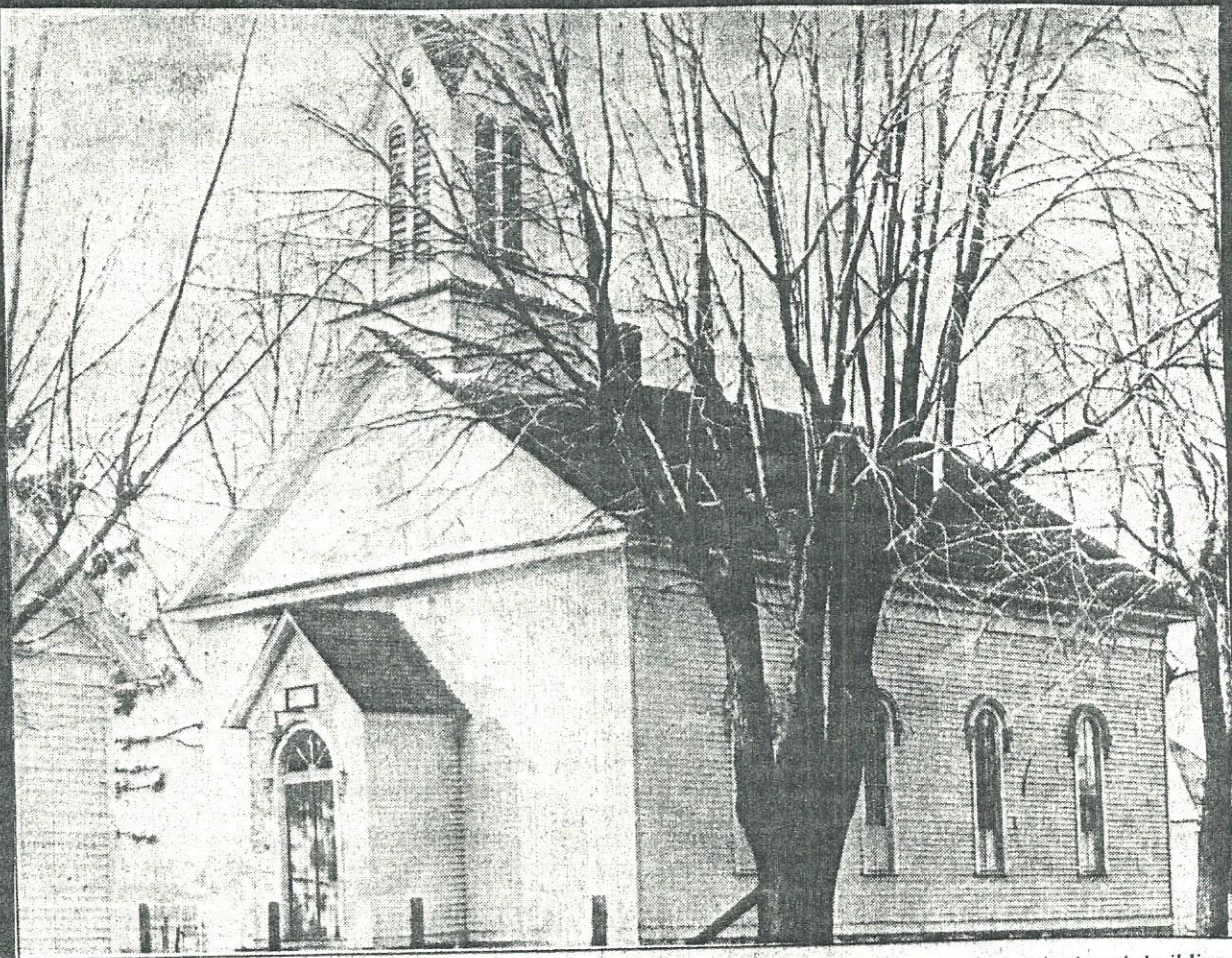
A special event was the opening of the cornerstone, to obtain the copper box placed within when the building was constructed in 1917. The box, when opened, contained the following articles:

Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Sunday School attendance list, 1916; quarterly outlook of Owaneco Methodist Episcopal Church, 1916 and 1917; leatherbound Holy Bible, unidentified list of names, statement from Eaton State Bank of liabilities and assets, and letter from the bank; Western Union telegram from W. G. MacAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury, to

Eaton State Bank concerning war bonds; passenger train schedule for the Southwest District of Baltimore & Ohio Railroad;

Membership lists, 1917: Ladies Aid Society, Epworth League, church officials, committees, church membership of First Methodist Episcopal Church; May 5, 1917 issue of The Daily Breeze; May 7, 1917, The Daily Courier; Building Fund contributors' list; Northwestern Christian Advocate dated May 2, 1917; Central Christian Advocate, May 2, 1917; Epworth League booklet, cornerstone service announcement dated May 8, 1917; paper signed by Sarah Dorr and Mildred Simpson.

During the next few weeks, articles from the box will be on display at the church.



*In 1873, the first Methodist Church in Owaneco was built on the same site as the present brick church building. The church faced south and the present church faces east. When the second church was built the structure was moved to the southwest corner of Grant and Locust and services were held there until the present building was completed.*

IN 1873, the first Methodist church in Owaneco was built at the site of the present brick church. A congregation of about 250 persons, which had been meeting at various locations in the area, joined together at this central location. The church faced south. (The present church faces east.)

Recounted the late Bertha Large: The dress of the worshipers' "go-to-meetin' duds" were clean, starched, somewhat new, and in some cases a bit elaborate. Men's hats were of heavy felt, narrow brims, and ladies' hats a grand and glorious exposition of many ribbons, flowers and shapes. Men dressed in full suits, vests a "must." Boys wore knee britches buttoned below the knee and long stockings on down. Little girls came in hooded capes with dresses extending well below the knees. Shoes of the ladies and girls were a bit fancy, long uppers fastened with buttons or laces.

When the second church was being built, this structure was moved to the southwest corner of Grant and Locust and services were held there until the new, brick one was completed.

The funeral of J. M. Shuler was the last to be held in this church. He was Mrs. Large's father.



***Present building  
and parsonage***

*The cornerstone set in 1917, when the foundation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Owaneco was laid will be opened during the 125th anniversary celebration Sunday, May 22, 1988. The contents of the box now in the cornerstone will be examined and more items will be added, says the pastor, Rev. Mike Crawford.*

## BUCKEYE SCHOOL

The Buckeye School was built in 1856 on Buckeye Prairie, a small community twelve miles south of Taylorville. The school served continuously until 1948 when the district was consolidated with Taylorville School Unit # 3. After consolidation the building was moved to a nearby farm and used for grain storage. It was purchased by a member of the Historical Society and moved to its present site in 1982. Restoration began at this time.

September 3, 1984 ceremonies were held dedicating the restored school to Harry Wilhour, a former student and director. Mr. Wilhour headed the fund drive to move the school. Don Gill, State School Superintendant of Public Instruction made the dedication speech.

In his autobiography Reminiscences, Thomas Lakin (whose family settled on Buckeye Prairie in 1854 when he was nine years old) tells about the Buckeye School. "Oh, but we Buckeyes were proud of our new school house. We urchins having been deprived of school so long, felt the need of an education most keenly and bent our every energy towards acquiring it."

Mr. Lakin goes on to explain the importance of the school to the community: "The Buckeye School was the nucleus up till after the Civil War for all kinds of public gatherings, chief and most interesting and helpful of which was the debating society. In this society which held its meetings in the winter time old men and young men took an active part and many important questions were discussed and forever settled. People came from miles around to hear these debates and listen to the official organ of the society, The Clarion, which often bawled people out as badly as the modern yellow journals. It was also here at the school that the first preaching services were held by the Methodist people, and great revivals resulted in the conversion of many young men and women."

History has shown that the rural schools of America had a definite impact on the development of the country.

BUCKEYE SCHOOL

THIS SCHOOL WAS BUILT IN 1856 AND USED UNTILL 1948, WHEN SMALLER SCHOOLS WERE CONSOLIDATED.

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CAROLINE SPEAGLE, ONE OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS, WAS THE LAST TEACHER IN THIS BUILDING.

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IT HAS BEEN FURNISHED WITH BOOKS & ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE YEARS IN WHICH THE SCHOOL WAS IN OPERATION.

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THERE ARE PICTURES & INFORMATION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD, ON THE SOUTH WALL.

A LIST OF PAST TEACHERS, AND OTHER RECORDS ARE IN THE SHOWCASE AND ON THE WALL IN THE N.E. CORNER.

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THE SCHOOL WAS USED AS A BARN BEFORE IT WAS MOVED TO THE MUSEUM GROUNDS.

THE CLOAK ROOM HAD TO BE RECONSTRUCTED, BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL ONE WAS DESTROYED.

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## CAMPBELLSBURG/OWANECO DEPOT

The Owaneco depot was formerly located at Campbellsburg, Illinois, in Buckhart Township, Christian County. Buckhart Township is one of the oldest sections of Christian County, for within its present confines some of the earliest settlers made their home. In fact, they located here very soon after the land was surveyed by the national government.

Campbellsburg was named in honor of the Shad J. Campbell family and was surveyed and laid off into lots on May 27, 1870. The first house was built by James R. Stokes in 1870, while Allen Stokes built the first store that same year. Owing to the removal of the railroad station, the place did not grow and the site was later abandoned. A new brick one room schoolhouse was built near the old site of Campbellsburg in 1916, taking the place of the old frame building (depot) which served the people of that community for so long.

The Springfield division of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad runs diagonally through the county from the northwest to the southeast. It enters Christian County on Section 10 of Buckhart Township and leaves the county on Section 24 of Pana Township. Taylorville, Pana, Edinburg, Owaneco, Sharps, Millersville and Velma were the stations. The railroad was formerly known as the Springfield & Pana Railroad, then, as the Springfield & Southeastern and in April of 1875, it was sold to the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad company. It was again sold to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad company and now forms an important branch of their trunk line. It was built under a charter obtained in 1865 and was completed in 1870.

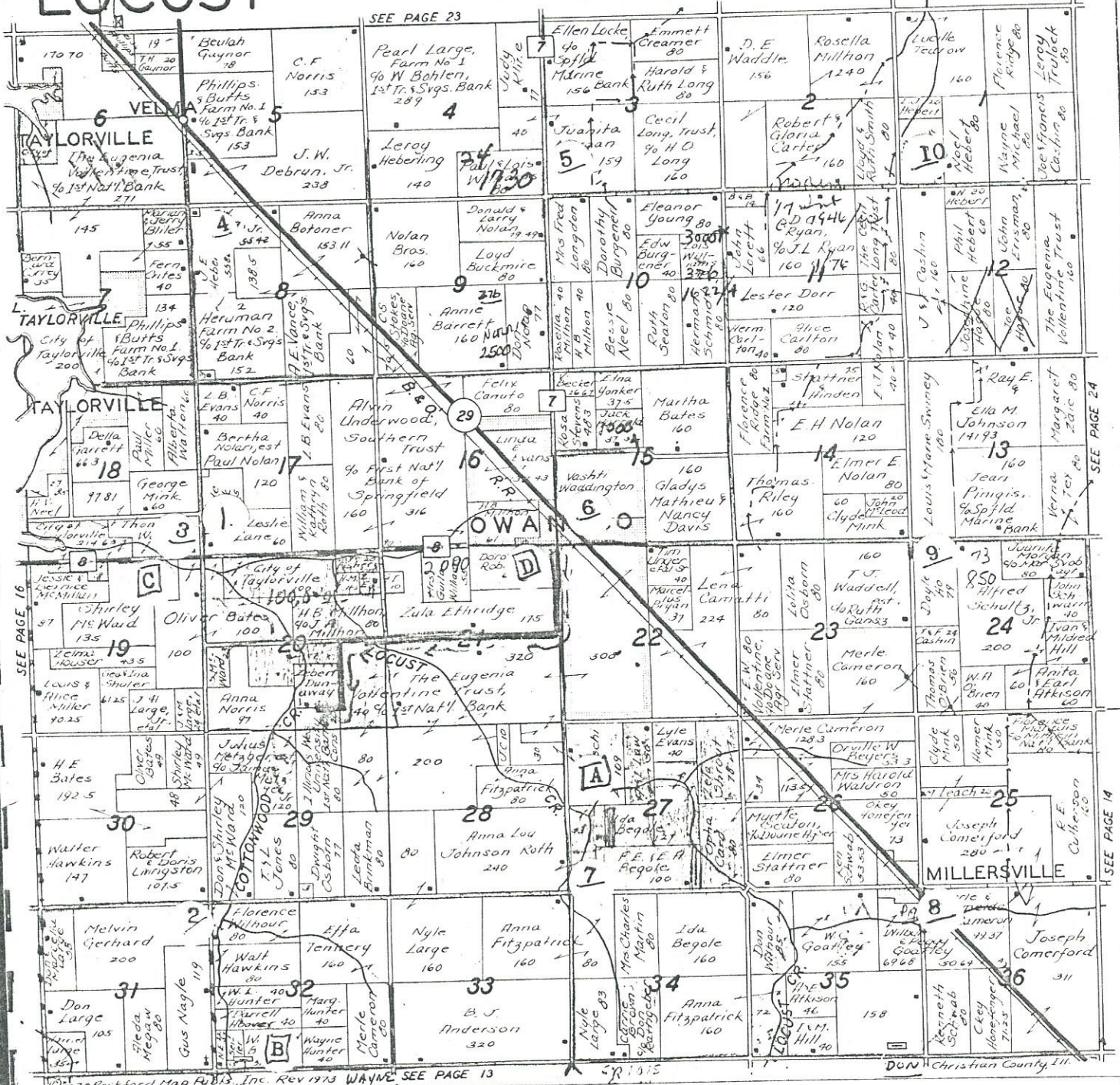
The first train entered Taylorville at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on October 25, 1869. The first through train from Beardstown to Shawneetown was run on this line on March 28, 1872.

Campbellsburg ceased to exist when Blueville and <sup>Blue Point</sup>~~original~~ Edinburg consolidated to be now known as Edinburg. The railroad depot was then moved to the village of Owaneco, which is located on the same B & O Railroad line. The settlement of Owaneco is halfway between Pana and Taylorville and to it came settlers from a wide region. Owaneco was laid out and surveyed on October 1, 1869. This village is located in the midst of a rich agricultural district and was an important grain and stock center.

The Christian County Historical Society Museum has acquired this depot from a bankruptcy court for \$100. The depot will be placed on the museum grounds located at the intersection of Routes 29 and 48 in Taylorville. Work to restore this historical landmark will begin shortly and contributions for the project are being accepted and would be greatly appreciated.

# LOCUST

T.12 N.-R.1 W.



- 1-MADISON SCHOOL. FIRST SCHOOL IN TOWNSHIP
- 2-BUCKEYE SCHOOL
- 3-JOHNSON SCHOOL #63
- 4-MEYERS SCHOOL #21
- 5-LAWTON SCHOOL #2
- 6-OWANECO SCHOOL
- 7-DURBIN COLLEGE #42
- 8-MILLERSVILLE SCHOOL
- 9-RESLER SCHOOL #22
- 10-PLEASANT VALLEY #22  
also known as Cashen School

- CEMETERIES
- A-DURBIN CEMETERY
  - B-BUCKEYE CEMETERY
  - C-DONOR CEMETERY: NOW KNOWN AS McWARDS D. A. R. CEMETERY
  - D-OWANECO CEMETERY

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