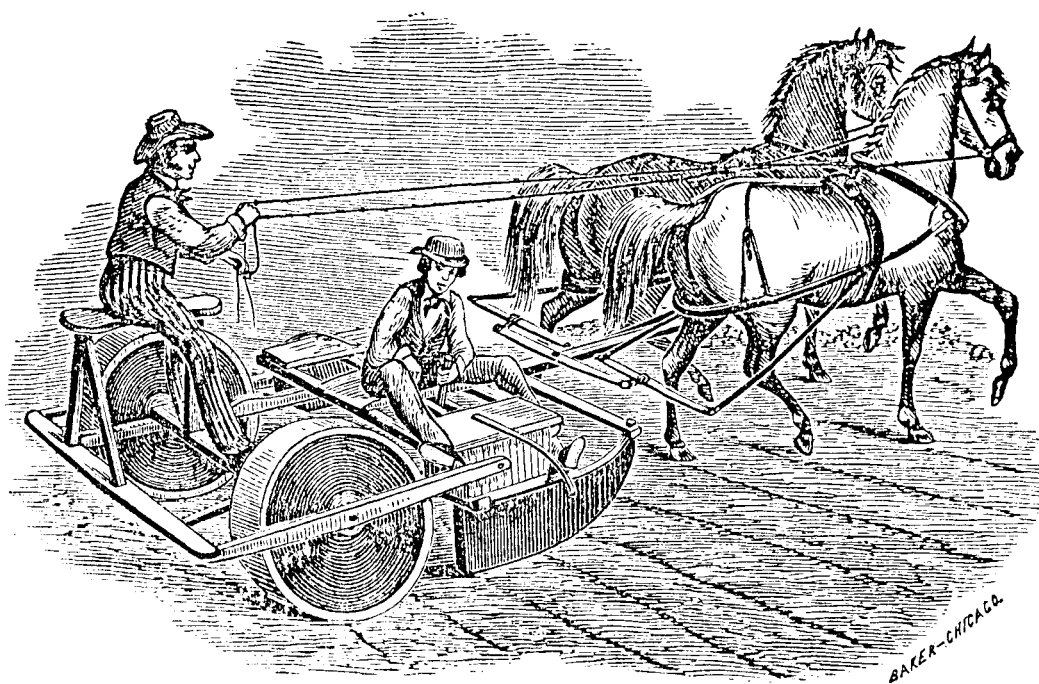


CLAYVILLE RURAL LIFE CENTER & MUSEUM
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

Publications Series II
Research Report #1
**THE TRADES AND PROFESSIONS IN RURAL
SANGAMON COUNTY, 1850**

by Elizabeth Weir
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BROWN'S CORN PLANTER

1978

Sangamon
State
University



Springfield, Illinois 62708

Cover photo: Invented by G.W. Brown and manufactured by him at Galesburg, Illinois, this corn planter "took the first premium at the State Fairs of 1857 and 1858."

Transactions of the Illinois State Agricultural Society,
vol. 3, 1858-58, p. 244.

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CLAYVILLE RURAL LIFE CENTER & MUSEUM

Publications Series II
Research Report #1

Occupations in Rural Sangamon County in 1850

Part I

A. Purpose

The research represented here was undertaken to meet several needs:

First, the museum owns an extensive collection of tools which were used in various 19th century trades and crafts. Early in the museum's history several sheds were brought to the site or built here to represent the shops of crafts persons and to house the related tools. In order to interpret these shops and to explain their place in 19th century central Illinois rural life to the public, we needed to know more about the economic and social realities of the trades, especially during the period chosen for our living history programs, the 1840s and 1850s.

A second need is that as we develop the museum we will need to know what areas of rural economic life not now shown at Clayville through exhibits and demonstrations should be. Thirdly, the Center has been requested by the Clayville Folk Arts Guild to provide members with information on trades, crafts and other 19th century activities which would help to make their Festivals more historically accurate.

B. Sources and Method

The basic source studied was the 7th Federal Population Census of Sangamon County, Illinois. Microfilm of the original census rolls was used, as well as the Sangamon County, Illinois, 1850 Census and 1850 Mortality Schedule published by the Sangamon County Geneological Society, January, 1976, which was compiled by Society members from microfilm. Elizabeth Weir, a Clayville staff member, conducted the study and compiled the two-part report.

The 1850 census of Sangamon County was reported in two parts, one for rural Sangamon County and the other for Springfield, its county seat and largest community. The rural portion includes the several smaller communities of the county. For this report, only the rural census was examined. In the 2,429 dwelling places (households) enumerated, 14,704 persons were listed. Of these, 2,938 persons were identified as farmers and 379 as laborers. A total of 329 persons were listed as occupied in 52 other trades, crafts and professions. It is these occupations which are the subject of this report.

C. Format and Content of Part II

Part II of this report consists of statistical details. Section A, A Listing of the 52 Occupations in Rural Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1850 (excluding farmer and laborer), lays out the occupations from most to least common in occurrence. The number of persons engaged in each occupation is given, along with the percentage of the total 329 persons which those in each occupation represented. From this we can see what occupations, besides farmer and laborer, existed in rural Sangamon County in 1850 and how common each was. We can also tell a little about the importance of each occupation for the rural people.

Section B, Household Numbers and Places of Birth of Persons in 52 Occupations, gives two basic types of information. First, the distribution of the 329 persons within households can be seen. An asterisk (*) preceding the household number indicates that someone other than the head of the household (the first person listed) was engaged in that occupation. The second type of information is each person's place of birth. When Illinois was given as the place of birth, county histories and atlases were consulted in order to determine whether the family had lived in a Northern or Southern state or a foreign country prior to coming to Illinois. This information is shown on the chart by N, S, or F. If origin could not be ascertained from these sources, a question mark appears.

From this information we can determine whether it was common for several persons in one occupation to live in one household, and whether certain occupations tended to draw persons who headed or did not head households. The place of birth and family origin information can answer questions about whether those who were not farmers or laborers were primarily of one regional or national background or another, whether persons in a particular occupation seemed to be of primarily the same background, and so forth.

Section C, Farmers, Laborers and Persons in Other Occupations: A Summary, shows the numbers of persons who were heads of households (men and women) and who were others in a household within each category and also those who were heads of households and listed no occupation.

D. Further Materials for Study

Persons wishing more information on the makeup of the households of persons in these occupations may wish to study the data cards used to compile this report. These are on file at the Clayville Rural Life Center and Museum. The cards, filed by occupations, are numerically ordered by HH number. Each card contains the name, age, sex, valuation of real estate and place of birth of the person in the occupation.

Section A.A Listing of the 52 Occupations in Rural Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1850
(excluding farmer and laborer)

In order from most to least common occurrence - 329 persons represented

| <u>Occupation</u> | <u>No. of Persons</u> | <u>% of Total</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>No. of Persons</u> | <u>% of Total</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| CARPENTER | 53 | 16.1 | POTTER | 2 | .6 |
| BLACKSMITH | 41 | 12.5 | WEAVER | 2 | .6 |
| MILLER | 27 | 8.2 | STONECUTTER | 2 | .6 |
| PHYSICIAN | 19 | 5.8 | SADDLER | 2 | .6 |
| TEACHER | 19 | 5.8 | BAR KEEPER | 1 | .3 |
| WAGON MAKER | 18 | 5.5 | BROOMMAKER | 1 | .3 |
| COOPER | 16 | 4.9 | CARDER | 1 | .3 |
| TEAMSTER | 12 | 3.5 | CONSTABLE | 1 | .3 |
| MINISTER/PREACHER | 11 | 3.3 | CHAIRMAKER | 1 | .3 |
| MERCHANT | 9 | 2.7 | DISTILLER | 1 | .3 |
| LAWYER | 8 | 2.4 | ENGINEER | 1 | .3 |
| SHOEMAKER | 7 | 2.1 | GROCERY | 1 | .3 |
| MILLWRIGHT | 7 | 2.1 | FAN MAKER | 1 | .3 |
| CLERK | 6 | 1.8 | HARNESS MAKER | 1 | .3 |
| BRICKLAYER | 5 | 1.5 | LAND AGENT | 1 | .3 |
| BUTCHER | 5 | 1.5 | INN KEEPER | 1 | .3 |
| WOODCHOPPER | 5 | 1.5 | MACHINIST | 1 | .3 |
| WHEELWRIGHT | 5 | 1.5 | MASON | 1 | .3 |
| GARDENER/NURSERY | 4 | 1.2 | MALTSTER | 1 | .3 |
| SAWYER | 4 | 1.2 | SURVEYOR | 1 | .3 |
| WOOL CARDER | 4 | 1.2 | SEXTON | 1 | .3 |
| CABINET MAKER | 3 | .9 | PRAIRIE BREAKER | 1 | .3 |
| TAILOR | 3 | .9 | STAGE DRIVER | 1 | .3 |
| TAVERN KEEPER | 3 | .9 | TRESHER | 1 | .3 |
| BRICKMAKER | 3 | .9 | TRADER | 1 | .3 |
| PLASTERER | 2 | .6 | ROPE MAKER | 1 | .3 |

Section B.Household Numbers and Places of Birth of Persons in 52 Occupations

1. An * preceeding a household (HH) number indicates that that person was not head of the household (the person listed first in the household by the census taker).
2. The place of family origin of persons born in Illinois is indicated by N or S for Northern or Southern, F for foreign country, or ? if place of origin could not be determined from county histories or atlases.

BAR KEEPER

HH 2029 England

BLACKSMITH

HH 33 New York
 94 Kentucky
 *112 New York
 255 Kentucky
 279 Vermont
 280 Maine
 364 Maryland
 366 Ohio
 367 New Jersey
 673 Massachusetts
 682 Massachusetts
 689 Virginia
 *839 Virginia
 *1161 Illinois - ?
 1161 Pennsylvania
 1164 Missouri
 1187 Pennsylvania
 1222 Pennsylvania
 *1334 Vermont
 *1334 New York
 1334 Ohio
 1335 New York
 *1639 Kentucky
 1639 Illinois - S
 1658 Ohio
 *1658 Indiana
 *1658 Indiana
 1664 Ohio
 *1664 Illinois - ?
 1962 Virginia
 *1962 Illinois - ?
 *1962 Illinois - ?
 2171 Tennessee
 2232 Tennessee
 2241 Ohio
 2248 Kentucky
 2383 Ohio
 2387 Illinois - ?
 2400 Kentucky
 2404 Ohio
 2412 Kentucky

BRICKLAYER

HH *964 Illinois - S
 964 Kentucky
 977 Ohio
 1173 Tennessee
 *1173 Tennessee

BRICK MAKER

HH 666 Ohio
 2396 Kentucky
 *2396 Illinois - S

BROOMMAKER

HH 675 Pennsylvania

BUTCHER

HH 940 Germany
 *940 Germany
 *945 Germany
 949 Illinois - ?
 1963 Vermont

CABINET MAKER

HH 703 New Hampshire
 *1597 New York
 2401 Pennsylvania

CARDER

HH 807 Illinois - ?

CARPENTER

HH *21 Kentucky
 60 Ohio
 *63 Wash. DC
 185 Kentucky
 278 Maryland
 *355 Kentucky
 *441 New York
 522 Ireland
 *628 S. Carolina

CARPENTER (CONT.)

HH 674 Pennsylvania
 678 Pennsylvania
 *692 Kentucky
 700 Ohio
 704 New York
 *718 Kentucky
 843 Indiana
 *843 Indiana
 898 Pennsylvania
 *899 Pennsylvania
 978 Connecticut
 1011 Virginia
 *1011 Illinois - ?
 *1011 Illinois - ?
 1044 Virginia
 1169 Pennsylvania
 1183 Kentucky
 *1275 Ohio
 1361 New York
 *1361 Germany
 1385 New Jersey
 1406 Illinois - N
 1407 New York
 1514 Kentucky
 1530 Germany
 1556 Kentucky
 1582 Kentucky
 1643 Vermont
 *1702 Virginia
 1791 Tennessee
 1799 Ohio
 1900 Ohio
 1941 Kentucky
 2017 Kentucky
 2018 Kentucky
 2032 Massachusetts
 2214 Kentucky
 2315 Illinois - ?
 *2315 Illinois - ?
 2346 Kentucky
 2386 Virginia
 *2395 Kentucky
 2410 Kentucky
 2416 Ohio

CHAIRMAKER

HH 1154 Kentucky

CLERK

HH *838 England
 886 England
 *886 England
 *2386 Ohio
 *2386 New York
 *2392 New York

CONSTABLE

HH 1789 Kentucky

COOPER

HH 91 Virginia
 141 Indiana
 799 Ohio
 939 Kentucky
 *961 Indiana
 *961 Indiana
 1200 Ohio
 1429 Germany
 1650 Germany
 *1650 Germany
 1662 Germany
 1665 France
 1666 Germany
 1667 Germany
 *1667 New York
 1961 Maryland

DISTILLER

HH *901 (No Entry)

ENGINEER

HH 902 Maine

FAN MAKER

HH 2411 Ohio

GARDENER/NURSERY

HH 975 Massachusetts
 *975 Norway
 *975 Maine
 *975 Maine

GROCERY

HH*1920 Virginia

HARNESS MAKER

HH 2398 Kentucky

INN KEEPER

HH 2029 England

LAND AGENT

HH 2426 Massachusetts

LAWYER

HH 990 New York
 1674 Kentucky
 *2045 Kentucky
 2136 Kentucky
 *2136 Kentucky
 *2136 Kentucky
 2270 Illinois - S
 2271 Kentucky

MACHINIST

HH 1428 Kentucky

MASON

HH 979 Massachusetts

MERCHANT

HH 686 Illinois - N
 1125 New Jersey
 1159 Illinois - S
 1171 Kentucky
 *1171 Kentucky
 1172 Kentucky
 *1627 Germany
 1661 Kentucky
 *2386 New York

MILLER

HH 97 Ohio
 151 Kentucky
 426 Kentucky
 677 Illinois - ?
 683 New York
 688 Ohio
 691 Illinois - N
 806 Pennsylvania
 *901 Germany
 948 Massachusetts
 *948 Tennessee
 *948 Pennsylvania
 989 Vermont
 *990 England
 991 Vermont
 998 Illinois - N
 *998 England
 1026 Ohio
 1033 Kentucky
 1659 New Hampshire
 1678 Scotland
 1679 Illinois - S
 1783 Virginia
 1784 New York

MILLER (CONT.)

HH*1784 Illinois - N
 1894 Pennsylvania
 *1894 Ohio

MILLWRIGHT

HH *689 Virginia
 *901 (No Entry)
 *901 (No Entry)
 *901 Kentucky
 *990 Pennsylvania
 1477 Maryland
 1657 Vermont

MALTSTER

HH *901 (No Entry)

MINISTER/PREACHER

HH 368 Kentucky
 *842 New Jersey
 944 North Carolina
 1163 Virginia
 *1274 New York
 1368 Pennsylvania
 1369 Tennessee
 1567 Virginia
 *1684 Ohio
 2408 Virginia
 2415 Vermont

PLASTERER

HH 1544 Pennsylvania
 2388 Tennessee

PHYSICIAN

HH 369 Connecticut
 *370 New Hampshire
 1037 Ohio
 1168 Kentucky
 1276 Kentucky
 *1341 Kentucky
 1367 New Hampshire
 1443 Kentucky
 1616 Virginia
 1633 Virginia
 *1668 Illinois - ?
 *1795 Ohio
 1968 Kentucky
 1977 New Hampshire
 2034 Maryland
 2147 Kentucky

PHYSICIAN (CONT.)

HH 2185 Kentucky
 2392 Canada
 2399 Ohio - Canada

POTTER

HH 1425 Kentucky
 *1425 Kentucky

PRAIRIE BREAKER

HH 2403 Virginia

ROPE MAKER

HH *945 Germany

SADDLER

HH 1994 Ohio
 2417 Pennsylvania

SAWYER

HH 1704 Maine
 *1704 Maine
 *1704 Maine
 *1704 Ohio

SEXTON

HH 936 Kentucky

SHOEMAKER

HH 92 Virginia
 161 Kentucky
 1656 Canada
 1927 Indiana
 2016 Germany
 2397 Kentucky
 2406 Ohio

STAGE DRIVER

HH *1822 Virginia

STONE CUTTER

HH 826 Tennessee
 914 Virginia

SURVEYOR

HH *1422 Pennsylvania

TAILOR

HH 1162 Kentucky
 2383 Holland
 *2386 Ohio

TAVERN KEEPER

HH 1173 Virginia
 *1173 Kentucky
 *1173 Illinois - S

TEACHER

HH 175 New York
 *227 Kentucky
 *379 Ohio
 651 Virginia
 *752 Ohio
 *808 Illinois - N
 *845 Pennsylvania
 963 Connecticut
 *965 Indiana
 *1161 Ohio
 *1185 Tennessee
 *1264 Tennessee
 *1368 Kentucky
 1535 New York
 *1818 Ireland
 *1948 Illinois - ?
 *2208 New York
 *2386 Ohio
 *2395 Kentucky

TEAMSTER

HH 885 (No Entry)
 903 S. Carolina
 908 New York
 954 New Jersey
 *954 New Jersey
 994 Virginia
 1057 S. Carolina
 1064 New York
 1424 N. Carolina
 2389 Tennessee
 *2396 Kentucky
 2423 Virginia

THRASHER

HH *1605 Pennsylvania

TRADER

HH 1960 Vermont

WAGONMAKER

HH 21 Illinois - S
 95 Indiana
 96 Indiana
 1085 Illinois - S
 1165 New York
 1221 Kentucky
 1386 Vermont
 1652 Ohio
 1655 Kentucky
 1663 Kentucky
 1668 New York
 1792 Maine
 1793 Illinois - ?
 1966 Kentucky
 *2391 Ohio
 2418 Virginia
 *2418 Virginia

WEAVER

HH 561 Kentucky
 1970 Germany

WHEELWRIGHT

HH 281 Virginia
 365 Missouri
 664 Maryland
 687 Ohio
 1106 Maryland

WOOD CHOPPER

HH 836 Kentucky
 *836 Virginia
 905 Tennessee
 912 New York
 *912 Ohio

WOOL CARDER

HH 684 New York
 1166 England
 *1167 England
 *2024 Kentucky

Section C.Farmers, Laborers and Persons in Other Occupations: A Summary

| <u>Occupations</u> | <u>No. of Heads of Household</u> | <u>% of Heads of Household</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| FARMERS: | | |
| Heads of Households | 1,894 | 78.01% |
| Men 97.36% | 1,844 | |
| Women 2.64% | 50 | |
| Others in Household | <u>1,036</u> | |
| Total Farmers Listed | 2,930 | |
| LABORERS: | | |
| Heads of Households | 150 | 6.18% |
| Men 98.67% | 148 | |
| Women 1.33% | 2 | |
| Others in Household | <u>223</u> | |
| Total Laborers Listed | 373 | |
| OTHER OCCUPATIONS: | | |
| Heads of Households | 220 | 9.06% |
| Men 99.55% | 219 | |
| Women .45% | 1 | |
| Others in Household | <u>111</u> | |
| Total Other Occupations | 331 | |
| NO OCCUPATION LISTED: | | |
| Heads of Households | 164 | 6.75% |
| Men 31.10% | 51 | |
| Women 68.90% | <u>113</u> | |
| Total No Occupation | 164 | |
| TOTAL HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS | 2,428 | 100.00% |
| Men 92.96% | 2,257 | |
| Women 7.04% | 171 | |

Based on the 7th Federal Population Census of Rural Sangamon County, Illinois, 1850. Includes Households #1/1 through #2429/2429.

Note: Household numbers 309/309 and 2.53/2.53 were not entered. Household number 2321/2321 was entered twice.