

In 1868, a little party of immigrants from Fulton and McDonough counties, Illinois, consisting mostly of relatives and neighbors of the settlers, reached the Whitewater country. They had been preceded the previous year by two pioneer families from Hancock county, Illinois, Harrison Stearns, wife and three children, and Daniel Mosier, wife and six children, who had settled on the Whitewater near Towanda. The party of immigrants consisted of Gilbert Green, wife and eight children; Richmond Jones, wife and two children; J. G. Stearns, wife and four children; John Heath, wife and seven children, and C. Watrous, wife and four children. All of these settled in Towanda township and helped materially to found and build up the present thriving and progressive community. Their descendants are still living here, some of them on the original homesteads taken by their parents.

Probably the great spring which has gushed its torrents of cool water for ages was the cause of the founding of Towanda. Old plainsmen and hunters knew of it fifteen years before there was thought of settling the country. In those years, now known to only legend, its volumes of water was greater than now. The Indians knew of it and told the whites of it long before it was seen by them. Here in the wide bottoms of the Whitewater, covered by abundant grass for their ponies,