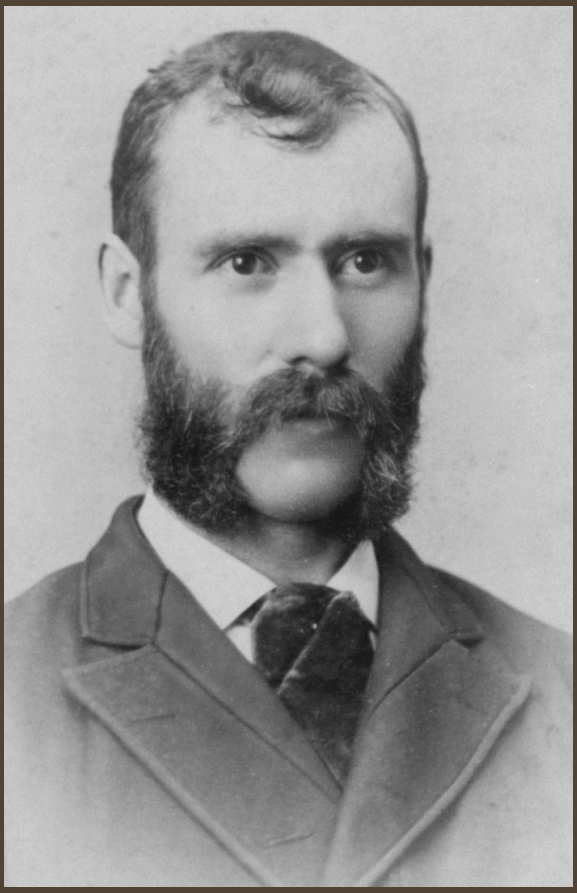
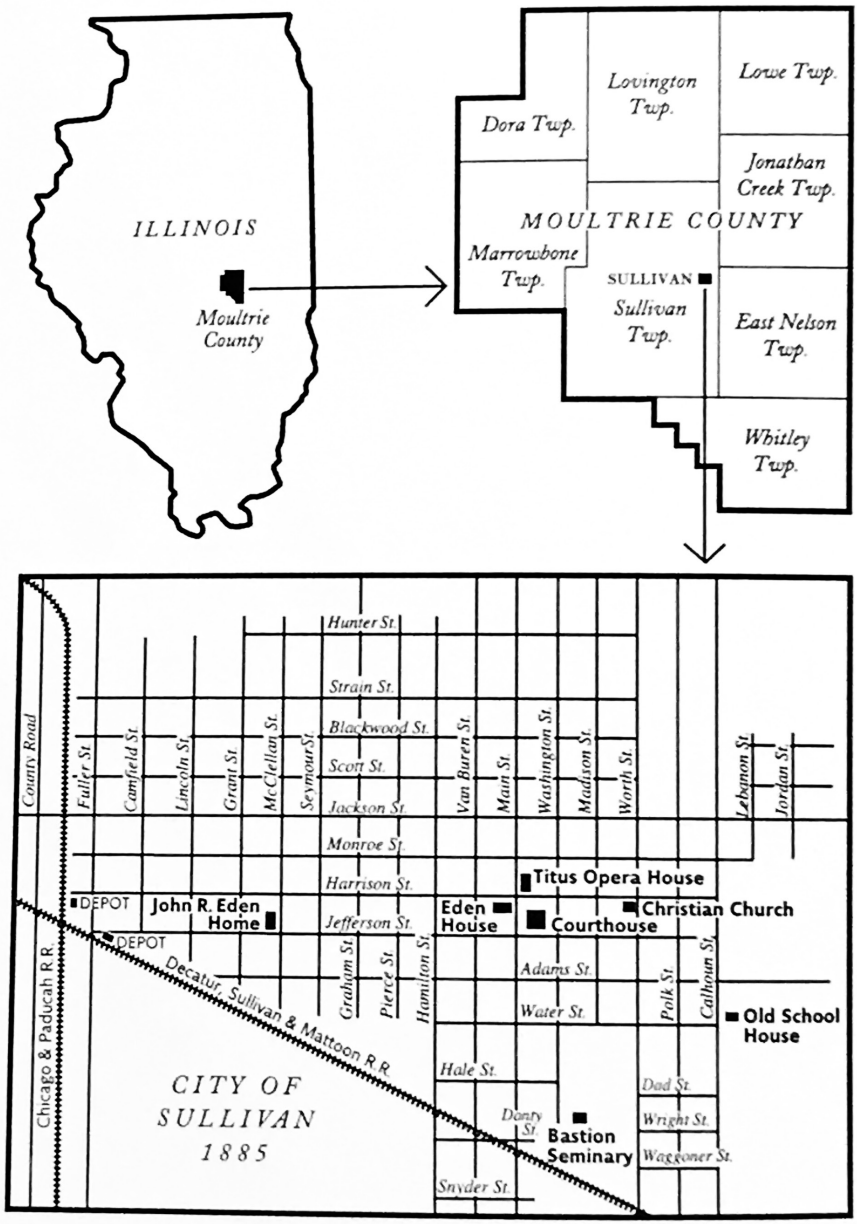
Ivory J. Martin

Sullivan Newspaperman



A Biography

R. Eden Martin


ILLINOIS
Moultrie County
Dora Twp.
Lovington Twp.
Lowe Twp.
Jonathan Creek Twp.
MOULTRIE COUNTY
Marrowbone Twp.
SULLIVAN
Sullivan Twp.
East Nelson Twp.
Whitley Twp.
County Road
Fuller St.
Camfield St.
Lincoln St.
Grant St.
McClellan St.
Seymour St.
Hunter St.
Strain St.
Blackwood St.
Scott St.
Jackson St.
Monroe St.
Harrison St.
Jefferson St.
Van Buren St.
Main St.
Washington St.
Madison St.
Worth St.
Lebanon St.
Jordan St.
Titus Opera House
DEPOT
John R. Eden Home
DEPOT
Eden House
Courthouse
Christian Church
Chicago & Paducah R.R.
Decatur, Sullivan & Mattoon R.R.
Graham St.
Pierce St.
Hamilton St.
Adams St.
Water St.
Polk St.
Calhoun St.
Old School House
CITY OF SULLIVAN 1885
Hale St.
Dad St.
Donty St.
Wright St.
Bastion Seminary
Waggoner St.
Snyder St.

Ivory J. Martin

Sullivan Newspaperman

A Biography

For my family

Ivory J. Martin

Sullivan Newspaperman

A Biography

R. Eden Martin

Chicago
2019

Design and typography by Gareth Breunlin

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Preface

Most biographies are written about famous people — political or military leaders, scientists, discoverers or explorers, movie stars, sports figures or other celebrities. Occasionally novelists and poets. Once in a while, a criminal. Sometimes even a judge. Rarely if ever a small-town newspaperman.

There are two reasons for this, the first economic: readers are more likely to want to read — and therefore buy — a book about someone they've heard of rather than someone whose name rings no bells. The second reason is that bricks cannot be made without straw. Biographies require facts — records, news accounts, speeches, correspondence files, grist for the mill. Presidents, movie stars and all-star athletes leave paper trails. Managers of small-town weekly newspapers do not.

Ivory J. Martin, called "Ivory" as a child and "I.J." in adulthood, lived a long life (1859-1953) but left few tracks and those he did leave are now faded. He edited two newspapers a century ago of which only a few issues were preserved. Though interested in politics, he was only twice a candidate for public office, and he lost both times. He wrote a long memo about his family's history, but included only a few paragraphs about himself. He wrote many letters

to his daughters, Olive and Mabel, never expecting that they would be read by others. In those letters he wrote mostly about then-current events of daily life in which he thought his daughters would be interested. Only occasionally did larger subjects —wars, economic depressions, national politics — work their way into his correspondence.

Yet thirty years of digging through the detritus of family and local history have led me to believe that enough fragments survive to make out a picture of the man, his personality, his interests, and how he lived — a picture that is more than an outline, with enough texture to make it accurate even if radically incomplete, and interesting if not to readers generally then perhaps to his descendants.

I.J.'s memo on Martin family history is a starting point. It may be found in *Fragments of Martin Family History*, 1990. He also wrote separate notes on his recollections of the Civil War and the history of Sullivan's newspapers, including the two he edited. The courtship letters exchanged by Ivory and his future wife Rose Eden in 1885-1886 are collected in *Ivory and Rose, A Year's Courtship*, 1997. Ivory's *Notes on the History of Moultrie County and Sullivan, Illinois*, published in 1990, are mostly about external events and other people, but because he helped make that history one sees his shadow in many parts of it — an example being the long political fight over public vs. privately-owned electricity generation.

His later letters to his adult daughters, Olive and Mabel, shed a bright light on what interested him and the range of his curiosity -- the books he was reading and how much he remembered, what he thought about political controversies and his preference for a "progressive" agenda, his views on education and his pride in his children and grandchildren. They illustrate his kindness and his gentle sense of humor. They show him struggling to pay his bills and his debts, to keep his business afloat, to help his children in their jobs, to stay warm in the winter and to recover from illness and injury. They reveal the loneliness, frailty and grace of old age. These letters, frequently quoted here, may be found in *As Ever*, 2017.

The fragments appearing in those volumes and in the few surviving newspapers from that period reflect episodes in a long life, but the pieces have not previously been stiched together. It seemed to me that we might understand I.J. Martin better if the pieces could be gathered and presented in a more traditional

way — ordered by time and topic. We might also understand more fully how life has changed over the course of just a couple of overlapping life-times.

Changed for the vastly better in so many important respects. I write this on a cold January morning in Glencoe. A heavy snow fell over the weekend. Our friendly service-man came with his truck and snow-blower to shovel us out. I think how pleasant — and indeed wonderful — it is to live in a warm, well-insulated, well-lit house. When I.J. grew up, his small family home was bitterly cold in winter — except perhaps within a 5-foot radius of the fireplace in their kitchen — and dark half the time. In his old age, he had to move out of his house in the winter because it could not be adequately heated. How pleasant it is to get another cup of hot coffee from the coffee maker under our kitchen TV. During his childhood when I.J.'s family made coffee, he or his brother had to draw water from their well and then heat it over the kitchen fire.

When I want berries or melon, I open the refrigerator and reach inside; and if the supply runs out, I can replenish it in five minutes from the nearby food store, which has all kinds of fresh meat and fish and produce flown in from South or Central America. When I.J.'s family needed supplies, he or his brother walked several miles to the Whitley Point store. Or the horse took them into Sullivan and back. The store offerings were limited. I.J.'s family slaughtered their own hogs, cleaned and fried their own chickens, gathered their own eggs, and made their own bread and butter. Last evening we took one of our daughters and her family to dinner at a nearby Mexican restaurant. Tomorrow perhaps we'll go out for Kung Pao chicken.

When I want the latest news, I open one of several national newspapers on my iPad, or turn on the kitchen TV. When I want a book, I have it delivered overnight (two days at the most), or just order the digital version. The greatest performances of the world's greatest music are instantly available.

In early February my wife and I will fly to Tucson for a couple of weeks of warm vacation. Two daughters and their families will join us. Railroad service did not come to Sullivan until I.J. was a teenager. He never owned or drove a car. He never set foot in an airplane or sea-going boat. Except for visits to the World's Fair, there is no record that Rose and he ever took a family vacation. Neither he nor Rose ever set foot in a foreign country.

Relief from pain is available to me and my family from nearby doctors, hospitals, dentists or the corner drugstore. My wife and I lost no children. I.J.'s parents lost 6 or 7. I.J. and Rose lost Elvina. And then I.J. lost Rose, November 5, 1907, three days after her 49th birthday. None of I.J.'s three sons graduated from college. All of our children did (three with graduate degrees); and barring accident, so will all of their children. I.J.'s sons fought in World War I, and his grandsons fought in World War II. My brother and I have not had to fight, nor have our sons — or daughters. Anxiety about hunger tomorrow or poverty in our 80s is non-existent for us. It was ever-present for Ivory and his parents. In his old age I.J. stayed in touch with his daughters by letters. We call ours on cell telephones — or use "face time" — several times a day, free. (Progress has not been universal. When I.J. was my age, FDR was President.)

History gives us invaluable perspective, a richer view of our own lives — one that includes what was and might have been as well as what is. It is an antidote for discontent.

If there is any category of writing that has an inherently limited audience, it is surely family history. Yet perhaps I.J. Martin may be of some general interest. His life demonstrates that a man with almost no formal education could become more knowledgeable than those of us who had the luxury of years of formal university and post-graduate education. It shows that a man who never traveled beyond the boundaries of his own country could learn more about the history and culture of other countries than those of us who have touched down in many foreign cities, walked hurriedly through their museums, and lounged in their excellent bars and restaurants. The annotations in his books illustrate the advantages of internalized knowledge over vast digital data dumps at our finger-tips.

Musing about how much I.J. appreciated great works of art just from seeing pictures in books has led me to wish he might have spent a few weeks in Rome, or Florence, or Venice, or Istanbul. How he and Rose would have loved walking around Paris or showing London to their children. He would have luxuriated in the London bookshops.

Thanks to brother Philip Martin for helping edit and improve this text and to Gareth Breulin for turning the text into this book. Thanks most of all to Sharon – for her unlimited patience and tolerance.

I
Roots

Ivory John ("I. J.") Martin was born November 7, 1859, on a farm near Whitley Creek in southeastern Moultrie County, Illinois. He was the oldest son of John Neely Martin and Rachel Elvina Martin.

The Martin family traced their line back to a John Martin, born about 1755 in Virginia, and Isabella (or Sarah) Scott Martin. The family tradition was that the Martins had come from England. The Scotts were almost certainly Scotch-Irish. We think John and Isabella married in Virginia and that one or more of their children may have been born in Virginia or North Carolina before the family arrived in Kentucky about 1777, while the Revolutionary War and the Indian wars were still underway. *The Portrait and Biographical Record of Shelby and Moultrie Counties*, Chicago, 1891, contains a brief biography of Ivory Martin for which he probably supplied the information. It recites that John Martin was a Virginian who migrated to Kentucky, then part of Virginia, about 1777. It describes John's oldest son, James Scott Martin, as "a Virginian" and as "very young when the family came to Kentucky." *Id.*, at 460. I.J.'s own later family memoir says that John and his wife came to Kentucky about 1777. *Fragments of Martin Family History*, Chicago, 1990, at 101.

One of Ivory's children later speculated that the first John Martin might have gone to Kentucky to escape service in the military. If that was any part of his purpose, it backfired. Although there is no evidence that John Martin enlisted in the Revolutionary army, he surely served in the Kentucky militia. Stories were later told in the family about how John and Isabella were present during fights between settlers and the Indians, and how they took refuge in one of the Kentucky blockhouses during Indian raids. Isabella years later told her granddaughters about her life in the Kentucky fort — about "molding bullets for the men who were defending the stockade during the Indian attacks. She loathed the white renegade Simon Girty, who may have led the Indians in one of those attacks." *Id.*, at 101.

There were many men named "John Martin" in Kentucky during and after the period of the Revolution. At least one of them was acquainted with Daniel Boone. However, based on their wives' names and other evidence, we can be pretty sure that most of the men by that name were not our ancestor. But we cannot be sure which one was.

According to family tradition, John and his family settled first in central Kentucky, not far from the Kentucky River. Local tax and property records show that a man named "John Martin" lived during the 1780s and early 1790s near Bardstown in Nelson County, Kentucky. Based on tax records showing his age and the ranges of age of his children, he may well have been "ours." The Bardstown John Martin and his family lived near a family of Neelys, one of whom was a young man named Charles, who married a daughter of John and Isabella in 1797. What is known or suspected of the Martin family history may be found in *Fragments of Martin Family History,* 1990, and *More Fragments of Martin Family History*, 2014. The background of the Neely family may be found in *The Neelys of Neelytown*, *New York*, 2016.

In 1797 John and Isabella/Sarah Martin are found in southwestern Kentucky, near Russellville in Logan County. We know they are "ours" because of the names on marriage, property and church records. They probably moved to Logan County in order to buy land that had opened up after the end of the Revolutionary and Indian wars. John obtained a commissioner's certificate on October 5, 1798, to purchase 200 acres in Logan County on the Little Sinking Branch of Muddy River, and such purchases were only authorized for acquirers who had resided there at least one year. Jane Martin, a daughter of John and

Isabella, married Charles Neely in Logan County on September 23, 1797. The oldest son of John and Isabella, James Scott Martin, married Mary Virginia (or Jane, Jennie, or Mary) Feagle in Logan County, March 6, 1802. (The family later spelled it "Figley.") The names of Jane Neely and James Scott Martin match exactly the names of Ivory's great-grandparents as passed along by family tradition. Church and property records show John and Isabella, Charles and Jane, and James Scott and Jane/Mary, all living very near each other in Logan County.

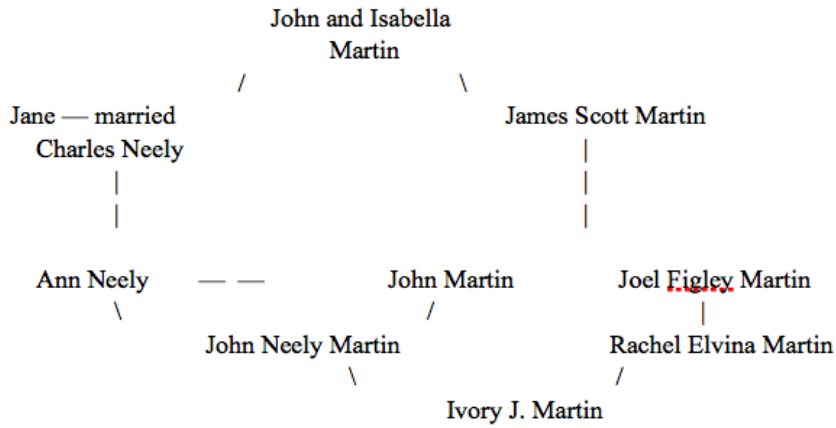
By the late 1790s "old John," as it seems right to call him now, had become a Baptist preacher. He helped found several Baptist churches, and he taught in one or more nearby country schools.

I.J. Martin was a direct descendant of two of the children of John and Isabella/Sarah: James Scott Martin and Jane Martin Neely.

James Scott Martin and his wife Jane/Mary Figley produced, *inter alia*, two sons — one named simply John, born January 29, 1803, and another named Joel Figley, born about 1808.

In 1824 John Martin (born 1803) married his cousin Ann Neely, daughter of Jane Martin Neely. One of the sons of John and Ann was John Neely Martin, I.J.'s father.

The other son of James Scott Martin — Joel Figley — married Elizabeth Clements (sometimes spelled Clement, or Clemens). One of their daughters was Rachel Martin, Ivory's mother.



From Kentucky to Illinois

In late 1817 when Illinois was still a territory, the extended Martin family — old John and probably his wife Isabella/Sarah (if she was still living), and several of their sons and daughters — moved from Logan County, Kentucky to southern Illinois. Land had opened up there after the War of 1812.

The children of old John/Isabella who came to Illinois in late 1817 or early 1818 were:

— Jane Martin Neely, with her husband Charles Neely and their family.

— James Scott Martin, with his wife Jane/Mary and sons John and Joel Figley.

— William Harvey Martin, a farmer and, like his father, a Baptist preacher.

— Samuel Martin, a farmer. Samuel died not long after the move to Illinois; he was listed in the 1818 Illinois state census in Crawford County, but died before July 8, 1819, the date his widow Sarah married Moses Williams, in Clark County.

These Martins and Neelys settled first in southeastern Illinois. The families of James Scott Martin, Charles and Jane (Martin) Neely, and Samuel Martin located near Darwin, on the Wabash River. In 1817 and 1818 that place was part of Crawford County. After statehood in late 1818, the northern part of the county was hived off to form Clark County, which included Darwin.

William Harvey Martin and his family, along with William's father and probably his mother — Old John and Isabella/Sarah Scott Martin — settled about 45 miles south of Darwin in or near Bridgeport township in what would become Lawrence County. The county history recites that William Martin arrived in 1817 and that, "He located with his family on Section 18, where he erected a cabin, tilled some ground and lived for about ten years, and then left the county." *History of Edwards, Lawrence & Wabash Counties, Illinois,* Philadelphia, 1813, at 327.

The county history also recites that the first school in Lawrence County "was taught by John Martin, on section 18 in a little log-cabin in the year

1819." *Id.*, at 161, 328. John Martin was still alive in December 1821 when, as minister, he performed the second marriage of his son, William Harvey. Old John lived with his son "until his death, which occurred a few years after he came." Id. We do not know when either Isabella/Sarah or Old John died or where they are buried.

By 1830-31 the James Scott Martin group and the William Harvey Martin family had moved a little farther north, to the Kickapoo Creek settlement in Coles County. The location of the parcels acquired by the three sons and daughter of old John and Isabella/Sarah, as well as property acquired by their children, may be seen on the maps of Lafayette Township and Charleston Township in Coles County. *More Fragments of Martin Family History,* 2014, at 187-191. On one of those farms, the children of John and Ann Neely Martin were born — including John Neely Martin.

To recapitulate, the children of John and Ann Neely Martin received a double dosage of Martin DNA — one through their father (John's father was James Scott, a son of Old John), and one through their mother (Ann's mother was Jane, a daughter of Old John). Their children were:

Isabella, b 1829, — married a cousin, George Martin.
James Lewis Martin, b 1830 — married Elsey Waggoner, daughter of Gilbert Waggoner.
John Neely Martin, b 1833.
William Thomas Martin ("Will Tom"), b. 1835 — married Jane Waggoner, daughter of William Waggoner. (Their eldest son was Francis Marion Martin, one of whose daughters was Carrie Eathel.)
Serilda Jane, b 1838 — never married.
Rhoda, b 1840 — married a cousin, Miles Martin.
Mary Katherine, b, 1842 — married James Bathe, then William Robinson.
Daniel Parker Martin, b. 1845 — married Amanda Fortner.
Charles A, b. 1851, died 1856.

Nearby, John's brother Joel Figley Martin was raising his family. They got only the standard dosage of Martin DNA. The children of Joel Figley and Elizabeth Clements Martin were:

James Scott Martin, Jr. — named after the father of John and Joel Figley.
Samuel, b. 1830.
Rachel Elvina, b. 1833 — married her cousin John Neely Martin.
Louisa Ann,, b. 1834 — married William Holmes.
Lucy, b. 1838 — married George Robinson.
Rezin ("Reason"), b. 1839 — had a leg crushed and partially amputated as a little boy.
Levi, b. 1843.
Thomas Jefferson ("Jeff"), b. 1845.
Polly Ann, b. 1847 — married William Yarborough.
Rebecca, b. 1849 — married Abram Stevens.
Ruth, b. 1851 — married Bob Robinson.
Margaret Lurana, b. 1854 —married Wade Fulton.

When John Neely Martin (double dose) and Rachel Elvina (single dose) married a generation later, their children — including Ivory — received a triple dosage of Martin DNA descending from Old John and Isabella.

The Martins were "Hard-Shell" Baptists. Old John had been a Baptist preacher in Kentucky, and was licensed to perform marriages in Logan County in 1805. Later he preached in southern Illinois. His son William Harvey Martin also became a Baptist preacher, founding the Lynn Creek Baptist Church in Whitley Point, Moultrie County. Joel Figley Martin later preached in that church.

The difference between the two main groups of Baptists in Kentucky and southern Illinois — Regular and Antimission (or "Hardshell") — was explained by J. H. Spencer in his *History of Kentucky Baptists*, Cincinnati, 1885, at 571 *et seq*:

> Most of the ministers among the Regular Baptists in Kentucky, at an early period, were what would now be called hypercalvinistic. They were men of vigorous intellects, but of very limited education … The opposition of those known as Antimission Baptists … was against theological schools and missionary societies. And this opposition originated in the fear that men would be educated in such schools to the profession of the ministry, without regard to a call from God to the sacred office, … and the misapprehension that power might be vested in such societies for the abridgment of religious liberty.

The Antimission ("Hardshell") group was further subdivided into two subgroups, as summarized by Charles Staples in "Pioneer Kentucky Preachers and Pulpits," *The Filson Club Historical Quarterly*, July 1935, 135, at 142:

> The Hardshell Baptists came out of the opposition to missions. This movement was largely a frontier effort and was very strong in the early days. Generally they opposed theological education for the ministry and taught that 'God in his own time and way would bring his elect to repentance and redemption, and, therefore, any effort on the part of man to assist God was not only presumptuous but wicked.' There came to be two groups of this particular family of Baptists, one known as 'Primitive Baptists,' and the other as the "Two-Seed-in the Spirit Baptists."

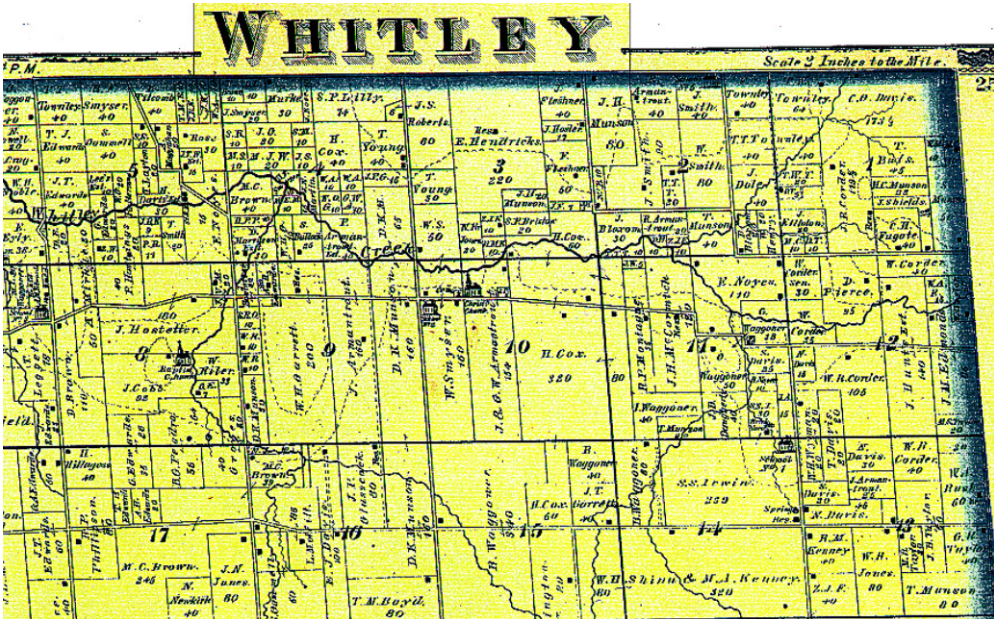
John Parker and his family were among the early settlers of Coles County. (They were not related to another Parker family that settled on what was called "Parker Prairie.") John Parker, the patriarch of the family, was called "High Johnny" by his friends and "Squealing Johnny" by some less friendly. He was a Predestinarian Baptist preacher of the "Hardshell" variety, and preached the first sermon in the county.

Daniel Parker, one of the sons of "Squealing Johnny," was the most prominent spokesman for the "Two-Seed" group of Hardshellers, to which William Harvey Martin and others in the family were adherents. Before the family moved to Coles County, Daniel had represented Crawford County in the Illinois Legislature. Both Johnny and his son Daniel accepted no pay for their ministerial services. It was said of Daniel that "he would work all week on his farm, and then take his gun on Sunday, and kill deer enough to furnish his family in meat until the next Sunday. When some of the stricter people spoke to him in regard to such a questionable way of serving the Lord, he told them if he ever got able to live without having to work so hard, and to have time to kill his meat in the week, he would cheerfully do it, but then it was a case of the boy and the woodchuck — 'he had to.'" *History of Coles County,* at 432.

The "Two-Seed" doctrine, laid out in a pamphlet published by Daniel Parker in the mid- 1820s, stated that there were "two existing moral, or spiritual principles, or essences which he recognizes, are eternal … The essence of Good is God; the essence of Evil is the Devil …" Eve had brought both kinds of seeds into the world.

Daniel Parker was a friend of the Martins and influenced their religious beliefs and church practices. Parker performed the marriage ceremony for John Martin and Ann Neely in 1824 in Clark County. His brand of Baptism was accepted by the Lynn Creek congregation in Whitley Township and was preached by William Harvey Martin and later Joel Figley Martin. One of the sons of John and Ann — and thus one of Ivory Martin's uncles — was named Daniel Parker Martin (1845-1930).

From Coles County to Whitley Township (first Shelby, then Moultrie County)



Northern part of Whitley Township as shown on the 1875 atlas.

The first settlement by European descendants in what is now Moultrie County was known as Whitley Point. That settlement dates back to the autumn of 1826 when John S. Whitley and his wife, their sons and daughters, and their families — totaling about 35 people — migrated from Virginia to then Shelby County, with stops along the way in North Carolina, Tennessee and southern Illinois. They settled near a point in Section 12 where the timber adjacent to Whitley creek extended into the prairie. They were followed soon after by the extensive Waggoner families and others. The story of the Whitley settlement,

or as much of the story as survives, may be found in *The Whitley Point Record Book*, R.E. Martin, Chicago, 1996.

The Whitley Point trading center — consisting of a tavern, store and blacksmith shop — was located near the original John Whitley cabin in Section 12, near the boundary separating Coles County and Shelby County. *Id,* at 20.

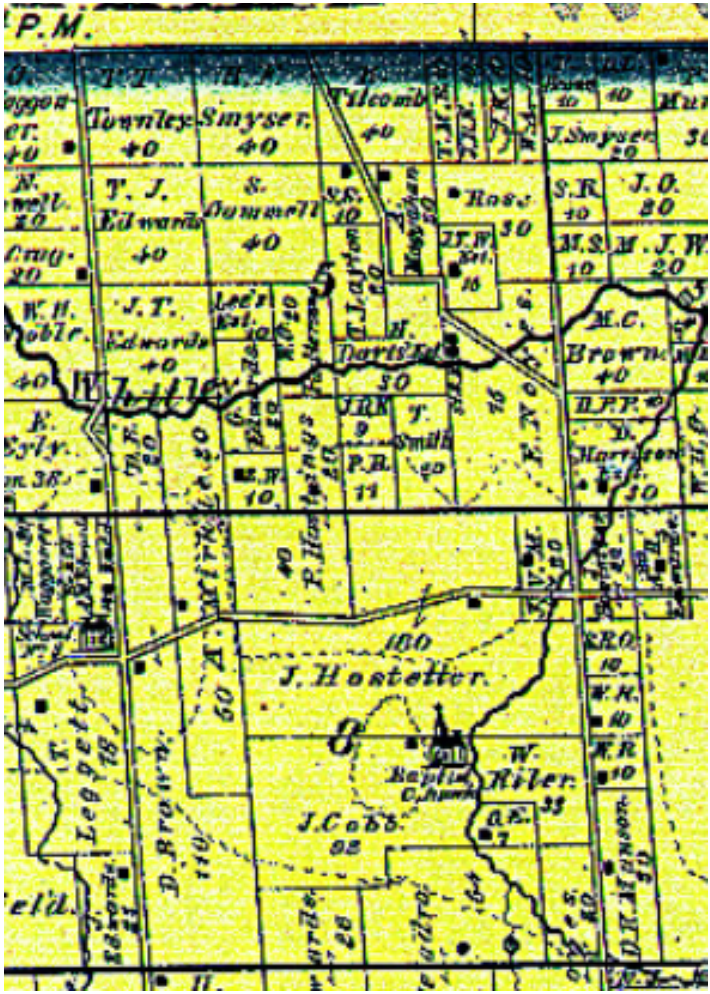
The Martins came to the Whitley Point area soon after the Whitleys and Waggoners. The first to arrive was the preacher, William Harvey Martin — "Uncle Billy." Beginning in southern Illinois and continuing after the move to the Kickapoo settlement, William Harvey Martin had followed in his father's religious footsteps preaching the Baptist gospel. In those days it was common for preachers to travel throughout a large territory — preaching one Sunday to one congregation, and a week later to another. While living in Coles County Uncle Billy rode a few miles west to the Whitley community where he preached to the recent settlers, the Waggoners and their neighbors. In 1829 or early 1830, he organized there the Old School Baptist church, which began with a membership of some 20 members and met in one of the member's homes. These members included Isaac Waggoner and his wife, Caleb Shaw, Rachel Smith, William Walker, and John Edwards.

Uncle Billy and his family had moved from Coles County to Whitley Point by 1830 as they appear in Whitley Township in the U.S. census of that year. *Fragments of Martin Family History*, at 107. (Whitley Township remained in Shelby County until Moultrie County was formed in 1843.) Uncle Billy's family may initially have lived in Whitley Township on rented land. On April 30, 1836, he purchased a quarter section of land — 160 acres — from Caleb and Peggy Shaw for $700 — consisting of the southeast quarter of Section 8, township 12. This Section 8 land was four miles west of the Whitley Point trading center in Section 12. William Harvey donated land on the northern boundary of his quarter-section for the construction of the first Old School Baptist church structure, next to Lynn Creek, the largest of the four or five streams that flow into the main channel of Whitley Creek. The church came to be called the "Lynn Creek" church.

The first Lynn Creek church building — a hewed log structure with puncheon seats and floor, one door and three windows — was located on the east side of Lynn Creek, where the first church cemetery was also located.

A second Lynn Creek frame church structure was built about 1860 a little to the west of the first log building and apparently not on Uncle Billy's land; it appeared in the 1875 atlas as "Baptist Church" on the west side of the south-to-north Lynn Creek.

Except for the land Uncle Billy apparently gave to the Baptist congregation for the original church and cemetery, most of the land that he acquired in 1836 remained in the old preacher's possession until his death in 1854.



Sections 5 and 8, Whitley Township, clipping from 1875 map above. "Baptist Church" west of Lynn Creek.

William Harvey Martin's property comprised the lower right quadrant of section 8, below the J. Hostetter property, as shown in the 1875 county atlas.

William Harvey Martin, born March 7, 1784, was 52 when he bought his Section 8 land in 1836. At that time he still owned land in Lawrence County, where he had previously lived and raised his first family. His first wife, Susan Abigail Whitaker, had died in 1820 when the family was still in Lawrence County. William Harvey had remarried in 1821 — Cynthia Clark. By 1836 when he and Cynthia acquired their farm on Lynn Creek, they had their own children: Orange Clark Martin, born 1825; Jane, born 1830; Ada, born 1831; and Lydia Ann (?). William Harvey Martin II would put in appearance in 1838.

On January 24, 1840, William Harvey Martin and "Syntha" (Cynthia), his wife, sold to Samuel Clark for $73 two parcels of land totaling 38 acres in the southeast quarter of Section 8. Samuel Clark was a brother of Cynthia.

Not long after William Harvey and his family moved from Coles County to Whitley Township they were followed by his nephew, John and his wife Ann Neely Martin. Other Martins followed within a few years.

Uncle Billy died in 1854 and his property, including his remaining land on Lynn Creek, was divided into 13 portions — one for each of his children, and one for his widow Cynthia. The land was then sold.

James Scott Martin (born c. 1779) — Uncle Billy's older brother and Ivory's great-grandfather.

James Scott Martin, the oldest son of John and Sarah/Isabella Martin, was born in Virginia or perhaps North Carolina. There is uncertainty about the year. I.J. wrote that he was "born in a Kentucky fort in 1779" and that he determined the year based on the fact that James Scott was "said to be 86 years of age" when he died in 1865. The *Portrait and Biographical Record*, 1894, says James Scott Martin came to Kentucky about 1777 when he was "very young" and that he died in 1865 "at the very venerable age of ninety-one years." *Id*, at 460. However, the 1860 U.S. Census reported that James S. Martin was then living in the Archibald Lane household (Archibald was his adopted son), and that he was then 81 years old — which would put his birth year at 1779.

There is no disagreement that James Scott spent his early years in central Kentucky, probably not far from Bardstown. *More Fragments of Martin Family History*, at 11 *et seq*. The Martins moved from central Kentucky to Logan County in southwestern Kentucky by 1797. As pointed out above, Jane Martin married Charles Neely there on September 23, 1797.

According to Logan County records, James Scott Martin married "Jenny Feagle" on March 6, 1802. *Logan County, Kentucky Records*, Mrs. L. McCulley, at 64; *Fragments*, at 56. We do not know for sure her given name. I.J. in his family history memoir referred to her as "Mary." In 1841 James S. and his wife "Mary" sold 40 acres of land in Lawrence County, Illinois.

However, there is strong evidence in favor of "Jane":

— The Center Baptist Church in Logan County recorded that on March 13, 1813, the church received into full fellowship by letter, joining other members of the Martin family, "James Martin & Jane his wife."

— On October 8, 1855, James S. Martin and "Jane his wife" transferred property in Whitley township to John Elder.

— In the 1860 U.S. Census, in the household of Archibald Lane in Moultrie County were living James S. Martin, age 81 and "Jane Martin," age 80.

Perhaps Jennie or Mary had been given both names: Mary Virginia or Mary Jane. "Mary Jane" was the name James Scott and his wife gave their first daughter, who married William Pickney.

All but one of the children of James Scott and Mary/Jenny Martin — including both John (b. 1803) and Joel Feagle (b. circa 1808) — were born in Logan County. *Id.*, at 197.

In addition to their own children, James S. and his wife raised a young boy named Archibald Lane. I.J. told the story in his family memoir. About 1841, James S. and his wife made a trip back to their old home in Kentucky. At an inn along the way, they became acquainted with a lively 6-year old orphan. On the way back to central Illinois, they stayed at the same place and found

that the innkeeper's wife was willing to give up Archibald "as she said the inn could not provide a good home for a child." Archie was taken into the family, though he was never legally adopted. He took care of James S. and his wife until James S. died. In return James S. gave his home farm to Archie. *Fragments*, at 131. I.J.'s story about Archie and the farm seems confirmed by the 1860 census which showed the Archibald Lane household in Moultrie County near Whitley Creek with Archie, age 26, his wife "Easter" age 24, and children, Louisa 6 and James L. This Lane household in 1860 included "James S. Martin," 81 and "Jane Martin," 80.

James Scott Martin moved to Illinois in late 1817 or early 1818 with his father, brothers and sister's family (the Neelys), settling first in Crawford County and later in Clark County (formed out of Crawford in 1819). In 1830 Coles County was hived out of Clark. James Scott Martin was elected a Coles County Commissioner in 1832 and again in 1836. *History of Coles County,* 1879, at 246.

In 1850 according to the United States census James Scott Martin was still a resident of Charleston Township, Coles County. But sometime in the 1850s he moved to Moultrie County, probably to be near his grown children and their families.

On December 4, 1854, James S. Martin purchased a 60-acre parcel of land from his son John Martin in Moultrie County. The 60 acres in Section 36, T. 13-5 was not in Whitley Township, but rather just north of Bruce, in the southeastern corner of Sullivan Township, where Whitley creek flows into the Okaw — where John Martin's failed mill had once been located. (See below.) James S. apparently lived on his Sullivan Township land — at least until 1864.

On March 19, 1864, James S. acquired a 40-acre parcel in Section 2, Township 12, just south of the mill property in Whitley Township, near Bruce — about 3 miles west of where his grandson John Neely Martin and his family then lived. Ivory remembered his great-grandfather — James Scott — visiting in 1863-1864: "He had walked from his home a little east of Bruce ….; he came suddenly upon my brother and me as we were playing at the edge of the orchard." *Infra*, at 43.

James Scott Martin died March 26, 1865, about two weeks before Lee surrendered his army at Appomattox. He left no will. John Elder, a son-in-law

of William Harvey Martin, acting as his administrator, filed a petition saying that James left no widow and that he had no real estate. His personal property was sold April 28, 1865; most of the purchasers were relatives:

1 trunk and book	Joel F. Martin	$2.00
1 bed and quilts	Joel F. Martin	$6.50
1 sorel 2 year old filly	Daniel P. Martin	$36.00
1 iron gray mare	John N. Martin	$65.50
1 Bay 2 year old horse	David Monson	$61.50
1 gray mare & colt	James L. Martin	$120.00

James S. and his wife Jane/Mary had been members of the Lynn Creek Baptist Church and were no doubt buried in that church cemetery, in the old section on the east side of Lynn Creek.

James Scott Martin and his wife had three sons who lived with their own families in Whitley Township, Moultrie County. They were:

— John Martin and his wife Ann Neely Martin. (As a reminder, Ann was a daughter of Charles Neely and James Scott Martin's sister, Jane Martin Neely);

— Joel Feagle Martin and his wife Elizabeth Clemens Martin; and

— Rezin C. Martin, married to Polly Clemens Martin (sister of Elizabeth).

John Martin ("Squire John," born 1803) — Oldest Son of James Scott Martin; Ivory's Paternal Grandfather.

John Martin, son of James Scott Martin and Mary/Jane Feagle ("Figley") Martin, was born in Logan County, Kentucky. He came with the family as a teenager to southern Illinois in 1817 or 1818 before statehood. "Squire John," as he was sometimes called, married his first cousin, Ann Neely, in Clark County, Illinois, May 2, 1824.

Coles County was hived off from Clark County to form a new county in December 1830. John bought his first land, 46 acres in Clark County for $60 from his aunt and mother-in-law, Jane Martin Neely. Later in 1831 he was one

of the first to buy land from the Federal Government in the new Coles County, acquired three parcels totaling 120 acres near Kickapoo Creek.

In early 1838 John sold the family farm north of the Kickapoo timber and moved the family to Whitley Township where on May 12, 1838, he acquired for $910 from Milton and Sally Cox about 160 acres of prairie land near his Uncle Billy's farm — four parcels covered by two separate indentures (each indenture providing for consideration of $455):

a. The northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 8 (40 acres);

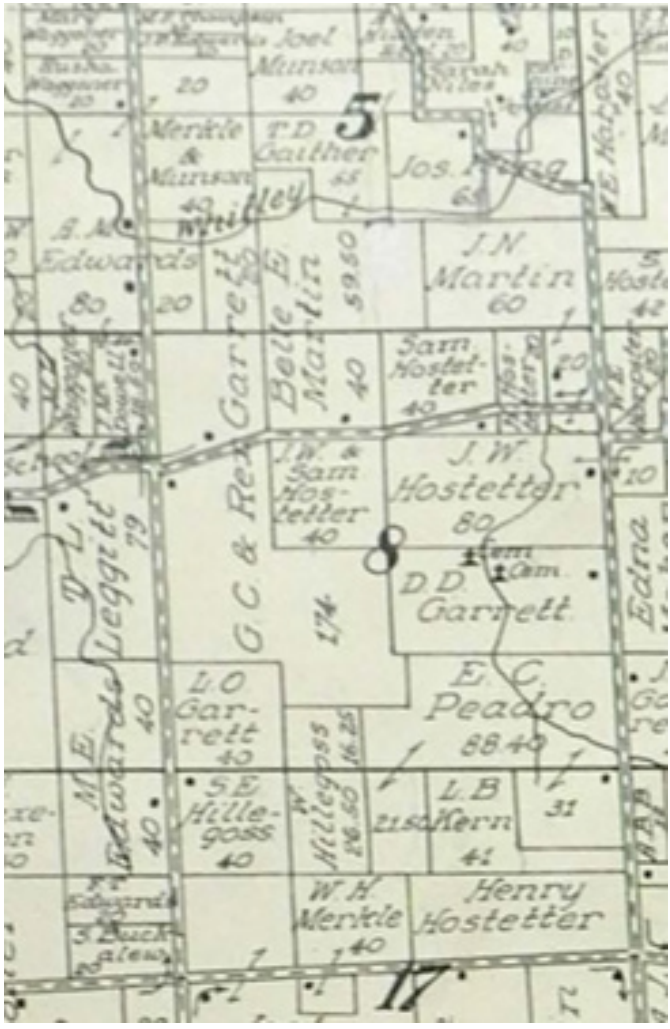
b. The northwest quarter of the northwest quarter, of Section 8 (40 acres), plus

c. The northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 8 (40 acres) (this parcel was apparently not adjacent to parcels a. or b), and also,

d. The southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section no. 5 (40 acres). Because of the way the sections were numbered, Section no. 5 was located immediately north of section no. 8.

At the time they took possession of their land in May 1838, the young family of John and Ann included Isabella, born 1829; James Lewis, born 1830; John Neely, born 1833; Will Tom, born 1835; and baby Serilda, born March 29, 1838. These children would later be joined by Rhoda, born 1840; Mary, born 1842, Daniel Parker, born 1845; and Charles, born 1851.

John Martin's farm in Whitley Township was vertically elongated, north and south, and about a quarter mile wide. I.J. wrote in his family history that the farm reached "from Whitley Creek to what is now known as the Western Avenue public road," and that "part of" John Martin's Whitley land was later owned by Rex Garrett. Squire John built on that land a two-story home which I.J. said stood about 150 yards south of the later location of the Garrett home.



Moultrie County Atlas, 1913

Rex Garrett's farm can be seen on the 1913 Moultrie County atlas stretching from Whitley Creek in Section 5 into Section 8 to the south, not quite to the Western Avenue road.

John and his three oldest sons — James Lewis, John Neely, and Will Tom — "broke out" most of the prairie land on John's farm. I.J. explained how they did it: "A big sod plow was used, drawn by a team of three yokes of cattle. It took all three of the boys to manage the outfit — one to drive and guide the

cattle, and the other two at the plow, one to hold the handles, the other to keep the plow in the ground, sometimes by riding on the front end of the beam." *Id.*, at 149.

When John and Ann and their young family moved to Whitley Point in 1838, there were still deer, wild turkey, and wolves in the area. The wolves were often heard at night. The Martin children received at most a few years of common school education during the winter months at a nearby log school.

We catch a glimpse of John Martin in 1845 in the account book of the Whitley Point general store where John bought his supplies: cloth, tuck combs, buttons, nails, tobacco, coffee and whiskey. On March 11 he paid 25 cents for 2 1/2 pounds of tobacco. On April 16 one gallon of whiskey cost him 50 cents. On one occasion in September 1845 he sent an unidentified "son" — perhaps John Neely Martin, then 12 years old — to buy a quart of tea. *The Whitley Point Record Book*, 1996, at 197.

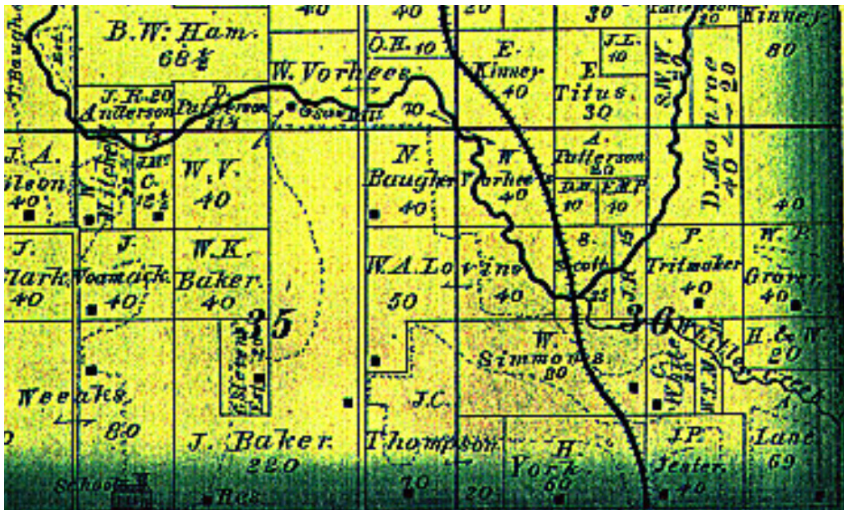
The Martins like other neighboring farmers grew the wheat and corn they fed themselves and their farm animals. Some of their excess corn was sold at a local market; other corn was used to make whisky. Cattle and hogs were driven to Terre Haute or St. Louis to be sold. In the years before Sullivan existed, the men traded in Shelby County and at nearby Nelson.

After breaking the prairie land, the brothers persuaded their father to sell his farm and build a water-powered grist mill near where Whitley Creek joined the Okaw (Kaskaskia) River, roughly a half mile northeast of Bruce, in Section 36, Sullivan Township. Land records reveal that he sold his farm property gradually: 40 acres in 1839 (to Samuel Clark, a son-in-law of Uncle Billy), 20 acres in 1841 (to Elias Gibbs), another 20 in 1845 (to Daniel Cutsinger), and finally in 1854 most of the remaining farmland he had originally acquired in Whitley Township (to John Whetstone and Andrew Gammill).

"Martins Mill" on Whitley Creek appeared for a while in the county records as a location where court documents could be posted. The mill was used to grind both corn and wheat and to saw logs into lumber. But the mill turned out to be a failure. I.J. later wrote that "the water fall over the dam was only a few feet, so that not enough power was developed. … The water was dammed for a mile or so, but the level was only a few feet above the wheel."

In 1854 John sold the mill works to a mill operator in Missouri, and his mill property to his father. He conveyed 100 acres of timber land near the mill site to his youngest daughters, who were unmarried at the time. *Fragments,* at 150.

The mill site was on the property which in 1875 was in Section 36, Sullivan Township, just above where Whitley Creek ran into the Okaw River, and was then owned by Archibald Lane, the "foster son" of James Scott Martin. As I.J. wrote in his family memoir, "when the old gentleman died at the age of 86 years, he gave his home farm to Archie Lane …." *Fragments*, at 131.



Martin Mill property, on Whitley Creek, owned in 1875 by "A. Lane." Section 36, 1875 *Atlas of Moultrie County* (lower right).

John Neely Martin later recalled both the hardships and the sociability of his youth and young adulthood on the Whitley farm. One of the hardships was the malarial "chills and fevers" which came every year. The prairies were dotted with ponds and basins which became stagnant and afforded breeding places for frogs and mosquitoes. John Neely also remembered his neighbors; he once told an interviewer that "the most pleasing thing to remember of those early days was the sociability of the neighbors. Whenever a man wished to build a house or barn, or clear some timber, all the neighbors came over and turned the affair into a social event." *More Fragments of Martin Family History*, at 207.

In late December 1854 after John sold the mill property to his father, he also sold to "James S. Martin" for $600 two parcels of farm property: (1) 40 acres of land, the NE quarter of the NW quarter of Section 8, near the Lynn Creek church, and (2) the east half of the southeast quarter of the SW quarter of section 5, containing 20 acres. Less than a year later, in October 1855, James S. and his wife "Jane" sold these same two parcels to John Elder for the same amount, $600. It seems likely that by late 1854 John was ill, possibly even unable to farm his own land; he died a little over a year later.

John Elder's wife, Jane Martin, was a daughter of the second marriage of William Harvey Martin; and this 40-acre plot of ground, which was near the Lynn Creek church, had originally been owned by Uncle Billy Martin. Jane Elder was a cousin of I.J.'s grandfathers, and Ivory spoke of her with reverence: " … a great woman — one of the greatest — Aunt Jane Elder, wife of a great and good man, John Elder." *Fragments*, at 110. (Two of the sons of John and Jane Elder — thus grandchildren of Uncle Billy — were Esias Dalby ("E.D." or "Deed") Elder and Rezin Euphrates ("Frate") Elder.)

John Martin, I.J.'s paternal grandfather, died January 10, 1856, and his grandmother Ann followed two months later, March 16, 1856. Their graves are in the old Lynn Creek cemetery, shown in the 1913 Atlas in Section 8, owned by D.D. Garrett. The marker says simply, "Gone to Rest." *More Fragments of Martin Family History,* at 204.

The appraisal and sale of John's personal property in 1856 tells us something about the conditions of life on the Whitley farm in the years before the Civil War. His personal property, appraised at $455.35, included: a pump and chains, a wagon iron, a fan mill, 4 plows, 1 buggy, 1 log chain, 1 grindstone, 1 box and irons, 1 lot of gearing, 1 lot of tools, 1 pitchfork, 1 saddle & scythe, 1 large kettle, 1 set of harness, 1 pair of stretchers and hoe, 1 gun, 3 barrels, 1 stove and vessels, 1 cupboard, 1 clock valued at $4.00, 1 box of books, 1 box of wood rolls, 1 tin box of tea, 1 lot dresser ware, beds and bedding valued at $83.50, 1 lot of bacon, 1 of lard, 1 horse (valued at $110), and another at $70, and 3 cows. Most of the items were purchased by family members or Whitley Point neighbors.

Too bad the administrator did not itemize the contents of the box of books.

Joel Feagle ("Figley") Martin (born c. 1808) — son of James Scott Martin; Ivory's Maternal Grandfather.

John's younger brother, Joel Feagle ("Figley) Martin, born c. 1808, was given the name of his mother's family. Joel Figley had been crippled as a child by what was then called the "white swelling," a chronic inflamation of tubercular origin, as a result of which he had a bent and stiffened knee and used crutches the rest of his life. I.J. wrote that he was better educated than most boys of his day. He went to school riding in a dog-drawn cart. He married Elizabeth Clemens. One of their children was Rachel Elvina, born 1833, who married her first cousin, John Neely Martin. *Fragments,* at 132.

The Joel Figley Martin family — like his brother John Martin's — lived for many years in the Lynn Creek neighborhood of Whitley Township. He taught school and served as a Justice of the Peace. Joel Figley preached in the Lynn Creek church, following in the footsteps of his uncle William Harvey Martin. At some point he and his wife Elizabeth moved their home to nearby North Okaw Township, Coles County. They had a large family — five sons and seven daughters, including Rachel, Ivory's mother.

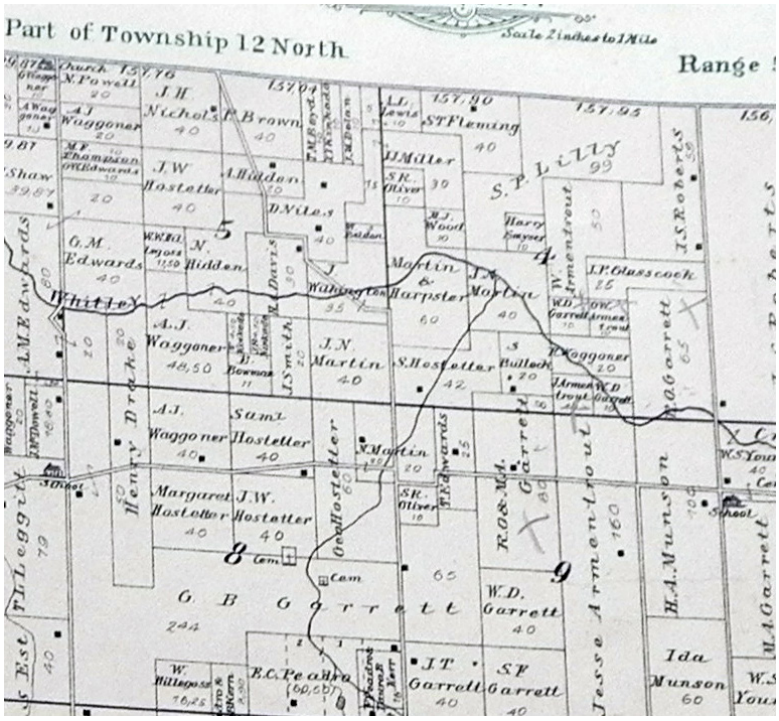
In a volume of Seneca's *Morals* which I.J. Martin had in his library, he had added this note on the front flyleaf: "One of my grandfathers — Joel Figley M. — died in Feb. 1866. He was a baptist minister and he had a very good library. Among the vols. that father purchased at the [estate] sale was a copy of *The Morals of Seneca.* It had been used so much that the cover and a few pages were missing. The title page was gone. … The book was one of my earliest reading. Better books can now be had; but were scarce then."

Reason ("Rezin") C. Martin (born c. 1807, died 1858) — another son of James Scott Martin.

Rezin, a third son of James Scott Martin, also lived nearby in Whitley Township. Rezin married a sister of the wife of his brother, Joel Feagle. Ivory knew her as "Aunt Polly."

In the early 1830s Rezin had followed the other Martins from Coles County to a farm in Whitley Township. Not surprisingly, as reported by I.J. (*Fragments*, at 127), his farm was near the site of the Lynn Creek Church — on

property previously owned by Uncle Billy Martin and later, according to I.J., owned by Edward C. Peadro, in the southeast quarter of Section 8. It may be seen in the 1896 county map below, just to the south of the Lynn Creek Church.



Rezin Martin's farm, later owned by Edward C. Peadro, southeast quarter of Section 8. 1896 Moultrie County map.

Like his uncle William Harvey and his brother Joel Figley, Rezin was a Baptist preacher and regularly preached at the Lynn Creek church. I.J. remembered that Rezin was also a "successful physician of the hydropathic school" — one who used a "water cure" as part of his doctor's tool kit. The cure apparently included use of cold and hot baths to improve circulation and diminish pain.

Rezin was remembered for his participation in a debate in 1855 at the Christian Church over whether to prohibit liquor in Illinois. Col. John W. R. Morgan was the proponent of abolition, while Rezin was one of the leaders of the opposition. *Fragments*, at 124-26.

In May 1856, following the death of his uncle William Harvey, when Uncle Billy's property was divided up among his 13 heirs, his nephew Rezin purchased one of those 1/13th shares from one of his cousins, also in Section 8.

John Neely (b. 1833) and Rachel Elvina Martin (b. 1833) — Ivory's Father and Mother and their Family.

When John Neely Martin married his first cousin Rachel Elvina in 1853 (daughter of Joel Feagle Martin), they united two closely-related and neighboring Martin families who had lived, worked and worshipped together for decades.

John Neely had acquired carpenter skills during his boyhood, and Rachel had been the weaver in her family. The story in the family was that when they got married, they soon realized that neither of them knew how to cook.

The first home of John Neely and Rachel was close to the Whitley Creek mill site near Bruce. After the mill was sold, they moved to a rented farm near Rachel's parents in North Okaw Township, Coles County. They lived on the rented Coles County farm for five or six years. There several of their children were born:

William Harvey
James Benton
Samuel Oliver
Narcissa
Susanna

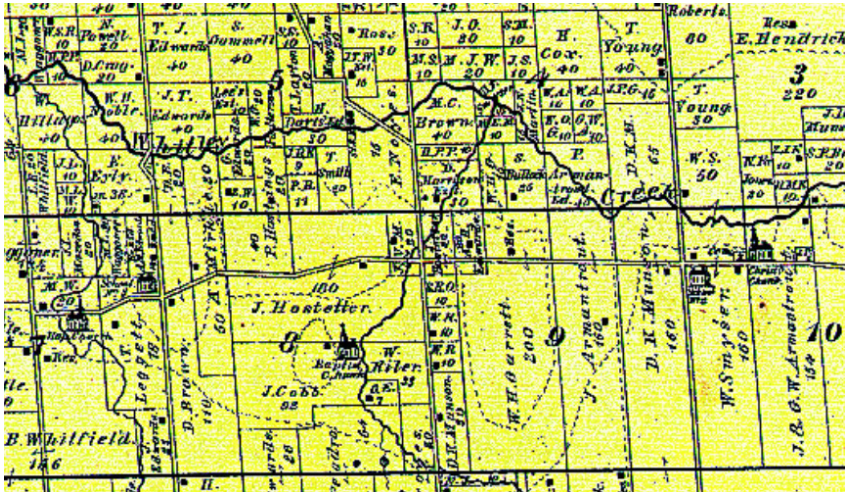
John Neely later told one of his grandchildren that in those days people considered themselves lucky if they managed to raise half of the babies they had. There was no protection from infection. It was difficult to wean babies and transition them to regular food. Medical treatment and medicines were virtually non-existent. The health problems of their infants may have been aggravated by the fact that John Neely's parents were first cousins and that he and Rachel were also first cousins.

In the fall of 1858 John Neely and Rachel moved back to the Whitley Creek community. Ivory, their oldest son to survive infancy, was born there,

November 7, 1859. On February 29, 1860, John Neely bought from James Hostetter a tract of 20 acres in the northeast corner of Section 8 in Whitley Township, less than a mile east of where his father's farm had been. He paid $300. Years later, I.J. remembered that his father had bought the 20 acres in "the fall of 1858," but the deed was dated February 29, 1860; it was not recorded until March 1865.

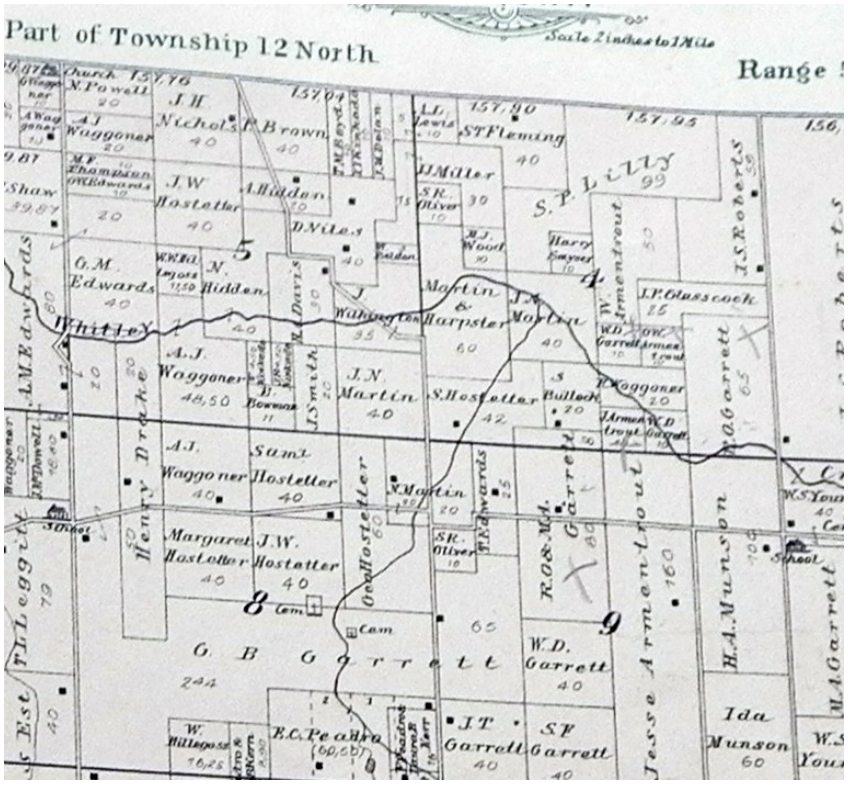
On that 20-acre plot, a site known as Lynn Creek Hill, near the intersection of two roads, John Neely Martin built a small frame structure. I.J. described it as "a one-room house."

The 1875 *Atlas of Moultrie County* shows John Neely's first 20 acre plot in the northeast corner of Section 8, straddling both the east-west Whitley road and Lynn Creek. J. Hostetter, from whom John Neely had acquired the first 20 acres, had land just to the west and south. Many Waggoner families lived west of the Hostetter land.



1875 Atlas — Whitley Township

Over the next two decades, John Neely Martin expanded his land holdings. In early August 1880, he acquired an additional parcel in Section 9 — the west half of the NW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 9 of Township 12. This 20 acres was just across the road to the east of John Neely's family home.



1896 Moultrie County Atlas — Whitley Township
John Neely Martin's land in Sections 5, 4, 8 and 9.

The 1896 Atlas shows "J. N." Martin with that original 20 acres nestled in the northeast corner of Section 8, along with adjacent 20, 40, 60 and 40 acre parcels east and north of Section 8. (The identification of the 60-acre parcel in 1896 as "Martin & Harpster" refers to William Ellis Harpster, the husband Nancy Emmeline.)

I.J.'s father at some point replaced the first "one-room house" with a larger home on the same site. I.J.'s daughter Mabel remembered that it was "a white frame cracker-box style house with a small stoop porch at the front entrance":

> The main part of the house had two downstairs rooms, a living room and a bedroom, joined by a hall with a stairway which led up

> to the half story bed rooms. There was a large room built on the back of the house which served as kitchen and dining room. At the south end of this room there was a large fire place, which was used for cooking and also provided heat for the house. The family spent most of their waking indoor hours in this room, especially in cold weather. *Fragments*, at 187.

John Neely Martin was a carpenter, logger, and farmer. I.J. wrote that his father had learned the carpenter's trade when working on his own father's mill, and he had no intention of developing a farm. However, he made land purchases throughout his life and accumulated altogether 160 acres of farm land.

In 1871-72 John Neely was awarded a contract to make railroad ties out of the white and burr oak trees in neighbor Hugh Stumper's timber. He hired another neighbor, Jack Waggoner, to help in felling, sawing, splitting and scoring the trees; and then he shaped and smoothed the ties with a broad-ax. He earned 15 cents per tie, and made 30 or more ties each day. This railroad contract enabled him to pay for a 15 acre tract of good land. He worked on construction contracts when he could get them, sometimes with neighbor Aaron Merkle; but he also worked for wages.

For over a decade John Neely hewed out heavy frame timbers for houses and barns in Whitley Township. I.J. remembered that when his father made purchases at the store, he paid "with money he earned at his trade, as he seldom had much of value to sell."

Ivory remembered years later that his father knew how to fix things:

> In thinking about my father's occupation, I recall that I do not remember seeing him idle. If he was not at work making or mending something, he was either reading or writing.
>
> He had some manual skill in many trades. He worked in wood and leather, and if he had had a forge and tools, he could have worked with iron and steel.
>
> In the winter when it was too cold or too wet to work in the timber, he was busy in the house or shop. He made feed baskets of split

hickory that were artistic as well as strong, serviceable and durable.

> He could clean, oil and even repair a clock. I remember that a traveling watch and clock man one winter day offered work on our tall clock. When Father told him that he did that himself, the fellow appeared greatly amused. He asked, 'What do you do if you find that a pivot of a wheel has worn its casing?' 'I mend it.' 'How?' 'I put into the bearing a thin piece of brass or copper.' 'Oh,' said the man 'you have no tools to do that sort of work.' 'Why,' said Father, 'all the tools you need are a file and a claw hammer.'
>
> The man began gathering up his things, saying, 'There is no use of fooling away time on you. A file and a claw hammer!' Father had the heartiest and longest spell of laughter that I ever saw him have, and it was repeated many times when he thought of the incident.

Ivory's mother was more outgoing. One of her grandchildren later described her:

> Her eyes told us when to expect caresses, peppermints from her apron pocket, comforting words and arms — and body-shaking chuckles.

But Rachel could also be tough. "Sudden anger flashed in her eyes." She was also not shy about expressing herself. As Ivory once noted wryly:

> One gift that Mother had was the use of plain speech. There was never any doubt of her meaning. One of her nephews said long afterwards, 'When Aunt Rachel thought that something needed to be said, she did not hunt around for someone to say it; she just said it herself.' *Fragments*, at 158.

The Martins were respected member of the Whitley Point community. "Uncle John" was elected township clerk in 1868 and reelected in 1870, 1871, and 1872. In 1873 he was elected Justice of the Peace and held that office several terms.

John Neely and Rachel were devout Baptists and members of the

nearby Lynn Creek Church congregation. The Baptist faith was in the air they breathed. Ivory's sister Nancy later wrote, "I was born on a Baptist bed, fed from an Association table, lived by the Bible, and was taught to abide by its rules. My parents lived their religion."

As noted earlier (*supra*, at 11), the Lynn Creek church was a "Hardshell" church. Their church structure was a plain frame one-room building with a weather-beaten appearance. It had two front doors; men entered by the north door, and the women by the south door. They sat on opposite sides of the aisle. The pews were wooden benches and there were no other furnishings. Members brought their own hymnals, which had the words but not the music. *Fragments,* at 196-97.

Meetings took place only once a month, and preachers would often come from other areas. The meetings might last for hours. They included a sermon, usually not prepared ahead of time. A Baptist minister spoke the words the Lord placed in his mouth that moment. They were delivered in a high monotone with little inflection except a drop at the intervals to allow the speaker to catch his breath. The words consisted mostly of quotations from the scriptures or from the church creed. Hymns were not announced, but rather begun spontaneously.

When the meeting had concluded, the congregation retired to the home of one of the members for dinner. That home was often the farmhouse of Uncle John and Aunt Rachel. "His home was always thrown open to those attending the meetings in the church, and as high as 50 members of the church passed the day with him and his wife on meeting days." *Decatur Herald*, March 12, 1923. Children were expected to wait until the adults had finished before they ate. They played in the front yard until that time came. I.J. told one of his daughters that he remembered a time when the children became so hungry that they sent a playmate in to see if the adults were almost finished. "He came back and said, 'We'll never get to eat. They've started praying again.'" *Fragments*, at 198.

Rachel accepted unquestioningly the doctrines of the church, which she had learned from her father — Joel Figley Martin. She listened to the discussions and arguments about scripture but reportedly always agreed with her husband. John Neely was the one who "searched the scriptures, meditated, and wrote tracts in support of his convictions. She neither meditated nor studied. She accepted."

The old-time Baptists did not pay much attention to the festivities of the Christmas season. I.J. told one of his daughters decades later, "They cared not at all for Santa Claus." Christmas presents "were merely tokens. This was true among country people generally. Among children the greeting was often 'Christmas gift' instead of Merry Christmas. But a penny or stick of candy was as much as was expected." *As Ever,* at 332.

Though John Neely opposed smoking, it did not prevent his wife Rachel from smoking a corn-cob pipe. She gave this advice to girls in the family before they got married: "Keep yourself sweet and clean and don't shame your men-folk."

Rachel told her granddaughters that when she was growing up, she was called "Sis." That changed when she went to school:

> Rachel was going for her first taste of formal education. Her mother told her 'Now the teacher will ask you your name. Your name is Rachel Elvina.' She hadn't known before that she had that name, and she thought it was the most beautiful name she had ever heard. All the way to the school, she kept repeating it to herself so she wouldn't forget it. (Letter from Olive Ruth Hewett to the author, February 13, 1990.)

John Neely Martin appeared to his grandchildren to be quiet and dignified, even stoic. He "controlled his emotions and was undemonstrative." He thought the world was getting worse all the time. He based this on the fact that he had never heard of the crimes that were described in the newspapers; and if such crimes had been committed when he was young, he would have heard about it.

The Martins read the Scriptures, of course, but they read other books as well. They received religious magazines and a weekly domestic magazine, *Hearth and Home*. John Neely's father, John, had owned books, some of which were passed on to his son at the time of his death in 1856. Years later, when he was in his late 80s, John Neely Martin read "carefully and attentively a six-volume copy of Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*." *Ivory and Rose,* at xiv. His granddaughter Olive thought Gibbon had cured him of the view that the world was getting worse all the time.

John Neely Martin was a lifelong Democrat and sometime public official. In 1854 he was a leader of a local Democratic faction supporting Nathaniel Parker of Coles County for the nomination to the Seventh District Congressional seat; and he worked out a compromise arrangement with John R. Eden to unify local Democrats. "Political Biography of John R. Eden," John M. George, 1970, in *John R. Eden, A Compendium of Materials,* 2012, at 402. John Neely was in the large crowd on September 20, 1858, when Stephen Douglas spoke before a Sullivan audience at the court house square during the Senate campaign that year.

Like many Whitley Democrats and Baptists, John Neely was a teetotaler, but — like most of his neighbors — he did not favor prohibition. He remembered that in the scriptures Timothy had recommended "a little wine for thy stomach's sake." 1 Timothy 5:23. For that and perhaps other reasons, John Neely stayed home on election day in 1908. He said, "I wouldn't vote for Bryan for $5.00, but I'd hang myself before I would vote for Theodore Roosevelt."

His granddaughter Olive later wrote:

> His favorite menu was simple and unvaried — hot bread, fried meat, potatoes, gravy, jelly, preserves and strong black coffee three times a day — there was no such thing as coffee too strong — and pie for dinner and supper. Lettuce? Radishes? Cabbage? Greens? Tomatoes? 'I had a cousin who used to eat those weeds,' he used to say. 'He's been dead for thirty-five years.'

One of his great-granddaughters, Olive Ruth, remembered:

> I recall Great-grandpa had terribly blue eyes — at least I remember them as blue. He liked to tell a story about a man he knew who smoked all his life and then one day he became ill. The doctor told him to quit smoking. He did and two days later he died. At this point in the story there would be silence for a few seconds, and then [Ivory] would say: 'Tell them how old your friend was, Pa.' And Great-grandpa would say: '108.'

II
Childhood

Ivory was born November 7, 1859, perhaps the sixth child of John Neely and Rachel. At least three children had earlier died in infancy while the family lived near Rachel's family in Coles County. At least two more would die in their early years after Ivory was born. (Rachel's obituary in 1909 said that she and John Neely had had 11 children, seven of whom died in infancy.)

I.J. was named "John Ivory." His first name came from both his father and his grandfather. The second name was that of a friend of the family, Ivory Quimby, a lawyer. I.J. joked in his notes about the family, "I am grateful to my father for not allowing me to be burdened with the last name of the barrister."

Wikipedia provides information about an Ivory Quinby in Monmouth (note the different spelling of the last name). Quinby, born July 14, 1817, in Maine, had been named after his mother's first husband, Ivory Fenderson. Quinby had studied law in Maine, then moved to Illinois where he settled first in Quincy in 1837 and later in Monmouth. How he became a friend of the Martin family is not known.

Perhaps to avoid confusion with his father, I.J. was initially called "Ivory." He later wrote, "Most people called me by the second name, but when I started to school I signed 'John I. Martin.' Usually when it got in print, it appeared as 'John J.' which annoyed me not a little, and especially for the reason that I had a cousin by that name." I.J. thought of calling himself "J. Ivory," but did not like that form. "Mother suggested that I write it 'Ivory J.' or 'I.J.', and that is what I decided to do. This was in 1878, when I was in my 19th year. At first I used just the name 'Ivory' but later I began writing 'J' for a middle initial."

It requires an effort of imagination to appreciate the enormous differences between the conditions of life when Ivory was a boy and those a mere two or three generations later. People worked during the day because it was dark at night — really dark. Except in lightening storms, there was no ambient light — other than moonlight and starlight. The small Martin home was lit at night, if at all, only by candles and a fireplace. The family probably made candles themselves from cow or sheep fat, and the candles were smelly. Candles could also be purchased from stores in Sullivan. Advertisements in the *Sullivan Express* suggest that lamps were not yet available for sale during the late 1850s. Ads in the Decatur newspapers show that coal oil and kerosene lamps were being sold by the mid-to-late 1860s. They frequently led to fires.

The absence of lamps or electric lights during Ivory's childhood meant that the sky and the evening stars were a much more visually impressive part of life for farm boys in Whitley Township than they are today for residents of the Chicago suburbs (or most other places in America).

The sounds farm boys experienced, if not the sounds of silence, were at least the sounds of nature, including their farm animals, rather than the commingled sounds of overhead jet aircraft or the passing noises of trains, buses, trucks, and automobiles, many badly muffled, or the indoor sounds of multiple tvs, cable systems, radios, doorbells, iphones, computers, timers, and notifications of email receipts.

Weather was a much bigger deal in those days. The Martins and their neighbors suffered through the cold days and nights of winter protected only by a fireplace, their winter clothes, and their goose-feather bedding and home-made blankets and quilts. The heat of summer was unrelieved by air conditioning,

though folks could sit in rockers on their front porches and get a little relief with hand-held fans.

Worse than the heat and cold was the periodic visitation of disease — the fevers brought on by malaria and cholera which came in the spring and summer. When cholera struck Sullivan in the summer of 1855, it was reported that there was "but one family in the place who have not got the cholera, and that there will not be persons enough (unless the doctors do it) to bury the dead ..." Ivory later remembered that there were about a half-dozen deaths in Sullivan due to the disease that summer. One of those who died was a leading physician, Dr. William A. Kellar. *Fragments of the History of Sullivan*, at 31.

Although there were doctors, medical practice was primitive compared to a century later, which is likely one reason why so many of Ivory's siblings died in infancy. The modern vaccine against smallpox was not created until the late 19th century; and vaccinations against measles, mumps, hepatitis A and B, chickenpox were not developed until the 20th century. Infections were much more dangerous then, as antibiotics also did not come into use until the early 20th century. Doctors in the 1860s and 1870s supplied their own "medicines" — including locally-distilled whiskey. One of the physicians practicing in Whitley Township was known as a "root" doctor. *Id.*, at 23.

Several merchants and "druggists" in Sullivan offered for sale, for $1 a bottle, an unnamed and undescribed liquid medicine that would cure "every kind of humor" — "from the worst scrofula down to a common pimple— including bile, stomach canker, erysipelas, blotches of the ears and hair, running ulcers, eruptions of the skin, ringworm, rheumatism, salt rheum, the worst case of dyspepsia, headaches, derangement of the kidneys, and dropsy." The medicine was also "warranted to regulate a costive state of the bowels" (otherwise known as constipation). *Sullivan Express*, January 5, 1860.

Families produced their own staples: meat, poultry, eggs, milk, garden vegetables. They might go to the store in Whitley Point or one of the stores in Sullivan for "groceries": coffee, tea, nuts, raisins, figs, crackers, cheese, pickles, dried herring, sardines, sugar, pepper, salt, and even oysters. Ivory remembered that the farm community where he grew up was served by stores in nearby Shanghai and Whitley Point: "[A]t Whitley Point there was a row of log houses — ten or twelve — connected together either by partition walls or by a shedded area

which served for wagon shelters There was a post office here, and one building served as a church and school room. There was a store in the room with the post office." *Fragments of Martin Family History,* at 226.

During his early years, Ivory lived first in the original one-room home his father had built in 1858 and later in the larger replacement that I.J.'s daughter Mabel remembered as "a white frame cracker-box style house ...." Cooking was done in the kitchen at the back of the house over an open fire:

> Large iron pots and gridirons were used to do the cooking. Baking was done in the iron pots which had lids and when covered with hot ashes served as ovens.

It was not until about 1870 when Ivory was 10 years old that his mother consented to the purchase of a cook stove.

I.J. remembered several incidents from early childhood, during the time of the Civil War. The first occurred at a remarkably early age:

> I was about two years of age, or possibly younger. I had fallen asleep on the floor and under a table. It was one of those old style drop-leaf affairs, and when the leaf was down, the edge of the table cloth reached the floor.
>
> Anyway, when I awoke it was entirely dark around me, but I could hear people talking out in the room. I at once made myself heard, and was soon helped out into the open where I could see. A woman, probably one of my aunts, held me on her lap until Mother came into the room. I remember there was some talk that I did not understand, but which I felt sure was about myself, and when Mother laughed at something that was said, I was mad all over, and I think I said so in the only way a baby can.

The next incident occurred in the summer of 1862, when Ivory was two:

> There was a 'clearing,' as it was called, in front of our house along the public road, and at the end of the clearing was thick timber with some underbrush. I remember seeing a buggy in which there were

> two men driving two horses, each with a white stripe down its face, dash out of the timber on the east and in a moment disappear on the west. It appeared wonderful at the time and it made an impression that I never forgot.

Think for a moment what that tells us about the relative simplicity and quiet of life in 1862: a horse-drawn buggy was driven rapidly on the road past Ivory's house, an event so "wonderful" that he never forgot it.

No pictures of the first one-room house survive. The later two-story frame house survived into the 1950s. I saw it as a child but by that time it had long passed from the Martin family into other hands. Two pictures show how the house and clearing appeared.

The Second Whitley Point Home of John Neely Martin's family.

I.J. remembered when two of his uncles went off to fight in the Union army. The first to go was his Uncle Jeff, his Mother's brother, who "was with us so much that he seemed a member of the family."

Ivory's "Uncle Parker" was also living with Ivory's family at the time. Daniel Parker Martin (named after the Baptist preacher friend of the family), born in 1845 — was the fourth and youngest son of John and Ann Martin, and was thus a younger brother of Ivory's father. After their parents died, John Neely had became Parker's guardian, and he lived with the Martin family.

I.J. remembered the morning in July 1862 "when I lacked 3 or 4 months of being three years old." His uncles Jeff and Parker came to the house with an army recruiter:

> I remember one day a man in blue clothes with shiny buttons came to the house and Uncle Jeff was with him. He was but a boy in his early teens. There was not much said for a while but the air was electrically charged. Finally Mother said, 'Jeff, I suppose you have decided to join the army.' He said, 'I guess I have already joined.' Ivory Martin, *Common Place Book*, at 24.

Ivory's mother asked the recruiter, who was an "old acquaintance of the family, if he couldn't find enough men to fight the war without gathering in the young boys. She said more — much more — to the same effect. I don't remember my father saying anything. It was not necessary. And the soldier friend said very little."

> After Uncle Jeff and the recruiter had left, Uncle Parker said to Father, 'If you don't mind I believe I will go over to Lilly's and stay over night.' As he walked out through the orchard, Mother said, 'That is the last you will see of him.' Father, who was his guardian, said, 'Oh No! He would not go to the war without telling me.' But he did. Of course, I would not remember the words of this conversation if I had not heard them repeated. But I distinctly remember the tones of voice and the tenseness of feeling with which the conversation was conducted.

Ivory's Uncle Parker enlisted in the Union army the next year, in the

summer of 1863, a little before his 18th birthday. He was in the army about 17 months before coming home on a furlough at Christmas 1864. He had 30 days leave, which was later extended, with the result that Uncle Parker was discharged before having to return to the army.

All told, Ivory had six uncles in the Union army. Uncle Parker was his father's brother. Two brothers of his mother — Uncle Levi and Uncle Jeff — both served in the Union army and were taken prisoner and spent time in a Confederate prison camp in Tyler, Texas. Jeff escaped and made his way back to the Union lines. A great uncle, James Frost Martin, the youngest son of James Scott Martin, was over 50 at the beginning of the War but enlisted anyway. Two other non-Martin uncles in the army, named Stephens and Robinson, had married Ivory's aunts.

Another uncle -- Uncle Sam, son of Joel Figley, had gone to Texas before the war. He was drafted by Texas into the Confederate army and was one of the guards at the Texas prison. One day he recognized a captive from Coles County who told him that Uncle Levi was in the prison. "They had several meetings while Uncle Sam remained a guard." Levi remained at the prison about one year, until the close of the war. *Id.*, at 28-29.

The War produced political and neighborhood stresses that occasionally escalated from angry words into violence. Political sentiment in nearby Mattoon was strongly Republican, while the sentiment in much of the surrounding territory in Coles, Moultrie and Shelby counties was strongly Democratic. West Whitley Township trended Democratic, while East Whitley was more evenly divided. Part of a regiment of Union soldiers was stationed at Mattoon.

The Martins and most of their Whitley Point neighbors were Democrats, many of whom — though loyal to the Union — were critical of the policies of the Lincoln Administration. Activist members of both parties hurled epithets at each other: Republicans were called "Abolitionists" and the Democrats "Copperheads." Ivory wrote in his *Common Place Book,* at 33-35:

> In 1863 and the early part of 1864, there was a rather bitter feeling between Democrats and Republicans — both sides suspected the other. What was known as the 'Copperhead' organization

had some adherents, although the membership was not large in Moultrie County The irritation was increased by a few night raids by the soldiers who visited Democratic homes collecting guns and sometimes taking the men to Mattoon to be questioned.

These raids were always made about midnight, and were naturally very much resented. No one was ever prosecuted, and no charges were ever made.

In the summer of 1863, there was in central Illinois a man who claimed to be a Copperhead official who called himself 'Colonel Powderhorn.' Some of the Democrats suspected him of being a rebel agent and his actions seemed to point that way, especially when he proposed the purchase of a supply of arms. Failing to find any sympathy for a plan of armed resistance, he finally went away and it was not until long afterward that it was learned that he was a government spy. He seems to have been an honest investigator and his report seems to have put an end to the night raids of the soldiers.

Members of both political parties staged parades and meetings. Republican newspapers strained to associate their political opponents with the taint of treason or sympathy for the Confederacy. Union soldiers on furlough forced Democrats to take pledges of allegiance to the Union while Democrats complained bitterly about the silencing of critical newspapers and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. Political meetings were lubricated by the free flow of liquor. Allegations were whispered about armed gangs marching in the timbers of Moultrie County and citizens importing weapons and making bullets. Though Moultrie County fulfilled its allocations for military enlistments, the possibility of a draft hung in the air toward the end of the War.

Ivory was old enough to recognize the tense feelings:

My mother doubtless because she had brothers in both armies hated the war intensely and detested the 'Secessionists' and the 'Abolitionists.' She spoke both names with a sort of hissing sound, and I pictured them as a kind of monster. She thought that both were equally to blame for bringing on the war. I never heard her utter any criticism of Lincoln, but the name of 'Jeff Davis' was

anathema. She probably thought that as the abolitionist agitators and the Secessionists had started the war, Lincoln could do nothing else but fight it through. *Common Place Book,* 30-31.

* * *

We were never disturbed, but I remember one night someone tapped on a window and then said the soldiers were out on another raid. Mother was alarmed, but Father said there was no danger. He stepped outside and listened awhile before going back to bed. Later I was told that one night Father and Uncle Jim Hostetter kept vigil at a point where they could watch both their homes, but I knew nothing about it at the time. *Fragments*, at 157.

I.J. remembered once during the Civil War years when his great-grandfather, James Scott Martin, came to visit:

I remember seeing him romp with my brother, who at the time was just big enough to walk, which would mean that I was a little over three. I think the last time I saw him was in the fall of 1864, two or three months before I was five. He had walked from his home a mile east of Bruce, stopping for a visit with Uncle Gilbert and Aunt Patsy Waggoner, and resting again at the home of the Elders. He came suddenly upon my brother and me as we were playing at the edge of the orchard. He was not tall, 5 feet and 8 or 9 inches, but was rather stout, with a face full, round and ruddy, and with merry twinkling eyes. I have never seen a finer looking old gentleman.

He wore a bright colored cap knit with wool yarn and with a tasseled top. He was carrying a heavy walking stick on his arm.

When Ivory saw his great-grandfather that last time, he had only a few more months to live. He died in February 1865.

As the War was coming to an end, President Lincoln was assassinated on April 15, 1865. Ivory was 5 years old. He remembered when the news arrived, "probably in a day or two."

> I remember a woman who sometimes helped Mother with her work. The woman's name was Susan Bullock. When Mother told her, she said, 'I'm glad of it.' Mother said a plenty to her, and I think changed her mind about it.

I.J.'s daughter Mabel remembered her father telling a different story about when the news arrived:

> When his father came in and said that Lincoln had been killed, a young cousin who was living with them said 'Good.' Her Aunt [Rachel] turned and slapped her in the face and said, 'Don't you ever say anything like that about anybody again.'

Perhaps both recollections were true. They reflected the same sentiment on his mother's part.

The original log Lynn Creek Baptist church structure had been replaced by a frame church building about 1860. That was the church where Ivory's family attended Sunday services in his early years. I.J. remembered that his great-grandfather James Scott Martin and his maternal grandparents, Joel Figley Martin and Elizabeth, "were usually at our house once a month at the Baptist meetings at the Lynn Creek Church. Grandfather [Joel Figley] was the regular pastor of the Church …."

Ivory's maternal grandparents helped fill the gap left by the early death of his paternal grandparents. I.J. described his Grandfather Joel Figley Martin as "more sober and less playful" than his great-grandfather James Scott — "probably the dignity becoming a preacher had to be maintained." His grandmother Elizabeth was "still more serious." "She was kind and loving enough, but seldom smiled and never laughed as Mother frequently did. Life had been a serious business for Grandmother, with a large family and a husband handicapped by his lameness."

Life was not a picnic for I.J.'s own family either. As already pointed out, several children died in infancy while the family was living in Coles County. After they moved to Whitley Township in the fall of 1858, John Neely and Rachel lost at least two more children, Samuel and Susannah, in early childhood. Susannah had a leg crippled from birth.

I.J. referred to his brother Samuel Oliver (b. 1862) in his family memoir as "Sammy." He had been named after a local doctor and neighbor of the Martins. *Fragments*, at 154. The 1896 Atlas of Moultrie County shows that one S.R. Oliver owned 10 acres of land adjacent to and south of John Neely Martin's home property, as well as another 10 acres to the north.

I.J. rarely spoke or wrote about little Samuel Oliver, who died at the age of two. But when he was in his 90s he told his daughter Mabel one memory from his childhood: "During the Civil War, Father called me general. I didn't like it very much because I thought he was making fun of me. He called me general and Joe colonel, and Oliver he called captain. Oliver came too late in the war to be a colonel." *As Ever*, at 362.

Four of the children of John Neely and Rachel lived to adulthood. *Fragments*, at 176. They were:

Ivory — born November 1859.
Joel Kester — born 1861.
Sarah Elvina - born 1864, died January 1884. She married Charles Batson.
Nancy Emmeline — born October 11, 1870. She married William Ellis Harpster, who later farmed land across the road and east of John Neely Martin's home place.

I.J. wrote that Joe and Sarah "made good companions during our years of childhood, and I think we were as happy as the average children of our day." As Nancy was almost 11 years younger than Ivory, he did not have as close a relationship with her. "She was six years of age when I first began school work away from home, and for that reason I never had the intimate companionship with her that I did with Joe and Sarah."

When Ivory and Joe went out to play, their mother told them not to cross the road or the creek. They often took their lunch with them and spent the day in the woods. Their father had taught them "to recognize the bark on the north side of a tree, and had showed them how to find their way out of the woods by sighting three trees in a straight line as they walked." *Fragments*, at 294.

The children helped with the farm labors. John Neely did the heavy work along with his lumbering and carpentry. He raised sheep, which he sold usually for about $2 each. Water had to be pumped from an outside well. Her mother had taught Rachel how to weave, so she did the weaving for the family: "She wove all the cloth used for clothing, bed linen and towels for the entire family." She also did the cooking though John Neely was fond of remarking that he had to teach her how to cook.

In his late 80s, I.J. remembered a scene in the fields about the time he was 5-6 years old:

> In reading a page of *Leaves of Grass* I found the following among other wonderful word pictures:
>
> 'Three scythes at harvest whizzing in a row from three lusty angels with shirts bagged out at their waists.'
>
> The words recalled a picture of my own that I have carried in my mind for more than 80 years. I was not more than six years of age. Reaping machines were then used on some farms that were clear of stumps, but in the field I saw there were four cradlers (one more than W.W. saw). I felt a little pride in seeing my father leading the bunch and I believe that I thought or rather felt that they could not go at all without his leading the way. I remember the steady swing of the scythe as it cut the swathe and how the long fingers of the cradle caught the falling straw and the graceful backward swing of the cradle that laid the wheat down for the binders — men following each cradler.
>
> Two shockers completed the gang of ten harvest hands in this particular picture.

> There was also another old gentleman — the owner of the field, who in a buggy carried water and sometimes other refreshments to the workers. I remember a few years later when 13 or 14 years of age, I think in this same field, I did the work of a man in binding after a little buckeye harvest. The same old gentleman kept us supplied with cool water and plenty of custard pies.
>
> (My son Robert now owns the homestead part of the old farm, but not the wheat field. Written in 1948.)

The lives of Ivory and his family were much more intertwined with their animals than those of later generations. In the days before motorized vehicles, people traveled by walking or in wagons and buggies drawn by horses. Without modern supermarkets they raised or grew their own food. Ivory helped clean the barn and feed and take care of the animals: the horses, sheep, cows (for meat and milking) and chickens (eggs). He hoed the corn, pulled weeds from the garden, and chopped wood for the fireplace and later the cook stove.. When he reached his teen-age years in the early 1870s, his farm work made it impossible for him to attend the summer term at school. *Fragments*, at 188.

While Ivory fed the horses and hitched up the team for a day's plowing, Joe built the fires, drew the water from the well and caught a chicken. Their sister Sarah would fry the chicken and have hot biscuits and gravy ready for them when the morning chores were done.

One of I.J.'s daughters later wrote about his sisters, Sarah and Nancy: "[Sarah] had been a good student at school, and [Ivory] had high hopes for her. I don't think he ever expected much of Nancy [his younger sister]. He was fond of [Nancy], but he saw all her faults, and he couldn't tolerate her carelessness with the truth."

Life in the Whitley Point community was not all work. Years later I.J. told Mabel about sitting in front of the fireplace in the kitchen at the back of the house, "watching apples sputter as they roasted on the hearth and parching corn. When the apples and corn were ready to eat, he and his brother and sisters had a feast before going up to their cold rooms and snuggling down under feather tucks." *Id.*, at 189.

I.J. remembered a tornado which passed to the northeast through Whitley Township on March 6, 1866. He was quite sure of the date. In a letter written to his daughter Olive on March 6, 1924, I.J. wrote: "Fifty eight years ago today, I watched the course of a tornado that passed two miles north of the old home in Whitley." In his family history, I.J. gave a more detailed description:

> In my seventh year, March 6, 1866, I was a fascinated observer of a tornado that moved in a northeast by east course from the present site of Bruce to about the present location of the town of Allenville. We were more than two miles away and could not see the surface disturbance, only the funnel-shaped black cloud that moved with a whirling and rocking (like a spinning top) motion. The folks standing around me called it a hurricane — the first time I had heard the word. *Fragments,* at 159.

March 1866 was a bad month for storms. Two weeks after Ivory saw the tornado pass through Whitley Township, Sullivan was struck by another tornado — "the most terrific tornado that has ever swept over this part of the country. Its width was not more than about 300 yards, and seemed to be a gigantic whirlwind. … Great old trees were uprooted and carried to a great distance; houses, barns and fences were lifted from the ground and scattered in the wildest confusion in every direction, and far from their former resting places; cattle, sheep, hogs, horses and fowls were killed or carried away …. Some twenty houses that we have heard from were utterly demolished, among which were those of Wm. French, A. Lane, the old Laugher house, belonging to W.K. Baker, the residence of Benj. Walden, late deceased, those of Henry Niles, John Edmonds, Joseph Kellar, and a number of others seriously damaged. A son of Wm. French was killed, Mrs. French seriously injured, and several of the younger members of the family were badly hurt." *Sullivan Express*, March 20, 1866. National newspapers repeated the story throughout the country.

Ivory sometimes went hunting with his friends and cousins. When asked about it years later, he told one of his daughters that he could not bring himself to shoot a rabbit or squirrel. "Once he threw a stone at a rabbit. It hit the animal in the head and killed it, and he was unhappy about that for days." *Fragments,* at 190.

He told Mabel about a pet lamb he once had as a little boy. (She wrote it up as a story, but said it was based on an actual event.) *Id.*, at 190. The black lamb's mother died soon after it was born, and John Neely gave it to Ivory and his sister Sarah on condition that they take care of it. They fed it, cleaned it, and it became a pet. One day a stranger came and explained that he had just moved into a farm on the neighboring Hostetter place. He wanted to buy a cow. Rachel directed him to John Neely, who was out on the farm clearing land for planting. The new neighbor saw the lamb and asked if he could buy it for his little girl. Ivory's mother said, as he later remembered it, that the lamb was a nuisance and she'd be glad to be rid of him, but it belonged to the children. Ivory then walked the visitor out to talk to his father. The new neighbor made a deal to buy a cow, but asked that John Neely "throw in" the black lamb. Ivory's father protested that he couldn't do that — his wife wouldn't want to sell it. The visitor explained that he had just heard her say she would like to be rid of it. John Neely then agreed to "throw in" the lamb.

Ivory had heard the negotiations in silence. When the visitor paid over the money for the cow and lamb, his father told him to go get the lamb. He did so, but felt like a traitor. Then he ran to the house and climbed the ladder to his room in the attic so no one would see him cry.

Years later when I.J. told Mabel this story, she asked why he had not objected. I.J. replied: "When I was a boy, the old saying that children were to be seen and not heard was taken seriously. No well-brought-up child would dispute the word of a grown person, especially not a man."

When Rachel heard what had happened, she felt no such constraints. She objected vigorously, as I.J. remembered, and insisted that John Neely return the money and get back the cow and lamb. He declined: "Rachel, I can't do that. A deal's a deal, and besides, I don't want to start off by having trouble with a new neighbor." He was sorry about the children's feelings, but would give them a new lamb, which he did.

Even at that early age — as I.J. later explained — he understood how his father felt. He had taken his new neighbor's money and did not think he could go back on the deal. Neighbors were important. When Ivory's little sister Sarah had pneumonia the next winter and almost died, the new neighbor's wife came and sat with her several nights, putting hot poultices on her chest. She

helped save Sarah's life, at least according to the story as it was remembered decades later. *Fragments*, at 209-11.

Ivory sometimes accompanied his father when they took corn to be milled or went to town to make purchases:

> Ivory often went with him and felt proud to be allowed to stay in the wagon and hold the reins of the horses. There was a little store beside the mill, and he could see in the windows that there was a glass jar which held red and white stick candy. He always hoped that his father would buy some of that candy, but he never did. Instead he bought raisins and crackers for them to munch on as they drove home.

Years later Mabel asked I.J. why he didn't ask his father to buy candy.

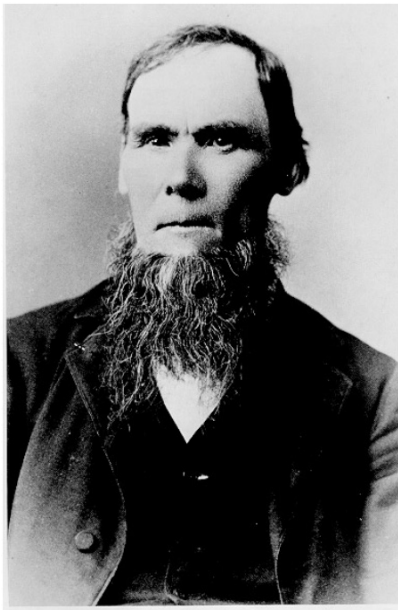
> He answered, 'In my day children did not do that — they took what was given to them and were thankful for it.'

Another time when Ivory was about 8 years old, he went with his father to Judge Joseph E. Eden's store in Sullivan. The "judge" was a brother of John R. Eden, Ivory's future father-in-law:

> The store was in a large room just south of the Eden hotel, where the First National Bank is now. It was rather cool, and while standing near the big stove I looked around and saw hanging in several places cards: 'We sell for cash only,' and 'Please do not ask for credit.'
>
> While we were standing there Judge Eden came in, and after a few words of greeting asked, 'Well, what can we do for you this morning?' Father said, "I don't know how much; these cards are a little discouraging.' The Judge leaned over a little (he was quite tall) and said, not very loud, "Young man, you know quite well that those cards were not put up for you!' He then went with us to one of his clerks and said, 'Let Mr. Martin have anything he wants to buy and give him all the credit he asks for.' I think Father was not in any way surprised, and took it as only a matter of course, but the incident gave me one of the proudest moments of my life.

Ivory had playmates in his own family and many neighboring families. He wrote later that he was friends with the children of "a half dozen families — the Elders, Hostetters, Harrisons, Garretts, Merkles, and Phillips." He particularly remembered Warren Hillingost, Charlie Edwards, Joe Merkle, and Dave Maxedon.

Ivory had an affectionate childhood interest in one neighbor girl whose family lived in nearby Gays. He told one of his daughters when he was 67 years old about the "little girl that I used to dream about 57 years ago." *As Ever*, at 94.



John Neely Martin

Rachel Elvina Martin

III
School

I.J. Martin would become the first Martin in his family line who made a living with his mind rather than his back and shoulders.

During the years Ivory was growing up in Whitley Township, children whose families lived in the country typically attended one-room country schools taught by teachers who had roughly the equivalent of a high school education and were granted certificates to teach by a county superintendent of schools. One of the first schools in Moultrie County had been conducted at Whitley Point in a log cabin owned by one of the Waggoner families. Classes were later conducted in the Lynn Creek church, less than a mile south of Ivory's home. By the time Ivory reached school age, several schools were operating in Whitley Township.

The country schools received some county support, but parents also had to pay a fee for children to attend school. A description of the "typical" country schools of that era in the *History of Moultrie County Schools* by Vera Slover, 1976, may be roughly applicable to the Whitley Township schools attended by young Ivory:

> The earliest schools … were little log cabin school houses. They

had poor heat, rough furniture, and crude books. A typical school building … was of unhewn logs and was about 20 feet long and 16 feet wide. The cracks between the logs were filled with mud. The roof was made of clapboards held down by poles. There was a door in one end and a chimney at the other. It was heated by a fireplace or by a large stove.

There was a log cut out most of the length of the building for a window, and small panes of glass must have been fixed in some manner in this opening; and just below it a plank was placed sloping like the top of a desk. This was the writing desk where all learning to write must come.

Each student brought a goose quill and the master made pens as needed with a small knife. The floor was made of split logs laid side by side, and the desks were made by driving pegs into the floor with a wooden slab set on this for a writing surface. Benches for the boys and girls had no backs and were very uncomfortable. …

Usually the room was heated by a fireplace and the children who sat farthest from the fireplace did not keep very warm; those who sat closest were too warm.

There was no uniformity of school text books in those early schools. Pupils were sent to school with such books as the family had; usually the Bible was all the family owned. … Each pupil worked out his arithmetic problems on a slate and often went up to the teacher to have a problem checked so he could wipe the slate clean with his slate rag and work another problem.

The first schooling Ivory experienced was in the summers. In the summer of 1866, at the age of 6, he went to the "Smyser school" — almost certainly the school in Section 10 (*1875 Atlas*) about a mile east of the Martin home, on land owned by W. Smyser. His teacher was a man named Gainer. Ivory's recollections were "mainly" of the playground: "I remember one of the larger boys, Jake Burch, getting a whipping. I think that was the only incident of the kind in the whole term. Most teachers then made a sterner record." *Fragments of Martin Family History,* at 160.

The following summer, 1867, Ivory attended the Whitfield school which was taught by Sarah ("Sadie") Scott. This school was about a mile west of the family home, near the homes of the Mirkles, Edwards, Waggoners, Maxedons, and Whitfields. He also mentioned attending a winter term taught by John Mason, "one of the best teachers of his day."

In 1868 Ivory again attended the summer term at the Whitfield school with John Mason. One of his classmates was Bill Wrackley, the son of a tenant farmer on the Whitfield property. Ivory regarded him as a counterpart of Huck Finn. A story about Wrackley makes it clear that farm work trumped school work:

> One morning he came to school without his dinner bucket — said he never wanted dinner anyway. School, or "books" it was called, always started as soon as enough pupils arrived. In a short time Mrs. Wrackley appeared, and seeing her son through an open window, she shouted, 'Bill Wrackley, come here this minute; you knowed your father wanted you to chop corn.' Bill, without asking leave, grabbed his hat and ran. *Id.,* at 160-61.

Politics sometimes intruded into the school yard, and 1868 was a Presidential election year. The candidates were General Ulysses Grant and former New York Governor Horatio Seymour. Ivory remembered that all the boys at school were Democrats except William Edward Waggoner, an older boy. "Will Ed," as he was called, kept the Democrat boys "fighting mad" with his political talk. "One day at noon John Phillips, one of the large boys, stopped at the school, and we … proceeded to tell John all the mean things that Will Ed had said. We hoped to start a fight, but John and Will Ed only laughed about it. Realizing that we were made game of, we refused to get excited any more."

Ivory also remembered that in that 1868 election, Shelbyville was visited by the nationally-known Democrat Clement L. Vallandigham. "A great crowd of democrats met at the Whitfield cross roads and formed a mile long procession to go to Shelbyville to hear Vallandigham speak. I wanted to go, and I think if I had asked Father, who was in the procession, he would have taken me along." *Fragments*, at 163. But Ivory did not ask.

In the fall and winter of 1868-1869, as Ivory passed his 10th birthday, he was enrolled again at the Whitfield school but with a different teacher. I.J. suggested in his memoir that the community had let John Mason go to save money:

> At the Whitfield school they sometimes let a good teacher go on account of salary, and for the fall and winter term 1868-1869, George W. Rare was employed. He was a well-educated, likable young man, and probably would have been successful if he had not been the successor of Mason. I think he had the noisiest school I ever saw. An unusual situation was that he had no trouble with the larger pupils, but with the boys — and girls too — of the intermediate ages.

Ivory attended the summer term of 1869 at the Smyser school but remembered later that he felt like an "outsider." He also remembered a picnic given at the end of the summer and his disappointment at learning that John Mason had been hired to teach thereafter in Sullivan.

Ivory attended the Whitfield school during the fall and winter terms, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, and 1874. He remembered a series of teachers who were not distinguished: Frank Peadro ("the school was not a success"); John Wilson ("a stern disciplinarian but not a very good teacher"); Bob Peadro; then John Pennell Boggs ("a picturesque character and … a pretty good teacher"); Mr. Ferguson ("a fairly good teacher"). Ivory was 14 when he studied with Ferguson, who was "a good penman" and gave a week of intense instruction and practice in penmanship, after which I.J. reported that he could write "pretty well, better than I do now," in his 80s.

School discipline in the Whitley country schools could be harsh, though Ivory apparently was never the target of such treatment. He remembered an incident that happened when he was about 12. His teacher then, John Wilson, "always carried a switch in his hand which he used several times a day — sometimes only three or four blows, and sometimes a dozen or more. The recitation bench was on a rostrum at the end of the room, and the class faced the bench. One morning I was in the class and just in front of me a girl about my age, 11 or 12, was seated and she was watching two boys on the seat behind her, who were writing or perhaps drawing a picture on a slate. Wilson spoke to her sharply and told her to turn around in her seat. But after a while she turned her head and looked back. Wilson stepped from the rostrum and gave her a

dozen stinging blows across her shoulders. … The girl, Nellie Makepeace, was a quiet, well-behaved pupil, and her punishment was an inexcusable outrage." Wilson soon resigned, perhaps as a result of this incident. *Id.*, at 164.

On another occasion, in summer term either in 1873 or 1874, a girl about 14 was badly switched. I.J. told the story: "In that day, a common punishment was to make a pupil stand on the floor, sometimes with a clown or dunce hat on his head. … Tabitha [Jones] 14 years old, was particularly willful. One day for some slight fault, [the teacher, Charley Warden] ordered her to take her book and stand in the corner of the room, and she refused to obey. He threatened to whip her, but she still refused. He then sent a boy for a switch. He wore out three switches on her shoulders before she yielded. The girl did not seem to mind the punishment much — not so much as the teacher, who was almost a nervous wreck at the close." *Id.*, at 166.

According to his own later account, Ivory neglected school until 1873-74. Then came a turning point in his life:

> Until my fourteenth year, I had never taken school very seriously I could write and read fairly well, and had studied the arithmetic text until I knew the simple processes very well. While I neglected school, I had become a steady reader of books, and I think Mother had noticed it.
>
> Anyway just before school began in the fall of 1874, Father asked me what new books I would need for school, and said I might start at the beginning of the term, as they could gather the corn without my help. I was elated and felt like I was starting a new life. I told him I would need a grammar (I had not studied it before), a history, and an advanced geography. We went to town in a day or two and bought them.
>
> I then began study in earnest. In the next two years, I gathered more text book knowledge than I had learned in all the previous years. *Id.*, at 167.

This period of focused study helped shape the trajectory of Ivory's life. But it must have been the reading at home which his mother had noticed that laid the groundwork.

Several of the books Ivory read at home had earlier belonged to his grandfathers, John and Joel Figley — which tells us that books and reading had been part of the Martin family culture going back at least to the family's early days in Illinois, if not before. In 1937 Ivory wrote a letter to his oldest daughter Olive in which he identified books he had read by the time he was 14 or 15:

> I read Goodrich's *History of All Nations* in my 14th-15th years. It was a thousand pages, made as big as the Webster dictionary was then. It had been my grandfather's [John Martin's] book and Uncle Jim had bought it at the sale in 1855. … [Goodrich's pen-name was Peter Parley.] The book was written for children and was made quite interesting but was wonderfully informing. I have found little of importance such that I did not remember reading something about it in [Goodrich's book].

In a copy of the Goodrich history which I.J. later owned, he added this note:

> My grandfather, John Martin, bought a copy of this early edition, and at the administrative sale of the property of his estate in 1856, the book was purchased by my uncle, James Lewis Martin. When I was about 13 years of age, I borrowed it of my uncle. I read much of the book, especially in the first 5 or 600 pages.
>
> I had read some in a history of Greece which my father had obtained from the library of my other grandfather — Joel Figley — and so I paid less attention to the Greek story in the later chapters (in Vol. 2 of this edition), but I read most of the other stories of the history of Europe.
>
> Father had bought from grandfather John's library a huge book quarto size and about 1000 pages — the *History of the Great West*. It was another big book that needed a special stand, like a Webster dictionary or the family bible.
>
> Nearly all of our best books came from the libraries of my two grandfathers. One of them, Joel Figley, was a preacher and from his came Seneca's *Morals*.

In his 1937 letter to Olive, Ivory again wrote about the *History of the Great West*:

> Another big book, *History of the Great West,* had been bought at the same time by Father, and I read it through — some of it many times before I was fourteen, when I borrowed Uncle Jim's book.
>
> I had also read the life of Daniel Boone, Goldsmith's *History of Greece*, and '*A Guide to Virtue*,' based on Seneca's moral essays. All three of these books had come from the library of my other grandfather [Joel Figley Martin].

Some of the other books read by Ivory had been acquired by his father, whose strong Baptist faith influenced which books he kept in his own small library:

> Father bought a few books — the *Bible*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Statesman's Manua*l, a history of the civil war, which turned out to be southern propaganda, and perhaps two or three other religious or political books, for those two questions were practically all he was interested in and he wanted only one side — his — on these.
>
> In addition to all this I had read before I was 15 nearly all the *Old Testament* and the four gospels, *The Book of Acts*, and the Paul *Epistles*.

Other books were borrowed from neighbors:

> I had borrowed from Uncle Alex Edman, who was a Republican, a life of John C. Fremont, who had been the first Republican candidate for president. Father did not read it but he did not object to my having it. It was a very interesting account for the most part of Fremont's western exploration and had no political discussions in it. I think its purpose was to influence voters who were not politically-minded, and I imagined a voter who read it in 1856 with as much interest as I did in 1870 would be inclined to vote for him.
>
> About the same time I borrowed from Pa Hostetter Henry Clay Dean's *Crimes of the Civil War*, and read it rather too eagerly.

It is noteworthy that Ivory had read the biography of Fremont when he was 10 years old. So much for any assumptions about the absence of books in rural households in the middle America of the 1860s and 1870s.

One might note Ivory's mild "dig" ("he wanted only one side — his") at his father's inclination to read only the religious or political books that presented his Baptist and Democratic view of the world. Yet surely John Neely Martin, the carpenter and farmer, and Rachel, the weaver, deserve credit for having books in their home, noticing Ivory's talent and encouraging him in his studies, and relieving him from farm work at the age of 14 so that he could go to school. Some farm families did not release the older boys to go to school in the fall until after the corn husking was finished. Also, Ivory's parents did not hesitate to buy him school books even thought the recession that had begun in 1873 had made cash scarce.

Ivory's educational spurt that began in 1874 coincided with his growing interest in politics. He wrote a note about the time of his 91st birthday in which he remembered his early work in politics:

> I began work in politics in 1874 when I was only 15. With Joe Merkle I worked at the polls to persuade democrats to vote for Eden for Congress instead of a Republican running on the Farmer's ticket. I kept active in organization work until 1918 with the exception of one year, 1896.

The years 1874 through 1876 marked the "take-off" period in Ivory's intellectual development. He gave much credit to his teachers. During the 1874-1875 school year, Ivory's teacher was Polk Rose — "the wisest, and in most things, the best teacher I ever had." Ivory was indignant because the following year the directors of the school let Rose go in order to hire a less-expensive teacher. Despite the economic measure, the 1875-76 school year was also successful. Ivory wrote, "Gideon A. Edwards was an excellent teacher. His education was broader, especially in history and literature, but Rose excelled him in intensity of application."

The educational benefit gained in those two school years was supplemented by the after-hours extra-curricular debating society that met once a week at the Whitfield school house. Ivory remembered, "They debated

every sort of question except those involving political or religious controversy. They debated the Darwinian theory, although none of them knew much about it." The debates continued for about two years but were then discontinued because some of the young men in attendance became "disorderly." *Fragments*, at 168-9.

In the summer of 1876, Ivory attended a six-weeks summer school term in Sullivan. He wrote Mabel many years later (January 13, 1949):

> I never thought of spending money (I had none of my own) until I was 17 years of age and was teaching school. Father had paid for me the cost of a summer term at school and I knew he didn't have any too much money.

That summer of 1876 Ivory had as his teachers Polk Rose, Henry L. Boltwood ("the most scholarly man I ever knew"), and Eunice J. Bastion — "as fine a group of instructors as could be found or wished." *Fragments,* at 168. I.J. did not report where the summer school classes were conducted, but they may have been in the new North Side School, construction of which had been completed in the fall of 1874. The privately-run Bastion Seminary, three blocks southeast of the court house, seems to have closed its doors sometime in the early 1870's following the death of its proprietor, N. S. Bastion.

Ivory's teachers assigned some serious reading during those middle-teenage years, and it was during this period that he began to accumulate a library. He had small book plates printed up and pasted them inside the front cover of his books, with numbers and prices in some of them. One example that survives is *A Manual of Ancient History*, by M.E. Thalheimer, 1872. On the front flyleaf Ivory wrote his name in an adolescent handwriting, and later added this note: "This was one of my school texts in the 1870's. A good book as to the facts but rather dry reading." The book plate showed that this was the 58th book in Ivory's "private library," and that he had paid $2.00 for it. Fifty-plus books was surely an unusually large library for a teen-age student in rural Moultrie County during the mid-1870s.

Signature and bookplate in Ivory's copy of Thalheimer's Manual of Ancient History

Another text book from that same period, also with a personalized book plate but unnumbered, is a textbook on astronomy — *Geography of the Heavens*, Elijah Burritt, 1873. It must have been carefully studied as textual passages are marked for emphasis. One marked passage read as follows: "The celebrated astronomer Schroeder conjectured the existence of a great city on the east side of the Moon, a little north of her equator, an extensive canal in another place, and fields of vegetation in another." Ivory wrote near this text: "False presumption." And: "I cannot believe all this book says."

Ivory must have impressed his teachers with his school work and extra-curricular studies. In March 1876 — only four months after his 16th birthday — he took and passed the teachers examination and was promised a certificate as soon as he reached the minimum certification age of 17 — which would be in November 1876. However, Ivory jumped the gun. As he slyly wrote in his family history:

> I was offered a contract to teach in a school in Coles County, and neglecting to write my age on the examination paper, I was given a license to teach in that county and began my first school five weeks before I was seventeen.

Ivory noted in the margin of his copy of the *History of Coles County,* 1879, at 248, that Rev. Allen Hill, then county School Commissioner, issued his first teachers certificate.

I.J. began his first teaching job in late September 1876. In a sense he would remain a teacher all his life. His youngest sister, Nancy, then six years old, remembered the trauma of his departure from home:

> When he was packing his trunk to move down to his boarding place (a cousin of ours), I felt like we were giving him up for good. I stayed with him until he packed two trunks, one with clothes and one with books and school supplies. Then he took me on his lap and we sat there, neither one speaking until it grew dark. We knew he would be gone before I woke up next morning. *Ivory and Rose*, at xv.

IV
Teaching

I.J. — the name by which he was known after he left home — taught seven years, part-time, in nearby country schools:

1876-77 — Wade School, Coles County

1877-78 — Bruce, Whitley Township

1878-79 —Fairview, or Maddux, school near Arthur.

1879-80 — Fairview, or Maddux, school

1880-81 — Noble, or Russell, school

1881-82 — Loxa, Coles County

1882-83 — Loxa, Coles County

These were small country schools, with pupils ranging in age from 5 or 6 to 15 in I.J.'s last year of teaching. The second and fifth of those years he

lived at home. The work was part time and the pay was low. I.J. later wrote to one of his daughters:

> When I was teaching, $300 was not regarded as a bad salary. However, I taught only five or six months in a year, employed only about half the time. The spring or summer times were usually taught by girls for $30 or $40 per month. I went to school every summer while teaching, except one. *As Ever*, at 248.

I.J.'s first year of teaching at the Wade School was the first time he ever earned any money. During that year he subscribed to a set of the *American Cyclopedia* on an installment plan. Each month a new volume was delivered. There were 17 volumes in all, for a total cost of $102. His daughter Mabel later wrote — no doubt with forgivable exaggeration — that he read everything in each volume before the next would arrive, and memorized "everything." Each volume ran 800-900 pages in length.

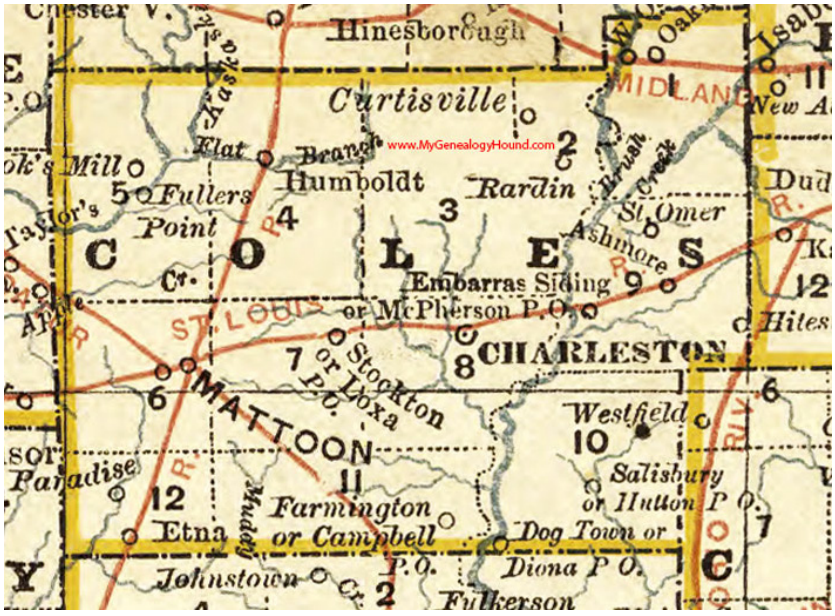
Those volumes of the encyclopedia seem to have made a profound difference in I.J.'s eduction and his life. He read them when he was young and his memory relatively unburdened. They were his university — the vehicle for his self-education. They provided the structure upon and within which he packed a lifetime of reading history, science, art and literature. The evidence may be found in the books he acquired or was given by his children over the next eight decades and the marginal notes and footnotes I.J. inscribed in those volumes.

I.J. also used his teacher's pay to buy gifts for the family, including a suit of clothes for his younger brother Joe. He regarded these gifts as partial recompense for his 1874 school tuition and his room and board while he lived at home.

For seven years I.J. taught in the fall and winter terms; and during five of those summers he attended summer school — apparently the one summer in Sullivan (1876) and four more summers at Lee's Academy in Lafayette Township near Loxa midway between Mattoon and Charleston in Coles County. ("I went to school every summer for five years." Letter to Mabel, January 13, 1949.)

Lee's Academy was a private school conducted in a one-room frame building. It opened in 1871 and continued for 17 years. At times there were as

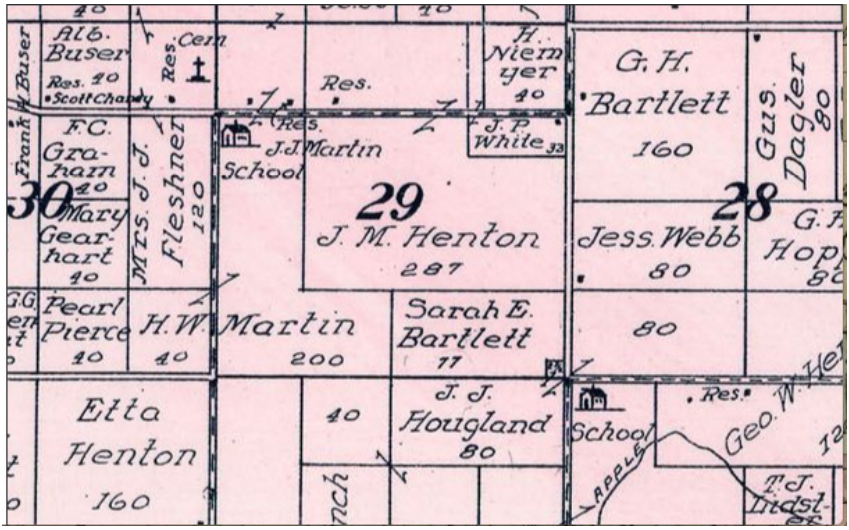
many as 100 students taking courses ranging from grade school to the junior-senior high school level. It offered a curriculum designed for students who wished to become school teachers. I.J. took individualized instruction from Captain Thomas J. Lee, a graduate of West Point with an MA degree from Indiana University. The books I.J. found at Loxa and the volumes of the encyclopedia that showed up each month were I.J.'s first exposure to a broad range of literature, history and science. Mabel later believed that his life-long enthusiasms for study and reading were inspired by his summers at Lee's Academy.



Loxa — on the rail line east of Mattoon.

During some of those summers I.J. boarded with the family of Henry Whitaker Martin who lived a few miles northwest of Mattoon. Henry — a grandson of both William Harvey Martin and James Scott Martin — had grown up on the old Coles County family property and moved to Texas, where he was drafted into the Confederate Army. After the War he returned to Coles County and spent the rest of his life there. I.J. remembered that he had bought from the Neely heirs the land in North Okaw Township where his farm was located. *History of Coles County,* at 829; *More Fragments*, at 216; *Fragments*, at 108. Henry had a son named John James, known as "J.J."

Henry W. Martin's farm home was in Section 29 in North Okaw Township, as shown in the 1913 *Atlas of Coles County*, on East Co. Road, 1170 North. Land owned by Henry appears at the southwest corner of Section 29, while land owned by his son, John J. Martin, appears just to the north, near a school house.



North Okaw Township, Coles County Atlas, 1913.

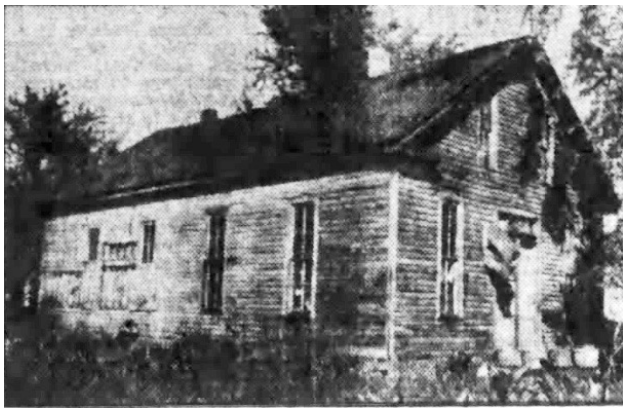
The Wade School where I.J. taught his first year was a short distance east of the Henry W. Martin home, at the intersection of East County Road 1170 North and 100 East. The Loxa school where he taught the last two years was near the village of Loxa itself, east of Mattoon in Lafayette township, about 14 miles from the Henry W. Martin farm. The Lee Academy where I.J. studied was also in Loxa.

I.J. earned an excellent reputation as a teacher. A brief squib in the *Mattoon Gazette,* March 31, 1882, reported: "Ivory Martin who has been home visiting friends, has returned and will commence his school in District No. 6 next Monday. He is an honor to the profession."

Decades later, looking back over his long life I.J. remembered:

I went to school every summer for five years. I spent and gave away all I made but I have no distinct recollection of details. The last two years I taught near Loxa where I had attended school at Lee's Academy. I had made a fairly good reputation as a student there, and this led to employment [at the country school] without my applying …. I saved some money there and came to Sullivan in April 1883 with about $200 out of the earnings of seven years' work. But I believe the remainder had been well spent. *As Ever,* 332.

Professor T.J. Lee.



Lee's Academy at Loxa as it appeared in the 1930s.

As his teaching career came to an end, just after he moved to Sullivan in 1883, I.J. joined with his father and brother in buying for $1000 40 acres of timber land near the Whitley Township family home. (Conveyance, August 24, 1883.)

In early 1885, I.J. lost his favorite sister, Sarah. He summarized what happened in his family history:

> My sister Sarah was married in the spring of 1884 to Charles Batson, an industrious young man, who had worked for Father on the farm at intervals for two or three years. She died in less than a year after her marriage. I do not remember seeing Charley at her funeral. *Fragments,* at 169.

That last sentence — about not remembering Charley at the funeral — is

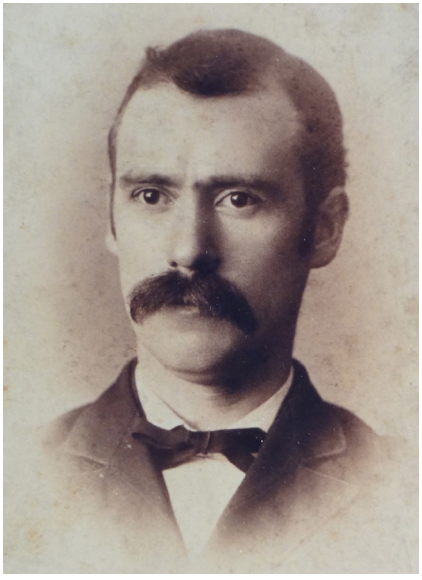
strange and suggests that Ivory did not tell as much as he knew.

I.J. had opposed the marriage. He thought Sarah was bright and wanted to help her attend Lee's Academy. He thought Charley Batson "good enough but good for nothing" — lacking education, skills or ambition. One of I.J.'s daughters later wrote that he had not attended their wedding.

Sarah was buried in the Lynn Creek cemetery. The cemetery record shows that she died February 10, 1885, and that the "infant son" of C. and S.E. Batson died June 14, 1885." So Sarah must have died in childbirth. We will never know why Charley did not come to her funeral.

V

Sullivan



I.J. — At about the time he moved to Sullivan in 1883.

Following his last term of teaching at Loxa, in April 1883 at the age of 23 and with seven years of teaching experience under his belt, I.J. accepted the position of deputy County Clerk and moved from Whitley Township to the nearby town of Sullivan, the county seat of Moultrie County, about seven miles to the northwest. He knew the town, of course, having gone there with his father many times on family business and attended summer school there in 1876.

Sullivan was where the county offices were located and official business transacted. It must have seemed a good place for a bright, self-educated young man with good writing skills. Perhaps it was the availability of a position in the office of the County Clerk, Charles Shuman, that drew Ivory to Sullivan. I.J.'s pay, he told his daughter decades later, "would now be considered pitifully small but I saved $500 in two years." *As Ever*, at 332.

Charles Shuman, the County Clerk and a Democrat, was an important man in young I.J. Martin's life and would remain so for decades. Charles was the son of an immigrant German cobbler. He was born in Philadelphia in 1843, then moved with his family to Kentucky as a small child. In 1857 the Shumans left Kentucky for Edgar County, Illinois. When Charles reached adulthood, he left Edgar County with a new pair of shoes made by his father, who, according to family legend, advised him to walk until they wore out. He did not get far. Addison McPheeters, a Sullivan-area farmer, needed farm help as his sons were serving in the Union army. Charles went to work for McPheeters and soon fell in love with his daughter Mary. He found time to take classes and earn a degree from McKendree College at Lebanon, and then taught school in East Nelson Township. After marrying Mary McPheeters, he became County Clerk in 1882, a position he held until 1890. Later he moved on to start an elevator, buy a newspaper (with I.J.), establish the First National Bank, and serve as President of the Sullivan Mutual Fire Insurance Company, along with other varied business activities.

In 1883 when I.J. went to work as his deputy, Charles Shuman was 16 years his senior. I.J.'s daughter Mabel later remembered that her father "had great respect and admiration" for Charles Shuman, and "often spoke of him." *Fragments*, at 191.

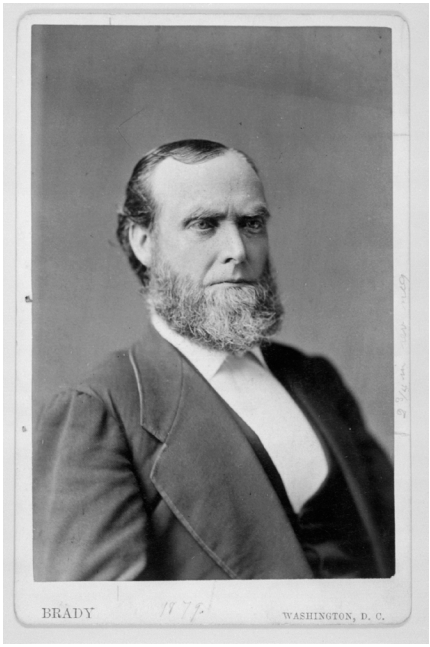
The county clerk's office was in the court house, in the center of Sullivan. The clerk's job was to act as record keeper for the county court, the judicial arm of the county, and for the board of supervisors, the administrative branch of county government. The office was responsible for maintaining records used in assessment and collection of taxes, vital statistics, licenses, election registers and returns, and bonds.

We know from I.J.'s stationery that he took a room at the Eden House, a three-story brick hotel owned by Joseph E. Eden — the merchant Ivory had

met years earlier when his father brought him to town to purchase goods. The hotel, rebuilt in 1878 following a fire, was located across the street west of the courthouse. It had forty sleeping rooms, a dining room (but no bar), and parlors, and was considered a fine hotel for a small town.

I.J.'s room at the hotel was comfortable if not spacious. He described himself in one letter this way: "I am in my room with a good fire and everything comfortably arranged. I am seated in a rocking chair with my writing material on my lap. Before me is my library case with its shelves of precious books staring me in the face." *Ivory and Rose,* at 39.

When I.J. went to work at the court house in the spring of 1883 he would have rubbed shoulders with all the county and city officials, including the county judge, Jonathan Meeker, a successful lawyer as well as judge. Before the Civil War, Meeker and his brother-in-law John R. Eden had been law partners. The circuit clerk's position — separate from that of county clerk — was filled by Samuel W. Wright. The State's Attorney was William Hollins Shinn, who later served as Mayor. The county superintendent of schools was Benjamin F. Peadro.



John R. Eden and Roxana Meeker Eden

John R. Eden, a prominent Sullivan lawyer and politician, would have been frequently in the court house. John R. had married Roxana Meeker, the judge's sister. The Meekers traced their family (through Hannah Soule Waterman Ripley) back to Miles Standish, John Alden and other Mayflower immigrants. John R.'s brother Joseph was the local hotel owner and store keeper.

John R. had been elected to Congress to a two-year term in 1862, and re-elected in 1872, 1874 and 1876. He was not in Congress when I.J. moved to town in 1883 but would be re-elected to a final two-year term in 1884. Even when serving in Congress, Eden was able to conduct his law practice when Congress was not in session.

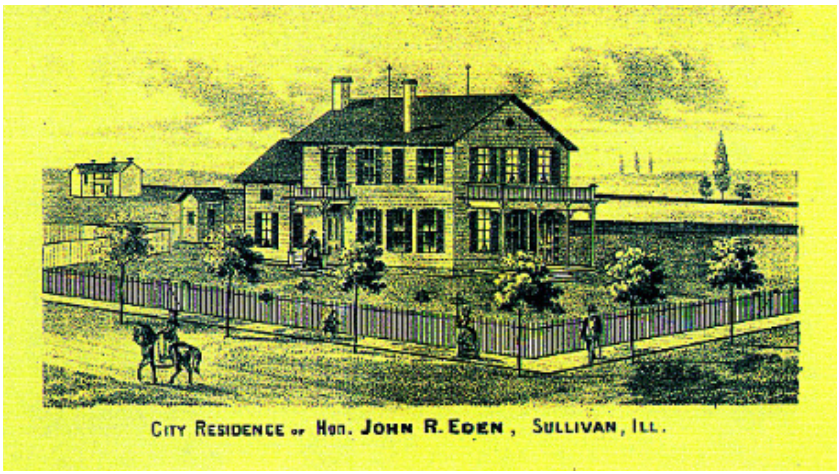
Eden had a farm two miles southwest of Sullivan on what is now Eden Street. For two years, 1870-1872, his family had lived in Decatur where Eden practiced law. In 1872 they had moved back to Sullivan into a large new house a few blocks west of the square near the corner of Jefferson and McClellan Streets. He told family members that "he'd rather be a big frog in a little puddle than a little frog in a big puddle." His son Walter later explained that they had moved back to Sullivan because John R. thought the prospects for his law practice and political career would be better there.

In mid-1883 Walt Eden, then 20, was serving as Deputy Circuit Clerk for Sam Wright — which put Walt in an office only a few steps away from Ivory, who was just three years his senior. When not busy in the circuit clerk's office, Walt Eden also worked in the abstract business with Wright, producing abstracts of title for use in land transactions. Walt was later elected County Treasurer, and then Mayor for two terms, in 1887 and 1889. He then decided to move to California so was not a candidate for re-election in 1891. Walt's brother, Thomas Hartwell Eden, had died in 1879 at the age of 19.

The Edens had four daughters: Rose, Belle, Emma and Blanche.

Rose, Belle, Emma, & Blanche Eden

The Eden home was a large two-story frame structure with a handsome front porch. It still stands 140-plus years later — or remnants do, transfigured by carpenters and time.



The Eden home in 2018

While working in the county clerk's office, I.J. began the study of law in the office of John R. Eden. *Mattoon Commercial,* October 27, 1910. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, after sufficient time clerking for a member of the bar, an aspiring lawyer could apply and be examined for admission to the bar without either a college or law degree. However, before I.J. could complete his law studies, his career took a different path.

In May 1885, after only two years working for Charles Shuman, I.J. left the county clerk's office and went into the newspaper business, becoming "acting editor" and part owner of the *Sullivan Progress.* The paper had been owned since 1873 by W.H. Smyser and W.J. Mize, whom Ivory regarded as the "two greatest newspaper men — barring none, present company not excepted — that Sullivan has ever known." About 1880 Smyser had bought the *Champaign Times.* Then in 1885 three Mize brothers — W.J., G.W. (or "Wash"), and Robert, along with two Stearns brothers, purchased the *Decatur Review,* so the Sullivan paper became available. Mize told a reporter he sold out because Sullivan had three newspapers and the prospects for the future did not seem bright. Also, he was "tired of the incessant work of a newspaper and needed rest."

The prospect of competition and hard work did not deter Ivory. He and William Wallace ("W.W.") Eden, a son of J. E. Eden (the merchant and

hotel manager), bought out Smyser and Mize, with Ivory acquiring a one-third interest. The May 29, 1885, issue of the *Mattoon Gazette* reported that, "On Friday of last week, Alla T. Stearns sold his interest in the *Sullivan Progress* back to Smyser & Mize, who on the same day sold a third interest in the office to Ivory J. Martin, deputy county clerk." A news clipping confirms that by July 1885 Ivory was serving as editor of the *Progress.*

I.J. later told one of his daughters that he bought his one-third interest in the newspaper for $2,000 "and had only $800 to pay down." *As Ever,* at 103.

Not long after, W.W. Eden sold his two-thirds to Charles Shuman, Ivory's former employer, and A.W. Vaughn. The transfer of ownership apparently was not completed until mid-November 1886. The *Mattoon Gazette* reported, with perhaps a tad of jealousy:

> The *Sullivan Progress* has fallen into the hands of A.W. Vaughn, I.J. Martin and Chas. Shuman. We understand it will be run in the firm name of I.J. Martin & Co. — Sullivan News. *Mattoon Gazette*, November 19, 1886.

Vaughn soon retired, leaving Martin and Shuman as the owners. I.J. served as editor and managed both the newspaper and printshop.

(The *Portrait and Biographical Record of Shelby & Moultrie Counties*, 1891, gives a slightly different chronology, at 460: "Mr. Martin has been its editor and manager since 1885 and added to those duties its proprietorship in 1887.")

Under Smyser and Mize the paper had been located on the third floor of the Opera House building, northwest of the courthouse. The office was moved, probably in 1885 or 1886 when ownership was changed, to the second floor of a new two-story brick building on the northeast corner of the square. *Sanborn map of Sullivan,* 1886.

When I.J. took over the paper, it was a three-column folio newspaper printed with hand-set type and said to be a "model of typographical neatness." The earliest surviving fragments of the *Progress*, from May 1886, show it was issued daily during the week and sold for 5 cents.

Initially the business was a partnership. It was incorporated in 1891 and on February 12, 1892, Ivory and Charles Shuman, along with J.H. Meeker, filed articles of incorporation for The Progress Printing Company, with capital stock of $10,000.

VI
Ivory and Rose

We do not know exactly when and how Ivory first met Rose Eden, the daughter of John R. Eden. Born November 2, 1858, she was a year older than Ivory. After her father was re-elected to Congress in 1876, he had taken Rose and Emma, her older sister, to Washington, where they were enrolled in the Academy of the Visitation, a nearby Catholic school in Georgetown. There Rose met students from different parts of the country and studied literature, history, science, art, music and languages — French and German. She was an excellent student, winning awards in French, rhetoric and music.

Rose graduated from the Academy as valedictorian in June 1879 about the time her father's fourth term in Congress expired. She then returned to Sullivan where she seems to have kept busy with her literary interests, music, family, and the Christian Church. An amateur poet, she was a member of the Twenty Club, a local literary club devoted to "improvement and social culture." Rose was also a gifted amateur pianist and gave piano lessons to local children.

Rose Eden about the time of her graduation in 1879 from the Academy of the Visitation in Georgetown.

Ivory seems not to have had any serious romantic interests before Rose Eden. In later years he spoke of a young cousin, Mary Lane, of whom he had once been "quite fond." Mabel George believed "he had dreams of marrying her, but she married someone else at an early age." That cousin was probably Mary Martin, a daughter of Ivory's uncle, Will Tom Martin, who married James Lewis Lane.

In the spring and summer of 1883, at the age of 24, Rose was beyond the age at which most young women married. She had had two romantic interests.

The first was G.W. (or "Wash") Mize, a brother of the W.J. Mize who had owned the *Sullivan Progress*. W. J. Mize was then the Secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee. His brother Wash Mize had for many years been the foreman of the night force of the *Review* office in Decatur. The Mizes had purchased a half interest in the *Review* in November 1883. Wash

Mize was later appointed collector of internal revenue for the IRS in Chicago by President Cleveland.

Wash Mize married Bessie James in Decatur on August 18, 1886. He later owned a newspaper in Paxton, Illinois.

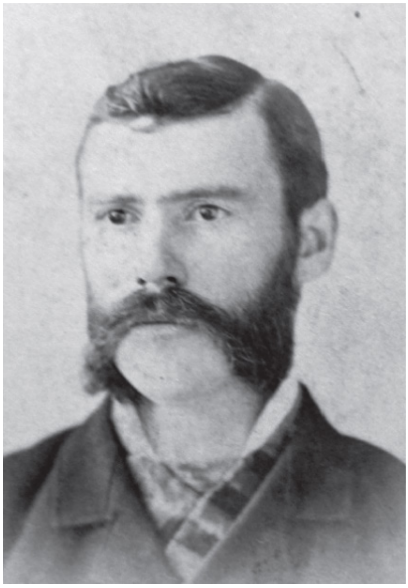
The only evidence we have for a romantic attachment between Rose and Wash Mize is a letter her daughter Olive wrote to her sister Mabel on November 29, 1967. Most of the letter was about their sister Elvina who died very young. But then appears this passage:

> Mamma got her last chance to talk to Wash Mize, to whom she had been engaged before she met Papa, when she went to the nursery to get Elvina where he had gone there to get Bob. Earlier she and Papa had gone to Decatur to the theater. Wash Mize was seated near them and Papa introduced the two to each other.
>
> By 1912 Wash was living across the street from Uncle Walt [Eden] and his daughter Millie and I went out together to visit them. Rose Eden [daughter of Neely, Olive's brother] was a baby then and I was quite thrilled about her. The first time I mentioned her name, Mr. Mize asked, 'Now, who is Rose Eden?'

"Uncle Walt" would have been in a position to know about the friendship between his sister Rose and his friend Wash, and almost certainly explained the significance of Mize's question to his niece, Olive. I.J. apparently did not know about it — otherwise he would not have introduced the two of them at the Decatur theater. He did not mention it in any of his letters to Rose.

Rose's second romantic interest was George Snapp. More on him below.

If Ivory and Rose had not met before he moved to town, they surely became acquainted within weeks of his arrival in the spring of 1883. The earliest surviving evidence of contact between Ivory and Rose is a note dated July 22, 1885, from Rose to "Mr. Martin," responding to a note from Ivory asking if he could pay a call the next evening. They went on a buggy ride together and to a picnic with other young people.



Ivory, about 1885

Rose, about 1885

In the mid-1880s it was considered inappropriate for young people of marriageable age to visit each other without a chaperone. Telephone service did not arrive in Sullivan until 1901. So Ivory and Rose communicated by notes and letters, which were taken to the post office and left in boxes to be picked up by the addressees. Sometimes a local boy might act as messenger to deliver a note or letter to the residence or office. These letters — over the next year, from late July 1885 to June 1886 — survive thanks to their daughters, Olive and Mabel George, and Mabel's son and grandson. They are collected in a volume, *Ivory and Rose, A Year's Courtship*, Chicago, 1997, and provide a unique view of the activities, thoughts, hopes and anxieties of these two bright young people as they came to know and love each other.

I.J. was six feet tall, slender, with dark eyes and brown hair. As a young man he wore a mustache. By the time he was married he had grown mutton-chop sideburns, without chin whiskers. Within a couple of years, the mutton-chops had grown to a full beard. When he reached his early forties, at the first sign of grey hair he shaved off the beard.

Sometime in late July or August 1885, I.J. realized he must decide

whether he wanted their friendship to develop into something more. "I first realized the necessity of either restraining or indulging my affections …." He also realized that he had a competitor.

George N. Snapp had grown up in Coles County and taught school in the Whitley Point area, so I.J. and Snapp knew each other. By the fall of 1885 Snapp had left Sullivan and was taking classes at Normal in Bloomington. Snapp carried on a correspondence with Rose and occasionally came to Sullivan to see her.

One evening in the autumn of 1885 Ivory attended services at the Christian Church in the hope that Rose would be there. Snapp had told him that he was going to call on Rose that day, and I.J. learned somehow that they had spent the afternoon together. He thought they might come to church together that evening as well. When they did not show up at church, he decided that Snapp was spending the evening with Rose at home, and the thought "almost maddened" him. He never passed an evening in "more extreme mental torture." He concluded that he was foolish for "wasting any more thoughts" on Rose, but — fortunately for his descendants — decided to give himself one more chance: to go out with her, "just once more and then quit." *Ivory and Rose*, at 103-104.

Ivory's suspicions about why Rose had not come to church that evening turned out to be unfounded. Rose had remained away because of her concern about Ivory's feelings: "Having accepted [his] company a short time before, I was determined not to appear at church with Mr. Snapp. We spent the evening at Mrs. Dr. Porter's."

Two weeks later Ivory invited Rose to go with him to a picnic. He picked the date knowing it was a date when Snapp planned to be in Sullivan to see Rose. Someone suggested that Ivory "change partners" for the picnic, but he declined. Rose went to the picnic with Ivory, which left him "sufficiently encouraged" to continue going out with Rose "a few more times": "I had made up enough courage to try my fortune, and when the gentleman [Snapp] woke up to a realization of his danger, his wife was gone." *Id.*, at 104-105.

Their relationship blossomed that fall. Ivory and Rose went on picnics with other young people and enjoyed plays at the Titus Opera House. They went driving in a buggy on Sunday afternoons, and played cards — often whist — in the evenings or on weekend afternoons when the weather was bad. Though it

was customary for young men and women not to be alone in a home unescorted, it seems to have been acceptable to take buggy rides without company. They attended "reading circle" together and read parts in plays and poetry.

Ivory wrote flirtatious comments in his letters and excused them with literary references: "I saw in looking over our exchanges today a quotation from one of the great masters of thought — Cervantes perhaps — to the effect that a man who has not engaged in one or two 'genuine' flirtations is not fitted for the serious duties of life, that he does not know how to be really in earnest without some such preparation; while a woman who has been heartless enough to trifle with the affections of a noble man, and who has once launched herself upon the ocean of deceit and falsehood, is forever disqualified or disabled to fill the place of true womanhood because of her sensibilities being irreparably blighted."

Rose — a religious young lady — chided Ivory about his lack of religious seriousness:

> You certainly think my belief a pleasant one, even if it isn't right, since you express a wish to believe the same way. If you thought as I do, you would not give any thought at all to a great many disputed doctrines, because no one knows these things — they only have opinions.
>
> Yes, I think as you do that every one is his own judge of right and wrong so long as he takes the Bible for a guide — and I would not influence any one to come into the Christian Church unless he had faith in it and sincere too — because a church member who is doubtful and not in earnest had better be out of the church. *Id.* at 11.

By October 1885 Ivory was addressing his notes to "My Dear Friend." The following month, Rose took to addressing some of her notes, "My Dear Ivory" and "My Dear Friend." He quoted poetry to her.

In early November 1885 Ivory and Rose went to Decatur to see George C. Miln in a production of *Hamlet* at the Decatur opera house. The *Decatur Review* reported in separate items that Miss Rose Eden went to the program with Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Ogle, and that I.J. had called on the *Review* and then gone to see the opera. It would have been unseemly for Ivory and Rose to go to the play together unchaperoned.

In December their relationship reached a crisis point. On December 11, 1885, Rose wrote:

> I thought you were displeased with me last night, and a note would tell me once again that you were not. I am too proud to tell you all my thoughts last night and this morning — how I would like to go away off some where — but I was obliged to take up my duties here at home and go on assuming a cheerfulness.
>
> You did right to write me as you have done, since you know best. You think we might be friends, but I fear it will only lead to more anxiety and trouble, of which I have already had my full share; but since I knew you, I have had a great deal of happiness, which now seems to be fading away. ....
>
> What did I do last night to make you think I had changed in my way? Indeed I was feeling badly, but I wanted to see you. You said good bye and that means a long time. I returned the note as you requested and since you regret having written those few words the other day, I shall understand that they were written only in a thoughtless manner and not in an unfriendly way — with no hidden meaning to them.

Two of Ivory's letters — including the "returned" note which Ivory regretted writing — were not saved, which makes interpretation uncertain. But it appears that a few days earlier ("the other day") Ivory had written a few "thoughtless words." He regretted having sent that first note and asked Rose to return it, which she did.

On the evening of December 10 they had a painful conversation which had ended with Ivory's abrupt "Good bye."

The next morning, December 11, Ivory apparently wrote a second note suggesting that she had somehow "changed," and perhaps they might just be "friends." Rose was distressed — wishing she could "go away off somewhere." She was afraid their friendship and happiness might be "fading away." She wrote back saying that friendship was not enough for her. It would just lead to "more anxiety and trouble."

Ivory seems to have responded with a third note saying that she should not regard friendship as "dangerous." In any event, he was ill and going home to the Whitley farm for a while.

Rose then wrote another letter on December 11, clarifying that she did not regard friendship as "dangerous" — but suggesting rather that she wanted more than friendship. She did not want him to leave her. She wanted to see him and talk with him:

> I did not mean that your friendship was dangerous — only I judged from your note that you wished me to understand that we might be friends just as you have a great many other friends and I did not think it possible. .... I don't want you to leave me in such a way — you are sick and going home, and I shall be impatient for your return. I know you will come down, won't you? and I have so much to say to you — I can't write for indeed I never was so wretched in my life. I believe you — and want you to have faith in me.

Many years later, in 1909 after Rose's death, when Ivory was organizing his papers, he wrote a note on Rose's letter of the 11th:

> I wish I had my two letters of this date. The first I suppose was returned to me at the hotel. I was sick abed. It may have been lost, or I may have burned it. The second letter I never saw again. She did not keep it as I cannot find it. I remember this day as the very worst in my life until more than 20 years later. I.J.M.

Fortunately they patched things up — and more. On December 15 they went to church together. The next day, December 16, 1885, Rose wrote to him. "My Dear Friend" was now "Dear Ivory." She said that when they were at church the evening before, she "would say your name over and over — not Mr. Martin — and was half afraid you might hear me or read my thoughts .... Last evening was one of the pleasant times we have had — we ought always to be friends, but I must be content with the present and hope for the future. ... I could not tell you last night what you wished to know — I couldn't say the words."

I.J. wrote the following notation in 1909 on Roses's letter of the 16th:

> I find no written answer of mine to her letter of December 16. But I tried to respond to its sentiments in all my conscious acts toward her in all the years that followed. If there is a conscious existence after what we call death, may God continue to shower his blessings upon her. If I knew this to be true it would ease my sorrow, and if I had faith in a reunion after death, no living man could be happier than I would be. I could wait with patience if I only knew.

By 1909 — if not by 1885 — this note shows that I.J. had moved away from the fundamentalist faith of his Baptist forbears. He thought about life after death, or reunion after death, as contingencies: "If there is a conscious existence .... If I knew this to be true ... If I had faith in a reunion after death." This was the language of an agnostic — not an atheist.

By December 21, 1885, Ivory and Rose were engaged though they did not immediately tell their families and friends. The tone of their letters became playful and happy. They wrote about card parties and work and a dinner at the Masonic hall. They went sleigh-riding. Along the way Ivory assured Rose of his love: "I never loved any one but you and you need not fear that I ever will. ... I have had a taste of heaven ...." *Id.*, at 27. More and more, he quoted poetry in his letters — a sure sign of his contented state of mind. They saw *Uncle Tom's Cabin* at the Titus Opera House.

John R. Eden, Rose's father, called on Ivory at the office in late February 1886. Ivory wrote to Rose that they had a pleasant talk, mostly on politics: "I felt like telling him something, but I decided that it was a little too early to do so." They were trying to keep the engagement a secret, even from their parents.

They failed. John R. Eden wrote to Rose on March 1, 1886, from Washington where he had gone for a session of the House of Representatives. He referred vaguely to the need for "modesty," and reserve," and noted that even "a slight and wholly innocent departure from their ideal of propriety" might produce an unfavorable opinion in the mind of a suitor:

> I have presumed this much because I have heard a rumor that you might be engaged to be married. To this I offer no objections provided your mind is at rest as to the wisdom of your choice. But if the rumor be true, you have reached the most critical period in the life of a young woman.

Rose's father underscored the need for strict adherence to propriety and added that he did not favor long courtships or engagements. He added, kindly, that she should never think it necessary to marry "in order to have a house, as long as I have one. It is as much yours as mine and will be for you all while I live." *Ivory and Rose*, 69-70.

So the engagement was no longer a secret. Rose wrote back to her father on March 5, and he responded enthusiastically on March 10: "I do not know when I have been as well pleased as when I received your loving and dutiful letter the other day."

In April I.J. wrote to John R. in Washington. John R. responded. Neither letter was saved, but clearly John R. gave his approval.

Then in May the letters of Ivory and Rose show they passed through another rough patch in their relationship. It was brought on by the arrival of a letter to Rose from George Snapp, Rose's former suitor. She had apparently written him a note letting him know of her engagement to Ivory. Snapp wrote back a "fervent" letter which aroused Ivory's curiosity and irritation. He wrote to Rose:

> You are getting so mysterious that I think of all kinds of possibilities. It is well, my dear, for both of us that I will not always take no for an answer. … If Mr. Snapp honestly believes that you have wronged him, whether you have done so or not, when he finds that it is too late to retrieve his own fortunes he may seek to ruin yours.
>
> My dear, you must quit telling me that anything affecting you does not interest or concern me. Such declarations from you sting and wound me beyond your comprehension.

Ivory pushed pretty hard. He wanted to know the details of the Snapp

relationship, and he asked Rose if she had intended to wait to tell him until after their marriage. He also offered to write a response for Rose to Snapp.

Fortunately, Rose handled the correspondence with Snapp herself, replying to him on the morning of May 13. *Id.*, at 97. She was not about to allow either Ivory or Snapp to cause a rupture in her relationship with Ivory. She wrote to Ivory saying she would let him read a copy of her letter, and told him he was the only man whose letters she cared to receive or answer. She loved him.

On May 13 Rose wrote a longer and fuller explanation to Ivory of her prior relationship with Snapp. She explained that on New Years Day 1885, she and Snapp had renewed an old friendship and resolved "*perhaps* sometimes to be *more than friends*." After Snapp had left, she realized that leaving matters that way was a mistake. She replied to Snapp saying she "did not wish t*hat understanding* any longer." (Emphasis supplied.) As she explained to Ivory:

> The following summer [1885] he wrote me so kindly, and the thought that I had wronged the only one who cared for me prompted me to *renew my promises*. Do you wonder that I hesitated to relate this story of my own folly and unquiet state of mind? (Emphasis supplied; *id.*, at 98.)

So Rose had renewed "promises" of some kind with Snapp, but she regarded them as no longer in effect.

Rose reassured Ivory that she had told him everything. She wrote: "I wish you had not written even of the possibility of my wishing to be free or your willingness to make me so." But if he found anything humiliating or unworthy, she "would not want you to keep your word. I shall never try to keep you against your will." *Id.,* at 99.

The next day, May 14, I.J. sensibly accepted Rose's explanation and put Snapp in the rear-view mirror: "My darling, … everything that unfolds itself only confirms my conviction that you are absolutely necessary for my happiness." *Id*, at 101.

Rose replied the next day to the question whether she had wanted to wait until after their marriage to reveal the "secret" of her relationship with

Snapp. "I knew this must sometime be revealed to you, and indeed dreaded the possibility of others telling you … But I put off the evil day living in the brightness of the present and really forgetting often that it was your right to know the truth …." She said she had not thought that "chapter" of her life was of much importance.

Events moved rapidly. As late as June 6 they had not yet set a date for the marriage, though Ivory wanted to move as soon as possible — suggesting either June 24 or June 30. Within a few days they settled on the 30th. Rose told her father by letter — he was then in Vandalia in the midst of a political fight for renomination as the Democratic candidate for Congress, a contest he lost. Pictures were taken at the studio of the local photographer, Andy Creech. The invitation cards went out during the third week of June.

The day before the wedding — June 29, 1886 — I.J. sold to his father for $700 his interest in the 40 acres of Whitley timberland that they had acquired three years earlier, shortly after he had moved to Sullivan. Probably he needed the money to buy and furnish a home for himself and Rose.

Ivory John Martin, 1886

Rose Eden Martin, 1886

Ivory and Rose, 1886

Ivory and Rose were married at the Eden home in Sullivan at 8:30 in the evening on June 30, 1886. The weather was perfect; the Eden home was brilliantly lighted and decorated with flowers. There were 150 guests. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Thomas Edwards. Ivory's best man was Frank M. Harbaugh, the city attorney. Rose's maid of honor was Ella Lowe.

Rose wore a cream-colored silk dress, cut in basque style with plain demi-length sleeves and pompadour neck. She carried a bouquet of white rose-buds and heliotropes. Pastries, fruits and other delicacies were served after the service. The guests and many of the wedding gifts were listed in a news article in the *Sullivan Progress*; they may be found in *Ivory and Rose*, at 128-129. Ivory's former boss in the clerk's office and partner in the newspaper, Charles Shuman and his wife, joined with several others in presenting a "parlor set, five pieces."

Rose, June 30, 1886

The description of the wedding had been planted in the *Progress* by "the boys in the office" without Ivory's consent, though he added a note saying that he had "got hold of the article in time to strike out a few flattering lines in reference to himself, the compliments of which were highly appreciated, but his egotism was not quite strong enough to allow their insertion."

The *Mattoon Journal* provided its own report of the wedding, adding its estimate that the value of the wedding gifts "would reach $500."

The day following their wedding, July 1, Ivory and Rose visited Ivory's father and mother in Whitley Township where they were congratulated by a crowd of acquaintances and old time school mates.

I.J. bought their first house for $1,200, paying out of his own pocket as he later remembered only $200 and borrowing the rest. He "had to buy because I couldn't find a suitable home for rent." *As Ever*, at 103. One of his daughters later described it as "a rather large house in the north part of town That house is still standing and in good condition. It is located a few blocks south of the high school building." The Moultrie grantor/grantee index shows that Ivory purchased two lots in Freeland's Third Addition in the block south and a west of the Titus/Sentel home. Ivory heated the house with coal, paying $5.25 per ton; four tons kept two or three rooms warm day and night all winter. *As Ever,* at 360. They lived in that home until 1889, when they rented the property to Charles Ferguson and moved into the Eden residence.

In 1891, five years after Ivory's marriage his brother, Joel Kester Martin, married Rose's sister Belle Eden. By that time Joe had been admitted to the bar and was associated in the law practice with Judge Meeker, the uncle of Rose and Belle.

George N. Snapp married Cora Niles in 1888 or 1889 and served as a teacher and school administrator in Piatt County for many years. In the mid-1920s, suffering from a chronic illness, he killed himself in his home with a pistol. *Ivory and Rose*, at 135.

Ivory always respected and honored his father-in-law. He called him "Mr. Eden" and kept his picture on his desk for forty years.

I.J. Martin

VII
The Sullivan Progress

Ivory had mutton-chop side whiskers at the time of his marriage. Within a couple of years he grew a full beard.

When I.J. Martin went to work as editor of the *Progress* in May 1885, the work of a young newspaper editor was grinding and multifaceted. The owner of the *Progress*, W.J. Mize, confided to a Decatur reporter at the time he sold the paper that it had worn upon him and he was tired of the "incessant work." I.J. served as reporter and editor, columnist, advertising salesman, and perhaps occasionally type-setter, all rolled into one. He kept the business accounts and handled the finances. He also was responsible for the print shop and the task of

printing official documents for the county or city as well as advertisements or announcements for private business and professional customers.

I.J. was well prepared for the intellectual work of writing news, columns and editorials. His school work at Lee's Academy along with his reading of the encyclopedia provided the general background he needed; and he kept himself well versed in current events. He had begun reading the *Atlantic* in 1880 and had subscribed to *Harpers Weekly* in 1884 during the Cleveland-Blaine campaign, and continued to read *Harpers* as long as it was published. He told one of his daughters many years later that *Harpers* "was noted for the editorials of George William Curtis and the cartoons of Thomas Nast."

By the late 1880's the *Progress* was published as a weekly paper. The only two issues surviving from the 19th century on microfilm — for June 21, 1888, and November 8, 1888 — appeared on Thursdays and announced that the paper was "published weekly." However, three earlier fragments of the *Progress* kept by I.J. in a scrapbook suggest that at least for a short time after he took over as editor, the paper appeared on a daily basis on week-days. I.J. pasted in his scrapbook (1) the first page of the *Sullivan Progress* for "Volume XXIX — Wednesday Morning, May 26, 1886 — Price 5 cents." (2) On the next page of his scrapbook appeared the first page for: "Volume XXIX — Thursday Morning, May 27, 1886 — Price 5 cents." (3) A few sheets later in the scrapbook appeared the second page for "Friday morning, May 28, 1886." It shows that the *Progress* was then still being published "by W.J. Mize & Co." The transfer of ownership was apparently not completed until mid-November of that year.

The first column of the three-column first page for Wednesday, May 26, 1886, was devoted entirely to advertisements of farms for sale. The second column began with a poem, "The Wife's Kiss at the Door," author unidentified. That was followed by a column and a half on sermons preached the preceding Sunday -- one delivered by "Brother Talmage" on the shortcomings of newspaper editors. I.J. brushed off the preacher's complaint that newspaper editors suffered from "lack of sympathy":

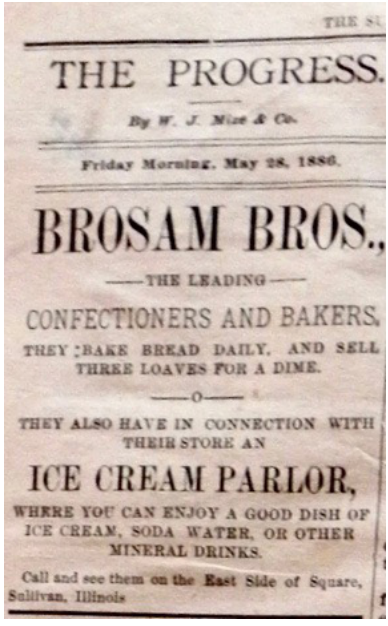
> The truth is that, instead of being the wretched creatures Brother Talmage represents them, the young fellows about newspaper offices are an unusually happy and lively lot. They like their work and its excitement, and, as a rule, they prefer it to any other that could be offered them. If they talk about brain exhaustion, they are only

displaying a little pardonable vanity by causing it to be inferred that they are engaged in profound intellectual labors, when, perhaps, they are really expending no more brain force than is required to get up Brother Talmage's sermons.

Oh, no, Brother Talmage, newspaper writers are not in a bad way for lack of sympathy, and instead of being excused for their shortcomings they should be held up sharply to their duty by the public.

The second surviving first page, for Thursday, May 27, 1886, was set up the same way as the day before — three columns with the first devoted to real estate ads. Again the middle column began with a poem and included a column, apparently copied from the *New York Sun*. Then appeared a program for memorial services scheduled for the following Sunday, May 30, for decoration of graves. The program was to begin with assembly at the Court House shortly after 2 p.m. and then a "march to the cemetery" followed by an address by Mayor W.H. Shinn and at 7:30 that evening a "mass meeting at the Opera House."

The surviving page from the Friday, May 28, 1886, issue advertised Brosam Brothers, on the east side of the square: "The leading confectioners and bakers, They bake bread daily and sell three loaves for a dime."



THE PROGRESS.

By W. J. Mize & Co.

Friday Morning, May 28, 1886.

BROSAM BROS.,

—THE LEADING—

CONFECTIONERS AND BAKERS.

THEY BAKE BREAD DAILY, AND SELL THREE LOAVES FOR A DIME.

—o—

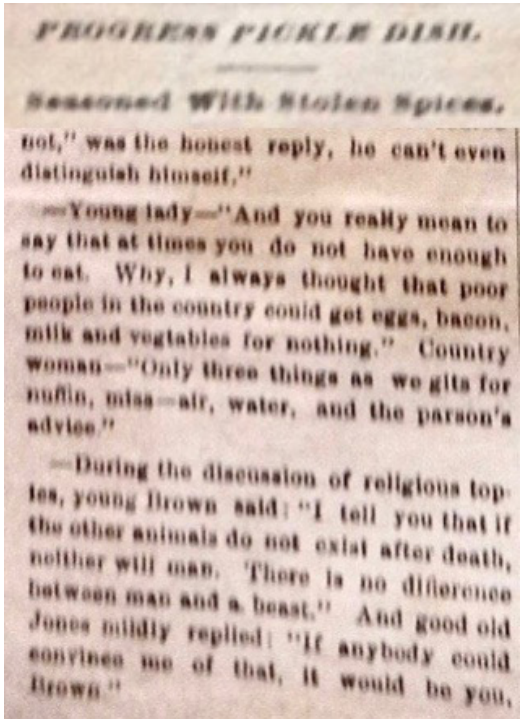
THEY ALSO HAVE IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR STORE AN

ICE CREAM PARLOR,

WHERE YOU CAN ENJOY A GOOD DISH OF ICE CREAM, SODA WATER, OR OTHER MINERAL DRINKS.

Call and see them on the East Side of Square, Sullivan, Illinois

The main news that Friday was an account of a recent assembly of Sunday school workers at the Christian Church in Sullivan. The Friday paper also included I.J.'s occasional column, the "Progress Pickle Dish," "seasoned with stolen spices," mostly copied from other papers but probably a few composed by Ivory himself. The May 28 "Pickle Dish" closed with two short witticisms:



PROGRESS PICKLE DISH.

Seasoned With Stolen Spices.

not," was the honest reply, he can't even distinguish himself."

—Young lady—"And you really mean to say that at times you do not have enough to eat. Why, I always thought that poor people in the country could get eggs, bacon, milk and vegtables for nothing." Country woman—"Only three things as we gits for nuffin, miss—air, water, and the parson's advice."

—During the discussion of religious topics, young Brown said: "I tell you that if the other animals do not exist after death, neither will man. There is no difference between man and a beast." And good old Jones mildly replied: "If anybody could convince me of that, it would be you, Brown."

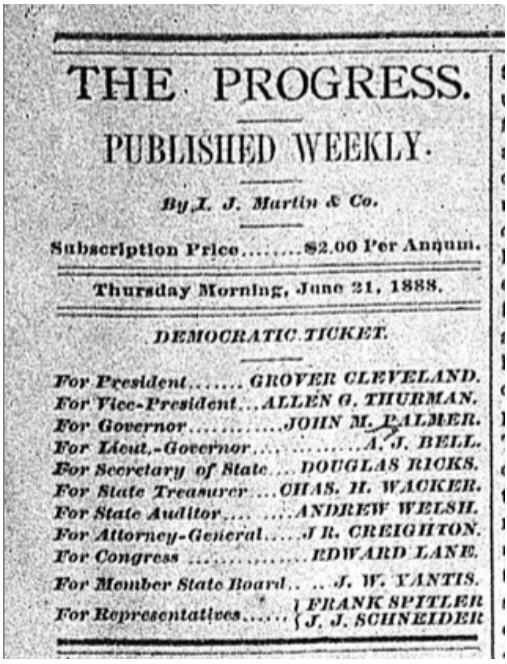
Newspaper responsibilities left I.J. with time for a few diversions. He was the deposit-holder on a guaranteed purse for the winner of a baseball game between the Shelbyville and Sullivan teams in July 1885. In early May 1886 I.J. served as secretary of the meeting of Moultrie County Democrats that selected a candidate for the state legislature later in the year.

I.J.'s letters to Rose before they were married were full of references to his work. He had forgotten his birthday in November "in the rush of work." Attending to the mail was itself a chore. He was sometimes in the printing offices as early as 7 a.m., and often read galley-proofs in the evenings.

The editorial policies of the *Progress* and its news reporting had long been aligned with the policies of the Democratic Party, and both Charles Shuman and I.J. were well-known Democrats. A significant part of the business revenues came from county government, so it was clearly an advantage that the *Progress* was politically well-connected. There was thus no sharp boundary line between the business of the newspaper and the business of politics. The *Mattoon Gazette,* on April 15, 1887, commented,

> It is a pretty nice thing to be entrenched behind good breastworks. Such is the position of the democratic organ of [Moultrie] county. I.J. Martin, the acting editor, was deputy county clerk but retired from that position to accept the editorship of the *Progress*. The county clerk, Mr. Shuman, is one of the partners in the *Progress.* The county treasurer, Walter Eden, is a brother-in-law of the editor. The deputy county treasurer, G.W. Vaughan, is also one of the owners of the *Progress*. Hon. J.R. Eden is the father-in-law of the editor of the *Progress*.

By June 21, 1888, the transfer of ownership of the *Progress* to I.J. and his partners was reflected in the masthead where the paper was described as "published weekly."



THE PROGRESS.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

By I. J. Martin & Co.

Subscription Price.....$2.00 Per Annum.

Thursday Morning, June 21, 1888.

DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

For President..... GROVER CLEVELAND.
For Vice-President...ALLEN G. THURMAN.
For Governor.....JOHN M. PALMER.
For Lieut.-Governor.....A. J. BELL.
For Secretary of State...DOUGLAS RICKS.
For State Treasurer....CHAS. H. WACKER.
For State Auditor.....ANDREW WELSH.
For Attorney-General.....J R. CREIGHTON.
For Congress .....EDWARD LANE.
For Member State Board.. ...J. W. YANTIS.
For Representatives..... { FRANK SPITTLER J. J. SCHNEIDER

The *Progress* was structured as a partnership until 1891 when it was incorporated into a stock company with the name, The Progress Printing Company. I.J. and Charles Shuman were the principal stockholders. I.J. represented the *Progress* at meetings of the Illinois Press Association, including one at Litchfield in May 1892.

The *Progress* had several different office locations. Before Ivory acquired his interest in 1885, it had been located on the third floor of the Titus Opera House. *Moultrie County Atlas*, 1875. After I.J. acquired his interest in 1885 along with W.W. Eden, the paper was moved to the second floor of a new brick business building on the northeast corner of the square. At the time of incorporation of the business in 1891, I.J. considered building a new building to house the *Progress* and to lease other space to business occupants. An article in the *Decatur Review*, June 6, 1891, reported that,

> Material for a two-story brick 100 foot front and 50 feet deep is being placed on the ground west of the Titus Opera house. It is being erected by Walter Eden and I.J. Martin. It is the intention of Mr. Martin to put up a building expressly for the use of the *Sullivan Progress*. The counting room will be 50x10, the composing room 15x16, and the press room 25x16. He will add a new press and put in steam power. The counting room will be on the ground floor and the other two rooms up stairs. It will be lighted by electricity. The remainder of the building will be divided up into five business rooms.

The 1893 Sanborn map (prepared for insurance valuation purposes) shows a "printing" office across the street to the west of the Opera house and a half block north. The 1898 Sanborn map shows the printing office in the same location. However, by the time the 1907 Sanborn map appeared that office was being used as a paint store, and the *Progress* newspaper and printing office had moved a half block south and a block west to the corner of Harrison and Van Buren streets.

Although there is no evidence that I.J. invested much in other businesses, — or that he had any spare money to invest — he became one of the stockholders of the Merchants' and Farmers' State bank when it was incorporated in the fall of 1891. His brother-in-law Walt Eden was another investor. Also, I.J.'s copy of the 1913 county atlas shows that at that time he owned a few acres of developable land in southwest Sullivan north of Eden

street, near the railroad tracks.

Not surprisingly, I.J. continued to be politically active after he moved to Sullivan in the spring of 1883. He had grown up in a Democratic family and community. His reading had elevated his interest in history and politics. He went to work for a Democratic Clerk and worked in a courthouse dominated by Democrats. He courted and won the daughter of the most prominent Democrat in the county, a multi-term Democratic Congressman.

Before he was married, I.J. was designated Secretary of the county Democratic party committee, chaired by Rose's uncle, Judge Meeker. The committee selected candidates for the legislature and delegates for the convention to nominate candidates for county offices. He was also secretary to the Democratic county convention in June 1888. He attended political meetings in the townships.

Inter-city travel was almost entirely by rail. I.J. and Charles Shuman went to St. Louis in October 1889 though the newspaper did not disclose the reason for the trip. In October 1891 I.J. reportedly took the train to Chicago on a business trip.

In January 1893, I.J. and others went to Springfield for the inauguration of the new governor, John P. Altgeld. It was rumored, according to one newspaper account, that Ivory was seeking appointment as the warden of Southern Illinois penitentiary. If so, fortunately he was unsuccessful. (Others from Sullivan who went to the inauguration included James Taylor, a candidate for the statehouse police. He was the father of Hattie Taylor Pifer.)

In April 1893 I.J. presided at a meeting of the Democratic County convention that nominated candidates to fill city offices in the spring election. They included his brother-in-law, Walter Eden, candidate for re-election as Mayor, and Judge Meeker for City Attorney. He presided at another meeting — this time a businessmen's group — that month to consider promotion of manufacturing in Sullivan.

In March 1894 Ivory and Rose, along with several other Sullivan couples, took a special excursion train to Decatur to see De Wolf Hopper and Della Fox in a play, "Panjandrum.

Local politics seems to have had a more civic and less partisan tone than the state and national varieties. I.J. was elected to the school board in April 1894 and to the position of President. He was reelected in 1896 and served several terms. He was later appointed a trustee of the township high school. Once or twice he filled in as a high school teacher when Professor O.B. Lowe had to be absent.

In addition, I.J. served on the Sullivan library board for over fifty years. A circulating library had been operated by the County Superintendent of Schools during the early 1890s; but that arrangement was superseded when the first public library was established in 1898 through enactment of a city ordinance and appointment of a board of trustees. *Fragments of the History of Sullivan,* 2018, at 171. Then-Mayor Brosam appointed the first members of the board of trustees, including I.J. as a member. He was President of the Board when it moved in 1908 into its new home in the Shuman building on South Main Street, next to the IOOF building. He continued to be appointed and to serve for over half a century.

In May 1894 he was a member of the multi-county committee to arrange a convention to nominate candidates for the senate and legislature. For many years he attended and was active in Democratic committees and conventions to select candidates.

In July of that year I.J. personally leased the printing plant of the *Progress* and conducted it as an individual enterprise, separate from the newspaper, using it to print official county and city notices as well as private commercial material.

Contracts to print official notices were awarded on a party basis. Sullivan was a Democratic party stronghold, and loyalty to the party was a valuable asset. So when I.J. had qualms about supporting Democratic candidates, he kept them to himself. In 1896 William Jennings Bryan, an ardent populist, was the Democratic candidate for President. I.J. apparently said nothing about the campaign either publicly or privately, so it came as a shock to his adult children when they learned 50 years later that he had voted for the Republican candidate, McKinley.

I.J. edited the *Progress* from 1885 until 1899, when he temporarily left the newspaper business to become the manager of an abstract and title company. Only a few issues of the *Progress* survive from that 14-year tenure, leaving little basis to assess the quality of Ivory's writing or editorial custodianship. Certainly the paper covered the major local political issues — those relating to the licensing of saloons, the contests for Mayor and other city offices, Mayor Shinn's plan for city improvements such as streets, sidewalks and street lights in 1885, the plan to improve the water system in 1887, and whether to grant a franchise to John Baker for an electric light and power service and contract for street lights in 1891. These and other issues were described in I.J.'s *Notes on the History of Sullivan,* not published until 1990. Walter Eden, Ivory's brother-in-law, was elected Mayor in 1887. The *Progress* surely supported the Mayor and his initiatives during his two 2-year terms in office.

In 1891 I.J.'s long-time friend Frank Harbaugh ran for Mayor on the Citizens Party ticket, opposing James Wesley Elder on the Peoples' Party ticket. The election was long remembered (at least by I.J.) for the buying of votes by the Elder campaign, supported by the saloon interests. Elder won the election by a very thin margin — 4 votes. During Elder's term the city granted John Baker's Sullivan Electric Company a franchise to provide light and power service. This led to a strong opposition campaign in 1893 by Alderman George Brosam. I.J. was vitally interested in these issues, as his account in his *Notes on the History of Sullivan* make clear; so there is little doubt they were given ample coverage in the news reports and columns of the *Progress.*

From 1899 to 1901 I.J. devoted himself to the abstract business. However, by June 1901 he had resumed the editorship of the paper, so he was there for the fight in 1901 and 1902 over whether to extend the franchise and contract with John Baker's Sullivan Electric Company. *Fragments of the History of Sullivan Illinois,* 2018, at 236-240.

The central issue was whether the city of Sullivan should make a deal with Baker or some other private supplier of electricity, or build or acquire and maintain its own electricity plant. A rival Sullivan newspaper, the *Democrat*, edited by Judge Isaac Hudson from 1899 to 1916, supported the Baker deal.

The first 10-year electric service contract expired in 1901, and Baker — supported by Hudson — wanted an extension. Rather than wait until 1901, Mayor Hudson and his supporters granted a new contract two years in advance. The rush to extend the contract ahead of time and the secrecy with which the decision was made greatly agitated Sullivan politics. A group of citizens organized to litigate the validity of the new contract. In the meantime, the local Citizens Party put up candidates to oppose the Baker partisans in the 1900 election.

The story of that election may be found in *Fragments of the History of Sullivan, Illinois,* 2018 at 237-40. Baker's group induced several traveling salesmen and gamblers falsely to claim Sullivan as their residence in order to vote for the Baker candidates for Aldermen. In the third ward, the Citizens candidate, Jacob Dumond, defeated the Baker candidate by one vote. The Baker group then went to court and introduced testimony from the carpetbaggers claiming — falsely — that they had voted for Dumond. The Baker-controlled City Council declared the Baker candidate, a man named Burwell, the winner. The Citizens took the case to court, and Judge Cochran, the local judge, ordered that Burwell be restrained from acting as Alderman until the merits of the case were decided. Ultimately, the Citizens reform forces won. I.J.'s *Sullivan Progress* cheered in a headline in June 1901 that the Illinois Supreme Court had decided "in favor of the people," and reprinted the entire text of the opinion. *Decatur Review,* June 27, 1901.

During this fight, the *Progress* had taken no position editorially on the contract renewal or the question of private-vs-public ownership. However, the *Progress* actively supported the Citizens' Party in its efforts to negotiate an acceptable deal with Baker. I.J. arranged for the *Progress* to publish unsigned letters — one supporting public ownership and one opposing it. I.J.'s friend Frank Harbaugh wrote the letter signed by an anonymous "reader" supporting a contract with Baker. I.J. wrote the letter, also signed by an anonymous "reader," taking the opposing position and supporting a publicly-owned plant. *Fragments of Martin Family History,* at 269. The Citizens' Party candidates won the aldermanic elections in April 1902 by large majorities. *Fragments of the History of Sullivan*, Illinois, 2018, at 240.

The fight over private-vs-public ownership of the power plant came to a head in 1915-1917 when the CIPS company based in Mattoon sought to

block Sullivan from building its own municipal light plant. The matter was litigated in Decatur, and Sullivan brought in Clarence Darrow from Chicago to represent its interest against CIPS I.J. attended the argument and cheered when Darrow won. *Id.*, at 247-253.

Beginning about the time he became a newspaperman in 1885, I.J. kept scrapbooks of pasted-in articles or pictures he clipped from magazines or other newspapers. Some were about family members such as John R. Eden; some were about local history; others were about books and authors, as well as national politics and political figures. He used either real scrapbooks, with blank pages, or other large discarded books and simply pasted articles over the printed pages. One such book consisted mostly of articles about the First World War or letters home from the soldiers that had been printed in the local newspapers. Another had articles about John R. Eden, obituaries of Eden and Martin family members, graduation papers and poems of Rose Eden. He clipped poetry. He clipped pictures of pretty children and women. These scrapbooks served as a kind of filing cabinet, providing material for his news articles and columns.

In one of the scrapbooks I.J. pasted in two brief news articles about George Snapp. The first reported a party for Snapp arranged by his friends as he left for school at Normal one summer. The other news clip is quoted here as it appeared:

> Darky sermon by G.N. Snapp, and of all the Snapps, we ever saw, we never saw a Snapp Snapp like that Snapp Snapped.

Ivory may not have nursed grudges, but he remembered victories.

VIII
Family

Ivory and Rose were living in their house in the north part of town when their first child, Olive, was born, April 29, 1887. Perhaps her name traced back to Ivory's little brother who died young, Samuel Oliver. Her parents considered naming her Phoebe or Rachel after her grandmothers, but settled on "Olive" when she was four days old. Olive, like the two other daughters in the family, was not given a middle name. Her parents thought they would marry and could take "Martin" for their middle names.

Rose noted in Olive's baby book that she was a good baby; she "loved to lie still and not be tossed about." One evening her parents went to church leaving her in the care of her Eden grandparents. She cried whenever her grandpa Eden left the room. They walked the room with her "in vain" but she finally went to sleep in her grandpa's arms.

Rose Eden Martin and first child, Olive Eden, born April 29, 1887.

Olive never married; she later took her mother's maiden name and signed herself as "Olive Eden Martin." Olive earned BA and MA degrees in literature from the University of Illinois and spent her adult life as a teacher, first in Sullivan and later in the LaSalle public schools.

Rose's mother, Roxanna, died March 9, 1888, apparently from heart failure, leaving Rose's father, John R., and Rose's two sisters, Emma and Belle, in the Eden house. They all urged I.J. and Rose to join them in the big house. I.J. and Rose agreed, renting out their north side home to Charles Ferguson in March 1889. Ivory and Rose and daughter Olive occupied as their living quarters the two middle upstairs rooms, the larger one serving as their living room.

Olive

John Eden Martin, the second child and first son of Ivory and Rose, was born April 19, 1889, a month after they moved into the Eden house. His first name continued a line of "John Martins" going back to the first known Kentucky ancestor of that name. The family called the baby "Eden" — from Grandpa John R., with whom they shared the home.

Many years later Olive remembered standing between her father and mother in the small upstairs bedroom at the Eden house while they admired their first son. Olive was only a few months over two years old at the time, but her memory was detailed. Her parents appeared tall and handsome to her; her father was wearing a beard and Mother wore a "small bustle and a green print summer dress. I couldn't see over the high feather bed and made a protest, so Father lifted me up and I got my first picture of Eden — a fat, sleeping baby, perhaps three or four months old." Undated card, Olive to Walter [Robert], probably 1964; *More Fragments*, at 239.

Rose Eden wrote a brief note in Olive's baby book about Christmas time, 1890: "What a delight to watch the little tads as they toddle around in

their nighties and peep into their little black stockings. Olive has a white rabbit — a whole outfit for laundry work — baby buggy — new rocking chair — from Aunt Emma and Belle a precious book." On New Years Day 1891 she added: "I feel very grateful for many blessings — baby Eden has been spared to us after a severe attack of croup — and both children are recovering from 'scarlatina.' My hope and prayer is that they have been spared for a good work in the world. … Our precious darlings — How can they ever realize their papa's and mama's care and labor for them."

The arrival of their first son made their two rooms on the second floor of the Eden house a bit cramped. The next year I.J. acquired two lots on South Grant street in the Caldwell addition, south of the train tracks, and in the fall of 1891 built a five-room house at a cost of $900, of which he borrowed $700. He also acquired a nearby parcel in "Sunnyside," which appears on the atlas as a triangular plot south of the city water works, bounded on the south by Prairie Avenue. Ivory's house was on South Grant Street, about three blocks south of the Eden home on Jefferson and McClellan. Their new house was reportedly the second house built in Sullivan with an inside bathroom. (For any readers younger than the author, that means the others had "outhouses.") After Olive and Eden, the other children were all born in the house on South Grant street. After acquiring the South Grant property, Ivory sold his lots on the north side of town for $1,500.

Eden had golden brown hair, arranged by his mother in bangs. He wore kilts until he was just past four. Rose made his clothes — a black velvet suit, with an Eton jacket and tight short trousers for Sunday. He also had wool trousers and shirts with square collars trimmed with ruffles. His shirts were tied with a drawstring at the bottom. Eden got his first "bought" suits from a store when he was five.

Olive remembered that Eden was considered the most talented child in the family — "bright, alert, and original." I.J. later told of their playing with a toy fire engine — a pull toy — before he could talk. I.J. called out "Fire! Fire" as they pulled the toy along. When I.J. wearied, Eden continued to pull the toy fire truck, pointing to the base-burner in their stove, glowing through the isinglass, and calling out "Ho! Ho!"

When he was just learning to talk, Eden told his parents a story: "Once there was a dreat big dog and a dreat big bear, and the dog met the bear in the woods — and he ait him up."

Olive remembered that Eden was also the problem child in the family — intensely emotional, sensitive, shy and quick-tempered.

> He was probably subjected to more teasing than were the other placid children. He was so small that some of his elders thought it fun to see him angry. He was stubborn too, and even Father, who should have known better, thought it funny to get him to do what he wanted done, by telling him to do the exact opposite. 'Eden, don't close that door' — and the door slammed shut with a roar of adult laughter.

I.J. Martin Family,
Rose, John Eden, Olive, I.J., c. 1890

The little boy was subject to serious attacks of what was then called the "spasmodic croup." Once when he was about seven, I.J. had to go to the doctor for medicine; while he was gone Aunt Emma and Aunt Blanche cried and prayed. Olive remembered that her mother told friends she hoped Eden would become a preacher — "that she had promised God that if he lived through those dreadful attacks of croup, she would do her best to guide him to the ministry."

Eden was stubborn. Once when he was taken to kindergarten, he refused to go through the door and had to be taken to his father's office. Another time on a trip to the barber he refused to allow his hair to be cut.

He was also combative. After his first day in school he reported to his parents that a boy behind him in line had pushed him. I.J. asked him what he did. Eden replied, "I turned around and hit him with my fist in the stomach."

In high school Ivory's oldest son played football. He was Treasurer of his senior class, and was supposed to graduate May 1907; but for some reason, perhaps health, his graduation slipped back to May 1908. After high school he served in the national guard and then in the army during World War I. After the war he worked briefly in the newspaper business with his father and tried but failed to get the Democratic nomination for Congress. After a few years he and his family left Sullivan and moved to a farm near Okalona, Mississippi, near where several of his wife's brothers lived.

The third child of Ivory and Rose was Joel Neely Martin, born January 13, 1891. Named after both his great-uncle and uncle ("Joel") and his grandfather ("Neely"), he was at first called "Neely" — and, later in life, "Bill." The day after Neely was born his father was spotted in Sullivan "shaking hands with himself and setting up 25 cent cigars." The *Decatur Review* ran a generous notice extending congratulations and observing that the baby boy could have "no greater luck than that he may become as good a man as his father or his grandpa, Hon. J.R. Eden."

Neely inherited the same combative streak as his older brother. Once when he was 15 he had a serious quarrel with the high school principal, O.B. Lowe. Ivory thought Lowe was too rough on him. Ivory told one of his daughters about it, though not the cause of the incident: "Neely left town without seeing me and stayed away until Saturday evening." *As Ever*, at 21.

Like his older brother, in high school Neely played football. He worked in his father's newspaper and print shop, and during World War I he edited the *Progress.* Later he became a reporter for a Decatur newspaper and served as Justice of the Peace.

The fourth child, Elvina, born December 20, 1892, was named after I.J.'s mother, Rachel Elvina. Shortly after her third birthday Elvina fell from a swing on the chicken yard gate and broke her arm (thus confirming that the Martins kept their own chickens). As Dr. Stedman was putting her arm in a secure sling, three-year old Elvina remarked that she was lucky it was her arm and not her neck that was broken, "betaus the toctor toudn't fix that." The arm did not heal straight so the doctor told her to carry a flat iron for some time each day to try to straighten it out.

Neely played with Elvina more than the other children because Eden and Olive were in school. Walter and Mabel had not yet put in their appearances. I.J. and Rose took Elvina to the Worlds Fair Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

Elvina died just after her fourth birthday, on Christmas, December 25, 1896. The cause of her death was diphtheria. Olive was in quarantine for some illness at the time, and the family brought Elvina's little casket to her window so she could say goodbye. Olive remembered years later that Elvina was in her new red wool dress. A picture of Elvina occupied a place on the wall of the Martin front parlor.

The fifth child, Robert Walter Martin, was born February 16, 1895. The origin of the name "Robert" is a mystery. "Walter" came from Rose's brother, Walt Eden. In his early years he was called "Walter." Later he was known as "Bob."

The sixth and youngest, Mabel, was born January 8, 1899. Mabel, like Olive, earned a college degree. She taught school, married her high school sweetheart Bill George, raised a family, and wrote and performed songs for children.

Olive later remembered that I.J. taught the children how to hold a knife and fork. "The child next to the baby always sat by him."

The Martin children all attended the Sullivan public schools beginning with kindergarten. When Olive reached school age in the fall of 1893, the "North Side School" — located where the Powers school served children of the next generation — accommodated both grade and high school classes. In early 1895 the "South Side School," later known as the Lowe School, was completed. From that time on, the early grades were housed mostly in the north school with high school classes on the south side.

In 1897 the County Superintendent of Schools, O.B. Lowe, told I.J. about a bright 14-year old girl named Ella Condon who had been the victim of childhood neglect and abuse. She had developed scrofula before the authorities took her away from her mother. In 1897 she was living with a farm family and went to country school. She wanted to go to high school, but the family could not afford it. She needed a place in town where she could live and go to school; and no doubt Rose could use help with the children. Ivory met her, was impressed, and said they would take her in. Ella, though never adopted, became part of the family. Mabel explained:

> [Ella] came to our house with nothing, and it was a lucky thing for all of us. She lived with us until she married, and to the end of her life she was a dear member of our family. She was a great help to Mother, and Mother did [things] for her. She made her clothes, saw that she had all she needed, gave her good counsel and love. She helped her entertain her friends so that she would have a good social life, and we all loved Ella dearly.
>
> Once someone said to Father, 'Ella was surely lucky to have such a good home.' Father replied, 'I don't think of that. I'm too busy thinking of how lucky we are to have her.'

Ella was a fine student. Although she had not started to school until age 13, when she began the 3rd grade, she graduated from 8th grade three years later with the highest grades in her school. After finishing high school she taught the seventh grade from 1901 to 1903. She married John Poole, a farmer from Lintner, Illinois, May 27, 1903.

Of the five Martin children who reached adulthood, only Mabel wrote much about those early years. She remembered that the marriage of Ivory and Rose was a happy one, that both were kind and loving, and that they had similar values and interests. "There was never any dissension or quarreling in their home." *Fragments*, at 192.

But there was at least one disagreement. Mabel remembered that Rose showed displeasure when I.J. brought home a gramophone. Rose thought they could not afford it, and she did not like recorded music. The other children had urged their father to buy it. Mabel told the story:

> The evening he brought it home, Mother went to her room and refused to come out and listen to the records. There were twenty of them. Two were operatic numbers which were chosen in the hope of pleasing Mother, who was a fine musician; and two were religious songs, which Father thought she might enjoy. There were a number of band records and songs of the day, along with musical numbers from Gilbert & Sullivan and comedy routines.
>
> Four of the records were speeches by William Jennings Bryan, and they showed why Father wanted the machine. At that time he was a great admirer of Bryan [or so Mabel believed]. That was in 1906, which was not a presidential election year, but Father took his machine to Democratic meetings during the Congressional campaign and played the speeches of W.J. Bryan.
>
> I do not remember my mother ever listening to them. She may have liked to hear the operatic numbers. They were the quartet from Rigoletto and the sextet from Lucia, but she gave no sign of it. I played them over and over, and they were my first taste of opera. *Id.*, at 192-193.

I.J. and Rose went to theater and music productions in Sullivan as well as neighboring Decatur and Mattoon. The Titus Opera House, built in 1871, was located at the west end of the north side of the square. It had a stage, gallery, side boxes, and full set of scenery used in putting on plays. It was also used for concerts, recitals and other musical entertainments. Beginning about 1901 stereopticon and moving pictures were presented as well. The opera

house continued to serve as a prominent cultural resource for Sullivan until it burned to the ground in February 1910. *Fragments of the History of Sullivan, Illinois*, R.E. Martin, 2018, at 309.

Occasionally I.J. and Rose took their children to plays in Chicago and Decatur. They went to the races at the race-track in the northwest part of Sullivan. Once when I.J. returned from the races and reported that a jockey had been badly hurt, one of his daughters said she wanted to go the next day and hoped another jockey would be thrown off so she could see it. I.J. reportedly played tennis occasionally with a Sullivan neighbor. But he was not a joiner. They never went to dances and rarely attended social dinners.

Rose had been a faithful member of the Christian Church congregation in Sullivan for years and continued to go to Sunday services after their marriage. She believed in the creed of the Christian church and thought it might help promote a unity of churches. I.J.'s father, old John Neely Martin, said there would be unity when everyone was a Hardshell Baptist.

Olive joined the Christian church, and Mabel attended various denominational services as an adult. But I.J. was not a church goer, though he sometimes went to Christmas services with Rose and the children. His daughters regarded him as an agnostic, not an atheist. Mabel quoted him as saying once:

> 'A man who says there is no God is a fool. He can't possibly know there is not a God — or if there is.' He did not enter into any religious controversy, and I never heard him really discuss the subject until I was forty years old, and then he had to be pushed into it.
>
> When Mabel told him later in life that she thought he lived according to the teachings of Jesus, he answered:
>
> 'That is because he was right about how to live.' He was a student of the Bible and revered it as he did all great literature, but he did not accept it as divine word.

Perhaps because of their father's agnosticism, his sons were reluctant church goers. As Mabel later described the dynamics:

> Mother and Olive were already members of the Christian Church, and I was too young to make a decision, but my brothers were urged to join church. Mother wanted them to become members of the Christian Church, but they said that Papa was not a church member, and he was the best and wisest man they knew, so they saw no reason for them to join. Mother began working on Father, and when he saw how important it was to her, he said, 'If you think I am setting a bad example to my children by not joining church, I will join — but not the Christian Church. I will not be baptized. I'll join the Methodists, they only sprinkle.'
>
> So he went through the proper rituals, and all the rest of his life he gave financial support to the Methodist Church, but he did not attend its services. My three brothers went forward one evening at the revival meeting and said they wanted to join the Christian Church, but Bob [Walter] did not show up for the baptism service. *Fragments*, at 196.

I.J.'s granddaughter Olive Ruth confirmed the story about I.J.'s becoming a Methodist. "Once when Grandma pointed out to him that he was a bad example to his children, he went down to the Methodist Church" — got sprinkled and 'saved.' But he never went to church. His philosophy:

> Either there is a God or there isn't. If there isn't, it doesn't matter, but if there is, then we have to decide if he is a logical being with rational rules or a whimsical tyrant. If he is a whimsical tyrants then there's no way to be sure he'll be in a good mood the day your soul comes in for judgment. But if he has rules, then we should find out what they are. So study what all the orthodox religions say. You find they don't agree. So you figure out what you think is right and wrong and trust that God will see it your way.

Once Rose offered to leave her church and join the Methodists if he would attend; but he declined the offer. Ivory did join the local lodge of the Knights of Phythias, which was supposedly open only to men who believed in a Supreme Being. But he attended only two meetings: once when he was initiated, and the other when his son John Eden was initiated.

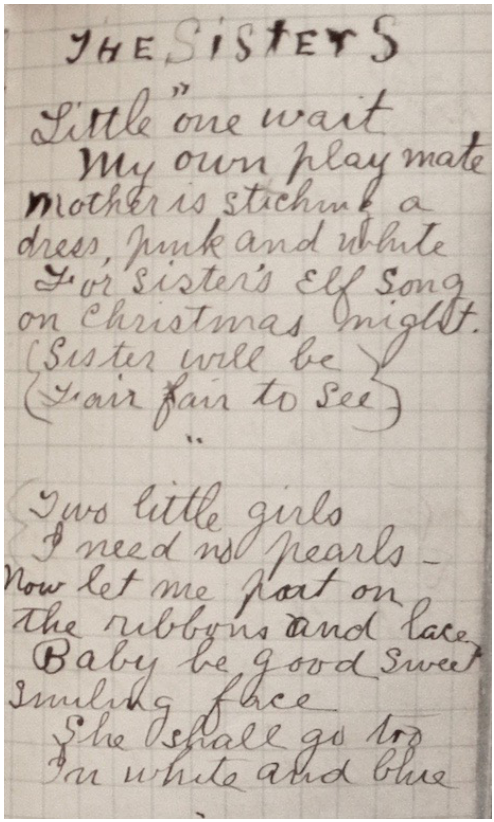
Elvina died on Christmas day 1896, a few days after her fourth birthday. It was a terrible blow to everyone in the family, but particularly to her mother. A few days after Elvina's death, Rose expressed her grief in several experimental stanzas of verse written in a small red note book, some in ink, others in pencil. Rose wrote of her deep sorrow … her heart a stone … but she could not allow herself to break … on Christmas, "Love's own birthday."

The Sisters

Little one wait
My own playmate
Mother is stitching a
dress, pink and white;
For Sister's elf song
on Christmas night.
(Sister will be
Fair fair to see.)

Two little girls
I need no pearls -
Now let me put on
The ribbons and lace;
Baby be good, sweet
Smiling face.
She shall go too
In white and blue.

(Sometime we'll play,
Let's work today.)
Needle for baby so not
Play come to see.

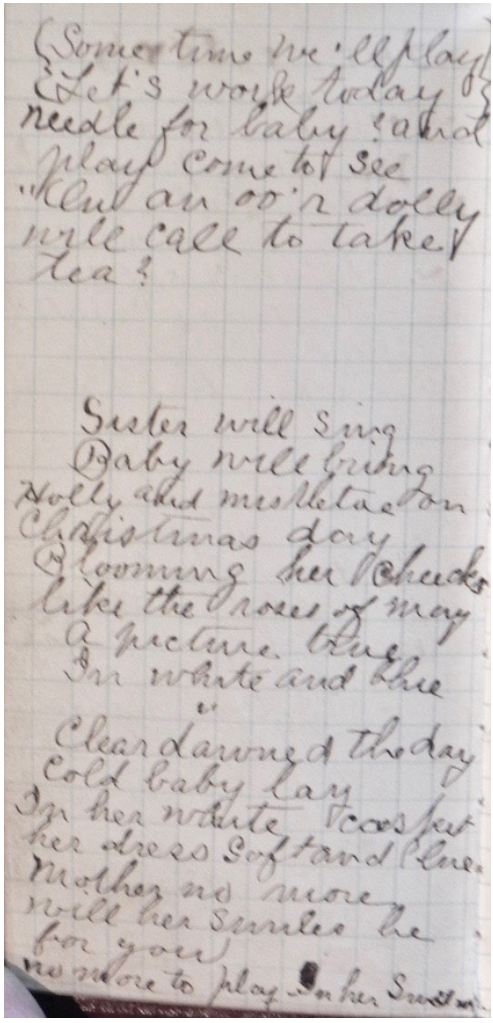

THE SISTERS
Little one wait
My own play mate
Mother is stitching a
dress, pink and white
For sister's Elf Song
on Christmas night.
(Sister will be
Fair fair to see)
Two little girls
I need no pearls -
Now let me put on
the ribbons and lace
Baby be good Sweet
Smiling face
She shall go too
In white and blue

"On an oo'r dolly
will call to take tea."

Sister will sing
Baby will bring
Holly and mistletoe on
Christmas day.
Blooming her cheeks
Like the rose of May
A picture true
In white and blue.

Clear dawned the day
Cold baby lay
In her white casket
Her dress soft and blue.
Mother no more
Will her smiles be for you.
No more to play
In her sweet way.

Two little girls
I need no pearls
Olive is my helper
Elvina smiles, is 4 years of age
(One pensive sweet
One airy fleet.)


Sometime we'll play
Let's work today
needle for baby and
play come to see
"On an oo'r dolly
will call to take
tea?

Sister will sing
Baby will bring
Holly and mistletoe on
Christmas day
Blooming her cheeks
like the rose of may
A picture true
In white and blue

Clear dawned the day
Cold baby lay
In her white casket
her dress soft and blue.
Mother no more
will her smiles be
for you
no more to play In her sweet

Bright bright will be
Our Christmas tree
Mother is making a dress white and blue
For sister's elf song on the happy night
Baby must play
Alone today.

Perched on my chair
Whispering there
Sister's at school; let's

Play come to see.
Me and my dolly will
Call to take tea.
Mamma now do
Like you used to.

Little one wait
My own playmate.
Now let me put on the
Ribbons and lace.
Baby hands off,
Sweet pouting face.
You shall go too
In white and blue.

Sister will sing
Baby will bring
Holly and mistletoe on
Christmas day.
Blooming her cheeks
Like the roses of May
Through all the years
In Holiday tears.

Sorrow unknown
My heart a stone
Must bear, not break on
Love's own birthday.
In her white casket, my curly head lay.
A picture true
In white and blue.

Two little girls
I need no pearls
One yonder
One so near
One must now do
Like we used to.

Three decades later Ivory told one of his daughters that there had been "a feeling of sadness mingled with the joy of every Christmas since 1896." *As Ever*, 126. A picture of Elvina hung on the wall in the Martin's parlor.

Elvina, died Christmas 1896

Olive, born 1887

Walter (Bob), born 1895.

Mabel, born 1899

Rose was a fine pianist and the musician in the family. She gave piano lessons to her own children as well as others in the community. I.J. conceded that he had no musical talent. He told one of his children (quoting U.S. Grant) that he knew only two songs. "One is Yankee Doodle and one isn't." Olive continued taking lessons while she was in college. Mabel composed, played, and sang all her life. Neely could sit at a piano and play a tune with the proper chords. Walter (later "Bob") was never known to sit at a piano bench.

Rose's piano was still in the family parlor in the early 1940s when the youngest set of Rose's grandchildren visited I.J. and pounded the keyboard.

I.J. had not experienced the festivities of the Christmas season in his own strict childhood Baptist home, but he and Rose made up for it with their own children. I.J. later wrote that he had been cynical about Santa until he realized the joy that could be created for children. When Olive was three years old, in 1890, she was given presents on Christmas eve. She "feared that Santa might make a redistribution and she hid them to keep him from finding them. The next morning a doll which Santa had given her restored her confidence in him, which I think lasted quite a while." *As Ever,* at 333.

In 1898, as I.J. later remembered, "Eden and Neely were dressed as Brownies and I think Ella and Olive had parts in the program. ["Brownies" at that time referred not to young cub scouts but to the small mischievous household spirits of British folklore who demanded food offerings — like today's trick-or-treaters.] It was the last Christmas celebration held in the old [Christian] church, which was replaced with the new one the following summer."

> Bob and I were on one of the long benches, about 10 seats back from the front. He stood up on the bench and was eagerly interested in everything going on. When Santa Claus began his part of the ceremony, Bob, whom we called Walter then, became intensely alert and when he heard his name called he clapped his hands and shouted 'Here' so loudly that he was heard (and applauded) all over the house. ....
>
> [Rose] enjoyed Christmas and she usually was well remembered. I remember a handsome watch which she greatly prized. Another present, which she had wanted and prayed for, was a few days late in

> arriving. She accepted it as a kind of compensation for a distressing loss upon a Christmas morning two years before. [He was referring to Elvina's death.] That was indeed a sad Christmas. Its sting is still left fifty years after. *As Ever,* at 333.

I.J. loved literature, particularly poetry, and read to the family in the evenings. In one of her letters late in life, Olive remembered:

> Father used to read aloud to Mother in the evenings while she made button-holes or mended. and I loved Scott, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Longfellow, Tennyson, Whittier, and Eugene Field. I hated Walt Whitman.

Mabel's recollections in her memoir of her father were similar:

> Often in the evening he would read aloud from the works of great English bards and early American poets He had a fine speaking voice and the ability to bring out all the beauty and meaning of the poems by his rendition. His favorite English poets were Byron, Keats, Tennyson and Scott. I could never forget his dramatic reading from Scott's Marmion or Lady of the Lake. And his readings from Tennyson, Whittier, Lowell and Poe were just as impressive.
>
> My sister Olive and I loved those reading sessions, but I do not remember my brothers enjoying them. There was one poet who was a favorite of my father, whom Olive and I did not like. That was Walt Whitman. When Olive expressed her lack of appreciation for the works of Walt Whitman, Father answered with a quotation from one of Whitman's poems: 'Go lull yourself with piano tunes, for I lull nobody and you will never understand me.' *Fragments*, at 187.

When one of their neighbors asked I.J. which poems of Whitman's she should read, Ivory suggested that she get a book of selections, adding, "There is not one person in a thousand that would wade in and take the whole of them, as I did." *As Ever,* at 55.

Olive described I.J. as not just a lover of poetry but as a scholar — "the only scholar in the entire family. … I remember being a little proud that on

my master's exam I had correctly identified an obscure British poet whose name appeared only in a foot-note of a large History of English Literature. When I told Father, he was pleased too — and then went on to quote some passages from the poet whom I could identify only by name and date."

I.J. enjoyed listening to his children sing, but did not join in. Mabel wrote:

> Almost every evening found us gathered around the piano, singing songs of the day, old 'goodies' from the past and hymns. My sister [Olive] who was 12 years older than I, sang soprano; two brothers handled the bass and tenor; and from the time I was six years old, I was the alto in the quartet. Only my youngest brother [Walter/Bob] and Father did not take part in this group singing. Mabel George, Draft Autobiography.]

I.J. and Rose frequently took their children on trips. In November 1901, I.J. took Eden and Neely to Chicago for a three-day trip, leaving Rose at home with the other children. In December 1903 he took 8-year old Walter to Chicago for a similar weekend trip. Rose in 1904 took Mabel to Lintner to spend a week with the Pooles (the former Ella Condon).

Later that year I.J. and Rose took their children to St. Louis to visit the World's Fair. They split them into three trips. Rose took Olive in early November 1904. Two weeks later I.J. took Eden and Neely for a three-day visit. Then in December both parents took the younger children, Walter and Mabel. It solved the baby-sitting problem. A week later, November 30, 1904, I.J. reportedly went again to the World's Fair for a couple of days, this time with his sister Nancy.

As the family expanded to include five children, their Sunnyside house became too small. So in the summer of 1905 I.J. moved the family to a larger house a few blocks east. They lived there during the winter of 1905-06. Then health problems began to plague the family.

In the summer of 1906 the family moved back into the Eden house so that Rose could help her sister Emma take care of their father, John R. Eden, who was then 80 and experiencing heart trouble as well as deafness. Rose

looked after her own family and somehow found time to help with her father's care. She wrote to Olive, on October 22, 1906:

> I have been up two nights with your grandpa, and your papa stayed with him two nights. … I am to stay all night with father tonight. How I do hope he may sleep — he needs to rest — last night he slept three hours. *As Ever*, at 23.

Despite his age and heart condition, John R. still took an interest in local political and civic events. No doubt I.J., Rose and others in the family heard the old man — then almost 80 years old — speak at a reunion gathering of old soldiers and settlers in late August 1906. The reunion program was held at Freeland Grove where Lincoln had spoken during the Senate campaign of 1858 and where the Sullivan Civic Center now stands. A local newspaper reported that "almost the entire population of Sullivan turned out …." John R. spoke that day about how, in the fall of 1862, he had traveled out into Moultrie County to encourage young men to enlist in a new Illinois regiment then being formed. The old soldiers who heard him that day must have been pleased with his tribute to the Moultrie County enlistees: "Not one of them ran except toward the enemy."

By early 1907 John R. Eden's health had deteriorated to the point that the family took him to Jacksonville to a sanitarium (probably the Prince Sanitarium) for treatment. He returned to Sullivan in late February, reportedly "very weak."

John R. Eden reading in the front parlor of his Sullivan home in his early 80's.

In the summer of 1907, Rose's own health began to fail. She was suffering from what was then called Bright's disease, a form of kidney failure. Olive had graduated from high school in the spring of 1905 and commenced study at the University of Illinois the following fall. I.J. periodically sent her checks to help cover her expenses, and her mother sent food packages. Olive remained at the university two years. However, in part because of her mother's illness, Olive dropped out of the university. In the fall of 1907 she took a position as teacher of the fifth grade in the Sullivan public schools. The position enabled her to live at home and help care for her mother and the younger children, Walter and Mabel.

Olive later remembered that her Mother "didn't seem to suffer, but complained only of being tired. We children did not realize how seriously ill she was, for she sat up in a rocker every day. The only one she talked to about it was Eden." *More Fragments*, at 243.

In September 1907 the Martins moved into a recently-built, two-story stone house in Sunnyside that had been vacated by a family named Fanning. Mabel later remembered that it had four rooms downstairs and five bedrooms upstairs. *Fragments*, at 193. Rose lived only two months in that new house. As she weakened, a bed was taken from the second floor downstairs to the parlor so she would not have to climb the stairs. A nurse was brought in from St. Mary's hospital in Decatur in mid-October to help take care of her.

Mabel remembered that on the night Rose died, near midnight, November 5, 1907, Walter and Mabel were each awakened and taken individually to see her one last time. She apparently died soon after that. The next day when the two children were told that their mother had died, neither could remember having been taken to see her.

Rose was buried on November 7, Ivory's birthday. Not until he was a very old man would he let the family celebrate his birthday. "November 7th means only one thing to me," he told them. Until he was past 70 he walked to the cemetery every Sunday to visit Rose's grave. He also visited the Eden plot where little Elvina had been buried.

Christmas that year was understandably difficult for the family. Ella Condon Poole and her husband came to spend the holiday period with the Martins. Mabel remembered over four decades later how Ivory and the older children "outdid themselves to make my Christmas happy, and I had more and finer gifts and just as much fun as ever before." Olive, then age 20, was thrust into taking on some of the responsibilities of a mother to the younger two children. Before Christmas that year she took Mabel, then 8 years old, to Dixon's store in Sullivan to look at the Christmas toys. Mabel remembered that they had a marvelous display of dolls, and that on Christmas morning "the prettiest one of them was mine." (Letter of Mabel to I.J., January 27, 1949.)

On June 3, 1909, John R. Eden died at the age of 83. Though he had suffered from heart trouble for several years, he had been to his law office several times in the prior two weeks. He was in the habit of rising early, and his daughter Emma found him in the chair early that Wednesday morning with a glass of lemonade nearby. He left an estate valued at $70,000, including over 304 acres of land southwest of Sullivan on "Eden street." The estate was divided equally among his four surviving children with Rose's five children receiving

their mother's share. Four months after John R. Eden died, in October 1909 I.J. and his family moved from their Sunnyside home into the Eden home.

I.J.'s own parents, "Uncle John" and "Aunt Rachel," were also growing old. They had moved to Sullivan in November 1908, dividing their time between the homes of I.J. and his brother Joe. Perhaps this explains why I.J. and the children in the spring of 1908 had moved back into the Sunnyside house in which they had previously lived and expanded it. One of the local newspapers reported that Ivory in May 1908 was "enlarging his residence by the addition of two rooms."

In late February 1909 while she was visiting her daughter Nancy Harpster on the farm in Whitley Township, I.J.'s mother Rachel became "critically ill and grew gradually worse." On July 5, 1909, at the age of 77 she passed away shortly before their 56th wedding anniversary. The newspaper reported that she left one brother and three sisters: Reason/Rezin Martin of Sullivan, and Mrs. Ruth Robertson, Mrs. Rebekah Stevens, and Mrs. Wade Fulton. Her widowed husband John Neely, the grandfather whom the children had always regarded as a stoic, sank into his wooden rocking chair and sobbed aloud. Then he apologized to his grandchildren for breaking down. "You'll have to excuse me," he said. "I'm an old man."

Rachel had anticipated that her husband would outlive her. After her death, the family found in her trunk 14 pairs of black wool socks which she had knitted for him as well as half a dozen unbleached muslin night shirts, all of which she had made.

For the next 14 years I.J.'s father continued to divide his time among the homes of his three children — Ivory, Joe and Nancy Harpster. Sometime before 1896, according to the county atlas of that year, John Neely had transferred part of his farm in Whitley Township to William E. Harpster, Nancy's husband. In October 1907 he sold William E. Harpster for $1000 the 20-acre parcel east across the road from the old Martin house, where the Harpsters lived. To even things out he made cash gifts to his two sons, I.J. and Joe.

I.J. about 1908.

A picture of I.J. taken after Rose died in late 1907 shows him with a book in his hand, sitting at a table, apparently in the Sunnyside home. He appears younger than in the family picture taken in the Eden house in 1910 (below) and the wallpaper on the wall is different.

Despite Rose's death, with Olive's help I.J. succeeded in maintaining a happy family life for his children. Mabel wrote:

> It was hard on all of us to face life without her, but we drew even more closely together, and in my growing-up years, I was blessed by

the love and devotion of my father, sister and brothers.

Those years were normal and happy. I played piano and violin and wrote stories, songs and rhymes. The theatre fascinated me. A wealthy townsman, whose daughter had studied abroad and was interested in the arts, built an opera house [the Titus Opera House]. A surprising number of good plays and musicals came to Sullivan, and I never missed one. My father received passes because of his newspaper, and I had one of the best seats in the house, in the press box.

In the summer there were tent shows. Theatrical troops came and stayed a week, doing a different play each evening. Comedies and melodramas made up their repertoire, and always there were productions of 'East Lynne' and 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.' I shed many tears over the whipping of Uncle Tom by the villainous Simon Legree and the sad demise of Little Eva. My cousin and I play-acted scenes in which she, being blonde and a bit frail-looking, took the part of Little Eva and I was Topsy. We ad-libbed conversations that Harriet Beecher Stowe would not have recognized.

The Chautauqua was also a source of entertainment and inspiration. For two weeks every summer I went each day to the area where the big tent was pitched and watched an afternoon program and another one in the evening. Bands, orchestras, choruses, soloists, magicians, impersonators, plays and operettas opened a new world for me. It was my fondest dream to be on the Chautauqua circuit, or better yet to be an actress performing on the stage in real plays. I never mentioned these dreams, for I felt sure that my family would not have wanted that kind of life for me. No one of our kin had ever been a professional entertainer. (Mabel George, unpublished draft *Autobiography*.)

No doubt I.J. attended many of the Sullivan high school football games during the seasons his sons played on the Sullivan team. Eden, who graduated from high school in the spring of 1908, played on the team in the falls of 1906 and 1907. I.J. worried about Eden, the smallest of the boys; he wrote to Olive on November 3, 1906, "Eden is at Arcola today to play foot-ball. He gets hurt frequently in practice and I am a little uneasy about him." *As Ever,* at 24.

Neely, who graduated in 1909, played on the 1907 and 1908 teams, overlapping his older brother in the fall of 1907. The Sullivan games in 1907 were played at Purvis' park, east of the city. A report on the Tuscola game, October 5, 1907, shows that E. Martin played left halfback, and N. Martin played fullback. On October 10, 1908, Neely starred in a game against Springfield which Sullivan won 34 to 5: "Martin, Sullivan's full back, was the star. He made three touchdowns. At the beginning of the second half he seized the pigskin on a kickoff, and raced down the field, eighty yards, to a touchdown, the entire Springfield team being unable to intercept him. He made another run for 95 yards. The forward pass was used time and again by Sullivan, and seldom failed to work."

Walter/Bob, who graduated in 1913, was a sophomore in 1910 when he played right guard. On November 25 that year the Sullivan high team played an alumni team in Purvis Park, defeating them 23 to 6. Bob played on the high school team; his brother Neely was fullback on the alumni team.

The following fall — the 1911 season — Sullivan fielded perhaps its greatest football teams ever. In that year Walter/Bob played at both the tackle and guard positions; and the team went undefeated and untied, claiming the unofficial status of state champion. At the end of the 1911 season, the Sullivan team challenged Danville — another undefeated team — to what would have been in effect a state championship game on Thanksgiving day, but Danville declined. Harold Pogue, the senior Sullivan quarterback and team captain, went on to star at the University of Illinois.

In 1912, the year after Pogue graduated, the team had a less successful season, winning four and losing four. Bob (as he had begun to be called in the news accounts) was the team's captain and played fullback. He was also the team's kicker. In these days before the Okaw Valley Conference, Sullivan played against teams from Decatur, Pana, Newman, Danville, Arcola, Peoria, and Mattoon. The high school team also played a team of Sullivan alumni, quarterbacked by Harold Pogue.

The most noteworthy game of the 1912 season took place near the beginning of the season, on September 28, 1912, when Sullivan's team was defeated by Decatur high school 14 to 7, bringing to a close Sullivan's long winning streak of 22. Decatur went into the fourth quarter with a 14 to 0 lead.

A Decatur reporter wrote: "A forward pass gained twenty yards and another from Hill to W. Martin put the ball over the line. W. Martin kicked goal and made the score 14 to 7 for Decatur." Then with just a minute and a half left:

> Lee recovered a punt from the toe of W. Martin and raced about fifty yards across the goal line Last year the play would have resulted in a legitimate touchdown but under this year's ruling, it had to be thrown out. The punt touched the ground without any Decatur player touching it and bounded over the head of the only Decatur man who was near it. The rules this year are that the defensive team must touch the ball before the offensive team can put it into play, and as no Decatur man touched the ball, Sullivan was offside in the play and the touchdown was not allowed.

Sullivan's players apparently took the loss to Decatur in good grace; but their coach, Roger Huff, did not. The *Sullivan Progress*, in an account reprinted in a Decatur newspaper, reported:

> Roger Huff refused to show the good spirit with Referee Ashmore which would ordinarily be expected between men from the same school, and thoroughly disgusted everyone, including his own team, by his interference with play, and other actions on the field, in which he was ably assisted by two friends — Dave Miller and Nim Huff are probably referred to. — *Sullivan Progress — Decatur Herald*.

Another newspaper report recounted that the conduct of the coach's brother, Nim Huff, "will be long remembered by those who saw the football game …. Huff's conduct became so offensive to both players and spectators that he was finally ordered to leave the field. When he refused Sullivan was penalized."

Roger Huff, Sullivan's coach, was a 1907 graduate of Sullivan High School and a well-known Sullivan athlete, at one time captain of the University of Illinois baseball team His older brother Nim Huff was a mean drunk who one year after the 1912 season murdered Sullivan Sheriff Warren Fleming. *Fragments of the History of Sullivan, Illinois*, Martin, 2018, at 283 et seq.

The *Sullivan Progress* report of bad conduct by the Huffs during the Decatur game provoked a response by the Sullivan players, who submitted a

letter to the Sullivan *Saturday Herald* (October 5, 1912). Their letter stated simply that the report about the Huffs (quoted above) "is absolutely false." It was signed: "Captain, Manager, and Members of the Sullivan Team." The response did not state in what respect the newspaper account was false. Ivory's son, Walter Martin, was the team captain.

This protest by team members — including their captain — asserting that the *Sullivan Progress* account was "absolutely false" would have been an embarrassment for Ivory, the long-time publisher and editor of the *Progress,* but for the fact that Ivory was no longer the editor, having sold his interest in the newspaper to the Shuman family three months earlier, in June 1912.

1912 Sullivan High Football team.
Robert Martin back row, third from left.

Ivory likely also went to baseball games played on the new Wyman Park baseball diamond after the park was completed in the fall of 1915. The diamond was then located northwest of the new lake. *Fragments of the History of Sullivan,* at 305. Bob played first base in at least two games for Sullivan teams on the new baseball field — in June 1915 and two years later, June 1917. *Decatur Review*, June 5, 1915; and June 18, 1917.)

IX

The Newspaper and Abstract Businesses

I.J. had given up the editorship of the *Progress* in 1899 — temporarily — and gone into the abstract and title business by acquiring an interest in the Moultrie County Abstract Company from his brother-in-law, Walter Eden. He bought his first shares in the abstract company for $2,000, all on credit, but he justified it on the ground that he was "buying a job." He had a partner, L. K. Scott, who served as President, while I.J. served as Secretary and Manager.

Transfers of real property, whether commercial, agricultural, or residential, were made by deeds containing technical property descriptions. The buyer of property would want to be sure the title was not defective. Assurance of legitimate title was provided by a lawyer's opinion, which in turn was based on a summary — or "abstract" — of the chain of previous title transfers going back to the original acquisition from the Federal Government and coming forward to the point in time just prior to the transfer. In order for the lawyer to be able to give such an opinion, he required — and the buyer wanted — a documentary summary, which is what the title company provided. The source of the title records was the county clerk's office in the courthouse.

The Moultrie County Abstract Company had been founded by Joseph

W. Waggoner, the county recorder from 1864 to 1880. He had been succeeded by Samuel W. Wright, who had also served as recorder for 12 years. Wright was assisted first by Walter Eden and later Wade Hollingsworth. Eden and Hollingsworth had incorporated the title company in 1898. I.J. acquired the business a year later.

Perhaps it took I.J. two years to feel that he had adequate mastery of the abstract business. Or perhaps he had extra time on his hands. Whatever the explanation, in 1901 he resumed management of the *Progress* and the associated printing business, and also continued to run the abstract company. The abstract company had its office in front of the *Progress* office. I.J. later wrote in his family memoir, "For about 15 years I had both abstract and newspaper on my hands (or in my hair)." *Fragments*, at 170.

The two businesses turned out to be a family enterprise. Olive sometimes worked on Saturdays in the abstract office. As his sons grew up they worked in the newspaper print shop part time. Eden became "foreman" of the *Progress* office in June 1909. Walter (Bob) learned to set type by hand. (Four decades later the author learned to type by typing abstracts of title in his father's law office, across the hall from the Abstract company office.)

In 1907 I.J. was tempted to go into the title business full time. He wrote to Olive on February 26 that he had "had a very attractive offer of a little more than $200 per month to become the manager of a big abstract office." He did not say where that big office was located. "Don't say anything about it even in your letters as it might injure my business here if it were known that I had thought of going away." *As Ever,* at 27. He does not appear to have been seriously tempted — perhaps because of the frail health of Rose and her father. He and his family were also deeply embedded in the life of their community.

In 1909 I.J. attempted to sell his abstract business to the county. At a meeting of the Moultrie County Board of Supervisors in mid-February, he proposed that the county purchase his set of abstract books in return for $3,000. He proposed that the county equip the surveyor's room in the court house as an abstract office and pay him a salary of $1,000 per year as county abstractor. The proposal would have enabled I.J. to monetize his investment while retaining a salary for his work; and it might have eliminated the risk of competition from some other private abstract company. The Sullivan *Saturday*

Herald opposed the proposal (February 20, 1909) and it went nowhere.

Later that year, in September 1909, I.J. attempted to convert the weekly *Progress* into a daily newspaper, called the *Daily Progress.* However, the experiment failed, and the paper soon resumed publication as a weekly.

Then in June 1912, I.J. sold the *Progress* to the Shumans — Charles Shuman, his son Irving — and L. B. Scroggin. He kept the abstract business. However, his separation from the newspaper business turned out to be only temporary.

In September 1913, with the *Progress* and abstract company no longer having common ownership, I.J. moved the abstract office to the second floor of the Merchants' and Farmers' state bank building on Harrison Street, northwest of the courthouse square. (That is the office I remember in the 1940s and 1950s.) I.J.'s secretary during this period was Inez Bristow Gaddis.

Twenty years later I.J. explained to one of his daughters an important lesson that he had learned early on in the abstract business. "I don't know of but 3 jobs I have lost in 25 years by being away from the office, but they were really important items totaling perhaps nearly $200. The first time, I and grandfather Eden with the rest of the family took dinner at uncle Joe's on the farm, and I was coming back to town in your grandfather's buggy when he proposed to take a drive over the farm, which took an hour and cost me $25 or $30. I lost work amounting to more than $100 by attending a football game .... The other loss was on account of going to Shelbyville Chautauqua in 1917 to hear Taft." *As Ever,* at 89.

X
Politics

Ever since I.J. had worked as a teenager in 1874 for the election of his future father-in-law in his Congressional race, he had been interested in politics. He was a progressive Democrat, well-read in American history and well informed about national issues.

I.J.'s political hero was Thomas Jefferson. In his mid-40's he acquired a set of the 20-volume edition of *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson,* edited by Albert E. Bergh, published in 1905; and his extensive marginal notations suggest that he read through the entire collection, focusing particularly on Jefferson's *Notes on Virginia*, his autobiographical notes and official papers, the records of his conversations with Hamilton and Washington, and his messages and addresses. The spine of the first two volumes (bound together) is rubbed to the point of illegibility. He made fewer notes on the margins of Jefferson's private correspondence.

I.J.'s two newspapers leaned strongly Democratic, and his print shop got business from local elected officials, most of them Democrats. His brother Joe was the Democratic States Attorney. Married to the daughter of the local Democratic Congressman, I.J. accompanied his father-in-law on political trips.

For example, in February 1893 I.J. went with "Mr. Eden" — as Ivory always called him — to the inauguration of President Cleveland and was in Washington with him for 10 days.

One evening on that 1893 trip I.J. dined with John R. and some of his friends at an elegant Washington restaurant. Olive told the story many years later:

> They all ordered lobster but [Ivory] ordered chicken. When I asked him why he had not had lobster too, he said, 'I didn't know how to eat it.' … I could have cried for him. … He had seen very little of society life — in fact, really nothing, and he didn't know how to eat lobster, and was too shy to watch the others and imitate them.

In early April 1893 I.J. presided at a meeting of Sullivan Democrats who nominated candidates to fill city offices. One of these was Walter Eden, brother of Rose, the nominated candidate for Mayor.

A week later I.J. presided over another meeting — this time a local business men's association — called to organize recruitment of manufacturing enterprises for Sullivan.

In 1896 I.J. voted for the Republican Presidential candidate — McKinley — over William Jennings Bryan. He kept it a secret at the time, and his adult children were surprised 50 years later when he disclosed the fact. He told a writer for the *Decatur Review*: "You know, if Bryan had been as smart as Franklin Roosevelt, he might have succeeded in his plan about silver. Roosevelt did what Bryan wanted to do without any disturbance when he cut the gold content of the dollar and boosted the price of silver, but Bryan simply wasn't as smart as Roosevelt." Because of his political roots — and perhaps his printing business, which was to some degree dependent on local party support — it is not surprising that Ivory kept his temporary political disloyalty a secret.

In 1910 at the age of 50, I.J. decided to run for Congress. Probably it was the 1910 campaign that led Ivory to decide he needed a family picture. It shows him with his five children, all solemn, with pictures of Rose and Elvina on the wall behind them. In the 1910 picture, Olive was 23, Eden 21, Neely 19, Walter (Bob) 15, and Mabel 11.

I.J. Martin Family, 1910
First row: I.J., Mabel, Joel Neely
Second row: Robert Walter, Olive, John Eden

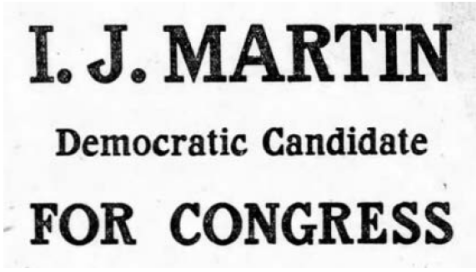
I.J. was well known throughout the 19th Congressional district as the editor of a Democratic newspaper and was knowledgeable about the issues. It was the "progressive era," and he was a progressive. As one example, he strongly favored women's suffrage. When a next-door neighbor argued against women voting on the ground that "women were not capable of making decisions and should stay at home and let men run the country," I.J. replied: "Mr. Peadro, I guess I have been more lucky than you in the kind of women I have known." *Fragments*, at 202.

Ivory circulated the necessary petitions in July and August, and found he had an opponent in the Democratic primary: T.C. Grady of Maroa, Macon County. When the primary vote was conducted in early September, the preliminary indication and news report was to the effect that Grady had won the primary. However, after all the votes were tallied I.J. had prevailed by 408 votes.

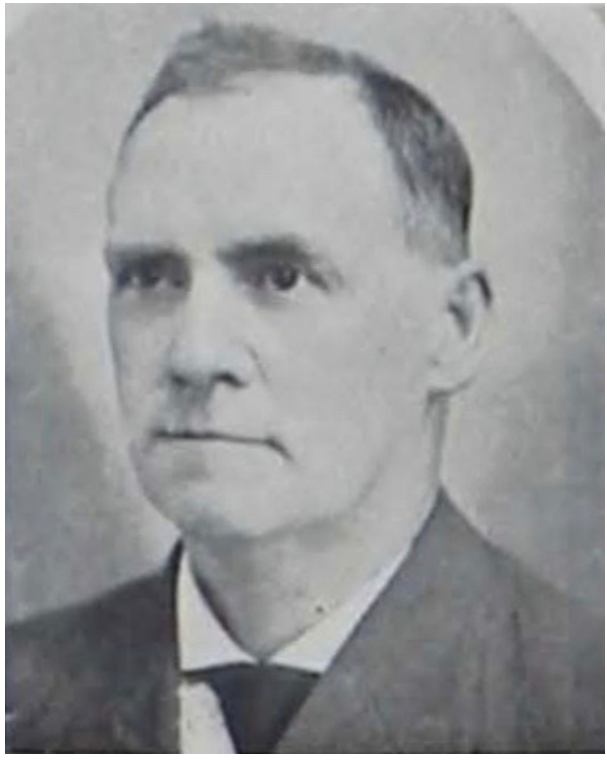
I.J. campaigned hard against his Republican opponent in the general election, W. B. McKinley, through the remainder of September and October. The *Decatur Review* noted in an article about his candidacy: "He has been a good student all his life, being especially interested in English literature and in the study of history and the science of government. While in the county clerk's office he began the study of law under the instruction of the late John R. Eden. … He has read through the ordinary course of law students, but never applied for admission to the bar." It added: "If any one should doubt his qualifications for representative in Congress, they have only to read some of his clear and forcible editorials, or inquire of some of the people who know him. Although he made no canvas for the nomination, yet in the little county of Moultrie a thousand Democrats voted for him in the primary. He will get a vote in his county the 8th of November that will testify in no uncertain terms to the confidence his neighbors repose in him." (October 27, 1910.)

A letter by I.J. — in effect, a political campaign statement — in a Decatur paper on October 29, 1910, headlined, "Progressive Ideas for Progressive People," attacked his Republican opponent for his "standpat opposition to insurgents and progressives" and his acceptance of contributions from corrupt special interests. I.J. opposed tariff protection favoring the special interests. He regarded tariffs as money taken from the people and turned over to manufacturers. Such tariffs — on clothing, blankets and fabrics, on food and lumber — were especially burdensome on people with low incomes. He was

for conservation. He was for fair railroad rates based on "physical valuation of railroad property" -- as contrasted with book values. He opposed "pork barrel" projects, including those in the military budget, and other "extravagances" in national expenditures. He supported a graduated income tax and "a tax on fabulous fortunes …." He supported an employers' liability act to promote safety as well as support for disabled and aged workers. He supported an increase in soldier pensions. He thought the rules of the House of Representative should be reformed to facilitate majority control. He was opposed to the "criminal waste of money" by the national government, much of it used to influence the votes of congressmen for special interests. See also *Decatur Daily Review*, October 20, 1910, November 3, 1910. In addition to his campaign statement, I.J. ran more traditional ads in the local newspapers, asking for voter support.



A better version of the 1910 campaign picture, taken when Ivory was 50, appeared in the *Moultrie County Atlas*, 1913:



During the 1910 campaign I.J. was criticized by his opponents on the ground that the *Sullivan Progress* was a non-union shop and his campaign literature did not bear the union label. He responded that he and his two older sons did the work in the shop and only one other printer was "employed" — which meant they could not be a union shop or use the union label. Opponents chided him on the ground that his two sons and the one employee could have joined the Decatur Typographical Union if they had been so inclined. Some even argued that he should have gone to a different "union shop" to get his literature printed.

McKinley, the Republican, advocated an increase in pensions for soldiers. Ivory responded that he would favor a pension increase but that it should be done without burdening those who were "already too heavily taxed." "The whole burden of government lies in an unjust and unfair system of taxation. If taxes were always laid on the basis of ability to pay, there would be more

equality of condition among the people — not so many swollen fortunes and less grinding poverty." He asked for the support of both progressive Democrats and any "insurgent" Republicans.

One Sunday during the campaign I.J. made his customary walk to the cemetery to visit Rose's gravesite. He told one of his daughters that when he sat down under a tree to rest, he saw a snake coiled with its head up looking at him — a blue racer. He sat quietly, not moving, until the snake moved away. He told his daughter he had imagined what a spectacle he would have made, running toward town with a snake after him. *Fragments*, at 195.

I.J. carried Moultrie and Shelby Counties but lost the district by 3900 votes. His loss in the 1910 election did not diminish his enthusiasm for Democratic causes. He remained a committed Progressive.

In June 1912 he traveled with Irving Shuman to the Democratic nominating convention in Baltimore that nominated Woodrow Wilson for President, traveling by train via New York, Philadelphia and Washington. Irving was a delegate; Ivory was credentialed as a "guest." The 10 days he spent there "were some of the most interesting in my life. We went several days before the opening session and watched the crowd gather in the hotels. The preliminaries were almost as exciting as the convention itself. We saw often at close range all the big leaders of the party except the candidates themselves. … At Baltimore the Clark and Wilson headquarters were at the same hotel. The Wilson people had the entire 12th floor including a large ball room for assembly, while the Clark crowd had the 14th floor with the roof garden added. … Four of us paid $20 a day for one room. …. Judge Stringer had "the only bed in the room while the rest of us paid $50 each for a cot for the 10 days of our stay [i.e. $5 per day]. But yet we had a great time." *As Ever,* 226.

I.J.'s "Guest" pass at the 1912 Democratic Convention.

When I.J. returned to Sullivan from Baltimore he told his family how impressed he had been with a young man who had made one of the nominating speeches: "The country is going to hear from that young fellow. It is a strange thing — he is a Democrat but his name is Roosevelt." Mabel George, draft Autobiography.

In 1913 Ivory flirted with the possibility of seeking the appointed post office position in Sullivan, beginning January 1914, but he apparently withdrew from the contest.

In 1918 he decided to run for County Judge even though he was not a lawyer. The incumbent was a Democrat, John T. Grider, who was running for re-election in the primary, September 11. I.J.'s son Bob, who had enliseted in the Army and was then in military training in Mississippi, offered advice: "Olive had told me you were expecting to run for county Judge so it wasn't much of a surprise to get your card. No matter how confident you feel about the outcome, my advice is to make a thorough campaign so far as that is possible. Your idea about becoming a lawyer is alright for when I get through [the War], as I expect to, I'll need a good partner to make the firm a go."

I.J. reported to Olive on August 28, 1918, that he had done "a big day's driving" the day before and did some good. "I found much encouragement. The candidates say if I keep up the pace I am going, there is no doubt of the result."

As Ever, at 39. Shortly before the primary, he ran an ad in a Sullivan newspaper: "Whether a man in office should be re-elected depends largely upon his efficiency and upon the approval of those best acquainted with his work. Before announcing as a candidate for County Judge, I was convinced that a large majority of those acquainted with affairs in the County and Probate Courts favored a change … If nominated and elected I shall endeavor to prove worthy of their confidence." Judge Grider's supporters naturally made a point of Ivory's lack of formal legal training or experience. I.J. replied, through the *Progress*:

> While working in the county clerk's office, Mr. Martin began reading law under the instruction of the late John R. Eden. After reading in his spare time for about one and a half years, he engaged in the newspaper business and for a while gave up the systematic study of the law. However, he resumed the study later and completed the course prescribed by a correspondence school of law. Being engaged in other work he never took the bar examination and of course has never engaged in the practice of the law. However, he has always been interested in law matters and court procedure attending sessions when he could find time to do so, and giving some time to reading authorities and texts.

This newspaper account is the only surviving evidence that I.J. had completed a correspondence school course in law.

It was an argument, but it wasn't enough. I.J. lost the primary.

XI
The First World War

Meanwhile the family was growing up. Olive was 23 in 1910, the year I.J. ran for Congress. She had graduated from Sullivan High School in the spring of 1905, attended the University of Illinois for two years, and then returned to Sullivan in 1907 to teach in the grade school after her mother became ill. She began teaching in the Sullivan high school in 1911.

I.J. gave priority to the college education of his daughters over that of his sons. One of his granddaughters heard him say: "When you educate a girl, you educate a family. When you educate a boy, you educate only one person." So he supported both his daughters to college, but he expected his sons to make their own way. The sons all started college but none finished.

The family's housekeeper for several years was Clara Colclasure. Mabel later described her as a "quiet person" with "little education but a lot of common sense." She worked hard, took care of the house, and did the cooking. She had begun to work for the family before Rose died and remained with them until 1914. "As time went by, she got a little sloppy with her work, tried to boss everyone, and resented taking orders from Olive, who paid her salary." So one day Olive dismissed her.

Olive, Mabel and the housekeeper, Clara Colclasure, c. 1910.

Clara felt she had been mistreated and spoke to I.J. about it. She pointed out that she had lived in the Martin home for seven years and said that "her reputation had been harmed." She even hinted that I.J. should marry her. I.J. had no "special interest" in her but said he would take her request up with Olive. "But Olive said no — and if he brought her back, she and the boys would leave and take Mabel with them. That was the end of that, for the house belonged to [the] children, and Father could hardly drive us out." *Fragments*, at 201.

After Clara the family had a series of housekeepers. They also had other family members staying with them. The children's aunt Emma (Rose's sister) stayed with them while Rose was ill, as did her daughter, who attended the local high school. Ivory's father, John Neely Martin, lived with the family during the last three years of his life.

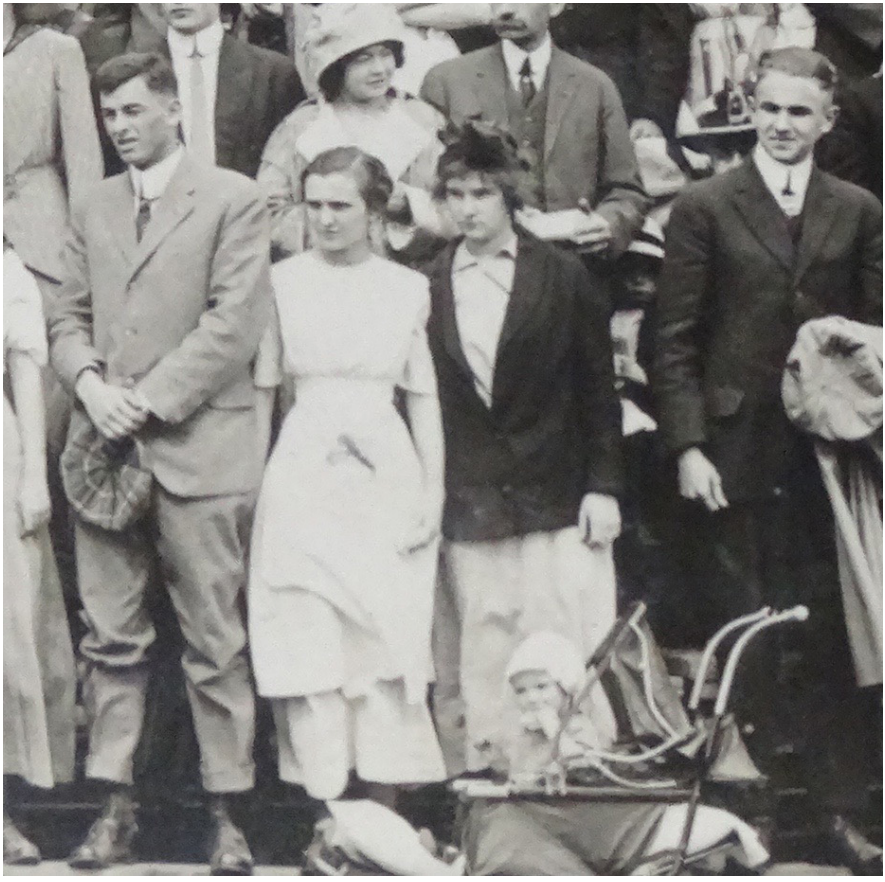
During the years just before the First World War, Olive taught English in the high school where she earned $90 per month, helping cover household expenses. She was elected principal in February 1914 just before the War began in Europe and continued to teach English. As principal she was

paid $1,000 per year.

John Eden Martin graduated from high school in 1908. In February 1908 he was scheduled to go to Washington to take the examination for West Point. We do not know whether he took the exam, but he did not attend the Academy. He worked in the *Progress* office and found time to study law in the office of his Uncle Joe. In the fall of 1908 he moved to Urbana to study at the University law school.

"Eden" as the family called him enjoyed military service and became a member of the local national guard unit. On Sunday, February 18, 1917, while furloughed home from duty with the national guard in Texas for a month, First Lieutenant John Eden Martin of Company C married his second cousin, Carrie Eathel Martin, at 3:30 p.m. at the residence of the pastor of the Christian church. Eathel was a daughter of Francis M. Martin and granddaughter of William Thomas Martin. "The couple were unaccompanied. … Their marriage came as a surprise. They will go to Chicago the first of the week where Lieut. Martin is ordered to report …." It was not a shotgun marriage. The first child of John Eden and Eathel, named Marcia Rose, was born April 23, 1918.

Neely had graduated from high school a year after Eden, and like Eden he worked in the *Progress* office. He married Leone Shockey in 1911. Neely was not the only one interested in Leone. That same year Neely's younger brother Walter (Bob), then 16, had developed a crush on the 18-year old Leone. She had been living with the Royal Eden family and attending high school. Walter liked to walk to school with her. Neely began to go out with her and it was not long before they were engaged. Walter apparently objected to Ivory, who declined to intervene – perhaps because by that time Leone was pregnant. The marriage seems not to have been publicized at the time, and the family later kept the date a secret from their grandchildren. Their first child, Rose Eden, was born December 21, 1911. A news clipping from July 1912 reported that Neely and his family were about to leave for Urbana where Neely was to enter the law school. A year later it was reported that Neely with his wife and daughter had returned from Urbana where he had been attending law classes. He did not complete his legal education and never became a lawyer.



Neely, Leone, Mabel, and Rose Eden in carriage, attending a baseball game in 1913

Neely and Leone, accompanied by Mabel Martin, then 14, attended a baseball game at Urbana on May 17, 1913. They took their baby daughter, Rose Eden, with them.

Although I.J. sold his interest in the *Progress* in 1912, his sons continued after that to work for the paper and print shop. In late 1912 Eden went to work for his Uncle Joe but he also continued to work part time as an editor; when he left for national guard duty in 1913, I.J. reportedly stepped in to replace him. Neely was working at the paper in 1914.

Walter — who about this time began to be called "Bob" — graduated

from high school in the spring of 1913, age 18. Like his older brothers, he played football — fullback his senior year. Bob also played baseball three years. He had a serious girlfriend his senior year — Edna Cummins, a sophomore.

Bob was an adequate if undistinguished student, repeating one year of Latin, which must have disappointed his father. The high school yearbook noted that he had been "so fond of first year Latin that he took it three years." Like Eden and Neely, Bob enrolled at Urbana in the fall of 1913, but attended only briefly. He later said that he was there only a few weeks and that he withdrew for two reasons. One was that he broke a finger playing football on the Illinois freshman team. The other was that he ran out of money — not surprisingly since his two older brothers were there at the same time.

After dropping out of the U-I in the fall of 1913, Bob worked at the *Progress* newspaper and print shop for a few months. Beginning in July 1914 both Eden and Bob worked for a newspaper in nearby Moweaqua, but they returned to Sullivan the following February when a new owner took over the newspaper. From early 1916 until late 1917 Bob studied law at Kent Law School in Chicago where he also worked as a printer at the Essanay and later Selig moving picture companies, setting type by hand.

In May 1916 Eden and Neely made "arrangements to start another weekly paper" in Sullivan — to be called the *Moultrie County Independent*. The first issue appeared the last week of June. They used the rooms and facilities recently vacated by the *Sullivan Democrat,* which had been run by Isaac Hudson before going out of business.

In the fall of 1917 Neely and Bob then purchased the subscription list of the *Progress* — i.e., purchasing assets rather than the company (which might have exposed them to any corporate liabilities). Bob returned to Sullivan from Chicago in November 1917 — perhaps because of his new interest in the *Progress* but more likely because it had become apparent that he would either have to enlist or be drafted. From the fall of 1917 until June 1, 1919, the *Progress* was published by the "Martin Brothers. In one newspaper article, Bob was described as an "associate editor."

Mabel, the youngest of the children of I.J. and Rose, graduated from high school in 1916. She then studied at Illinois State Normal University,

preparing to become a teacher.

The war in Europe had begun in August 1914. The United States stayed out of it for the first two and a half years, and President Wilson was re-elected in 1916 in part on the ground that "he kept us out of war." But public opinion swung in favor of intervention because of German conduct in Belgium and the sinking of the passenger liner Lusitania in 1915. The Germans made the decision easier by offering Mexico an alliance and holding out the possibility that Mexico might get back Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. President Wilson obtained the necessary resolution from Congress in April 1917. Both Eden, already a National guard lieutenant, and Bob enlisted in the late fall. Neely was exempted because he was married and had a young child.

Eden shipped out to France in the spring of 1918; Bob followed in the fall. The family later remembered a terrible evening in September 1918 when they learned that an American troop ship had been torpedoed and hundreds of soldiers had been lost. As soon as it was light the next morning, one of the girls went down to get the morning paper and read the names of the Illinois boys who had died. Bob's name was not there and they felt a great joy, followed by guilt.

Many of the letters written home from France by Eden and Bob, along with letters written by other Sullivan soldiers, were published by the *Progress* in 1918. Those of Eden and Bob to I.J. and their sisters, including many that did not appear in the newspaper, are collected in *Letters Home, 1918-1919,* Chicago, 2012. I.J.'s letters to his sons were not saved.

Eden became an expert and instructor in gas attacks and gas defense. He spent some time in an overseas army hospital as a result of one exposure to gas, which may have contributed to his poor health later in life. Bob served in the Army Engineers and did not see combat.

During the War Neely managed and edited the *Progress* and the print shop, apparently without much help from Ivory. The possibility of selling the newspaper arose in late summer 1918. Bob wrote to his father on August 7, 1918: "The *Progress* deal looks extremely good to me. I'll leave my interest in that in you and Neely. Do as you think best with it and it's alright with me." *Letters Home,* at 38.

XII
The Post-War Decade

The prospective buyer of the *Progress* in 1918 was Ed C. Brandenburger, who had been in the newspaper business in Belleville. It took some time to work out the details, but a contract was signed on May 8, 1919, in which Neely and Bob agreed to sell their interest in the *Progress* and the printing plant to Brandenburger for $7,500. Brandenburger took possession of the newspaper August 1.

Neely then — in October 1919 — went off to work for a newspaper in Fargo and then Crosby, North Dakota. Bob, just back from France, accepted the position of foreman in the composing room of the Crosby newspaper and went to North Dakota with his older brother in early January 1920 after the holidays. Neither remained in North Dakota long.

Sale of the *Progress* did not mean that the Martin family was out of the newspaper business in Sullivan. The contract of sale with Brandenburger had been signed by Neely "and R.W. Martin by his Attorney in Fact, I.J. Martin." But neither I.J. nor Eden was party to the contract.

Within a week of the time Brandenburger took possession of the *Progress*, John Eden Martin, just back from France, purchased another local

newspaper, *The Herald.* I.J. almost certainly provided some of the money for the acquisition. The seller was Mrs. America Lilly, widow of John P. Lilly, the former owner and editor. Eden assumed the position of editor of the *Herald*, whose office was located on the east side of the square. The transfer of the *Herald* to the oldest Martin son was a surprise to most people in town, and it was surely a surprise to Brandenburger. His purchase contract had provided that neither Neely nor Bob "would enter or engage in the newspaper or printing business in Sullivan, Illinois, during the time that Brandenburger should continue in business at said place." The contract said nothing about either I.J. or Eden. And "engaging in the … business" was not clearly defined.

A few months later, Neely and Bob moved back from North Dakota, and Neely went to work for his older brother at the *Herald*. Bob in August 1920 took a job in Harrisburg with a newspaper run by Roy Spright, a former Sullivan newspaperman.

Brandenburger then brought suit to enjoin Neely from "engaging in the newspaper or printing business." Eden replied in a column in the *Herald:*

> J.N. Martin, the defendant in the suit filed by Mr. Brandenburger, spent several months in the state of North Dakota after he left The Progress office. When he concluded that he did not wish to move his family to North Dakota, he returned to his home in Sullivan to remain while he kept an eye open for a suitable location and a worthy position. … [During this period, Eden] employed J.N. Martin 'to assist him.'

Eden took the position that the contract was intended to prevent Neely from starting a newspaper or buying one and publishing it — not from working as an employee.

Circuit Judge Sentel eventually enjoined Neely from "entering or engaging in" the business but declined to enjoin him from "working as a servant or employee" of Eden. Brandenburger appealed but lost in the Appellate Court, April 1922.

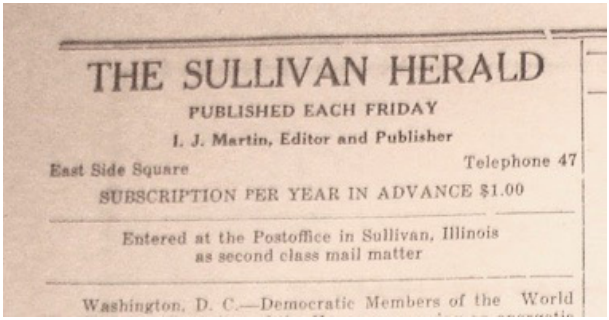
During the 1920s until the *Herald* was sold, Neely worked at the paper, as his daughter Olive Ruth later wrote, putting it out "almost single-handed.

He usually had one woman employee to run the linotype, but earlier he had set type by hand. [Bob] used to work there on some days, usually running the hand-fed job press, printing hand bills."

I.J., 1919, with granddaughters Rose Eden and Olive Ruth

A blurry family snapshot survives from 1919 showing I.J. with Neely's older two daughters — Rose Eden and Olive Ruth. (The man in the background who appears to be wearing a military uniform could be either Eden or Bob, both of whom had just returned from France and had been discharged from the army in June 1919. *Letters Home, 1918-1919*, 2012, at 167.)

Neely may have done most of the physical labor, but I.J. was managing the operation. In one of the few surviving issues, dated May 21, 1926, I.J. was listed on the masthead as "Editor and Publisher."



THE SULLIVAN HERALD

PUBLISHED EACH FRIDAY

I. J. Martin, Editor and Publisher

East Side Square Telephone 47

SUBSCRIPTION PER YEAR IN ADVANCE $1.00

Entered at the Postoffice in Sullivan, Illinois as second class mail matter

Washington, D. C.—Democratic Members of the World

Eden's heart was not in the newspaper business. In 1920 he sought the Democratic nomination for Congress, but carried only Moultrie County and was defeated in the primary September 15. Eden then decided to move away from Sullivan. His wife Eathel no doubt helped him come to that decision. Two of her brothers and their families had moved to Okalona, Mississippi, and she evidently wanted to live near them. In any event, in March 1921 Eden moved his family to Okalona and went into farming.

That left I.J. and Neely with the *Herald* newspaper. Neely was still enjoined from "engaging in the … business." It is not clear whether or when Eden transferred his ownership interest to I.J. — or whether, as seems likely, I.J. had been the owner all along, since the purchase from Mrs. Lilly. What is clear is that I.J. published the paper and also operated the abstract business from 1921 until late 1926.

In December 1922 I.J. displayed his wry wit in a short letter to the editor of the *Decatur Herald* opposing the proposed new state constitution. He approved only its proposed amendment mechanism: "It will be more than twice as easy to amend; and this [advantage] is more than offset by the fact that the new [constitution] will need more than twice as much amendment as the old."

In 1923 I.J. bought a new linotype machine for the *Herald* office — "the best that has ever been here." "It will help to get out a better paper and do more job printing without adding to the expense. On the installment plan it literally pays for itself." *As Ever*, at 49. He continued to oversee the operations of the *Herald*

until it was sold to the other two Sullivan newspapers in December 1926.

On Thanksgiving day 1923 I.J. suffered a fall, badly injuring his hip. His recovery took months. He was unable to return to the abstract office until mid-February 1924, and walking then required the use of two canes.

By the mid-1920s I.J.'s children had begun to disperse.

Olive resumed her studies at the University of Illinois in late 1922 or the spring of 1923.

Eden remained in Mississippi for two years, then brought his family back to Sullivan in July 1923. He would eventually return to Mississippi.

Neely worked at the Sullivan *Herald* newspaper. During the mid-1920's he was also "local reporter" for the Decatur *Herald*. After the Sullivan *Herald* was sold in late 1926, Neely moved to Decatur to work full-time for the Decatur paper, and remained in Decatur the rest of his life. He and Leone were eventually divorced, and Neely then married Helen Prue Taylor-Harris in 1953.

Bob had tried North Dakota with brother Neely but did not like it. He went to work in 1920 for a newspaper in Harrisburg, Illinois, but that did not last long either. In late 1920 or 1921 he moved back to Sullivan. A news article in 1931 disclosed that "in years gone by he was employed in the *Progress* and later in the *Herald* printshop as a printer. … After his return from the army he read law for a time in the office of J.K Martin [Uncle Joe]. He also worked in his father's abstract business, and for more than two years past [i.e. beginning in early 1929] has been the abstract and title man in the office of the McLaughlin Bond & Mortgage Company, where he has been called upon to do extensive and important work in that line."

Bob, the only unmarried brother, lived during the 1920s with I.J. at the Eden house in a small room on the second floor, probably originally a servant's quarters, reachable only by a narrow winding staircase leading up from the kitchen. (I climbed those stairs and inspected his room for the first time in 2015.) In addition to his work at the printshop and abstract office, Bob found time to improve his skills at poker and pocket billiards. He also assumed a few household duties. I.J. told one of his daughters in 1922 that Bob had "got

so he makes good corn bread."

After graduating from Normal, Mabel taught in Lovington. In February 1922 she married Bill George, one of two brothers who ran a bakery on the east side of the square.

The Martin family often gathered at I.J.'s home on Sundays. The young families of Neely and Eden (after he returned to Sullivan in 1923) added a lively element to the occasions. Olive frequently returned from Urbana on visits. Uncle Joel Kester Martin and his wife Belle had moved to Riverside, California, in the spring of 1920 for his health; but several of their children, including Edgar, Grace and Kenneth, remained in Sullivan, and they would come in from Uncle Joe's farm southwest of town. Mabel thought Eden had "a beautiful baritone voice," and he sometimes sang at family gatherings. "Father would ask Eden to sing two songs, 'Drink to me only with thine eyes,' and 'Sing me to Sleep,' but it was the lyrics that he enjoyed." *Fragments*, at 199.

From 1921 until he died at the age of 90, March 10, 1923, I.J.'s father John Neely Martin often stayed in the Eden house and enjoyed the sociability of his adult grandchildren — though he disapproved of card playing and singing, particularly on Sundays. When he was not staying with I.J., he stayed at Uncle Joe's house southwest of Sullivan. On Sundays he would walk to I.J.'s home to be with the family. When the children saw him approaching, they would sometimes shout, "Hide the cards!"

One of the old man's great-granddaughters, Olive Ruth Hewett, Neely's second daughter, remembered that John Neely gave Olive money to buy Christmas presents for his various great-grandchildren.

Overseeing the newspaper and managing the abstract office had become a burden on I.J., who had reached his 65th birthday in 1924. As the years passed it became clear that I.J. could not run the *Herald* forever, and none of his sons was going to make a career out of the paper.

Eden and Neely were both still subject to their contract with Brandenburger prohibiting them from "engaging in the business" of running a Sullivan newspaper. Probably they and Bob realized that three papers in a town the size of Sullivan was one too many. So after negotiating with

Brandenburger and Arlo Chapin, the owners of the *Progress* and the *Moultrie County News,* I.J. and his sons agreed in December 1926 to sell the *Herald* to the two other owners, who bought the *Progress* to close it down. I.J. and each of his three sons agreed that they would in no way be connected with the newspaper or printing business in Sullivan.

In the last issue of the *Herald*, December 24, 1926, I.J. published an explanation and note of thanks:

> It is customary, and we are glad that it is, for newspaper publishers to express their appreciation to their readers and patrons upon retirement from business through sale or consolidation.
>
> The publisher of *The Herald* and immediate members of his family have been connected with the newspaper business in Sullivan the greater part of the time for more than forty years. The seven years of publication of *The Herald* have been for the most part a pleasing and fairly profitable experience. During that time, *The Herald* has seen a remarkable growth in patronage from the people of the community and, we believe, increased prestige through its policy of independent thought and expression of views. In city, township and county affairs, the editorial policy of *The Herald* has been entirely independent of every consideration except what it believed to be the best interest of the community it served.
>
> Furthermore, the merger of the three papers into two establishments is made at the end of the most successful and prosperous year in the history of *The Herald*. The annual business of *The Herald* for the past two or three years has nearly doubled. The total business in the year 1925 was $5670.43, which was the high mark in its career of thirty years. Yet that total was increased by nearly twenty percent this year. Our total business in 1926 exceeds $6500, besides the earnings for this week which are yet to be added.
>
> This is not published for the purpose of boasting, although we confess the figures are gratifying, but we give them to show that *The Herald* is put into the merger only for the purpose of enabling the publishing business to better serve the interests of the community.

> It is our belief that two papers will be more efficient than three, and if the politicians could surrender their jealous suspicions, it would be better to have only one.

Soon after the sale, Neely accepted the position of "city reporter" for the *Decatur Herald* and moved to Decatur. Eden then took Neely's former job as the local Sullivan reporter for the *Decatur Herald.* At some point he took on the additional role of City Clerk.

Following the sale, in January 1927 I.J. moved his abstract company into an office on the second floor of the M.& F. Bank building (rooms formerly occupied by the Cochran law firm). Bob continued to work for the abstract company, appearing on the company letterhead as "Secretary." The abstract company continued to be located there for the next 30-plus years; and after 1930, Bob Martin used the office across the hall as his law office.

Domestic life in the Martin household during the decade of the 20s lacked the feminine touch. After Rose's death in 1907, Olive had helped raise the two youngest children. But she had returned to the University of Illinois in the fall of 1922 and remained there until 1927, when she began teaching in Lasalle.Mabel had married in 1922. I.J.'s granddaughter Olive Ruth remembered:

> Various people lived with him and kept house — Aunt Eathel, Aunt Mabel, a housekeeper named Mrs. Pickle who had a little boy named Thomas, and finally Kenneth. … [Mrs. Pickle was Grace Hollenbeck Pickle, Mrs. Edward Pickle. Thomas, born 1915, served in World War II and was one of the few survivors when the S.S. Leopoldville was torpedoed in 1944 off the English Channel.]
>
> The door was never locked. I could go there anytime I took the notion. Grandpa always seemed interested to talk to me for as long as I could think of anything sensible to say. [Bob] lived there all those years he was a bachelor. He was my favorite uncle.

Bob lived in the family home with I.J. until he married in 1935.

XIII
Books and Reading

The pleasures of reading which I.J. first experienced in his boyhood home in Whitley Township continued throughout his life. Mabel wrote, "Reading was his main pastime, and his only personal extravagance was buying books and periodicals. He was interested in all subjects, but did not waste time on modern fiction." On the wall opposite his easy chair in the Eden house were tall shelves of books, floor to near-ceiling. On the table next to his chair were stacked more books, newspapers and magazines.

I.J. began keeping scrapbooks about 1881 while he was still teaching school and attending Lee's Academy at Loxa during the summer. The practice continued after he moved to Sullivan, and seems to have intensified after he became editor of the *Progress.* His first scrapbook volume included clippings from newspapers and magazines from the years 1881 to 1886. These included cuttings from a journal of Book I of the *Aeneid*, translated by George Howland, as well as a variety of essays, reviews, collections of aphorisms, and short pieces by English, French and American poets — Bret Harte, Phoebe Cary, Mark Twain, Maude Mirror, Robertson Trowbridge, O.W. Holmes, Emily Wetherbee, Bessie Chandler, Joaquin Miller, Gustave Nadaud, John Greenleaf Whittier, Lottie Bradley, Will Carleton, James Whitcomb Riley, Leigh Hunt,

Tennyson, and Edmund Gosse.

I.J. pasted into his scrapbook a poem, "The Midnight Train," with no identified author. He marked the fourth stanza:

> The train into the village wheels,
> Startling a lover, as he kneels
> To make his vows anew.
> It warns him of time's speeding tide,
> And, rising from his darling's side,
> He kisses her adieu.

Next to this stanza, I.J. wrote the following in the scrapbook margin:

> I have been given credit or blame for writing this poem but only this stanza is mine. Of course the picture is fanciful, but the warning is real. In the 1880s the train and the old P.D. & E. (now the I.C.) went east just a few minutes before midnight. Soon afterwards I would start for my home at the hotel. I picked up this poem somewhere and wrote the 4th stanza, and published it in the *Progress*.

He marginally noted "A Father's Tribute" written by Dr. O.W. Holmes, on the occasion of the elevation to the Supreme Court of Massachusetts of his son, O.W. Holmes Jr., the future justice of the United States Supreme Court.

I.J.'s clippings, like his interests, were not limited to literature. He clipped biographical sketches of members of President Cleveland's cabinet and candidates for office. He clipped a photo of "The Greek Slave" by Hiram Powers, and noted: "I saw this statue in the Corcoran Art Gallery Washington, in March 1893. It was in the center of an octagon room with seats for visitors along each wall to give them a view from all sides."

Next to a picture of Charles Francis Adams, I.J. wrote:

> A son of John Quincy Adams and a grandson of John Adams (the second and sixth presidents) who came near being president himself. The wisest leaders of the liberal republican movement

> in 1872 had picked him for the candidate and if he had been nominated the democrats would have given him a united support which they withheld from [Horace] Greeley. The convention held at Cincinnati was dominated by the middle west and was deadlocked by the contest of Trumbull and Davis of Illinois, Brown of Missouri and Chase of Ohio. In a letter to one of his friends, Adams practically took himself out of the running and the nomination went to Greeley.

Next to an article about Jennie Chamberlain and her picture, he wrote:

> In 1885 when this article was published, Miss Chamberlain must have been more than 21 years of age. She was frequently spoken of as being the most beautiful woman in America. She was a friend, a sort of protege, of the Paynes and Whitneys and was a friend and admirer of Samuel J. Tilden. It was said the sage of Gramercy Park highly appreciated her friendship and notwithstanding the great difference in their ages, some newspaper writers tried to give their friendship a color of romance.

Next to a poem about John McCullough written at the time of the great actor's death, I.J. penned these lines:

> I once saw John McCullough in the character of Virginian, which was one of his two greatest roles, the other being as Spartacus in The Gladiator. He rated as an actor with Booth and Barrett and had more titanic energy than either. Henry Irving was the only other actor that I ever saw who could be in the same class with these three.

He clipped a photograph of a horse, "Maud S.," adding a handwritten note: "She was probably the greatest trotter that ever lived. Bonner [her owner] was publisher of the New York Ledger. She was never raced after he became her owner. He also bought Maud's only rival and drove them together."

I.J.'s letters to his daughters Olive and Mabel, written over the period 1905 to 1951, are collected in *As Ever*, Chicago, 2017. Like his scrapbooks, they give some idea of the breadth of Ivory's curiosity and the extent of his reading.

For example, in 1922 he wrote to Olive that he had just bought 20 volumes of the pocket library series, each for five cents. "I must have at least 150 volumes and they are unusually good reading. … Haldeman-Julius is publishing the pocket library to get the socialist propaganda and other radical literature circulated along with well-known classics."

In late 1922 I.J. bought a 4-volume edition of Wells' *Outline of History*, and in the spring of 1923 he bought Thompson's 4-volume *Outline of Science,* reporting that he found them "the two most useful books published in many years." He had just bought "the other day" Sinclair's *Book of Life*, a volume of 600 or 700 pages, which he had loaned to Mabel. He also looked forward to reading a 4-volume history of art — a translation from the French — which he expected to buy the following year. He wrote to Olive in April 1923 that he had been rearranging the books in his cases, and that the binding on one volume of his set of Shakespeare — a set he had had bound 30 years before — was now so broken that he had taken the set upstairs. He preferred his one-volume Avon edition of Shakespeare's works.

In 1924 he was reading the letters of Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn, which he thought "very good and apparently honest and sincere. It seems strange that the writer could have brought about her execution only six years later." In the same letter he reported that he had been reading *Confessions of An English Opium Eater* by De Quincey, "a classic that I had thus far neglected." He added that he was now up to 400 volumes of the pocket library, but admitted he read only a little more than half of them.

In his next letter to Olive, who was then teaching English, I.J. mentioned reading Helen Whitman's book on Poe. He said he had glanced through the "Sonnets From the Portuguese" and some works about Shelley. A month later, referring to Stephens' "Women of the French Revolution" and "The Tragedy of Jean Paul Marat," he wondered if politicians ever read history, and noted that they make "the same blunders over and over again through the centuries." He also reported that he was then reading Dreiser's "A Book About Myself."

A month later, after Olive asked him about the Greek classics, he said he had read "a large volume of Plato's Dialogues and the Republic, but somehow they never took with me…. The wonderful thing about Plato and all the great Greeks is that they could reach such heights at a time when real knowledge was so limited. Their eagerness to know and to tell others what they thought was

marvelous." In a later letter he told Olive he had ordered new translations of Aristophanes, Plautus, Seneca and others, and that he was also getting "a few 'hellish' evolution pamphlets. I see some of the Christian evolutionists suggest eliminating Darrow from the defense lawyers …"

I.J. devoured newspapers and magazines as well as books. As noted above, he had begun reading the *Atlantic* and *Harpers* in the 1880s. On February 14, 1927, he sent Olive a list of magazines he was then reading: "My own list — the *Nation* (weekly), *Geographic*, *Asia*, H-J. - La Follette — *Fords* — and *New York Mercury* — all monthlies, and Land and Freedom (bi-monthly) and the H.J. Quarterly." And he read the Decatur, Chicago, and St. Louis newspapers. His granddaughter, Olive Ruth Hewett, remembered: "He had a big chest up on the 2nd floor landing full of a magazine collection. It was named *ASIA,* as I recall, but it was something like the *National Geographic*. I used to spend hours up there looking at the pictures of foreign countries. … Grandpa also had some little blue paper-back books about science. That's where I first heard about the theory of evolution. He provided our family with a Book of Knowledge set. I read them on rainy days — He also taught me about stars."

An article in a Decatur newspaper on the occasion of his 91st birthday (written by his daughter Olive) recited that even in his 90s he read the *Manchester Guardian*, the *Sunday New York Times,* and also *Time, Life, The Nation, Harpers*, and the *Atlantic*, as well as the local newspapers.

His books were overweighted in literature, history, geography and biography, but he also read numerous works on science and art. There were almost no novels, though he did read *Gone With The Wind*, regarding it more as history than fiction.

Many of I.J.'s books were passed down the family to his children and grandchildren, of whom I am one. Like his scrapbook clippings, his volumes contain many pencilled marginal notations and below-text footnotes, correcting and sometimes supplementing the text. In those distant pre-computer days, it seems remarkable now that he was able to make extensive factual notations — names, places, dates — from memory.

I.J. had been interested in science from his school days — an interest nourished by his reading of textbooks and the *American Cyclopedia* (*supra*, 66). In 1937, at the age of 78, he read closely *The World and Man As Science Sees Them*, edited

by Forrest R. Moulton, 1937. Marginal notes litter the chapters on astronomy, geology, physics, chemistry, and biology. In the chapter on astronomy, for example, where the author observed that the influence of the moon on the earth is "relatively unimportant," Ivory footnoted: "Uneducated people do not believe this but think the so-called 'phases' or changes of the moon have terrestrial influence. About the year 1878, George Ballard said to C.A. Reeves, 'Charley, when does the moon change.' 'It changes every minute,' said Uncle Charley." Next to a paragraph in which the author observed that the solar system is moving obliquely through the galaxy, Ivory noted, tautologically (at 38): "The solar system is moving rapidly and if it continues to move in the same direction at the same speed for a million years, it will then be in a different place!"

In the chapter on biology, he observed, harkening back to his early reading of the encyclopedia (at 203): "A cyclopedia printed in 1875 has the statement that 'a cell is the basic unit of most plants and of some animals.'" Perhaps he still had that old set of books in 1937.

In the margins of a page describing "physiological processes," I.J. remembered (at 439):

> When I studied chemistry 60 years ago, it was believed that the exhaled CO2 was produced in the lungs by the excess carbon in the blood compounded with the oxygen of the inhaled air. That idea now appears too adventitious to have been believed.

More lengthy notations are found in his books about ancient, European and American history. A few examples illustrate the range of his curiosity.

In *On the Trail of Ancient Man,* Roy Chapman Andrews, 1926, Ivory wrote at the end of Chapter XI, "New Work and Discoveries," at 223:

> This chapter furnishes the most convincing proof I have ever read of the great antiquity of the earth. The great desert in which lies buried the fossil animals and plants that lived here when the land was fertile and the evidence of lakes that existed before they were robbed of the posture by the elevation of the high mountains — It is clear that many millions of years must have been involved in these changes.

In *Bula Matari, Stanley, Conquerer of a Continent*, Jacob Wasserman, 1933, Ivory noted a few corrections: Where the author wrote that the Pilgrim Fathers had landed in America in 1629, he changed the year to 1620 (at 44). Where the author writes about a march by the explorer Stanley in Africa and describes Stanley as "a true Anglo-Saxon," Ivory notes (at l87): "How could a Welshman be a true Anglo-Saxon?" Following chapter five, he added this note, in 1946 when he was 86:

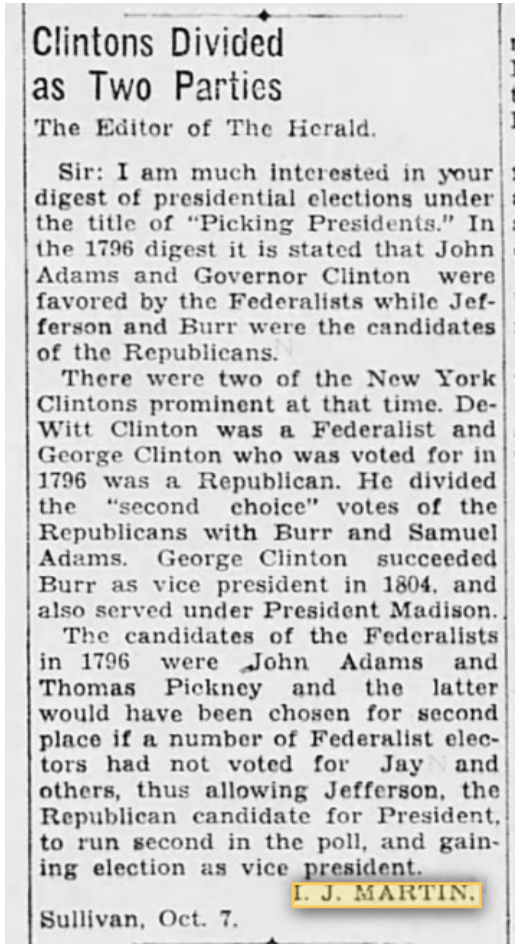
> I was 17 years of age (17 years, 9 months) when Stanley reached the Congo coast. I had known that he was somewhere in the dark continent and that several years before he had found Livingstone and afterwards become lost (to the new world) himself. Living in the country, I had seldom seen a daily [paper] but had sometimes read in weekly newspapers brief mention of Stanley (often regarded as a foolish adventurer.) I.J.M."

Later in the book where the author writes about Stanley's standing for Parliament as a Liberal Unionist, Ivory noted (at 329): "The 'Liberal Unionists' were avowed Liberals who [were] opposed to Irish Home Rule advocated by Gladstone."

In *Aretino, Scourge of Princes*, Thomas C. Chubb, 1940, about the noted Renaissance figure, Ivory sprayed notes over the margins: Where the author refers to the bastard daughter of the Emperor, Ivory identifies her with a note (at 4): "The Duchess of Parma." When the author describes Pope Leo X as having "bulging, batrachoid eyes," Ivory notes in the margin (39): "frog-like." When the author refers to a papal army placed under "the valiant Prospero Colonna," Ivory adds a footnote (at 55): "Vittoria Colonna, wife (and widow) of Prospero, was a talented writer of Italian poetry. After her husband's death (when she was 25) she went to Rome where her charm and talent inspired the romantic friendship of the aging Michelangelo which has helped to perpetuate her fame." Next to a description of Venice in a letter written by Aretino, Ivory adds (174): "A picture of Venice about 1530 (but not quite true)." Next to a translated remark by Aretino about the popes (175) — "if there <u>are</u> any popes in Paradise, which I doubt" — Ivory underscored the word "are" and substituted "be." Where the author lists six women who had exercised "potent influence upon Gallic polity," Ivory added a footnote identifying the six French monarchs for whom each of the listed ladies had served as mistress (at 366).

In *Inside Europe, John Gunther,* 1938, next to a passage describing the incorruptibility of the English civil service, Ivory noted (at 234): "The English [civil service] is more incorruptible than the American because ours is infected with too many get-rich-quick politicians." Next to a passage about the abdication of Edward VIII in which Gunther observed that the Conservative clique that shoved him out might have swallowed Mrs. Simpson but could not abide the King's "disregard of ancient norms and traditions, his political capriciousness, his alleged determination to be an active ruler," Ivory added (at 247): "And his expressed sympathies with labor."

An illustration of I.J.'s knowledge of American history and his memory for details is a letter he sent to the editor of the *Decatur Herald* published October 9, 1926:



Clintons Divided as Two Parties

The Editor of The Herald.

Sir: I am much interested in your digest of presidential elections under the title of "Picking Presidents." In the 1796 digest it is stated that John Adams and Governor Clinton were favored by the Federalists while Jefferson and Burr were the candidates of the Republicans.

There were two of the New York Clintons prominent at that time. DeWitt Clinton was a Federalist and George Clinton who was voted for in 1796 was a Republican. He divided the "second choice" votes of the Republicans with Burr and Samuel Adams. George Clinton succeeded Burr as vice president in 1804, and also served under President Madison.

The candidates of the Federalists in 1796 were John Adams and Thomas Pickney and the latter would have been chosen for second place if a number of Federalist electors had not voted for Jay and others, thus allowing Jefferson, the Republican candidate for President, to run second in the poll, and gaining election as vice president.

I. J. MARTIN.

Sullivan, Oct. 7.

I.J. was also fascinated by the visual arts and the history of art. In his 80s he read a long biography, *Leonardo da Vinci*, by Antonina Vallentin, 1938. He had in his library several books of reproductions of paintings and photographs. In 1938 he acquired *The Arts*, Hendrik Willem Van Loon, 1937, a 650-page history of architecture, art and music from prehistoric times to the then-present. He read and marked up the pages on the visual arts, though it is not clear that he read the chapters on music. His notes on the period of the Renaissance and the 18th Century seem the most engaged. One note is worth preserving here. The author was expatiating on the sins of Rousseau, in particular his mistreatment of a French servant girl with whom he lived many years. Ivory defended the great liberal, noting in the margin: "This does not agree with any explanation of the affair that I have hitherto seen. No one should judge the character of Rousseau from this prejudiced and entirely unfair representation."

Works of literature — particularly poetry — received special attention along with works of history, biography and art. Someone gave him *A Treasury of Great Poems, English and American*, a 1200-plus page collection edited by Louis Untermeyer published in 1942. If it was a birthday gift, it was his 83rd. I.J. read and marked up the entire volume, including the concluding index of first lines. He marked his favorite poems with a sideways arrowhead. He marked favorite passages with vertical marginal lines. The side and bottom margins are rich with penciled notes. About John Skelton, 1460-1529, Ivory added to the editor's introduction a note that Skelton was the first poet laureate. The editor's introduction to Edmund Spenser's poems noted that the Canterbury tales had been written three and a half centuries ago. Ivory marked in the margins that they had been written five and a half centuries ago.

He particularly liked a farewell poem by Michael Drayton. It reminded him of another "farewell" by W.S. Blunt, the five lines of which he wrote from memory on the following page (at 251). Later he realized that the Blunt farewell was included in the collection and cross-referenced it.

He marked several of Shakespeare's sonnets; when he came to number 138, he added a footnote: "No. 138 is the first about a woman." When he came to Shakespeare's "Hate the Idle Pleasures," he noted the line — "Grim-visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front;" — and added this marginal note: "It has been said that John Fletcher is the author of this passage. It is conceded that

he collaborated in the writing of Henry VIII." As to Shakespeare's "Mercutio Describes Queen Mab," Ivory noted (at 299): "I have heard this several times. The best reading was by John Barrymore." He supplemented the editorial introduction of Christopher Marlowe by noting that he had been "born a few weeks earlier than Shakespeare."

Untermeyer had included an ample selection of Wordsworth's poems along with an introduction pointing out that later in life, Wordsworth had changed from being a radical to a conservative, opposed to free press and placing security above liberty. By 1821 Wordsworth had become a "stubborn Tory." I.J. — always a sturdy liberal — liked Wordsworth's poetry but held his abandonment of liberalism against him. I.J wrote in the margin these two lines of verse:

> Just for a handful of silver he left us,
> Just for a ribbon to wear on his coat —

The two lines were from a poem by Robert Browning, "The Lost Leader." Ivory had misremembered it only slightly: the correct second line was "a riband to stick in his coat." He also noted that "Wordsworth is reported to have said in talking of troubles in Ireland that it occurred for the reason that the people had never been thoroughly conquered."

American poets came in for a full share of his attention. As to Whittier's "Barbara Frietchie," he noted: "I think Whittier wrote much that is better than this." He thought Stonewall Jackson's order to "Fire" on the American flag flying from old Dame Barbara's window was "rather silly." He did not mark much of Emerson. He noted the editor's line about Longfellow: "Overpraised in his time, underrated in our own. Longfellow seems to be remembered for his worst."

Whitman was probably his favorite poet. In the editorial introduction to Whitman, Ivory noted in the margin: "He had lost his job as editor of the Brooklyn Eagle because he wrote editorials in support of Van Buren and Adams on the Free Soil ticket." He compared lines from *Leaves of Grass* to Shakespeare's Venus and Adonis. He marked with emphasis Whitman's poems written after the assassination of Lincoln, including "Reconciliation."

He liked Edwin Arlington Robinson, Robert Frost and Carl Sandberg.

He liked Wallace Stevens' "Peter Quince" and T.S. Eliot's "Prufrock." He knew "H.D." was Hilda Doolittle. He liked Wilfred Owen's "Anthem for Doomed Youth." (I regret that he did not appear to like E.E. Cummings' "Somewhere I Have Never Travelled.")

It seems unlikely to me that many university professors of English and American literature today would be able to annotate from memory a comprehensive poetry anthology such as Untermeyer's with the taste and detailed knowledge that Ivory demonstrated. In fact I doubt that many such professors have read the works of most of the poets represented in Untermeyer's volume.

Later in life I.J. joined several book clubs, including the Classics Club and Book of the Month Club. He also subscribed to the *Manchester Guardian* (his grandson Philip remembered the thin, air-post paper), and several Eastern magazines and journals. He supplemented his own book purchases with books borrowed from the Sullivan public library where as President of the library board he could influence the selection of books by the librarian. His children and friends made it a point to give him books for Christmas, Father's Day and his birthday. Ella Condon Poole gave him Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.'s *Age of Jackson* as a father's day gift in 1945, when he was 86. He annotated the entire book — including the index — underscoring passages that particularly appealed to him, including the last line: "The great tradition of American liberalism regards man as neither brute nor angel."

It would overburden this text to list the writers and books Ivory mentioned in his letters. An interested reader (if any there ever be) may consult the index of the volume of his collected letters, *As Eve*r, which provides a separate index of references in his letters to authors and literary works. The index runs to 10 columns of printed text.

Why did I.J. mark and annotate his books so thoroughly? Did he think that one day a child or grandchild might read his copies and learn from his notes?

I would like to think so, but I doubt it. My hunch is that he had formed the habit early of making marginal notes in order to help him understand and remember what he was reading, and to facilitate his own re-reading or further study. During his early years when he was teaching school, marking his books would have helped him organize the material to prepare for his classes. During

his middle years when he was editing the newspaper, marking books and magazines — like keeping his scrapbooks — helped him compose columns or editorials, or prepare political arguments. In later years he followed the habits of a long lifetime of reading and study. Perhaps he pulled from the shelf his anthology of poetry and used his marks to decide which verses to re-read.

But the notes were more than an aide to memory. After Rose died there were few people in Sullivan with whom I.J. could have carried on an extended conversation about history or literature. His sons were not much interested in scholarship. Olive had studied literature, but during I.J.'s middle years she taught school in other towns. Letters exchanged with Olive and Mabel satisfied only some of his need to share bookish thoughts and interests. Perhaps his notes and annotations were a way to extend the conversation — albeit in a one-sided way. In reading we give pleasure to ourselves. I think his notes were a way of enriching that pleasure.

Whatever the reasons, I.J.'s book notations along with his letters to his daughters illustrate his curiosity and taste as well as the extent and depth of his learning. He was a self-educated man, and his knowledge was comprehensive and muscular.

In January 1948, shortly after his 88th birthday, I.J. was interviewed by a reporter for the *Decatur Herald and Review,* who asked him about his reading. He told the interviewer he read one Chicago and one New York newspaper every day, as well as two Decatur papers. The reporter added:

> The reputation for extensive reading resulted from Mr. Martin's custom of remaining up until 1 or 2 a.m. each night, reading books from his library, which now contains approximately 3,000 volumes.

XIV
Local and Family History

Since childhood I.J. had been interested in history — from ancient times, through the history of Europe, to and including the American experience. Martin and Eden family stories reached back to Virginia, through the trans-Appalachian migration, via Kentucky and the Indian wars, to Southern Illinois and the early settlements in Coles County and the Whitley Point community. I.J.'s own memory reached back to the Civil War era. Perhaps equally important, his livelihood gave him a close-up view of the events that make local history. His experiences as a newspaperman exposed him not only to events of the day but to the people — including the old-timers — who had shaped events in earlier years; and his labors in the clerk's office and preparing abstracts of title gave him a nearly-unique view, going back to the original settlement of the county, of the early land owners and their families.

In 1926 two of I.J.'s essays on the early history of Moultrie County appeared in the *Herald*. From 1927 to 1936 he prepared and updated a separate "Common Place Book" of county history in which he focused on politics, elections, and people who had held public office in both the county and city. Later he wrote other papers on both Moultrie County and Sullivan history, as well as separate notes on the Lincoln and Douglas speeches in Sullivan during

the Senate campaign of 1858 and on the history of Sullivan's newspapers. He also prepared a map of the county showing where the earliest settlements in the county, from 1826 to 1831, were made.

I.J.'s essays on local history were based less on research than on memory. He noted, "My memory goes back to a time about 40 years after the date of the first arrivals, and I have talked with some of them." In one of his 1926 essays that appeared in the *Herald* about the Whitley Point settlement, "the first permanent settlement" by European descendants in the county, I.J. remembered the traces of an even earlier settlement:

> There had doubtless been temporary settlements of roving hunters and adventurers before [the Whitleys came in 1826]. Fifty years ago there could still be seen the remains of the hearth and stick chimney and the foundation logs of a cabin in section five, southeast of the Waggoner church. The oldest inhabitant of that day could not remember the cabin and it may have been a hundred years old at that time — its occupants gone and forgotten before the Whitleys came. "The First Permanent White Settlement in Whitley Township," by I.J. Martin, Editor *Sullivan Herald*.

I.J.'s local-history essays were collected in a single volume — *Notes on the History of Moultrie County and Sullivan, Illinois,* I.J. Martin, Sullivan, 1990. His "Common Place Book" and recollections of the Civil War era may be found on a local history website, **edenmartin.com**. Related recollections or observations are scattered throughout I.J.'s letters. *As Ever*, Chicago, 2017.

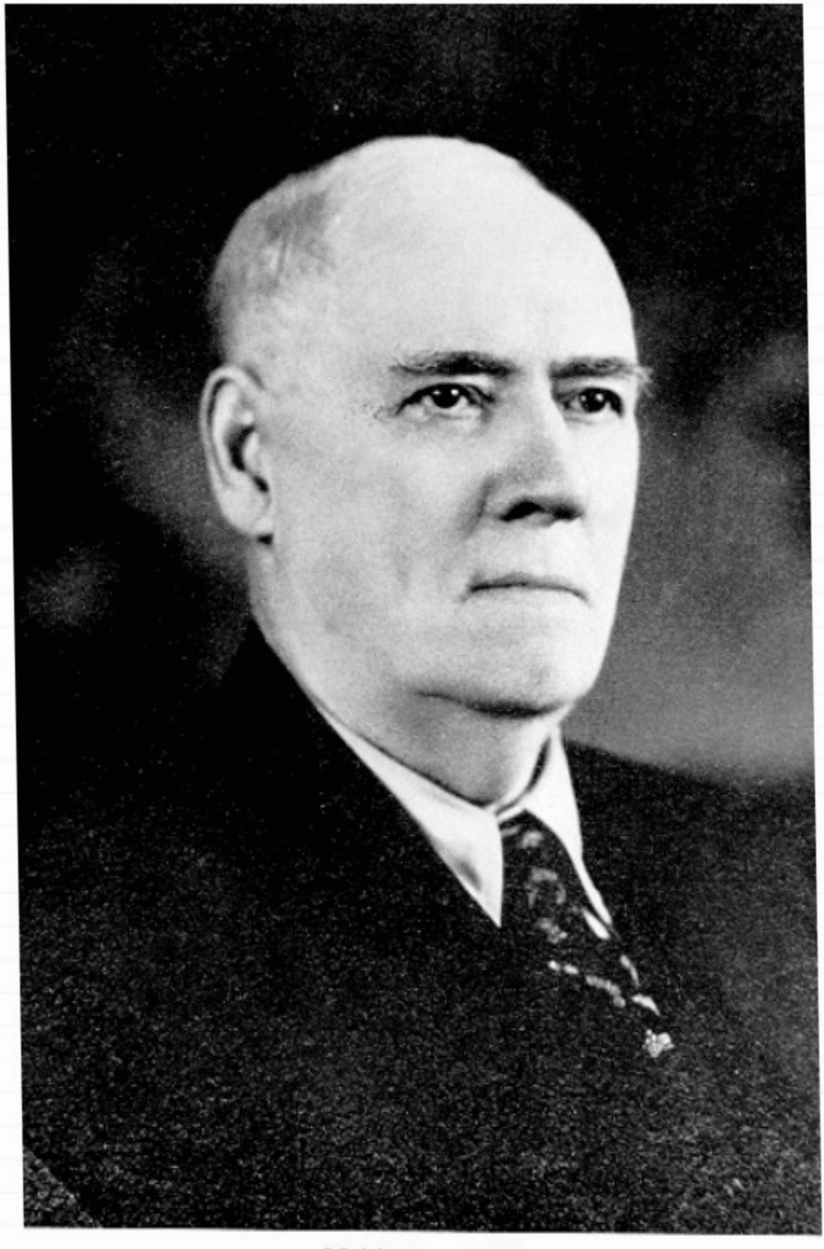
I.J. also prepared two memoranda of Martin family history. The longer one was completed in 1941 when he was 81 years old. These local and family history papers have been collected, edited and integrated in *Fragments of Martin Family History*, Chicago, 1990, 99 to 177. Only a few of these pages — 155-170 — related to himself. In these few pages he remembered early episodes of his life, beginning when he was "about two years of age, or possibly younger." He wrote about his schooling and his neighborhood friends. He remembered the 1872 presidential election campaign between Grant and Greeley, and the "great panic" which began in 1873. His few years as a teacher, then as deputy county clerk in Sullivan and editor of the *Sullivan Progress*, and of his marriage, received less than a page altogether. Perhaps he wrote so briefly

about himself out of modesty. Or perhaps it was because he did not regard his own life as part of "history."

I.J.'s family memoir was based both on what he had himself experienced and what he had been told by his parents and other relatives. These accounts thus suffer from what a trial lawyer might describe as two disadvantages: memory is less reliable than original records, and information passed on by others — "hearsay" — is suspect. Indeed, the more often stories are repeated and the more generations through which they pass, the more they may be suspect.

Yet for anyone interested in the Martin families and the communities in which they lived, I.J.'s narratives are invaluable. In many if not most cases, they are the only surviving accounts of these events and people; and they provide leads enabling today's generation to begin their own research. But they provide more than starting points. Without his explanations of the political fights in Sullivan over licensing of saloons, for example, or the struggle over private-vs-public electricity generation, it would be difficult if not impossible for a researcher today to extract those stories solely from the few newspaper accounts that survive from those eras.

Fortunately, in addition to I.J.'s own writings about the family, we have his daughter Mabel's biographical sketch of her father's life. It appears in *Fragments of Martin Family History,* 1990, 187-205. However, as Mabel noted in her sketch, I.J. "never talked much about his childhood. … He never talked much about his activities as he was growing up or who his friends were — probably because nobody asked. I wish now I had been more curious." *Id.*, at 190.



I.J. Martin, c. 1935

XV
Semi-Retirement

As I.J. passed through the Depression years — his 75th birthday was November 7, 1934 — he eased into partial retirement. He went to the abstract office most days, but his son Bob and nephew Kenneth seem to have done most of the work.

Motion pictures had been shown in Sullivan since 1901; and after the Titus Opera House was destroyed in 1910, movies and musical plays were presented at the Jefferson Theater beginning in early 1916. But regularly-scheduled movies shown in a theater designed for that purpose did not come to Sullivan until the Grand Theater opened June 30, 1928. *Fragments of the History of Sullivan*, 2018, at 318.

I.J. had enjoyed live theater throughout his life. In his 90s he remembered "with great pleasure" the actors he had seen many years earlier: Sir Henry Irving, Ellen Terry, Edmund Booth, Lawrence Barrett, Joe Jefferson, and Ada Rehan. During the 1880s and 90s he particularly remembered John McCullough, Frederick Warde, Louis James, Minnie Madden Fiske, Helen Modjeska, Sara Bernhardt, John Drew and Georgia Drew Barrymore. This list represents a great many plays and performances, which I.J. probably saw mostly in Chicago.

In any event, his love of live theater made it natural for I.J. to become a fan of the movies. As Mabel remembered, "Every evening he would have supper at the Corner [the restaurant run by the Georges] and go to the movies. That way he would see every picture twice. He said he got the plot the first time, and the second time he looked for fine performances in the acting."

His letters to Olive and Mabel are full of references to the movies. Less than two weeks after the new Grand opened in 1928, he told Olive he had seen Madonna of the Streets. He thought Evelina Brent was a great actress. When Judge Sentel commented that Brent had not smiled a lot, Ivory replied that "she had very little to smile about." The Judge's objection was to the story, not the actress. In November 1931 I.J. wrote:

> I have been seeing the movies pretty regularly. We have been having a pretty good line of pictures (or I may be easy to please). Bob and I went to Shelbyville a week ago to see the Five Star Final. You know we get no Warner pictures here. It was a good story and a fine performance. I had not before seen Robinson except in one of his early pictures in support of Mary Nolan. He is one of the great actors. It was too the first I had seen of Marian March.
>
> The best picture I have seen in Sullivan for awhile was 'Seed.' John Boles has improved wonderfully as an actor but I still would rather hear him sing. I have seen Genevieve Tobin in the supporting cast of Rose Hobart's picture, 'A Lady Surrenders.' Her acting was artistically better though perhaps not so pleasing in this picture.

The Depression adversely affected I.J.'s finances, if not his spirits. In May 1932 he told Olive that his business was almost nil — that people in the real estate and loan business seemed to have shut down, in part due to the bank failures. He described the period since the stock market crash in 1929 as one of "accumulating distress and disorder." Olive had experienced a drastic cut in her teacher's salary. Bob's salary as States' Attorney was reduced from $2,275 to $1,900. Ivory thought his income from the abstract business had been reduced "about 60 percent." *As Ever*, at 123.

I.J. had managed to save a little money, which he invested in real estate. During the 1920s Americans had invested in shares of common and preferred stock to an unprecedented degree. In 1920 200 million shares were exchanged

on the New York Stock Exchange By 1929 the number had grown to over 1,100 million shares. In October 1929 all that changed. There is no evidence that I.J. had any money in the stock market either before or after the crash. Like generations of his predecessors, he put his savings in land. Some time after 1913, according to I.J.'s copy of the 1913 county atlas, he had acquired over 100 acres of undeveloped land southwest of town, north of Eden Street and west of Caldwell's additions. In 1947 he was still paying property taxes on about a dozen residential lots in Caldwell's addition.

I.J. retained his strong interest in public affairs. In 1933 a writer for one of the Decatur newspapers wrote a column favoring the reduction of state expenditures to relieve "over-burdened taxpayers." One of those proposed reductions was the state's support for its normal schools — teacher preparation colleges. The columnist criticized Doctor Burnett Shryrock, President of Southern Illinois University, for supporting state funding on the ground that he was not disinterested. I.J.'s respect for the teaching profession and for those who prepared teachers led him to respond:

"Dr. Shryrock is now an old man. He has spent his life (for a consideration, of course) in helping young people (more or less worthy) to prepare for what has been heretofore considered an honorable vocation. The section of the country in which he has worked is not one of the wealthy districts. Perhaps a majority of the boys and girls he has helped would have found it impossible to go on if a tuition had been assessed and if the state had not provided the school. (Of course, it can be sneered that the pedagogue was paid for his time.)

"I have known Dr. Shryrock, not intimately, for a good many years. More than thirty years ago, when he was a member of the faculty of the Southern Normal school—before he was elected president—he spent the weekend in Sullivan, making a Friday night trip, on his own time. Without fee he delivered two lectures on Saturday, full of encouragement and inspiration to the County Teachers' association. The state was then making no allowance for expenses, and I remember that the county superintendent, the late Bruce Lowe, took up a collection to pay railroad fare and hotel bill. (I remember that I made a small contribution from my salary, perhaps, as a member of the school board. I might add that the contribution was not quite so small as the salary.)

"No man in Southern Illinois is more loved than this fine old veteran. This is easily verified by contact with teachers, or friends of the school (of course, they are a mercenary lot) in that territory. I have enjoyed a few such contacts in the past, and I have heard nothing but appreciation. The only item of disrespect, I have found in your article, which, allow me to say, I think is quite unworthy of you.

"Dr. Livingstone Lord, another fine old veteran, would have taken the same stand as Dr. Shryrock, but his life work was done. (He died yesterday.) However, he was another one of the mercenary crowd, in the eyes of the mercenary.

"As I said, I have no wish to go into the merits of the proposed bill. Such action may be supported as necessary, at this time. I am not offering an argument —only registering a protest. I can't help suggesting, however, that the surplus of teachers is matched by the surplus of engineers, bookkeepers, stenographers, trained business men and women, and in fact, all lines of technical endeavor. Then, why not close all of our schools, and let the youngsters of this generation 'go to the devil'?"

Business continued to be bad into 1933. The abstract business depended on real estate transactions of which there were few. There was only one bank in the county still open — the First National at Sullivan. I.J. had been given checks on banks in Monticello, Bloomington, and Arthur that were closed. "When I contemplate the arrival of monthly bills — I am keeping away from the post office today." He mused that "after this depression lifts, if it ever does, and I get to doing any business, I will turn everything to an effort to get out of debt."

I.J. spent his adult life struggling to generate enough income to pay expenses and interest on his debts. Keeping the house in good repair was important to him, and covering his costs was always difficult. But he did not spend much time worrying about it.

Ivory could still afford to go to most of the "picture shows." The Columbia studio pictures could be viewed at the Grand Theater in Sullivan; for the Warner and United Artists films, he still had to go to Mattoon, Shelbyville or Decatur.

He wrote in 1933 that he had seen "Sign of the Crow," and "Animal

Kingdom" recently, and planned to see "A Strange Interlude" the coming Sunday. He had read the stage play twice, and "would not have selected Norma Shearer and Clark Gable to play the leads in it. I expect to find Gable especially miscast."

I.J.'s letters in 1934 were full of references to movies and actors. He wrote, "I still go to the movies with fair regularity two or three or sometimes four evenings a week. With one double program we have a chance to see six pictures a week, but I never go Saturday when a western or other chiller is on the screen." Economic pressures compelled him to reduce his "modest Christmas expenditures" though he added that "If someone should come in and pay a good sized account, I would be as much a Santa Claus as ever."

In 1935 he seems to have seen more comedies at the movie theater. He mentioned actors Hugh Herbert, and others — Hawthorn, Sparks, Horton, Juggles, Butterworth, Laurel, Wheeler and a few others. "I can tolerate Durante and the Marx Brothers. I don't like Hardy or Woolsey or Chase or Kennedy, Clark and McCullough .... I hate silly symphonies' Mickey Mouse but I like some of Walt Disney's fairy stories. However, I would vote for an entire elimination of cartoon pictures." *As Ever,* at 150.

The revenue generated by the abstract business in March 1935 was not enough to pay salary and other expenses. "The trouble is that my expenses do not vary with the earnings." In May he reported he was not seeing as many pictures. Next Sunday he would see Gable and Bennett in After Office Hours; the following week, Jolson & Keller. He had little work and his secretary was working only part time.

But in mid-1936 business picked up a little — "something like old times." (*Id.*, at 186.) As Thanksgiving approached, Ivory splurged on movies. He saw Huston, Chatterton and Aster in Dodsworth one evening, and Paul Lucas the next. He expected to see The Libeled Lady the next evening, with Powell, Loy, Harlow and Tracy. The following week it would be The Charge of the Light Brigade. *Id.*, at 188.

Having read *Gone With The Wind* when it appeared, he was interested in who would play the parts in the upcoming movie. He did not care much about the Rhett Butler character, and thought Gable could only play Gable. "The only

characters in the story that I care about are the three or four negroes."

In May 1937 at age 77 he wrote about his plan to slide into retirement:

> I expect at the end of [Bob's] term as states attorney, or sooner in case of emergency, to make him the manager of the [abstract] company and I will then work only when I feel like it. He knows the abstract business as well as any one and besides he is a good business manager and a good real estate lawyer, which would make his leadership in the business something like ideal. It would also help his law business, and his legal talent and reputation would aid in the title business. (*Id.*, at 194.)

He also reported that he had "lately finished reading a 1,600 page history of the world which I think is the best summary of world history I ever saw. I think it is more accurate than Wells." *Id.*, at 195. He was confident enough in his own knowledge and memory to believe he could judge which of these massive summaries was the "more accurate."

In the fall of 1937, business again turned slow. Revenues were "awfully poor the past month, covering only office expense and leaving my salary as a future contingency." It reminded him of what their Aunt Emma used to say about her corn crop: She could find consolation in the fact that other peoples' corn did not appear to have been doing much either. He was still reading and seeing on average two or three movies each week.

Business was down at the beginning of 1938, but picked up in the fall. Collections enabled him to pay back the money he borrowed to pay his property taxes. In July 1938 he told Olive that he was reading Einstein's *Evolution of Physics,* which he found interesting but did not know how much benefit he would get from it. The science books he had read in the last century laid out facts that could be memorized. "In this book, memory is not of much use. It is all a problem of understanding." A few days later he gave a further report: "I laid away the Einstein book for cooler weather. I got through the first few chapters very well but when he reached the point of relativity, I found myself somewhat confused and inclined to slumber. He has tried to make it easy by elimination of mathematical formulas, but for a real understanding a student must see how the conclusions were arrived at." *Id.*, at 213.

The commencement of the Second World War in Europe in September 1939 seems to have had little impact on the public mind, probably because America was not yet in it. But the invasion of Poland touched a chord in I.J.'s historical memory. He wrote a column for the *Decatur Herald,* published October 10, 1939, in which he reminded his readers of earlier offenses against Poland and of Kosciusko's contribution to American independence. The column illustrates both the breadth of his historical knowledge and his sympathy for the Poles:

Poland's Hero — and Ours.

Poland was partitioned among its three neighbors (Germany, Russia and Austria) three different times before its present eclipse. The third division was made in 1796 at the end of a struggle in which Kosciusko who had fought for us in our own revolutionary war was the leader of the Poles.

A few years later Campbell, a British poet in his 'Pleasures of Hope,' wrote of the event as follows:

> O bloodiest picture in the Book of Time
> Sarmatia fell, unwept, without a crime —
> Found not a generous friend, a pitying foe
> Strength in her arms, nor mercy in her woe!
> Hope for a season bade the world farewell
> And Freedom shrieked as Kosciusko fell.

Some readers of the poem got the idea that Kosciusko was killed in the last battle with the Russians. In fact he was severely wounded and taken prisoner but after the death of Catharine (so called the great) he was released. He came to America and lived for a while in Philadelphia but before our Capitol had been moved to Washington he went to Paris. He was a democrat like Jefferson and Lafayette and he believed there was more hope for freedom in France than in England, which the Adams administration in 1798 seemed to favor …

The Continental Congress in 1783 … had conferred upon Kosciusko 'all the rights and privileges of American Citizenship' and had retired him from the army with the rank of Brigadier General.

At a time when America was not yet in the war and isolationist pressures were strong, I.J.'s column did not mention Germany or Hitler but left no doubt in the mind of any reader what he thought about the German invasion of Poland.

In November 1939 he grumbled to Olive about how the anti-Wilson majority in the Senate had defeated the League of Nations after the First War. The uncertainty affected his business: "If peace were declared or if war would start in earnest — anything to end the uncertainty would help business. It is safe to say that the politicians and pacifists who are trying to keep American ships off of the seas are people who do not own ships or any merchandise that needs a foreign market." *Id.*, at 224.

Despite the severity and length of the Depression, I.J.'s allegiance to the Democratic Party and his support for President Franklin D. Roosevelt never wavered. He remained a committed Democrat. He wrote a note next to a 1949 newspaper article about Wendell Willkie, the Republican candidate for President in 1940, that expressed his long-held assessment of the Republican party:

> The 'Grand Old Party' has but one man in all its history whose name they can appeal to in an effort to restore people's confidence. And if he were living today, he would not be a Republican.
>
> Lincoln never was much in love with the party. He did not join it until the eve of the 1856 campaign, after the Whig party had finally given up the ghost. Then in 1864 he chose to run for re-election on a Union ticket with a War Democrat for vice-president. Fremont was nominated in a 'Republican' convention and withdrew from the race a short time before the November election.
>
> The Radical Republican leaders in Congress were in opposition to him at the time of his assassination.

In another note written about the same time, he added:

> In 90 years there have been 12 Republican presidents and one — Johnson, a union Democrat — who was elected V.P on the Union ticket in 1864. Of these 12 or 13 presidents, only one — General Grant — served two full terms. McKinley was selected for a second

term but served only a few months more and was succeeded by Theodore Roosevelt, who was then elected for one term in his own right as was Coolidge.

Arthur, who succeeded upon the death of Garfield, was defeated in convention for renomination at the end of the term, and Blaine who defeated him was in turn defeated by Cleveland in the election. Only one other president — Franklin Pierce — was defeated by his own party for renomination. Two other presidents — Fillmore and Hayes — would have liked renomination, but their appeal was so slight that their names were not presented to the convention. Tyler, Polk, Buchanan, and Johnson were not considered for a second term, and six other one-termers — Van Buren, Ben Harrison, Taft and Hoover — were defeated in the elections.

These casual notes — written by a man nearing 90 in those old, pre-internet days — convey a sense of the depth of I.J.'s knowledge of American political history and the comprehensiveness of his memory.

XVI
The Automobile Accident

On Wednesday, November 26, 1941, while Ivory was walking home after a movie, he was struck by a car at the corner of Harrison and McClellan streets, less than a block from his home. He was three weeks past his 82nd birthday. The driver who hit him was new in town — a man named Charles Gwinn. Ivory's right leg was fractured in two places below the knee, and he suffered cuts and bruises. His false teeth flew out as a result of the impact. I.J. was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur by ambulance. He remained in the hospital for almost three months, and then was taken back to Sullivan and lodged in the Clevenger rest home, then located across the street from his own home on McClellan Street.

Mr. Gwinn asked if it would be all right for him to visit Ivory in the hospital. It was. When he went in to I.J.'s room and introduced himself, I.J. replied cheerfully, "The last time I met you, I didn't see you."

The dentist made him a new set of teeth and asked how he liked them. I.J. said, "Why, they are fine. I never saw a finer set of teeth. All they need now is to find a mouth that will fit them." *Fragments*, 202-203.

But the accident was very far from a laughing matter. A surgeon put his right leg in a cast, and he was kept in bed for eight or nine weeks before the leg could be bent. On a Friday, ten weeks after the accident, the doctor directed that a nurse give his right foot a heat treatment and manual massage.

I.J. later sent an account of what had happened to "Dr. Rich" (probably Dr. Ciney Rich) at St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur:

> It has been a year and four months since my foot was given a special treatment presumably for the purpose of aiding or hastening the recovery from fracture of my leg.
>
> My leg has recovered long since — at least a year ago, but I still suffer from the injuries my foot received from the special treatment.
>
> I can walk a little with the aid of two canes but my foot and ankle pains me all the time I am standing upon them. If I prolong the exercise or weight pressure, the pain increases and may continue for hours. …
>
> I have been kept away from my business by this foot injury for a year and have also been burdened with an extra year of hospital expense. For several years I had been earning an average of $150 per month, or 1,800 per year. My employment and earnings would have been resumed at least a year ago if I had escaped that special foot treatment.

In an attached statement, I.J. described in detail his injury, the treatment he received from the surgeon, and the "torture treatment" he had been given by a nurse. She had brought into his hospital room "a hideous looking black pot" containing a heating device. She refused to tell Ivory anything about the treatment he was about to receive. The nurse then left Ivory with a young female assistant who twisted and ground his toes together, pulling his feet from side to side. "The pain was excruciating. Tearing the toes from the foot could not have been much more painful." When she finally ceased, I.J. said his toes and part of the foot "appeared like a piece of meat, hammered thin and ready for broiling."

Having worked over his foot with her hands, the nurse's assistant "picked up what appeared to be a hard rubber punch or bludgeon and put its small rounded end into a depression in front of the ankle joint. She struck the other end of this torture tool a hard blow with her fist or with something held in her clenched hand. My foot throbbed and quivered with pain and the girl smiled delightedly, as she watched the effect of her attack. She was having fun. … I think that there was nearly a dozen of these bludgeon blows. The last one was a terrific drive, near the great toe. The feeling here was as if a bolt had been driven entirely through my feet."

I.J. was maddened not only by the pain but also by the fact that the girl seemed to be enjoying her power and his discomfort:

> The pain was so keen, so sudden and so surprising, that I cried out. At my cry of 'Oh,' her smile did become audible and she laughed, outright.

Finally, after the treatment had gone on for about an hour, the nurse's assistant departed, leaving him alone.

After the passage of some time, two friendly nurses came in. I.J. told them what had happened, and they unwrapped his foot and relieved his toes from the cramped position. I.J. wrote that they appeared to be shocked by what they found. Later another young nurse told Ivory that the "torture girl" had been informed "that she was through, and that she would not be allowed to act further in the case." Another said: "She was not entirely to blame. She had been told that he was a difficult patient always wanting his own way in everything, and that she would have to be firm and determined. She was unusually severe because she had been told that he should be taught a lesson."

I.J. sent his claim to Dr. Rich in Decatur on June 5, 1943. He made clear he was seeking compensation "for actual injuries and losses." There is no surviving record of any response or indication of any settlement by the doctor of the hospital. There is no evidence that a lawsuit was ever filed.

After he left the hospital, the recovering patient went through his own personal rehabilitation — at first using two canes and hobbling around the house. Gradually he made it out on the front porch, then down the steps, and

finally was walking up and down the front walk.

In time I.J. improved to the point where he could walk around the house and outside with one cane. Because he could not climb the steep staircase in the house to the second floor, his bedroom was moved in July 1944 from the second floor to the first, adjacent to the living room.

He wrote to Mabel in November 1944 that the day before he had walked to the barber shop and back home, altogether a distance of 3/4 of a mile. He frequently visited the homes of his children and used a cane. But he did not go back to the abstract office, because he would have had to climb a very long, steep flight of stairs to get to the second floor of the building where the office was located.

XVII
Final Chapter

In the years following the accident in 1941, Mabel and Olive took turns visiting in Sullivan to help take care of their father. Olive at the time of the accident was teaching high school in LaSalle, Illinois. She retired from teaching in June 1947 and moved back to Sullivan to live in the old Eden house with Ivory, who was then 87. The old Eden house was difficult to heat in the winter. In 1944 and other winters, I.J. closed up the house and moved across the street to Clevengers, which was better heated or insulated. Olive and her father spent the winter of 1948 in Decatur with Neely.

Anna Sager, one of Ivory's neighbors and a sister-in-law of Kenneth Martin, remembers that in good weather Ivory often sat in a rocking chair on his front porch reading a book or magazine.

I.J. and Olive on the front porch.
(undated photo)

Once Olive asked him if he regretted retirement — not being able to work. He replied, "No. I've got too much to do to want to work, though I hated at first to give it up."

I.J. had been in the hospital when the Pearl Harbor attack occurred, and spent much of the time during the early years of the war in what we would now call rehabilitation. As he recovered, he worried about his grandsons in the Army — Tommy, son of John Eden Martin, and John George, son of Mabel and Bill George. Bob Hewett, the husband of Olive Ruth, daughter of Neely, was also in the army and served in the Pacific. Forrest Ledbetter, husband of Marcia Rose, daughter of John Eden Martin, was reported missing in action, October 10, 1944; but he survived the war.

I.J. followed the trajectory of the war carefully in the newspapers. Based on his knowledge of history he was confident of the eventual outcome:

> Notwithstanding Hitler's brave talk yesterday [November 8, 1943], I expect a collapse in Germany soon after the enemy begins to cross the frontiers. In all the wars of the past, Germany has never held out against invasion. They are fine sturdy fighters so long as they are invaders of enemy territory, but no longer. In the first world war

> they asked for an armistice while still in Italian, French and Belgian territory.
>
> I doubt if Hitler will have the say as to when the end will be. The General in command of the army is more apt to give the last word for Germany. *Id.*, at 255.

Japan, he thought, was a different case:

> If the allies get a successful landing in the western front, I expect to see Germany quit next summer, but I think Japan will not surrender as long as they can fight. *Id.,* at 257.

With the passage of time, some old friends died, others moved away. Rose had died almost four decades earlier, when he was not quite 48 years old. On November 1, 1945, his oldest son, John Eden, died in Okalona, Mississippi.

I.J. continued to enjoy the company of books and listened to the radio. He read the newspapers regularly. He was visited often by children and grandchildren. But not surprisingly his letters convey a sense of loneliness. He wrote to Mabel, July 13, 1945:

> It seems a long time since you were here although not quite a week has passed. It makes one who feels a loneliness or vacancy appreciate to some extent the despair of poor Oscar Wilde at "Reading Gaol." He wrote each day seems to be a year, a year whose days are long. *Id.*, at 267.

He then wrote for Mabel some lines he had read "the other day" in *Mercury*:

> A girl withdrew her fingers
> From an old man's hand.
> His rough and withered fingers.
> Could she understand
> That his hands were a cradle
> When a small child cried?
> That they were a pillow
> When his good wife died?

Apart from his leg, his health was good and he kept his weight down. He told Mabel in early 1946:

> My dieting comes naturally. I eat only a few kinds of food and the kind that does not stimulate an appetite so that I have little trouble with overweight. I sleep late and eat a very light breakfast if I get up in time to eat any. Often my breakfast and noon meal come together. Milk, bread and eggs are staples for my evening meal with coffee at both meals. Potatoes and other vegetables at noon — but little or no meat at any time. What I eat seldom makes a trouble — I have had no attacks of indigestion for a long time. It is rather pleasant to get along without them. *As Ever*, at 285.

Elsewhere Olive reported that his regular breakfast consisted of orange juice, cream of wheat, bacon, cookies and coffee.

I.J. enjoyed an occasional glass of wine. His children sometimes gave him a bottle of wine on a holiday. On his 75th birthday Bob gave him a bottle of Spanish wine. He mentioned another bottle which someone gave him on his 89th — and which his son Neely and nephew Kenneth drank before he got any of it. Neely then bought him a replacement bottle. Ivory told Mabel:

> The new one may serve for Christmas cheer. I doubt if I open it before then. I have gone without drink for so long that I fear it would do me no good, and again I doubt if I need that kind of stimulation. I don't care for either the taste or effect of drink; and if I did I would not prefer wine and would have no use for beer, which I positively dislike. Good whisky (which I never drink at all) is a more honest beverage and it can be mixed into a palatable drink. *Id.*, at 330.

Sometimes he sat quietly, remembering lines from his favorite poets, one of whom, despite his later conservatism, was Wordsworth:

> I can sit and think and repeat things already gathered and stored in the memory that are better than much of the new stuff. I have the same feeling of books, especially poems, that Wordsworth describes in his poem of The Daffodils: 'They flash upon that inner eye which is the bliss of solitude.' *Id.*, at 345.

I.J. remained as active as age permitted. He was reappointed to the library board in July 1947. He wrote occasional letters to the editor. One such letter, published in the *Decatur Herald,* November 28, 1948, argued for a change in the law of presidential succession in order to avoid the danger of a change of party control in the event of the death of a President. In it I.J. remembered that when he was 8 years old, a hostile Congress had sought to remove President Johnson: "Some people had expected Senator Wade of Ohio, the president *pro tem*, to withhold his vote, but he cast it against the president, thus voting for himself. The sequel to this was that while Grant carried Ohio in 1868 for President, the Ohio legislature elected a Democrat, Allen G. Thurman, to succeed Wade in the Senate. The old senator in reaching for the presidency had committed political suicide" — a result which did not at all sadden I.J.

Another letter, published April 3, 1949, explained how different the outcomes in presidential elections would have been if electoral college votes had been apportioned by the states according to the popular vote. Ivory pointed out that such a seemingly pro-"democratic" procedure would have altered the results of three presidential elections: 1876, 1880, and 1888.

His daughter-in-law, Bob's wife Ruth, admired him greatly. She fixed special meals and desserts for him, and drew his picture. She told Olive once that he was the smartest person she had ever known.

I.J. Martin, drawing by Ruth Martin.

In November 1948 I.J. enjoyed his 89th birthday celebration. Bob and Ruth brought ice cream and cake, and their boys played the piano for him. He had become hard of hearing, which made it difficult for him to understand the boys. Olive reported that he ate well and liked to nibble — he can find grapes, bananas, dates, and Korn Kurls. She also said Ivory was "restless, prowls about, turns on the radio from station to station and says he is lonesome."

Although this is another blurry picture, it is Grandfather as I remember him, sitting in his chair and reading.

I.J. in his late 80's.

I.J. celebrated his 90th birthday in November 1949 with an open house. He was more frail than before. After his bath he could not get out of the tub by himself because the strength had gone out of his arms and he was afraid of falling. The newspapers in Decatur, Mattoon and Sullivan all noted his birthday.

Old age led him to reminisce about his childhood on the Whitley farm. An article he read in a Southern Illinois newspaper prompted him to write to the editor: "Your allusion to the Dewberry touched one of my boyhood memories of lifting from the grass a full-fruited vine and seeing its sparkling dewdrops, brilliant as gems in the sunlight. It must have been such an experience that prompted Walt Whitman to write: 'A running blackberry vine would adorn the parlors of Heaven.'"

In early November 1950, he voted in the general election and it made the newspapers. He remembered that he had missed by three days the privilege of voting in the Garfield-Hancock presidential election of 1880, when his 21st birthday came three days after the election. The Decatur article reported that he read the *New York Times*, *The Chicago Sun Times* and the Decatur newspapers regularly, as well as a select group of magazines devoted to literature, art and current affairs.

On January 4, 1951, a few weeks after his 91st birthday, I.J. wrote to Mabel: "I have finished your gift book (*The Illusion of Immortality* [by Corliss Lamont] — my selection) and found it very interesting. It deals with the question respectfully and does not employ the usual atheistic sarcasm in such discussions." He mentioned a fine gift from Bob and Ruth — the collected poems of Carl Sandberg: "I had never read any of his poems except those printed in newspapers." His eyesight as well as his hearing had been affected by age. He read with the aid of a magnifying glass. He told Mabel, "I have little company but with my hearing aid I can take more pleasure when I do have calls."

His memory and mind were still sharp, and he maintained a lively interest in politics. He wrote a thoughtful letter to a Decatur editor about the impact of the 22nd Amendment on presidential tenure, published May 13, 1951.

On his 92nd birthday, November 7, 1951, a reporter asked him what he thought about politics in England. His reply was quoted in the newspaper: "In the 250 years existence of the party, the Tories have never proposed a single progressive move, but unlike American Tories, they nearly always have accepted what other parties accomplished — have not been reactionary."

About the time of his 92nd birthday, on a bright fall day, he took a drive with Neely and Olive over to Coles County to visit the ancestral home of the Martins near Kickapoo Creek in Lafayette Township, where Ivory's father had been born and near Loxa where Ivory had gone to school. After wandering over the old familiar ground hunting for houses that were no longer there, they ended up at the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, south of Charleston. Ivory had stood the 140-mile trip well — had "stepped over low fences to get into the park — seemed quite proud of himself to be climbing fences at 92 and played up to a group of interested ladies when he rather scornfully looked at the rail fences and announced that he had made better rails than that himself."

A month later, shortly before Christmas 1951, I.J. suffered a stroke and fell. He was moved to the Clevenger nursing home, which by then had been relocated to East Jackson Street. Mabel explained his condition in mid-1952:

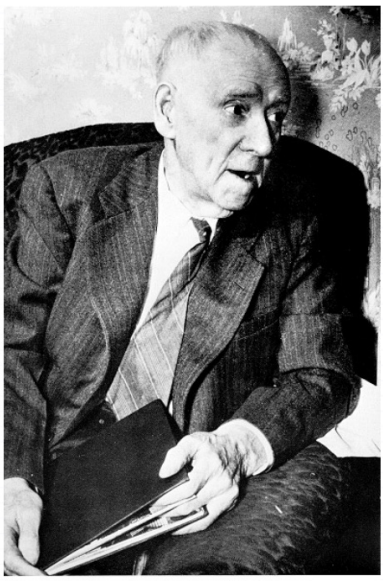
> At first he seemed to improve. Sometimes he was lucid, but as time went by he became confused. Toward the end of his life, he seemed to be in a coma, but sometimes would wake up and speak. Once he

said, 'I have only one regret.' Bob said, 'What is that, Father?' He answered, 'I never really learned anything about music.'" *Fragments*, at 204.

During 1952 and early 1953 his children and grandchildren visited him often at the nursing home. He slept much of the time. Sometimes when he woke, he talked of his childhood — of his father calling him "General" during the Civil War, of his brothers, Joe and Sammy. He told again the story of being visited by his great-grandfather, James Scott Martin, and of the knitted red stocking cap he wore.

On one of her last visits, as Olive got up to go, he roused himself. She said, "I'll be back tomorrow." He responded, "You won't have to come back many tomorrows. I'm going to get out." Olive said, "When you get better you can come home."

Perhaps she had missed his point. Or perhaps she understood but avoided it. In any event he went back to sleep.



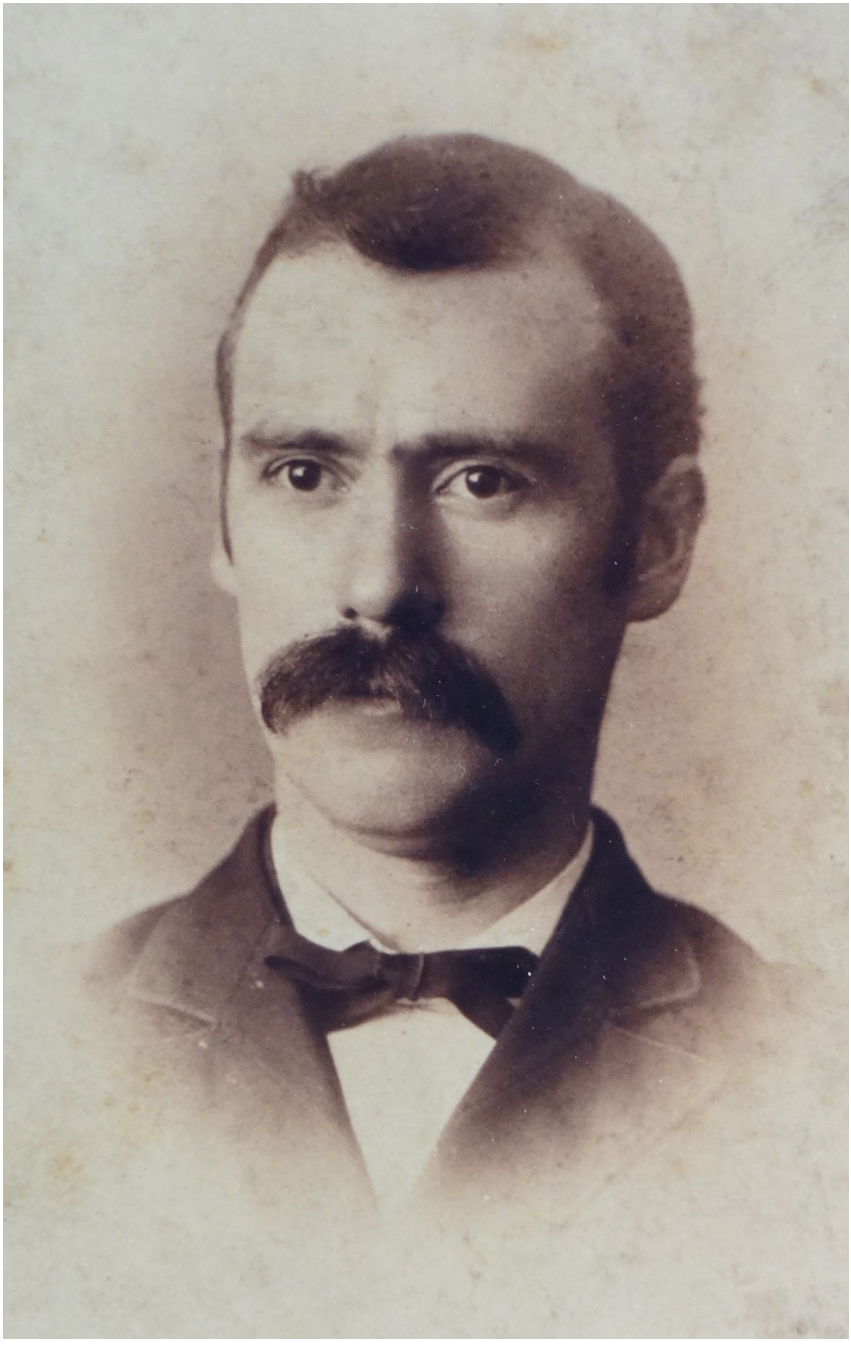
I.J. Martin, c. 1950

Ivory J. Martin died early in the morning, April 8, 1953. He was 93.

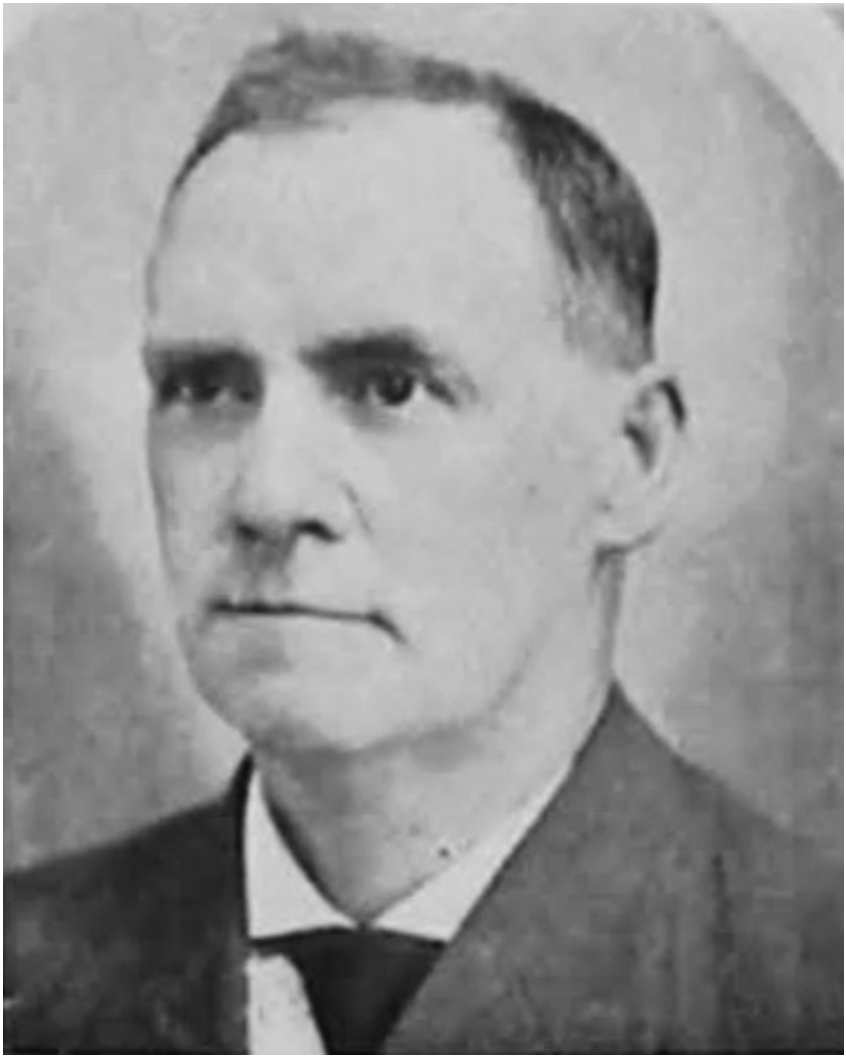
I.J. was buried in Greenhill Cemetery, Sullivan, next to Rose. Near them is Olive, who died in 1968. Not far away lies little Elvina, in her white casket, dressed in white and blue, next to John R. and Roxanna Eden. When she died on Christmas Day 1896, the Martins had not yet acquired a cemetery plot so Rose's father had made room for her with the Edens.

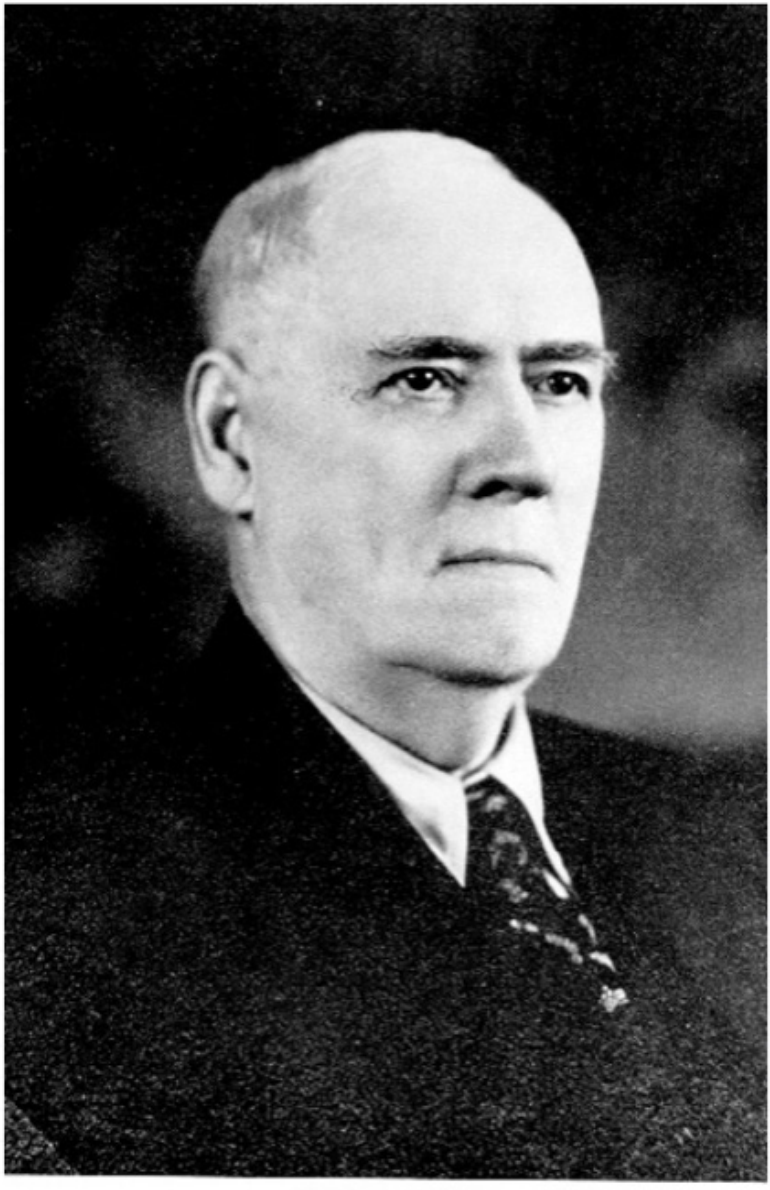
Martin: Olive Eden Martin, I.J. Martin, Rose Eden

Elvina. Daughter of I.J. and Rose Eden Martin. 4 Ys & 4 Ds.



I.J. Martin, 1882





I.J. Martin, c. 1935

I.J. Martin, c. 1950

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