

JACKSONVILLE AREA GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Jacksonville Area Genealogical & Historical Society Membership Application

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We survive by your membership and donations. Amount enclosed \$_____

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JAGHS

416 S. Main Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650
217-245-9623
info@jaghsil.com

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday 1 - 3 P.M.
Friday 1 - 3 P.M.

Thank You to Greg Olson & the Jacksonville Journal Courier.

Members are invited to submit articles for publication. We reserve the right to edit all articles submitted and articles may be declined if inappropriate. Send submissions to info@jaghsil.com. We would love to hear from you!

Do you have a topic that you would like to see covered in the newsletter? We welcome your input and suggestions for the website as well. Just let us know. We look forward to your feedback.

To help reduce Society expenses, members are encouraged to receive the newsletter via email. To make the switch from postal version to email, please notify the society. Please report change of address to avoid delivery interruptions.

A big thank you to our members. Since our inception in February 1972, we have paid our expenses and grown our library by your membership and generous donations. Through the years we have developed an amazing library with information that isn't available online or easily obtained from the usual sources. We are proud of all that we have to offer. We appreciate your continued support!

Wanda Dame, Treasurer

We survive thanks to your donations and memberships.

We would like to
thank the following
for their monetary donations during the last
quarter:

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DUNLAP HOUSE

Under new and capable management, with conditions favorable, the historic Dunlap House has entered upon a new era of public service, and with every indication of pronounced success. During the past few months various changes have been made, so that today the house was never so well able to entertain its guests. The Dunlap House is admirably located and is fitted throughout with all modern conveniences, such as steam heat, electric lights, bath rooms, etc. It has six large sample rooms for the accommodation of commercial travelers. There are seventy comfortable rooms and a large dining hall. The traveling trade is catered to and the daily menu compare favorably with the leading hostelryes of the state. The Dunlap House is one of the most comfortable places at which to stop. The west front lawn is a bower of shade, where several large swings are kept for the exclusive use of guests. The new proprietor, Mr. W. E. Killen, was born in Paterson, NJ in 1852 and his parents moved to St Louis the year following, where he passed his boyhood days and was educated in the public schools of that city. For the past thirty years he has been connected with railroads, in the mechanical department, starting as machinist apprentice and for the last twenty years master mechanic and superintendent of motive power. For twelve years previous to March first (when he became proprietor of the Dunlap) he held the position of superintendent of motive power and equipment of the Chicago, Peoria & St Louis R.R. with headquarters in Jacksonville.

Major John A. Vickery, the energetic and progressive clerk and manager of the Dunlap House, was born in St Louis is 1853 and was educated in the public schools of Jacksonville, including the high school. He has followed the hotel business all his life and since 1880 has been identified with the above hotel during which time the hotel has changed hands five times. His wide experience has made him thoroughly practical, and having the happy faculty of being able to not only look out for the interior affairs of the house, but also seeing that every guest is cared for in the best possible manner. In the summer of 1876 he enlisted in the Fifth Regiment of I. N. G. and served eighteen years and received the rank of major. He served in several riot calls in East St Louis and other places of less importance. Since then he has severed his connection with the militia with regret. He says he loves the militia, and it afforded a delightful measure of recreation of such a character the Mr. Vickery enjoyed. In 1880 he was married and one daughter blessed the happy union, who was recently married and resided in Chicago .



The Dunlap House, Jacksonville, Ill.

CardCow.com

Taken from Jacksonville And Its Environs
Published by Baldwin Publishing Co.

OLD DUNLAP HAD DELUXE DIGS

Hotel was a source of Jacksonville pride

By Greg Olson Journal-Courier

A traveling man could get a pretty nice room for \$2 a day at the Dunlap House a century ago.

The old Dunlap was an 80 room hotel which once stood where the Morgan County Center is now located on West State Street.

The Dunlap House was completed in the spring of 1858 and for many years was considered to be one of Jacksonville's principal buildings. Sketches of the hotel were included on maps and other publications.

The hotel was the brainchild of Col James Dunlap, a local entrepreneur who took a residence and enlarged it. The front part of the hotel building had three stories, while two rear wings had two floors.

The guest rooms were said to be "neat and airy," and each room was supplied with a stove and gas fixtures. "Although this hotel will be a just subject of pride to our citizens, and has involved a very heavy expenditure in its erection, it is entirely a private enterprise on the part of Col Dunlap, and one which entitles him to the commendations of the community for the liberality and public spirit it evinces," wrote a local journalist in 1858.

The Dunlap soon supplanted the mansion House, later known as the Park Hotel, as the city's leading hostelry. Samuel Clemens, better known as "Mark Twain," stayed at the Dunlap when he came to town in 1869 to talk about his travels abroad.

Members of the family ran the hotel for many years before Capt Alexander Smith, a Civil War hero and veteran hotel clerk, bought the place in 1880. He earned his rank fighting for the Union Army and proudly kept it the rest of his life. "Cap" Smith, who is said to have been "a born hotel keeper," quickly undertook to complete remodeling of the hotel. An army of painters, plasters and carpenters renovated every inch of the building.

The renovated Dunlap's rooms were all equipped with an electric bell connected to the office. An "another feature which few, if any, hotels in our state possess is the ladies private washroom and bathrooms...fitted up in the best possible manner," the Journal reported in September 1880.

"As a guarantee that the house will be able conducted in such a manner as to satisfy the traveling public, we need only state that Capt Alex Smith, the proprietor,...will have personal supervision of the house and see that the wants of all guests are promptly supplied."

For the entertainment of his guests, Smith also had a billiards room added to the hotel in 1880, a room large enough to accommodate six tables.

"Conventions always delighted him, and he was happiest when the great lobby and dining rooms were filled with sociable guests," wrote an unknown local historian around 1940.

"On one occasion, the Travelers Protective Association state meeting was held (at the Dunlap House) and as each guest went to the desk to pay his bill for himself and his family the clerk smilingly handed him a bill already receipted by 'Cap.'"

Smith got out of the hotel business in 1904 and died during a fire in his Jacksonville home in 1917.

A modern, five-story brick and steel-frame hotel building went up just east of the old Dunlap in 1925. Called the New Dunlap Hotel, it dwarfed its outdated predecessor for a few years before wreckers demolished the old hotel.

This Way We Were story was first published April 5, 2004.

Jacksonville City Directory 1890-91

Hotels

Central House, 233 N Main
Covert House, 746 E North
Dunlap House, 343 W State
Morgan House, 331 N Main
Northeastern House, 302 E Court
Pacific Hotel, 234 E State
Park Hotel, 205-209 N Main
Transit House, 412 N Main
Wabash Dining Hall, 342 W Lafayette
Av

Jacksonville City Directory 1915

Hotels

Dunlap House, 343 W State
Grand Hotel, N E Cor Square
Pacific Hotel, 232-236 E State
Union Hotel, 302 E Court
Wabash Hotel, Wabash Depot

Jacksonville City Directory 1929

Hotels

Colonial Inn, 1213 W State
Douglas Hotel, 202 W Court, Tel 167
Dunlap Hotel, 331 W State, Tels 1106
-1107-1121
Howard Hotel, 302 E Court
New Pacific Hotel, 234-36 E State,
Tels 87 and 1829

GRAND HOTEL
EUROPEAN
JACKSONVILLE, ILL

ROOMS 50 CENTS AND UP
Electric Lights
Steam Heat Elevator Service
MRS. E.I. CRONK, Mgr

**Jacksonville And Its Environs Pub-
lished by Baldwin Publishing Co.**

TALBOTT'S HOTEL AND CAFÉ

Modern and progressive methods, quick service and superiority of cooking have placed the hotel and café of W.S. Talbott decidedly in the front ranks of similar concerns in Jacksonville. Conveniently located on W. State St., and in the heart of the business section, it enjoys a patronage and reputation second to none. Cooking to order and home pastry are specialties. Several hundred people dine at this popular resort daily, most of them regular patrons, a fact that signifies entire satisfaction. Ten competent assistants are employed, thus giving ample force to keep the dining room and the bed rooms in scrupulously clean order. Mr. Talbot was born in Jacksonville in 1868, and received his education in the public schools and Illinois College. He became established in 1902, and by business integrity and capability has won the patronage and esteem of the people.

MRS. MARY GRAUBNER

Jacksonville is well supplied with boarding and rooming houses, but none excel in reputation for good cooking, cleanliness and neatness of rooms the well equipped house of Mrs. Mary Gruabner, located at 212 N. Main St. She makes boarding and rooming a specialty and caters to the best class of people. She became established in this business about two years ago and has built up an extensive and high class trade. She employs three assistants and the best of service is assured. Mrs. Graubner was born in Chapin, Ill., in 1860 and was educated in the country schools. Formally for three years she was engaged in the hotel business in Chapin. She is a woman of pleasing personality, always interested in the welfare of her guests, and is a widow with two children, and is held in highest esteem by all who know her.

Dunlap Hotel

J. M. RULE, Manager

MODERN IN EVERY WAY

European Plan—Café in Connection

**Elevator —Hot and Cold Running Water
In All Rooms**

Rooms Single and En Suite with Bath
RATES \$1.25 TO \$4.00

Phone 11

343 W. State

Pacific Hotel

Jacksonville's Best Hotel

70 Rooms

**Elevator Service. Hot and Cold Running
Water In All Rooms. Private Telephone
Service. Rooms with Bath**

STRICTLY EUROPEAN

Jacksonville, Ill

Ads are from the 1922 City Directory

Published by Baldwin Publishing Co.

PACIFIC HOTEL

Jacksonville's spacious, well equipped and carefully conducted hostelry, the Pacific Hotel, was opened in 1880, and has proven one of the hotel successes of Illinois, requiring repeated additions and many times turning people away, notwithstanding that there are now eighty sleeping rooms. The house is operated on the American plan, contains modern improvements, steam heat and bath rooms on each floor. The dining room has a seating capacity of eighty people at one time. The help numbers thirty-five in all, and the reason is obvious, for the Pacific has an unsurpassed reputation for cleanliness, comfort and systematic order. The hotel is located in close proximity to the depots, within a minute's walk of the main business section, post office, theater, banks, and leading churches. In summing up, it may be said that the Pacific Hotel is a model of its class, and that its chief success lies in the fact that those things ordinarily neglected, receive careful attention. The commercial trade is especially catered to. The proprietors, Harry G. Richardson and E. A. Brennan, also conduct the Beach House at Tuscola, IL. Mr. Richardson is a native of Connecticut, born in 1866 and educated in the public schools of Kansas. Previous to this present business he was identified with the Leland Hotel at Springfield, IL, about fifteen years, and had worked in every capacity, thus enabling him to be thoroughly conversant with every detail of the hotel business. E. A. Brennan was born at Springfield, IL, in 1880 and there educated. Previous to his present business, he was clerk at the Leland Hotel, Springfield, IL, three years. He is a member of the Elks and K. of C. Both gentlemen are progressive, up-to-date and alert to the demands of a discriminating traveling public.

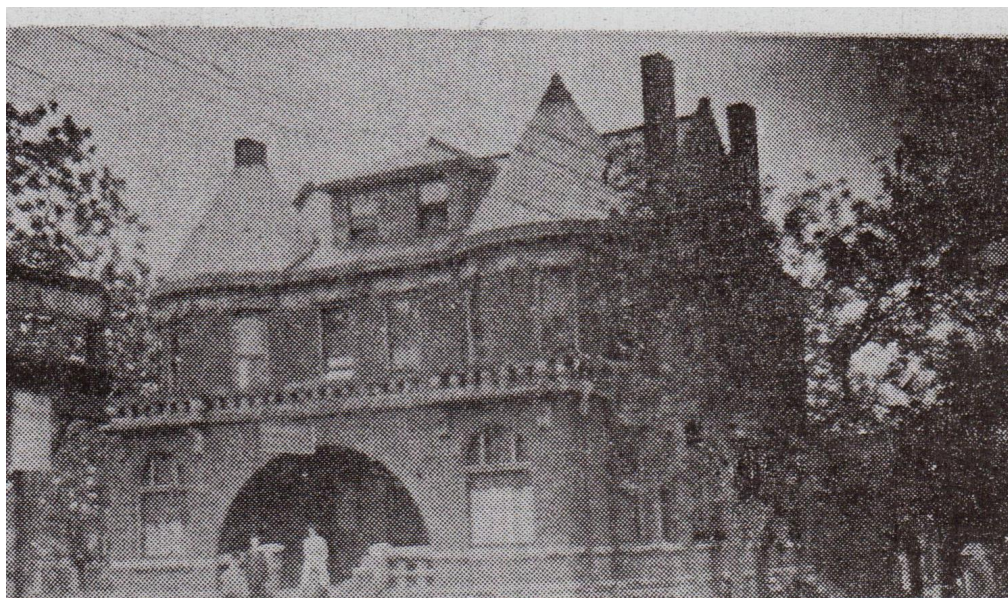


Pacific Hotel and East State Street, Jacksonville, Ill.

Taken from Jacksonville And Its Environs Published by Baldwin Publishing Co.



The Wrecking Ball had almost completed its work at the old East State Street Apartments site late Saturday morning. Only a portion of the stately facade remained to be demolished by workmen who have been on the job since Tuesday. One hundred years ago this summer, the building was being constructed. Once known as the Pacific Hotel and the Illinois Hotel it has recently been used as an apartment building (Sun, July 10, 1983).



The College Avenue Hotel was a popular spot in 1910. Lodging was a dollar a day and meals cost an additional 25-cents. This photo was taken from a post card supplied by Mrs. Claude Bolton of Murrayville.

Stay awhile

Jacksonville hotel served as a center for social and commercial activity

BY GREG OLSON ♦ JOURNAL-COURIER

Former President Martin Van Buren once stood at the entrance to Jacksonville's finest hotel and greeted hundreds of the local populous. The Morgan House was undoubtedly one of the best and newest hotels around these parts when Mr. Van Buren paid the town a visit in 1842.

The three-story brick building, complete with a cupola, was constructed on the northwest corner of North Main Street and the public square around 1840. Gov. Joseph Duncan, of Jacksonville, had the hotel built, and named it Morgan House.

The hotel became a major center of both commercial and social activity. The offices for the stagecoach lines were located in the hotel, and the arrival and departure of stages were important occurrences in the life of the growing young town.

Many of the other Jacksonville hotels at that time were much smaller than the Morgan House. In fact, some of the hotels, such as the Heslep Tavern on West State Street, were just wood-frame houses. Stephen A. Douglas resided in the Heslep Tavern for a few years in the 1830s.

The Morgan House assumed a new identity around 1850, when George Fox took over management of the hotel. Mr. Fox changed the name to Mansion House, although his sign said, "Hotel by Fox."

The place was called the Mansion House

when a country lawyer and politician named Abraham Lincoln signed the hotel's register in March 1854. It seems likely that Mr. Lincoln, a somewhat regular visitor to Jacksonville, stayed at the hotel more than once, but the March 1854 stopover is verifiable.

Mr. Lincoln was in Jacksonville on that particular occasion to help defend Col. James Dunlap Jr., a local entrepreneur who stood accused of severely beating a young journalist with a cane.

The hotel also served as home to a variety of small businesses in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The hotel entrance was on North Main Street and the first-floor rooms facing the square were rented to many storekeepers over the years. Two of the longest tenants were Kibbe's dry goods store and F.F. Schmalz & Sons' grocery.

The Mansion House was remodeled and renamed in 1871, becoming the Park House. But the hotel's popularity was beginning to wane around that time, in part because of temperance, according to one

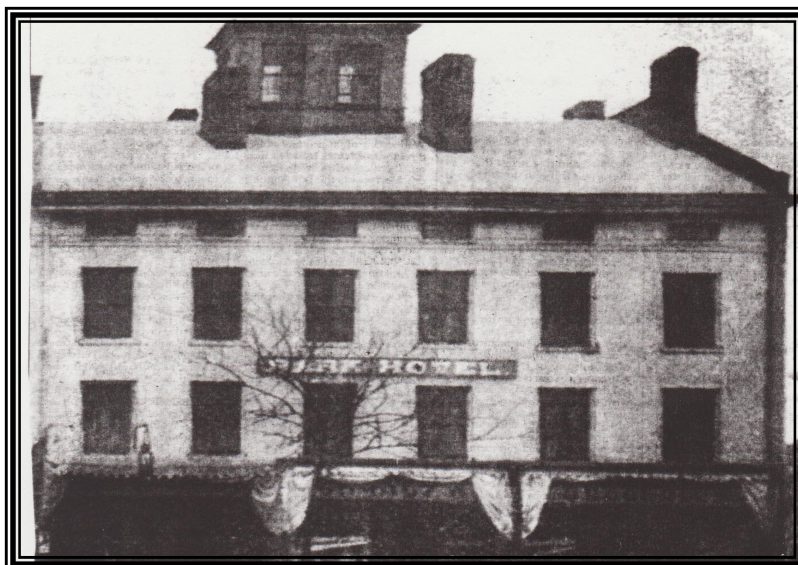
historian.

Besides renting out first-floor store-rooms, hotel proprietors leased space to saloonkeepers for many years. That was the case until T.C. Irland, who hailed from Griggsville, became proprietor of the Park House in 1872.

"Mr. Irland, with the courage of his convictions, refused to open another saloon within the hotel," wrote an unknown local historian in 1941. "This was disastrous to his business. One of his daughters, then a little girl, fired with her father's zeal, used to go among the guests and give them cards which contained pleas for temperance."

The Park House, also known as the Park Hotel, continued to operate well into the 20th century. It was later bought by J.W. Walton, of Jacksonville, who had the building demolished in 1924.

Lincoln Land Community College's Western Region Education Center is now housed in a building on the former site of the Park Hotel.



THE WAY WE WERE

This is how the Morgan House appeared around 1903, when it was known as the Park Hotel. The hotel was located on the corner of North Main Street and the public square in Jacksonville.