

History Mystery

County was going to be named Richman

One of the first European settlers in this part of the country was John Richman. He settled in the area of Camargo Township in May of 1829.

The county was to be called Richman, but petitioners thought they would have a better chance of approval if it was named for Stephen A. Douglas. Although the area was predominantly Republican, the state legislators were mostly Democrats as was Douglas.

The plan was to rename the county Richman at a later date, but that never happened.

Mackville was also Licksillet

The first settlement in Unity Township was the small village of Mackville about a mile northwest of the present-day Atwood. It had its beginnings in 1858 when Dr. McNutt rented a house west of the Mackville bridge spanning the Lake Fork.

He opened a general store there, and it became known as Mack's Place. The area then became known as Macksville and then Mackville.

At its peak, it had about 150 residents living in 50-60 log cabins and crude houses.

Mackville was also sometimes called Licksillet. An early seller saw a resident put out a skillet for the dogs to lick. He told the story to others, and it was decided that the layout of the town resembled the shape of a skillet. It was often debated as to whether it was better to live in the handle or the skillet.

A safe in Henry Gross' store served as a bank for early pioneers. Mail would arrive in Tuscola and would be placed in a Mackville box. Whoever

was headed that way would take the mail to Gross' store.

Early life in Garrett

If you think you have things rough, you should have been here when Daniel and Nancy Roderick were carving a home out of the wilderness of Garrett Township back in 1839.

The Rodericks were grandparents of Homer Rideout of Tuscola.

Daniel was born in Ohio in 1816 and the family came to Vermilion County in 1828. Nancy Srouf Roderick was born in Ohio in 1817 and came to Vermilion County with her parents in 1834.

Nancy and Daniel were married in 1839 and bought 160 acres near Hoots school for \$1.25 per acre [comparable to \$38.86 today]. They had some rough years.

In 1843, an early frost nearly destroyed the corn crop. Daniel had 40 acres of corn out and harvested only 50 bushels.

In 1845, he hauled wheat to Chicago where it sold for 66 cents per bushel. But after he bought a barrel of salt, a pair of shoes for his wife and a pair of boots for himself, he didn't have enough money left over to buy a meal.

Nancy spent a lot of time alone as Daniel often worked far from home. Many nights, she had to drive the wolves and wildcats away from the pens of hogs and geese. It was said that she was the only woman in Douglas County who ever killed a deer with her own two hands.

A peddler tried to sell hers stove and pointed out how much she could save if she bought one. She said, "Well, I reckon if I bought two of them, I would save it all."

Two of their 13 children joined the Illinois Volunteers



HERE'S AN EASY ONE. Do you know what this former structure in Tuscola was and where it was located? Tune into the Review's podcast late afternoon Thursday on our Facebook page to learn more about it from our resident historians.

fighting for the union. They contacted the measles in Tennessee and died.

West Ridge history

West Ridge was once a flourishing trade center on the border of Tuscola and Camargo townships. The Chicago and Eastern Illinois railroad serviced the area with a depot and station agent. Carloads of cattle and hogs were shipped from West Ridge to the Chicago stockyards. Among the early

stock feeders were James E. Hackett, James O. Warne, Gilby Bragg and Harry Bell.

The train also carried students from Fairland, Camargo and West Ridge to Tuscola High School.

There was a general store that served as a meeting place for the neighborhood. When roads were impassable, mail was often left at the store. Neighbors would pitch in and deliver the mail on horseback.

The store, owned by John Schoppe and later John Warne,

carried hardware supplies, groceries, work clothes, corn husking pegs, corn shucking gloves, liniments, lotions, boots, medicine (for humans and livestock) and household supplies.

The grain elevator was owned by J.M. Smiley. His daughter, Mae, married Robert L. Hackett and they farmed in the Tuscola area for many years.

The elevator, built in 1892, burned down in 1896. Seven thousand bushels of corn and

3,000 bushels of oats were destroyed.

An attraction for many at West Ridge was a deer farm owned by J.B. Wright.

Ghost towns

"Ghost towns" in Douglas County include Goodson Station, Section 34, Township 16, Range 7, Howe Station, also called Bowen, Section 36, Township 16, Range 7, and Sulphur Spring near the Okaw, Section 14, Township 16, Range 7.

Op-Ed

Monarchs, milkweed and mowing

By Cheri Burcham
Family Life Educator

Most people that know me know that I am very passionate about protecting monarch butterflies. I do my best to encourage people to plant milkweed seeds, and I hunt monarch caterpillars and relocate them to my indoor nurseries until they transform and are ready to be released as butterflies.

Their numbers have been rapidly declining each year, primarily due to loss of habitat. Many landowners mow their ditches, and I cringe to see them mowing down all the milkweed – the only plant that monarch butterflies lay their eggs on and their caterpillars

eat. So, when I saw this article from Extension Horticulture Educator Chris Enroth, I knew I had to share it with my readers.

Chris says: there is something about mowing that brings a measure of satisfaction to many of us. What is it that we love about mowing? The smell of cut grass? Taming an unruly landscape? To me, it is measurable progress. It seems so often that modern jobs give few tangible results. So much of our work these days is in the digital ether. After a full day's work, I leave the office switching off my computer, and all my toiling vanishes with the click of a mouse.

Arriving at home, I seek tasks of visual permanence by working with my hands, cleaning, and of course mowing. This desire to mow often expands beyond the yard as many landowners also mow road banks and ditches.

Unfortunately, the constant routine of mowing is harming the monarch butterfly, due to the loss of milkweed. August and September are critical months for the monarch butterfly. This timeframe is when the final generation of the year develops and prepares to make their flight to their overwintering site in Mexico.

I don't want to burst your mowing bubble, we can all still

hop on the zero turn and get our fix, but there are times when we should avoid mowing areas like ditches, road banks, natural areas, or anywhere that harbors milkweed, the only plant that monarch caterpillars eat.

For those living south of the 40-degree latitude line (includes Quincy and on into southern Illinois), mow before April 1 and mow after October 15. If necessary, you can also do a mid-summer mowing July 1 to July 20.

For those living north of the 40-degree latitude line (includes those north of Quincy and up into northern Illinois), mow before May 1 and mow

after October 1. A mid-summer mowing can take place June 30 to July 10.

These dates are based on monarch breeding and migration activities. The mid-summer mowing will still cause some mortality of monarchs.

Other tips for mowing habitat or roadsides:

- Don't mow the entire area. Leave unmown strips to recolonize the cut areas.

- Avoid mowing at night when insects are inactive and cannot escape.

- Use a minimum cutting height of 8-12 inches. This height removes seed production for many invasive plants while minimizing impact to na-

tive plants.

- Use a flushing bar and mow slowly to allow wildlife to escape before the mower passes over.

Milkweed is a disturbance species, and mowing can promote its growth but can be damaging if done during peak times of monarch reproduction and migration. Following the above-stated mowing guidelines, can help preserve vital monarch habitat. Check out Monarch Joint Venture's brochure "Mowing and Management: Best practices for monarchs." <https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/Mowing-ForMonarchs.pdf>.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Warm and fuzzy feelings are the name of the game this week, Aries. Real world and online friends are sending love and support your way, and this helps you in any endeavor.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, try reaching out to colleagues you admire in the days to come. They can be an important network of people who help you make smart decisions regarding your career.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Don't be afraid to speak your dreams to the universe, Gemini. This week you just may find out that the cosmic climate is ready to provide for you and make things happen.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, concerns within your circle of friends that you thought were over and done with may resurface. Don't let them adversely affect your happiness.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Energy will be intense this week, Leo. Use it to your advantage to sail effortlessly through your list of chores or professional responsibilities. You'll have extra fuel for fun as well.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, try to stay the course as best as possible even when others are throwing distractions your way left and right. Simply keep your head down and plow through.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you are not one to rock the boat, but don't be afraid to get a little loud and rowdy in the name of a good time this week. Self-expression can be a good thing.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, lay some ground rules at home, especially for when you are working out of your home office. Others have to know there are limits to interruptions.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Don't worry if you feel disorganized or preoccupied right now, Sagittarius. By the end of the week, you'll be back into the groove and things will move along smoothly.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

You don't need permission to treat yourself to a little luxury and indulgence, Capricorn. This week you can book a spa visit or maybe a spending spree to spruce up your wardrobe.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, try not to grow impatient this week and expect immediate results on something you started. It could take some time before all of the pieces fall into place.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

It's time to make peace with any issues with which you have been struggling, Pisces. Friends can help if you let them.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 5

Mark Wahlberg, Actor (51)

JUNE 6

Ashley Park, Actress (31)

JUNE 7

Emily Ratajkowski, Model (31)

JUNE 8

Kanye West, Rapper (45)

JUNE 9

Laurie Hernandez, Athlete (22)

JUNE 10

Bobby Jindal, Politician (51)

JUNE 11

Hugh Laurie, Actor (63)