

History
OF
URIAH BELFORD
AND HIS
FATHER *and* MOTHER



Written 1944
By **Uriah Belford**



The 16-room house built by Uriah on a gravel road west of Eichorn, near the Mt. Pleasant church site. From left: adults are Mr. Melvin, who helped with building the house, Sarah, Uriah, Sarah Ann Belford (mother), Sarah Weekly, Fred Weekly, Bertha Lightner, Cody Lightner, Lillie Wasson, Roy Wasson, holding Alfred, Ruby York, Della Ingram. Children, in front: Freeman, Verna Baldwin, Eval Conrad, Helen, Ray, Roy, and Margaret Weekly. c 1914.



The Belford family in August 1938 in front of the cabin Uriah built after the big house burned in 1930. From left: James, Verna Baldwin, Freeman, Eval Conrad, Ruby York, Della Ingram, Lillie Wasson, Bertha Lightner. In front, Uriah and Sarah. Sarah died the following December.

*This History is a present by
Uriah Belford who is a
Wonderful friend to a
Wonderful friend J. P. Hamer
and family Galconda Illinois
R. R. #4*

HISTORY OF URIAH AND FATHER AND MOTHER

Uriah Belford was born March 5th, 1858 in Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Illinois.

Uriah Belford is the son of James M. and Sarah A. Belford. Uriah Belford's father was born in Pope County, Illinois in 1827. He was a farmer and business man; a mechanic; engineer; brick and stone mason. James M. was a son of Benny Belford. Benny Belford was a farmer and a real estate and stock dealer. James M. Belford was in the produce and grocery business at Rock Quarry, Pope County, Illinois, also in Cave-in-Rock and Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Illinois. He sold his three businesses out and moved with his family from Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Illinois into Monroe Precinct, Pope County, Illinois in 1860. He was murdered in Elizabethtown, Illinois in 1862 by Finis Williams, Sam Grimestaff and one party unknown. He was laid to rest in Floyd Cemetery near Dutton Chapel Church by the side of his one year old daughter. He left his widow with six orphaned children, the eldest being a girl twelve years of age, named Victoria, the other children were Demarse, William, James M., Uriah and Hellamaria, age one year and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn his departure.

Uriah's mother was born January 20, 1830 in Pope County, Illinois; she departed this life January 24, 1931 at the ripe old age of 101 years and 4 days old. She was a tailor by trade. She tailored clothes for men, women and youths. She was, also, an expert in the manufacture of all kinds of home made wearing apparel, such as lindseys, homespun jeans and cotton goods, bedspreads, counterpins and carpets. She was a teacher in this industry for 30 odd years. She was a daughter of James A. Floyd. Her father was a farmer, a merchant, a business man. He served as Justice

of the Peace in Monroe Precinct for thirty years. During this time he tried but very few cases. He being able to talk men into settling their disputes by compromise. He was the first person to serve as Postmaster at Lusk, Pope County, Illinois.

He named Lusk postoffice after Sarah Lusk, the pioneer of Golconda. He, also, named his daughter (the mother of Uriah Belford) after Sarah Lusk, the early settler of Golconda.

James A. Floyd served Pope County two terms as Sheriff. He had two sons that served in the Civil War. Capt. Williamson Floyd and James Bailey Floyd served as fifeman.

Uriah Belford himself was a farmer, mechanic, engineer, machinist, business man, architect, millwright and inventor. He invented and patented a steam engine, also, he invented and patented an internal combustion motor. He was, also, a general repair man—he having repaired everything from a watch to and including a locomotive engine and baler.

Uriah Belford played an important part in life between the ages of 14 and 30. He made 102 coffins and 102 boxes—it taking one day and one night to make one coffin and one box—for this 102 days and 102 nights work he received \$50.00 for his service.

Uriah always thought it was our duty to help them that couldn't help themselves. At times he thought it was hard on him as he was in needy circumstances until he was 26 years of age. He looked back and thought back and said "I haven't done anything but my duty and it is a great pleasure to me to help them that couldn't help themselves." Also, he served 24 years as school director, and as road commissioner for 12 years and in this capacity was regarded authority as a road and bridge engineer equal to the best.

Uriah was between three and four years of age when his father died. When Uriah was a five year old barefooted boy he heard his mother tell the family that she didn't want to be buried in a manufactured casket, but wanted to be

buried in a homemade black walnut coffin, the same as her husband was buried in. Those words of his mother were fresh in Uriah's mind all through his boyhood days, and by the time he was 14 years old he was making caskets. The first casket he made he looked it over to see if he could improve it in design or workmanship. He thought this was as good as he or anyone else could do. There and then he promised himself that if I lived I would see that my dear old mother was buried in a homemade black walnut casket as this was her request.

Some 35 years before his mother's death Uriah owned two saw mills and one planing mill and made fine lumber out of all kind of timber such as red oak, white oak, cherry, black walnut, white walnut, etc. All No. 1 and No. 2 fine lumber was manufactured into building material, some of the finest of this lumber was used in building himself and family a \$6000 (that was destroyed by fire) home consisting of 16 rooms, 3 halls and 3 porches, and a basement and having 22 doors and 22 windows. It has 6 gable ventilators and 6 ornamental gables, 6 glass doors and 7 swinging lamps. All the interior of this house was furnished with hardwood lumber, such as golden oak and black walnut and white ash, all material in this house was cut, sawed and finished on this farm. All No. 1 select lumber was planed (by Uriah Belford) and sandpapered on both sides and stacked away to make caskets and furniture, and a bunch of the very nicest lumber was stacked in a reserve place and branded for our mother's casket.

On January 4, 1931 I foreseen that our mother would not be with us but a few days, so I drove to Eddyville to secure the help of Mr. Tom Palmer to get him to build our mother's coffin, and found him almost blind and unable to make our mother's coffin. So I drove back home much worried as to what to do. I drove up in front of our home and sat in my car studying what to do. My wife saw that there was something wrong and started to the car. I got out and met her. She then asked me, "What is wrong" and I said to her, "I

don't know what to do. Mr. Palmer is nearly blind and unable to make our mother's coffin." Sarah (my wife) said, "Don't you know our mother wants you to make her coffin?" I answered, "No, she never said anything to me about it." Sarah then said "Our mother has told me so often she has also told our neighbors in my presence that she wanted Uriah to make her coffin." Sarah further said that it wouldn't do for anyone else to make it, for that wouldn't be her request. I answered, "If it is my dear old mother's request and your request, it is my request and if I live to get it finished I will make our mother's coffin."

I began work at once, and became uneasy that I would not get it done in time, so I drove to Harry Weatherington's home, to secure his help to make mother's coffin, the two of us were able to finish the coffin and box just a few days before it was needed.

At my mother's death all of her children had preceded her in death, but James M. Belford 89 years old and Uriah Belford now 86 years old.

On January 24, 1931 my dear mother passed away at the ripe old age of 101 years and 4 days, so my mother was buried in a homemade black walnut casket, made by her son, Uriah, and was buried between her husband and daughter in Floyd Cemetery.

Through grief and sorrow I shed tears, but after all it was a great pleasure and consolation to know that I had done everything that my dear old mother had requested of me.

I point to my father and mother with great pride, thanking and praising their Holy name for the spirit of humanity, wisdom and knowledge, and talent and health that was handed down to me by them in my creation. God bless my father and mother for all I am and have been or expect to be, for I owe it all to my good old father and mother. They fed me when I was hungry and clothed me when I needed clothing, and furnished me wisdom, knowledge and health, and why

shouldn't I praise their Holy name. Eighty and six years have passed by and during all these years I have used my energy and means to make my community and Pope County a better place to live. Eighty and six years have flown real joy and sorrow both I have known. In all the years that I have passed, a better world than this has been forecast.

With inspiration, work and prayer,
If each and all of us spend our time with care,
Can change this World and life of ours,
Into a rear sence of beautiful flowers,
Can change this World so best can grow,
So each and all lie best can know,
Neither freedoms flags on land or sea
Waving high and free in freedoms breeze,
Where human rights protection find,
For equal powers of all mankind, where each one and all that
best may give,
So each and all at best may live
While other lands have many ways
But the constitution of the U.S.A.
SHOULD forever be our own best way.

HISTORY OF THE BOYHOOD DAYS OF URIAH BELFORD

URIAH BELFORD was born March 5, 1858 in Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Illinois. He was a son of James M. and Sarah Belford.

Uriah was a lover of tools and machinery. It was a pleasure for Uriah to help them that couldn't help themselves. When he was an 8 year old barefooted boy he was in his Grandfather Floyd's work shop making wheelbarrows, truck wagons, sleds, sleighs, flutter mills and windmills for the pleasure of his neighbor boys and girls.

When 9 years old he helped with the crew to thresh wheat with the first type of thresher we know of—this was done by spreading tarpaulins on a solid place on the ground and placing 4 rows of wheat on the tarpaulins, with the heads of the bundles overlapping. Uriah rode one trotting horse and lead one trotting horse that tread the wheat from the head, that made our breakfast bread; he travelled 5 rounds in one direction, and then reversed and travelled 5 rounds in the opposite direction, and kept this process up until the boss said that would do. Then we got pitch forks and separated the straw from the wheat. The wheat was then run through two fan mills, the sacks of clean wheat was laid on an ox sled, and when loaded 2 men got on the ox sled, Uriah hitched a yoke of cattle to the ox sled and drove about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to a community horse mill, and the two men would carry the wheat upstairs to be ground. Uriah hitched the cattle to the sweep of the mill and then got in the seat, and when he was told to drive, he would drive until the wheat was ground into flour. The master wheel was 16 feet in diameter—there were wooden cogs inserted in the outer edge of the master wheel, the cogs of the master wheel was engaged in the cogs of the burr spindle, and one round of the master wheel would cause

the burr to make 400 revolutions. The bottom of this master wheel was 7 feet above the ground. This gave room for the team to work underneath of the master wheel.

When Uriah was 10 years old he was working on a farm for \$10.00 per month; when Uriah was 12 years old he was working on a farm for \$12.00 per month. This was the last work Uriah did for wages on a farm, although Uriah worked on a farm from 7 years old until he was 83 years old—although the farm work from 12 years old to 83 years old was for himself and family.

When Uriah was 14 years old he made a bean huller that was operated by hand that hulled and separated beans and peas from the pods. His neighbors hulled their beans and peas on the huller owned and operated by Uriah Belford.

Also, Uriah, was making caskets and furniture at the age of 14. When Uriah was 15 years old he was employed to help run a ground hog threshing machine. It was constructed with a cylinder and concave installed in a wooden frame. It had no means of separation—the wheat and straw all went out together. The power used was an endless tread power. It was 12 ft. wide and 10 ft. long. The front end of the tread power was provided with a hitch rack, that would accommodate the hitching of 6 head of horses. The front end of this tread power was 4 feet higher than the rear end. When the brake was released on the tread power the weight of the six head of horses would start the tread power to revolving around. The power was produced by the weight of the six head of horses instead of pulling.

The next improvement in power to thresh with was a down horse power. It was much better than the tread power. It was constructed with the machinery mounted on a wooden frame, this frame and machinery had to be lifted from a wagon and put on the ground, this consisted of one master wheel with six sweeps engaged in the master wheel, and the power was furnished by 12 head of horses. This gave good power.

The next improvement for power to thresh with was mounted horse power. It was much better than the down horse power, as it saved the loading and unloading of the down horse power and the mounted horse power were of the same type. We had to dig holes for each wheel of the mounted horse power and let the axles on the ground.

The next improvement in power to thresh with was a portable steam engine. It was a failure, as it takes from one to three yoke of cattle to transfer it from one job to another job. It didn't live long.

The next improvement to thresh with was a steam traction engine. It is the best power we have ever found in my opinion.

Uriah Belford has used all of this machinery. He began at the age of nine years and quit at the age of 83 years.

Uriah Belford owned and operated the first threshing machine outfit that furnished all power and all help to thresh with in Pope, Hardin and Saline Counties. It was a mounted horse power machine. He used this two years and sold it and bought a new threshing outfit, consisting of a 12 horse power traction engine and a 30-inch vibrating separator, hand feed with an automatic straw stacker, and an automatic belt guide. He used this machine until he couldn't take care of all his customers with this one machine. The next year he put another machine in the field, consisting of a 12 horse power traction engine and a 28-inch vibrating separator. It was a failure. It was too hard on the farmers to handle the straw with pitch forks, so Uriah made and attached a wind stacker to this the next year. It was a No. 1 machine then, and a success, but later on the farmers got to growing more wheat and heavier wheat. Uriah's territory spread from his home to the Bay Bottoms in Pope County, and from his home to the Bottoms in Saline County. This 28-inch machine would not take care of his customers. So, Uriah, traded his 12 horse power traction engine to Robinson Company for a new 18 horse power steam traction engine and gave \$1000.00 difference and traded the

28-inch separator to Keck-Gonnerman Co., for a 32-inch separator equipped with a self feeder, self weigher and wind stacker, automatic belt guide and a guiding pole, all bearings equipped with side grease cups and oilers. This separator was built under the instructions of Uriah Belford. It was the first threshing machine that was used in Pope, Hardin and Saline Counties with a successful self feeder, self weigher, wind stacker and automatic belt guide, and a guiding pole. Uriah Belford threshed with this machine until the farmers almost quit growing wheat, at that time Uriah was 75 years old when he quit threshing. He quit sawmilling and farming when he was 83 years old.

When Uriah was 15 years old he was making coffins and furniture. When 16 years old he was building houses and barns and making coffins and furniture; when Uriah was 18 years old he was employed by George A. Potts, a Railroad bridge contractor—as foreman for Mr. Potts in building bridges on Big Four Railroad from Parker, Illinois, to Harrisburg, Illinois.

When Uriah was 21 years old he was employed by the Big Four Railroad Company to dismantle and repair locomotive engines and boilers.

When Uriah was 23 years old he was married to Mary Jane Jennings, an orphan girl 20 years old. She came into the home of Uriah and his mother, and received Uriah's mother as her mother and was good and kind to Uriah's mother. Some six weeks before the death of Jane the wife of Uriah Belford) it became necessary to employ a girl to help do the housework, laundry and fruit canning. At last Uriah's wife said—"You have been wanting to get a girl to help with the work" and said, "We have a fine lot of peaches, apples, pears and plums, you hitch up in the morning and go to Grant Shelby's and get Sarah Shelby to help with the work." Uriah said over and over to Jane "That that little 15 year old girl is too young to do such heavy work." Jane said, "I want to help that little orphan girl." Uriah said, "I want to help that little orphan girl as well as

you do. Let us give that little girl what she needs, and I will get you any girl you want that is strong enough to do the work." Jane said, "I and Sarah Shelby were born and raised in less than one mile of each other," and said she had nursed Sarah Shelby when she was a baby. I and Sarah Shelby have been together all of our lives. We are great friends and we must help that little orphan girl and said she has neither father or mother. She has no home. I want you to go and bring Sarah Shelby here, and if it suits Sarah and you, and our dear old mother I want Sarah Shelby to make her home here with us."

Uriah said, "Well, Jane, if that is what you want, that is what I want," so I went and got Sarah Shelby and her clothes, and when we got home, Jane met us at the gate, and spoke to us and shook hands with Sarah Shelby, and told Sarah Shelby that she had sent Uriah after her, and told him that if it suited you, him and our dear old mother, I want you to make your home here with us. Sarah Shelby said, "I have no home of my own, and it would be a great pleasure to me, to get a home with you, Jane."

We took Sarah's clothes in to the house, and Jane said, "Sarah, there is your bureau that we bought for you at your mother's sale. You put what clothes that you want to put in the bureau, and what clothes you want to hang up, hang them here in the closet." Sarah gladly accepted this home as her home and was a great help.

In about 4 weeks Jane (Uriah's wife) gave birth to a son, it passed away at birth, and 14 days later the mother passed away. During the illness of Jane, Uriah was sitting by her bedside doing all he could do for her, and everyday Jane would say something about the little orphan girl. One day Jane appeared a lot better. She sat up and talked all day. Late in the evening Jane said to Uriah, "That is the best little girl to our mother, and a little daughter to myself, I want you to see that that little orphan girl has a good home, and that she is well cared for. Uriah said, "Jane, Sarah Shelby has a home here with us as long as it suits you and her, for I

will never disagree with you and Sarah Shelby about her home, for Sarah Shelby suits me." The day that Uriah's wife appeared better, was the last day that she talked any. As the sun went down, she grew worse until death taken her away. She left to mourn and grieve after her, her husband, Uriah; little 4 year old daughter, Sarah Ann, and her dear old father, and Uriah's mother who had taken such good care of her, and Sarah A. Shelby who had taken such good care of Jane during her illness, and a host of relatives, neighbors and friends.

Jane was a great helpmate, a devoted companion and wife. She was loved and admired by all who came in contact with her. She was a great help in sickness and distress. She was an expert nurse. She always extended a helping hand to the needy. A great sympathizer—always trying to make happiness in her home for everybody. She was always trying to help orphan children. She was an orphan herself. She was tenderly laid to rest in the Collier Cemetery by the side of our infant son.

Sarah Shelby stayed on in the home of Uriah and his mother for two weeks. One morning Sarah said, "Ma, I have everything done, I know of to do, if there is anything else you want done, I will do it for you." Ma said, "Sarah you have everything well done." Sarah said, "I am not satisfied," so I have taken Sarah to her Uncle Grant Shelby's, and came home and wanted to get a girl to help my mother, but mother wouldn't agree for me to get a girl, and said, "When I have to have a girl I will get Sarah Shelby." So, Ma, kept on doing the work until we got four work hands. I said to Ma, "I must get a girl to help you. What do you want?" She said, "You go and get Sarah Shelby." I said, "Ma, that little 15 year old girl is not strong enough to do this heavy work. Here are four cows to milk, and four work hands to cook for, the laundry work to do, the housework to do." Ma said, "If I can't get Sarah Shelby I will do the work myself." So, I went to Grant Shelby's. Grant and Sarah came out to the wagon, and spoke and shook hands with me. We

talked awhile. I said "Sarah, Ma sent me after you to come and help her with the work." Sarah said, "I can't go." I said, "Well, if you won't go, Ma will have to do the work by herself, for she won't have anyone but you." Sarah didn't answer for awhile, finally, she looked at me and said, "I can't go as a hired girl, but if I can have an interest in that home, I will be glad to go." Then I was at a loss as to what to say. Finally I said "Sarah, do you mean to tell me that you want to be my helpmate, my companion and wife?" Sarah said, "Yes, that is what I promised Jane I would do." I said, "If I can get an order from your Guardian we will marry." Sarah said, "You will have no trouble for that is agreed upon." I said, "You get what you want to take and we will take your clothes to my home and I will take you to your Aunt Mary Allen and you can stay there until I get arrangements made." We drove home and took the clothes in, and Sarah met Ma and shook hands with Ma and said, "I have come to make my home with you. I will never leave you again." Ma said, "I am so proud of you Sarah. You are doing what you promised Jane you would do." So I and Sarah Shelby were married December 12, 1888, so Sarah Shelby came into the home of Uriah and his mother and received his mother as her mother. She was good and kind to Uriah's mother. They became great friends, helping each other until Uriah's mother became physically disabled to help herself. Sarah then took all the burden and cared for Uriah's mother and was as good and kind to Uriah's mother as if it was her own mother. There were 10 children born to their union. Two passed away in early life, Harrison Uriah, age 3 years; Elmer Reese, age 4 days.

Those who are surviving are:

Bertha—now Mrs. Cody Lightner, Harrisburg, Illinois;

Lillie—now Mrs. Roy Wasson, Harrisburg, Illinois;

Della—now Mrs. Chas. Ingram, North Platte, Nebraska;

Ruby—now Mrs. Ray York, Chicago, Illinois;

Eval—now Mrs. Louie Conard, Grand Tower, Illinois;

Freeman R. Belford now married to Lula Buchanan, Lusk, Illinois;

Vernie, now Mrs. Kenneth Baldwin, Herod, Illinois;
James S. Belford, now married to Maxine Stiver of Hershey, Nebraska; and one step daughter, Sarah Ann, now Mrs. Fred Weekly of Golconda, Ill.

Sarah A. Belford the wife of Uriah Belford passed away Dec. 24, 1938, at the home of her daughter Lillie Wasson of Harrisburg, Illinois and leaves to grieve after her departure, her husband, Uriah Belford, her eight children, one step-daughter and a host of other relatives and friends.

Sarah was a great help mate, a devoted companion and wife. She was loved by all who knew her. She was a great help in sickness. She always extended a helping hand. She was always trying to help orphan children. She was a wonderful help to Uriah's mother-taking care of her to the best of her ability, without complaining or grumbling in any way.

She was tenderly laid to rest in the Collier Cemetery by the side of Jane (Uriah's first wife) and her two sons, at her request.

When Uriah Belford was first elected to the office of County Commissioner, of the County of Pope and State of Illinois, it was in the year of A. D. 1899; he was elected to this office without making any canvass or without any cost to himself.

There was a delegation that came to the threshing machine of Uriah Belford, at twelve o'clock midnight, and woke him up, from his sleep under his separator (the weather being so hot that it was impossible to sleep in the house) with a petition signed by forty legal voters of Pope County, Illinois, asking Mr. Uriah Belford to make the race for the office of County Commissioner.

Mr. Belford said, "I thank you all, gentlemen for the invitation, also thank you for the interest you have taken in my behalf, but please excuse me, for it is impossible for me to make the race for County Commissioner, for I have no money and no time, and the Primary Election will be over

before I can get through threshing wheat; I must take care of my customers."

The delegates talked among themselves, and came back and said, "If we will nominate and elect you, and pay all the expenses of your campaign, will you serve as County Commissioner?"

I informed them that I would do the best that I could, and I was nominated and elected by a large majority, and when I entered upon my duties as County Commissioner, I was surprised to find Pope County in debt in the sum of Two Thousand Seven Hundred (\$2700.00) Dollars, and also owing the sum of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars in Bridge Bonds; I was familiar with that fact, as I had assisted in putting over the contract for the bridges in Pope County, Illinois.

The County Orders were selling at eighty (.80) cents on the dollar, and Uriah Belford said to his Brother County Commissioners "I cannot understand why this County is in debt in the sum of Twenty-seven Hundred (\$2700.00) Dollars; there is something wrong; "they said there is nothing wrong; only the expenses of the County is more than the income of the same; Belford said, "I cannot believe that this is the trouble; this County is being run economically; we have set the County Judge's salary at the sum of Four Hundred (\$400.00) Dollars per annum; all the other county officers were serving for small salaries, and the county commissioners were receiving the sum of Three (\$3.00) Dollars per day for their services, and meeting only Four (4) times per year, and usually taking from two (2) to four (4) days for each meeting to take care of the business of the County at each meeting.

There is something wrong, and we are going to find out what it is: They said, "We are satisfied that there is nothing wrong." I said—"I am not satisfied and I am going to find out just what it is." I found that there was money due the County Treasury that had never been turned over to same;

I offered a resolution to investigate the county officers records and books; I failed to get any second to my resolution; I continued to offer said resolution at every meeting of the County Board, and failed on each occasion to get a second to the same.

Finally there was elected as a member of the said County Board, Mr. William C. Holmes, and after our organization, I again offered my resolution at the first meeting of the same, and the same was duly seconded by the said William C. Holmes, Mr. A. J. Nesselrodt being the other member of said Board.

The following Monday, was agreed upon to start the investigation. W. C. Holmes employed Mr. Joe Lay to work in his place and A. J. Nesselrodt got Henry W. Whiteside to work in his place; Uriah Belford filled his own place as a member of the County Board. Mr. Whitesides failed to come to work, so Belford and Joe Lay made their investigation; we made a finding of Six Thousand Five Hundred (\$6500.00) Dollars money due the County that had never been turned over to the Treasury, and in a very short time enough money was paid into the Treasury to pay off the Twenty-seven Hundred (\$2700.00) Dollars County Indebtedness; the outstanding Orders were illegal, owing to the fact that the funds upon which they had been drawn, was exhausted; Uriah Belford suggested that we instruct the County Clerk of Pope County, that he write duplicate orders, payable out of the funds now in the hands of the County Treasurer, and cancel all the illegal outstanding orders which are outstanding and unpaid.

William C. Holmes and A. J. Nesselrodt, the other two county commissioners, both agreed with the writer hereof, Uriah Belford's suggestion, and in a very short time, all the old outstanding orders were called in and paid off.

These proceedings put the County of Pope on a cash basis. Uriah Belford served for three years in the capacity as county commissioner, and was elected for a second

term, and at the end of this second term he was asked to accept a third term; he entered the race for a third term with Wm. H. Whiteside as his opponent, and when the Primary was over and the votes counted, it was found that both candidates had received the same number of votes; they ran the race over, and Wm. H. Whiteside, defeated Uriah Belford by a majority of Five (5) Votes and was by the election board declared duly elected, thus retiring Uriah Belford.

Now, at this time the county was out of debt and all of the bridge bonds were paid down to the sum of Five Thousand (\$5000.00) Dollars.

Nineteen years later, in the year of A. D. 1924, the voters and taxpayers of Pope County, Illinois, called upon Uriah Belford, again as county commissioner, and upon entering upon the duties of my office, found the county to be again in debt in the sum of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars; the bridges all over the county badly in need of repairing; creeks and branches that crossed mail routes needing bridges and culverts, the iron of the Lusk Creek Bridge was lying on the bank of the Creek ruining from weather and rust; when it was needed to make small bridges for the benefit of the public; no funds were available to meet these conditions, and to meet this condition, Uriah Belford offered a resolution to put, a proposition to the voters and taxpayers of the County of Pope, for the purpose of voting a twenty-five (.25) cent special tax on the assessed property of the county to meet these conditions, and failed to get a second to this resolution from the other members of the Board.

At last Col. Chas. Durfee, came to Uriah Belford, and asked permission of the County Board, to talk with the same, about the financial conditions of the county; and such permission being given by the County Board, Col. Durfee said: "I have come to talk to the Board about the conditions of the county." He further said—"I realize that this County Board is having serious trouble and is handicapped; the

county is badly in debt, and no funds are available; the bridges all over the county are in bad repair; the iron of Lusk Creek Bridge is lying on the bank of Lusk Creek rusting away and ruining; it needs to be moved and used for the purpose of bridging creeks and branches for the benefit of the general public, and no funds are available for this until the County Board of County Commissioners make some provision for necessary funds; there are two ways that this may be done—1st by a direct tax, and this would break the county; and 2nd, to vote a twenty-five cent (.25) special tax on the assessable property of the county to take care of this condition. You, gentlemen of the County Board, have the power to give the voters of this county a chance to vote upon the levy of such special tax, and if you do not give them a chance, you should be kicked out of town every time you come into the same."

Mr. Levi Tanner, also a member of the County Board, said, "That is what Mr. Belford has been telling me and Mr. Chas. Brown, but Mr. Brown and myself could not agree with Mr. Belford's way of looking at the matter; I now believe Mr. Belford is right and I will give him a second to his resolution, and Mr. Brown also approved the same.

By the adoption of this resolution, it gave the Board some funds to work with; they built a new bridge at the "Phelps Ford," on the Glendale and Dixon Springs road; a new bridge at the Herod Ford, on the Golconda and Harrisburg Road; in fact they built eight (8) bridges, ten (10) culverts, all of which were constructed from the iron salvaged from the old Lusk Creek Bridge, which had been heretofore replaced by a new one.

That is what good engineering has done for Pope County, as we had to do something with the iron of the old bridge formerly across Lusk Creek; the County Board advised Mr. George Manson (the County Road Supervisor of Pope County), to move the iron out where it could be loaded, and Mr. Manson and his crew worked one-half day at this job and quit and came before the County Board of Pope County,

Illinois, and advised the Board that he could not get the iron out. Uriah Belford asked Mr. Manson, if he would come back the next morning and this he promised to do. Uriah Belford told Mr. Manson to bring the tractor, driver, two helpers, two cant-hooks and some chains, and we will get that iron out, tomorrow. When we adjourned, Uriah Belford went to Jolly Volle's blacksmith shop and there laid the plans for a bob-sled, and asked Mr. Volle if we could have the same ready by 7:00 o'clock A.M. the following morning. Mr. Volle promised to have the same ready by working overtime; so we got the sled ready to hitch onto by 7:00 o'clock the following morning and Uriah Belford told Steve Maynor to load the heaviest piece of steel. We loaded this heavy piece in exactly four minutes and Mr. Maynor and Mr. Manson, now said we will have all this iron out today; Mr. Manson and Mr. Maynor came in that evening and advised the Board, that they had all the iron out that they could get out, with the tractor; and that they would come back the following day and get the smaller pieces with a team.

So you see, just what good engineering is worth to a job and to the county.

LETTER FROM A LAWYER TO HIS FRIEND

Mr. Uriah Belford,
Goleconda, Ill.

Dear old friend Resor:

The first thing on securing this week's issue of our local paper I glanced the columns for your write-up and was more than pleased to see it occupying a prominent place on the second page. I was more than glad that it goes to press substantially as it left your hands. It reads like you. It looks like you. It reflects you as you are and as your friends know and appreciate you.

Those who know you best, know that almost every moment of your life was filled in doing something worthwhile. Your native genius was a God send to the good folks in the neighborhood where you spent your life. You were capable of solving all of their mechanical and engineering problems, and did it at a price substantially, if any, above that of wages of a daily toiler.

Under more favorable circumstances where you could have given time to develop your genius you would have given to the world inventions and structures which would have added to the wealth of the world, and yet, your genius was narrowed by the environment of unfortunate circumstances, and yet out of those circumstances you rose to a point where you have won honorable recognition as a genius, and yet above and beyond all, as an honest, industrious, law-abiding citizen.

You belong to that great mass of Americans who make America what it is—the greatest nation on earth. To you, and those like you—the Constitution of the United States is not the means to an end—it is the end. It is the embodiment of America. It is the spirit and soul of all real Americans.

You will please accept from me my best wishes and an appreciation of your friendship and loyalty, and wishing you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I am forever,

Your friend,

CHAS. DURFEE.

Thank you, Col. Durfee, for your compliments.

URIAH BELFORD.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

The friends and neighbors of Uriah Belford have volunteered their services, donated their time, labor and means, and done a nice piece of work on the graves of Uriah Belford's father, mother and sister, at Floyd Cemetery near Dutton Chapel Church. Such kind acts of my neighbors and friends will never be forgotten by myself or friends and neighbors.

It is a great pleasure to me to recall the names of my neighbors and friends, who are:

Chuck Kluge, R. 4, Golconda, Ill.

Cecil Gibbs, R. 4, Golconda, Ill.

Erno E. Ramsey, R. 1, Golconda, Ill.

James Bebout, R. 1, Golconda, Ill.

Frank Cowsert, R. 4, Golconda, Ill.

Henry Thompson, Herod, Ill.

Roland Wasson, Harrisburg, Ill.

Cody Lightner, Harrisburg, Ill.

The kind acts of those eight neighbors and friends have enabled me to get my father's, mother's and sister's graves repaired.

We should never forget our father, mother, brother, sister, neighbor or their children, for of such is the glory of our nation.

My father was born in 1827. He departed this life 1962. He was 35 years old. Passed away 81 years ago. At his death I was a child between three and four years old. I am now eighty and five years old. Blessed with the health, mind and strength to superintend to the repairing of my father's, mother's and sister's graves.

My mother was born in 1830. She departed this life 1931. She was 101 and 4 days old. She passed away 13 years ago. At the time of my mother's death I was 71 years old, so I and my mother were together and under each others supervision and care for 71 years. By request of my mother I

made my dear mother's coffin. Through grief and sorrow I shed tears, but after all it was a great pleasure and consolation to know that I have fulfilled all of my dear mother's requests of me.

My sister was born in 1856. She departed this life 1857—about 1 year old. Passed away 85 years ago.

I point to my father and my mother with great pride, thanking and praising their Holy name, for the spirit of humanity, wisdom and knowledge and talent and health that was handed down to me by them in my creation. God Bless my father and mother for all I am, and have been, or expect to be, I owe it all to my good old father and mother for they fed me when I was hungry, clothed me when I was naked and furnished me wisdom, knowledge and health and why shouldn't I praise their Holy name.

Eighty and five years have passed by and all of these years I have used my energy and means to make my community and Pope County a better place to live.

✓ Eighty and five years have flown,
Real joy and sorrow I have known,
In all those years that I have passed,
A better world has been forecast,
Inspiration, work and prayer
If each and all of us spend our time with care,
Can change this World and life of ours,
Into a real sense of beauty flowers,
Can change this World so best can grow,
So each and all life best can know,
Neither freedom's flags of land and sea
Waving high and free in freedom's breeze,
Where human's rights protection find,
For equal powers of all mankind,
Where each one all that best may give,
So each and all at best may live,
While other lands have many ways,
The constitution of the U.S.A.
Should forever be our own best way.

Wishing the Herald Enterprise Readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

URIAH BELFORD.

A few things which Uriah Belford did for his community and Pope County that no other person has ever done. He saved Pope County \$712.50 on repairing the abutment under the Big Grand Pierre Bridge on the Golconda and Shetlerville Road. He saved Pope County \$1300 on putting up of the Mill Creek Bridge between Golconda and the Fairground. He saved Pope County \$400 on repairing of the abutment under the Lusk Creek Bridge on the Raum and Harrisburg Road—A total of \$2412.50.

Uriah Belford was an early user of heavy machinery on roads and bridges. He took so much interest in good roads and bridges in 1878. At that time there wasn't but one bridge north of Golconda on the east side of Pope County, until Uriah Belford got up petitions and circulated and went before the County Board and got the allowance of the following bridges:

The bridge across Grand Pierre Creek on the Golconda-Shetlerville Road; the bridge across Simmons Creek on the Golconda-Harrisburg road; the Siener across Grand Pierre Creek on the Golconda-Elizabethtown road; the McGuire Bridge across the creek on the Golconda-Karber's Ridge Road; the Shelby bridge across the Grand Pierre Creek on the Golconda-Cave-In-Rock Road; the Hartsville Bridge across the creek on Raum-Harrisburg Road; The Herod bridge across Grand Pierre Creek on the Golconda-Harrisburg Road. Those seven bridges cost Uriah Belford a lot of time and some money. They were sponsored and engineered by Uriah Belford, while he was a private citizen. ✓

Was this all that Uriah Belford did for Pope County? No, those nine years that Uriah Belford was County Commissioner of Pope County, he used his influence, plans, engineering and means and was instrumental in getting ten bridges, and a number of culverts erected in Pope County.

Also, Uriah Belford saved Pope County thousands of dollars by being thoroughly qualified to take care of all business that came before the County Board for action, as he was a practical experienced man in all, farming, engineering, construction and mechanic work, and bridge engineering, and has done for Pope County more than any other man has done.

Was this all that Uriah Belford did for Pope County? No, at the time of the East abutment under the Grand Pierre Bridge, on the Golconda-Shetlerville Road was giving away, W. C. Holmes, A. J. Nesstlerodt and Uriah Belford (the County Commissioners), we advertised to let a contract to repair said abutment—the lowest bid received was \$1100.00. Mr. Holmes and Mr. Nesstlerodt were not bridge engineers and were not acquainted with work of this kind and they thought it best to let the contract at \$1100.00. Uriah said, “No, we can’t pay \$1100.00 for a \$400.00 job.” Mr. Holmes asked how we would get this done for \$400.00. Uriah said, “I will engineer the job and pay all bills. If the costs exceeds \$400.00, I will pay all over \$400.00 myself.” Mr. Holmes and Nesstlerodt employed Uriah to repair the abutment. When Uriah got the abutment repaired he called the Board of Commissioners to inspect the job. The job was O.K. and Uriah’s books showed that he had expended \$387.50. Belford saved the County just \$712.50 on that one job, by being a practical engineer.

Was this all that Uriah Belford saved Pope County? No. At the time the Mill Creek bridge broke down between Golconda and the fair ground, Harry Clanahan, Chas. Brown and D. Clemens were the County Board. They called a State Bridge Engineer to advise them how to repair the bridge. The engineer said, “Two bents of the bridge would have to be taken down, the abutment put in and then put the bridge back up.” The County Board asked if the bridge couldn’t be repaired without taking the bridge down. The State Engineer said, “No, that can’t be done.” The lowest bid the County Board could get for this job was \$1800.00 and it didn’t appeal to the County Board that they could pay

\$1800.00 for such small job. They knew that Uriah Belford was a mechanic and bridge engineer and called him to advise them. He came and looked the job over. The Chairman of the Board asked Uriah if the bridge would have to be taken down to repair the bridge. Uriah Belford said, “No, it would cost more to take the bridge down than it would cost to make the repairs without taking it down.” Uriah was then asked to take a contract to repairing the bridge. Uriah Belford took the contract for \$500.00. He repaired the bridge, made a profit of \$50.00 and saved the county \$1300.00. He did this by being able to do bridge engineering, that the State Engineer couldn’t do.

Was this all Uriah Belford saved for Pope County? No. At the time Lusk Creek bridge abutment was giving away on the Raum and Harrisburg Road, Mr. Brown, Mr. Levi Tanner and Uriah Belford were the County Board. We advised Mr. George Manson (County Superintendent of Roads) to repair this abutment. Mr. Manson looked the job over and came in and informed the County Board that he couldn’t and wouldn’t undertake the job. So, Uriah Belford was employed to engineer this job. This was a complicated piece of work. There were 5 feet of water here; the abutment and bulkhead was 45 feet long and 14 feet high, but the work was done and at a saving of \$400.00 for the county.

Was this all that Uriah Belford did for Pope County? No. Here comes the best piece of engineering work done by any man for Pope County. At the time the State Road No. 34 was surveyed and grading stakes driven from Harrisburg to Mitchellville, from Mitchellville to Rudement, from Rudement to Herod, from Herod to Eichorn, from Eichorn to Fritz Humm—the Junction—by Shetlerville to Golconda, a lot of people were dissatisfied with the location of Route 34, from the Humm junction to Golconda. A lot of talk was going on, but no one was taking any action, so on the 5th day of January 1925, the weather at 10° below zero, a six inch snow on the ground, Uriah Belford studied and planned all day on how to get a reaction on Route 34. At last his plans were made.

He said to his wife, "Sarah, I want breakfast by daylight tomorrow morning." The good woman answered that you could have breakfast at any hour you wished, and said she would just like to know what you were going to do in such cold weather. I answered that I was going to Golconda to see Chas. Durfee and if Route No. 34 isn't sealed up, I have my plans laid, how to get a reaction on Route 34. He then explained his plans to his wife and she said, "You and Chas. Durfee will get a reaction on Route 34." I walked 12 miles to Golconda through a six inch snow with the weather at 10° below zero and got to Mr. Durfee's office at 11 o'clock A. M. and inquired if Route 34 was sealed up. Mr. Durfee studied awhile then said, "No, they haven't advertised to let a contract yet, what have you on your mind?" I said I believe if we would get up a strong petition setting forth the facts as they are and go to our representatives in person and get our representatives to go to Springfield and take up the relocation of Route 34 with the State Highway Department, we would get a relocation of Route No. 34. Col. Durfee said, "this will win, this will win." Col. Durfee got up a petition and gave it to Mr. Belford and said, "You get this petition filled as quick as you can," and I will get up a contention and brief. Uriah Belford walked two days through a six inch snow, 10° below zero, and came back to Col. Durfee's office about one hour before sundown, on Friday, and Col. Durfee called Spence and Mathis at Metropolis and K. C. Reynolds of Eldorado (our representatives) and made agreement for Mr. Durfee to meet Spence and Mathis in Metropolis at 9 o'clock Monday, and Uriah Belford to meet K. C. Reynolds in Eldorado at 9 o'clock Monday, and made arrangements with the three representatives to go to Springfield and take up the relocation of Route 34 with the State Highway Department, and our representatives went on the following Tuesday and got the relocation of Route 34 for us. The State Highwaymen said this change would save the State of Illinois \$20,000.00 and would be a great benefit to Pope County and Hardin County. This relocation was from the Fritz Humm Wye through by the Stodgament Mines to Golconda. This change

cost Uriah Belford \$125.00 cash and 6 days walking through six inches of snow and 10° below zero and cost Col. Durfee \$200.00 cash and a lot of time, and cost George Threlkeld \$100.00 cash and one trip to Springfield. Thus the good people of Pope and Hardin County should appreciate the good engineering done by Uriah Belford, Col. Durfee and George Threlkeld.