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AN HISTORICAL - GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

of

VERMILION COUNTY

AN HISTORICAL - GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

of

VERMILION COUNTY

by

Ruth Keran

Submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the
Degree of Master of Science in Education


Plan B

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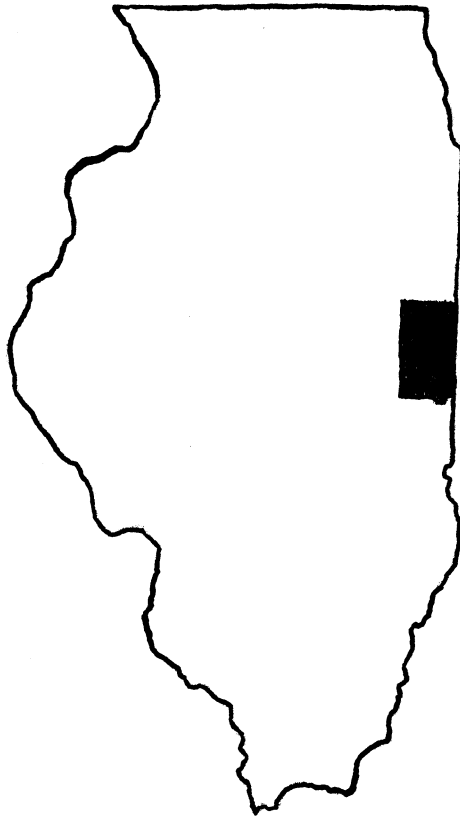


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INTRODUCTION

Vermilion County is located in an area well favored with material resources and, because of this, was predestined to be an important part in the making of Illinois history. The county lies along the eastern border of Illinois, nearly midway in the state, generally between 40° - 41° north latitude and 87° - 88° west longitude. It is rectangular in shape, averaging 21.5 miles wide and 42 miles long, with an approximate area of 886 square miles.

The following pages present a discussion of the natural resources of this area and a meager report on the struggles of those people involved in its development.

I. TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

The land surface of Vermilion County is rather uneven but not particularly rough. To a careful observer, broad ridges a little higher than the general surrounding areas can be seen. Most lands are undulating with some of the swells called knolls by the local people. These knolls are the result of direct glacial deposition. Two glaciers, the Illinoian and the Wisconsin, are known to have covered the county. The deposits of the Wisconsin have had a more direct influence on the present landforms and soil since it followed and covered the Illinoian deposit. The Lake Michigan lobe of the Wisconsin ice sheet spread southward to Charleston, Illinois where it remained long enough to build the Shelbyville moraine in the Charleston area. As the ice retreated it deposited material that left rather uniform topography.

Moraines are ridges built up by the dumping of drift at the ice edge. A moraine, well known to students of geology, is the Bloomington moraine, which crosses the center of Vermilion County from east to west. For some unknown reason, the climate became colder for a time so that the summer melting of ice about equalled the winter freezing of ice. Thus, the glacier halted in its retreat to build a moraine across the county. Bordering this moraine to the south are areas of nearly level land. These plains were formed of materials deposited by the melting waters at the time the moraine was being laid down. The glacier retreated haltingly

northward from the moraine to cause the strongly undulating topography in the north part of the county. There are many lesser moraines that generally run across the county from east to west. The Champaign moraine crosses the extreme south part of the county. In addition to this the rough land of the county is due to streambed dissection of the moraines.

The lowest point of elevation in the county is the Vermilion River Channel at the Indiana-Illinois state line. The United States Geological Survey gives the figure of 490 feet above sea level for this channel. In the northwest section of the county the elevation reaches 790 feet. For the north section, generally speaking, the elevation is from 680 - 790 feet. A range of 650 - 700 feet is given for the south half.¹

Glacial till, which is material deposited by the glaciers, is the most important material from which the soils of the county have been formed. As soon as the material was deposited, soil-forming processes began to change it into soil. These processes were different throughout the county because of the following varying factors: namely, the original glacial till deposit, the slope of the land, and the prevailing vegetation types.

Vegetation started to grow following the melting of the ice sheet. The low-lying wet areas were most favorable for heavy swamp grasses and organic accumulation. These soils are the muck and clay loams. On the more rolling lands prairie vegetation thrived, and the soils are the brown silt loams and sandy loams. Along the rivers

¹Herman Wascher, R. S. Smith, L. H. Smith, Vermilion County Soils, Soil Report #62 (Urbana: University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Section, June, 1938), p. 7.

forest vegetation was abundant and even worked its way into the prairie land close by. Because of the conditions produced by such vegetation, these soils are light colored compared with the soils developed under the grass vegetation.

The till of the southern half of the county is made up of sandy silt and pebbly material, with small areas of loam here and there. The northern half has many varieties from the pebbly and permeable soils to the compact and impermeable soils. The resistance to the penetration of air and water made for slower weathering processes and shallower soil layers.

Because of the variation in the previously mentioned soil factors and the weathering processes, differences in soil types are now quite pronounced. The Soil Conservation Office lists twenty-five soil types, ten of which constitute about ninety-three per cent of the land area of the county. Each of the other fifteen account for about one per cent or less.²

Drainage of the county is, for the most part, by way of the Vermilion River and its tributaries. The Salt Fork of the Big Vermilion flows through the center of the county from the west. The Middle Fork drains the northwest section. These two join and form the Big Vermilion near the center of the county. Stony Creek empties into the Salt Fork from the north half of the county. The North Fork runs from the northeast and meets the Big Vermilion at Danville, the county seat. Here the Vermilion turns southeast and leaves the county, eventually reaching the Wabash River.

²Ibid.

The village so described is the Old Indian Village at Vincennes, which was the principal city of the Piankeshaws. Earlier in the quotation he refers to the ancient Piankeshaw town of Peanguichias on the Vermilion, then called the Piankeshaw River.⁶ It is reasonable to assume this description is applicable to those Indians within the region under consideration.

The Indian families stayed together and worked together. Entire families, numbering anywhere from ten to forty members, including the head of the family on down to the grandchildren, and often other relatives, congregated together in their frame buildings. Dogs and people crowded into these cabins during the winter. What with prolonged intervals between baths, much smoke from fires, grease and oil, and dog aroma, the huts and occupants took on quite a repulsive stench. Summer time was different, however, for then the Indians were living outdoors and bathing quite frequently.

As far back as 1706 the Jesuit Fathers who visited the "Salines of the Vermilion" reported they found an Indian village along both sides of the river, extending from west of the Salines to within six to eight miles of where the Vermilion empties into the Wabash.⁷ This village was Peanguichias.

Here was what was called an advanced civilization in those days, many Indians having cabins instead of wigwams and raising corn and pumpkins on individually owned land. The cabins were from five to six feet high, made of bark, with an opening in the flat roof for the smoke to escape.

⁶Ibid.

⁷ Jack Moore Williams, History of Vermilion County (Topeka: Historical Publishing Co., 1930) Vol. I, p. 66.

The natives showed their great ingenuity by making weapons and utensils out of stone. The French report seeing arrow heads, hatchets, and knives that were fastened in leather thongs, strips of skin, or wood. Blocks of wood were burned as a means of hollowing out wooden dishes, spoons, and pirogues. Coals of fire and rounded stones were used for finishing and polishing off the charred wood surfaces after the burning process was completed. This same hollowing out technique was often used in preparing a section of a tree trunk for an Indian burial structure. The graves were large and sometimes lined with bark. The body was enclosed in a hollow tree for a time. Later the bones might be collected and buried in the earth. Traditional ceremonies accompanied all deaths as well as the weddings.

Into this civilization came the French and English, each coveting the fur trade. Each sought alliance with the Indians. All too often the Miamis were beset with jealousies. Hostility flared up among the several tribes over any alliance involving one tribe without consideration of the others. By this continual abrasion, the peace and happiness, which should have been theirs, was lost, and their numbers constantly reduced. In addition to the ravages of war, there were the ravages of small pox and whiskey. A Baptist Missionary, speaking of the tribe, said: "There is, perhaps, in the history of the North American Indians no instance parallel to the utter demoralization of the Miamis, nor an example of a tribe which stood so high and had fallen so low through the practice of all the vices which degrade human beings."⁸

⁸Beckwith, op. cit., p. 133.

By treaties entered into at various times from 1795 to 1845, the Miamis gradually ceded their lands in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio to white settlers and moved west of the Mississippi. The Wea and Piankeshaw bands, reduced to "a wretched community of about two hundred and fifty members", suffered severely while in Kansas during the Civil War years.⁹ Those remaining of the Miamis, Weas, Piankeshaws, and Kaskaskias were gradually gathered together by Baptiste Peoria and consolidated under the title of the Confederate Tribes. "This little confederation disposed of their reservation in Miami County, Kansas and retired to a tract of land much reduced in dimensions within the Indian Territory."¹⁰

⁹ Beckwith, op. cit., p. 135.

¹⁰ Ibid.

virtue and scruples. They exerted a great influence over the Indians to whose life they easily adapted themselves.

The furs and salt were collected and sent out to merchants stationed at various military posts, such as Detroit, Fort Wayne, Vincennes, Fort St. Louis on the Illinois River, and Fort Chartres on the Mississippi.¹² In exchange, the Indians often received articles attractive to their primitive nature but of less monetary value than that which they gave.

English traders from the eastern colonies, seeing some of the profits in skins and furs, encroached upon the French trade with the Indians. They urged their friendly Iroquois allies to attack the tribes to the west. Also, they offered better bargains to bribe their way into the trade. Because of the success of the English, the French were given orders to seize all English traders found west of the Alleghanies. Many incidents are recorded of captures, retaliations, and killings of both whites and red men.

As the result of a French killing of four Piankeshaws, the Indians pledged their loyalty to the English and withdrew from the Vermilion land into eastern Ohio. They returned after the Treaty of Paris, in February of 1763, at which time this territory came under the control of the English, with the exception of some of the French posts, among which were Vincennes and Fort Chartres.

Pontiac, a great Indian chief, resisted the English and tried to unite all the Indian nations to use force to drive the English out of Indian lands. He had watched the passing of the French

¹²Beckwith, op. cit., p. 307.

traders with regret, for he knew they were not seeking land ownership for agriculture and permanent homes as the English had already indicated.

Eventually, Pontiac met with an English representative at the Piankeshaw village on the Vermilion and, because of his failure to unite the Indians, agreed to surrender possession of this land, with certain land area reservations, to the agent of Great Britain. Now it had been the hope of the English to restrict the ambitious colonists to the land in the east and leave the newly acquired land for less independent settlers. In spite of the efforts to squelch their westward interests, the frontiersmen came into Central Illinois.

Finally, came the expedition of George Rogers Clark. In the summer of 1778 Clark took possession of Fort Kaskaskia and Vincennes. Vincennes was retaken by the English that same year, but, later in the revolution, Clark's forces seized the fort. Since Clark held control of the Northwest until the close of the War of Independence, he thus secured possession of the territory for the new American Republic. The treaty that later followed impelled the British to completely relinquish their claim.

Throughout this struggle the Piankeshaws, Kickapoos, and Pattawatomies in the territory were involved. Of the three tribes, it is believed the Piankeshaws did not take any decisive action against the American efforts to gain control.

About 1781 a Spanish force set out from Saint Louis, capital of New Spain, to take a British fort to the north on the Saint Joseph River in Michigan. They were unaware at the time that this Illinois territory had been claimed as American territory as a result

of Clark's expedition. The small army camped with the Indians at the "Vermilion Salines" and tried to persuade them to acknowledge the Spanish sovereignty. When the attempt to win the Indian support failed, a battle resulted, and the invaders were forced to go on their way.

History records that, at the close of the Revolutionary War, the British made no provision for her former Indian allies, as she had promised, and the United States continued to have trouble with them. Government agents were dispatched to negotiate peace treaties. There were failures, British and Indian uprisings, and treaties. However, in 1815 the territory retained its original boundary lines. There followed more Indian treaties, more westward colonial movement, and, eventually, the formation of new states, Indiana in 1816 and Illinois in 1818. In all, about 160 years had seen this land pass from Indian ownership to permanent American ownership.

V. SETTLEMENT

It was to encourage the discovery and development of Salines that the government agreed to grant exclusive rights to manufacture salt within a given area. Back in 1800, William Henry Harrison, who was a delegate to Congress from the Northwest Territory, recommended that salt springs, which were rightfully United States property, be leased for a term of years to protect them from "ill use by private individuals".

In less than a year after the Treaty of Fort Harrison in August, 1819, the Vermilion River was explored in the hopes of locating salt springs.¹³ From a John Barron, who had served General Harrison as an interpreter, the General had learned of the presence of Indian Salines on the Vermilion. In 1819 Mr. Barron, in the company of Lambert Bona, Zachariah Cicott, Captain Truman Blackman and four Shawnee Indian guides, sought and found the spot where Barron had previously been.

When the party returned, Captain Blackman organized his own expedition without the knowledge of Barron. This action, as well as a later breach of agreement on the part of Blackman, led to many conflicting claims as to the direct rights of discovery and development of the saline water. In October of 1819 six men, led by Captain Blackman, came to the spot, described as:

¹³Beckwith, op. cit., pp. 307-308.

a smooth spot of low ground from twenty to thirty rods across where there was salt water. There was no vegetation growing on the surface, and no traces of people ever having been there except in some few places where the Indians had sunk curbs of bark into the soil to procure salt water.¹⁴

These men, pleased with their find, sent Captain Blackman to Vandalia to secure a lease of the land to be shared equally by all six. Peter Allen and Francis Whitecomb remained in charge. George Beckwith, Remember Blackman, and Seymour Treat returned to their homes in Fort Harrison, Indiana, now known as Terre Haute. They were to bring back teams, tools, provisions, and the family of Seymour Treat. Captain Blackman ignored his partners and applied for a permit in his own name. Not until 1822 did the others have success in establishing their rights at Vandalia before Governor Bond.

White men, traders, and explorers had traversed the county in earlier years, but not until November 27, 1819 did the first white family arrive and erect a cabin near the Salt Works about six miles west of what is now the county seat of Danville.¹⁵

Mr. Beckwith records that "Mr. Treat's family suffered all the privations incident to their situation".¹⁶ Of the Treat land, the following description is given in Jones' History. "The fence enclosing the cornfield had tumbled to the ground. Weeds rankled where formerly the Indian squaw had hoed her corn and cultivated her squashes."¹⁷

¹⁴Beckwith, op. cit., p. 307.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 310.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 310.

¹⁷Lottie E. Jones, History of Vermilion County (Chicago: Pioneer Printing Company, 1911), pp. 60-61.

The cabin of the Treat family is described as a "log cabin with a puncheon floor (a split log with the face smoothed), a great fireplace in one end of the room with a stick and clay chimney outside, and a clapboard roof. The house contained only one room and a loft where the sons slept."¹⁸

Of their lives, Jones goes on to say, "The nearest trading post was Fort Harrison, Indiana. Deer were numerous, and settlers were able to kill them from their cabin doors. The wolves made the night dismal with their howling, and the chickens, pigs, and sheep had to be securely housed to protect them from wolves."¹⁹ In addition to the deer mentioned in the quotation, there was an abundance of prairie chickens and wild geese.

This same spring many settlers arrived in the county. The nearest neighbor, James Butler, was forty miles away.

So the production of salt was the "gold" that lured the first settlers to the Vermilion. Beckwith and Whitecomb sank wells and made first quality salt. A hundred gallons of brine made about a bushel of salt. From sixty to eighty bushels was considered a good week's run. It is said the salt sold for a dollar and twenty-five cents to a dollar and fifty cents per bushel. Records reveal that people came from the Sangamon and Illinois River settlements and from Indiana to purchase salt. It was also sent down the Wabash River to the many farmers living farther south.

After the salt works in this vicinity were producing, other families came to settle on claims even before the land was surveyed.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 61.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 61.

Of the several families who came, some saw a future in the salt industry and settled in the Middle Fork and Salt Fork areas; some preferred the fur trade; others preferred the fertile land which was theirs for the taking. They came from Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and as far away as New York. In all cases, the families hugged the timber line for the natural protection it offered. For about a decade the homes were built on timber land because the settlers thought of the prairie land as fit only for cattle range.

There were times of sickness among the settlers. Especially those who settled along the streams suffered ague and milk sickness. Many injured themselves by overwork or careless work, and some suffered in minor Indian uprisings. In spite of all hardships, the pioneering spirit remained high, and the settlers were determined to establish new homes in this Vermilion - Wabash land beyond the Ohio.

The line of immigration into Vermilion County was from the south toward the north. The two Vermilion rivers were the focal point of the population with the Middle Fork, North Fork, and Stony Creek regions providing locations for others. Here were found the timbered areas, and, as has been stated earlier, the first settlers preferred these surroundings. Much later they were to learn how very productive the flat grass lands could be once they were cultivated.

In 1820 James D. Butler, originally from Vermont and later Ohio, came to occupy land near what is now Catlin. In 1823 he built the first mill ever used in Vermilion County.²⁰ His Butler's Point

²⁰Beckwith, op. cit., p. 316.

settlement soon became an enterprising neighborhood. It was here that many firsts occurred, first meetings of the county commissioners, first circuit court sessions, first Sunday School established, first marriage performed, and even the first cemetery designated.²¹ This cemetery, called "God's Acre", has been restored and is now the only thing left to mark the site of Butler's Point.

Of the several families, their locations and contributions to the growth of their respective communities, mention should be made of a few others. The Henry Johnson family settled on the Little Vermilion near Brook's Point where Benjamin Brooks from Indiana had located. On the south side of the Little Vermilion west of Brook's Point, now known as Georgetown, there settled the Morgans from Virginia. A Quaker Society developed when John Haworth, originally from Tennessee, took up several hundred acres of land about Vermilion Grove. Mr. Haworth, his relatives and close friends, who had left Tennessee because of their stand against slavery, were the founders of the Quaker "Society of Friends" in this county.

There are numerous names of families recorded, and many not recorded, to whom the county owes its organization and development. As in all settlements everywhere, there were those in this county who were leaders with vision, those who were followers, and those who probably hindered progress. Fortunately, those of the last group were outnumbered by the other two.

Supply stores, mills, churches, schools, and taverns made their appearance in due time. Each small settlement grew; some later

²¹Ibid., p. 316.

dropped out of existence, some lost their original names, and others still bear the family names by which they were first known. Small mill sites, post stations, and real estate speculation ventures are now only memories. The following names are some of the forgotten villages: Salem, Blue Grass, Myersville, Prospect City, Brothers, Chillecothe, Denmark, and Conkeytown.

The original salt works settlement continued to grow until about 1830 at which period the works was practically abandoned as a profit making business. One elderly woman stayed on and used the salt as a means of exchange for her immediate needs. Improvement in transportation plus the discovery of other salt fields in this and other "western land" led to the decline. Some years before, the Treat family had sold out to a Mr. Vance and moved to a new settlement called Denmark, which today is covered by the waters of Lake Vermilion.

VI. DEVELOPMENT

Geographically, Vermilion County has changed from a veritable empire, part of New France, to its present limitations, which have remained the same since 1833. Back in 1745 the northern half of Illinois was called Canada, and the southern half was Louisiana. During the Revolutionary War this territory was under the control of Virginia and formed part of the "Illinois County in the State of Virginia." Later it was known as the "Territory of the United States Northwest of the Ohio River." Three years later the land was divided and governed as the Indiana Territory with its capital at Vincennes. Soon the Illinois Territory was formed from the Indiana Territory. During the early years following, successive county divisions found Vermilion totally within St. Clair County, then Crawford County, Clark County, and, last of all, Edgar County.

In 1826 Vermilion County was created by an act of the state legislature, which, at that time, included territory now known as Champaign, Iroquois, and Ford Counties, plus part of Livingston, Grundy, and Will Counties. The county boundaries were changed in 1833 for the last time. This left the county with an area of approximately 886 square miles.

Previous to this the name "Piankeshaw" had been dropped as the name of the river. Whether "Piankeshaw" meant "red" is not known, but later records refer to the river as Vermilion. It was so called

because of the fine red earth found along the river bluffs. Therefore, it was logical to use the name Vermilion as a county name for this area which is so completely drained by the river of the same name and its small tributaries.

The act creating Vermilion County named John Boyd and Joel Phelps of Crawford County and Samuel Prevo of Clark County as commissioners to meet at the home of James Butler in March of 1826 and select a site for a new county seat. These men chose a site near the Salt Fork River. Because of the flat clay ground, poor drainage, and poor fresh water facilities, many settlers objected to their choice. In addition, John W. Vance, then lessee of the salt lands, refused to yield his rights. A special petition resulted in new commissioners and another county seat location. The satisfactory selection was a spot six miles east of the Salt Works near the mouth of the North Fork of the Vermilion River.

Guy W. Smith and Dan W. Beckwith donated the land described as having "natural advantages of drainage, water, timber, stone, gravel, and other factors in the development of an inland city".²² The town was named Danville, honoring Dan Beckwith. This site, it will be recalled, had been part of the old Indian town of Piankeshaw.

The site of the county seat was not a particularly attractive one at the time it was selected. It was described by early settlers as a miserable town, at most all hazel brush and deserted log cabins. Rattlesnakes were so plentiful that they constituted a hazard to the well-being of men and beast. On days when lots were auctioned and pioneers came to the county seat from great distances on horseback and oxcart to trade furs and peltries at "white goods"

²²Williams, op. cit., p. 143.

stores, with Indian hunters and trappers camping nearby, the occasion frequently was turned into a snake killing. Horses tied to village hitching posts were not infrequently bitten by the snakes that the Indians refused to kill because they revered them as their ancestors.²³

By this time fur trading had decreased, and many store keepers, such as Gordon S. Hubbard, offered "saddle-bag goods" to the settlers as well as to the remaining Indians. These store goods were so called because they were brought from Terre Haute in saddle bags.

The presence of a government land office and postal routes through and from Danville to Chicago, Vincennes, and Ottawa certainly helped attract settlers. The town grew in area and industry. When the railroad came to Danville, the town was well on its way to becoming the leading trading and shipping center of the county.

The first plan of settlement was along the water ways of the county, for river routes were the routes of trade. The large ports of exchange were the Wabash River towns. There was an attempt to improve the Vermilion water system for safer navigation, but it failed to be satisfactory. The citizens petitioned Congress for land for a railroad. In 1835 a charter was secured, but not until 1856 did the county get its railroad, the Wabash Line, which served the central and southern county areas. Many short lines sprang up, survived a short while, and went bankrupt. Eventually, the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad opened up trade and communication north to Chicago. Other lines have been added until now the county is crossed by Nickel Plate roads, New York Central lines, the Big Four, Chicago and Eastern Illinois, Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul lines, and the great Wabash line.

²³Works Project Administration, op. cit., p. 84.

Danville soon became the railroad junction for the county.

The development of railroad transportation coincided with the growth of the mining industry. Later many heavy industries moved into the county; railroad car production, locomotive construction, automotive parts, and food industrial machinery.

Much of the bottomland of Vermilion County is underlain with coal. For several years after the settlement of the county, even though the existence of coal was known, there was no demand for it beyond a small amount used by Mr. Vance in processing salt and by blacksmiths in their shops. Early settlers started strip-bank mining in the vicinity of Danville in the early 1850's. Customers paid a dollar for a wagon load of coal. From this meager beginning, the coal industry increased until the county came to rank seventh among the counties of the state in production. William Kirkland and his associates opened mines in the Grape Creek field and imported two carloads of miners and a shipload of Belgians as laborers. This operation gave the industry a real start. At one time, the county's annual production was said to be three million, five hundred thousand tons of coal.²⁴

The history of the coal mining operations includes many personal successes and failures, economic depressions, and labor strikes. Today, only a few small mines are operating. In 1930 it was estimated that there was approximately a billion and a half tons of coal still in the ground.²⁵

²⁴Williams, op. cit., p. 428.

²⁵Ibid., p. 429.

After the land was strip-mined for coal, ragged heaps of soil unfit for agriculture were left. Some of these areas have been planted to trees, but most of them are still barren mounds of waste land.

In addition to coal deposits, the county has limestone deposits. There is an extensive quarrying operation near Fairmont in the southeast part of the county. The building and paving brick industry near Danville, once very active, now produces very little.

Agriculture is the major industry. The grains, soy beans, and corn are all thriving crops. The north part of the county contains an area called "the sweet corn capital of the world". Here hundreds of acres of sweet corn are planted each year. Here are concentrated factories that supply machinery for the harvesting processes as well as for the canning industry and tin cans for the packers whose factories are located in Milford, Hoopston, and Rossville.

In recent years, the quantity of corn fed to cattle has increased, but this increase has been more than offset by the decrease in the quantity of corn needed to feed work animals. The replacement of draft animals by motor power has resulted in less demand for corn as feed.

As a result of surveys taken by the Bureau of Census, the facts and figures listed in Table I suffice to show the trends over a thirty year period regarding the agricultural and livestock situation in the state. These figures are based on the farmers answering questionnaires. Many failed to report. Therefore, there will be some degree of variation between the report and those conditions actually.

existing at the time. The figures on livestock, showing the sharp decline in horses and mules, is indicative of the machine-minded age in farming. The estimate of crops harvested held about steady while the estimate of work animals dropped perceptibly. The constant increase in the use of improved motor power in place of horses and mules kept the crop average up.

During a twenty year period from 1935 to 1954 the trend in farm acreage has been to larger farm units and away from the ten to thirty acre farms. Note Tables II and III for the latest farm facts available on agriculture in Vermilion County. The greatest change is in the number of farms reported with 260-380 acres. This leads one to conclude that the successful farmers have continued to add acreage to their holdings and profit by so doing.

In conclusion, because of more intensive farming, soil conservation programs, mechanized help, additional industrial plants, and improved transportation facilities, the county's income has continued to rise. Vermilion, ranking fourth in size out of 102 Illinois counties, with its nineteen townships and 87,000 population, has indeed justified the faith of the first settlers by becoming a leading industrial community.

TABLE I
LIVESTOCK AND CROP ESTIMATES
IN THE STATE^a

	1910	1920	1930	1940
<u>Livestock</u>				
Horses & Colts	161,606,697	118,708,874	60,303,469	40,530,341
Mules & Colts	17,864,033	20,628,517	11,539,447	6,430,498
<u>All Crops Harvested</u>	368,707,346	863,504,573	397,824,328	361,361,002
<u>Forest Crops Sold</u>	1,147,156	2,644,866	1,712,935	222,045

^aCalculated from: Zellmer R. Pettet, Chief Statistician for Agriculture, Bureau of the Census, 16th Census of the U. S. -- 1940; U. S. Department of Commerce (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1941), passim.

TABLE II
 FACTS AND FIGURES REGARDING FARMS
 OF VERMILION COUNTY^b

	1935	1940	1950	1954
Under 10 A.	459	360	420	191
30-49 A.	242	202	181	143
70-99 A.	353	295	226	176
100-139 A.	438	347	318	229
140-179 A.	474	437	400	334
180-219 A.	275	299	227	242
220-259 A.	254	270	229	220
260-379 A.	347	368	571	555
500-999 A.	55	70	99	125

^bCalculated from: Zellmar R. Pettet, Chief Statistician for Agriculture, Bureau of the Census, 16th Census of the U. S. -- 1940, U. S. Department of Commerce (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1941), *passim*.

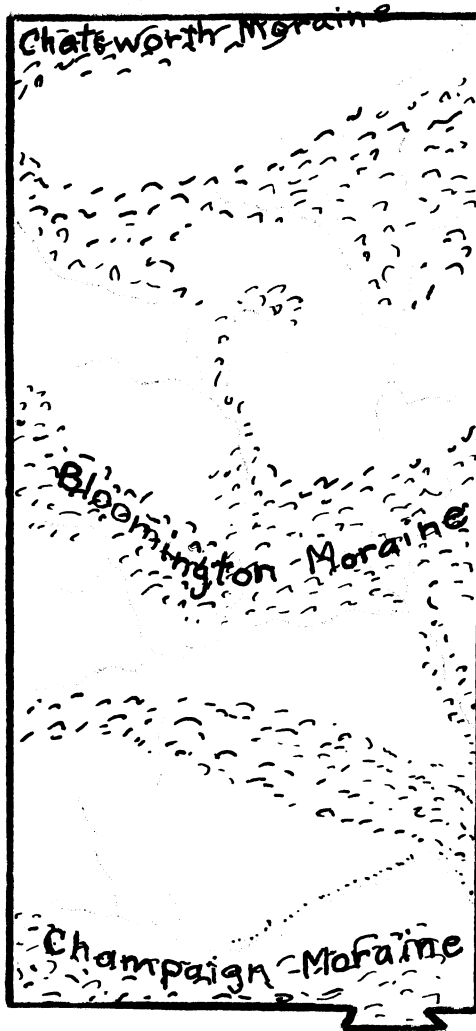
TABLE III
 FACTS AND FIGURES REGARDING
 VERMILION COUNTY AND ITS AGRICULTURE^C

	1950	1954
Total Farms	3,202	2,577
Commercial	2,465	2,260
*Other Farms	737	317
Average Size	162.9 A.	193.3 A.
Land and Building Value Per Farm	\$42,024	\$58,878
Total Farm Produce Sold	\$25,334,006	\$30,930,499
Total Livestock Sold	\$ 8,131,565	\$ 8,948,143
Forest Products Sold	\$10,286	\$5,000
Tractors--no horses		1,840
Tractors and horses		285
Horses--no tractors		30
Corn Pickers	1,535	1,625

*Farms classed as part time, residential, institutional

^CBureau of Census, 1954 Census of Agriculture, Illinois Counties and State Economic Areas (Washington: Bureau of Census, 1957), passim.

MAP SHOWING MORAINES OF VERMILION COUNTY



MAP OF VERMILION COUNTY



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