

**Richard Grayson**

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**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2009 1:10 PM  
**Subject:** Friends store from History of Barrington

**The Move Is On**

A pioneer country is always interested in improvements that will confirm that its risk was well taken. A railroad was a new thing to most and a means of faster outlet to bigger loads of produce.

Friend's store at Deer Grove, which was run by two brothers, Fife Friend and Matt Friend, was moved to Barrington shortly after the depot came and when little else was here but those two houses and barns and a grain shack or two on the County Line Road. It was early winter and the store was moved here by thirty-two yoke of oxen. Five yoke went ahead and broke the way through the snow. A 12-year-old lad driving the fifth yoke from the lead tells of the event. There was no lunch to warm the inner man in that cold outdoor work in the snow, but there was a keg of something with a wooden spigot and a tin dipper, in the doorway. The grownups doing the house moving partook, but when they got home where it was warm inside they were affected. The next Sunday the preacher got those men to sign the pledge. For years, as told by one who did not partake, they dated many events by the year of, or the year before, or the year after they signed the pledge. Shall we withhold their names? They did well. This incident is here related as told by one of the crew, not in derision nor in jest, but to show what a part of early life was like in a new, country with no "Corner Pantry" or "Coffee Pot" near by for a bracing cup of coffee; and to show how effectual was the influence of the Church.

Friend Brothers' Store was set down on the south side of County Line Road (Main Street) back of where the depot now is and where the east part of the Miller Oil Station is now. Later it was used by Mr. Diekman as a saloon. It then stood on a high stone foundation. It was last used by John Hatje and his son, William Hatje, as a blacksmith shop -- the only lathed and plastered one we ever saw. Mr. Hatje lowered the building to ground level by taking out that high foundation. It was bought and torn down, the lumber used in building a barn east of town. Nate Friend, a brother of the two, came over from Germany and bought out Fife, who moved to Chicago. The Friends built the house next door East which home was still standing till the Hudson-Ford Garage replaced it. There was a passageway from the home to the store. The figuring of the Friend Brothers on the wall outside of the back door was often pointed out as long as the building stood. The old barn which stood for many years back of the house was the place where they had a rabbit kill their meat for them.

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