

Brimfield

Oral

History

Project



Charolette (Woodrow) Fletcher
Interviewed 5 November 2021

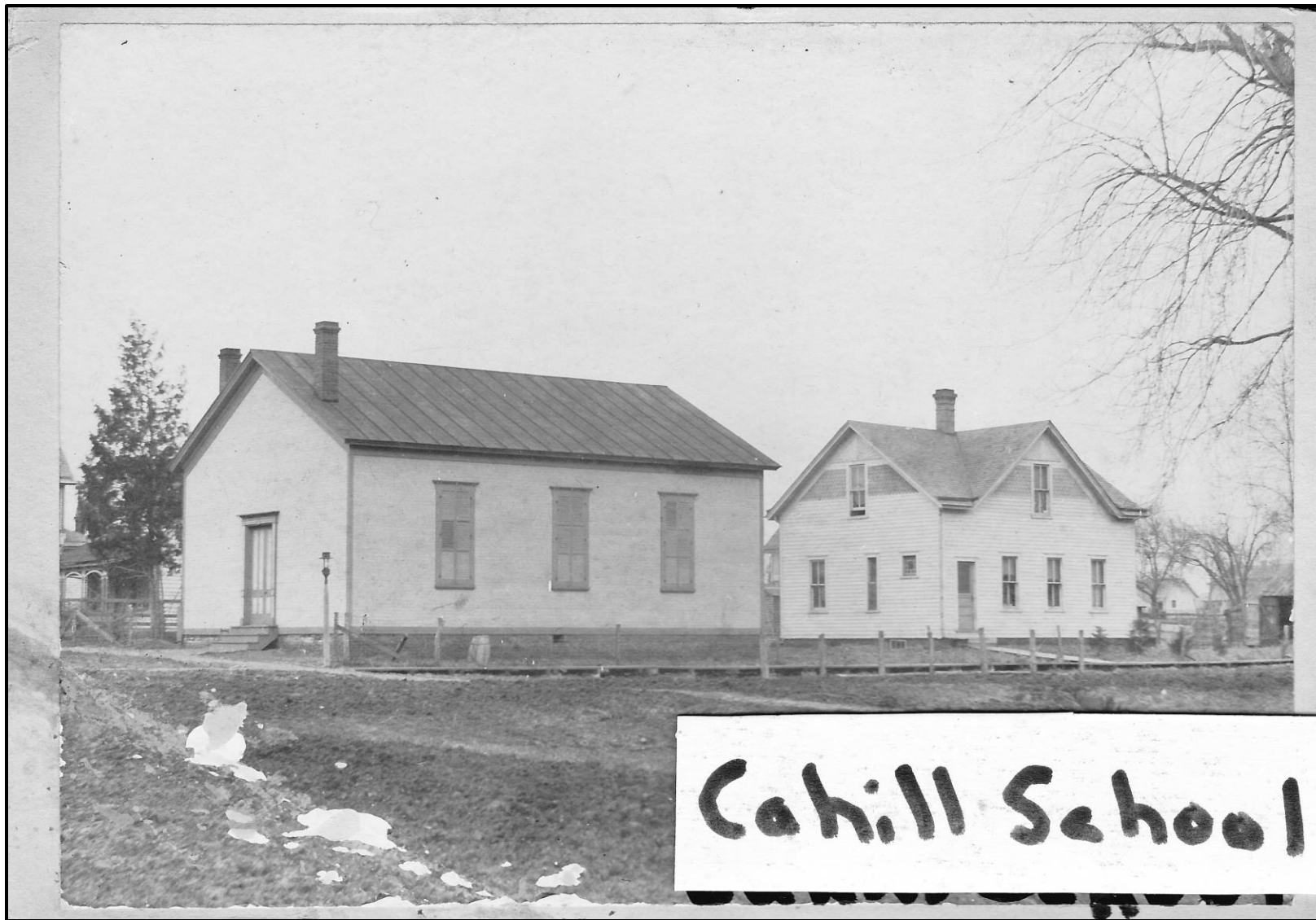


**Charolette Woodrow and
Peggy Johnson (Powers) at
Charlotte's house**

(Photo courtesy of Charolette Fletcher)



John Johnson, Margaret Johnson, & **Charolette Woodrow** at their home *(Photo courtesy of Charolette Fletcher)*



(Photo courtesy of Kathie Cahill Holub-Hagen)

Cahill School

Claud Garrett,
Connie Garrett,
Raymond Lee, Bob
Pacey, Homer Lynn;
John Best, Darlen
Fussner, Frank
Beall, George
Wagner, Bill
Woodrow; Dick
Garret, Jane
Garrett, **Charolette
Woodrow**, Gary
Best

(Photo courtesy of
Charolette Fletcher)





Cahill School. John & Gary Best, Dick & Jane Garrett, **Charolette Woodrow** (top left).

(Photo courtesy of Charolette Fletcher)

Cahill School.

Mildred Bragg, teacher.

Gloria, Connie & Jane

Garnett & Darlene

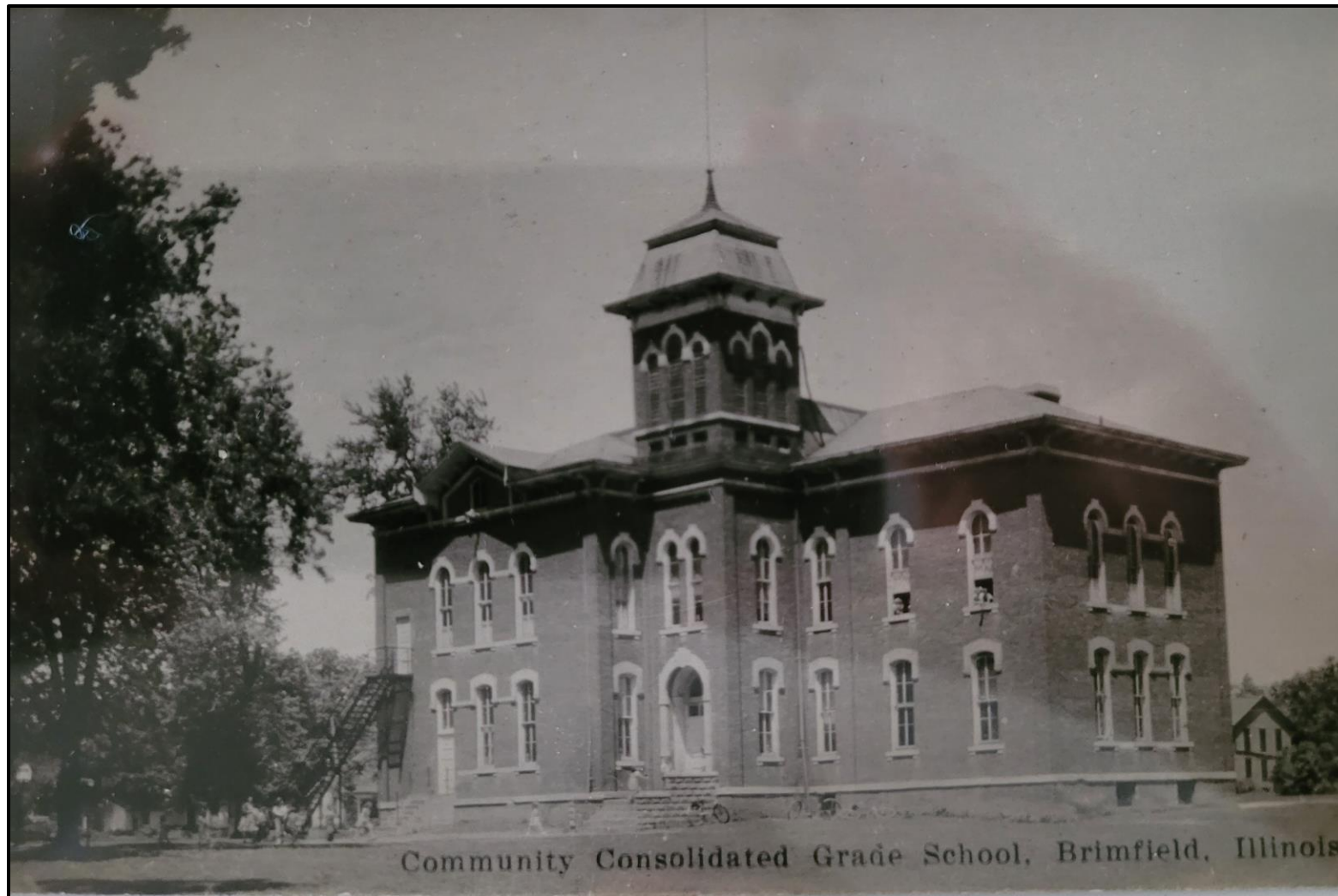
Fussner, **Charolette**

Woodrow (front right)

Third Grade

*(Photo courtesy of Charolette
Fletcher)*





Brimfield Grade School built 1877, grade & high school until 1936. 1948 voted to merge this school district with 11 one room districts. 1956 addition to grade school. 1959 tore this building down. New grade school completed 1965.

(Memler history books) (Photo courtesy of Charolette Fletcher)

Piano Recital
 Pupil of Evalyn McCowan
 May 28, 1946

Home on the Range by
 Charolette Woodrow

The Brimfield News, Brimfield, Illinois, page
 4, Thursday, May 23rd, 1946

PIANO RECITAL
PUPILS OF EVALYN MCCOWAN
UNION CHURCH AT BRIMFIELD
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1946
8:30 P. M.

Trio—Chimes.....*Scharmolin*
 Shirley Culbertson, Marilyn Tucker, Harriett Clark

Three Little Kittens.....*Presser*
 Janet Porter

Home On the Range..... *Arr*
 Charlotte Woodrow

All Through the Night..... *Old Welsh Air*

Duet—Our Flag..... *Adler*
 Donna Lopeman, Mary Lou Lopeman

Country Gardens..... *Richter*

Now the Day Is Over..... *Barnby*
 Geraldine Camp

Duet—Playing Tag..... *Margstein*
 Nancec Heinz, Miss McCowan

Little Fairy March..... *Streabbog*
 Margery Smith

Trumpeters' Serenade..... *Spindler*
 Berwyn Meehan

Rollicky, Frolicky Wind..... *Coburn*
 Beverly Slocum

Duet—Minuet In G..... *Beethoven*
 Barbara Arbogast, Shirley Culbertson

Polonaise Militaire..... *Chopin-Wallis*
 John D Best

Fairy Wedding..... *Turner*
 Harriett Clark

La Secret..... *Gautior*
 Barbara Arbogast

Marimba Solo—The World Is Waiting For the Sunrise..... *Seitz*
 Abide With Me..... *Monk*
 Mary Ann Mulvaney

Moon Paths..... *Adams*
 Shirley Culbertson

Majesty of the Deep..... *Hamer*
 Marilyn Tucker

Rope Dancer..... *Koelling*
 Jack Slocum

Trios—Hungarian Dances No. 1 and 3..... *Brahms*
 Mary Ann Mulvaney, Berta Slocum, Miss McCowan

Storm..... *Weber*

Minuet Waltz in D Flat..... *Chopin*
 Berta Slocum

Turkish March..... *Mozart*
 Mary Ann Mulvaney

Free to the Public
Second Recital June 7, 1946

Charolette Woodrow
Brimfield High School
Junior Prom 1951

(Photo courtesy of Charolette Fletcher)





Old Settlers Parade 1945. *Photo in Brimfield Historical Society's collection in the Brimfield Library, donated by Jane Taylor Becksted*

**Charolette Emily
Woodrow**, Daughter
of Mildred Emily &
William Frederick
Woodrow
1952 Brimfield High
School graduation
photo

*(Photo courtesy of Charolette
Fletcher)*



Woodrow-Fletcher

Miss Charolette Emily Woodrow and David Lee Fletcher repeated marriage vows at the altar of St. Paul's Lutheran Church here at noon Saturday, April 11. The double ring service was read by the pastor, Reverend Howard Welch in the presence of a large group of relatives and friends. Tall baskets of white gladioli decorated the altar.

The attractive bride was escorted to the altar and given in marriage by her father, William Woodrow. Her dress was fashioned with white lace bodice and full ballerina skirt of net.

Her eager tip veil of violet net cascaded from a flower-trimmed cap.

Her attendant's dresses were of similar style, the maid of honor, Madeline Antonacci wearing pink, and the bridesmaids, Peggy Johnson, cousin of the bride, and Mrs. Norma Stamer, sister of the groom, wearing blue with matching mitts. Their bouquets were of white daisies and heads of yellow and white sweet peas.

The tiny flower girl, Mona Jean Doubet, niece of the groom was in blue silk and net and carried a dainty bouquet.

Lyle Johnson, cousin of the bride was best man and ushers were William Woodrow, brother of the bride, and Lyle Hayward, brother-in-law of the groom.

An organ prelude of sacred music was played before the wedding party entered the Church to the strains of the Wedding March from Lohengrin, and Mendelssohn's Wedding March was used as the recessional.

A reception in the church basement was given by the bride's uncle and aunt Mr and Mrs John E. Johnson with whom she has made her home since infancy. A three-tier wedding cake topped with a miniature bride and groom centered the buffet table where ice cream, cake punch and coffee were served by Mrs. Bertha Archibald, Mrs. Edward Johnson, Mrs. Lyle Hayward and Miss Eleanor Hall. Assisting were Mrs. Marie Johnson, Mrs. E. Brunsing and Mrs. Chas. Egan.

Mrs. Beo Hall and Mrs. Stanley Gady were in charge of the gifts and Judy Gady presided at the guest book.

Charolette is a graduate of the Brimfield high school, Class of 1953. She has been employed at the C & M Market. Her husband, son of Mr and Mrs John Fletcher of Mapleton is a graduate from Mansfield high school. He is recently returned from fifteen months military duty in Germany. He is now employed by the Caterpillar Co.

They will make their home in Peoria where they have an apartment at 527 Wendale.



Mr. & Mrs. Dale Fletcher
Married St. Paul's
Lutheran Church,
Brimfield, IL
April 11, 1953

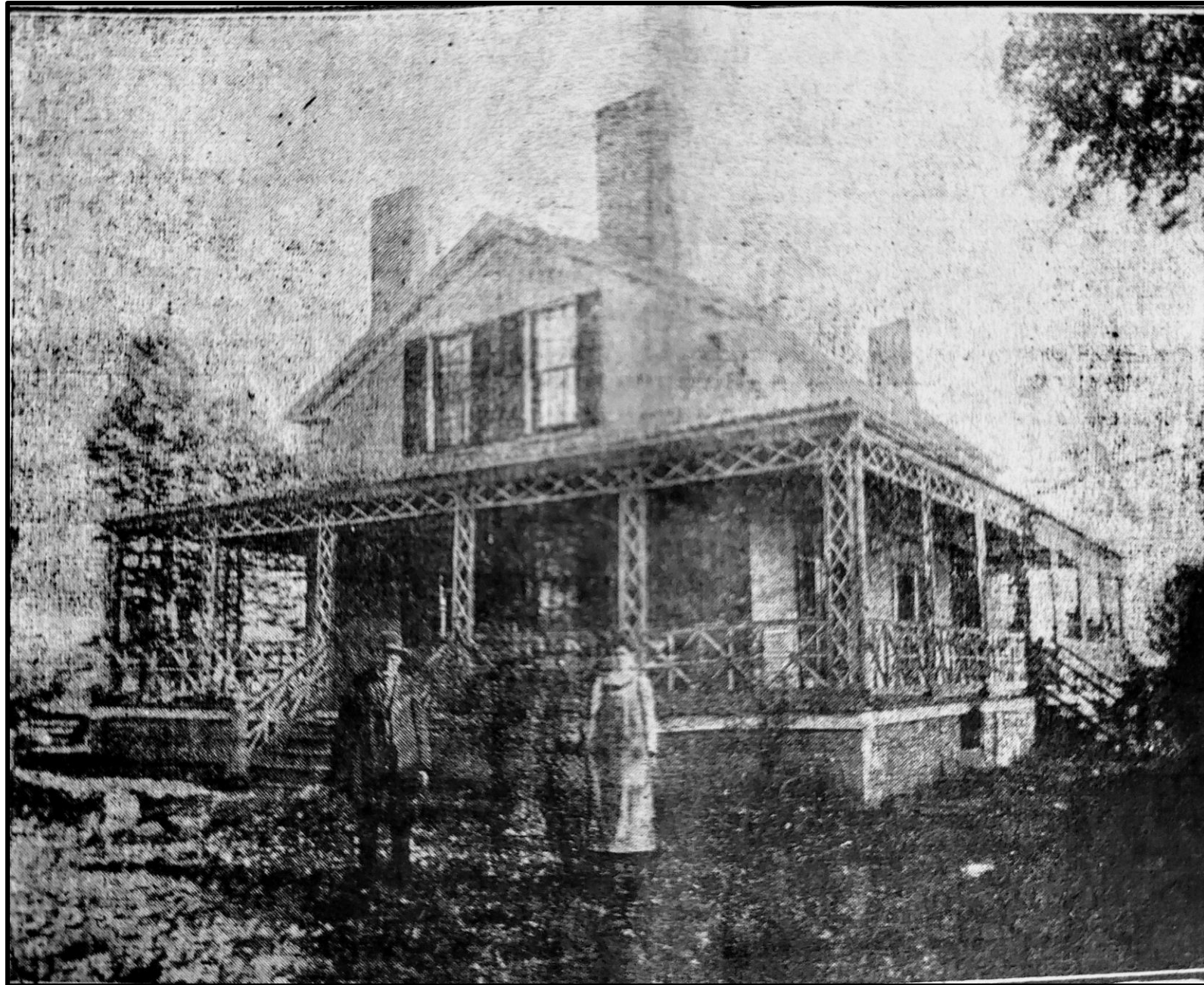
(Photo courtesy of Charolette
Fletcher)

Wedding Announcement:
The Brimfield News, Brimfield, Illinois,
page 1, Thursday, April 16th, 1953



**Mr. & Mrs. Dale
Fletcher and family**
lived in this house on
east side of town,
north side of Rte.
150 and Jackson.

(Photo courtesy of Charolette
Fletcher)



**L.L. Guyer house
built brick and wood
trim 1856.**

(Photo from The Brimfield
News, August 20, 1936, page
8, original in possession of
KmHanks 2021)

The first thing that meets the traveler's eye upon entering Brimfield from the east on Route 150 is the old Guyer homestead, now the property of Mr. and Mrs. David Fletcher. It is believed to be nearly 140 years old.

The property has not changed hands very many times. The late Robert Tucker purchased the property from Harrietts and the Bostic family purchased the property from Tucker a few years back, who owned the property until Mrs. Riggs Bostic sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher last year and moved to the trailer park just east of Brimfield.

It is one of the oldest liveable houses in Brimfield, built of brick and wood trim.

L.L. Guyer, the town's first merchant lived in this house.

140-year-old house is still occupied

By Katherine Miller

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L.L. Guyer, the town's first merchant lived in this house.

Brimfield's business life in the past hundred years has been marked by several ventures Worthy of notice.

Guyer, the town's first merchant, received considerable notice in the Peoria papers in 1839 as a result of his venture to St. Louis. Because of the absence of produce buyers in Peoria, Guyer loaded a flatboat with produce grown on the prairie and floated it to St. Louis. On the boat, going down the Illinois and Mississippi rivers he had corn, oats, wheat and beans.

On his return he reported that the corn, which was put up in sacks of 2 1/2 bushels costing 15 cents each, had at 25 cents a bushel, throwing in the sacks and making 19 cents a bushel on the corn.

Oats he sold quite readily at 25 cents a bushel and wheat for 68 cents. This was 7 cents below the market price as it was not



first-class wheat. Guyer reported that wheat was in demand and that really good winter wheat would readily bring 75 cents.

The beans he sold at \$1.25 a bushel. Unfortunately, this venture turned out badly, not bringing in the original cost of nearly \$200, but despite the fact that he reported plenty of produce of all kinds was available and money

very scarce with no prospect of it being less so, Guyer determined to take down a load of onions as soon as he could make arrangements for the trip. Onions were plentiful on the Charleston (now called Brimfield) prairie, as a visitor there in 1839 mentioned seeing "a field of onions, for the cultivation of which the settlement is becoming so famous."

The outcome of Guyer's second trip was even less successful as a great portion of his produce was destroyed in the Natchez tornado, and the merchant was "considerably embarrassed in a financial way."

Celebrates 95th birthday

On Sunday March 13, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kelly of Grand Haven, Mich., came to be with Mrs. Kelly's father, Joe Hasselbacher on his 95th birthday. Mrs. Kelly is the former Ruth Hasselbacher.

Mr. Hasselbacher is residing at the Fon du lac Nursing Home in East Peoria.

The Kelleys and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hasselbacher were entertained at a pancake breakfast at Roger Smiths, later attending services at the Union Church in Brimfield

BHS musicians bring back firsts

In the IHSA music solo and ensemble contest held Saturday, March 5 at Bushnell-Prairie City High School, Brimfield musicians returned with 10 first-place and eight second-place awards.

First-place awards went to Becky Jughart, Joy Hassel-

bacher, Jill Hasselbacher, Janice Hughart, Joe Dungan and Brad Harding for solos, and to Joe Dungan and Jill Hasselbacher for a vocal duet.

Second-place awards went to: Jill Hasselbacher, Joyce Harmon, Renee Fields, Connie Fields and

Mrs. David Fletcher New Correspondent For Brimfield Area

With this week's issue we are happy to welcome Mrs. David (Charolette) Fletcher as our correspondent for the Brimfield area. Her telephone number is 446-3162.

Mrs. Fletcher is a lifelong resident of Brimfield and is very much interested in Brimfield and its future.

Like this newspaper, she is very much interested in getting as much news of the Brimfield area in the paper as possible. With your help she can make the Brimfield News page a much more interesting one with much fuller coverage of the Brimfield area.

Mrs. Fletcher will appreciate your cooperation in calling her when you have news. While she will make every effort to reach you each week, it will not be possible and she will need your help. You like to read about your neighbor's activities—your neighbor likes to read about yours. We'll do our best to make you both happy

The Princeville Telephone,
Princeville, Illinois, page 5, Thursday,
October 8th, 1970, retrieved online
Brimfield Advantage-
Preservation.com

Old Settlers' Picnic AND Centennial Celebration August 16-17-18, 1934 Brimfield, Illinois

Thursday, August 16

OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC

Meeting called to order Ethel Memler
Music Brimfield Band
Address of Welcome Dr. R. B. Roberts, Mayor
Master of Ceremonies... M. R. Clark, President of Old Settlers Association
Historian's Report Mrs. Elizabeth Hindle
Solo Chester F. Arends, Peoria
Music Band
Address Hon. Henry Horner, Governor of State of Illinois
Music Band
Tap Dancing Charlene and Mary Lou
Solo
Accordian Solo

Friday, Aug. 17 PIONEER DAY

Baseball Games in Afternoon
7:00 P. M. Kiddies Parade
7:30 P. M. Band Concert
Elmwood and Brimfield Bands
Colored Artist's Trio and Soloist
Dick Bradley, Peoria Humorist
8:30 P. M. Old Time Dance
Old Fiddlers Contest

Saturday, August 18 CENTENNIAL DAY

Base Ball Games in afternoon
7:00 P. M. Street Parade
8:00 P. M. Band Concert
Part 1 School Band
Accordian Solo Harvey Muncie
Part 2 Brimfield Band
Free Outdoor Pictures
Talk—Rep. Everett Dirksen
8:30 P. M. Centennial Dance

Saturday Parade Prizes Oldest Car under own power 5.00
Best Business House Float 5.00 Best lodge or Club Float 5.00
Best out-of-town entry 5.00

Thursday Evening
B. H. S. Alumni Reunion
7:00 P. M. Concert
Acrobatic Dance Bonnie Shallhauser, Peoria
Accordian Solo Harvey Muncie
Virginia Reel Local talent
8:30 P. M. Old Settlers' Ball at Community Building

Friday, Aug. 17
PIONEER DAY

Saturday, August 18

Brimfield, Illinois, Thursday, August 8, 1946

59th Annual Old Settlers' Picnic Brimfield, Illinois

Thursday, August 15, 1946

Afternoon Program 2:00 o'clock DST
Meeting called to order Thos. Pacey, President
Invocation Rev. Leona Rasmussen
Address of Welcome Thos. Pacey
Solo Rudolph Savage
Historian's Report Mildred Pacey
Solo Rudolph Savage
Boxing Exhibition
Address Hon. John E. Cassidy

Platform Prizes

\$2.00 Prize for Oldest Man, Oldest Woman
\$3.00 prize for Oldest Married Couple. Oldest Brothers, Oldest Sisters, Most recently Married Couple, Youngest Grandparents
Largest Family (in number) on Platform 5.00

Races 4:00 p.m.

First Prize—\$1.00 Second—50c
50 yd dash—Boys under 8 50 yd dash—Girls under 8
First Prize \$1.50 Second 75c
100 yd Dash—Boys under 12 Shoe Race—Girls under 12
First Prize \$3.00 Second prize 75c
100 yd Dash—Boys under 16 100 yd Dash—Girls under 16
Boys Free for All Ladies' Slipper Kicking
Fat Man's Race [over 225 lb]

4:30 p.m. Dedication of Memorial, Village Park

Evening Program at 7:30

Music Galva Accordion Band
Tap Dancing during intermission
Musical Noveltes Accordion Band

Fireworks Display Platform Dance

Soft Ball Game 12:45
Hofner's Rides Hindert's Sound

1934,1935 Old Settlers flyers courtesy of Kathie Cahill Holub-Hagen. *The Brimfield News*, pg 1, Brimfield, IL, Thursday, August 8th, 1946

48TH ANNUAL OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC Brimfield, Illinois Thursday, August 15, 1935

Program begins at 1:30 P. M.

Music Brimfield School Band
Meeting called to order Miss Florence Wyman
Master of Ceremonies... M. R. Clark, President of Old Settlers Association
Historian's Report Mrs. Elizabeth Hindle
Accordian Solo Harvey Muncie, Peoria
Music School Band
Address Dr. John W. Hollaud, Prairie Farmer Station W L S, Chicago
Marimba Solo Harry Detmer, Peoria
Dance and Song Margaret and Doris Erhart, Peoria
Music School Band

Platform Prizes awarded immediately following the program

Oldest woman on grounds \$1.00 will be given to the
Oldest married couple on grounds Oldest man on grounds
Oldest two sisters on grounds Oldest two brothers on grounds
Person living the most miles from Brimfield attending the picnic

Races

First prize 50c; second prize 25c
Girls' Foot Race under 16 Girls' Foot Race under 11
Boys' Foot Race under 16 Boys' Foot Race under 11
Boys' Shoe Race under 16 Boys' Shoe Race under 11
First prize \$1.00 second prize 50c
Free for all race Granddads foot race

2 Ball Games 2

Evening program 7:30 p. m.
Band Concert Brimfield Band
Brimfield Sod Busters Murray Miller, Don Sollenberger
Tap Dance Charlene and Mary Lou Kingdon
Marimba Solo Harry Detmer
Song and Dance Margaret and Doris Erhart
Accordian Solo Harvey Muncie
Music Brimfield Band

B. H. S. Alumni Reunion at 6 P. M.
Old Settlers Ball in evening



Photo courtesy of
Charollette Fletcher



Knoxville Avenue, Brimfield, Ill.

Photo courtesy of
Charolette Fletcher



Photo courtesy of Charolette Fletcher

Interviewee: Charlotte (Woodrow) Fletcher

Interview Date: 5 November 2021

Interviewer: Kim Hanks

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