

December, 2009

The following is a compilation of notes Mayor Mundy has taken from the City of Sycamore Town Board and City Council Meeting Minutes during the period from Sycamore's beginning in 1858 through 1877 which are the years included in Sycamore's Minutes Journal No. 1. City Clerk Candy Smith is credited with having the City Council Minutes available for review as she carefully and accurately records, maintains, and safeguards City records. It took Mayor Mundy nearly one year to review the first journal, make notations, compile them, and print the results the reader sees here.

February 21, 1859

Incorporation articles before Illinois General Assembly in Springfield whereby Sycamore becomes a Town. First Town Election Monday, Mar 14, 1859 at DeKalb County Court House conducted by Timothy Peck, President of County Board of Trustees and C.O. Boynton, County Clerk. Polls open 9 am to 5 pm to elect 5 Trustees, an Assessor, a Constable, and a Justice of the Peace. Voter totals: Trustees, ES Mayo, 136 votes, CB Beckwith, 135, WH Stebbins, 135, HF Page, 228, Carlos Lattin, 100, WJ Hunt, 99, Rueben Ellwood, 109, Ben Page, 1, Charles Kellum, 1, Harry Martin, 2, P Joslyn, 1, Charles Merritt, 1, H Doak, 1. Therefore, Trustees elected were Mayo, Beckwith, Stebbins, Page, and Ellwood, Justice of the Peace (JP), Alexander Sagan, 93, Tyler Waite, 140, Jesse Kellogg, 1, LD Walrod, 1. Therefore Waite elected JP, and Assessor, Daniel Pierce, 137, RS James, 99. Therefore, Pierce was elected Assessor. Constable, Harry S Joslyn, 230 thus Joslyn was elected Constable.

March 19 – Board of Trustees elected Edward S Mayo Town Board President for 1 year.

March 29 – Board appointed OS Webster Clerk Pro Tem for 1 year, and Constable, Assessor, and JP all bonded in amounts from \$500 to \$1,000.

April 4 – Board met to elect a Clerk for ensuing year. David Farnsworth appointed Clerk and posted bond of \$200 by Ordinance which was posted at the Court House, Paines Hotel, and the Post Office. Board Meetings were set for the 1st Monday of each month at 1 pm at the Court House, and special meetings could be held if all Trustees were notified.

April 16 – Special Saturday Meeting was held where Board set the time of laboring on the highway “at one day and ½ or the commutation money at \$1 per day in lien thereof.” Laborers were to work 10 hours per day, and the Street Commissioner was to give 3 days notice. Street Comm bond set at \$500 with approved security. Willis Lott appointed Street Comm for 1 year or during the pleasure of the Board and to receive payment not to exceed \$1.75 for each days actual service under the direction of the Board of Trustees. Charles O Boynton appointed Treasurer for “1 year or during the pleasure” of the Board of Trustees. On motion the prayer of the petition of Abram Conant and others was granted and Mayo and Page appointed as a committee to draft Ordinances in relation thereto and relative to such other matters as they deem advisable, said Ordinance to be approved by the Board.

May 2 – Board met pursuant to provisions of the Charter. Ord Comm presented the following ord: No bowling alley, billiard saloon, or any other place are allowed to have games played for money or money and worth either directly or indirectly with a fine of \$5 first offense and \$25 thereafter. Said Ord was to be published in the DeKalb County Sentinel Newspaper. Warren Stebbins ok'd to buy lumber for bridges, culverts, and crossings. Board ok'd that the Pres and Clerk authorized to issue Town Orders to defray the current expenses of the Town. Stebbins and Beckwith appointed to Claims Comm. Weeden, Beckwith, and Page appointed to the Streets and Alleys Comm. John A Waterman appointed Treasurer in place of CO Boynton who refused to qualify.

June 6 - Petition to have slaughterhouse of CT Stuart declared a nuisance referred to Comm. Bills presented of \$3.25 and \$3.70 referred to Claims Comm. John B Harkness appointed Treasurer to replace CO Boynton who refused to qualify.

August 1 – Board ok'd payment of bill of \$3.70. Several crossings ordered at High & Locust, Main & Ottawa, Main & High, Main & Exchange, Exchange & Maple, Exchange & California, across Exchange from the center of the Public Square to AC Brown's, across State from the center of the Public Square to the bakery on State, Somonauk & Elm, Elm & Maple, State & Locust, and a sidewalk in front of the Baptist Church at the expense of the Corporation. Ok'd buying planking for all the above.

August 8 Monday Special Meeting – Town ok'd use of William Young's pasture if it can be obtained for purposes of a Town Pound. Hiram Kellogg appointed Pound Master and required bond of \$100. Board ok'd payment to Richard London \$.75 for highway work. The Board approved digging the first Town Well

at State & Maple Sts at the southwest corner of the Public Square. Well to be 4 feet across with inside bricks and of sufficient depth to afford a good supply of water for purposes of extinguishing fires and other public uses. Also ok'd receiving sealed proposals for digging, bricking, covering, and cementing a reservoir of sufficient capacity to hold 1,000 barrels said reservoir to be due of the well said above. Stebbins and Page appointed Comm to buy ladders, hooks, chains, axes, ropes, and buckets necessary to complete the organization of a Hook and Ladder Company. Ord that any milk cows belonging to any inhabitants be allowed to run at large in Town during daytime until the 1st of November and from the 1st day of April in each and every year until this Ord is revoked and that all former Ord restraining milk cows be rescinded. Sidewalks ok'd to be built at Locust & Exchange.

September 5, 1859, Monday – Vacated alley in Block 4. Bill of Francis Conley for \$1.75 for highway work ok'd to pay. CM Chase, Police Magistrate, had bill for \$13.07 for services referred to Claims Comm. OS Webster appointed Attorney for Corporate Town of Sycamore with attorney fees discretionary with Town Board.

September 8 – Board vacated portion of Sycamore St west of Main on petition of Thomas Woolsley, AS Cox, Daniel Pierce and other property holders being 2/3 of the property holders on Sycamore St.

September 22 – Amos Burdett paid \$70.00 for digging and bricking new well for public uses.

November 9 – Sidewalks Ord approved for State, Main, Locust, Exchange, California, High, Somonauk, Elm, Maple, and Sacramento Streets. All walks to be 4 feet wide and to be built by November 18th by the Town and paid for by each property owner they serve. Many more crossings were ok'd at corners of the original Town.

December 5 – More sidewalks ok'd to be built.

January 23, 1860

Bill of GW Tompkins for blacksmithing ok'd to pay at \$1.25. Bill of AA Buck for highway work ok'd at \$10.50. Bill ok'd to build reservoir, lay sidewalks, lay crossings, and road work.

February 20 – Most bills for Town services, lumber, bricks, etc ranged from \$1.00 to \$100.00 at any one time. David Farnsworth, Clerk, was instructed to call for the papers in the hands of Willis Lott, Street Comm, for the purpose of making a report of his doings, and to assist him in preparing said report. Bill of Willis Lott for 50 1/2 days as Street Comm paid at \$88.371/2.

March – Annual Report of the Corporate Town of Sycamore for the period ending March 12, 1860 see the attached record of same.

March 5 – Bill of Cushman & Tucker for nails paid at \$16.00 and bill of A&R Ellwood for nails paid at \$1.60. Town Election held March 12th at Court House to elect 5 Trustees, an Assessor, and a Constable. Caleb Brown 133 votes, Carlos Lattin, 132, HW Willard, 132, Daniel Dustin, 133, JS Harroun, 123 for Trustees, Roswell Dow 146 votes and elected Assessor, and Harry A Joslyn 128 votes elected Constable.

March 19 – New Town Board accepted and sworn in at law office of Charles Kellum, Esq, and Notary Public. JS Harroun authorized to meet with Foreman of the Fire Company to find out appliances necessary to outfit Fire Company as soon as possible. Town Board Meetings to be held at the office of TK Waite for the year.

April 2 – Board balloted for Clerk, Treasurer, Street Comm, and Pound Master and chose TK Waite, John B Harkness, Charles Brown, and Ransom L James, respectively. Poll Tax authorized for every man under 60 to work 2 days per year on the highways or commutation of labor by paying \$1.00 per day.

April 6 – CM Brown, Town Board President, ordered to fix his sidewalk from State on Somonauk St to the residence of Abram Conant, Esq.

May 7 – Board ok'd \$250.00 to equip the Fire Company. A Town Cistern approved to build 8' by 8' and 8' deep. More sidewalks ok'd to install to be 4' wide and 1' from property lines. Well pump ok'd at \$45.75 and a Town Pound was approved.

July 2 – George Warren appointed Pound Master and ordered to build Town Pound for \$3.50.

September 3 – Messrs Belle, Peck, Singer, Phelps, Tredway, and Webster all refused to pay Poll Tax so given to collection by law.

November 5 – Payment ok'd to Bryan & Harkness Co at \$2.45 for stationary and printing Ord about mad dogs. Clerk Farnsworth ordered to assess 6 mills Property Tax on every dollars worth of taxable property in Town.

December 4 – Board voted 3 to 2 to vacate Somonauk St north of State thereby stopping Somonauk at State as it is today.

January 7, 1861

The Liquor Ord requires sellers to be licensed. Violators are to be fined and if unable to pay fine to be sent to County Jail for 2 to 20 days for each offense. A snow removal Ord passed. All sidewalks to be cleared within 12 hours of the end of snowing or a fine of \$2.00 per offense and Board will have someone remove snow and ice and place a tax on the lot or property for \$2.00 per offense. Clerk ok'd to have Town Notices printed in the True Republican and DeKalb County Sentinel Newspapers, which is the 1st reference to Sycamore's True Republican Newspaper from the Town Minutes.

March 11 – Town Election resulted in Trustees, WJ Hunt, Horatio James, SO Pike, Alonzo Ellwood, and Kimball Dow, Assessor, Charles Brown, and Constable Harry Joslyn. Board appointed Clerk Farnsworth, Treasurer Harkness, Attorney, Luther Lowell, Street Comm, Shepard Wheeler, Pound Master, David Larub.

April 1 – Town Board Meetings set for the year at law offices of Orem & Ellwood. Notice to all property owners with sidewalks that they had 10 days from April 1st to repair planked walks or Street Comm would repair and place a tax on the property.

June 4 – More new sidewalks approved from Sacramento on DeKalb Road leading away from downtown and a new walk on Main heading to the north line of the Town Plat. Board approved hundreds of dollars to buy lumber for the walks.

June 18 – An amount of \$100.00 set aside by Board to be matched by “provided citizens raise an equal amount or more by subscription and deposit same with Treasurer although the purpose is unclear.” Board provided that no stands for lemonade or other articles for sale be allowed unless licensed. On the 4th of July all sales of “spirituous, vinous, or malt liquors” allowed only by licensed sellers. Licenses cost from \$3.00 to \$10.00 to sell liquor, and no stands allowed from which to sell liquor. Special Police were appointed and paid \$1.50 to “act in conjunction with HA Joslyn Town Constable in the preservation of the peace on the 4th of July, 1861.”

October 8 – Street Comm reported days in the Poll Tax of 514, work on highway, 164, hired labor, 103, team work, 35, work on highways paid by commutation, 169, not worked and returned, 95 days. Board ok's a fine of \$3.00 per day for non performance on highways or 24 hours in County Jail for each offense.

December 4 – Town Constable ordered to “commence suit against all saloon keepers who keep open doors or sell any spirituous or malt liquors on the 1st day of the week usually called the Sabbath.” Bill of HT Dutton and team for hauling 2 loads of lumber from sawmill on July 4, 1861 presented and allowed at \$2.25.

February 3, 1862

Ord to amend Ord of July 8, 1858, to change the amount of \$.10 to \$.25 for driving lost cattle, horses, and colts to the Pound and changing from \$.25 to \$.50 as compensation to Pound Master for keeping animals before advertising their sale and to recover Pound fees.

April 12 – Fees were set for licenses for the year, druggists, \$25, beer and ale, \$40, billiard tables, \$15 1st and \$10 each additional table.

June 16 – Ok'd having same procedures for 4th of July as last year, and Board ok'd \$75.00 given for 4th of July events if \$150.00 were raised privately for same. Sufficient Police ok'd for the preservation of the peace on the 4th of July.

December 31 – Liquor licenses were reduced \$50, malt liquor, \$20, and druggists \$12.50.

February 23, 1863

More sidewalks approved to build being 4' wide and with 1" thick planking.

April 13 – Board voted to “hire” a \$200 bond for 1 year at interest not to exceed 10%. A Secret Policeman was appointed. PM Alden appointed Treasurer replacing GP Wild who refused to serve. Board approved fining Town Board members \$.50 if they were more than 15 minutes late for Board Meetings.

May 5 – Clerk ordered to notify Albert Stowe not to butcher any more calves, sheep, swine, or cattle of any description at the slaughter house near his residence at the north end of Locust St. Board ok'd \$50.00 to be paid to Benjamin Page to repair fence around the Public Square and for “setting out” trees on the Square.

June 20 – Board ok'd licensing of stands for sale of cakes, pies, candy, ice cream, and lemonade not less than \$6.00 each and applicants were to bid for choice locations for the 4th of July Celebration.

August 10 – Many sidewalks were reported in disrepair with rotting stringers underneath causing hazards to people. All walks were ordered repaired by lot owners or Town will repair and tax lot owners accordingly.

October 17 – Prayer of petition of William Wiswell and others approved to have the Pierce and Waterman hay press removed as a nuisance and relocated to a proper place where it would not endanger other property or people.

October 27 – Board approved building a bridge north of Town over the Kishwaukee River. Board ok'd a 1% tax levy on all personal and real property in the Town, and it approved borrowing \$500.00 and bonds issued for same with interest not to exceed 10% payable May 1, 1866. Bills were paid for lumber and nails.

October 30 – Board approved bond for \$200 drawn in favor of S Wheeler at 8% due April 1, 1865. Bond #2 drawn in favor of S Wheeler for \$300.00 at 8% due April 1, 1865, bonds being ok'd on October 27th.

November 6 – Bids were taken on new bridge for carpentry work from Wheeler & Co for \$2.85 and from RD & OZ Delong at \$3.25 with the Wheeler bid approved. Stone work bid of \$2.50 per cubic yard to be laid in water lime ok'd. Bill of William R Willson for services and expenses to Chicago to purchase timber for bridge was ok'd to pay at \$14.00. Charles Shurtleff bill of \$30.00 ok'd to pay for damages done his horse in consequence of the bad condition of the bridge north of Town after hearing his testimony. Ord ok'd for doubling the penalty for non payment of Poll Tax and if not paid by delinquent man, "if his goods and chattel cannot satisfy the penalty, then his body is committed to the Common Jail of the County for 24 hours for each and every \$3.00 of said penalty together with all costs of the suit." Bill of FS Hildebrand for drawing plan and specs for the north bridge ok'd at \$15.00. Bill of Bassett & Boies for \$7.00 for printing ok'd. Bills ok'd for A&R Ellwood, D DeGraff, R Wyman, Weeden & Settle, and C Cress all paid for stone and masonry work on new bridge all tolled at \$147.40.

November 14 – A bond was drawn in favor of Joshua George for \$500.00 at 9% per annum with interest payable April 1st and annually thereafter until April 1, 1866.

December 7 – Various bills for sand, stone, masonry, timbers, and carpentry ok'd for new bridge totaling \$1,088.00.

December 26 – Board ok'd bonds issued for \$900.00, with \$450.00 due in 1867 and \$450.00 due in 1868 with interest not to exceed 10%. Sidewalks ok'd and more bridge bills ok'd for timber, stone, iron work, nails, spikes, nuts, etc for \$340.00. Bill ok'd for Wheeler & Willson for labor per contract on bridge for \$2,941.00 which was the largest single bill paid by the Town to date.

February 10, 1864

Board approved Resolution to honor Ralph Wyman, Esq, Town Trustee, who died February 9, 1864, to close businesses, express their sympathy, and attend the funeral Thursday, February 11 at 10am at the Methodist Church. Annual Fiscal Report of 1864 included: Received, #3,176.23, Expended, \$3,158.72, with outstanding debt of \$1,940.00. The cost of the new bridge to date was \$2,548.00.

March 14 – Town election at Court House was conducted with Alonzo Ellwood and Horatio James as Judges and D Farnsworth as Clerk. Trustees elected were C Kellum, C Beckwith, J Harkness, C Bennett, and H James, Assessor, C Brown, Constable, M Holcomb. Appointed were Treasurer, P Alden and Pound Master, D Farnsworth.

May 21 – Pomeroy's & Shippers Sorghum & Lard Manufacturer, slaughter yard, and hog yard and stall feeding cattle all to be abated as nuisances and removed including the filth associated with same. C Beckwith ok'd to procure a pump handle for the Public Well.

August 6 – Ord repealed allowing cows to run at large during the daytime.

November 7 – Board levied a 1% real estate and personal property tax and all land and property are to be logged in the tax book.

February 29, 1865

The Town Annual Report included receipts of \$1,483, expenses of \$1058, leaving balance of \$454 with debt of \$1,785. Property Tax yielded \$1,257, and 9 Liquor Licenses, \$455 revenue.

March 25 – Bassett & Boies were paid \$13.00 for printing Town Annual Report, and Attorney Kellum was paid \$25.00 for room rent for Town Board Meetings held in his office. Druggists licenses fixed at \$10.00 per year, and "druggists may dispense liquors less than 1 quart for medicinal, artistical, mechanical, or sacramental reasons."

May 20 – Annual Town Report included beginning balance of \$454 and revenue totaling \$2,517 available less payables of \$2,536, so nothing remained in Treasury. Poll Tax set at 2 days labor or \$1.25 commutation per day for men aged 21 to 60 years.

April 16 – The Board extended the corporate limits of Sycamore eastwardly to encompass all lots, blocks, and land described. High Constable also was appointed as the Town Health Officer. Harry A Joslyn appointed High Constable and Health Officer (see attached Ord.) Sidewalks were authorized of 4', 6', 8', and 10' in width by Ord. All walks had to be kept in good repair by property owner or Town would do the repair and bill the owner or lien the property.

April 23 – Board ok'd \$300 to furnish the Fire Company with hooks, ladders, buckets, etc and to loan \$300 on the condition that same amount is raised by subscription and returned to the Town Treasurer. Health Officer was ok'd to fill graves in the Old Cemeteries that had been left open due to body removals. Sites of the Old Cemeteries were at Governor and State and at Somonauk and Waterman Sts. An Ord passed making it unlawful to exhume and remove any bodies from either site from May 15th through November 15th of any year or be fined \$25 for each offense or 1 day in the County Jail for each \$3 fine unpaid plus costs.

May 11 – Bond of John Campbell as Street Comm approved. Luther Lowell was chosen from Trustees as Town Board President. Ord ok'd "that the putting of any stallion or jackass to any mares or trying same within the corporate limits of said Town except within covered or enclosed buildings shall be and is declared a nuisance and any person committing or suffering such nuisance shall be liable to a \$25 fine for each offense or be committed to the County Jail for 1 day for each \$3 fined plus costs."

June 4, 1866

More sidewalks are on the agenda. Board ok'd paying James Waterman \$165 for damages in opening his land off Somonauk St for a new street named Lincoln Street with the amount paid from special assessment tax levied for same purpose. Bill of HA Joslyn paid for filling graves in old cemeteries.

July 2 – Anyone discharging any firearms, rockets, firecrackers, torpedoes, or any explosive except on the 4th of July is subject to a fine of \$5 on 1st offense and \$10 on each offense thereafter. If unable to pay fines, jail time is 1 day for each \$3 of unpaid fines plus costs. No one is to take water from the Public Cistern unless permitted by Town Board. The fine for this offense is \$5 or jail time. Board voted to prosecute Harvey McCormick and others for opening Public Pound and letting animals run free.

July 16 – Board ok'd \$50 for mulching and trimming trees on Public Square Court House Lawn.

July 30 – Robert Hodge appointed 2nd High Constable for the Town.

August 13 – Refund money paid by Hopkins, Sifft, Malia, McFadden, and Dixon to liberate their cows impounded on August 1st. Board approved building 2nd Public Cistern with capacity of 1,000 to 1,200 barrels.

October 1 – Property tax levy of 1% of real estate and personal property was approved. Annual Report of the Treasurer was recorded: Cash on hand, \$98, plus receivables for \$3,769. Total paid out, \$1,983, for an ending balance of \$1,786.

April 9, 1867

Liquor licenses are \$200 per year with \$175 licenses for hotel and tavern keepers. CO Boynton is Town Board President along with Trustees Chas Brown, Nathan Lattin, Seymour Hix, and Evans Wharry. WR Thomas is Clerk, and John Harkness, Treasurer.

January 6, 1868

Property tax of 1/2% is levied on real estate and personal property. 1868 Annual Treasurer Report showed cash on hand, \$487, license revenue, \$1,503, poll tax, \$379, corporate taxes, \$625, and other, \$26 for total received, \$3,020. Total expended was \$2,267, leaving cash balance of \$753. Bonds payable through 1870 amounted to \$1,900. All saloons ordered to close by 10 pm.

March 4, 1869

Town of Sycamore incorporated became the City of Sycamore per Articles in the Illinois State General Assembly whereby city boundaries with 4 wards, 8 Aldermen, Mayor, and City Clerk. Aldermen were to have 2 year terms, staggered, so 4 Aldermen elected to 1 year and 4 Aldermen elected to 2 year in the initial City Election. 11 Chapters of City Code were written and adapted March 4, 1869, and were approved by the State of Illinois at the time.

March 15 – The first City Election was held with Reuben Ellwood and RA Smith seeking Mayor. Ellwood received 211 votes while Smith got 169 votes, so Ellwood became the 1st Mayor for City of Sycamore. Justice of the Peace was Tyler K Waite receiving 385 votes. Ward 1, Boynton, 46 vs Gallup, 28 and Stuart, 49 vs Sabin, 24. Ward 2, Hunter, 39 vs Lowell, 30 and Divine, 39 vs Waite, 34. Ward 3, Brown, 64 vs Black, 20 vs Dustin, 54 vs Lattin, 3. Ward 4, A Ellwood, 54 vs Bailey, 37 and Robinson, 70 vs Finley, 29. Thus ended the Sycamore Town Board and began the City of Sycamore City Council form of government. 1st City Council Meeting was conducted where W Thomas was elected City Clerk, Geo Robinson, City Attorney, and Sam Middleton, City Marshall.

March 31 – Mayor Ellwood appointed with City Council consent several Aldermen to: Finance Committee, Boynton, Brown, and Stuart, Streets & Walks Comm, A Ellwood, Stuart, and Robinson, Licenses Comm, Robinson, Rogers, and Boynton, Fire & Water Comm, Rogers, Ellwood, and Divine, and Ordinance Comm, Divine, Robinson, and Hunter. R Holcomb appointed Constable & Collector, Sam Middleton, Fire Warden, and R Divine, Treasurer. The Office of James Waterman being the front room over the Excelsior Hardware Store was accepted as City Council Chambers and Meeting Room.

April 9 – Salaries for Clerk set at \$50 annually and for Attorney, \$30 annually.

April 16 – WR Boies hired as printer of City notices and reports for \$50 annually, and the True Republican designated the newspaper for printing City matters for the year.

May 13 – Council amended auctioneer's section of Code to stipulate they and their agents must be residents of the City.

May 25 – Council orders owners of billiard tables to be licensed. Purchase of fire extinguishers ok'd.

June 1 – W Thomas appointed Assessor and was ordered to levy 1% property tax on real estate and personal property. Many petitions offered to vacate alleys in City as it was platted first.

June 5 – Special Council Meeting ok'd building a 16' x 24' Pest House to house people with "Pest" diseases which are more contagious or pestilential in nature.

June 7 – Special Meeting since Pest House was burned on June 6th and is ordered rebuilt on same land of CO Boynton in Norwegian Grove.

June 18 – City sues Carlos Lattin and HL Dutton for resisting the Pound Master concerning animals at large.

July 15, 1869

Bill paid of \$25.50 to rebuild the Pest House of 16' x 24'.

July 26 – Fines against Dutton and Lattin remitted by Council and should not be levied thus settling 2 lawsuits. During these times, Ordinances were read 3 times, even at the same meeting, before votes were taken.

November 9 – 4 street lamps ok'd at California and Elm, State and Somonauk, State and Maple, and State and Main Sts.

December 7 – Any Councilman more than 15 minutes late for meetings are fined \$1.

December 9 – City Marshall filed a complaint that M Papst sold liquor to L Petrie, Sr on December 4th when Petrie was drunk.

February 1, 1870

\$47 paid to Chas Brown for lamps and oil. John Quinn ok'd to install a Victor Hay Scales near his store on State St for 1 year.

March 11 – Land added to Ward 1 in the City. Sycamore St opened to the east, Walnut to the north, and Exchange to the east. Annual Report included cash on hand, \$106, liquor licenses, \$1,125, billiard licenses, \$40, fines, \$109, City Collector, \$1,612, pound fees, \$53, circus license, \$50, Poll Tax, \$488 for total available, \$3,583. Total expended was \$3,316 for ending cash on hand, \$267 plus uncollected taxes for walks, \$205 leaving total assets of \$472. City debt stood at \$450. Moses Dean was elected over JB Mayo for Mayor. John Pratt became City Treasurer.

March 23 – Redistricting of Wards 3 and 4 moved the line to maple St to the southern City limits. Bonds set for Treasurer, \$3,000, Clerk, \$500, Attorney, \$200, and Constable, \$100. Rueben Holcomb elected Constable and Collector.

March 29 – Committee negotiated damages to land owners to extend Maple and North Sts. Terms accepted by all included: WF Page, Maple St, \$400, WF Page, North St, \$105, CO Boynton, North St, \$200, and WM Kelley, North St, \$100. Sam Middleton elected Marshall. Council ordered Liquor Code

printed in card form and placed in all license holders' hands and businesses. WL Boies was paid \$50 to print all City of Sycamore Council Meeting Minutes and notices for the year.

April 5 – The offer to HL Page for damages to open North St was rejected.

April 26 – Marshall ordered to rid the City of Harriett Matteson, an “idiot or insane person now roaming the streets of the City.” Council ok’d the extension of Walnut, Exchange, and Sycamore Sts. and ordered the Street Comm to clear all alleys of machinery, wagons, wood, lumber, sales items, brush, manure, and all other obstructions. City to take possession of 2 cemetery grounds, 1 west of Somonauk near the Kellum Place, the other 1 north of State near the Kellogg land. Pursuant to an Act of the Illinois General Assembly, Elmwood Cemetery is incorporated effective February 16, 1865, and that the City enclose and improve same.

May 24 – Home St extended east. Council ok’d replanking and repair of North Bridge with 3” pine planks laid lengthwise to prevent mud buildup. Health regulations and fire limits ok’d at Council after being read 3 times.

June 28 – $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% tax assessed on real and personal property within the City. Council ok’d Cross St to be opened and widened.

July 5 - City of Sycamore officials were Mayor Moses Dean, Ald Alden, Ellwood, Wild, Lattin, Stuart, Warden, Robinson, and Darwin. Clerk is Cassius M Conrad.

July 18 – After property tax assessment rolls were reviewed, assessments of Warren and Ellwood were reduced from \$1,450 to \$1,200. More sidewalks ok’d to be laid. Ok’d barrels of oil purchased for City lamps.

August 14 – Various Ord passed on liquor licenses, auctioneers, peddlers, hawkers, horses, mules, cattle at large in City, billiard tables, bad behavior, and licensing shows, exhibitions, and circuses. Also addressed was breaking open the City Pound, fire crackers, cleaning sidewalks, and nuisances affecting good health.

September 6 – Street Commissioner ok’d to notify Sycamore & Cortland Railroad Co that tracks are to be extended in North St.

October 4 – Dog of Andrew Mitchell declared unsafe and dangerous in City and ordered killed.

November 1 – 6 lamps ok’d for streets. John Quinn fined for open saloon on Sunday and Tom Finnegan for selling liquor without a license.

November 2 – Ok’s Weslyans’ to build a wooden church corner of Elm and California Sts within fire limits. Council ok’d LL Hodge to build a 10’ x 15’ wooden addition to his shop. Wm Anderson ok’d to add to his blacksmith shop.

March 7, 1871

City Election 3rd Mon in March: Ward 1, Court House, Ward 2, former meat market store, Ward 3, 2nd floor room Wilkens Block, and Ward 4, Cameron’s Harness Shop. Polls open 11 am – 3 pm. Richard A Smith elected Mayor for 1 year plus Ald Bailey, Mason, Hix, and Harkness for 2 year terms.

March 22 – Newly elected Mayor Smith addressed Council with an eloquent address (see attached) where he thanked the former Mayor and Council and sought assistance with governing in the new year. The Clerk recorded the Mayor’s comments into the minutes. John Pratt appointed City Attorney, AC Colton, City Treasurer, Sam Middleton, Marshall & Collector, and RJ Holcomb Constable. Annual Treasurer Report included total received, \$2,981 against \$2,758 expended, plus \$58 uncollected sidewalk tax for total assets reported of \$280.

March 25 – The True Republican Newspaper designated as the newspaper where all City of Sycamore minutes and notices are to be printed for \$50 for the year.

March 30 – Special Council Meeting to buy land 16’ x 62’ for \$200 to build a brick firehouse with a \$200 bond sold to fund the building. An appropriation was approved for \$1,500 to fund the firehouse, carriage, ladders, hoses, and rubber buckets for the hook and ladder company. Bonds sold at 10% interest.

April 4 – W McIntyre, WP Lovell, and others petitioned for Marsh Harvester Manuf Co to widen the street running south from Waterman and Ellwood Additions to the Company grounds. Application was made by M Pabst for liquor license. Bill of R Ellwood for April to July rent of Council Room for \$6 was ok’d.

April 11 – Age to consume alcohol was raised from 18 to 21 years in the City of Sycamore.

May 9 – The street leading south to the Marsh Harvester Manuf Co named Harvester St.

July 17 – John Black’s land leading to Elmwood Cemetery is named Elmwood St with board fences on both sides and trees lining both sides of the new street.

August 8 – Council ok’d limiting licenses selling prize packages. Mrs Whalen paid \$1 to clean Council Room.

October 13 – Committees of 3 in each ward are to check chimneys, flues, stove pipes, etc and notify owners of unsafe conditions.

November 11 – City Marshall is to collect \$8 from person who broke street lamp corner of George's Addn. Marshall is to procure coat and hat rack for City Building and a street lamp in front of same.

January 12, 1872

Liquor and billiard license approved for James Brannen.

February 6 – Bills ok'd to pay include: Warren & Ellwood, lamps, \$23.85, OF Settle, mason work, \$2.50, R Ellwood & Co. hardware, \$39.05, EF Dutton, record deed, \$1, Harrington & Co, lumber, \$8.29, LW Oakley, drayage, \$1.25, L Ellwood, kerosene, \$1.40, C Brown & Son, gasoline, \$19.25, L Carr, lamp posts, \$2.25, Warren & Ellwood, burners, \$6.35, Silas Cutler, fix pump, \$.50, Warren & Ellwood, hardware, \$17.13. Young Mens Assoc ok'd to use Council Room for a meeting if they provide light and fuel.

March 5 – City Election ordered with polling places: 1st ward, Court House, 2nd ward, old Council Room, 3rd ward, new Council Room, 4th ward, Doyle Bldg corner of State and Main.

March 11 – Minutes of the prior meeting read and approved. Annual Treasurer Report included: Cash on hand, \$222, street tax, \$444, liquor, billiards, druggist, peddlers, and show licenses, \$830, city tax, \$1,472, fines, \$131, other \$47, totaling receipts of \$3,126 against expenses of \$2,934 for ending cash of \$192 with uncollected walks tax of \$117 for total assets for \$309. City sold bonds of \$1,500 plus \$150 appropriated for Fire House: City lot, \$200, building \$1,121, truck and ladder \$225, buckets, \$84, hooks and axes, \$20 totaling \$1,650. Mayor RA Smith ran unopposed and was reelected to a 1 year term with Ald Colton, Alden, Dustin, and Frank Smith elected to 2 year terms. New committees were appointed and ok'd by Mayor and Council. True Republican remained the official City newspaper, and WL Boies paid \$50 to print City notices for the year. Ald Colton moved from ward 1, so a Special Election was held with Milo Dayton elected 1st ward Ald

July 15 – New culverts were installed on State, Somonauk, and Main Sts to control drainage. Committee is formed to review Ord for compliance with Charter and if they serve the purpose and intent of same. Poll tax is \$2.50 per day per man, and property tax rate is 1%.

September 11 – A Special Election ordered to determine if City is to become incorporated and if City Council should include minority representation. 79 voted on incorporation, 69 for and 10 against. 78 voted the minority issue, 33 for and 45 against. Therefore City Council resolved that "City organization under general law as allowed by the Illinois General Assembly is approved thereby incorporating the City. Also Council resolved "that minority representation in the City Council of said City be and it is hereby declared duly rejected by the voters of said City."

October 1 – Mayor Richard Smith resigned, and John Harkness elected to serve Smith's remaining term.

December 3 – SS Adee granted use of Pound for \$2 per month for the winter provided fences be maintained and he not interfere with City uses of the Pound.

December 9 – Comm on Streets and Walks ok'd a windmill to help power City well pump on State St and Mayor authorized to procure a windmill at best cost.

December 14 – Petition of the Methodist Episcopal Church asking City to relinquish its possession of the Old South Burial Ground on Somonauk is granted on condition that the church will by contract improve the grounds. A written contract was ok'd and signed by City and Church trustees: HH Rowe, GA Maxfield, C Shurtliff, Norman Blakley, C Lattin, Edwin Gilson, and RA Smith.

January 16, 1873

Redistricting all wards such that all land east of Main is Ward 1, land from Main to California, Ward 2, and land west of California, Ward 3.

February 4 – Ord passed dividing City into 3 wards.

March 15 – Polling places set for 1st City Election under the new organization: 1st Ward, Barroom of City Hotel with Judge J Harkness and Clerk F Smith, 2nd Ward, Jury Room of the Court House with Judge E Mayo and Clerk J Burst, and 3rd Ward, Willard's Carpentry Shop with Judge W Mason and Clerk W Wittemore.

April 9 – Annual Treasurer Report included: Cash on hand, \$192, licenses, \$984, Property Tax, \$1,513, fines, \$125, Road, Bridge, & Alley Tax, \$698, and misc, \$26 for total available, \$3,538 against expended of \$2,749 for ending cash on hand, \$789.

April 15 – City election results: Mayor, J Harkness, 222 vs J Alden, 171 votes, 1st Ward Ald A Ellwood and F Smith, 2nd Ward, A Sawyer, and J Syme, and 3rd Ward, W Marsh and J Fulkerson.

August 2 – Council ok'd getting bids to take down and rebuild north bridge over the Kishwaukee River.
August 9 – Mayor Harkness recommended Property Tax levy of \$2,300 for roads and bridges, \$800, salaries, \$700, and incidental expenses, \$800. This was ok'd by Council.
November 1 – Dr GW Nesbitt ok'd as City Medical Officer and was paid to treat Small Pox victims. Marshall ordered to demand of JA Butterfield, author of "Belshazzar Cantata" fees due for traveling troupes.
November 15 – Bonds ok'd to sell for 1 year for \$1,000 at 10% to defray expenses.
December 6 – City Collector allowed fee of 1 1/2% on all funds collected for the City.

January 6, 1874

The Mechanics Industrial Assoc ok'd to use Council Room provided they furnish their own lights and fuel.
March 24 – Resolved that Somonauk St be straightened in front of Judge Mayo Block by agreement with owners in that area.

April 4 – Methodist Episcopal Church ok'd to build a wooden parsonage on the current site.
April 13 – Annual Treasurer Report: On hand, \$801, saloon licenses, \$709, City Collector, \$2,361, City Bond, \$300, peddler/auction licenses, \$218, misc, \$657 for total available, \$5,046 against expended, \$4,885 for ending balance, \$161. 485 voted in the recent election.

April 23 – Council ok'd Committees: Finance, Streets & Walks, Fire & Water, Licenses, Ordinances, Board of Health.

May 28 – Council ok'd Sycamore & Cortland Railroad Co to lay track from the railroad elevator across Coltonville Rd to their land east of the depot provided that the track be planked so as not to be an obstruction to teams.

June 3 – Council ok'd the Minerva Band to use Council Room.

July 20 – Council ok'd \$1,000 bond sold for 1 year at 10% for expenses with interest due December 1st.

August 4 – Council ok'd Mayor's list of costs: lumber and freight, \$1,611, bonds and interest, \$880, printing, \$50, stone for crossings, \$800, incidental expense, \$400, salaries, \$964, build and repair sidewalks, \$325 for total annual expenses of \$5,030.

August 12 – City Clerk Ed Crist refers to City Council as "Common Council" in his minutes.

September 1 – Ok'd bond of \$1,000 sold at 10% interest due February 1, 1875.

November 3 – Clerk Crist uses "City Council" in his minutes once again.

April 11, 1875

Annual salaries ok'd including Clerk, \$75, Treasurer, \$25, Attorney, \$50 and ordered the platform scales on Somonauk is to be moved.

April 21 – City Election results: RL Divine elected Mayor with 330 voted vs D Dustin, 243 votes. City Clerk, C Cornelius, Treasurer, C Stuart, Attorney, C Kellum, 1st Ward Ald J Brown, 2nd Ward Ald W Warren, and 3rd Ward Ald, J Fulkerson.

April 24 – Liquor Licenses were raised from \$400 to \$500 annually.

May 18 – Fire & Water Comm is to secure material to lay a few 6" and 8" water lines, pumps, 1,500' hose, 3 hose carts, and necessary apparatus for the Fire Company.

June 4 – Council ordained that all saloon licenses be limited to 4 and wholesale liquor sales to 1 license.

June 17 – Resolved that the Mayor stop the illegal sales of liquor in the City.

November 1 – Council appropriated \$12,000 to build a Water Works funded by "Sycamore Water Bonds" sold at 8% interest with due dates through 1884, but the rate was increased to 10% on Nov 12th.

December 15 – Council ok'd \$700 City matching funds with \$700 from the DeKalb County Board of Supervisors to erect a wood or iron or wood and iron fence around the Public Square on which sits the Court House.

February 17, 1876

Council ok'd 2 Volunteer Fire Companies with 22 men each and with each Company electing 1 Captain, 1 Lt, and 1 2nd Lt from their ranks. Henceforth all buildings to be built of wood construction had to be approved by Council.

April – Contract executed between City and Marsh Harvester Manufacturing Co relating to City Water Works. A tower, pumps, pipes, and a boiler are to be assembled near Marsh Harvester to serve both the Company and the City of Sycamore. The City would pay M/H to pump water for both domestic and fire fighting uses. The ground location of the well, tower, and pumps is conveyed from M/H to the City, the

pumps are to be tested monthly with steam power to prove they work at no cost to the City. Both City and M/H are to gain from revenue produced by Sycamore Water Works.

May 13 – A public trial of the Water Works set for May 30th.

June 16 – Marshall told to notify WL Boies to remove the dead cow from his property.

April 14, 1877

HW Atwood reported the census counts: 1st Ward, 869, 2nd Ward, 679, and 3rd Ward, 1,600, totaling 3,148 people living in Sycamore.

April 26 – Resolved that Marsh Harvester Co maintain 40 lbs of steam at all times to fight fires at a cost of \$400.

May 1 – City Election: Mayor, N Latten, 340 votes vs JH Rogers, 339, so Latten Mayor was elected by 1 vote. Also to serve were H Jones, City Attorney, WF Peters, Treasurer, Marshall HT Lawrence, and Clerk J Shield. Ald to serve included G Siveright, D Dustin, W Graham, and W Walrod.

May 5 – Ald Dayton died, so W Wharry is selected to complete Dayton's term. Printing of City notices, etc for the year awarded to Boies and Armstrong of the True Republican for \$50. Council adapted parliamentary rules in Cushing's Manual to be used at Council until further ordered.

May 12 – A letter of invitation was received by Council to join Potter Post #12 of the Grand Army of the Republic in decorating soldiers' graves on May 30th. Council thanked and agreed to participate with Potter Post #12 on May 30th. A Townsend requests to erect or repair a wooden building in rear of Messrs Pierce and Dean's Bank, but his request is refused.

June 5 – Alonzo Ellwood sues City over election mandamus suit filed by Ellwood vs City.

June 9 – Shurtleff's and Partridge's Additions accepted into the City of Sycamore. Fire Marshall Sawyer presented rules and regulations of the Sycamore Fire Department which in turn were adapted by City Council.

Thus ends some notes of interest from Sycamore Minutes Journal No. 1, a period in time of 1858 to 1877.

This document is intended for use by those interested in the meeting history of Sycamore Town Boards and City Councils. All of the notes were taken by Mayor Mundy directly from City of Sycamore Meeting Minutes and are edited neither for English grammar rules, spelling, punctuation, nor for political correctness. It has been a pleasure to gather notes of interest from Sycamore's history, and the Mayor plans to record, compile, and make available notes from other City Council Meeting Minutes over time. The notes from the minutes present a small snapshot in time of how Sycamore grew from a frontier settlement of rustic cabins to the beautiful vibrant and economically sustainable community she is today. There were many good and faithful public servants who guided Sycamore through her infancy, the Civil War Years, Industrial Revolution, and all the historic events which impacted Sycamore from the 1850's to 1879.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Ken Mundy
December, 2009