

*Olney Times*  
The "Cornerstone Laid"  
The grandest diversion ever seen in Olney

July 18, 1874 Laying of Cornerstone for  
Court house of Richland county

Hiram Barney, sen., a well to-do man from the State of Vermont, offered six acres, to which was added a donation by Thomas W. Lilly, a man from the state of Kentucky, of seven acres. *Olney Ill.*

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The Courthouse square is situated upon Barney's donation, which received the largest number of votes for the permanent county seat. The town is called "Olney," and was named by Hon. Aaron Shaw out of his respect to Nathan Olney, then a resident of Lawrence county, Ill.

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The First courthouse for the county was built in the years 1841-43, at a cost of \$3,020; was 40x40 feet, square, two stories high, of frame and boards. Asa H. Beard and Wm. H. Reed were the builders, and took their pay in connty orders to pay. Much of the material of which the house was made was sawed by hand. The old building was torn away to make room for the new one now in course of erection, and whose northeast basement corner stone receives among others the deposit of this paper. The new house now under contract and in course of erection is 65 feet north and south and 106 feet east and west; is three stories in hight; is in the style of the Greek Cross; is of stone and brick. Its architect is J. C. Cochrane, of the city Chicago, Illinois, a man of finished and polite manners and of excellent ability in his profession. The builders are Messrs. John Barlow and Gory Gaddis, two residents of the city of Olney, both of whom own and operate building factories. The price of construction of the building proper (without being furnished) is \$25,000.

Olney is situated upon the Indian Trace road, which is now Main street through the city. The road is the same one which was coursed and traveled from Bear Grass (now Louisville, Kentucky, on the Ohio river) to the Mississippi river at Kahokia, by the buffalo and Indians more than one hundred years ago.

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Gory was  
John Gaddis'  
older brother.