

HOUSTONIA MINIMA IN PEORIA COUNTY

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This paper reports the occurrence of *Houstonia minima* in Peoria County. This species is not listed in the Illinois State Natural History Survey's "Fieldbook of Illinois Wildflowers," published in 1936, and George Neville Jones in his "Flora of Illinois," published in 1945, cites only one instance of a collection in Knox County by Virginus H. Chase of Peoria. Britton and Brown in "Illustrated Flora of Northern United States and Canada," when giving habitat areas, mentions Illinois in parentheses followed by a question mark. The writer considers therefore that any record of its existence in Illinois should be of interest.

The species was found in full bloom, growing in thousands, on April 1, 1945, by Mr. and Mrs. George Schoenbeck, on the Edward Petty farm, located in Hollis township, section 8, on the west branch of LaMarsh Creek. This farm is twelve miles south of Peoria and about four miles west of route 24.

The plants grew in poor soil on a bald bluff overlooking LaMarsh Creek and grew so thick as to make a blue haze over the surface of the ground. The height was only 1 to 1½ inches. The area is a pasture.

The discovery was immediately reported to Dr. John Voss, Peoria botanist and flower photographer, and director of the Peoria Academy of Science, who made photographs; and to Virginus H. Chase, director of the botany section of Peoria Academy of Science, who was furnished specimens; also to the botany section of the State Academy of Science at the May meeting. This year, 1947, it first started to bloom April 24th, flowers being very scattered among the many plants.

Upon report of the discovery, April 1, 1945, it was learned that the species had been collected in fruit by Chase on May 15, 1933, from a lowland slope one mile east of the Petty farm and east of the older Crescent Mine, a location from which it has long since disappeared, he states.