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Marriage Without A Courtship

R. Rawsthorne Grundy
College of DuPage

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The play, "Scott Legacy -- The Naming of Our School," was written by Roy Grundy. Marriage Without A Courtship is a history of Du Page County, particularly the City of Naperville, captures the charm of the 1800's. The following portion of that play, Act II, "Marriage Without A Courtship," depicts a segment in the lives of Willard & Caroline Scott. Photographs were procured from the Chicago Historical Society and the Martin Mitchell Museum.

Marriage Without A Courtship

Willard Scott, while on a hunting trip, stopped at a cabin to seek lodging for the night. He met Caroline Hawley, the eighteen year old daughter of the cabin owner, and immediately fell in love. Willard asked Caroline to marry him. Caroline said she didn't know yet. Willard said she should think it over and he'd be back in two weeks to marry -- without courting her.

Pierce Hawley:
White Eagle, so good to see you after a fortnight. How are you?

Willard:
Good to see you sir. I'll know how I feel when I hear from your lovely daughter, Caroline.

Pierce:
Caroline.
Caroline:
Willard Scott!

Willard:
Yes
Caroline:
I'm delighted to see you once again. I've done some thinking and ...

Willard:
Yes
Caroline:
Is yes all you can say?

Willard:
Yes, and that is all you need to say.

Caroline:
Yes.
Willard:
Wonderful. The Reverend Isaac Scarritt is here with me and he will marry us, now. I love you Caroline.

Caroline:
And I love you too, Willard.
Willard:
Rev. Scarritt, Mr. Hawley, Mr. Halderman, come we are to be married! (They all gather around and a simple wedding ceremony is conducted. Everyone, two couples and six children come out of the cabin, all dressed in their Sunday best. Willard looks quizzically at Caroline and smiles a knowing smile. Willard and Caroline walk off the stage to the right as the curtain closes. Willard and Caroline walk slowly from right to left in front of the curtains.)

Willard:
Did you know my fifteen year old sister Permelia will marry John Kinzie Clark in five days. Maybe we should have waited and had a double ring ceremony.

Caroline:
I much prefer it this way, Willard. Are we near our cabin at the "Forks"?

Willard:
No Caroline we have ten miles to walk.

Caroline:
What ever became of the horses?

Willard:
Let's stop just ahead of that clump of timber. (They stop and Willard throws down two blanket rolls and with outstretched arms says:)

Willard:
We have the sky for our ceiling -- the stars for light -- the trees for our shelter and the ground for our bed. Tomorrow, Caroline, we will be back at our cabin and soon be joined by other homesteaders such as your father's family and the Bailey Hobsons. We are to be happy homesteaders, with our own little pod on the prairie!

It is two weeks later when our next scene opens. It is July 16, 1829 at Holderman's Grove, 26 miles southwest of Naperville. (On the left of stage is the Hawley's Cabin from the right side come two men walking along-side three horses. The shorter man dressed in an itinerent minister's clothes stops behind a big bush. The tall man walks to the cabin with two horses. Pierce Hawley comes out of the cabin door and says.



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