

“Homer, Lockport Always Close.” *Lockport Free Press*. “Old Canal Days” Special, 15 June 1978.

### **Homer, Lockport always close**

*This is the latest in a series on the history of Lockport by John Lamb. Lamb, a professor of history at Lewis University, is president of the Illinois Canal Society. He is active in the Will County Historical Society and the Lockport Historical Preservation Council.*

Lockport and Homer Townships have always been closely connected. The two townships were once linked together under the general na

ever, the prairie did not last long; it was soon settled and plowed under to provide the rich farm land that made the township prosper.

After 1840 a new group arrived at Yankee Settlement. These were wealthy Scottish and English families who bought out many of the early Hoosier settlers. The result was a number of very prosperous farms in the township.

There was also some manufacturing. John Lane was making his inestimable steel prairie plow until his death in 1857. A saw mill was built on Spring Creek in 1838 or 1839. Charles M. Gray manufactured such early.

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