

Colonel Archer and the Original Layout of Marshall

By Danielle Galeener, Amber Hackney, Sami Turpin

Zachariah Archer, the father of William B. Archer, was born in 1752. Zachariah was an Irishman, born in the County of Down, Ireland. When Zachariah was 20 years old, he accompanied his parents, Samuel and Jane Archer, to America. The Archer family landed in Philadelphia on Saturday, April 4, 1772. Four years later, now settled, Zachariah enlisted in the Army Rifle Regiment. Zachariah served in the regiment three years and nine months. In those three years, he fought in many Revolutionary War battles, such as the Battle of Long Island, on August 27, 1776, and the Battle of Brandywine, on September 11, 1777.

At the end of his military career, Zachariah Archer moved from his family to Scott County, Kentucky. It was in Kentucky that he met his future wife, Jane Kilgore. Zachariah and his new bride were married Wednesday, November 15, 1789. At the time of their marriage, Archer was 37 years old, while Jane was only 17 years old.

Zachariah and Jane had many children in their lifetime. The first child, Samuel, was born on August 18, 1790, but died one month later. The next child, Charles, was born a year later on December 20, 1791. The third child was given the name of William Beatty Archer. He was born on January 30, 1793, in Scott County, Kentucky. After William, the Archers had another child who was named Jesse Kilgore Archer. He was born on July 9, 1797, while the first daughter of the Archers, Jane, was born on May 5, 1800. After Jane was born, the Archer family, which now consisted of four children, moved to a small town in Ohio. In Ohio, the Archer family had four more additions to their family tree. Elizabeth, who was born on July 9, 1803, and Stephen Archer, who was born on December 19, 1806, were the first of the family to be born in Ohio. Samuel Archer was born on December 19, 1808, and the last of the Archer children was Hannah, who was born on September 22, 1811.

Zachariah, who was a weaver by trade, had to give up weaving and become a farmer to make a living. To obtain better farmland, the family moved in 1801 from Kentucky to Ridgeville, Ohio. In Ridgeville, the family made a successful living by farming.

In 1817, 16 years later, the three eldest sons took a journey down the Ohio River. Charles, who at the time was 25 years old, William, who was 23, and Jesse, who was 19 years old, traveled westward down the Ohio River in a keelboat. There they were to find land that was suitable for a new home and farm. The three eldest brothers landed in the spring, at the settlement of York in Clark County.

Charles, William, and Jesse had located three different plots of land, each containing about 160 acres. These plots were located about six miles North of York. Jesse Archer, the youngest of the three, returned to Ohio for the rest of the family. Upon Jesse's arrival home, all the household goods, along with his mother, two brothers, Stephen and Samuel, and the youngest child, Hannah, were loaded into a covered wagon. After loading the family and the goods they began their journey westward on land. Along with the wagon, the family drove a number of cattle for the new farm

Zachariah, Jesse, and two sisters, Jane and Elizabeth, were accompanied by Jacob Harlan, a friend. They traveled in a keelboat down the Ohio River and up the Wabash River to their new home in Illinois. During their journey, the small group encountered many horrifying difficulties. The river was low, and several times the men aboard had to drag the boat over sandbars and through many other shallow places. When the crew of the keelboat reached Vincennes, Indiana, the river started to rise. Along with the rising tide, there came many strong currents, making it hard for the group to travel upstream. Because of the troubles the family encountered while on the river, they took more time than expected to reach their destination. The land travelers, who had reached their new home many weeks before, had settled into a double log cabin. They soon began to worry about the delayed arrival of the rest of the family. The overland travelers feared that the rise of the river had shipwrecked the other travelers. As a result, the surrounding community began to hunt for the party. The missing party soon arrived safely though, after many different trials and tribulations. The river water had become so high that the travelers were able to float their boat almost to the front door of their new home.

Many years later, in 1819, William B. Archer was appointed as Clark County's first County and Circuit Clerk. A year later in 1820, he resigned as the County Clerk, but kept the job of Circuit Clerk until 1822. In 1824, William Archer began his long and prosperous career in politics. That year, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives. Two years later, he was elected to the Illinois State Senate. He served over eight years in the State Senate. It was in that office that William B. Archer, began his influential career.



W. B. Archer

In 1832, the Black Hawk War broke out. That same year Archer recruited the first company of volunteers at Darwin, Illinois. William was elected as captain of the company of Darwin recruits. After the rendezvous, Captain Archer was given the rank of Colonel. From then on, William B. Archer was known as Colonel William B. Archer. Fourteen years later, after he had founded Marshall, Illinois in 1835, Colonel Archer and 75 other men left in several wagons to fight in the Mexican War. Three days after leaving Marshall, the group arrived at Alton, Illinois. The company from Marshall only served 18 days in the army before they were discharged.

Two years later, in 1848, Colonel William Beatty Archer was again elected to the Circuit Clerk's office. After serving four years in that office, Archer brought an end to his political career. Colonel Archer had served a total of almost 33 years of ongoing service to the state of Illinois.

After ending his political career, Colonel Archer settled in Marshall with his wife Elizabeth and their daughter. Colonel Archer died on August 9, 1870. He is buried alongside his wife and parents in the Walnut Prairie Cemetery near Marshall, Illinois.

Marshall's Founding

Colonel William B. Archer and his partner, Governor Joseph Duncan, were the first people to enter the Marshall territory in 1833. Later that year, Colonel Archer and Governor Duncan purchased the site on which Marshall is now located from the federal government. The partners laid out the town and named the site Marshall after John Marshall. John Marshall was a Chief

Justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1801 to 1835 and has been regarded as the greatest jurist this country ever produced.

On September 22, 1835, Colonel William Archer and Governor Joseph Duncan announced the layout of Marshall and the sale of lots. The partners issued a circular describing the town and offering lots for sale in a proposed new Eastern Illinois town named Marshall. In the circular notice, the partners wrote:

"This is a new town laid off the National Road where the Vincennes and Chicago State Road crosses the former Sec.13T11N, R12W, in Clark County and is situated 55 miles north of Vincennes, 16 miles from York, and 10 miles from Darwin, south of Paris 15 miles and 50 miles from Danville, 16 miles west of Terre Haute. It is decidedly the handsomest site by a town between Terre Haute and Vandalia, and surrounded by a good second rate land, a sufficient amount of timber and the best stone for building, and it may be truly said no point in this section of the country has proven more healthy. The north and south road has been opened by the proprietors from Big Creek to Walnut Prairie, and when a permanent road shall be made, it will not vary from the present line. Mills are convenient. . ."

On October 6, 1835, the original plat of Marshall was filed with the County Clerk. Eleven days later, on October 17, the sale of lots was held. The lots were 66 feet on the front and 122 feet in depth. Prices of the lots ranged from \$8.00 to \$78.00 depending on desirability and "what the traffic would bear." The lots were sold for a total sum of \$1,154.25 to some 30 individual purchasers. Michael Thorn purchased the first lot, which was sold for \$12.50. During the next two years, other settlers bought the remaining lots for higher prices.

Marshall grew with the completion of the Cumberland Road and became an important marketing point. Therefore, Archer had to add on to the flourishing town of Marshall. Encouraged by the success of his first original auction, Archer laid out his first addition to the town in the fall of 1837. Marshall continued to grow and in July of 1839, Archer's second addition became necessary. Since 1839, there have been several additions to the town.



In 1838, only two short years after the beginning of Marshall, the Clark County Courthouse was moved to Marshall. Marshall was the third county seat of Clark County. The first county seat was Aurora, and the second was at Darwin, both of which are located on the Wabash River. With the coming of the National Road, the Wabash River was no longer the main source of transportation through Clark County. The only

practical thing to do was to make a change; the county seat had to be moved closer to the National Road. In 1837, Marshall won a hard-fought election against Cumberland, which is also located along the National Road. As a result, in 1838 the county seat was moved to Marshall. The first courthouse was simply a small wood building in the center of town.

Original Layout

In 1836, Bartlett's Hotel was completed, the first building to be constructed in Marshall. It was built from skinned hickory logs on the southeast corner of Market and Franklin, which is now Locust and Sixth Streets. It was built to house the men working on the National Road. James Whitlock opened a dry goods store in the hotel, but soon after moved it to the north side of Cumberland and Franklin Streets.

In 1837, the first school was built. The original building housed 20 students and was taught by Thomas Handy. It was built where the old North School was. The hotel was located on the northwest corner of Norton and Franklin Street, which is now Seventh and Ash.

The Roman Catholic and Congregational Churches were both founded in 1841. Although they were founded years before, the first church building did not come along until 1850. Before the time of the church building, the congregation had met in homes and schoolhouses.



The Archer House, which was later known as both the St. James Hotel, and the National Dixie Hotel, was built as a stagecoach stop-off. It was opened in 1841, even though it was not completed until 1844. Colonel Archer had built the hotel to a point so that the stagecoaches coming down the old Cumberland Trail, or the Dixie Trail could see the sign hanging from the point of the Archer House.

David Cole ran the first saloon on what is now the corner of Sixth and Archer. Elza Neal, a wagon-maker, was also located on Hamilton Street. Dr. Allison had his office on the north side of the square. Dr. Tutt and Dr. Poole had their office on the northeast corner of Cumberland and Clinton, now Archer and Fifth Street. Phillip Smith operated a corn cracker on the southeast corner of Market and Bond Streets, now Locust and Third. Farmers had to supply their own horses for tread power to make wheat flour or corn meal.

The Archer family settled in Illinois in 1817 near the town of Darwin. Eighteen years later, William B. Archer and Governor Joseph Duncan founded the small town of Marshall. In 1835, Archer and Duncan sold the first lots. Soon after, the National Road was built through the town and the county seat moved to Marshall. Over the years, Marshall has grown from a few scattered families to a population of 3600 that continues to prosper.