



MOORES CHAPEL

Joshua Moore was soon joined by his son-in-law, John Walters, who afterwards was killed in the Black Hawk War of 1832. Bird Ellis, son of Jacob, was also killed in the same conflict.

Few of the soldiers of the War of 1812, given land in the Military Tract for their war service, actually settled on their land. Many sold their patents of 160 acres for one hundred dollars or less. Isaac Ellis, a relative of Jacob and Levi Ellis, came to Joshua Township in 1827 on horseback from Tennessee, traded his horse for a farm and walked back to Tennessee to get his wife and two babies, and returned to settle on his land. In addition to those mentioned, there are many descendants of pioneers in Joshua at the present time, having title to land held in the family for over one hundred years.

Joseph Gardiner came to Fulton County in 1836 and settled in Joshua Township in Section 25 on land that became known as Gardiner's Corners, later called Sugarville. Joseph Gardiner was born in Rhode Island, and married Margaret Rawalt in New York. Mr. Gardiner was accompanied to Fulton County by seven families: Jonas Rawalt, Benjamin Rawalt, John Mariner, Samuel Heath, P. C. Stearns, John Snider, Nancy Randolph and children, and Margaret (Rawalt) Gardiner's parents, John and Elizabeth Rawalt. John Randolph, husband of Nancy, had come to Joshua Township a year before and built a house for his family.

They came in covered wagons drawn by oxen and one or two teams of horses. They always camped Friday night, and stayed until Monday. On Saturdays they washed, ironed, baked, and churned. They arrived in Liverpool on July 4, 1836. The trip from New York to Joshua Township occupied a period of nearly six weeks in steady travelling. They never travelled on Sunday, but always kept the Sabbath. They camped with John Randolph until Mr. Gardiner

bought a farm from the government, paying \$2.00 an acre. He began cutting away the hazel brush, and selected logs from the timber for a house. They then had a log rolling and put up the cabin. The family was so anxious to move in that they did so before the windows and doors could be made, hanging quilts over the openings to keep out the cold. They had what were called puncheon floors.

In 1846, Mr. Gardiner built a carpenter shop and blacksmith shop combined. He made the first corn cultivator in Fulton County. The cultivator had a sturdy oak frame, small iron wheels and four broad shovels, no shields, no springs, and was a successor to the "double shovel" plow with which the pioneer farmers cultivated the tough prairie sod. Mr. Gardiner made the first turning lathe, wagons and farm tools. He also made caskets. He had customers from Rock Island, Springfield and other "distant" places.

Elizabeth Gardiner Quick and Margaret Gardiner Story told the story of their father's and mother's life after they came to Joshua Township. Mr. Gardiner came to this area as he shrewdly considered the cheap land and rich soil would enable him to become independent.

The family first lived in a cabin in the edge of the timber, all east of them being prairie. The father worked hard all day and made shoes for his children at night. The family wore homemade garments at first and did their own knitting. Tow linen was their summer, and linsey and jeans their winter wear. The father and sons raised many hogs; at one time he butchered two hundred head. There were thirty-five or forty men helping, and their wives came along to help cook and take the fat off the casings. They had a jolly time. They did not cut up the meat, but let the hogs hang until frozen, then they hauled them to Peoria to sell. Mr. Gardiner also hauled flour in barrels from his mill by teams to Chicago, and shipped flour to New York and other points.

The old time camp meetings were held in the Furry and Standard neighborhood, not far from the Lutheran Church on Locust Lane. Peter Cartwright, Father Summers, Rev. Harden and Uncle George Miller used to preach at these meetings. They had wonderful revival meetings in pioneer times.

One of the noisier events of the early days was the charivari as a serenade to the newly-weds. At one such event guns were fired, shattering windows, until they were told to desist by the master of the house.

The families were generally healthy men when they first settled in Joshua but many suffered from chills and fever. When the new sod was plowed up the people had sore eyes. Some went partially blind and had to go away to take the "Water Cure." We know many of the childhood diseases were fatal to the children; the rows of markers at the graves of children of the same family bear witness to that fact.