

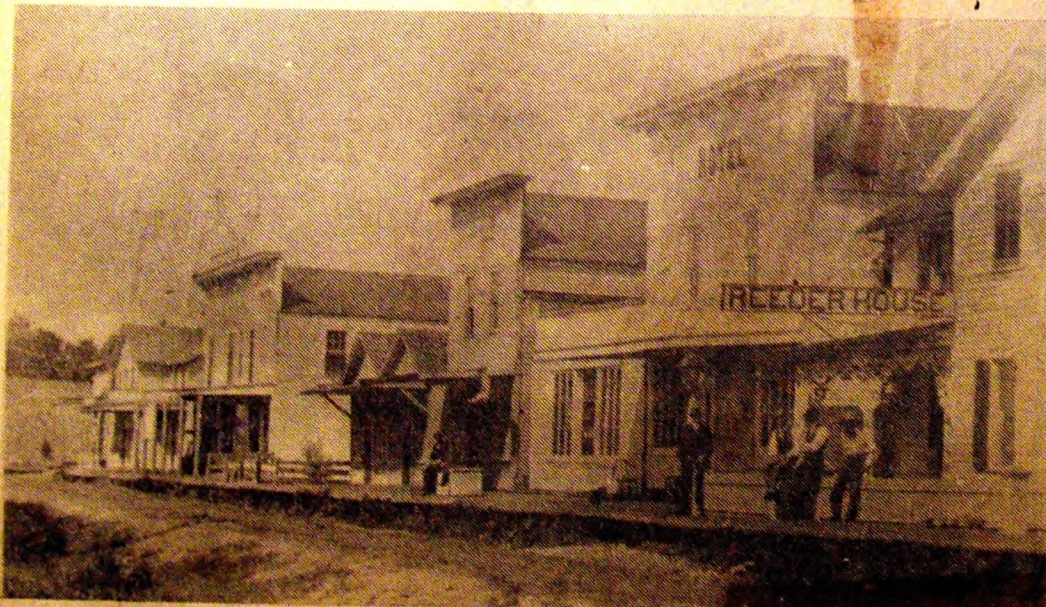
paper from 1868 to 1943

WILLIAM J. BRYAN SPOKE HERE IN 1896, WHILE MAKING TOUR OF THE COUNTRY IN "FREE SILVER" CAMPAIGN



During the Presidential campaign in 1896, when William Jennings Bryan was a candidate for President on the Democratic ticket, against William B. McKinley on the Republican ticket, Bryan spoke here at the Alton depot, during the latter part of October. The picture shows the large crowd assembled in anticipation of his arrival. Our files tell of the arrival of the train, the speaker being accompanied by Messrs. Kelagher, Ketcham and Dwight Morgan, the latter introducing Bryan. The business places of George Z. Flagler, B. A. Buck, Charles Crandall, W. H. Ketcham, and many others were decorated. At Bloomington, Pontiac and Joliet Mr. Bryan spoke to large audiences on the same trip.

WEST STREET AS IT APPEARED IN THE "SEVENTIES"



This is a picture of a portion of West Street, taken in earlier days. The exact year the picture was taken is not known but it is thought in the "seventies." The picture was presented to this office a few years ago by the late Mrs. Rebecca Reeder, who with her husband, Levi Reeder, also now deceased, were among the pioneer residents of this community. In the extreme right of the picture can be seen the Reeder House, which Mr. and Mrs. Reeder rented from Hiram Cornell, another early Dwight resident. The Reeder House also conducted the hotel building next to it. Among the group of men in front of the Reeder House are Mr. Reeder and a Mr. Scutt, another pioneer.

The building west of the Hotel and Reeder House was a harness, saddlery and shoe store, the man who operated it now unknown; the next one-story building with the little two-pointed roof, was the office, we are told, of Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, who practiced medicine and surgery in Dwight before he made his famous discovery—the gold cure for inebriety. The two-story building to the left of Dr. Keeley's office was Spencer Eldridge's store and on the second floor was Mrs. Parson's millinery shop. One of the buildings to the extreme left was occupied by the P. H. Weicker Bakery; Mr. and Mrs. Levi Reeder lived upstairs, where they started housekeeping following their marriage February 25, 1875.

THE STAR

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THE DWIGHT STAR

Edited and Published by
C. L. PALMER
Dwight, Illinois

JOB WORK

Executed in the highest style of the art, with promptness. Terms—Cash on delivery.

THE STAR

Official Paper of the City

It has been rumored for some time past that Dwight was to have a large weekly newspaper, but as the expected Journal has failed to make its appearance and rather than have the community disappointed(?) I have concluded and do present herewith to the people of Dwight and vicinity, the initial number of the new Weekly Journal, which, with all proper deference and modesty, but with no small amount of agreeable anticipations, I have ventured to make to the people a small weekly offering, which may be a source of satisfaction and delight in hours snatched from the engagements of business and requirements of public life. With no intentions or desire of creating undue expectations as to the future of this Journal, but merely in justice to myself, would say that the First Number is not as complete as I intended it should be.

In conclusion permit me to say that Dwight may never have cause to be ashamed of the First Number of "The Star."

Mr. Dickens is said to have sent home \$80,000 in gold as a part of the profits of his readings in this country.

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This is fac simile, actual size, of Vol. 1, No. 1, of the Dwight Star, May 5, 1868