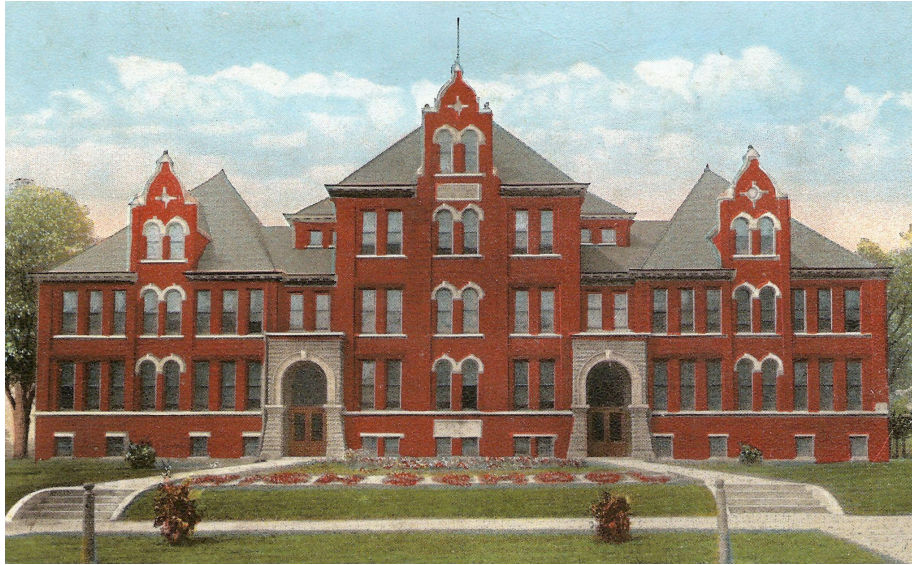


Alice Ingersoll Gymnasium



Alice Ingersoll Gymnasium is located at 44 W. Walnut St. in Canton. It's named after a prominent Canton-area philanthropist, Alice Ingersoll. Ingersoll was the daughter of William Parlin, who founded a plow manufacturing business in Canton which International Harvester Inc. purchased. Ingersoll donated the money used to construct the gym. As part of her bequest, the gym was also to be used for major community activities. Construction started June 1929 and was completed January 1930. The stock market crash that led to the Great Depression took place October 29, 1929, but construction continued. The dedication ceremony took place on January 23, 1930 with the first game played the next night. The first game was January 24, 1930 when Canton played Peoria Manual. Manual won 18-17 in overtime. When it opened its capacity was 3,000 people. Its current capacity is 2,100 people. Though it was originally built on the same block as the High School, it's today a freestanding building no longer located with the high school. It currently serves as the basketball home of the Canton High School men's and women's teams and remains a venue for community events. The gymnasium was also considered a fallout shelter during the Cold War Scare. The Alice Ingersoll Gymnasium is today considered an iconic structure throughout Central Illinois. Grady Stanfel dropped out of school to work and was involved in building the new gym. Stanfel went back to school the next year and played on the first team to play there. As a result of the ongoing trust set up by Alice Ingersoll, all maintenance and upkeep expenses will be paid for in perpetuity. Before the Alice was constructed, high school games were held in the upper level gym of the high school. The seating left much to be desired as it could not accommodate all the spectators that came to see the highly successful Canton teams of that time. Crowds would line up sometimes hours in advance for the opportunity for a seat at the game.

Canton High Schools



Canton, Illinois has had multiple high schools, including the first Canton High School built in 1860, and the current Canton High School. Construction started in 1860, and the building was used until a new high school was built in 1904 at 20 W. Walnut St. That building was opened April 1, 1904. Students were moved from that school to the current location at 1001 N. Main St. In January of 1953. The old building then housed Canton Jr. High until 1968. It had 3 floors with 20 classrooms, a science lab, a library, a chorus room, a gymnasium, and an assembly room with seating for 400. The building was “state of the art” for the time. A portion of it is still used today to house the Superintendent’s office and other administrative Offices. The school’s team name & mascot was once the Plowboys named after a plow made by P&O Plow Works and later International Harvester Company in downtown Canton. The team name and mascot was changed in 1932 to the Little Giants. In 1928, the Canton High School basketball team won its first and only IHSA state championship. After winning the state championship the Plowboys were invited to compete in the first and only National Tournament where they finished in second place. Their 1928 success at both the state and national levels that led to the community movement for the building of Alice Ingersoll Gymnasium on the opposite corner of the high school’s block. Even though the High School has moved its location to the other side of town the gymnasium is still in use.

Greenwood Cemetery



Greenwood Cemetery is a 122-acre cemetery encompassing rolling hills, a valley, fields, and natural woodland. It offers sections for the general public, infants, county burials, military, and a mausoleum. Greenwood Cemetery was started as a profit-making venture by the “Canton Cemetery Company.” Lots sold for \$5.00 each. As more burial space was needed, Patrick Rafferty was asked about acquiring his land. He agreed if a portion was used for a Catholic Cemetery. St. Mary’s Cemetery was dedicated on October 6, 1872, and served as the Catholic burial ground until St. Joseph’s Cemetery was added in 1926. In 1881, all properties were deeded over to the City of Canton. An ordinance was passed on February 9, 1882 that stated the burial ground shall be called, “Greenwood Cemetery.” A stroll through Greenwood Cemetery is a stroll through the history of the community. The annual **Cemetery Walk** our museum hosts has profiled 73 notable Cantonites, on site, over the past 11 years. This year only, the event is scheduled for Saturday, June 21st, 2025. *A Cemetery Walk, Revisited* will retell the life stories of seven fascinating men and women who have made a difference in our community and beyond. The people of Canton erected a memorial to Isaac Swan, soldier, pioneer, and founder of the city, who died June 18, 1835, during a tornado. Although he died before Greenwood Cemetery was established, a monument was erected August 23, 1925, Canton’s Centennial year. In 2015 the Centennial monument was relocated to a green space east of the Goodwill building, at the north end of Jones Park, downtown. Another prominent structure is a memorial to Civil War veterans not far into the cemetery, to the right of the main entrance. It was commissioned by the widow of a Civil War veteran, Captain Amos Babcock, to honor the men who fought in the War of 1861-1865. Her name was Caroline Lucas Babcock of Peoria. The Cemetery Walk, a history program coordinated by the Canton Area Heritage Center, is scheduled on the 4th Sunday of September at Greenwood Cemetery. This year (only), the event is scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2025, 4:00 p.m., in the museum’s parking lot, at 111 South Main Street, in Canton.

Sources:

Graham Hospital



The Fulton County Medical Association, Canton city officials, and the Altruistic Club of Canton began working together in the early 1900's to establish a permanent city hospital to replace two earlier facilities which were housed in private residences. The major impetus for this movement proved to be a 1903 local typhoid epidemic that was so large that the existing hospital at the Cooper residence on South Second Ave was filled to capacity and many patients had to be housed in temporary tents. This led to a fundraising drive for a larger, more permanent hospital. Although Alice and Caroline Graham had moved to Washington, D.C. from their home in Canton, they gifted the city with funds for a hospital in memory of their parents, John and Lydia Graham. They temporarily returned to Canton to oversee that project. Construction bids were accepted in 1907. The Cornerstone was laid in 1908. Graham Hospital and Graham Hospital School of Nursing were opened in 1909.

The first hospital established in Canton in 1890 was known as the Altruistic Hospital. It was located on the southeast corner of South Main and Maple in the G.B. Vittum residence. The Altruistic Society of Canton provided the medical equipment used there. That hospital continued until approximately 1900. A second city hospital was

established at the Cooper property on South Second Avenue, across from South Park, that was leased and staff was hired. This became the site of the Typhoid catastrophe. The original Italian Renaissance style building included 18-25 beds, an office, a children's ward, a surgical room and solarium, along with housing for nurses and nursing students. The first two years were rocky, as the majority of patients admitted were terminal when they entered, resulting in the relatively rapid resignations of the first two administrators. During those two years, the Graham sisters continued to support the hospital, but in 1912, the hospital was reorganized and chartered as a non-profit organization. One board member was chosen from each of the following churches: Methodist, Episcopal, Baptist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Christian, along with a member from the following lodges: Morning Star Lodge, A.F. and A.M. Olive Branch Lodge, Odd Fellows, Bohemond Lodge, and Knights of Pythian. Miss Alice Graham also served as a board member. A bequest from Joseph L. Murphy in 1907, provided for an additional \$40,000 for the construction of the hospital. After a bitterly contested legal battle with his family, the Murphy Memorial Unit was completed in 1925. In 1916, a generous gift from Chicagoan Mrs. Samuel Allerton provided for the purchase of a residence across the street from the hospital named the Nurses Home, to house nurses and nursing students, allowing for additional patient beds in the hospital. Due to the need for isolation during the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic, patients were housed in the Central Grammar School. All public events were suspended during this time. At the time of her death, Alice Graham provided additional funding through a trust she had created to continue upkeep of the hospital, the School of Nursing, and to provide for a new Nurses Home and its upkeep. As the number of patients increased, so did additions to the hospital. Fundraising began in 1955 for a new East Wing to provide for more beds, a pharmacy and gift shop. A 1964 fundraising campaign provided for an extended care unit and additional space for the School of Nursing. The School of Nursing's mission was to provide staffing for the new hospital. Originally, the nursing students were educated by the physicians, as well as working long hours with strict supervision providing personal patient care, preparing patient meals, cleaning patient rooms and performing some routine laboratory analysis. As one graduate from the 1930's quipped, "All we had were Lysol and morphine to take care of our patients." The first class of Graham Hospital School of Nursing students graduated in 1913 and included Mrs. Signa C. (Axcell) Thomas who later became the Superintendent of the hospital in 1933 and remained so until 1959. When she died in 1965, she left her entire estate to Graham Hospital. The School was approved by the IL Department of Registration and Education in 1923 as a three-year diploma program and accredited by the National League for Nursing in 1968. The School is currently working toward accreditation as a four year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree granting program. The name of the School changed from Training School for Nurses to Graham

Hospital School of Nursing to reflect the current recognition that nurses were not “trained”, but educated.

Sources:

Graham Hospital School of Nursing Histories: Including History of Caps of Graham Hospital by

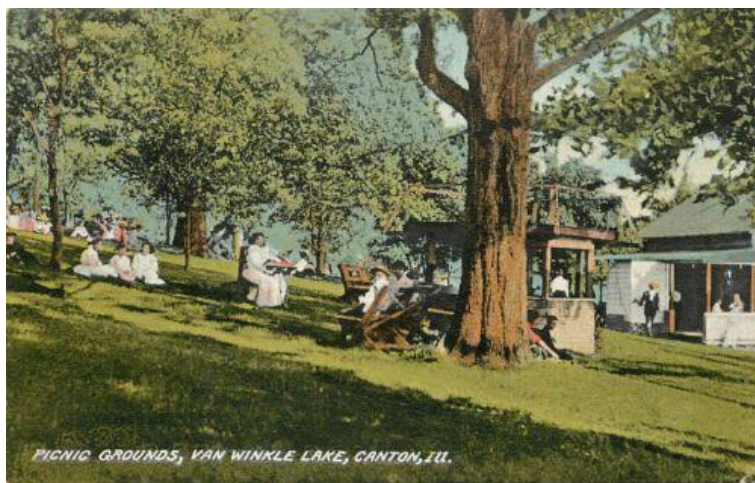
Catherine Roe, 1953, How the Community Provides Hospital Facilities Thesis by Signa Thomas,

1957, Graham Hospital School of Nursing History by Betty Stockov, 1968, Graham Hospital, Then and Now, a collection of articles by Kenneth Etcheson written for the Canton Daily Ledger, 2001.

Reflections of Canton in a Pharmacist’s Show Globe: A Comprehensive History of Canton,

Illinois and the Important Events in Fulton County by Edward R. Lewis, Jr., 1967
Graham Hospital School of Nursing historical collection in the Illinois Digital Archives includes over 2000+ online digital items such as photographs, yearbooks, oral histories, postcards, meeting minutes, capping and graduation programs, newspaper clippings, etc. regarding both Graham Hospital and the School of Nursing history.

Wallace Park, Van Winkle Lake



Canton Park District boundaries are the same as those of Canton Township and serve our population of almost fourteen thousand individuals. Following World War I, Van Winkle Lake was Canton’s most popular recreational area but it was privately owned and there was increasing interest in having a larger, publicly-owned park. In 1921, the

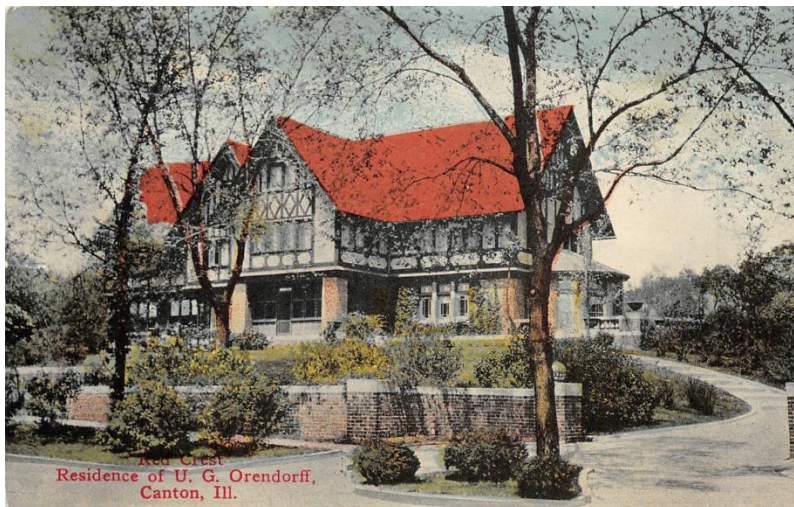
Canton Chamber of Commerce named attorney C.H. Hippler to head a committee to investigate the creation of a park district under the 1895 park laws, allowing the formation of self-governing municipal parks. The Canton Park District was officially formed April 2, 1923. The first park board consisted of five members, all well-known community leaders, headed by U.G. Orendorff, President and Dr. J.E. Coleman, Vice-President. Engineer Jacob L. Crane of Chicago was hired to lay out a new park that would become Big Creek Park. His recommendation to the board was to purchase land along Big Creek from what is now West Vine Street to what is now Lakeland Park Drive. In conjunction with the development of this area in the northwest part of town, Athletic Park in the northeast section was acquired by the park district. Wallace Park is the operational hub of the Canton Park District and houses the Donaldson Community Center, administrative offices, and maintenance facilities. Big Creek Park was formally opened Sunday, July 18, 1926. The district at the time consisted of Jones Park, South Park, the Kellogg School ground, Big Creek Park and Athletic Park. In 1927, the park district deeded Jones Park back to the City of Canton. Big Creek offers many recreational activities including a one-half mile hiking trail and an accessible playground.

Sources:

<https://cantonpark.org/history-general-information/>

Edward R. Lewis, Jr. (1967). Reflections of Canton in a Pharmacist's Show Globe.

Redcrest



Designed by architect Robert Spenser in the Prairie style, Redcrest (named such for the red tile roof) was built in 1902 as the home of U.G. and Daise Orendorff. In 1971 the National Historical Register of the United States listed the home as a historic site.

Interestingly, the address is simply Redcrest. U.G. and Daise changed the official address to Redcrest in 1915 and it remains so today. The house consists of four levels with a full basement, 21 rooms, and 4 bathrooms. Some of the more unique rooms are a ballroom, telephone room, library, and card room. Another interesting feature of the house was a system that provided “air conditioning” by pumping cool water through the radiator system. The interior beauty of the home is enhanced by 157 stained glass windows, birdseye oak woodwork, Italian marble, and hand painted murals by George Niedecken. The landscaping was designed by O.C. Simonds who also worked on many Frank Lloyd Wright projects. The grounds included a carriage house and until 1971 a cabin and footbridge purchased from the Underwood family. Over the past 120+ years, the property has had several owners. In 1946, after the death of U.G. Orendorff, three families joined forces to buy the property: Herman Raster family, George Berry family, and Ed Baron family. In 1956, Ed Baron sold the property to Olinda Nimietz of Fox River Grove. In 1961 she rented the property to Fred Mulligan who converted it into college dorm rooms. However, in 1971 after much activity surrounding the sale, Mrs. Niemitz sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Walters. Over the years, the Walters lovingly restored the property to its original state. The family tried to recover the furnishings that were sold off or given away. The family even drove to Chicago in a station wagon to get some of the original pieces. In 1987 Alma Walters turned the mansion over to her son Mike and his wife Susan who lived in the home and continued the renovations with their two sons. In 2000 they sold the home to John and Marie Zaryczny of Chicago.

Sources:

Legacy – The Story of Three Families by Michael Walters and Brooks Carver, copyright 2012

Isaac Swan Monument



In 1925 the Canton Centennial Commission donated a monument for the founder of Canton, Isaac Swan, to the City of Canton. It reads "Isaac Swan, soldier and pioneer, founder of Canton 1825, erected by the people of Canton - 1925". The stone was set in a remote corner of Greenwood Cemetery out of view from any roadway for 89 years. It weighs 1500 pounds and is made of Vermont granite, where Swan is from. Canton Main Street Group, whose goal is to promote tourism, campaigned to have the monument moved to the square in 2014. These efforts were led by Ray Cleer. The move was approved by the city council and a city crew set the concrete foundation. Abel Vault and Monument assisted with the relocation. The unveiling was on September 15, 2015.

Sources:

<https://www.cantondailyledger.com/story/news/local/2015/09/16/downtown-gets-new-landmark/33537065007/>

Kellogg Mansion



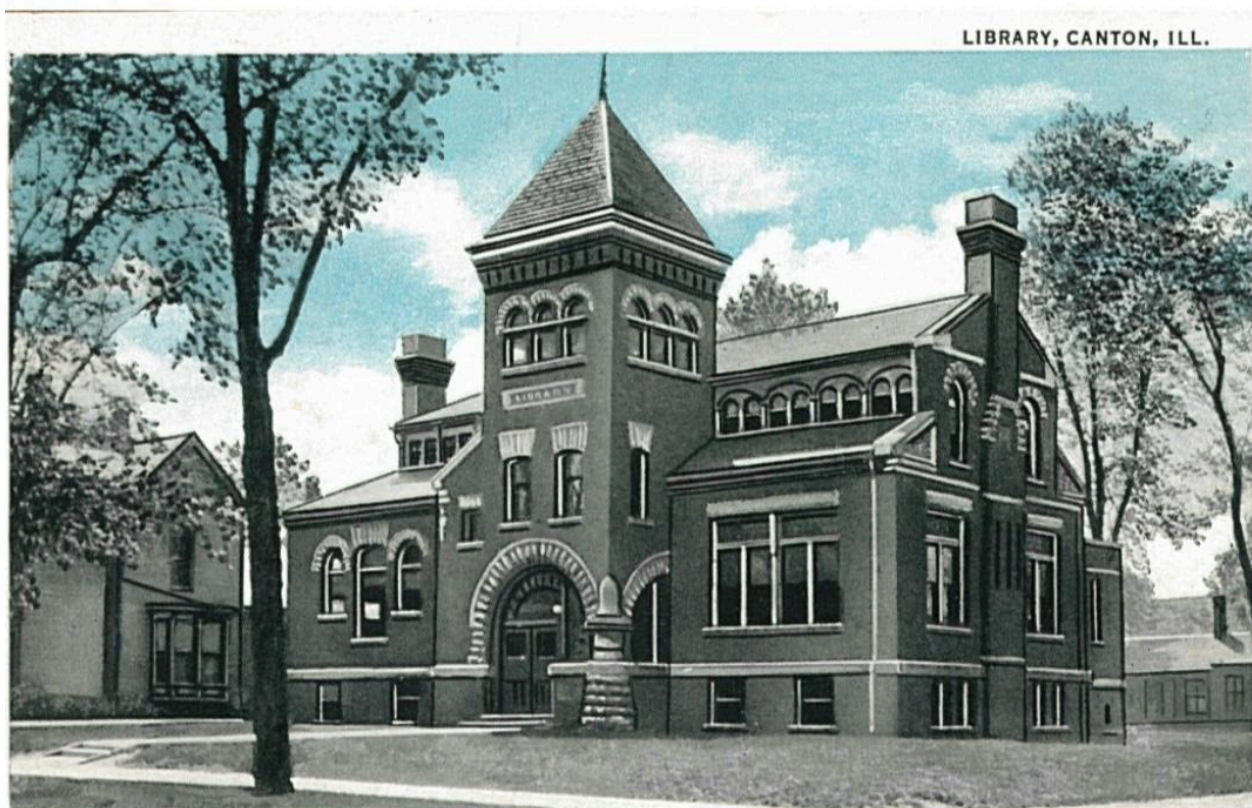
The Kellogg Mansion on the corner of East Chestnut Street and North Second Avenue was built in 1857 by Judge William Kellogg. William Kellogg was an influential judge and congress member during the era of Abraham Lincoln. He may have become a close personal friend to Lincoln while working side by side during his campaigns and presidency. Kellogg moved to Canton some time before 1840. In 1843 he married Lucinda Caroline Ross who was the daughter of Major Ossian Ross, a pioneer settler and influential figure in the establishment of Fulton County. According to a passage written by her brother in his book "The Early Pioneers and Pioneer Events of the State of Illinois," she was the first white child born in Fulton County. Kellogg had a law practice in Canton and was an influential figure in town. In 1850 he became the presiding judge for the Illinois 10th circuit court. This was the first time a Fulton County resident was the

presiding judge for our circuit. In 1857 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Shortly after, construction of the Kellogg Mansion began. He served in the 35th, 36th, and 37th Congresses during the tumultuous times of the Civil War era. After his term in congress he sold the house and moved to Peoria, IL. In a notice from the Canton Weekly Register on May 9, 1864, it is stated that James H. Stipp purchased the house for \$4,000. Just weeks later, on June 6, 1864, another notice from the Canton Weekly Register stated that it was sold again to William Parlin. William and Catherine Parlin both lived out the rest of their lives in this house. In 1927 the Parlin estate sold the property to John L. Murphy who turned it into a memorial home, as funeral parlors were becoming more and more popular. In 1946 Ralph J. Sedgwick bought the funeral home and changed the name to Murphy-Sedgwick Memorial Home in 1976.

Sources:

<https://www.sedgwickfuneralhomes.com/about/history#:~:text=History%20%7C%20Sedgwick%20Funeral%20Homes%20%26%20Crematory,the%20famous%20Lincoln%2DDouglas%20debates.>

Parlin Public Library



The Parlin Library was the first public library in Canton. public library. The building is located on the southeast corner of Second Avenue and Chestnut Street. It opened September 4, 1894 with its 2,800 books, separate reading rooms for men and women, a museum, and an art gallery. The library was established thanks to a donation left by William Parlin Sr. in his will. When he died in 1892 Parlin bequeathed \$8000 for the first establishment of a public library with the stipulation that the city would also levy a tax to raise \$5000 for its completion. In total, the library cost \$24,000 which included the land acquisition. Bids were made for where the library would be constructed, and on July 6, 1892 the site committee chose the Abbott site for \$4200. The Parlin heirs continued to make donations to cover the extra costs. The architect of the building was Richardson and Salter from Peoria. The construction began in 1893 and was done by Haller Brothers and carpentry work was done by Anderson and Beam. It was decided that anyone over the age of 11 and in city limits had free access and those outside city limits would have access for \$2 a year. The hours were from 2-6 and 7-9:30 but closed on Sundays. The first library director was Mrs. Josephine Resor who tirelessly acquired, sorted and displayed the books. She served for 34 years and was an influential figure in the establishment of the Canton Women's Club. Through the decision of Mrs. Resor and William H. Parlin, the library became the permanent meeting place of the club. "In 1958 the library built a new library building with money bequeathed by the Charles D. Ingersoll Trust. The original library building was sold to the City of Canton for \$1.00. This building was used as the City Building until around 2002." There are currently seven stained glass panels in the Parlin Ingersoll Library that came directly from the Parlin Public Library building.

In 2005 the building was bought by David Bruketta for his business, Bruketta Accounting Inc. Bruketta sold the building to Andrew and Stephanie Johnson in 2012 and it is still the Johnson and Johnson attorney's office.

This building had the great honor of being placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1994.

Sources:

<https://www.parliningersoll.org/library-information/history/#clh>

Parlin and Orendorff Company



P & O Plow Works was located on Elm Street. The 'P' in P & O is for William Parlin who was one of the original founders of P & O Works. Parlin was born in Acton, Massachusetts, on January 21, 1817. He arrived in Canton, Illinois in the summer of 1840. He married Caroline Orendorff on January 7, 1845. They had four children: Artemus F., William H., Clara E., and Alice C. (Mrs. Charles E. Ingersoll). He started various blacksmith businesses and eventually began to manufacture plows in 1847. He later joined forces with his brother-in-law, William J. Orendorff, in the 1850s. Mr. Parlin was the inventor and designer of the operation while Mr. Orendorff was the business manager. By 1880 they had incorporated the P & O Plow Company in Illinois. Their sons, William H. Parlin and Ulysses G. Orendorff, successfully continued the business, which was eventually purchased by International Harvester in 1919. IH operated the Canton plant from 1919 employing as many as 2600 people until the plant was officially closed December 31, 1983. The plant occupied nearly 40 acres within the city with 2.2 million square feet of floor space. It produced ground engaging equipment - tilling and planting. Its products were said to be as good as any and superior to most in the industry. Sixteen years later, after changing ownership several times, the former International Harvester Plant was officially destroyed on August 6, 1997 by fire as a result of arson. On May 20, 2002, after a five-year investigation, the arsonist was arrested, later tried and convicted, and sentenced to federal prison for the crime. Approximately half of the site is now occupied by two medical device production plants of Cook Medical founded by Canton native Bill Cook.

Sources:

<https://www.cantonillinois.org/city-of-canton/canton-history/>

The Story of Three Families by Brooks Carver and Mike Walters copyright 2012

Historic Train Depot



The current building was built in 1914, after the sale of Maple School was razed when the structure was ruled unsafe because of the constant vibration from passing trains. The first railroad station (pictured), formerly run by Topeka, Peoria and Western, fell under receivership in 1859, and the company was quickly absorbed into the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad (CB&Q). Canton area residents utilized passenger trains in the 1930s and 1940s. During WWII, young men going off to war said their goodbyes at the CB&Q Railroad Station. By 1961, passenger trains were removed from the line. The demand for railway freight service also declined until this service was eliminated in the late 1970s. "The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Station had a dramatic impact on the development of Canton during the late 1800s and early 1900. P&O Plow Works (later sold to International Harvester Company) was dependent upon rail transportation as was the area's coal mining industry. Several of the mines in Fulton County had a good export business." In 1989, the City of Canton purchased the station from the Burlington Northern Railroad Company for one dollar and leased the land. A grant for historic preservation was awarded in 1994 to the City through the Illinois Department of Transportation; the amount of \$198,000 to be used in the restoration of this historic landmark. A Rededication Ceremony was held on September 20, 2000, exactly 86 years after its original opening in 1914. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Displayed on the north side of the property is a Dinky that was used at a local coal mine. It was donated to the City by Hitchcock Scrap yard of Canton. The cost of moving the Dinky to the Depot was funded in part by donations from friends of Bill Beardon, who was a railroad enthusiast, employed by Graham Hospital.

Sources:

www.cantonillinois.org/city-of-canton/canton-historic-depot/