

"The Lumber-JACK", an autobiography written  
by

Jack Lageschulte  
English I Hour III



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PREFACE

If life is sacred it should not be allowed to perish. True, the body will return to the dust from whence it came but the remembrance of the life should continue. Someone has said, "We are not dead until we are forgotten."



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DEDICATION

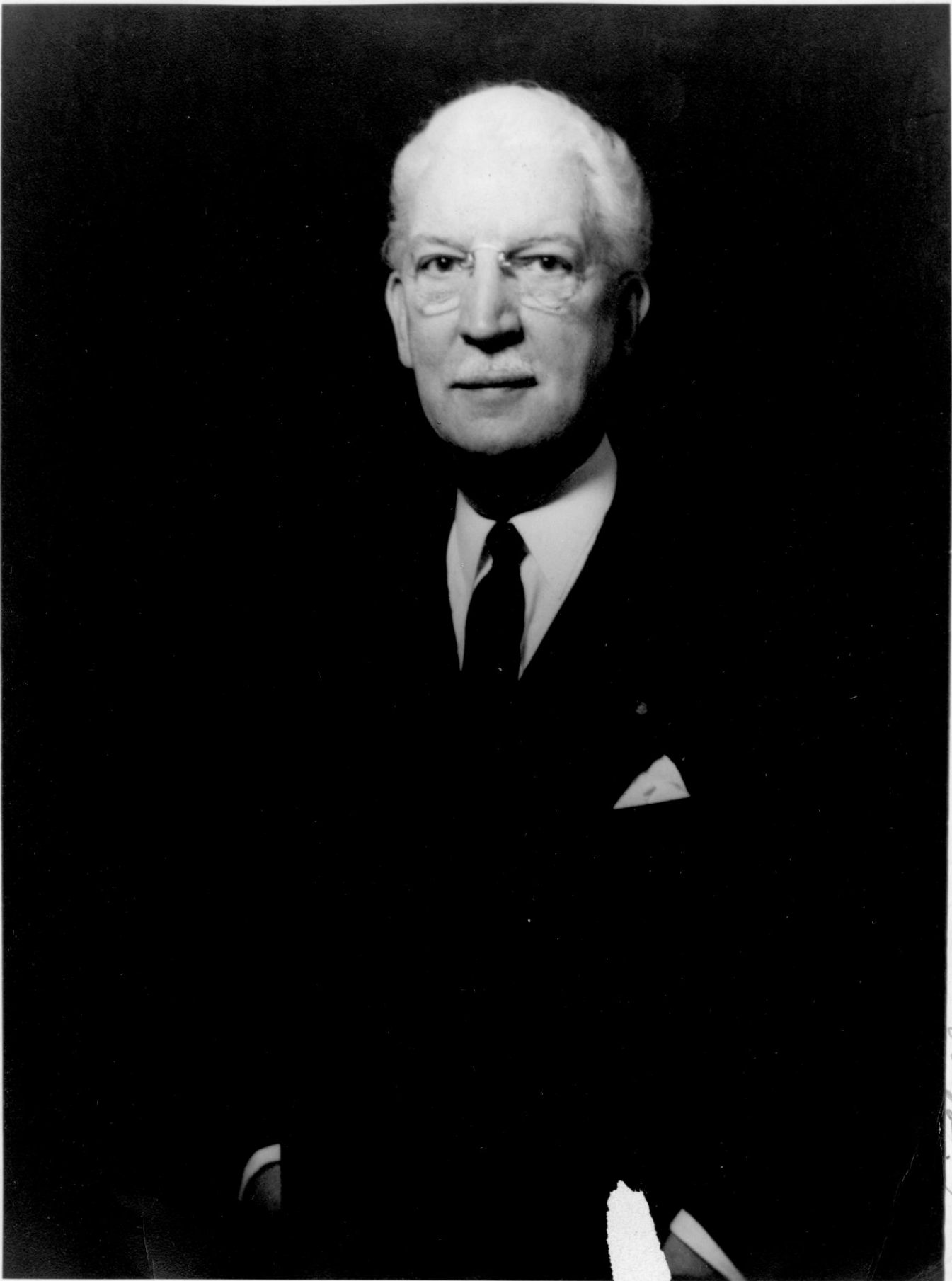
I dedicate my autobiography to my late Grandmother, May E. Roehenbach whose picture appears on the following page, and to Almira Roehenbach Heybeck whose love is shown on the following pages. They were the two best friends I ever had.



This is the Senior basket-  
ball team of 1922. My dad  
is second from the right.

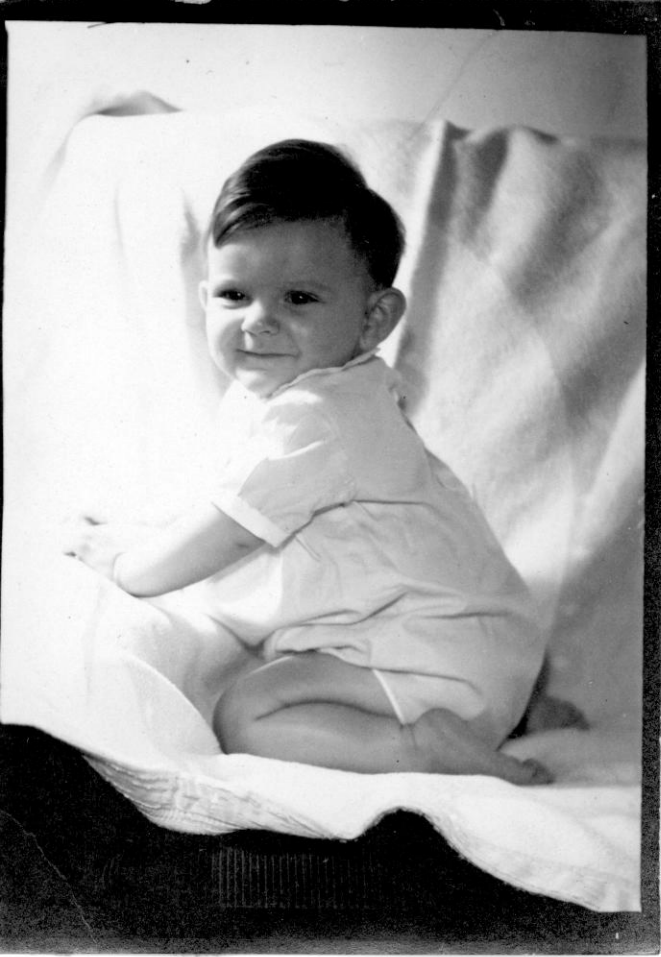
My Maternal Grandmother, May E. Rockenbach at the  
age of 70.





Portrait of  
Professor Bernhard von Klunzinger

\*\*MY FAVORITE RELATIVES\*\*



### FAVORITE RELATIVES

Two of my favorite relatives were Grandmother Rockenbach and Aunt "Jemima". My aunt's name was really Almira but because she was fat like the lady on the pancake boxes, I called her Jemima. Soon all of the relation called her Jemima; they still do today. My little sister, Gretchen, would call them both Grandmother. Soon she got to calling Grandmother "Little-one Grandmother" and Almira, "Big-one Grandmother!"

When I was a small boy they would always take me skunk huntin' or we would have a hot dog roast in Renard Park. They would also take me fishing and boating. As I got older and as I began to enjoy baseball games, we would "go to the ball game." We would sit on the porch and listen to the broadcast while Grandmother would be the vendor. She would bring in hot dogs, pop, and homemade popsicles.

Since they were both teachers I received a book on the slightest provocation.

Towards the end of Aunt Jemima's life she became totally blind. She was told she would recover but there was no hope. I would play "twenty questions" and ~~she~~ would play the piano while ~~she~~ played the ~~cc~~parinet

When they passed away they were missed by everyone. I also lost the two best pals I ever had..



11 months

1949

**Mrs. Almira Heybeck,  
Zurich Educator,  
Succumbs at 51**

Funeral services for Mrs. Almira Rockenbach Heybeck, 51, principal and teacher at the Lake Zurich grade school for the past 26 years, were held at 2:30 Monday at the Danielsen-Willmering funeral home at 149 West Main street in Barrington. Burial was in Evergreen cemetery. The Rev. Edwin Riske, pastor of Barrington St. Paul church, was the officiating clergyman.

Mrs. Heybeck died last Thursday night at St. Luke's hospital, Chicago, where she had been a patient since Monday. She was granted a leave of absence by the Lake Zurich school board in December when she was troubled by a gradually increasing blindness.

Born March 1, 1898, at Deerfield, Mrs. Heybeck accumulated 30 years of educational work during her successful career. She taught at Wilmot, Deerfield and Aptakisic and went to Lake Zurich as principal in 1923. Because of failing health she resigned her principal's post and resumed teaching two years ago. Her son, Frank Heybeck of Barrington, took over the job of principal when she resigned.

Mrs. Heybeck received her education at Deerfield-Shields Township High school and the teachers college at DeKalb.

Survivors include her husband, Albert; the son, Frank; a granddaughter, Rita; her mother, Mrs. Mae Rockenbach of Barrington; four sisters and a brother, Mrs. Lillian Werner, Mrs. Alice Lageschulte of Barrington, Mrs. Helen Brandenburg of Western Springs, Mrs. Lydia Bobinette of Chicago and Whitney Rockenbach of Cabool, Mo.

Serving as pallbearers at the funeral were members of Lake

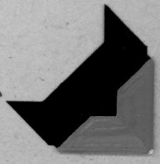
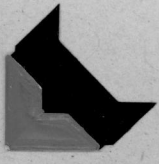
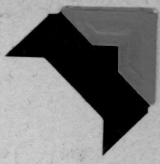
Zurich school board, Arthur Anderson, H. Giese, A. Petrakovitz, John Rachow, Randolph Boe and Richard Kreuser.

It is reported that members of Mrs. Heybeck's family will establish a memorial library for her in the new Lake Zurich school building.



My favorite aunt as  
a high school senior.





Aunt "Jemima" when she was a little girl.

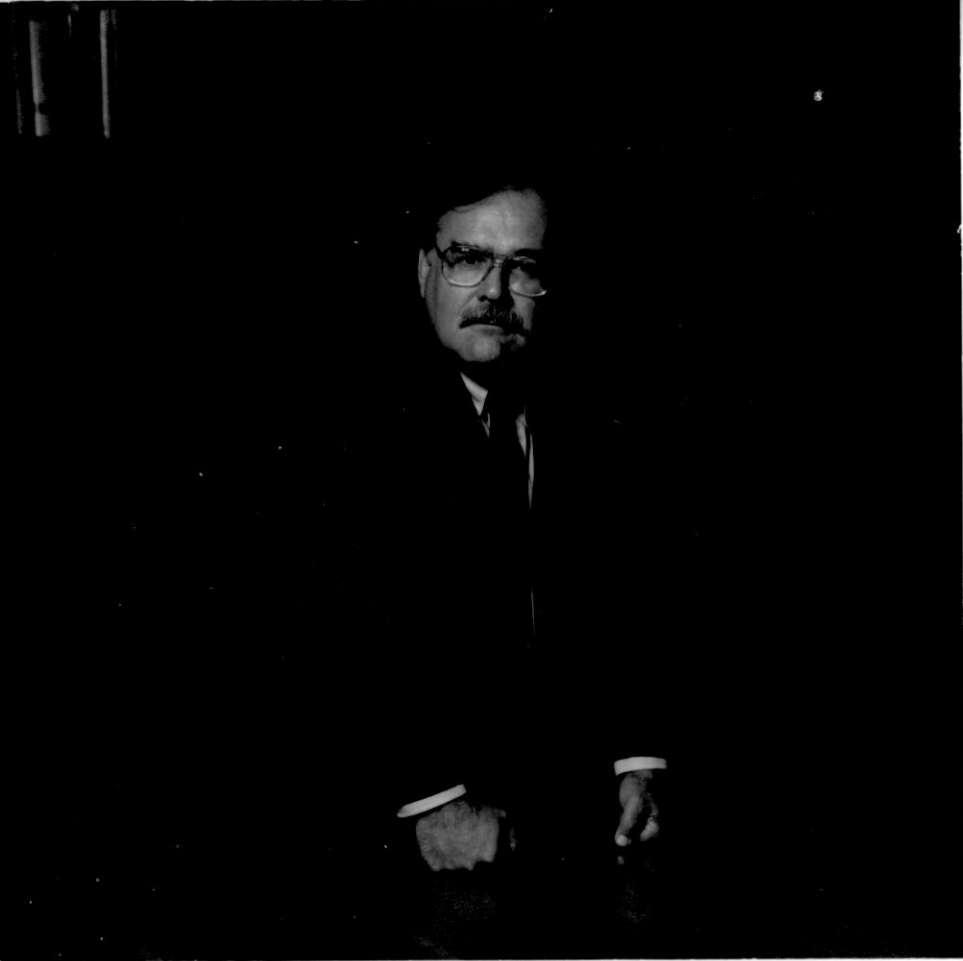




\*\*MY ANCESTORS\*\*



\*\*THE MATERNAL ANCESTORS\*\*



MOTHER'S PATERNAL FAMILY TREE

John George Roehenbach I

- 1. John
- 2. George

Salome Reidlinger

- 1. Phillip Reidlinger
- 2. Christian
- 2. Salome

Maria Salome

John Jacob Ott

- 1. Jacob
- 2. Magdalena
- 3. Casper
- 4. Lorenz
- 5. Christian
- 6. Phillip
- 7. Salome

Magdalena Urban

Reig

- 1. Ursula

Peters

Maternal

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

u

Unknown

George II Y

- 1. Phillip
- 2. Fred
- 3. George III
- 4. Sally

Salome Reidlinger

Lorenz Ott

- 1. Jacob
- 2. Mary
- 3. Magdalena
- 4. Sarah
- 5. Samuel
- 6. Eli

Ursula

George Rockenbach III

- 1. Ella
- 2. Aledlaide
- 3. Almon
- 4. Sam
- 5. Viola
- 6. Preston
- 7. Irene
- 8. Orman

Orman Rockenbach

- Almira
- Whitney
- Lillian
- Helen
- Lydia
- ALICE

Sarah Ott

Alice

PHILIP

JACK

GRETCH

John Delano

- 1. Mary Jane

Amanda Delano

Levi Whitney

- 1. Joseph
- 2.

Pamelia Chase

Mary Delano

- 1. Lillian
- 2. Clara
- 3. Cora
- 4. Mary E.
- 5. Lydia
- 6. Edith

Mary E. Whitney

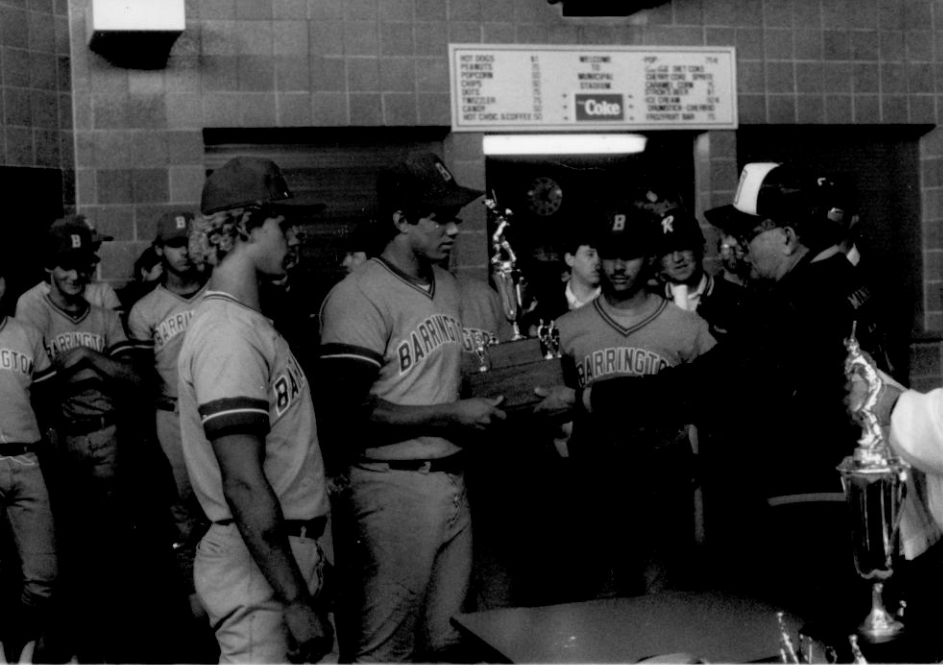
Joseph Chase Whitney

- 1.



\*\*MATERNAL MATERNAL SIDE\*\*





Great grandmother Whitney was a loving mother and a religious person. She wasn't as strong a character as Grandfather Whitney.

My grandmother told my mother about the pretty bonnets that great grandmother Whitney wore-- creations of purple violets with a satin or silk ribbon bow tied under her chin. Shortly after Great Grandfather Whitney died, Grandmother Whitney died. She was of "poor spirit" and could not survive without her husband's boundless cheer and very good spirit.

Her body rests in the Evergreen Cemetery, Barrington Illinois.





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Mary Jane Delano--Joseph C. Whitney

Married 12/8/1860.

Children

Mary E. Whitney Rockenbach (Grandmother)-(1876-1949)

Lillian Whitney Prussia-(1867-1908)

Clarisa Pamela Whitney Catlow-(1862-1925)

Lydia Whitney Snetsinger-(1872-1932)

Cora Whitney-(1869-1877)

Edith Whitney-(1877-1877)

Grandchildren

Mary Rockenbach  
Orman Rockenbach

Lillian Prussia  
George Prussia

Blimara-(1898-1949)

George

Whitney-(1901-living)

Edna

Lillian-(1906-living)

Mabel

Alice, Mom-(1908-living)

Cora

Helen-(1910-living)

Clara

Lydia-(1913-living)

Joseph

Clara Catlow  
Joseph G. Catlow

Lydia Snetsinger  
James Snetsinger

Josephine

Clarence

Ruth

Russell

Mary

John

Wright



Levi Whitney ----- Pamelia Chase.  
 7 boys | 5 girls  
 7 boys Joseph Chase Whitney

Lillian Clara MARY E. WHITNEY Cora Lydia Edith

Almira Whitney ALICE Lillian Helen Lydia.

JACK Phillip Gretchen

Levi and Pamelia Chase Whitney were residents of Syracuse, New York. They settled here when they came from England. The journey from New York to Illinois was made by boat and covered wagon. In the spring of 1839 they came to Chicago but it was so low and marshy that they traveled on to Waukegan. Waukegan was a real thriving town, but some of their friends had told them of Lake Zurich. They continued another day's journey to reach it.

Levi and Pamelia Chase Whitney had twelve children. When they came to Lake Zurich in 1839 Levi bought several tracts of land from the government to give to his sons. The youngest son was Joseph, my great grandfather. It was on this farm at Lake Zurich that he grew to manhood, receiving his education at Lake Zurich and Waukegan Academy. The Whitney Farm at Lake Zurich is still in the family and it is here that Joseph lived for seventy four years.

Levi, the great great grandfather died at Lake Zurich in 1853. Joseph was twenty one years old then. Pamelia lived with Joseph until her death at the age of eighty six.

Joseph C. Whitney and Mary Jane Delano were married in 1860 and lived in Lake Zurich until their death. They lived to enjoy their Golden Wedding on December 8, 1910.

Joseph C. Whitney was born June 8, 1833 in Oswego County, New York.



Maternal

John and Amanda Delano

Mary Jane Delano

Mary E. Whitney

Alice

PHILLIP JACK GRETCHEN

John and Mary Delano were residents of Syracuse, New York. They traveled by boat to Chicago thence to Waukegan. The Delanos and Whitneys were neighbors in Syracuse, New York. One day when Joseph was in Half Day he went to Mr. Delano. He was invited to their home in Waukegan. Here he met Mary Delano whom he married on June 8, 1860.

Great Grandmother Mary Delano and her husband GreatGrandfather Joseph C. Whitney.





A copy of an obituary of J. C. Whitney.

WAS TREAS. OF ELA INSURANCE CO. FOR  
PAST THIRTY YRS.

J.C. WHITNEY, MEMBER OF THE 96th ILL. INF.  
WHO PASSED AWAY AT LK. ZURICH.

J.C. Whitney, the aged resident of Lake Zurich who died Thursday, February 12th was treasurer of the Ela Mutual Insurance company every since it was organized thirty years ago. His death proved to be one of creating more than average concern. in the community where he had lived since he was seven years old and at his death, he was 81 years of age, having been born in Oswego county, New York, June 8, 1833. When seven years old his parents moved to Lake Zurich and it has been his home ever since, hence it is seen he was one of the very oldest residents of the county.

Mr. Whitney was a member of the 96th Illinois infantry, serving in the Civil war 3 years and 3 months. He was a member of these orders: Lounsbury Lodge 751, A.F. and A. M., Barrington Post G.A.R.

Surviving Mr. Whitney are these relatives: Mary J. Whitney, his widow; Mrs. J.G. Catlow, of Barrington; Mrs. O.L. Rockenbach, Deerfield; Mrs. James Snetsinger, Lake Zurich.

Mr. Whitney had been sick for some time and had been at death's door for a week. Cancer of the stomach was the cause of the trouble.



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Having lived in Lake County most of his life he saw much of the development in Lake County and in Chicago. As a boy he remembered seeing his mother give the Indians cornbread as they stopped on their way north in the springtime.

He was a director and treasurer of the Ela Mutual Fire Insurance Co. He was a member and a deacon of the First Baptist Church in Barrington for many years. He was a Mason, and a chaplain of the Grand Army of the Republic, an order he dearly loved for no one was more proud than he when they marched down the street following the old flag to the tune of the fife and drum. He was a volunteer in the Civil War, and served three years and three months under General Grant's command. My grandmother, Mary Whitney was very proud of her father. He was a fine figure of manhood with spirited eyes. She traveled extensively with him.

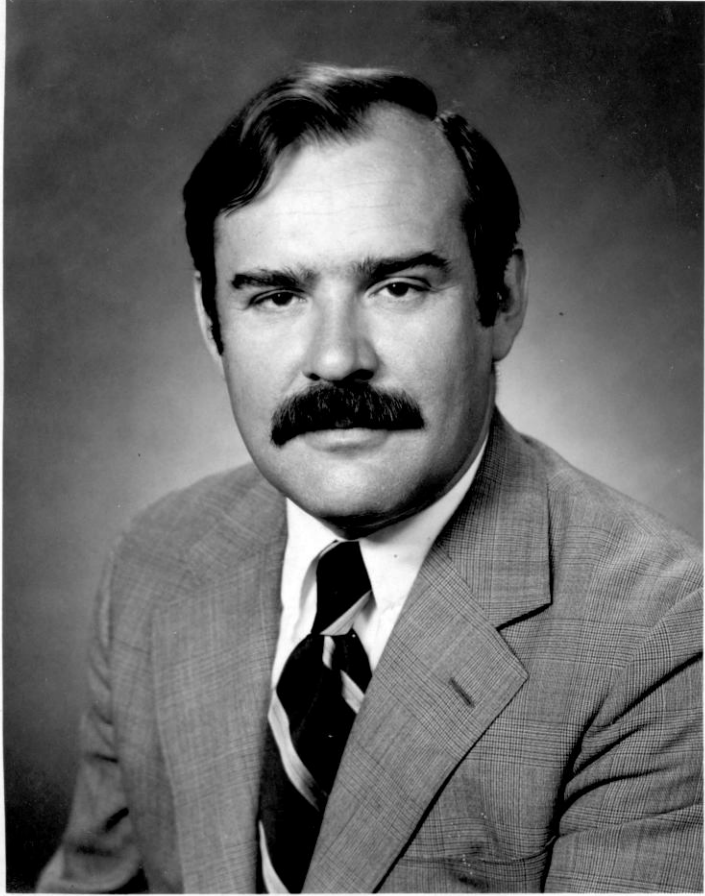
Grandmother told us how they drove to Barrington to church every Sunday morning in a Democrat wagon. The pews of the Baptist church were given by my great grandfather Whitney.

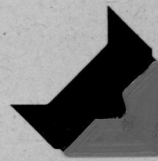
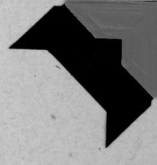
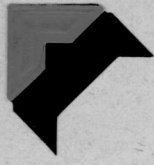
He passed away February 12th 1914 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Barrington, Illinois.

My grandmother related to us that her grandmother (Pamelia) was the dearest person one could ever meet. She was quite short and chubby. She helped take care of all of them and lived in their home until her death. She was eighty six.

Grandmother said that Pamelia had a bed that was roped together with a straw mattress on top. Whenever my grandmother wanted to hide she would crawl under this low bed.

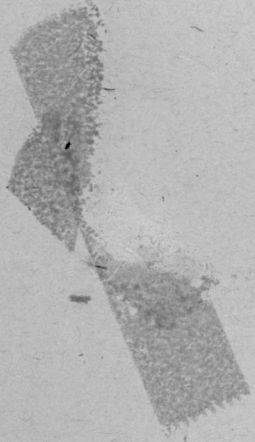
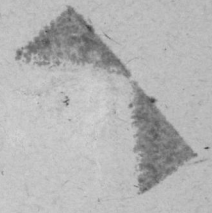
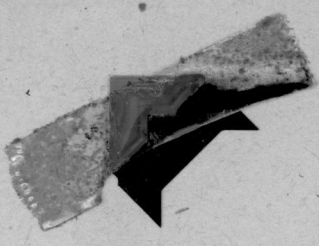
Mary Delano Whitney





Great Grandfather Whitney





J.C. Whitney





GRANDMOTHER ROCKENBACH

Grandmother Rockenbach was born Noverber 7, 1870 in Lake Zurich. She was the daughter of J.C. Whitney and Mary Jane Delano Whitney.

She attended the Lake Zurich School. She was in the first graduating class of the Barrington High School. in 1888. After High School she attended Chicago Teachers' College for 2 summers. She taught school at Honey Lake and the Grange Hall. She also taught at the Wilmot School in Deerfield.

On June 17, 1897 she married Orman I. Rockenbach. They had six children: Almira, Whitney, Lillian, Alice, Helen, and Lydia.

Grandmother passed away on July 5, 1949, five days after the death of my Aunt "Jemima".

Grandmother enjoyed meeting people and visiting. Her ideas were very modern. She lived one day at a time and planned as though she would live forever.

She loved to take trips and was a good sport. She was gifted with a good sence of humor. Reading books, playing the piano, listin<sup>g</sup> to the radio, giving book reviews for the Woman's Clab, and attending PTA were all in Gram's schedule.

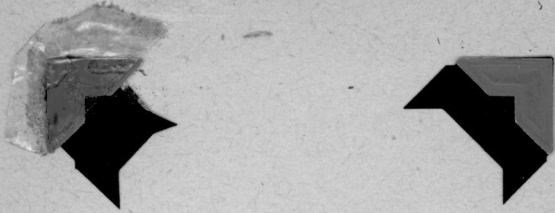
She had an unshakeable faith in love and its power. She was devoted to her family. In times of trouble she was al<sup>l</sup> staunch as the "Rock of Gibraltar."

Her favorite pastime was sending in questions to radio quiz programs. She won several awards. She sent many biographys to Dr. I.Q.





As a young lady.



As a child; on the left!



Golden Jubilee

One of the interested spectators at the jubilee will be Mrs. Mae Whitney Rockenbach, member of a pioneer Lake Zurich family who was born and reared on the banks of Lake Zurich. Her Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Whitney, bought their farm from the government-- the deed signed by President John Tyler, still is in the family. She recalls the days when Indians called at her home for food, and also remembers when deer came through the farm to drink in the lake. Her father, a veteran of the Civil War, was chaplain of the G.A.R. post in Barrington for many years.

Mrs. Rockenbach was one of the first graduates of the two-year high school in Barrington, finishing in 1888. She taught in a log school in the Honey Lake district, where the Benjamin Berghorn cottage now stands, and later taught in the two-room school of Lake Zurich.



"MOMENT IN PEKING" SUBJECT OF  
"REVIEW FOR ZURICH WOMEN"

The Literature group of the Lake Zurich Community Women's club met at the home of Mrs. Frank Reed on Friday to hear a review of the book "Moment in Peking" by Lin Yutang as rendered by Mrs. O.I. Rockenbach.

This story, remarkable in that it was written by a Chinese author in beautiful English, covers a period of 40 years in the lives of several prominent Chinese families, concluding with the present era. The author's love for the beauties of China are evidenced in his description of its mountains, lakes and rivers. He did not fail however to show some of the sordidness of that country as well.

The main object of "Moment in Peking" is to portray the heritage for which the soldiers of China are now fighting. It shows them united by a common loyalty with a patience and strength that is like the Great Wall of China itself.

These points were brought out by Mrs. Rockenbach in spite of the task of condensing a book of some 800 pages into a short afternoon's review.







When Grandmother was 74 years old she went with my mother and father on a fishing trip to Canada. In spite of her age and high blood pressure she was up at the crack of dawn and ready to leave for a day of fishing. She caught her limit every day and played penny-ante...at night

licated To The Promotion Of World Friendship  
ough The Universal Language Of The Arts



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## FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER DIES

Funeral Services For Mrs.  
May Rockenbach Will Be  
Held Friday.

LAKE ZURICH—Funeral services for Mrs. May Whitney Rockenbach, 77, of Rand rd., lifelong Lake county resident and former school teacher, will be held at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Barrington Baptist church, with burial in Evergreen cemetery, Barrington.

She died Tuesday in Sherman hospital, Elgin, of a heart ailment after a long illness. Mrs. Rockenbach was the widow of Orman I. Rockenbach, retired farmer and onetime operator of Reynolds park.

Born in Lake Zurich, she had taught in several county schools, including Wilmot school in Deerfield and Honey Lake school.

After their marriage in 1897, Mr. and Mrs. Rockenbach resided in Deerfield until moving here in 1923. A daughter, Mrs. Almira Haybeck, principal of the Lake Zurich Consolidated school, died last week.

Surviving Mrs. Rockenbach are a son, Whitney, of Cabool, Mo.; four daughters, Mrs. Lillian Warner, Mrs. Lydia Bobinette, both of Chicago, Mrs. Alice Lageschulte, Barrington, Mrs. Helen Brandenburg, of Western Springs, Ill.; 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Friends may call at the chapel, Main st., Barrington.

## Mary E. Rockenbach Dies At Sherman; Funeral Friday

Mary E. Rockenbach, 79, nee Whitney, of Lake Zurich, died Tuesday evening at Sherman hospital, Elgin. Services will be held Friday at 1:30 p.m. from the First Baptist church in Barrington, to Evergreen cemetery, with the Rev. Paul W Starring officiating.

Mrs. Rockenbach was born November 7, 1870, at Lake Zurich. She attended school there and was a member of the first graduating class of Barrington high school in 1888. She began her teaching career that year at Honey Lake and continued at Grange Hall and Wilmot schools.

On June 17, 1897, she married Ormand Rockenbach, who preceded her in death nine years ago. Their six children include Whitney and Lillian Rockenbach, Alice Lageschulte, Helen Brandenburg, Mrs. Lydia Bobinette and the late Almira Heybeck. Surviving are also 12 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

One of the great grandchildren, Ryan Jay Heybeck, was born Tuesday morning at the hospital where his great grandmother died.

Mr. and Mrs. O.I. Rockenbach on  
their wedding day.



\*\*\*\*MATERNAL PATERNAL SIDE\*\*\*\*



MAY WHITNEY

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THE OTT FAMILY

John Jacob Ott was born in 1784 in 1784 in Baldenheim, Alsace, France and died in 1865. He was the founder of the Ott family in America. He settled in Warren, Penn. His wife was Magdalena Urban. They had two daughters and five sons. Their sailing vessel took 40 days in crossing and their hay wagon and rack, which was ballast on the boat, was used as a moving wagon when they moved to the bank of the Alleghany River. After four year's residence in Warren, Jacob Ott married Magdalena Luther and settled on Saunders Road in Deerfield. Jacob was the oldest son.

In the following year the entire Ott family came to Deerfield, where they founded a strong family clan of loyal dependable Illinois citizens. Lorenz Ott had the first stove, first kerosene oil lamp, and the first crude wooden washing machine (made in Libertyville), in the colony. Previous to stoves, cooking was done in the fire place. A big ironkettle about six inches deep and eight inches across was placed on coals made of hickory wood, and bread was baked in the kettle. A black iron "spider" was placed on an iron sawbuck in the fireplace and cornbread and meat, were also cooked in that manner.

Not one house in twenty had enough chairs on which the entire family could sit at one time. The children stood beside the table to eat.

The spot where the Ott family located was considered a Garden of Eden. Speculators had bought the land at first, remained but a short time, and then sold to the German farmers. They settled in the timber and fruit of all kinds



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plentiful. More than ten different kinds of plums, crabapples, hickory nuts of all sizes, berries, blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries, cherries, choke cherries, garden cherries, walnuts, butternuts, bitternuts (like hickory), for the settlers, and acorns to fatten hogs, abounded in profusion.

In 1836 and 1837 ten log houses stood in a row on the edge of the natural timber on a road two miles west of Deerfield. This road was then unnamed but later was called Saunders Road, for a man in Cook County. In the group of houses were the homes of the families of the Lorenz Ott, John Jacob Ott, John Jacob Ott Jr., and Casper Ott.

Ursula Rieg, who had come from Alsace Lorraine to Warren Pennsylvania with her grandparents married Lorenz Ott, one of the sons of John Jacob Ott. They left her grand parents in Warren when they went west. Lorenz Ott and his wife Ursula had three girls and two boys. Sarah, their daughter married George Rockenbach III. Lorenz Ott's children attended the Wilmot in Deerfield. Their home was a short distance from the Rockenbach home. The families attended the same church and it was at church that George Rockenbach III met Sarah Ott. They were married in Kankakee September 3, 1864. Jacob Ott the oldest son of John Jacob went west in 1849 in the gold rush. He became ill and died near Panama. He was buried in the ocean.

Born in Baldenheim, Alsace on October 24, 1808, Lorenz Ott, my great great grandfather, <sup>1808</sup> married Maria Ursula Rieg. Ursula was born May 18, 1811 and her maiden name was Peters. Their daughter, Sarah was my great grandmother, and Sarah's son, Orman, is my grandfather,...