PATHFINDERS

PIONEER

IN AN EARLY DAY

KROUT



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R. E. BANTA

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Crawfordsville, Ind.

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The Path-finders.

There is no stirring, romantic or tragic history connected with the early settlemnt of this county, that that of Vincenns, and the whole southern border of the state. The war of Revolution was a long since concluded: the War of 1812 was finished before the first white settler had invaded the primeval forests of what became Montgomery County. As was natural the first settlements in the North West Territory, of which Indiana was part, were made along navigable watercourses. For one reason, the grant furnished a rapid road for retreat; for another, they furnished food to the settler, in the fish which inhabited them, and the large and small game which inevitably must quench their thirst there.

Through this county passed the well known war trail to the Oui etanon willages, which, from those villages, continued on to the great trading post of Detroit. The French courier de-bois was famili ar with all its andian traces, he could thread his way by almost indistinguishable marks through the black, shadowy forests, he knew minutely the nameless streams which would lead his to the great highway, the Wabash river, on to the portage at Kekeongi, and yet he was not a settler. Vincenneus claimed a settlement of french traders as early as 1711, as there is no record to dispute it it the fact must stand. At what is now, the city of wort wayne was another French post, large and flourishing. Eva Even at the decadent village of Thorntown, French traders were located, under the aegis of Thorn the the Chief; also at #Strawtown, there was another trading post, where Straw another chief gave then kindly protection.

Through this county passed the rell known was trill etanon villages, which, from those villages continue, on to the great trading post of Detroit. The french coprier de buis wes famili or with all its radian traces, he could thread his way by shoos indistinguishable marks through the black shadowy forcets, he knew minutely the nameless atreams which would lead him to the great highway, the Wabsel river, on to the portage at keke sea a beside to a unconty .wellow a few use of sey inc .inne thems of french traders as early as 1711, as there is no record to discuse is it the fact must utend. At what is now the city of her wayer was amother weam't poet, large and flourishing. are berd fenor measured? to on they amore the area to plot of the cold of Thorn the the hieff thee at standard the contract the season port, where Street there thirs over the kinds protection.

In the year 1822 the State legislature fixed the boundries of Montgomery county, which included what later, made on the north Casy eass Carroll Clinton Tippecanoe. On the east it reched to Marion, south to parke and west to the Wabash. In the beginning there was but one township in the country, called Montgomery, but the population grew rapidly so that in 1824 Scott, Union and Wayne were one of the frat organized. Offiel as commissioner had part in this, and his two associates were James Blevins and John Mccullough. How they were elected could not be learned but they belonged to the class which is now vulgarly called Hustlers for the same afternoon of their election they held their first meeting, and chose John Yawter as Clerk of the County, this meeting was held in true pioneer fashion, in the open air. Their second meeting was held at the house of William Miller, the week of to Ruom of the nices from i Companies at it most ater to some so the extended tredement have good and and an extension there. autised by the skille injoin know mount of the state of the hill orpeates this will ego. to built his cabin and cleared, ages for corn. From the County was orrantzed he was one of the first commiscioners, and his signeture may yet be seen on the cardines docts. It is said that he was not entirely illiterate the of met we to in a fine bold hand, here ained here less than ota your at them alter of ever or allently on a shedow, leaving the utter two remisestings in the furch victorit any explanation. the comments determined, change his armor or share army are years of his soldning ore there we no settle one at C ville,

pres's broke of this county. Itam very sure that he came here in Feb. 1821 I think! the man that wrote that article you sent me is mistaken about Offi-Leld's age. I don't think he was over thirty when I knew him in 1821; 1841 would be twenty yrears after, which would make him about fifty years old when the writer stayed overnocht with him. This is about all a Remember about Mr Offild, as I was a boy, and my acquaintance with him nbut short?. "---

In 1821 the surveyors had but just gone through this county a virgin forest, a hunting ground for the savage, who must have looked in astonishment at the white man who had the themer ity to make herin a home utterly isolated from all his kind, except for a wife and five children. Offield brought with him three horses some cattle and hogs. He selected a site for his cabin at the mouth of the creek which bears his name, some 8 or 9 miles southwest of this town. It is said he was induced to make this choice because there was a small Indian village there, in habited by what tribe no one knows now. On the side of the hill opposite this will age he built his cabin and cleared a # 3 (Over) spot for corn. Then the County was organized he was one of the first commissioners, and his signature may yet be seen on the earliest deeds. It is said that be was not entirely illiterate millere to he signature is, in a fine bold hand, Hereamained here less than six years and then slipped away as silently as a shadow, leaving the other two Commissioners in the lurch without any explanation.

Where he went has neer been fuilly determined, though Mr Olhers claim he grent hi him of Johnson surmizsed that he went back to Tenn. A For the first few 11 11 1 1 1 27 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 3 2 2 3 4 years of his soujourn here there was no settlement at C-ville,

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The massacre of Pigeon Roost had taken place before the first white settler had found a home in Montgomery County. Silles County Thus first white settler is now conceded to have bee n a man named Offiel, as some call him, Offield as others. Accounts con flict in seme minor detailes concerning this man. One person describes him as a short, squat, dark, silent man. This last is indisputable, for the pioneer was not loquacious when every wind would carry to the ears of his foe the hated message of the present presence of the white man .. A second and of the two the more reliable, is the description furnished by the late conorable Arch when a boy frequent, for he Johnson, who saw Offile when he awas a boy, and lived in the same county. 36 says: " In the fall of \$1820 my father moved from Washingston County, this state, to what is now Morgan County, on white River four miles below the bluffs, and about 24 miles below Indpls., and stopped within a half a mile of Mr Offields. He (0) had raised a crop of corn that summer of 1820. I was at a corn husking at his house in the fall. I think Mr Offiel came from Tenn. I know not where he was born. He was a rather small, or medium sized man, rather slender built, about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches in height, would weigh about 150 lbs. -- sandy complexion with blue eyes; was a considerable of a hunter, loved backwoods life. I know nothing of his education, but he had some knowledge of thi ngs around him, for he traveled through the woods by the section limes which were freash in this country at that time. It was said of him that when he became confused in the woods he would butt his head against a tree until his senses would come to him. "(By way of explanation permit me to say that this confusion was March 1st 1823. It is said that Offield was the first white settler

can be considered and the contract of the cont . The state of the in a policy of the second seco in it is a second of the secon description of the state of the t lianguarda . of tomber to lor lorger and a company many of the earth of the foot of the earth of the present of the it in. A short in the stop of the stop liable is the lead in the funding of the last Johnson, who saw Offill the out of the line in same county. He says; " In the fall of also by for the same from washingrton County, this state, to what is now ... organ tell. ... on wite River four miles below the bluffs, and about "+ alles below Indple. and stopped within a half a mile of ilr officells. te (0) had relast a crop of corn that summer of 1820. I was at s corn weeking as his h cuse in the fall. I think Mr Offiel came from Tonn. I know not where he was born. He was a rather small or medium stred man, rather slender built, about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches in height, would weigh about 180 lbs. -- sandy complexion with blue eyest was a considerable of a hunter, leved backwoods life, I know meridan of his education, but he had some knowledge of this men second him, for he traveled through the woods by the continue limes which come from in the country at that them. Scor of about orb no courtness seems of near suits and he & to see only at over bloom among the River some a smaller heart and area. ser notaminos siris saris yes us se si mas nuissestino 20 yer 1).

a very servious thing and was dreaded by the pioneer who called it mazed or bewildered, it was not uncommon in a new country, where the woods and praries presented unvarying aspects for miles on miles and suddenly the most skilful pioneer would lose all sense of direction, a feeling of utter hopelessness and bewilderment would pissess him, sometimes it would clear from his brain as suddenly as it came; again it would remain for hours or days, with dire ful results, and it was a thing dreaded for there was no guarding against it) -- therfore Offield's was rather heroic treatment for this mental phaze, Toresume Mr Js letter, In the winter of 1 821 four men living close neighbors determined to leave White river on account of overmuch ague. My father, Thomas Johnson, Jubal Dewees, John Syler, and William Offield all left home in Teb 18% to hunt a location. Offield being a pioneer by nature, went ofalone, and settled in this county (Montg); the other three going communical t. Where Greencastle now stands, making his road as he traveled. " It seems that after he found his location he returned for his fami ly, for the narrative states that " he hired a young man by the name of Andrew Sigler son of the above mentioned John Syler, to car come with him when he would take the wagon back that he moved in. Syler was telling me about the trip only a few years ago. He said when they came to a steep hill Offield would cut down a small mail stree and make the butt fast to the hind part of the wagon & brake to go down hill, Mr Offield did not remain here very long until he went back to Tenn.; but as I see by the history of this County he was one of the first Commissioners that met March 1st 1823. It is said that Offield was the first white settle was

a lin on " light in the real time in the decime." to any allegate the second to the second of 11 CT:(1 C - 1 - 100 T- 1 - 211 . - 114 s', s', in the state of the sta grainst it) -- therfore officelds was rather to the circums and the this mental nizze, "lo esu e r l l " | four men living close neighbors des mind, and a second mind of on ecount of evermuch ague. / horas in .aun., " horas Dowoos, forn Sylor, and William Offield all left bo e i . b 15 21 to hint a location. Official being a pioneer by nature, yen, of one __nd mettled in this County (Montg); the other three going to were Greenesatte new etends, making his road as he traveled. " It seems that after he found his leastion he returned for his fami ly for the nerrotive etates that " he hired a young man by the name of Andrew Sigler son of the shove entioned John Syler, to ca dens is the who he would take the seron heek that he moved in. of the case of the Leme e svob sus histor history lift quest o us some yet? " " " refree and the state frest to the hand part of the vagon a be so a made will be the following the work of the work been writed as sent to see a fact the table to the table to the arenologian tanks of the are are grown the little action of the first that the time of the little wester

but by 1826 there was a decided boom on. Major Whitlock had been placed in Charge of the Land Office, and associated with him as Register was Judge Williamson Dunn. But before the advent of either William Miller, a Revolutionary soldier had arrived here, where he remained to the day of his death, which occurred in his 85th year in in 187

Major Whitlock came to this town from Vincennes having been appointed as to the charge of the Land Office here by President

Monroe, a personal friend, he was a nalive of V. g.nia. Williamson

Dunn was from and had been a Captain of Malitia, and lived

at Madison, teken a thriving town, previous to his coming here.

I have been informed that Maj Whitlock's title was purely complimentary.

Almost coincident with their arrival, these two men became what in premous 2 yrs ir mas a was then called Proprietors of the town, that is, they laid off a certain portion of the wilderness into town lots regularly surveyed, and in May 1823 the Commissioners fixed the price of these town lots, and William P. Ramey acted as agent, and was ordered to take no less than ten dollars for a lot 40 feet by 160. Mr Ramey also held the office of "Lister", now called sassessor., a desired se some and his salary was the gorgeous a m of three dollars a year. Now life began to take on something of furnally The forst Grand and Petit Juries of the county were ordeed at a to have been a ball your largest meeting of the commissioners June 28, 1823. At that time there and the bigs between the second were not enough taxpayers to fill the legally required number of MARKET STREET, SPINSTER, S jurors, who received a fee of 75 cts per da. The farse session held lasted one day and resulted in one indictment for assault

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and battery, and five terms later the accused was tried and found guilty and fined -- one cent! His name could not be learned.

James Stitt, a farmer, afterwards known as Judge, and one of my data with the laws of England, as well as our own statutes, was the first Treasures of Montgomery County. He was appointed March 1, 1823, and in the following November made his first report of revinue received, which was \$250/from the sale of lots.

John wilson was the first Clerk of Court from 1823 to 1827, the first Recorder was George Miller, and the first Sheriff was Saml.

D.Maxwell, appointed May 25rd 1823. Legal masters were not thoroughly organized this time, and the county commissioners had wide jurisdiction, and great power. Then they settled the price of a liquor license determining that in the new town of Cville it should be ten dollars, in the other parts of the county, \$5.

Whiskey and all kinsts of spitrits were sold in stores with all Symboliums of merchandise, and in grocery stores, it was thought no more a matter of reprosch to sell it thus than coalcil nowadays, but it caused the same train of disasters for its use caused the first murder in this county.

granted four lots for church purposes. One to the Methodists, the pre sent site of the handsome edifice known as the first Methodist chard, one to the Christian church, still held by them; one to the Catholics, located on North etreet; fourth to the Episcopalian body, of which Maj Whitlock and his family were communicants, situated on the spot where and the stood Brown & Watkins mill.

Tohn item 13. The former than the "rest of the product of the first tenders was become iller, or the "rest of entropy of this special this sime, or the count count this sime, or the count that the set but the mass of the first of the first set but the mass of the first of the count that the new town of will it should be tended to the count of the count of the set of the stores with all kinds of a rehandles, and in grocery stores, it was should be the set of represent to well it thus then could'd nowadays, note a matter of represent to well it thus then could'd nowadays, but it caused the set of represent to well it thus then could'd nowadays.

n return to the edge of Seets in Cville, the proprietors. The formation of the purposes, One to the Hethodists, the return to the fermions so the fermiodistriction of the Seeth of the See

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one lot was given for a school house, and one half of these town lots were held by the county, this was decided by giving one of I do the Remote the other all the even lots or all the odd numbered lots/ These lots were disposed of by auction, and on the 23rd of June 18-23 the sale was held the auctioneer being Wm P Ramey. The lot known as campbells corner at washington and Main sts. commanded the highest price, \$73. on it was erccted the tavern kept by Maj. Henry Ristine, The same day this auction was held the County Comcalled missioners held a special meeting, the object of which was to order the building of a Court House, to meet the demands of busi ness of the growing town, which had no rival within 40 miles. And the lot where Barnhill H.& Ps store now is, the first court house was built, whether this lot was bought us dunated common belearned. of it was exceeded a log building 26 feet long twenty ft. wide, and two stories high. The specifications demanded that the house be chinked and pointed good lime and sand, and that it should be completed by the 20th of may 1824. Eliakim Ashton was the successful bidder, his bid being the lowest, \$295.. His security was James Stitt, but owing to vexatious delays the building was not completed till the 24th of August/ 24.

Previous to the aquisition of the court house, court had been held in private houses, the first was held in William Millers cabin. The first rudge to hold court in the fine new count house house was Jacob Call, a self-made man, a soldier of 1812 and a Kentyck-lan. In his first term of judge-hip he was elected to congress and died in his first term in that body. The second judge was was a Mass, man named John R Porter, who presided over his extensive cir-

This event extended from Roderell 251 esting, clienth dorher ether bers orally interested Or tiener print, The or the contraction It seed to be and they will be To here so to cognition, and and I seem to see in with is a formal time of a company to military of basis il 'at ... 'thi low vas bournt o. Junaced cannot be i. of it vas erected a log building 28 feet long twenty for ride, and two stories high. The specifications demands that the sone he chinked and pointed egood line and sand, and . hat at should be completed by the 20th of may 1824. Eliakin Ashton see the successful bidder his bid being the leves. 200. . He security was Janou Stitt, but owing to veretions delays the building was not completed till the 24th of Au st... Previous to the aministion of their house entry has need held in private house, the first we held in Tillian illow eabin. The first radge to wild court in the fact, make res Jacob fell, a self-mais man, a self-in a little and ann the same of the state of the same of the s - in the creation and the same Manue, man seemed to be a long of the contract of the contract

In 1823 there seems to have been no physician located in C ville for Saml. Cox, one of the earliest school masters records the fact in that they had to go to Indianapolis for a doctor

In/824 we learn of two physicians , Thomas M Cuff and Magnus Holmes, about the same time the first lawyer arrived, providence P-vreek M Curry.. From this time it may be considered a well equipped frontier town, add life began to assume somewhat of a convencional aspec.. The first white child born in the town of C -ville doughter A mm meler was the late Mrs Shevlin; Hon James Wilson is accredited with I se Ga for marine Volendies 1 being the first boy born here. The first marriage was that off 331 Saml Maxwell and a Miss Cowan, and Mr Maxwell was compelled to go The fresh periode - made : 2, 10 Hall 10 to Indpls for his licensel. Now the town began to attract people to it from all parts of the state, the Whitewater valley sent the Cox family one of the first school masters, and John Beard also came from there, as well as the Hoovers, the later were quak 970

On leaving the Whitewater country for wrote in his journal thus;
"Tomorow we set out for Crawfordsville on Sugar river. We
expect to cross the White River by an old Indian trace which has
been widened into a rough wagon road by movers. Infa. St. awtown,
and take the wilderness road to Thorntown. Our ox-team moved
slowly along the narrow road, which wended through a vast primeval
forest, clothed in the aich dispery of autumn. Next day we reach
edicero creek and encamped there at an unextinguished campfire
where some person's had stayed the previous night. They had
killed a deer and dressed and used what they needed of it, and wih
commendable regard for their fellow travellers throught the

בותב, שו ניים ביו ביוצר ופתיבר ביו ע, סרטיון אפר and the property of the proper all the data property and all the state of t the little of moter size on tiller of an alet of be Loty of the section of the section of the Land of the Saul 'axwell and 'Los 'Coar, of the saul 'axwell and saul' s to Indpls for his licensel. . L. town norm to to it from all parts of the state, the whitevater vallet _ t the Cox family one of the first school masters, and John Heard also came from there as well as the !loovers, the late river flusk . 470

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"Tomo: or we set out" for Grewfordsville on Sugar river. We expect to erose the White River by an old Indian trace which has been widened into a rough wagen, read by movers, n.s. Stawtown, and the time the read we Thermtoon, Our ox test moved to the stawn that the uph a vest primeral three the stawn. Hert day we reach the stawn. Hert day we reach the stawn with a staw of prime at an architectural of prime reads. The stawn when the stawn of the stawn with the stawn of the s

wilderness they had salted and baked one side of the ribs of

the deer provents to leaving, and then had turned the other side of

to the fire to be properly cooked for the next emigrants who

found it might chance to pass. We were the lucky travelers who

found it. On the 29th of Oct. We struck the first house in 40

miles--Mr Wisehearts. At dark we concluded our journey by ar
riving in the midst of a snow storm at John Deweys about a mile

and a half east of C_ville." It is quite probable that this Dewy

was a stranger to the travelers but such was the wide generous

hospitality that they took everyone in and gave of their best.

According to this same Cox Cville was then the only town between T. Haute and Ft Wayne. Business was lively and he relates that Maj Ristine kept the tavern on the cor of Main and Washing ton. Jonathan Powers had a little grocery store. Smith had a store near the land office, and Isaac Elston had one Mnear the tavern; W Nicholson carried on a tannery, Scott and Mack had a cabinet shop; George Key was the village blacksnith. Hills had a mill on the south thank of Sugar creek. Clustred about the town din land now included mostly in the city's bounds were small communities, probably for mutual protection, for Indians were becoming troublesome West of the town was a small neighborhood composed of John Beard, Isaac Beeler, John, Isaac and Geo Miller, John Cox, John Kellen, John Stitt, this last named person owned a mill west of town 2 miles South west of the village near Fallen Timber lived Cm ne cowan see Scott and Purbridge. East of town resided Beeler McCul lough, Whitlock, Catterlin and John Dewey, still further east, Jacob peeler and Judge Stitt. Many of these names still familiar in W & County.

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According to his same nox min to the only to only between T Haute and bt wayne. Gained to the Hill to be between T that Haj Ristine kept the tave m of the dur of the during ton. . Jonathan Powers had a littl grocer sture. Rit 1 at 1 court Micholson carried on a tennery, Scott and Mack and restinct chop; Coores Key vas the villers blacks ith. Hills had a mill on the south whenk of surer ereck. Clustred about the town in land now i ejuded wortly in the eitys bounds verere small communities, pro ally for study protoction for indiana were becaulag trouble wit , fare color John foure and com Hiller John Cox John Kellen the last last last organizate sail to to to a mile will ver of the tiles over talks Ti her lived Cm ne covan oce sign , manufact and seeker testian and a seeker testian testian the nulses of wall, years married like , our of most and introoped which . William of the or the contract the second of the the second the contract of the second seco

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goods to the town on a flatboat which landed at the fo of Washing ton st, that he brought the first Norway rats to them ry, and that these soon exterminated the small native blue rat; certain it is that they were all gone in a year.

Smikerel Samil Cox tells of a fish trap owned by John Stitt. He had a pond attached to his mill and one night they took if om sugar creek 900 fish, pike, salmon, bass, and perch; some of the largest salmon measured from two to four feet in length and weighed from 12 to 25 pounds. They carried them by the skiff-load and threw the into the mill-pond, which was fed by springs. The customer went to the pond made his own selection, the fish was secured for him and paid for according to size and Weight. This pond kept the community, all the year round. These early settlers did not lack for game, deer, bear, squirrels were overly abundant. on the M. Felchers, The Courter record the account of a plague of squirrels in the Wes prairie. Grey squirrels appeared very suddenly in such numbers that the ? fields were overrun, the woods swarming with them. At first they was were regarded as a sort of a joke but soon as their destructive ness came home to the people, It put another face on the matter. They abandoned guns and took to clube slaying scores of them with appreciably decreasing their number, or stapping their depredations, they threatened to destroy the fruits of the fields and the crops in the graneries/ then they as suddenly disappeared. In these years of '24 7-25 there seems to have been no regularly organized denominational church, though intermittantly

services were held when some circuit-rider chanced to come

The endust or cordell prewhat 23. un a Cabin but by Thay. mintered by the dentring of and nas W theme anded a or fromte The cabon was not plovoell, the cong ation pat on the species + and in the state of th Lite . Liling to the seasoner. The customer not bead had his over selection, the fish was secured for bi all or seconding to size and eith. This pond hept the deel you lib erelises wires early southers did not lack for rame, deer bear squirrels were everly shundant. There is on record the account of a plague of squirmels in the Wes prairie. Grey squirrels appeared very suddenly in such numbers that the ! fields were oversun the woods swaming with them. At first the vers remarked as a sort of a joke but some as their servictive ness own tome to the people it put mother fice on the wester. arth and to wood sixty of the class to the same and the control of appreciably degreesing their master, or chapter their appreciation tions, they threatened to destroy the frants of the thetas and the erega in the granultual their may be sufficiently disapprent and In these years of 'us was sound assess the hors been no rates larly organized done instituted theel, there in medicionally also of desart with stooming from new bind over accives

ect preached occasionally; and the primative Baptists also held meetings before the division of that body into old and new, and they are crdited with havinfg built the first house of worship in the town. The Methodists began to take steps toward organization, and the Presbyterians also. This latter leligious body ever even then were agitating creating a sentiment in favor of a col-

lege in the near future, a dream not realized form ore than a deade. However the first regularly instituted religious gathering was set on foot by Judge Dunn, who started a sunday school, he having a large family of eleven children. Judge Dunn built the first large house in town, a two story hewed-log house, with a brick kitchen just without the main building. Ma Ben Ristine as moulder presided over the brick yard, two of Judge Dunns sons were off bearers, while a third, a little fellow too small to carry over half a dozen brick at a time, supplied the mason. This man, was brought from Jefferson county to build the kitchen for there seems to have been no brickmason yet in the town. It may not be amiss to quote the description of this forest home by one of the boys who dwelt there, a son of the Judge : "I remember" Said he, when our family first took shelter under its roof. We came to it through the wilderness, literally cutting a way through the woods for our wagons. It was in beautiful October weather. The grand old forest trees filled the yard and to the infinite delight of us boys the ground was covered with walnuts and hickory nuts. Many a night in that house have I heard the wolves in the woods howling around. This home looked very nice to my eyes when

Oc. .i; colse the constant of the colsection of First of statement of the statement of t the rest of the second of the rest of the second order in the second of the state of the second degrae. 1. ver e. first reministration in the first fi was set of the same short of the set sew having a large family of eleven children. The Hill sail: the first large house in town a two story hevel log out byick kitchen just without the main building. We Bun Ristane procided over the brick yard, two of Judge Dunns sons were off overers, while a third. a little ? ellow too small to carry over half a desen brick at a time, supplied the mason. This man was brought from Jefferson county to build the kitchen for there seems to have been no brick each yet in the town. It may not be entue to quete the description of this forest home by one of the boys who dwelt trone, a son of the Judge.: "I remember" att he remember our faily first took shelter under its roof. We comments the ment are discovered theorethy succine a very through ad' . reciser recess felispes at mer if . amone veryor restrer. The or article of or the art will be the turbinte to - stold but as miles with the or the water and a stold to joing the of ni neviou of theed I aved out the ni stain a took path to

winds howling aminds. This has leaved were no my eyes when

both were young. After it was weatherboarded and painted white and hade a large green yard about it there was no place so lovely in all that region. " Yet in this house it is said that the first death in the community took place, a visitor from Mayslick a man named Helbrook:

It is strange that wirtually from the same

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THE PATHFINDERS

(A Historical Sketch of the Early History of Montgomery County, Indiana)

bу

CAROLINE BROWN

(Caroline V. Krout)

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There is no stirring, romantic or tragic history connected, the early settlement of this County, comparable to that of Vincennes, and the whole southern border of the state. The war of Revolution was long since concluded; the War of 1812 was finished before the first white settler had invaded the primeval forests of what became Montgomery County. As was natural the first settlements in the Northwest Territory, of which Indiana was part, were made along navigable watercourses. For one reason, these provided a rapid road for retreat; for another, they furnished food to the settler, in the fish that inhabited them, and the large and small game which inevitably must quench their thirst there.

Through this county passed the well known war trail to the Ouietanon towns which, from those villages, continued on to the great trading post of Detroit. The French courier-de-bois was familiar with all its Indian traces, he could thread his way by almost indistinguishable marks through the black, shadowy forests, he knew minutely the nameless streams which would lead to the great highway, the Wabash River, on to the portage at Kekeongi, and yet he was not a settler. Vincennes claimed a settlement of French traders as early as 1711, as there is no record to dispute it the fact must stand. At a point where now stands the city of Fort Wayne was another French post, large and flourishing. Even at the decadent village of Thorntown, French traders were located, under the aegis of Thorn the Chief; also at Strawtown north of Mooresville there was a trading post, where Straw, another chief gave them kindly protection.

In the year 1822 the State legislature fixed the boundaries of Montgomery County, which included what later made on the north Cass, Carroll, Clinton and Tippecanoe. On the east it reached to Marion, south to Parke and west to the Wabash. In the beginning there was but one township in the county, called Montgomery, but the population grew rapidly so that in 1824 Scott, Union and Wayne were organized. Offiel as one of the first commissioners had part in this, and his two associates were James Blevins and John McCullough. How they were elected could not be learned but they belonged to the class which is now yulgarly called "Hustlers" for the same afternoon of their election they held their first meeting, and chose John Vawter as Clerk of the County, this meeting was held in true pioneer fashion, in the open air. Their second meeting was held at the house of William Miller of this county. It is very probable that he came here in February 1821. I think the man who wrote that article you sent me is mistaken about Offield's age. I don't think he was over thirty when I knew him in 1821; 1841 would be twenty years after, which would make him about fifty years old when the writer stayed overnight with him. This is about all I remember about Mr. Offield, as I was a boy, and my acquaintance with him but short."

In 1821 the surveyors had but just gone through this county, a virgin forest, a hunting ground for the savage, who must have looked in astonishment at the intrepid white man who had the temerity to make herein a home utterly isolated from all his kind, except for a wife and five children. Offield brought with him three horses, some cattle and hogs. He selected a site for his cabin at the mouth of the creek which still bears his name, some eight or nine miles southwest of this town. It is said that he



was induced to make this choice of location because there was a small Indian village there, inhabited by what tribe no one knows now. On the side of the hill opposite this village he built his cabin and cleared a spot for corn. It is said that Offield was not entirely illiterate and his signature may yet be seen on the earliest deeds written in a fine bold hand. He remained in this county less than six years and then slipped away as silently as a shadow, leaving the other two commissioners in the lurch without any explanation.

Where he went has never been fully determined, though Mr. Johnson surmised that he returned to Tennessee. Others claim he went to the far west beyond the Mississippi. For the first few years of his sojourn here there was no settlement at C-ville.

That first white settler of this county is now conceded to have been a man named Offiel, or as some call him, Offield. Accounts conflict in minor details concerning this man. One person describes him as a short, squat, dark, silent man. This last is indisputable, for the pioneer was not loquacious when every wind would carry to the ears of his savage foe the hated message of the presence of the white man. A second, and of the two the more reliable, is the description furnished by the late Honorable Arch Johnson, who when a boy saw Offiel frequently, for he lived in the same county. Mr. Johnson says: "In the fall of 1820 my father moved from Washington County, this state, to what is now Morgan County, on White River four miles below the bluffs, and about 24 miles below Indianapolis, and stopped within a half a mile of Mr. Offield's. He (O) had raised a crop of corn that summer of 1820. I was at a corn-husking at his house in the fall. I think Mr. Offiel came from Tennessess. I know not where he was born. He was a rather small, or medium sized man, rather slender built, about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches in height, would weigh about 150 pounds, sandy complexion with blue eyes; was a considerable of a hunter, loved backwoods life. I know nothing of his education, but he had some knowledge of things around him, for he traveled through the woods by the section lines which were fresh in this country at that time. It was said of him that when he became confused in the woods he would butt his head against a tree until his senses would come to him. "(By way of explanation permit me to say that this confusion was a very serious thing and was dreaded by the pioneer who called it amazed or bewildered," it was not uncommon in a new country where there were no land marks, where the woods and prairies presented unvarying sameness aspects for miles on miles and suddenly the most skilful pioneer would lose all sense of direction, a feeling of utter hopelessness and bewilderment would possess him, sometimes it would clear from his brain as suddenly as it came; again it would remain for hours or days, with direful results, and it was a thing dreaded for there was no guarding against it) -- therefore Offield's was rather heroic treatment for this mental phaze. To resume Mr. I's letter, "In the winter of 1821 four men living close neighbors determined to leave White River on account of overmuch ague. My father, Thomas Johnson, Jubal Dewees, John Syler, and William Offield all left home in February, 1821, to hunt a location. Offield being a pioneer by nature, went off alone and settled in this County (Montgomery); the other three going to where Greencastle now stands, Offield making his road as he traveled." It seems that after he found his location he returned for his family, for the narrative states that "he hired a young man by the name of Andrew Sigler, son of the above mentioned John Syler, to come with him when he would take the wagon back that he moved in. Syler was telling me about the trip only a few years ago. He said when they came to a steep hill Offield would cut down a small tree and make the butt fast to the hind part of the wagon as a brake to go down hill. Mr. Offield did not remain here very long until he went back to Tennessee; but as I see by the history of this County he was one of the



first commissioners that met March 1st, 1823. It is said that Offield was the first white settler but by 1826 there was a decided boom on. Major Whitlock had been placed in charge of the Land Office in 1823, and associated with him as Register was Judge Williamson Dunn. But before the advent of either, William Miller, a Revolutionary soldier had arrived here, where he remained to the day of his death, which occurred in his 85th year in 187?

Major Whitlock came to this town from Vincennes having been appointed as Receiver of the Land Office here by President Monroe, a personal friend. He was a native of Virginia. Williamson Dunn had been a Captain of Mounted Rangers, and lived at Madison, then a thriving town, previous to his coming here.

Almost coincident with their arrival, these two men became what was then called "Proprietors" of the town, in previous two years it was a hamlet, that is, they laid off a certain portion of the wilderness into town lots regularly surveyed, and in May 1823 the Commissioners fixed the price of these town lots, and William P. Ramey acted as agent, and was ordered to take no less than ten dollars for a lot 40 feet by 160. Mr. Ramey also held the office of "Lister," now called assessor, and his salary was the sum of three dollars a year.

The first Grand and Petit Juries of the county were ordered at a meeting of the commissioners June 28, 1823. At that time there were not enough taxpayers to fill the legally required number of jurors, who received a fee of 75 cents per day. The first session held lasted one day and resulted in one indictment for assault and battery, and five terms later the accused was tried and found guilty and fined--one cent! His name could not be learned.

James Stitt, a farmer, afterwards known as Judge, and one of whose decisions regarding was incorporated into the laws of England, as well as our own statutes, was the first Treasurer of Montgomery County. He was appointed March 1, 1823, and in the following November made his first report of revenue received, which was \$250 from the sale of lots.

John Wilson was the first Clerk of Court from 1823 to 1827, the first Recorder was George, who lived to nearly 100 years old, and the first Sheriff was Samuel D. Maxwell, appointed May 23rd, 1823. Legal matters were not thoroughly organized at this time, and the county commissioners had wide jurisdiction, and great power. Then they settled the price of liquor license determining that in the new town of Cville it should be ten dollars, in the other parts of the county, five dollars. Whisky and all kinds of spirits were sold in general stores with all sorts of merchandise, and in grocery stores, it was thought no more a matter of reproach to sell it thus than kerosene nowadays, but it brought the same train of disasters for its use caused the first murder in this county.

To return to the sale of lots in Cville, the proprietors granted four lots free for church purposes. One to the Methodists, the present site of the handsome edifice known as the First Methodist Church; one to the Christian church, still held by them; one to the Catholics, located on North Street; the fourth to the Episcopalian body, of which Major Whitlock and his family were communicants, situated on the spot where one stood Brown & Watkins mill. One lot was given for a school house, and one half of all these town lots were held by the county, either all the even numbered lots or all the odd numbered lots. These lots were disposed of by auction, and on the 23rd of June 1823 the sale was held, the auctioneer being William P. Ramey. The lot known as "Campbell's corner" at Washington and Main streets commanded the highest price,



\$73. On it was erected the tavern kept by Major Henry Ristine. The same day this auction was held the County Commissioners called a special meeting, the object of which was to order the building of a Court House, to meet the demands of the business of the growing town, which had no rival within 40 miles. On the lot where Barnhill H. & Ps store now is, the first court house was built. It was a log house 26 feet long, twenty feet wide, and two stories high. The specifications demanded that the house be chinked and pointed with good lime and sand, and that it should be completed by the 20th of May 1824. Eliakim Ashton was the successful bidder, his bid being the lowest, \$295. His security was James Stitt. But owing to vexatious delays the building was not completed till the 24th of August 1824.

Previous to the erection of the court house, court had been held in private houses, the first was held in William Miller's cabin. The first Judge to hold court in the fine new log court house was Jacob Call, a self-made man, a soldier of 1812 and a Kentuckian. During his first term he was elected to congress and died in his first term in that body. The second judge was a Massachusetts man named John R. Porter, who presided over his extensive circuit 12 years. He was succeeded by Judge Isaac Naylor, 3rd judge. This circuit extended from Rockville to Laporte, and the journey was made on horseback on any of _______. Court day was a gala day, and when court set everyone, whether personally interested or not, made it a point of be present. It was circus and opera, all in one, to the pioneer. In 1823 there seems to have been no physician located in Cville for Samuel Cox, one of the earliest school masters, records the fact in his diary that they had to go to Indianapolis for a doctor.

In 1824 we learn of two physicians, Thomas M. Curry and Magnus Holmes, about the same time the first lawyer arrived, Providence M. Curry. From this time Cville may be considered a well equipped frontier town, and life began to assume somewhat of a conventional aspect. The first white child born in the town of Cville was the late Mrs. Shevlin, daughter of William Miller; Honorable James Wilson is accredited with being the first boy born here, son of a pioneer neighbor. The first marriage was that of Samuel Maxwell and a Miss Cowan, and Mr. Maxwell was compelled to go to Indianapolis for his license. The first school master was Holbrook. Now the town began to attract people to it from all parts of the state, the Whitewater valley sent the Cox family among whom was one of the first school masters, and John Beard also came from there, as well as the Hoovers.

On leaving the Whitewater country Cox wrote of the journey in his journal thus: "Tomorrow we set out for Crawfordsville on Sugar River. We expect to cross the White River by an old Indian trace which has been widened into a rough wagon road by movers, via Strawtown, and take the wilderness road to Thorntown. Our ox-team moved slowly along the narrow road, which wended through a vast primeval forest, clothed in the rich drapery of autumn. Next day we reached Cicero Creek and encamped there at an unextinguished campfire where some persons had stayed the previous night. They had killed a deer and dressed and used what they needed of it, and with commendable regard for their fellow travelers through the wilderness they had salted and baked one side of the ribs of the deer previous to leaving, and then had turned the other side to the fire to be properly cooked for the next emigrants who might chance to pass. We were the lucky travelers who found it. On the 29th of October we struck the first house in 40 miles--Mr. Wiseheart's. At dark we concluded our journey by arriving in the midst of a snow storm at John Dewey's about a mile and a half east of Cville." It is quite probable that this Dewey was a stranger to the travelers but such was the wide generous hospitality



of the pioneer that they took everyone in and gave of their best.

According to this same Cox Cville was then the only town between Terre Haute and Fort Wayne. Business was lively and he relates that Major Henry Ristine kept the tavern on the corner of Main and Washington, Jonathan Powers had a little grocery store. One Smith had a store near the land office, and Isaac Elston had one near the tavern; Nicholson carried on a tannery, Scott and Mack had a cabinet shop; George Key was the village blacksmith. Hills had a mill on the south bank of Sugar Creek. Clustered about the town on land now included mostly in the city's bounds were small rural communities, probably for mutual protection, for Indians were becoming troublesome. West of the town was a small neighborhood composed of John Beard, Isaac Beeler, John, Isaac and George Miller, John Cox, John Kellen, John Stitt, this last named person owned a mill west of town. Two miles southwest of the village near Fallen Timber lived Crane, Cowan, Scott and Burbridge. East of town resided Beeler, McCullough, Whitlock, Catterlin and John Dewey, still further east, Jacob Beeler and Judge Stitt, who owned a saw mill, W. P. Ramey, the widow Smith and the Elmores. Mrs. Smith was the sister of Ray Whitlock's wife. Tachaseet Gapen had a little tan vard near Stitt's mill. On the north side of Sugar Creek lived one Miller, Henry and Robert Nicholson, Samuel Brown, Farlow and Harshbarger. According to Cox hardly one half dozen more families lived in town and county. It has been said that when Judge Burbridge conveyed his household goods to the town on a flatboat via Wabash and Sugar Creek, which landed at the foot of Washington Street, that he brought the first Norway rats to the country, and that these soon exterminated the small native blue rat; certain it is that the native rats were all gone in a year.

Sanford Cox tells of a fish trap owned by John Stitt. He had a pond attached to his mill and in one night they took from Sugar Creek 900 fish, pike, salmon, bass, and perch; some of the largest salmon measured from two to four feet in length and weighed from 12 to 25 pounds. They carried them by the skiff-load and threw them into this mill-pond, which was fed by springs. The customer went to the pond, made his own selection, the fish was secured for him and paid for according to size and weight. This pond kept the community in fish all the year round.

These early settlers did not lack for game, deer, bear, squirrels were overly abundant. There is on record the account of a plague of squirrels on the north section of the county. Grey squirrels appeared very suddenly in such numbers that the fields were over run, the woods swarming with them. At first they were regarded as a sort of a joke but soon their destructiveness came home to the people and put another face on the matter. They abandoned guns and took to clubs slaying scores of them with appreciably decreasing their number, or checking their depredations, which threatened to destroy the fruits of the fields and the crops in the graneries. Then they suddenly disappeared.

In the years of '24-25 there seems to have been no regularly organized denominational church, though intermittantly services were held when some circuit-rider chanced to come into the village. Rev. Hackaliah Vredenburg of the Methodist sect preached occasionally; and the primative Baptists also held meetings before the division of that body into "old and new," and they are credited with having built the first house of worship in the town. The Methodists began to take steps toward organization, and the Presbyterians also. This latter religious body even then was creating a sentiment in favor of a college in the near future, a dream not realized for more than a decade. However the first regularly instituted religious gathering was set on foot by Judge Dunn, who started a



Sunday School, he having a large family of eleven children. Judge Dunn built the first big house in town, 1822, a two story hewed-log house, with a brick kitchen just without the main building. Ben Ristine presided over the brick yard as moulder, two of Judge Dunn's sons were "off bearers," while a third, a little fellow too small to carry over half a dozen brick at a time, supplied the mason. This man, James Park, was brought from Jefferson County to build the kitchen for there seems to have been no brickmason yet in the town. It may not be amiss to quote the description of this forest home by one of the boys who dwelt there. "I remember," said he, "when our family first took shelter under its roof. We came to it through the wilderness, literally cutting a way through the woods for our wagons. It was in beautiful October weather. The grand old forest trees filled the yard and to the infinite delight of us boys the ground was covered with walnuts and hickory nuts. Many a night in that house have I heard the wolves in woods howling around. This home looked very nice to my eyes when both were young. After it was weatherboarded and painted white and had a large green yard about it there was no place so lovely in all that region." Yet in this house, it is said, that the first death in the community took place, a visitor from Mayslick, Kentucky, a man named Boyd.

It is strange that then the town was supplied with water from virtually the same source as it is now, the Whitlock spring, which still flows abundantly in the Whitlock hollow, and it was this which induced the Major to secure the spot for a home. From this source the whole village got water. The usual manner of securing a supply was to borrow--with or without his knowledge, as it chanced--Major Ristine's old horse "Pomp," attach him to a sled and haul the water home in a barrel. The only kind of bread to be had was corn, and the little mill which ground it was situated at the point where the stream that now flows from the waterworks, empties into Sugar Creek.

It seems incredible that in those days the Wabash was navigable for boats as far as the Ouietanon towns, and that Sugar Creek was commonly used for batteauxs, which were tied up at the foot of Washington Street.

About 1824 or 5 Isaac Elston went back east and brought to the rude frontier town, from a refined and settled home, Quaker Hill, New York, a bride. The late Mrs. Elisabeth Binford, then a young miss, gave me an account of the ball held in honor of the event at the tavern. The bride, a mere girl of 18 or 19, was dressed in bridal finery of silk, of the latest fashion, very striking among the plain garb of the pioneer women, and she thought she had never seen a more beautiful creature, with her jet black hair, dark eyes and red cheeks. She knew nothing of pioneer life and Mrs. B. said she pitied her for the hardships before her, but well and bravely she bore them. Mrs. Binford and her sisters were living with Major Whitlock at this time, his wife being their aunt. They too came from Vincennes, possibly when Major brought his family in 1823. It was then that the Major brought the historical sideboard, owned by two presidents, one of whom was Harrison, and also a fine oil portrait of Touissant Dubois, so closely identified with Vincennes. Among the rude belongings of other households these articles must have shone transcenently.

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It was not until 1832 that the Presbyterians began to consider seriously the erection of a college in Cville, and in the fall of 1833 a primary department was actually organized and Caleb Mills, a young man from New Hampshire was placed in charge. The charter was granted by the Legislature of the winter of '33 and '34. A building was erected at a point north of the town in a beautiful section, but and a tract of 40 acres bought, and a brick building three stories was erected and rooms, library, and the remainder housed the few students, no less than 40. It was now a recognized college and a president was secured in the person of Elihu Baldwin, the pastor of the 7th Presbyterian church of New York City, who assumed the office in December 1834. Associated with him were Edmund O. Hovey, Professor Rhetoric and Belles Lettres; Caleb Mills, professor of Languages; John S. Thompson, Professor of Mathematics; Robert C. Gregory, Treasurer. President Baldwin died six years later, a young man of brilliant parts; Professor Mills and Hovey remained with the institution through life, and such self abnegation, and devotion is seldom shown by men as was theirs for their beloved college. With the founding of the college the pioneer stage of her passed; the pioneers themselves may be said to have found the path!







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Bookseller & Publisher

Crawfordsville, Ind.

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In 1769, according to an old dotument the white population of Indiana gives the names of nine heads of families at Ft Miami--af terwards of Waynwe --: 12 at Ouiotenon, and 66 at Vincennes, women and children added to this list would swell the list to some hun dreds, pesides these permanent residents there was a floating population of traders, couriers coming and going, and soldiers Ezy shifting from post to post. After the Revolution land grants to soldiers stimulated the settlement of Indiana in the counties adjacent of the Ohoio river, but when the settlement became too great thick the natural pioneers pushed northward into the unfamiliar parts of the state to make new homes, undeterred by the fact that the Indians were Amplacably hostile. The beautiful White Water valley was the first valley settled after this fringe on the hio river border, and it came about from a romantic tragic circum stance, the long captivity of two boys among the Indians.

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THE RESERVE TO SERVE THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IN COL

Nothwithstanding the lives of the pioneer were laborious beyond our power of copprehension, that they were even in peril from Indians, the managed to have recreation of a sort suited to the spirit of the day. The tremendous task of clearing a virgin forest was turned into merrymaking. Neighbors for miles around would take part in the #logrolling and tree burning apart and parcel oft; then wives and children joined together in preparation of the feast, freh + which as far as wild game went, was fir for a royal banquet. The bebread was the inevitable corn bread, wild fruits of the forest were turned, either natural or dried, sugar was supplied from the forest tree, It is said that the white man learned to make maple sugar from the Indians; For tea sassafrass was in demand.

Hunting, of course, was the finest amusement of all, and regularly, when the deer had , passed through the velvet, parties) an late sulmon y early sorielle tall of the Sti. was forth to obtain the winter's supply of venison, which was dried, and formed the staple of their winters diet, . They hunted the fur bearing animals for their pelts in the winter months, and while escarcelay any were eaten their skins were the medium of barter and exchange when the furtrades made their rounds. Powder & those med water the could of their enes and only thus

Woman who could shoot an Indian through a peep hole in a cabin door Would dance all night, with a par ther who perhaps only a few days before had brained and scalped a warrior. The fiddler was the most popular man in the settlement.

Then too Dancing was in high favor at a very early day.

A wedding was greeted with boisterous joy, the occasion of a frolic for old and young. An anetient chronicle gives the following amusing details of a pioneer bridal. : CAR SECTION AND

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luting - tale docules of a tonoor bridge. &

WHEN PARTY AND PERSONS IN

"The men were dressed in leather breeches, hunting shirts of describe, and moccasins. Their guns, like the pour were always wik them. The women wore linsey petticoats, linsey or linen shortgowns (the ancestor of the present tea jacket), coarse shoes and stockings, handkerchiedves and buckskin half-handers. If they possessed any little piece of Jewelry, it was an heirloom carried with infinite solicitude from the faroff home in Virginia, Penn. or North Carolina. The way to the home of the bride was by "horse paths"; and, as now, every fock had his Jill, with whom he was particularly noisy and demonstrative. They proceeded in double file where there were no obstructions, and were continu-Muse un Is hereider miles deal + ally joined by neighbors from ten miles or more, until there was quite an imposing cavalcade, Even among this primitive company was found the "cut up", who as now diversified the tedium of the Journey to the nearest squires, where these earliest marriages needformy breaked; needs must be performed, by rough jokes, one of the favorite tokes was to form an ambuscade, fire off the precious powder, make a big smoke and much confusion, headis terrifying the more timid the imagined they were beset by indians. If the squire happened to dwell in the immediate vicinity of the br. ide. a great dinner followed immediately upon the ceremony, and if table, knives were scarce the male guests obligingly used their scalping knives, for then the fork was considered a dangerous impliment. with no internal before on Feasting over, dancing began and lasted all night, If a couple bear dunces became tired out, "cutting o out?" was resorted to, they signalled. intimated as mucht to a waiting couple who at once took their

places wothou/stopping the quadrille, which was par excellence, 1) Scolch + Snicht the dance of the pioneer. Reel and 1455 very solo marton

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the dance of 17 plon P. hel the your with marthmounes

few there were swho could dance them. Often if not in times of stress, the the feasting and dancing was kept up several days. This was followed by he settling of the young couple, in their woown cabin, which at the time of the coremony was in the form of living trees. The men would quit dancing to cut young the trees for the walls, and clapboards for the roof, and puncheons for the floors. It generally took three days to complete the statucture, mud—chimney and all. The fourth day comme the house—warming, equally as vigorously jolly an occasion as the nuptial—day, and yet these pioneer women seem to have felt little or no ill effect from this strenuous gaiety.

Our pioneer youths were athletes from necessity. As a matter of course they learned to use with incredible skill fire arms, and even the savage's weapons, bow and arrow, before they had reached thei / first decade. It was no fiction that threy could kill a squirrel by shooting it in the eye. They could also "bark a squirrel not so skilful a feat as the former perhaps , but rath er a curious onre. The hunter after sighting his game high on the branch of a tree, would shoot, not at the squirrel but at the bark directly beneath his body, and hit so unerringly that the animal, by concussion, would be thrown up in the air several feet, then fall to the ground dead with not a wound upon it. A favorite accomplishment of the pioneer youth was to learn the call and cry of every beast and bird in the forest by imitation. It was, too, very practical knowledge for the Indiana used these wild calls to warn each other when on forays against the whites, who turned this to train

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Our pioneer youths were athletes from necessity. As a ler of course they learned to use with incredible skill fire am s, and even the everew weapon, bow and arrow, before they had marched their first decade. It was no fiction that thye could kill a squirrel by chooting it in the eye. They could also "bark a equirrel not so satisful a feet so the former perhaps , but rath or a surface once. The hunter after sinking his game high on the breast of a true, would about, mot at the aquirrel but it the bars discouly beneath his bady, and hit so uncertagly that the union by consumming would be thrown up in the air several feet then I'll to the ground dead with not a wound upon it. A fewerists sensoplished to the pioneer years was to learn the call we care of every been the the free break by inite ion, it we too ony puttern fact to the nations word the will eills to warn outh other when on foreys against the the same the same to the same of the

who turned it to thei own advantage, By imitating the wild turkey ery they could obtain food by responding, and thus bring the saves age in range of his deadly flintlock. Then too this faculyy was of in glanny frod ule bind imitating the call of the wild turkey and other game birds which never learned the deadly deceit of the white man, to Histon from the Indians own destruction. Theys could swim like ducks, and they learned the notherd agrt from the Indians of swimming under water , not ruffling the surface, so that many an escape was made in this way from Surges their foes. Running jumping wrestling were of course as commin to to them as to boys now, but instead of on cinder paths amid the plaudit of crowds, this aglity was used in running the gauntlet, leaping the brush to escape the burning at the stake, wrestling for life with a greased naked savage.

In spite of the wild almost savage life toof the pioneer; they winderpartes shurdes had a sense of what was due them, and rude ideas of moral ity. Curiously enough, they hated the contemptible sins of scandal-mongering and tattling, which were met with utter disbelief and contempt. Courage was taken as a matter of course, and if a man lost his life, it was no more than anyone of them risked. Iff a man failed to go, in his turn, to seout, which took from five to forty miles from the settlement, -- he was treat ed with content, and strong epithets were used to tell their opinique of him. Petty thievery was repaid with rather too overfull a measure, If one man stole a companions cake from the ashes, they named the culprit "Bread-rounds", or they would bawl to eachother "Who stole the cake from the sashes" with annoying persistency. "The an swer would be John Smith, thats true and no lie! " -rom which

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In epite of the wild elmost savene life toof the ploneer t... I had a sense of what was due them, and rude ideas of morality (urfously enough, they hated the contemptible sins of seandel-memering and testiing, which were met with utter discondist and contempt. (where we to ense a reter of course halfs and contempt. (where we to ense a reter of course and if a man less his life it was no more than anyone of them risked, its a man failed to in his summ to accust, which took the from five or failed to in his summ to accust, which took of what five or fair sides are used to estimate the context of him. The state of the same than the context of him. The same was repaid with rather to overfull a mean the culprit and according to the context of the cont

Till may there it became a meanines is and.

If the theft was serious they assembled a jury, and more took

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testimony condended the wrongdoor to what they called

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"Moses' punishment" that is, the man was beaten with forty stripes and the sometimes to this was added sentence of banishment from the set
tlement. A milder from of the same piun ishment was called the

"United States Flag" because the victim only received 13 stripes,

well laid on with a whip. They were not with out the great Amer
ican sense of humor.

To call a man a liar was equivilent to a challenge, and if for an any reason, the aggressor was unable to fight, he must find a friend to represent him. They occasionally, in very extreme cases they resorted to Lynch law among themselves.

at the close of the warr of 1812 when life on the frontier became safer because the English ceased to employ the savage to ravage the frontier, with rewards for every scalp of man woman or child brought in, friendlier relations were adopted by the Indians, who by this time began to sell their lands to the government thereby giving an immense impetus to emmigration, life gradually be came conventional and imperatively uninteresting, pioneer.sm

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To call a man a liar was equivilent to a challenge, and if for m any reason the appressor was unable to fight, he must find a friend to represent him. They occasionally, in very extrane cases resorted to Lynch law among themselves.

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The little river known as the White-water, which rises in Luciuna Randolph County, flows south entirely through Wayne, Fayette and Franklin and traverses the north-east corner of Dearborn, where it enters Mamilton County, Ohio, and empties into the Miami, gives name to one of the most beautiful valleys in the West. Its picturesque scenes are the delight of Richmond's school of artists. and a theme for her poets, and the experiences which lead to its pioneer settlement are dramatic enough for the pen of the novel-

When Harrodsburg was the most considerable town of Northern Kentucky, and Louisville was only a handful of log cabins cluster_ ed around a block-house, on a the stormy morning of February 11. 1781 Irvin Hinton, a married man with a family, left the settlement, with a four horse-team and wagon to obtain supplies, for the little community at Harrodsburg, Richard Rue, aged twenty, and George Holman, aged sixteen, accompanied him as guards. A thick snow was falling, the lads were walking carelessly, one before and one behind the wagon, when one suggested that they should empty their guns lest the powder becoming damp would clog the cuns and the give trouble in case they should need their weapons. This howevert they did not anticipatefor Indians never went on the war-path inwinter. They had proceeded harely eight miles and had reached a cans-brake, they f discharged their guns. It seemed to act as a signal, for instantly there sprang from a sinkhole in the swamp a band of savages which sucrounded them, lead by the infamous Simon Girty, a white renegade. Rue raised his weapon to fire, remem-

bered it was empty, and let it fall.

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or man statement of the contract of the contra viringky, and Tourin't describe the contract of the contract o ed around a block-house, on a tor tore 1731 Invin Manton, a married wan vit a factor. ment with a four horse team and wanon to obtain small n little community , at Marrodsburg, Richard Sue, and Lyent, ... George 'lolman, ared sixteen, accompanied him as guards. A thin and was falling, the lads were valking carelessly, one before one beind the ranon, when one surrested that they should empty described and sold allow damp and appropriate the same aleds mive trouble in case they should need their weapons. This hovever's they did not anticipatefor indiana never vent on the var-path in vinter. They and proceed beenly circle miles and had reached a ore break, where I discharge the guns. It seems to act and all the localities of the age of the state of the sta a buri of save os they nurround a time, look by the infamous Sinon nimy a white renegle. He rate a his comon to fire, reman-. I 3 st s f me yaq or . i i q d

Girty commanded them to surrender or die; there was no choice, resistance folly, and they submitted. Soon they were bound with straps from the harness, on before the other, and were hurried across the Ohio into that part of the North-west Territory now known as Indiana. The horses were appropriated by Girty and three chief warriors. Rue was lead by a Shawnee, Holman by a shawnee a pelaware buck, while a nother Shawnee lead Hinton. Simon Ginheaded ty rode the remaining animal, and lead the march, which was not at a walk: they trotted as rapidly as they could through the heavy ou foot snow, the wretched prisoners keeping up as best they could. They me made no halt till they had accomplished twenty miles through the snowbound wilderness, where the forest was so thick that to leave the trace one was lost. It was late at nightwehen they halted and fearing parsuit they did not dare to light a fire. Girty and his warriors held a parley as to whether they should strike for the Piankashaw village on the Wabash, opposite Vincennes, or push on at once to Wa-puc-ca-nat-ta on the Auglaize (now the site of Wapakoneta, 0.). They finaally decided _ to throw off persufers . _ to make a pretense of marching toward Vincennes, and then to cha change their course for the White-water country. The second night they came to a halt after a weary day for the wretched beneraled with ap. of whites who were now famished, and exfagged to the last degree, and but benuned with cold, yet there was no fire built this second night. There was no possible hope of escape for when they lay down on the ground to sleep, each of the whites was placed between two savages, and fastened to them in such a manner that that any

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any movement would be felt, and who had orders in case of surbrain prise x to dispatch the men prisoners.

Girty, who had been captured in early childhood, and was more as a company savage than a white man, seldom uttered a word and that only in the Delaware tongue, kept steady watch upon the prisoners, and once observing a flash of understa comprehension flash across Rue's face at one of his speeches, questioned him who ther he and his companions had even fought against the Indians. Rue hesitated to reply but on being threatened with Girty's tomahawk he acknowledged that he had been in three or four forays against them. He had overheard and understood enough to know that their lives were he about 1 men in danger, and knowing that the Savages admired boldness and had no mercy on the timid. He was just returning from a spring with a kettle of water he had been, ordered to get, when this consulta tion between certy and his band took place. He set down the water, and boldly seated himself on the log beside Simon. Girty became enraged at his audacity and cried, while brandishing his hatchet: "You played hell there, didn't you? -- I've a mini to split your skull with this hatchet! " How ever , he reversed the weapon and struck Rue applow on the head with the handle.

For the three following days where march was a rapid, and find - ing they were not persued, firty ordered the speed relaxed. Then the

three whites abandoned hope, they realized they were doomed to a hideous captivity among brutal savages. They had now reached the White-river country, and changed their course from east to north-east, cutting across the White-water valley, then unknown to the white pioneers, a virgin forest, with a tangle of streams,

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the state of the s and a series of the control of the c or a little and a section at the action at the prime and the state of the a decision and a constant of the area of t to by . I have an an income to the busines in rolly to in danger, and knowing that the danger auginer but mes. no mercy on the timid. He was just at theman when an arm to be a kettle of water he had been, ordered to get when the could be tion between certy and his band took place, ie bet down the har and boldly seased himself on the log beside Simon. Girty became onrared at his audooity and oried, while brandishing his hanches: Tinks quot there of the e e 't -- tour skin to spit tour skin i wit this hatches!" How ever of , weverwed the weapon and struck Sue syblev on the head with the hendle.

Fur the three fullowing day a habore memen was a rapid, and fid inc the three shies not persued sirty endered the apost relexed. Thun the three whitees the luned hope, they realized they were duened to a hiddents especialty in the last new reached the hiddents especialty in the last new reached the white star course from east to north east, rusting as the letter value value, then unknown to the rists of execute.

wooded hills and vales.

Wa-puc-ca-nat-ta

Their objective point, Wa-pa-ko-ne-ta, seems to have been one

of the most important Indian towns, a place where many chiefs

gathered, When they were Awithin a day's march of it Girty sent a

runner to announce their coming, and they were met by a deputa
tion of savagee when two or three miles from the village, who

escorted them into the form.

Girty immediately entered into a parley with the chief and his braves, and they decided to have the whites to furnish them W rare sport by running the gauntlet. When told of their fate the men despaired of ever accomplishing it reduced in strength as the by their privations. The object of this brutal pastime was not to kill the prisoner but to enjoy his torture. Within a few hours after their arrival at the village, the prisoners benheld the savages drawn up in a long line for two hundred yards down the bath from the bouncil house, which was to be the goal for the runners. The savages flourgished clubs and kneves, with which to beat and slash the prisoner, and great was the ridicule if he mos merculeady or decided any savage missed his simplifie only grace allowed the victim way, 11 he fell that he could not be struck if he folly till on his feet again. Winton was selected Siret, and many were the blows and gashes he received which were greeted by screams and yells of delight. But 😓 he reached the soal bruised and bleeding. Lastration Liverel Rue follewed, and being being young and strong was not so worn

Rue followed, and being being young and strong was not so Aworn as Hinton so that he managed to doge most of the blows, and entirely outran the Indian who persued him between the lines (as no did the others)

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and the state of t not for the contract of the co by their privations. The object of the but 1 posti to kill the prisoner but to enjoy his conture. Virting the hours after their arrival at the village the prisoners benneld the saveres drawn up in a long line for two hundred yards down to ath from the council house, which was to be the goal for the unners. The saveres flouretshed slubs and knowes, with which to best and slesh the prisoner, and great was the ridicule if any sever missiv ois bewolfs every gree oil to wak a wave way that he cold not be struck if he fell, till on his feet andin. White was selected that and many vere the blove and gashes ite r coived while two ground by servens and yells of delight. But a he read the real between and blooding.

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as himme on the same of the domest of the blows, and entitle to the same the same

brandishing a tomahawk, to urge him on in the race, as he did the others also.

But when the stxteen-year-old stripling's time came, Holman to boldly told Ginty that it was unfait to subject him to such a trial when he was so reduced from hunger and the long march; well he knew he had no strength left to meet such an ordeal.

A powwow followed and to make the ordeal as contemptable as possitive the place of the ble boys and squaws with knoves and clubs took the place of the warriors, and he was followed by a savage with a long whip instead of a tombawk. When he was fairly started on the race it was such an exquisite farce that even the Sachem smiled faintly. The poor be boy managed to reach the council house alive.

A great feast followeds the prisoners were fed the told at the dominant would follow upon their guards that a second would follow upon their fate would be determined.

In due course the council was reached and speech after speech was made until the council ended in an angry quarrel, in which no conclusion was reached, and the prisoners were informed that their sentence could not be determined till the chiefs and warriors who lived on the Scioto and the Big Miami could arrive.

Hinton, the oldest and wisest of the prisoners, forboded the utmost ill from this postponement:. We thought of his wife and the children and determination to escape tok possesion of him. He contrived to whisper his intention to the two lads, telling them that the hope of rejoining his helpless family was the only reason for deserting them in their peril. We well know he would suffer the in a terrible form if reptacen but he strongly suspected

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A great feast sullowed; the prisoners were fed and will at the same time by their guards that a feast council would follow upon it in which their face would be determined.

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Tinten the oldest and wiscest of the prisoners forboded the state of his rice and chi state this paste mesents, is thought of his wife and chi chi if we det finally it seems to the paste of his. Is con that to white the final time of the state of the only readers for descript the final time of the state of the state of desth in a terrible functiff rests on but he strongly autrested

serve runaway prisoners!"

placed

his fate would be death in any case. Hoping that something in their favor might come to pass in the grand council, the boys begge ged him to give up his design, but they could not prevail on him, and though he spoke of it no more, but a few nights later "Red-head", as the savages called him, was missing. He was followed at once & by an infuriated band of bucks who retook him on the Chillicothe trail. He implored them to end his life at once 2 But this was far from their intention. He was doomed to the stake, and was tortured burned through a whole night, with a slow fire, the Indians meantime dancing the scalp dance about him. Rue and Holman were so placed Transferre that they could see all that took place, and when his body at last sank to the ground, his scalp was quickly cut from his head, dangled in their faces, and they were brutally taunted :-"Can you smell fire on the scalp of your friend? Tthey were asked !" "We cooked him for the wolves to breakfast on! This is the way we

Very soon after this occurs nee a deputation of Detroit braves came into the village, who informed them that there was a call for the general gathering of the tribes at Detroit; their object was to plan for a concerted attack on the frontier; and they immediately started on the march, taking Rue and Holman with them.

At a point on the Maumee not far from the site of the city of To ledo, they were joined by the Chillocothe and Mad river Indians; and to furnish amusement for the assembled bands they determined that Rue and Holman should run the gauntlet, and afterwarder and afterwards a conclude the postponed trial when they reached in the Other factors.

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"Can you enail fire on the scalp of your friend?" to be avoid,
"We cooked him for the wolves to breakfast on! This is the way serve runeway prisoners!"

Very even after this econe nee a deputation of Detroit braves came into the willage, who informed then that there was a call for the memoral gathering of the tribes at Detroit; their object was to plan for a concerted attack on the frontier; and they imnediately econe on the march, taking fine and Melman with them. At a point on the Mannes not far from the wite of the city of To it a point on the Mannes not far from the wite of the city of To it a point on the Mannes not far from the wite of the city of To it are march to the wite of the city of To it are for a combined bands they determined the first march of the city of the continual the first march of the continual the first march of the continual the continual of the contin

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As usual scouts were sent forward to announce their coming, and the grat pleasure in store for them, so that whent they reached the town two long lines of savages were ready for the victims. Each mas Rue ran first receiving many a cruel blow. Finally his persu again competted a rose the facultet. er with the tomahawk overtook him and gave him such a tremendous brow that he staggered and almost fell, but managed to regain foot ing and speed onward. Near at hand was part of the brush fece that enclosed the village, he darked from the line and leaped it followed by his pursuer. He pretended to fall falt upon his back and the buck stood over him commanding to rise enforcing his order by flourishing a knife over his head. He ordeed him by signs to run again, and retired a few paces. Rue motioned him to leap the fence first, which, strangely enough, the savage did. The rule was if the parened coyuld reach the council house he won wime the race and the ordeal was ended., Lying apparently in utter exhaustion, Rue sudienly leaped to his feet, leaped the brush for co the Sugrante with a bound, reached the council house before his persuer recov ered from his surprise. This trick so pleased the savages, that they shricked with delight, and yelled in derision at his persuer, Wolman on account of his youth and enfected condition was let off easily. The usual feast, the scalp dance and the council in the and of Holombio true sintere our one council house followed Well the lade, knew that their fate hunghe much want of the Render in the balance and that they might share the fets of Hinton, yet = Misserses they and e no sign of fear but bore is coolly and bravely. For from one corner of the council house. The sachen sat in the midst of the circle of braves, and he was the the first to grise and address them; one after another followed

י אול בכור יי דו ווי בי ווידור עי פטוקדי, החלבי Resolution of the first of the state of the first of the state of the Learner of the first that the state of the s בי יוא סייטא לו אל פייטור יינו אל פיי - 1 for a contract of the state encios - 1 retarel ... in: 1 retare back an ''r buck at a o' ' nim coll. Hillm 'o' '' e niorel nr signs to run again, and retired a few paces. To work out tim to leap the fence first, which, strangely endich, the savare lid. I rule was if the persued coyuld reach the council house he vor the race and the orderl was ended. Lying apparently in utter exhaustion, Rue ou lealy losped to his feet leape d the brush vith a bound reselved the council house before his persuer recov ored from his surprise. This trick so pleased the savages, that they shrinked with delicht , and yelled in derision at his persuer The sel was notified before the true wif to shoose no neafelf enesty, The ward fores, the wealp dense and the council in the council house followed. Well the leds know that their house hung in the belance and that they mint chare the face of tinton, yet t they ande no stem of fear but bore it evelly and bravely,; for they rory mostaling from one corner of the council boune, d: nev of the covered to ederate of to such a the was of bevolid terions total one treat one ther thillowed

med her!

and the discussion grew so warm that the Sachem could hardly keep order. When a vote was taken the prisoners waw only too plainly from the pleased countenances of the savage that is was against them!, Gerty lost no time in confirming their suspicion, a told them that they would be bourned at the stake thanight. Preparations were set on foot at once, the inferior braves were podered put to gathering twigs and abranches and brush, of which they made the sinister rings, placing a green stake it the middle of ce-Rue + Halman each to test their fortitude to the utmost the tade were competled to look on, and they knew that when twilight fell would com mence their torture. At set of sun their hands and faces were blackened, according to the savage custom, and as they watched the afterglow fade from the sky they prayed God-mightily for deliver ance, of that the grant them the power to meet their awful fate with firmness and courage tfor the greater the display of their agony the smore exquisite the pleasure of the savage. A number of the higher chiefs still lingered about the councilhouse and suddenly angry words and great excitement arose among A the newsolal them. At last one from aroug them, of high and noble countenance, approached the youths and spoke to their guards in the Mongo tong tout. He then took Holman by the hand, cut the bark ropes that bound ordered him to Rue, had the black washed from his face and hands, then, and laying his hand upon his head, said:

"I adopt you as my son to fill the place of one I have lately buried, you are now a kinsman of Logan, the white-man's friend, as he has been called, but who has lately proven himself to be a

ILT. If a compact of the state of the kec, oncr. mar no a turn rainma a contra मार्गारी: किया के का मार्गा मार्गा मार्गा करें किया के किया है के किया है किया है किया है किया है कि प्रमुख and her time! Terty lost no the in confirme that surficien, E the start the night be burned at the start the night. פיירקמרינוניה אין בין וד בססק של יחבר, יו בותל הוטד מיייט עפיים put to - ' ping twir of gbr nebus and brush, of a leh orev ade " sintster incs, plact a mount care in a million of ade. each, so that fortitude to the utmost the last of cape led to look on, and the knew that her till out can mence that torture. At a tof oun to it same and force were blackened according to the savare custom, and as they atched he afterglow fade from the sky they prayed God mightily for deliver ance, of that he grant them the power to meet their awful fate with firmness and courage; for the greater the display of their spony the more expulsite the pleasure of the savage. I council a state of the state of the state of the secure A house and suidenly untry words and great exeitement arose shong thme. At lest one from mone them , of him and noble countenance, apprecised the yesthe and spoke to their guards in the Mongo tongo be then tick below by the hand, out the bark repes that bound him to have, but to black washed from his face and hands, then, total field and the head, said alive!

"I dept to the place of one I have lately less of one I have lately lately proved himself to be a

terrible avenger of the wrongs inflicted upon him by the bloody Cresap and his men.

Gerty acted as his interpreter, and his disappointment was properhaps greater than any of the savages.

Holman's joy was turned to grief when he saw that like clemency

was not to be extended to his companion, and he felt that free

into our

don escape was worth nothing if he were compelled to witness the

forture of his friend. Twilight had come and he beheld two savages

ipproachizufrichdseconapader such harrowing fate rejoiced heart

Africal Rue, who rejoiced heartily in his friends good-fortune, even thought

himself stared a hideous death in the face. Hope died hard in

himself stared a hideous death in the face. Hope died hard in his young soul, and even when he was being lead to the circle of brushwood and bound to the stake he did not give up the hope of deliverance. Meantime a disturbance among the bands but therease ad to a conoral fight seemed about to terminate into a general fight, tomahawks and knives were flourished menacingly, amid a babel of angry and voices. The fagget was 11 alight and ready to apply to the brush-heap in the hand of Rue's guard, when a young Shawnee brave sprang into the circle of brush and with his own kn ife cut the bands that bound the to the stake, and the fierce protests of one fection and the exultant shouts of the other.

The chief boldly demanded that water be brought and that the black be washed from Rues face and hands, and he be re-clothed. It was done, and the bold Shannee addressed the savages, in substance, as follows:

rest of his men.

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foliate for the country that it that I well element. entered to it anion, but of a first were negative to the contribution of the contr to the of his initial Table 1. The cavares seems multiple and an about slove rebounder buildes or the Rue, No rejoid d bear ily in it friends and Corting, even though himself stared a bide no leath 1. * 1. Pace. lope died hard in his young soul and even when he was being lead to the circle of brushwood and bound to the stake he aid not give go the hope or deliverance, Meantime a disturbance among the bands bad and to terminate into a peneral state into a peneral finht, comeheure and knives were flourished menacingly, amid a bas of sagry simule volues. The fagge to a said the said ready to apply to the brush heap in the hand of Rue's guard, when e young Shermee brave opranig into the circle of bruch and with his own in ife out the bands that bound Rue to the stake, suid the flores protests of one feeten end the exultant shouts of the oth .70

The eller boldly designed that were be brought and that the black be writed from Buse free this hands, and he be re-clothed. It was the navages, in the course, in clothes, or highest

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"I take this youth to be my brother in the place of one I lately lost. I loved that brother well, I will love this one too. My old mother will be glad when I tell her that I have brought her a son in place of the one departed. We want no more victims. The burning of Red-head' ought to satisfy us. These men do not merit such a cruel fate. I would rather die myself than see this adopted brother burnt at the stake!"

of the me +, es mercy This act of was not kindly received b on the part of many, who clamored loudly against it, but they had a rude regard for the The walica vote of the majority, and they #had to abide by it. But it introen con Murch duced so much of discord among the different tribes that instead Touther of bands of continuing on to Detroit the, some returned to Wa-puc-can-nat-Titors ta, the Mississinewa, and the Wabash towns. In the dispersal of these hands Rue and Holman were separated. Rue was taken east-Rechon ward and spent two years in this region; the third and last year of his captivity was passed at Detroit. So well acquainted The greatle was a c did he become with this region now eastern Indiana and western Ohio, traversing it over and over agian with war-parties and hunting parties that after the lapse of half a century he could desars describe it perfectly. He was never left alone, nor given a chance of escape, but he was treted as well as any of the younger braves in portant who had his honors, to win. There was an hig trading house at Detroit where many tribes met to barter their roots barks , and - for them in H

peltries, for beads, amunition arms and food, worst of all which whiskey. At such times these bands indulged in revels and carousals, As a matter of course difficulties arose. On one occasion an Indian lost a purse containing money to the value of ninety and little dollars in silver. This caused great excitement, accusations.

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the state of the s vote of "to a little to the total to the tot duced so much of alsome amount in all the tells and of continuing on to Detroit we, some return to V - mean- q ta, the Mississinews, and the Wabash towns. It is dispute these bands Rue and Holman were separated. Rue vas taken tustevard and apent two years in this region, the third and last year of his esptivity was pased at Detroit. So well as justified did he become with this region new essiern Indians and western Obio, treversing it ever and ever agian with war parties and hunt ing parties that after the lapse of helf a century be could desert seribe it perfectly. It was never left alone, nor given a chance of course but he was tretted as well as eny of the younger braves who had his howeve so win. There was an high treding house at been it mand that the nest to harter their roots barks , and pitrie, or boots witten and food, moret of all which opposed the eferes of he fight and a series and coroner

notation of the state of the st trained to outer wit or your antichating or and said cellat as collars in diver. The complet rest eacher accuration .

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happened to be there was called in to declare the thief. He solemnly spread a deer-skin on the ground, hairy side down, then he drew from his helt a bag of pure sand which he emptied on the skin, this he spread out evenly over the surface with a magic slender wand, the crowd meantime watching breathlessly. Then the Sooth-sayer looked fixedly at the sand for some moments, with no results. He muttered the words of a spell, said slowly: "I see the thief and the stolen treasure."

Immediately there were loud demands for the name of the thief and that he tell where he was. But the prophet was wise and

and that he tell where he was. But the prophet was wise and shrewdly laid the blame on the a member of a tribe not represented there, and declared that he had run off with it.

Rue, and two other white prisoners, witnessed this, and determined if possible to learn from the wizard the condition of their own friends and kindred in the far-off settlement across the Ohio, at the first private opportunity. This came in a few days, and the same performance with the sand and deer-skin was gone through with.

After staring steadily at the sand the wizard declared that he saw members of Rue's family walking abjout a door-yard, he gave their number, their sex, their ages, and described their looks so accurately that Rue was convinced of the truth of the vision.

Then the prophet looked up at them and said: "You all intend to make your escape, and you will do it soon!" His eyes fell to the continued sand again and he said as if reading from it, " "You will meet with many trials and hardships in passing through the lands of hostile tribes. You will almost starve, and when ready to give a

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all hope of finding game help will come when least expected. I see a reale clearly a wild animal taken as game, which I cant clearly see, as it is small. After that reyou will find plenty of game and safe ly reach your homes!

The prisoners strongly denied any intention of *scaping, yet they did not fail to impress upon the prophet that, as they had paid hims for his 'reading' he was bound in honor not to divulge it to others. And strangely enough, the wizard did not reveal it, possibly through some superstitious fear of meddling with the decision s of the Fates. The prisoners drew such encourage ment from this prophecy that they at once began to make definite plans for escape, a hope long held and many times thwarted. It is posssible that after so long an association with the prisoners, they were not so carefully guarded at this time, for evening shortles This sand - reading one night hat long after they contrived to slip off into the wilderness, and the peritous journey was begun. They travelled the 1 the fera ? whole night and hid in a swamp the first day. Their food was soon exhausted, and they had to depend upon such small game, as or club 1. they could eatch, for they dared not use their guns; then the first part of the wizard's prediction began to come true, they were well nigh famished. But they pressed on southward without the dread of being lost, thanks to Rue's knowledge of the region. The third day found them so weak from hanger that they could not travel, and Rue in despair determined to go forth with his gun and find food , for without it they must die in the wilder ness. He spent most of the day without finding anything that

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or the way of the contract of and the state of t the state of the s the contract of the contract o the deficiency of the ates, "Toping the contract of ment from this prophery that nite plans for escape, a hope long '.el. and a delication and It is possible that after so long an association it prisoners, they were not so carefully guarded at this it. . . . one nimit not long after they contrived to slip off into the wilderness and the perious journey was begun. They travelled the whole night and hid in a every the first day. Their food was soon exhausted, and they had to depen" upon such moall rame as they call satch, for they dared not me their muns then the first part of the wisewa's prediction began to come true, they successive brevers on account years and defail of rain flow ever the deed of being lest trans to his's knowledge of the region. To this de mond to so west from himse that they could or t will, and all descript decorated to me forth with him mabliv not of all rank mars at smarphs not , but this has any seds gelderen gantentt einerte gen in beine eine eine

would satisfy hunger, not even a blue-jay or a wood-pecker. He had had discovered streams, which he knew must flow into the Wabash, but he culd not catch fish without the means to do it. He returned empty handed and despairing to the camp. One of his companions former said: "Let me try my luck, or, rather, want of luck!"

He set out and after an hour returned with a three-pronged buck, and when he threw it upon the ground the words of the prophet instantly came to mind--"It is a male".

Although savages thickly inhabited this region they were not recognized as whites, for they were so completely disgised by dress, mannne r and even the percuilar Indian gate, which they had perfectly acquired during long captivity. Nor did they have further trouble to find food. It took them twenty days, after they left Detroit, to reach a point on the Ohio river, about fifty miles above the falls. Here thinking they were at the end of their troubles, they built a small raft on which to cross over to gentucky, but in mid-stream the current was so fierce that it tore the frail vessel apart, threw them into the water, and they swam shore destitute of everything but one gun and a small amount of amunition. They set off through the forest for Harrodsburg, and a small amount underwent another short period of privation, before they at last safely reached it.

Rue was now twenty-three years old, and had neither seen nor heard anything of Holman since they separated in the Indian camp where they had barely escaped death. A little later he married a relative of Tolman's, but of what degree could not be learned.

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All on recognized as whites for the confidence of the confidence o

The values term -three years old, and had neither seen nor situated and the findish empty of the findish empty of the findish empty of the findish empty of the findish of

Immediately on their separation Holman had been taken to Wa-puc cainat-ta where he was again subjected to a trial for life by the council, but again fortune favored him, for the majority of the votes were against burning him at the stake. During the three years of his captivity he witnessed many such atrocities, though Therefore he seemes to have never suffered any specially hardh treatment, considering he was the captive of savages. About the last half of his captivity there was an entire cessation of hostilities against the frontiersmen, for the reason that the savages were physically unfit, and had used up all their supplies, so that in order here the weekles a to recoup both, they were obliged to gather barks and roots and to obtain peltries for exchange at the trading houses of the trading Holman, who was now a little more than nineteen years old, seems to have entirely won the good graces of the savages; for when he surge sted that if they send him together with an Indian companion, to the falls of the Ohio he could get all the needful from a rich uncle supplies for the asking they suspected no ulterior design, and actually let him go accompanied by a young brave.

when they struck the Ohio a few miles above Louisville they found general George Clark station ed opposite, and swam the river and remained all night with him. He gave the General the details of the hard tase of the Indians, and he at once authorized him to proffer the I ndians from their stores what they might demand as his (Holman's) ransom. The offer was accepted and consisted of powder, salt, bright handkerchiefes, and other such trinkets as the Indians coveted.

with the first term of the fir the contract of the contract o A LONG TO THE STATE OF THE STAT age to the state of the state o produced the state of the state for the first terms of the contract of the form of the ly unfit, and last week up all ' i lick, so ' a' are cru' to recoup both, they were obits or our serve area rule and to obtain peltries for exchange at the tradition has es Holman, who was now a little more than ninet . I care old seemed to have entirely ron the good graces of the savages; for the he surer sted that is they send him together with an Indian com parties to the falls of the Ohio he could get all the needful surplies for the saking they suspected no ulterior design, and cetually lot his me eccompanied by a young breve.

When they struck the Ohie a few miles above louisville they found describ decree Clerk atation of epposite and awas the river on remain deal might with him. In favo the Geberal the detail of the hard one of the Indiana, and he at once authorized him proffer the Indiana for their steres what they dight do him the Indiana for exercs what they dight do the the Indiana. The offer was seen ted and committed if rolling the hands residence and other such tells of the other such

together with

The next day Holman, and, his companion, resumed his journey, and in due time reached the home of Edward Holman where he was greatly overjoyed and surprised to Learn that Rue had reached there only three days before. It was indeed dstrange that after almost three years and a half of captivity in different parts of the North West Territory, prisoners of different they should have escaped at almost the same time.

In the course of time the two young men married and settled down to a quiet life

Their captivity ended about 1784, and, depite the great risk they ran, they joined Clark in war against some fof the very tribs Ahoral Comparts would they had hassociated with so long, recapture in their case could mean nothing but instant and merciless torture.

After peace settled upon the fromtier the two young men married at and lived quietly in in Woodford and Henry Counties in Kentucky for almost a quarter of a century, when they men were again streed with the desire for wandering, and a new home in a less crowded district. Accordingly they set out on a journey "West" as it was . They wandered about in Illinois, and Indiana territory aunclessly

when Rue recalling the beautiful Whitewater valley, lead them to it and they he with his companions, Holman, Macoy and Plunt made a selection of forest land for their future homes in the same No had accompaned them after exclosing Commo section. Holman left his two young sons, Wiliam and Joseph, in charge, after they had erected their cabine, while he and Rue returned to Lentucky for their families. This was late in the autumn of 1804, and in the winter, early in \$205, they and their households, together with two other families, those of Thomas McCoy

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Their captivit; end of 1785. If, cplt out the tree they rem, they joined clark in ver or int. con ouf to verteb they had associated with so long, see product in with most nothing but instant and merciless terture.

After peace settled upon the frontier the two years of the desired and lived quietly in in woodford and Henry Counties in Kentucker for almost a quarter of a century, when the men were again at and with the desire for wandering, and a new home in a less crowaed district. Accordingly they set out on a journey "West" as it was ealled.

They wandered about in Illinois and Indiana territory,

when he recalling the besutiful Whiteverer valley, lead than to it am they he with his companions. Nohman, Neffer and Flunt made a selection of forces land for their future benes in the same martio. The an left his two volum and, Willen and Joseph, in comme, after they had emetal their centus, while he and Rue retorned to pattern they had emetal their centus, while he and Rue retorned to pattern for this failtes. This was late in the samual to interest the failtes, this was late in the samual to the finite, when it is the samual column and the failtes, the form had the samual columns of the failtes, the failtes, these of Thomas MeCoy

v and a man named Bluntset out for thegnew home in the forest, following buffalo traces where they could and cutting a way where no road existed, they endured storms and cold but finally reached their new homes to find the Holman boys, enjoying pioneer life. Mc Coy and Blunt located near them. This tiny settlement was about two miles south of Richmond, Indina, and it was the first authentic settlement in the White Water Valley. We dated h. 1 /mc Rue and Holman remained on this a same section of land the redevelopement mainder of their lives, and they became a factor in the settlement and advanceme nt of this beautiful region. They helped to es tablish the first Baptist church in the valley, which was perhaps Portes con! the oldest church in eastern Indiana., Rue reared a large family, mostly girls; and, strangely, his companion was the father of a great family of boys. Rues health was so impaired by the hardships of captivity that for the last twenty-five years of his life he was a great sufferer from rheumatism. But Holman, whose treatment was more tender at the hands of the savages, seems to have Bustained suffered no had results from his captivity for he lived to the great age of 99 years, 3 months, and 13 days, dying the the 24th of May, 1859, on the old farm where he had dwelt 54 \mathscr{P} for many years after they settled in the Whitewater valley, and peace was fully restored, the Indians whom they called their "kin" made them yearly visits, and they would sit talking over old times by the hour in a patois of Indian and English.

Tut, Joseph was a member of the first Constitutional Convention which

Holman's some grew to prominence in their respective callings. Joe

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Rue und 'lobern restand or 'hi vocata factor in each mainder of lair lives, and the board factor in each mainder of lair lives, and the board factor.

Leadish the first Eaptist church in the unity, with was paragrated the coldest church in eastern Indians. Rue restant lare family, mostly girls; and, strangely, his companion was the first family of boys. Rues health was so impaired by the hardships from the last twenty-five years of his life he was a rest sufferer frum thousation. But Yolman, whose treatment was more tender at the hands of the saveges, soems to have suffered no had results from his captivity for he lived to the suffered no had results from his captivity for he lived to the suffered no had results from his captivity for he lived to the suffered no had results from his captivity for he lived to the suffered of 90 years. Smonths, and 18 days, dying the the 24th of say.

Wer many years after they settled in the Thitewater valley, and perce was fully restored, the Indians whom they estiled their "kin" made them yearly visits, and they sould sit talking over old times by the hours in a pateix of Indian and English.

This have the common of the common to their respective callings. Justicians and common common common to their respective callings.

Neith as a term of the Constitutional Convention which

which was held in 1816, and represented his county in the Legislature. Jesse D. Holman was the first Judge of the first Circuit at
Court in Wayne County, which was instituted in February 1811, and
held in the house of Richard Rue. Another son, William, one of
the lads who had been left in charge of the cabin, seems to have
become a Methodist, for he was for many years a presiding elder,
, and became a settled minister in Louisv ille Kentucky. Still and
ther son, Washington, represented Miami County in the State Legist
lature.

In 1806 the Friends from Pennsylvania and North Carolina

penetrated into the valley and it was not many years before the

region

whole valley was thickly populated. But to Rue and Holman

must be given (the f crdit of the first permanent settlment of this

the lovely valley of the Whitewater.

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IN AN EARLY DAY

(A Story of life in the Old Northwest Territory, the Indian Captivity of Rue, Holman and Hinton, etc.)

by

CAROLINE BROWN

(Caroline V. Krout)

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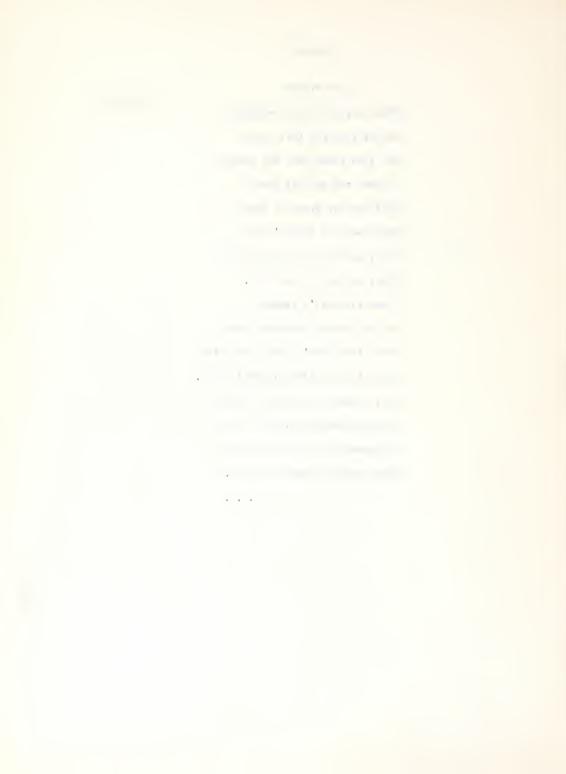
A COLINE I CON

(Garoline V. Erou)

The Pioneer

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Where are the sturdy woodsmen Who battled for this land. And trod these hoar old forests. A brave and gallant band? They knew no dread of danger When rose the Indian's yell; Right gallantly they struggled. Right gallantly they fell. From Allegheny's summits To the farthest western shore, These brave men's bones are lying Where they perished in their gore. Their bones were left to whiten The spot where they were slain, And were ye now to seek them They would be sought in vain. (C.B.K.)



IN AN EARLY DAY

In 1769, according to an old document the white population of Indiana gives the names of nine heads of families at Fort Miami--afterwards Fort Wayne; 12 at Ouiotenon, and 66 at Vincennes, women and children added to this list would swell it to some hundreds. Besides these permanent residents there was a floating population of traders, couriers coming and going, and soldiers, English and French, shifting from post to post. After the Revolution land grants to soldiers stimulated the settlement of Indiana in the counties adjacent to the Ohio River, but when the population became too great the natural pioneers pushed northward into the unfamiliar parts of the state to make new homes, undeterred by the fact that the Indians were implacably hostile. The beautiful White Water valley was the first valley settled after this fringe on the Ohio River border, and it came about from a romantic tragic circumstance, the long captivity of two boys among the Indians.

Notwithstanding the lives of the pioneer were hard and laborious beyond our power of comprehension, that they were even perilous from Indians, they managed to have recreation of a sort suited to the spirit of the day. The tremendous task of clearing a virgin forest was turned into merrymaking. Neighbors for 40 miles around would take part in the logrolling and tree burning; their wives and children joined together in preparation of the feast, which as far as fish and wild game went, was fit for a royal banquet. The bread was the inevitable corn bread, wild fruits of the forest were used, either natural or dried, sugar was supplied from the forest tree, which it is said the white man learned to make maple sugar from the Indians; for tea sassafras was in demand.

Hunting, of course, was the amusement highest in esteem of all, and regularly, when the deer had passed through the velvet, hunting-parties went forth in late autumn and early winter to obtain the winter's supply of venison, which when dried, formed the staple of their winter's diet. They hunted the fur bearing animals for their pelts in the winter months, and while scarcely any were eaten their skins were the medium of barter and exchange when the fur traders made their rounds. Powder and shot were vital necessities of their lives and only thus could they be obtained.

Then too dancing was in high favor at a very early day. The woman who could shoot an Indian through a peep hole in a cabin door would dance all night, with a partner who perhaps only a few days before had brained and scalped a warrior. The fiddler was the most popular man in the settlement.

A wedding was greeted with boisterous joy, the occasion of a frolic for old and young. An ancient chronicle gives the following amusing details of a pioneer bridal:

"The men were dressed in leather breeches, hunting shirts of linsey, and moccasins. Their guns, like the poor were always with them. The women wore linsey petticoats, linsey or linen short gowns (the ancestor of the present tea jacket), coarse shoes and stockings, handkerchiefs and buckskin "half-handers." If they possessed any little piece of jewelry, it was an heirloom



carried with infinite solicitude from the faroff home in Virginia, Pennsylvania or North Carolina into the wilds. The way to the home of the bride was by "horse paths"; and, as now, every Jack had his Jill, with whom he was particularly noisy and demonstrative. They proceeded in double file where there were no obstructions, and were continually joined by neighbors resilient from ten miles to twenty miles distant, until there was quite an imposing cavalcade. Even among this primitive company was found the "cut up," who as now diversified, the tedium of the journey to the nearest squire's, where these earliest marriages needs must be performed, by rough jokes and funny tricks; one of the favorite jokes was to form an ambuscade, fire off the precious powder, make a big smoke and much confusion, to terrify the more timid who imagined they were beset by Indians. If the squire happened to dwell in the immediate vicinity of the bride, a great dinner followed immediately upon the ceremony, and if table knives were scarce the male guests obligingly used their scalping knives, for then the fork was considered a dangerous implement. Feasting over, dancing began and lasted all night, with no intervals between dances. If a couple became tired out, "cutting out" was resorted to, they intimated as much to a waiting couple who at once took their places without stopping the quadrille, which was, par excellence, the dance of the pioneer. Reel and jigs were solo performances of Scotch and Irish but few there were who could dance them. Often, if not in times of stress, the feasting and dancing was kept up several days. It was followed by the "settling" of the young couple, in their own cabin, which at the time of the ceremony was in the form of standing trees. The men would guit dancing to cut down the trees for the walls, and clapboards for the roof, and puncheons for the floors. It generally took three days to complete the structure, mud-chimney and all. The fourth day came the house-warming, equally as vigorously jolly an occasion as the nuptial-day, and yet these pioneer women seem to have felt little or no ill effect from this strenuous gaiety.

Our pioneer youths were athletes from necessity. As a matter of course they learned to use with incredible skill fire arms, and even the savage's weapons, bow and arrow and scalping-knife, before they had reached their first decade. It was no fiction that "they could kill a squirrel by shorting it in the eye." They could also "bark a squirrel," not so skilful a feat as the former perhaps, but rather a curious one. The hunter after sighting his game high on the branch of a tree, would shoot, not at the squirrel, but at the bark directly beneath his body, and hit so unerringly that the animal, by concussion, would be thrown up in the air several feet, then fall to the ground dead with not a wound upon it. A favorite accomplishment of the pioneer youth was to learn the call and cry of every beast and bird in the forest by imitation. It was, too, very practical knowledge; for the Indians used these wild calls to warn each other when on forays against the whites, who turned it to their own advantage, by responding, and thus bringing the savage in range of his deadly flintlock. Then too this faculty was of use in obtaining food by imitating the call of the wild turkey and other game birds which never learned the deadly deceit of the white man, to their destruction. The youths could swim like ducks, and from the Indians they learned the art of swimming under water without ruffling the surface, so that many an escape was made in this way from the savages.



Running, jumping, wrestling were of course as common to them as to boys now, but instead of racing on cinder paths amid the plaudit of crowds, this agility was used in running the gauntlet, leaping the brush fence to escape burning at the stake, wrestling for life with a greased naked savage.

In spite of the wild, almost savage life of the pioneers, they had a sturdy sense of what was due them, and vigorous ideas of morality. Curiously enough, they hated the contemptible sins of scandal-mongering and tattling, which were met with utter disbelief and contempt. Courage was taken as a matter of course, and if a man lost his life, it was no more than anyone of them risked. If a man failed to go, in his turn, to scout, which scouting took him from five to forty miles from the settlement, he was treated with contempt, and virile epithets were used to tell his fellows' opinion of him. Petty thievery was repaid with tepaid with rather too overfull a measure of punishment. If one man stole a companion's cake from the ashes of the campfire they named the culprit "Bread-rounds," or they would bawl to each other "Who stole the cake from the ashes" with annoying persistency. The answer would be "John Smith, that's true and no lie!" till very likely it became a weariness to John. If the theft was serious they assembled a jury, and took testimony, condemned the transgressor to what they called "Moses' punishment" that is, the accused was beaten with forty stripes, sometimes to this was added sentence of perpetual banishment from the settlement. A milder form of the same punishment was called the "United States Flag" because the victim only received 13 stripes, well laid on with a whip. They were not with out the great American sense of humor.

To call a man a liar was equivalent to a challenge to a fight and if for any reason, the aggressor was unable to fight, he must find a friend to represent him. Occasionally, in very extreme cases, they resorted to Lynch law among themselves.

At the close of the War of 1812 when life on the frontier became safer because the English ceased to employ the savage to ravage the frontier, with rewards for every scalp of man, woman or child brought in, friendlier relations were established with the Indians who by this time began to sell their lands to the government thereby giving an immense impetus to immigration. So great was the tide of immigration that in two years after the close of this war Indiana was admitted as a state, although in this region where we now live there was not one cabin wherein dwelt a white settler!



Transcript of original

EARLY PATHFINDERS IN INDIANA

CAROLINE BROWN

(Caroline V. Krout)

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EARLY PATHFINDERS IN INDIANA

The little river known as the White-water, which rises in Randolph County, Indiana gives name to this one of the most beautiful valleys in the Middle West, when Indiana was without white settlements, save those at Vincennes and Fort Wayne.

When Harrodsburg was the most considerable town of Northern Kentucky, and Louisville was only a handful of log cabins clustered around a block-house, on the stormy morning of February 11, 1781 Irvin Hinton, a married man with a family, left the Louisville settlement with a four-horse-team and wagon to obtain supplies at Harrodsburg for the little community. Richard Rue, aged twenty, and George Holman, aged sixteen, accompanied him as guards. A thick snow was falling, the lads were walking carelessly, one before and one behind the wagon, when one of them suggested that they should empty their guns lest the powder becoming damp would clog them and give trouble in case they should need their weapons. This however they did not anticipate, for Indians never went on the war-path during the winter. They had proceeded barely eight miles and had reached a cane-brake where they discharged their guns. This seemed to act as a signal, for instantly there sprang from a sinkhole in the swamp a band of savages which surrounded them, lead by the infamous Simon Girty, a white renegade.

Rue raised his weapon to fire, remembered it was empty and let it fall. Girty commanded them to surrender or die; there was no other choice, resistance was folly, and they submitted. Soon they were bound with straps from the harness, and were hurried across the Ohio into that part of the Northwest Territory now known as Indiana. The horses were appropriated by Girty and three warriors. Rue was led by a Shawnee, Holman by a Delaware buck, while another Shawnee led Hinton. Simon Girty rode the remaining animal, and headed the march; they trotted as rapidly as possible through the heavy snow, the prisoners on foot keeping up as best they could. They made no halt till they had accomplished twenty miles through the snowbound wilderness, where the forest was so thick that to leave the trace one was lost. It was late at night when they halted, and fearing pursuit Girty did not dare to light a fire. He and his warriors held a parley as to whether they should strike for the Piankashow village on the Wabash, opposite Vincennes, or push on at once to Wa-puc-ca-nat-ta on the Auglaize (now the site of Wapakoneta. Ohio). They finally decided, to throw off pursuers, to make a pretense of marching toward Vincennes, and then to change their course for the White-water country. The next night they came to a halt but no fire was built even this second night. There was no possible hope of escape for when they lay down on the ground to sleep, each of the whites was placed between two savages, and fastened to them in such a manner that any movement would be felt, moreover the guards had orders in case of surprise to brain the prisoners.

Girty, who had been captured in early childhood, and was more of a savage than a white man, seldom uttered a word and that only in the Delaware tongue, kept steady watch upon the prisoners, and once observing a flash of comprehension cross Rue's face at one of his speeches, questioned him whether he and his companions had ever fought against the Indians. Rue hesitated to reply but on being threatened with Girty's tomahawk he acknowledged that he had been in three or



four forays against them. He had overheard and understood enough to know that their lives were in danger, he also knew that the savages admired boldness and had no mercy on the timid. He was just returning from a spring with a kettle of water he had been ordered to get, when this consultation between Girty and his band took place. He set down the water, and boldly seated himself on the log beside Girty who became enraged at his audacity and cried, while brandishing his tomahawk: "You played hell there, didn't you? I've a mind to split your skull with this hatchet!" However, he reversed the weapon and struck Rue a crushing blow on the head with the handle.

For the three following days their march was a rapid flight, when, finding they were not pursued, Girty ordered the speed relaxed. Then the three whites abandoned hope, they realized they were doomed to a captivity among brutal savages if nothing worse. They had now reached the White-river country, and changed their course from east to northeast, cutting across the White-water valley, then unknown to the pioneers, a virgin forest, with a tangle of streams, wooded hills and grassy vales.

Their objective point, Wa-puc-ca-nat-ta, seems to have been one of the most important Indian towns, a place where many chiefs gathered to hold councils. When they were within a day's march of this place Girty sent a runner to announce their coming, when within two or three miles from it they were met by a deputation of braves, who escorted them into the village.

Girty immediately entered into a parley with the chief and his warriors, and they decided to have the whites furnish them the rare sport of running the gauntlet. When told of their fate the men despaired of ever accomplishing it, reduced in strength as they were by their privations. The object of this brutal pastime was not to kill the prisoner but to enjoy his torture. Within a few hours after their arrival at the village, they beheld the savages drawn up in a long line for two hundred yards down the path from the Council house, which was to be the goal for the runners. The Indians flourished clubs and knives, with which to beat and slash the prisoner, if any savage missed his aim he was mercilessly ridiculed. The only grace allowed the victim was, that if he fell he could not be struck till on his feet again.

Hinton was first selected, and many were the blows and gashes he received, which were greeted by screams and yells of delight. But he reached the goal bruised and bleeding. Rue followed, and being young and strong, was not so travel worn as Hinton so that he managed to dodge most of the blows, and entirely outran the Indian who pursued him between the lines brandishing a tomahawk, to urge him on in the race. But when the sixteen-year-old stripling's turn came, Holman boldly told Girty that it was unfair to subject him to such a trial when he was so reduced from hunger and the long march; well he knew he had no strength left to meet such an ordeal! A powwow followed, and to make the ordeal as contemptible as possible for Holman boys and squaws with knives and clubs took the place of the warriors, and he was followed by a savage with a long whip instead of a tomahawk. When he was fairly started on the race it was such an exquisite farce that even the Sachem smiled faintly. The poor boy managed to reach the council house alive. A great feast succeeded this amusement in which the prisoners shared, then were informed at the conclusion by their guards that a council would follow in which their fate would be determined.



In the council speech after speech was made until the meeting ended in an angry quarrel, in which no conclusion was reached, and the prisoners were informed that their sentence could not be determined till the chiefs and warriors who lived on the Scioto and the Big Miami could arrive.

Hinton, the oldest and wisest of the prisoners, forboded ill from this postponement. He thought of his wife and children and determination to escape took possession of him. He contrived to whisper his intention to the two lads. telling them that the hope of rejoining his helpless family was the only reason for deserting them in their peril. He well knew he would suffer death in a terrible form if recaptured but he strongly suspected his fate would be death in any case. Hoping that something in their favor might come to pass in the grand council, the boys begged him to give up his design, but they could not prevail on him, though he spoke of it no more, and a few nights later "Redhead," as the savages called him, was missing. He was followed at once by an infuriated band who retook him on the Chillicothe trail. He implored them to end his life at once. But this was far from their intention. He was doomed to the stake, and was tortured through a whole night, with a slow fire, the Indians meantime dancing the scalp dance about him. Rue and Holman were so placed that they could see all that transpired, and when his body at last sank to the ground, his scalp was quickly cut from his head, dangled in their faces, and they were brutally taunted: "Can you smell fire on the scalp of your friend?" they were asked, "We cooked him for the wolves to breakfast on! This is the way we serve runaway prisoners!"

Very soon after this tragic occurrence a deputation of Detroit braves came into the village, who informed them that there was a call for the general gathering of the tribes at Detroit; the object was to plan for a concerted attack on the frontier; and they immediately started on the march, taking Rue and Holman with them. At a point on the Maumee not far from the present site of the city of Toledo, they were joined by the Chillocothe and Mad River Indians; and to furnish amusement for the assembled bands they determined that Rue and Holman should run the gauntlet, after which they would conclude the postponed trial.

As usual scouts were sent forward to announce their coming, and the great pleasure in store for them, so that when they reached the town two long lines of savages were ready for the victims. Each was again compelled to run the gauntlet. Rue ran first receiving many a cruel blow. The usual feast, the scalp dance and the council in the council house followed. Well Rue and Holman, who were seated in one corner of the council house, knew that their fate hung in the balance and that they might share that of Hinton, yet they gave no sign of fear but bore themselves coolly and bravely. The sachem sat in the midst of the circle of braves, and he was the first to rise and address them; one after another followed and the discussion grew so warm that the Great Chief could hardly keep order. When a vote was taken the prisoners read only too plainly, from the pleased countenances of the savage, that the decision was against them! Girty lost no time in confirming their suspicion. He told them that they would be burned at the stake that night.

Preparations were set on foot at once, the inferior bucks were ordered to gather twigs and branches and bark, of which they made two sinister rings,



placing a green stake in the middle of each.

To test their fortitude to the utmost Rue and Holman were compelled to look on, and they knew that when twilight fell would commence their torture. At set of sun their hands and faces were blackened, according to the savage custom, and as they watched the afterglow fade from the sky they prayed mightily for deliverance, or that He grant them the power to meet their fate with firmness and courage. A number of the higher chiefs still lingered about the council house and suddenly angry words and great excitement arose among them. At last one of the number, of high and noble countenance, approached the youths and spoke to their guards in the Mingo tongue. He then took Holman by the hand, cut the bark ropes that bound him to Rue, ordered the black washed from his face and hands, and laying his hand upon his head, said:

"I adopt you as my son to fill the place of one I have lately buried, you are now a kinsman of Logan, 'the white-man's friend,' as he has been called, but who has lately proven himself to be a terrible avenger of the wrongs inflicted upon him by the bloody Cresap and his men."

Girty acted as his interpreter, and his disappointment was perhaps greater than any of the savages.

Holman's joy was turned to grief when he saw that like clemency was not to be extended to his companion, and he felt that his own escape was worth nothing if he were compelled to witness the torture of his friend. Twilight had come; he saw two savages approach Rue, who rejoiced heartily in his friend's good fortune, even though himself stared death in the face. Hope died hard in his young soul, and even when he was being led to the circle of brushwood and bound to the stake he did not give up the hope of deliverance.

Meantime a disturbance among the different bands seemed about to terminate into a general fight, tomahawks and knives were flourished amid a babel of angry voices. The faggot was a light in the hand of Rue's guard, and ready to apply to the brush-heap, when a young Shawnee brave sprang into the circle and with his own knife cut the bands that bound him to the stake, amid the fierce protests of one faction and the exultant shouts of the other.

The chief boldly demanded that water be brought and that the black be washed from Rue's face and hands, and he be re-clothed. It was done, and the bold Shawnee addressed the savages, in substance, as follows:

"I take this youth to be my brother in the place of one I lately lost. I loved that brother well, I will love this one too. My old mother will be glad when I tell her that I have brought her a son in place of the one departed. We want no more victims. The burning of 'Red-head' ought to satisfy us. These boys do not merit such a cruel fate. I would rather die myself than see this adopted brother burnt at the stake!"

This act of mercy was not kindly received on the part of many of the savages who clamored loudly against it, but they held a rude regard for the verdict of the majority, and they had to abide by it. But it introduced such discord among the different tribes there that instead of continuing on to Detroit together some of the bands returned to Wa-puc-can-nat-ta, the Mississinnewa, and the Wabash towns. In this dispersal Rue and Holman were separated. Rue was taken eastward and spent two years in this section; the third and last year of his captivity was passed at Detroit. So well acquainted did he become with the wilderness, now eastern



Indiana and western Ohio, traversing it over and over again with war parties and hunting parties that after the lapse of half a century he could describe it perfectly. He was never left alone, nor given a chance of escape; but he was treated as well as any of the younger braves who had their honors yet to win. There was an important trading house at Detroit where many tribes met to barter their root barks, and peltries, for beads, ammunition arms and food, worst of all for themselves -- whisky. At such times these bands indulged in revels and carousals. As a matter of course difficulties arose. On one occasion an Indian lost a purse containing money to the value of ninety dollars in silver. This caused great excitement, and bitter accusations, but the thief could not be discovered. Finally a prophet, who happened to be there, was called in to declare the thief. He solemnly spread a deer-skin on the ground, hairy side down, then he drew from his belt a bag of pure white sand which he emptied on the skin, which he spread out evenly over the surface with a slender "magic wand," the crowd meantime watching breathlessly. Then the soothsayer looked fixedly at the sand for some moments, with no results. He muttered the words of a spell, and said slowly: "I see the thief and the stolen treasure!" Immediately there were loud demands for his name and the prompt disclose of where he was. But the prophet was wise and shrewdly laid the blame on a member of a tribe not greatly represented there, and declared that he had run off with it.

Rue, and two other white prisoners, witnessed this, and determined if possible to learn from the wizard the condition of their own friends and kindred in the far-off settlement across the Ohio, at the first private opportunity. This came in a few days, and the same performance with the sand and deer-skin was repeated. After staring steadily at the sand the wizard declared that he saw members of Rue's family walking about a door-yard, he gave their number, their sex, their ages, and described their looks so accurately that Rue was convinced of the truth of the vision.

Then the prophet looked up at them and said: "You intend to make your escape, and you will do it soon!" His eyes fell to the sand again and he continued as if reading from it, "You will meet with many trials and hardships in passing through the lands of hostile tribes. You will almost starve, and when ready to give up all hope of finding game, help will come when least expected. I behold a wild animal, a male, taken as game, which I can't clearly see, as it is small. After that you will find plenty of game and safely reach your homes."

The prisoners strongly denied any intention of escaping, yet they did not fail to impress upon the prophet that, as they had paid him for his 'reading' he was bound in honor not to divulge it to others. And strangely enough, the savage did not reveal it, possibly through some superstitious fear of meddling with the decisions of the Fates. The prisoners drew such encouragement from this prophecy that they at once began to make definite plans for escape, a hope long held and many times thwarted. It is possible that after so long an association with the prisoners, they were not so carefully guarded at this time, for one evening shortly after this sand-reading, they contrived to slip off into the wilderness, and the perilous journey was begun.

They traveled the whole of the first night and hid in a swamp by day. Their food was soon exhausted, and they had to depend upon such small game as they



could catch or with a club for they dared not use their guns; then the first part of the wizard's prediction began to come true, they were well nigh famished! But they pressed on southward without the dread of being lost, thanks to Rue's knowledge of the region. The third day found them so weak from hunger that they could not travel, and Rue in despair determined to go forth with his gun and find food, for without it they must die in the wilderness. He spent most of the day without finding anything that would satisfy hunger, not even a blue-jay or a woodpecker. He had discovered streams, which he knew must flow into the Wabash, but he could not catch fish without the means to do so. He returned empty-handed and despairing to the camp. His companion Holman said: "Let me try my luck, or rather, want of luck!"

He too set out and after an hour returned with s small three-pronged buck, and when he threw it upon the ground the words of the prophet instantly came to Rue's mind--"It is a male."

Although savages thickly inhabited this region Rue and Holman were not recognized as whites, for they were so completely disguised by dress, manner and even the peculiar Indian gait which they had perfectly acquired during long captivity. Nor did they have further trouble to find food. It took them twenty days, after they left Detroit, to reach a point on the Ohio River, about fifty miles above the falls. (Louisville -----) Here thinking they were at the end of their troubles, they built a small raft on which to cross over to Kentucky, but in midstream the current was so fierce that it tore the frail vessel apart, threw them into the water, and they swam ashore, destitute of everything but one gun and a small amount of ammunition. They set off through the forest for Harrodsburg, and underwent another short period of privation before they at last safely reached it.

Rue was now twenty-three years old, and had neither seen nor heard anything of Holman since they separated in the Indian camp where they had barely escaped death three years before. A little later he married a relative of Holman's.

Immediately on their separation Holman had been taken to Wa-puc-canat-ta where he was subjected to a trial for life by the council, but again fortune favored him, for the majority of the votes were against burning him at the stake. During the three years of his captivity he witnessed many such atrocities, though thereafter he seemed never to have suffered any specially harsh treatment, considering he was the captive of savages. About the last half of his captivity there was an entire cessation of hostilities against the frontiersmen. for the reason that the savages were physically unfit, and had used up all their supplies, so that in order to recoup themselves, they were obliged to gather barks and roots and to obtain peltries to exchange at the trading houses for powder, shot and other necessities. Holman, who was now a little more than nineteen years old, seems to have entirely won the good graces of the savages; for when he suggested that if they would send him, together with an Indian companion, to the falls of the Ohio he could get all the needful supplies for the asking from a ruch uncle they suspected no ulterior design, and actually let him go accompanied by a young brave.

When they struck the Ohio a few miles above Louisville they found General George Clark stationed opposite, and swam the river and remained all night with

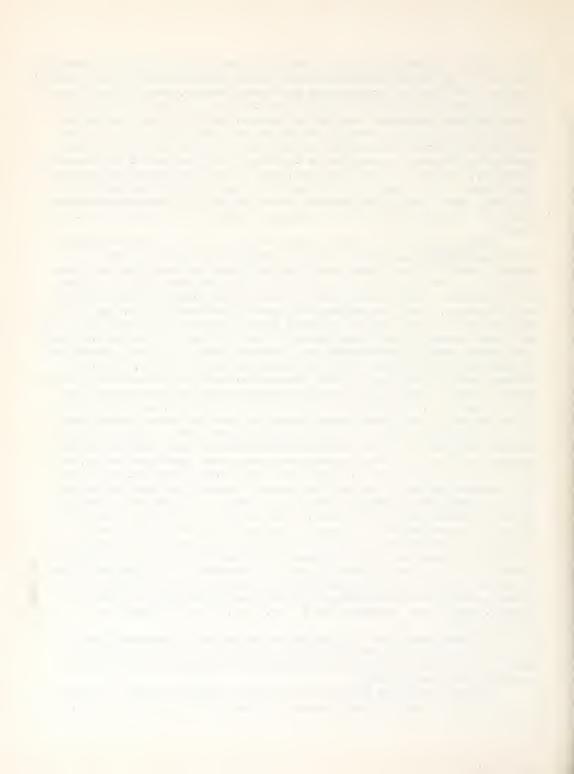


him. Holman told the General the needs of the savages, and he at once authorized him to offer the Indians from their stores what they might demand as his (Holman's) ransom. The offer was accepted and consisted of powder, salt, bright handker-chiefs and other such trinkets as the Indians coveted. The next day Holman together with his companion, resumed his journey, and in due time reached the home of Edward Holman where he was greatly overjoyed and surprised to find that Rue had reached there only three days before. It was indeed strange that after almost three years and a half of captivity in different parts of the Northwest Territory, prisoners of different tribes, they should have escaped at almost the same time. Their captivity ended about 1784, and, despite the great risk they ran, they joined Clark in war against some of the very tribe whose captives they had been. Recapture in their case could mean nothing but instant and merciless torture.

After peace settled upon the frontier the two young men married and lived quietly in Woodford and Henry counties in Kentucky for almost a quarter of a century, when they were again seized with the desire for wandering, and a new home in a less crowded district. Accordingly they set out on a journey "West" as it was called. They wandered about in the Illinois country and Indiana territory aimlessly, when Rue recalling the beautiful Whitewater valley, lead the way to it and Holman and he made a selection of forest land for their future homes in the same section. After erecting cabins Holman left his two young sons, William and Joseph, who had accompanied them, in charge while he and Rue returned to Kentucky for their families. This was late in the autumn of 1804, and in the winter, early in 1805, they and their households, together with two other families, those of Thomas McCoy and a man named Blunt set out for their new home in the Indiana forest, following buffalo traces where they could, and cutting a way where no road existed, they endured storms and cold but finally reached their cabins to find the Holman boys greatly enjoying pioneer life. McCoy and Blunt located near them. This tiny settlement was about two miles south of Richmond, Indiana, and it was the first authentic settlement in the Whitewater Valley, and also west of Virginia. Rue and Holman remained on this same section of land the remainder of their lives, and they became a factor in the development and advancement of this beautiful region and of the State. They helped to establish the first Baptist church in the valley, which was perhaps the oldest Protestant church in eastern Indiana. Rue reared a large family, mostly girls; and, strangely, his companion Holman was the father of a great family of boys. Rue's health was so impaired by the hardships of captivity that for the last twenty-five years of his life he was a great sufferer from rheumatism. But Holman, whose treatment was more tender at the hands of the savages, seems to have sustained no bad results from his captivity, for he lived to the great age of 99 years, 3 months, and 13 days, dying the 24th of May, 1859, on the old farm where he had dwelt 54 years.

For many years after Rue and Holman settled in the Whitewater valley, and peace was fully restored, the Indians whom they called their "kin" made them yearly visits, and they would sit talking over old times by the hour in a patois of Indian and English.

Holman's sons grew to prominence in their respective callings. Joseph was a member of the first Constitutional Convention which was held in 1816, and



represented his county in the first Legislature. Jesse D. Holman was the first judge of the first Circuit Court in Wayne County, which was instituted in February, 1811, and held in the house of Richard Rue. Another son, William, one of the lads who had been left in charge of the cabin, seems to have become a Methodist, for he was for many years a presiding elder, and became s settled minister in Louisville, Kentucky. Another son, Washington, represented Miami County in the State Legislature.

In 1806 the Friends from Pennsylvania and North Carolina penetrated into the valley and it was not many years before the whole region was thickly populated.









