

MAIN STREET

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Executive Director

January 31, 2005

Illinois Main Street Staff
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
One Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear ILMS Staff,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for doing such a great job on designing our logo and letterhead. We simply love it! We use it all the time.

We look forward to your March 3rd visit and promise you a great time.

Janine M. Loftus

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MAIN STREET MOMENTUM

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A Midwest New England Village Becomes 55th Illinois CLG

Winter • 2005

In 1834, the area that was to become Glen Ellyn, near the western boundary of present day Lombard, was then known as Babcock's Grove. That same year, Deacon Winslow Churchill brought his family from upstate New York and became the first settler, building a log cabin near the east branch of the DuPage River. As was common at that time, much of north-eastern Illinois saw a high influx of settlers, who, with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, seized the opportunity to follow a much easier migratory route via the Great Lakes. They came west seeking farmland and a better lifestyle among the fertile prairies of the Midwest.

In 1835, Moses Stacy and his family came to the area with numerous other settlers from upstate New York. Moses Stacy, who was to become one of Glen Ellyn's most prominent citizens, built a log cabin in the area. In 1846, he built his second home, a Greek Revival farmhouse, along Old State Road and opened it up as a traveler's building. Later on, Stacy's Tavern became a stop on the Frink & Walker Stagecoach Line that ran from Chicago to Galena. Prior to the coming of the Chicago, Galena & Union Railroad in the 1850's, Stacy Tavern served as the most important focal point of the small community that grew up along the convergence of roads near present day Main Street and Old State Road (St. Charles Road today) near Glen Ellyn's northern boundary.



Interest in saving an 1840's Glen Ellyn stagecoach stop began with statewide and community groups in the 1960's, and in 1979 the Illinois Department of Conservation presented Stacy's Tavern, located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Geneva Roads, with a preservation award.

The small settlement that formed around Stacy's Tavern became known as Stacy's Corners. This was one of the first permanent settlements near present day Glen Ellyn. After the Chicago, Galena, & Union railroad began to take hold; settlement gradually moved down the hill about one mile to the south and developed along the railroad tracks. As the Village continued to grow in its new location near the railroad, similar to other communities of that era, it experienced a number of name changes, going from Newton Station, to Danby, named after Danby, Vermont, and to Prospect Park, culminating with the incorporation of Glen Ellyn in 1892.

Glen Ellyn's focus on history wasn't really brought to the forefront until some individuals realized that Stacy's Tavern was in danger of being demolished. They talked with the owner of the property and the Glen Ellyn Village Board, which, after much discussion, voted to buy the historic building in 1968.

Continued on Page 2