



## INTRODUCTION

This volume, **Tales of Old Barrington**, is not a history book, but just what the title says — a group of tales about life in the prairie village of Barrington, Illinois, from 1834, when the first two white men settled in the area, until 1920.

The intent of this book is to let the reader see and sense what life was like in those years through recorded and remembered tales told by those who lived it.

These stories were collected from written accounts by those few who realized that later someone would want to know, and from verbal memories passed down from grandfather to mother to child.

One man who knew that he was living history each day and took the trouble to write it all down was Arnett C. Lines. He recorded Barrington stories and statistics in **A History of Barrington, Illinois**, which was one source for material in this book.

Another kind of historian is William H. Klingenberg. Sparked by an early interest in the stories passed down from his great-grandfather who came to Barrington in 1856, he has embarked on a Barrington Historical Society project of tape recording interviews with long time Barrington residents. His assistance and advice in the growth of this manuscript have been great. His accurate memory for details of his life, and of those of his parents and grandparents, and his ability to study almost any old photograph and pinpoint it as to place and date have helped to make this book possible.

And Garret Landwer, whose stories of the hard work and joys of life on the prairie are a part of this book, and Marvin Snyder, with his vividly written recollections of the Barrington of his boyhood, added to the “living” history of this town.

A longer list of residents whose stories are retold here appears later in the book, and at the end of each story are the initials of the resident

*Schroeder's Tin Shop in 1880 on the northwest corner of Cook and Station streets, where Lipofsky's store was built later. On far right of store is a cast iron scalding kettle and next to it a wooden box pump for sale. Fence on left in background marked western end of Station Street. L. F. Schroeder is on left and Fred Bennett is on right.*



*Main Street looking east in early 1900's. On left is A. W. Meyer's store, Jahn's Wagon Shop, Stiefenhofer's Blacksmith Shop, and Foreman's Saloon. On right is Vern Hawley's Drug Store, Ankele's Bakery, and Rieke's Confectionery.*

who remembered the story. This book does not pretend to include all of the tales of old Barrington nor all of the people who have lived here. I have tried to assemble a group of stories that are representative.

I retained the original colloquial language of the tales, as much as possible, to make the straight-speaking, hard-working Barrington people as real as their stories.

Some of the stories I have freely edited to make the meaning clear, to correct historical facts, and to include background information. I also inserted present-day locations in many cases where descriptions of old Barrington locations might not be clear to today's reader. Some stories have been combined if it made them more meaningful to read.

The old photographs come mostly from the files of the Barrington Historical Society and from families who have saved them.

Corliss D. Anderson, a member of the Barrington Area Bicentennial Commission, conceived the idea for a book on old Barrington to be published during this bicentennial year. His enthusiasm and that of Philip Bash of The Barrington Press contributed to making this book a reality.

I hope the reader, by reading these old stories and experiencing the old photographs, may come to feel what it was like to live here at an earlier time.

This book, then, is a collection of recollected stories, and not a history of Barrington — or is it?

— Cynthia Baker Sharp

Proceeds from the sale of this book go to the Barrington Historical Society and the Barrington Area Public Library.



*South Cook Street in 1881 looking south to  
Station Street.*