



Souvenirs from Frying Pan Ranch

Glidden Homestead board past president, Jim Morel and his wife, Lynne, came home with some interesting souvenirs after being guests at the Frying Pan Ranch in Amarillo, TX, in July, hosted by Mary Emeny and her husband, Hunter. Joseph F. Glidden established the 250,000-acre ranch in 1881. Emeny is the granddaughter of William H. Bush, who was first married to Joseph and Lucinda Glidden's daughter, Elva. W.H. helped Joseph manage the ranch, eventually becoming its owner in 1892. Although Elva and W.H. never had children, W.H. Bush had a family with his second wife, Ruth Gentry, Mary's grandmother, after Elva's untimely death in 1906. Mary continues to live on the ranch. Among items Morel brought from Texas is a length of original 9-gauge Glidden barbed wire used to fence the entire 250,000 acres back in the 1880s. The items will be used in a future exhibit at the Homestead.

(Kathy Vance Siebrasse photo)

Seeking e-mail addresses

In an effort to reach our membership in a more timely and efficient way, the Glidden Homestead is seeking your e-mail address!

We'd also like to reduce postage and printing costs by sending this newsletter electronically to as many members as possible. Please email your information to: kathywrites2@verizon.net or use the coupon on back page of this newsletter.

The Glidden Women

[This is the fourth in an ongoing series about the Glidden women based on an exhibit created by Sally DeFauw.]

Glidden women have played key roles in DeKalb's history and the making of barbed wire. An exhibit on display at the Glidden Homestead & Historical Center highlights the lives of six women, all related by blood or marriage to Joseph F. Glidden.

Bertha Glidden Bradt

Bertha Glidden Bradt was the daughter of Mary and Josiah Willard Glidden, and was born Dec. 17, 1866. Like her older sister, Annie, she benefited from her Uncle Joseph's benevolence and attended Illinois State Normal School in Bloomington. She graduated in 1887, and taught school in Dwight, IL.

Shortly before Christmas of 1890, Bertha and Samuel Ellsworth Bradt married. At the time, Samuel was a successful glove manufacturer, who would later become the president of First National Bank of DeKalb. The Bradts had a family of four children: Marian, Andrew, Elizabeth and Charles.

Bertha's faith was important to her and she was an active member of the First Methodist Church. She was said to be a natural leader with a great managerial mind. No doubt, this helped her in the administration of 12 neighborhood church circles. The generous hospitality of the Bradt home was renowned, with Bertha as the gracious hostess welcoming young and old with poise. All church dignitaries were entertained at the Bradt home. During the 1920s, Bertha called on all new families in town, welcoming them and inquiring if they were interested in Methodism. She was tireless in her zeal for the church's growth.

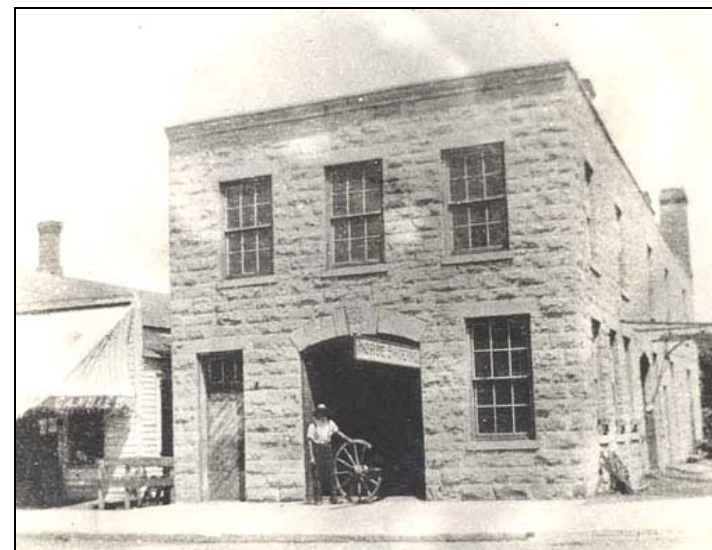
A woman of action, Bertha was one of the women belonging to a local literary society who formed that group in the DeKalb Woman's Club in 1896. Bertha was an officer of the club, and also held office in the Woman's Club of Illinois. Her leadership skills served her well as a pioneer in the Illinois Parents-Teachers Association, where she was a member of the state board. Bertha was involved in various home economics education programs, and had leadership roles in the home economics department of the Illinois Farmers' Institute and DeKalb County Home Bureau, which became the Cooperative Extension Service and Homemakers Extension Association, respectively.

Later in her life, Bertha studied genealogy, was awarded a fellowship in the National Genealogical Society and became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She died in March of 1953, at the age of 86. A silver tea and coffee service was presented to the Methodist Church in her memory.

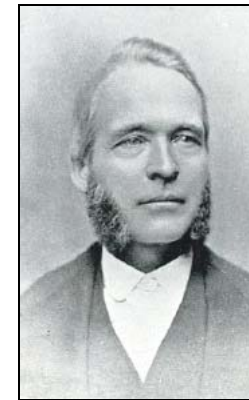
[Next issue: Mabel Carter Glidden]



Charles W. Bradt, age 103, holds a photo of his mother, Bertha Glidden Bradt. He remembers his mother fondly, calling her "one of the best genealogists" of her time. One of his earliest memories as a young child was being present when the cornerstone was placed at DeKalb's First Methodist Church. "I thought it was pretty dull, the whole procedure!" (Kathy Vance Siebrasse photo)



The exterior of Phineas Vaughan's Blacksmith Shop, between Third and Fourth Streets on Lincoln Highway, taken in 1897 by Floyd Ritzman, courtesy of the Joiner History Room, Sycamore.



Phineas W. Vaughan
1827-1897

The Phineas Vaughan connection

Blacksmith Phineas W. Vaughan played a pivotal role in helping his friend Joseph F. Glidden invent "The Winner," one of the most-widely used types of barbed wire. Ultimately, he and Glidden patented a hand-operated machine for making barbed wire.

It all began on the Glidden Homestead at 921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb. Joseph began searching for a better fencing method after his wife, Lucinda, complained about livestock getting into the yard. Lucinda, in her own later recollections, told about her large wire hairpins that began disappearing from a milk glass dish on her dresser during the winter of 1872-73. Joseph admitted to using them for his new fence idea.

When the weather improved, Joseph purchased a reel of smooth fence wire from Isaac Ellwood's hardware store and began experimenting in the barn or barnyard. At one point, he tried to form a piece of wire into a small coil that would fit reasonably tight on a single strand of wire. After being struck with a hammer, it would tightly clinch around the wire and stay in place.

However, with only pliers and tools, Joseph found it difficult to produce a coil small enough with sufficient uniformity for his needs. He took his problem to his long-time friend, the blacksmith Phineas Vaughan. Together, they took apart an old coffee mill and reassembled it, utilizing the principle of a moving sleeve and a lug. With a turn of the crank, the machine produced a small uniform-sized coil.

The site of Vaughan's original blacksmith shop on East Lincoln Highway, downtown DeKalb (north side between Third and Fourth streets), is marked with a horseshoe embedded in the concrete sidewalk. Local historians believe it is an original horseshoe from Vaughan's shop. For more information, visit the Glidden Homestead's website: www.gliddenhomestead.org.



This interior shot of Vaughan's blacksmith shop (note the anvil) is also by Floyd Ritzman (courtesy of Joiner History Room, Sycamore). An anvil belonging to Phineas (back left corner of headstone) marks the spot where he and his wife, Phebe, were laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery, North Seventh Street, DeKalb, IL.

SPOTLIGHT on the Glidden Gift Shop



Mabel Glidden
Photo Note Cards
7 cards / \$6 includes tax

Handmade and featuring photographs of original artwork done by Mabel Carter Glidden, these note cards feature 7 different prints.

For more details about this and other Glidden Gift Shop items, see www.gliddenhomestead.org or visit the Gift Shop at the Homestead!



When the flags are flying out front, it's a sure sign the Homestead is open for an event or tours!

Homestead Calendar

Sept. 16: Sunday tours, with "Music on the Porch" – bring your lunch!
Oct. 7 & 21: Sunday tours, noon-4
Nov. 4 & 18: Sunday tours, noon-4
Nov. 8: Patent Day Dinner, 5:30 p.m., social; 6:30 p.m., dinner. Hopkins Park Community Center
Dec. 2: Holiday Open House with Antique Toy & Doll Show, noon-4 p.m.

****NEEDED: Musicians interested in playing for Sunday events in 2008. Please call Gayle, 815-899-3237.**