United States Steel Corporation

71 BROADWAY EMPIRE BUILDING

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

New York, May 27, 1924.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

120 East 19th St.,

New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Enclosed please find copy of a letter dated May 24th from Mr. W. E. Gary, Cashier of the Gary-Wheaton Bank, Wheaton, Ill., giving an interesting bit of the early history of Wheaton. We asked especially regarding the date when the city was incorporated and Judge Gary became its first Mayor. You will note that he gives this information.

Very truly yours,

F. R. Sites

Secretary to Judge Gary.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

GARY*WHEATON BANK
Wheaton, Ill.

May 24, 1924.

Mr. F. R. Sites,
Secretary to Judge Gary,
c/o U. S. Steel Corp., 71 Broadway,
Empire Building, New York City, New York.

Dear Mr. Sites:

In reply to your letter of May 7 in regard to when the city of Wheaton was incorporated, would advise that I have tried to get information from some of the old histories just when it was incorporated and in looking this up I find the following interesting facts regarding the City of Wheaton. I do not know just how much of this information you now have at hand. I finally had to go to the City records as to the date of incorporation:

"The city of Wheaton, named for the Wheaton brothers owes its birth to three men, Erastus Gary, Warren L. and Jesse C. Wheaton. The former came to DuPage County in the spring of 1832 locating a claim next to that of Mr. Butterfield. About him gathered others until the place was known as Gary's Settlement. June 1st, 1837, Warren L. Wheaton came and located a claim of 640 acres at Wheaton, his brother Jesse C. Wheaton coming that same fall.

Later Warren married a niece of Erastus Gary and Jesse, a sister, connecting the two families which were to play so important a part in the organization and development of Wheaton. With the building of the Chicago and Galena Union Railway in 1849, the future of Wheaton was assured. Much controversy arose relative to the right of way of this road by various settlements, striving to secure the right of way through its confines. But Wheaton was finally chosen as the stopping point. This added to the growth of the place and June 20, 1853 the little village was named for the Wheaton brothers, one of whom Warren, had helped the railroad secure the right of way through this section of the county and gave the right of way through his property.

Within six years Wheaton had a population of 800. In 1867, it became the county seat. On March 31, 1890, the village had an election to incorporate as a city and voted to incorporate, 229 votes being cast for and 83 against. The village trustees met at an adjourned meeting April 1, 1890 and counted ballots. The first meeting of the city was held May 7, 1890, Elbert H. Gary being the mayor elected and Frank S. Hull, clerk, L. W. Mills, treasurer, William S. Gary, attorney; first ward alderman, J. O. Clifford and H. W. Plummer; second ward, Thomas M. Hull and W. B. Guild; third ward, M. E. Jones and Horace Jayne."

This might be added to give you the facts in regard to the naming of Wheaton.

"The DuPuge County Atlas, published by Thompson Brothers and Burr, Elgin, Illinois, 1874, speaking of Warren L. Wheaton, says: 'When the station was located, the president Captain J. B. Turner named the station Wheaton in honor of the man who had so liberally come forward and met him open-handed."

This corresponds also with the Chicago, Northwestern Railway History as noted in their small publication(see Northwestern Early History publication).

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W. E. Gary.

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