

The Lentz family in Arcola

By Carolyn Cloyd

On Aug. 19, 1909, the Decatur Daily Review announced the wedding of Miss Leone Lentz and Carlos Renfrew, stating the couple would be married that afternoon in Arcola at the home of the bride's parents. Leading the article was the headline, "Chinese Prince To See Wedding." The Review stated that among the wedding guests would be "Prince Zen, a member of Chinese nobility, who is attending school at the University of Illinois."

The caption seems to have been a bit sensationalized, whether intentionally or due to misunderstandings is unknown, but there does not seem to be any record of a Prince Zen at the U of I or in Illinois at the time. However, enrolled at the school was a student named Juedan Ton-Shou Zhen from Soochow, Shanghai, China. Zhen was likely acquainted with the bride and groom who had ties to Urbana, or their friends, and may have been invited to attend the wedding.

The wedding would have been an American cultural experience for Juedan Zhen, a wedding of the two Arcola natives, in the heart of Arcola, the Broomcorn capital of the world.

The wedding was held at 3:30 p.m. at the home of Solomon Riley Lentz, located at the corner of North Locust and Jefferson Streets in Arcola. Newspaper accounts said the house was "prettily decorated in honor of the event," and the bride "looked charming in a gown of spotless white." The guest list numbered about 50 relatives and friends and was performed by Rev. R.V. Meigs of the First Baptist Church of Urbana.

The groom, Carlos Dickson Renfrew, was born in Arcola on June 29, 1886, the son of Charles Renfrew, a school teacher, and his wife, Francis Renfrew. Charles Renfrew brought his family to Arcola by 1880, where he taught school for several years before moving to Urbana. Carlos graduated from Thornburn High School in Urbana in 1904.

Carlos Renfro was described in the Champaign Daily News on Aug. 11, 1909, as a "rising young educator" in Champaign County who had taught in several of the best schools and worked as a letter carrier for the post office during the summers.

The bride was Agnes Leone Lentz, the daughter of Solomon Riley Lentz and Rozella Lamahe Lentz, of Arcola. Leone Lentz was born June 21, 1891 in Arcola. Leone attended school in Arcola but graduated from Thornburn High School in 1908.

The Champaign Daily News described Leone as a "young woman who was intelligent, vivacious, and pretty" and "well known and highly esteemed." The Lentz family was described as "old, well-known and prominent citizens of Douglas County."



Rozella, Caroline, and Soloman Lentz, ca. 1884

A short wedding trip was to follow the wedding and then the couple planned to settle down in Ogden where Carlos was slated to begin teaching. The marriage of Leone and Carlos would produce three children - Carlos, Joseph, and a daughter named Frances.

The Lentz family was well-established in Arcola,

Soloman having located there about 1880. Solomon was born on Dec. 13, 1846, in Dongola, Illinois, the son of Paul and Elizabeth Crite Lentz.

On March 2, 1864, a 17-year-old Solomon enlisted in the Union Army at Carbondale and served with Company I, 81st Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. He was dis-

charged for disability on Feb. 2, 1865, in Quincy.

After the war, Solomon moved to Paris where he boarded with a family named Jury and worked as a telegraph operator. On Dec. 16, 1873, he married a young woman from Lafayette County, Missouri named Esther "Essie" McClure. Not much is known about Essie, she had two children, a son named Arthur Talmadge Lentz, born around 1875, and a daughter named Caroline Lentz, born in Ashley on Dec. 30, 1876. Arthur died at the age of 3 years and 6 days and was buried in New Hope Cemetery in Pulaski County.

Esther seems to have died around the same time as her son. The 1880 U.S. Census shows Solomon living in Arcola alone and Caroline living with her mother's brother and his wife, something that was common at the time. Children were often taken in by one of their parents' families upon the death of the mother. However, Solomon soon remarried.

Solomon and Rozella F. Lamahe were married in 1880 and made their home in Arcola where Solomon worked for the Illinois Central Rail Road as an agent and telegrapher, a position he would hold for 42 years.

The couple had three children. Their first was a daughter named Daisy Grace Lentz, who was born Dec. 19, 1881, and died July 27, 1882. Their second daughter, born January 30, 1886, was named Maude Lorraine Lentz. She died on Apr. 1, 1887. Their third daughter was born July 21, 1891, and they named her Agnes Leone Lentz. Leone survived into adulthood. Daisy and Maude Lentz are buried in the Arcola Township Cemetery.

The Lentz family became part of the Arcola community,

See LENTZ on page 6

CHINESE STUDENT TRIED LITTLE STUNT Accomplished It, But Came Out With a Broken Leg.

J. T. Zhen is a student in the University of Illinois, coming from Shanghai, China. Zhen is quite an athlete and appears to be fearless is his prowess but yesterday evening he pulled off a little stunt which sort of surprised him and will keep him a patient in the Burnham hospital for a few weeks.

Zhen and a number of other students living at 603 South Lincoln avenue were doing a number of stunts and finally, Zhen, to out-go his rivals, concluded he would jump from the second story window. He succeeded in his endeavor and also came out of it with the compound fracture of his left leg, between the knee and ankle. He was taken to the hospital, where he was given proper care and still insists that it is possible for a man to jump from the second story of any house in town without breaking his leg, provided he lights just exactly right.

THE ERRONEOUSLY TITLED Decatur Daily Review article stating that a Chinese prince will attend the Lentz-Renfrew wedding, Aug. 19, 1909.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following units will be auctioned on August 16, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Unit #	Name	Contents
58	Erika Doty	Household items
64	Maria Varga	Mobility chair & household items
85	Elizondo Ramses	Children's items, outdoor chairs, walker & household items
132	Lance Strumpf	Household items
159	Donald Brame	Golf clubs & household items
206	Austin Spears	Household & children items

The sale will start at the Route 45 location and end at the Route 133 location. Units will be sold as is and buyer must clean out the unit. There will be a \$50.00 deposit required at the time of sale. The deposit will be returned when the unit is cleaned out. For more information, call Arcola Storage at 217-621-5947.

4 Auctions in 3 Days

Hot Wheel & Matchbox Auction
August 17, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

3 hr. Auction of Hot Wheels – Red Lines
NIB 1960's to 2000

Some very early Red Lines to Limited Editions & Sets! Early Match Box NIB – Lots of Sets NIB – Good Selection of Tootsie Toys! Sports 1/64 Semis & Bobbers – Ball Cards – You will find a great variety

Antique Tool & Antique Auction
August 18, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

500 lots of Early Woodworking Tools- Planes-Drills-Hatchets-Axes-Hammers- Stanley-Winchester-Blue Grass-Keen Kutter-Plumb – some early Tool Adv.

Public Auction Private Collection of Petrolina

August 18, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

Danny Buhr's Lifetime Collection of Gas & Oil! Gas Pumps-Oil Bottles w/ Carriers-Air Meter-Pump Globes-Porcelian & Metal Signs-Advertising Cans & Tins-2 Gal.-5 Gal.-1 Gal.-Qts.-Pints

Tri-County Petrolina Auction
August 19, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

400 lots of High End 2 Gal. Cans-Adv. & Memorabilia-Porcelian & Metal Signs! Some of the best 2 Gal. Cans that have been sold in a long time!

Tri-County Auction Co. LLC

650 E CR 400 N – Arcola, IL 61910
Sale Mgr. Vernon J. Yoder-217-268-3444
Auctioneer: Dean Yoder
Visa/MasterCard/Discover accepted
NO BUYERS PREMIUM
Absentee & Phone bidding available

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of DOUGLAS County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as

MOONSTRUCK MARKET
540E WASHINGTON ST.,
ARCOLA, ILLINOIS
61910

Dated this 11th day of
July, 2023
Judi L. Pollock
County Clerk