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A Standard History  
of  
WHITE COUNTY  
INDIANA

An Authentic Narrative of the Past, with an Extended  
Survey of Modern Developments in the  
Progress of Town and  
Country

---

Under the Supervision of  
W. H. HAMELLE

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VOLUME I

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ILLUSTRATED

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THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

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1915



## INTRODUCTION

This History of White County is presented to the public without apology or excuse. More than four score years have passed since the organization of the county, and on the eve of the celebration of our State's Centennial, the writer was convinced that the proper time had arrived to place, in permanent form, a history of our early settlers, their labors, struggles and achievements. These early settlers of White County were very largely composed of industrious, earnest, God-fearing people, of whom we, their descendants, should justly feel proud. England's great Gladstone truthfully says, "That the man who does not worthily estimate his own dead forefathers will himself do very little to add credit or honor to his country." Pride of ancestry is an attribute peculiar to the human race, but in our pursuit of wealth, honor or position, we often lose sight of those who have preceded us, and when this happens we fail to profit by their example. This is to be deplored. Our best lessons are learned by a study of the lives of those who have left to us a record of self-denial, industry and success.

As a further reason for placing this work before the public, our schools are being made the medium through which local history is taught, and without some work on the subject, the teacher would be obliged to rely largely on tradition which is often fallacious, misleading and erroneous.

No person now living can, from personal knowledge, give an account of the organization and early settlement of our county, and such items as were not found in the records of the White County Historical Society, the files of the local newspapers, or in the records of the various county offices, have been written after a careful search for the truth among those whose accounts often differed, and in such cases the writer has been compelled to accept the version which seemed to him the most credible—of course in such cases it is not claimed that errors have not occurred.

An earnest effort has been made to give a succinct account of the Indian grants, the early settlers, the organization of the various townships and towns within the county, all of which being supplemented with brief sketches of our earliest inhabitants, who have long since passed away, will doubtless prove of interest to the general reader. These brief biographies are often fragmentary and incomplete, but they include all that could be gleaned without recourse to tradition. The compilation of these biographical sketches was accomplished with the expenditure of many days of earnest, unremitting toil, for which the writer neither expects nor asks any compensation. These first settlers have gone their way. To them we owe much of what we enjoy today, and ere their





memories are forgotten, we cheerfully inscribe in our local history a tribute to their virtues.

The illustrations in these volumes will be of interest to future generations, as all of them were made from recent photographs and are authentic in every particular. They convey much more information than can be gleaned from the printed page.

The writer is under obligations to all who have in any way assisted him in his labors. He is under especial obligations to Mr. Jay B. Van Buskirk and Mr. James P. Simons, the former for nearly thirty years editor of the Monticello Herald, the latter for twenty years occupying the same relation to the White County Democrat. To both these gentlemen he extends his heartfelt gratitude. Their assistance, freely given, is fully appreciated.

Finally, as before stated, this history is presented without apology or excuse, nor is any charity or indulgence asked of the reader; but it is earnestly hoped it may be the means of awakening a deeper interest in our local history, and a fuller appreciation of our blessings and comforts vouchsafed to us by the labors and privations of White County's pioneers.

W. H. HAMELLE.

Monticello, Indiana,  
December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifteen.



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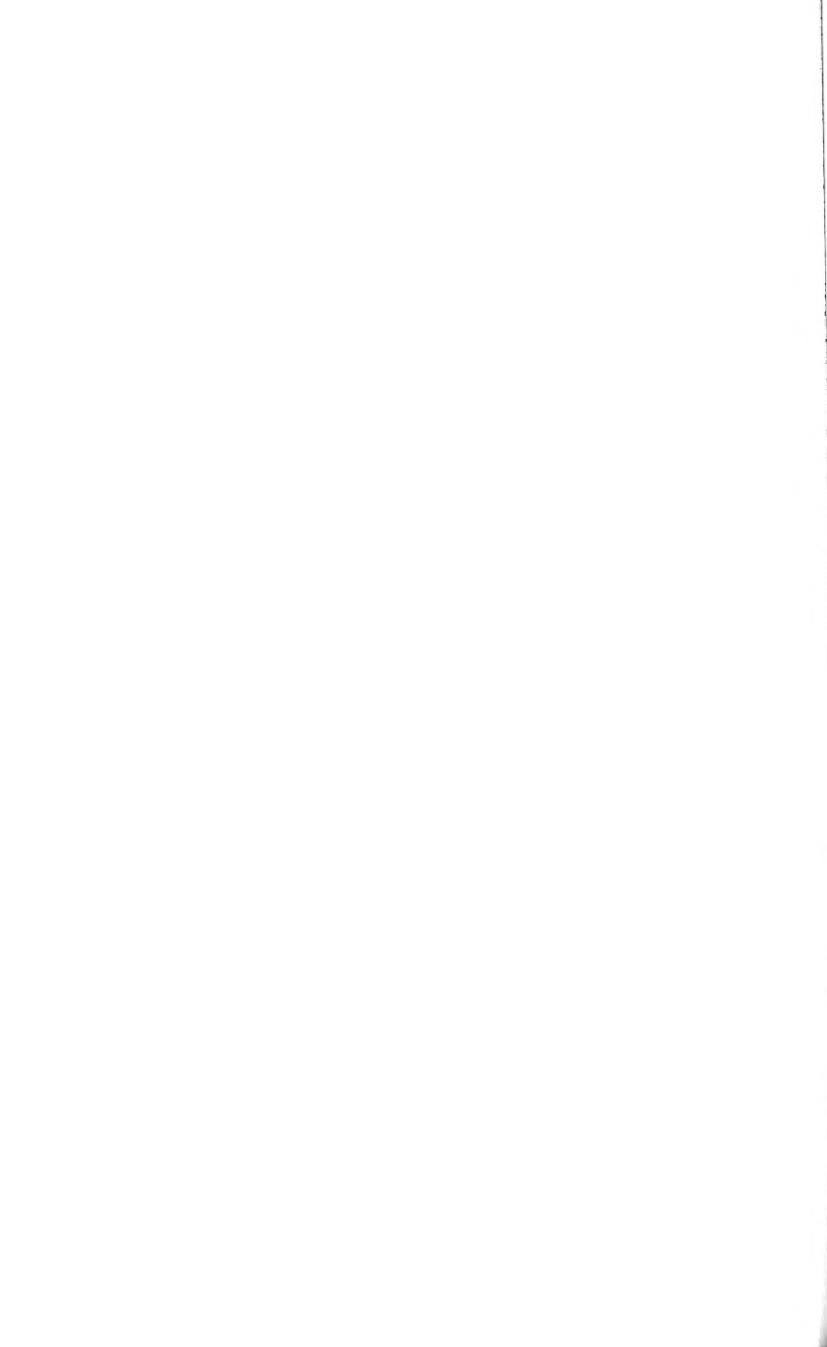




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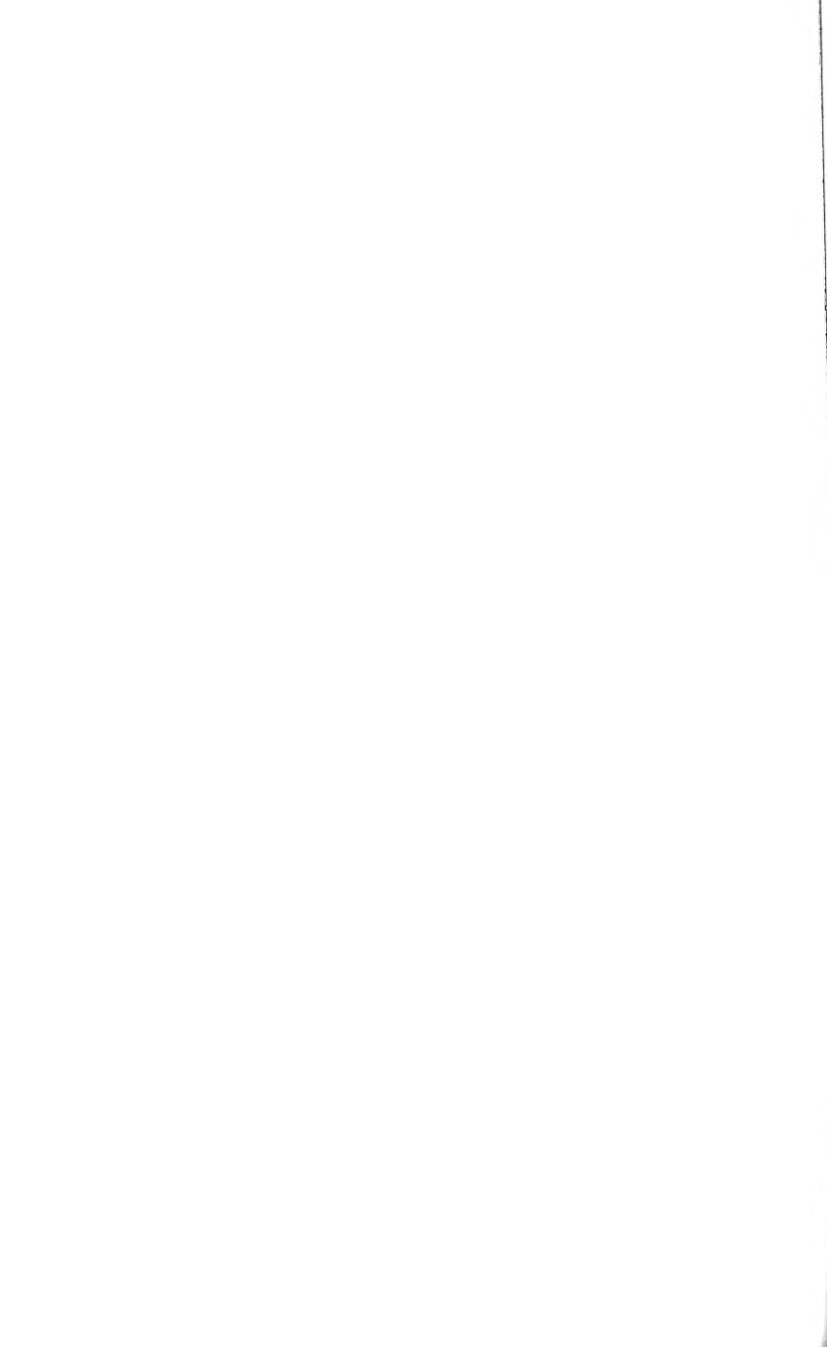


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# History of White County

## CHAPTER I

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SPECULATIONS

MOUND BUILDERS CLUNG TO THE WATER COURSES—CHAIN OF PREHISTORIC FORTS—WAR AND DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTS—NATURE OF HABITS INFERRED FROM RELICS—SOMEWHAT COMMERCIAL—NO HIEROGLYPHICS OR EFFIGIES—CONCLUSION: "WE KNOW NOTHING"—PROBABLY A RACE OF SLAVES—PERHAPS THE MOST ANCIENT OF PEOPLES—WERE THEY FATHERS OF THE TOLTECS?—A STAGGERING CYCLE—PERHAPPEANCE, THE GREATEST WONDER OF THE WORLD.

The instinct of the normal mind is to be active, whether the results of its exertions are of practical value or not. Man is proud of his mental nimbleness and especially delights in speculating as to his own origin and evolution. There is no subject which has given him such unfailling pleasure and which has been the source of a greater charm to young and old than the consideration of dead types of civilization which have left their faint finger-prints in architectural ruins, vast sepulchres, fortresses of war, domestic utensils and skeletons of man and beast.

In the impressive remains of the prehistoric peoples of the central Americas the speculator reads the fact that in the very dim past the most advanced civilization of the western hemisphere was near or in the tropical zone, which, during that period, might have carried with it the present invigorating elements of the temperate clime. Whether that ancient American civilization originated in wanderers from the orient of the Old World, or was itself the father of what has been thus designated with questionable authority, is a subject which has been turned through the mill of argument and logic in all its bearings since men commenced to use their eyes and minds in the New (?) World.

### MOUND BUILDERS CLUNG TO THE WATER COURSES

In our United States of North America, the prehistoric races were evidently of a lower order than those of Mexico, Central and Northern South America. They left no great architectural ruins pointing to a decided advance in art, mechanics, and even astronomical science, but





rather rude earthworks and burial places, as of semicivilized people, who were warring among themselves, living as nomads and hunting and fishing along the valleys of the great waterways. The most striking, as well as the most general fact which applies to the Mound Builders of the United States, whose most favored haunts were the valleys of the Mississippi and the Ohio, was that they never wandered far from the Great Lakes or the Great Rivers. Therefore, in Indiana, their earthworks are more numerous in the southern part of the state than in the central or northern. In White County itself many of the smaller mounds have been found on the banks of the Monon, in its northern sections, especially near the confluence of the Little and Big Monon.

#### CHAIN OF PREHISTORIC FORTS

As stated by Smith, in his History of Indiana, the mounds in the Hoosier State have been divided into three classes, designated as burial, temple and habitation mounds. It is evident that all the mounds were built by the same race, although in some of them the remains of a later race have been found buried. The mounds designated as forts have been traced from the southern part of New York diagonally across the country to the Wabash River, and another chain from the Ohio River, in Clark County, northward into Madison County; thence eastward to Central Ohio, and thence southward through Kentucky to Tennessee. It will thus be seen that the valley of the Wabash was a most important link in the chain of fortifications, which, as a whole, appear to have been erected in an effort to hold the great river valleys against some powerful enemy; in historic times, the French fortified the same routes against the English. Who were the warring nations in the times of the Mound Builders is beyond conjecture, but their undeveloped civilization had disappeared long before the traditions of the red man commenced to filter into the racial literature of the western world.

#### WAR AND DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTS

In some of the Indiana mounds ashes and charred remains of animals and human bones have been found; in others, the graves contained human skeletons encased in stone sarcophagi, with various utensils and implements of war and domestic use. The mortars were usually made of boulders cut into bowl shape for grinding corn and seeds. There were stone axes of various shapes, and scrapers, peelers or fleshers. Arrows and spear heads, drills made of hard stone, knives of flint, flint saws, pipes artistically carved, crude hoes and spades and ornaments of colored stone abounded. The material used in the manufacture of pottery was a clay mixed with powdered shells, which thus formed a kind of cement of great tenacity and fire-resisting qualities. The specimens of pottery found in the mounds throughout Indiana are rude when compared with the work of civilized people in a similar line, and when you have named



cooking utensils, water vessels, cups and vases you have about completed the scope of their efforts.

#### NATURE OF HABITS INFERRED FROM RELICS

A study of such relics as these, in connection with the earthworks whose indistinct outlines could be traced until advancing industries and modern activities of all kinds leveled them, has led to various conclusions which are of ingenious, and of speculative interest. Their methods of tilling the soil must necessarily have been of the most primitive character, for their implements were very rude, usually chipped out of quartz. No bones of domestic animals have been found, and all the tillage of the soil must have been done by hand. But the mounds have yielded many implements of the chase and others evidently designed for the treatment of furs and skins, while the immense shell heaps that have been unearthed in some places point to the abundance of fish food in the lakes and rivers. As they were compelled to rely upon the chase, fishing and the limited cultivation of the soil for subsistence, they did not gather in large bodies or centers of population. One of the strongest evidences of their migratory character is that they had no general burial places.

Nearly all the burial mounds discovered show that they were the resting places of a very limited number of individuals. The few exceptions only prove that occasionally a considerable number found such permanent abiding places that they could enjoy the historic satisfaction of burying their dead in companies.

It is evident from the discovered specimens of cloth that the Mound Builders of Indiana and the Ohio Valley were clad in what resembled hemp garments, spun with a uniform thread and woven with a warp and woof. A shuttle has even been found. While this cloth was of coarse texture, it was often highly ornamented.

#### SOMEWHAT COMMERCIAL

Archaeologists have concluded that the comparatively large number of copper implements present in the mounds of the Ohio Valley can be accounted for only upon the supposition that the Builders were in direct touch with the Lake Superior region. They were to some extent a commercial people, not only trading for Lake Superior copper, but for Georgia mica.

#### NO HIEROGLYPHICS OR EFFIGIES

As noted, they were somewhat advanced in the manufacture and adornment of vessels for domestic use, but on none of them has been found a letter or symbol that would give a clue as to the language or origin of the Mound Builders. It has been the theme of much comment on the part of those who dispute the theory that the earthworks,



known as Effigy mounds, were constructed in the form of animals; that such forms (corresponding to the Indian totems) were never represented either as ornaments or structural designs in the various bowls, vases, water jugs, pitchers, drinking cups and sepulchral urns which have been unearthed in such numbers.

#### CONCLUSION: "WE KNOW NOTHING"

A fair example of the way in which American archaeologists have thrashed out the problem of the Mound Builders, with the final conclusion that they really know nothing more than when they commenced, is given in Smith's "History of Indiana" in the following words: "Nothing can be gathered of their burial customs. It is true that quite a number of skeletons have been found, but their positions or conditions give no clew to any settled or definite custom of disposing of the dead. The theory has been advanced that they were cremationists, and urns have been found which enthusiasts at once classed as burial urns. There is little or no foundation for the cremation theory. In some of the mounds flat stones covered with charcoal have been found. Beneath the stones, in a sort of vault, was a black mold which has been taken as the dust of the dead remaining after cremation. There is no stone in Indiana that would bear heat enough, applied in that way, to consume a body beneath it. The presence of the mold can be accounted for in a dozen ways that are far more reasonable.

"It has been held that in religion they were worshipers of the sun, and that they offered human sacrifices. The fact that all the mounds look to the east is about the only thing upon which the theory of sun worship is hinged, and that proves very little. Practically there are no evidences that they offered human sacrifices.

#### PROBABLY A RACE OF SLAVES

"Were they a warlike race? That is a question hard to determine. The remains of their fortifications, except in a few instances, are of low earthworks, not over four or five feet high. It is evident that they were a race of slaves, and such a race is seldom warlike. The burial mounds seldom contain more than two or three skeletons, and the positions in which they are placed give evidence that one was the superior and the others the inferiors. The crania prove the same fact. With many of the ancient races it was the custom to bury one or more slaves with the dead ruler, or master, and this was likely the case with the Mound Builders.

#### PERHAPS THE MOST ANCIENT OF PEOPLES

"To what age of the world are they to be assigned? How many centuries have rolled away since they disappeared? These are perplexing questions. It is a strange thought that away back in the dim past,



perhaps as far back as the days of the Pharaohs, there existed in what we delight to call the New World, a people numbering millions, who have died and left no trace of their history. Even the Moabites have left their stones covered over with strange symbols, but the Mound Builders have left nothing of the kind. On some of the mounds trees of more than a thousand years growth are standing. The most ancient remains of man found on the earth are distinguished by the flattening of the tibia, and this peculiarity is found in an exaggerated degree in those of the Mound Builders. A distinguished writer on this subject says: 'From the ruins of Nineveh and Babylon we have bones at least two thousand five hundred years old; from the pyramids and catacombs of Egypt, both mummied and unmummied crania have been taken of still higher antiquity, in perfect preservation; nevertheless, the skeletons deposited in our mounds from the Lakes to the Gulf are crumbling into dust through age alone. The peculiar anatomical construction of the few remaining crania not only prove the Mound Builders to have been very ancient, but that they were wholly unlike any other race known to have existed. A critical examination of the remains of this ancient race of America, and a comparison with those of all the other races of the world, tend to throw a doubt over the theory that all mankind descended from one common father.

"Of other races we know something of their origin. We can account for the origin of all the races of Europe, Asia and Africa, but no one has yet been able to tell whence sprang the American Mound Builders, nor to present even a plausible theory on that much disputed point. We examine the relics they have left behind; we study their rude carvings; we measure the crania of their dead, and then we put this and that together and build up a theory as to their origin and proper place in history; but all we can do is to theorize.

#### WERE THEY FATHERS OF THE TOLTECS?

"That the Mound Builders antedated by many years, perhaps centuries, the Toltees of Mexico, can hardly be doubted, and the history of the Toltees can be traced back nine centuries before the Christian era. The ancient records of the Toltees repeatedly speak of a great empire to the northwest of them, and these same records declare that the Toltees migrated from that empire to Mexico, and it is supposed that this migration took place a thousand years before Christ. Whether the Toltees were descendants of the Mound Builders and became civilized after their migration to Mexico is yet an unsettled question. If the great empire referred to by the Toltees was that of the Mound Builders, it becomes evident that the origin of the Mound Builders and their first occupation of American soil must have been thousands of years ago. It is beyond all question that they disappeared more than a thousand years ago. Were they driven out by the Indians? If so, what a vast amount of sympathy we have wasted on the Red Men, for the Whites have only taken from them what they themselves had taken by violence before!





Had the Mound Builders come into America by way of Behring Straits, as has been claimed, or in any other way, it is apparent that some of the remains of the race from whence they sprung would have been found in some of the old countries.

### A STAGGERING CYCLE

"The countless years they must have lived upon this soil fairly staggers us. When their mounds were piled up and their fortifications erected Babylon was yet in the womb of time. They were hoary with the frost of centuries before Romulus and Remus traced the foundations of the Eternal City. Their builders had been moldering in the dust for half a thousand years when Alexander swam the Hellespont. The more one studies the works of this ancient people the more he is lost in wonder that a race so numerous and powerful could so completely have passed away that even the period of its existence is the merest conjecture. It is as if they had existed before the flood and that the mighty storm which Noah and his family alone were able to safely outride, had swept them suddenly from the face of the earth in the midst of their power and glory. It is hard to believe that they were utterly annihilated by another race. If so, whence came that other race, in numbers and power great enough to work such mighty devastation? What a vast period of time separates us from the Mound Builders! What great strides the world has taken since they disappeared! From the stone age to the age of steel, what wonders have intervened! Truly, the Old World has passed away and all things have become new. There is a chasm of time, of history, between the two that man has not been able to bridge. The period of their existence is a blank leaf in the history of the world that has not been written over. They were a race without a written language of any kind.

"Modern civilization, with all its knowledge and wisdom, stands at the edge of the abyss of time which separates the present from the past, when this buried race lived and flourished, and can only speculate as to its origin, its life, its history and fate. We stand upon the mounds erected by them and wander around the fortifications; we gaze upon the implements of warfare left behind them, dropped perhaps by the warrior stricken by death and never touched by man again until picked up by the curious seeker after relics in these happy times of ours; we look at the skeletons as they are unearthed, speculate and theorize, and are forced to admit that of their time, manners, customs, origin and fate—the mystery is still impenetrable."

### PERCHANCE, THE GREATEST WONDER OF THE WORLD

The picture is certainly confused when the scattered and disconnected fragments of the mysterious race point to a people of slaves -- at the same time, to a nation of warriors; to a semi-civilized race of unsettled hunters and fishermen, yet who have built an empire which



the Toltecs remember by tradition ; to a seething, unformed conglomeration of tribes and families, spreading over the valleys and prairies of interior America, and yet completely obliterated either by ages of attrition, or racial displacement, of which not even tradition has left the faintest clew. The entire unsolved problem is perhaps the greatest wonder which the Creator has left to the solution of mankind, and is the weird background for the writing of any history which would picture the authentic development of the splendid country which was once held by the Mound Builders of Ancient America.



## CHAPTER II

### THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCES—FIRST RECORD OF THE TIPPECANOE—VERSAILLES THE COLONIAL SEAT OF GOVERNMENT—INDIANA AS A PART OF NEW FRANCE—GREAT CHAIN OF FRENCH FORTS—INDIANA TRADING POSTS—GOVERNED FROM VINCENNES—INDIANA UNDER BRITISH RULE—SEMI-CIVIL GOVERNMENT AT FORT CHARTRES—UNCERTAIN FRENCH TITLES TO LANDS—AS A PART OF CANADA—AN EXTENSION OF VIRGINIA—IN THE COUNTY OF ILLINOIS—THE NORTHWEST BECOMES NATIONAL TERRITORY—POPULAR ASSEMBLY FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY—INDIANA TERRITORY CREATED—FIRST TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE—GOVERNOR HARRISON, FATHER OF INDIANA—INDIAN COMPLAINTS NOT GROUNDLESS—TECUMSEH AND THE PROPHET IMPLACABLE—THE BATTLE OF TIPPECANOE—SKETCHES OF COL. ISAAC WHITE—INDIAN STRAGGLERS SETTLE IN WHITE COUNTY—CHANGES IN GOVERNORS AND CAPITALS—STATE CONSTITUTION ADOPTED AT CORYDON—INDIANAPOLIS FIXED AS PERMANENT CAPITAL.

As we approach the pages of history, another background is to be painted in which, although it is not concerned with speculation entirely, has little practical bearing on the founding and growth of White County. But it will enable the reader to get a perspective—which is always of advantage—and to obtain a clear idea of the relations of his home country to the various governments which claimed sovereignty over the territory which is now the soil of the United States, Indiana and White County. Such information has therefore a certain domestic value, aside from being the means of conveying to the reader a definite idea of who were the original masters of the soil before the Indians relinquished it to the whites, and the historical processes by which the way was cleared for the establishment of the civil security of the present.

#### CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCES

At the very outset of the incursion of the first Frenchmen to the Indian country of what is now Indiana, there is uncertainty as to the date of their coming. At the best it can only be said that La Salle and his men were engaged in their explorations and discoveries down and up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and their tributaries, for about twenty years previous to the assassination of the great leader in 1687, and that the most positive evidence as to their actual journeyings in



Northwestern Indiana is found in the maps which were issued by the Government during that period. Joliet's large map of 1674 delineates La Salle's route along the main valley of the Ohio, but indicates no French settlements in what is now Indiana. An earlier and a smaller map shows the course of the Ohio as the result of La Salle's explorations which commenced in 1669. Still following the cartographical evidence, it is probable that none of La Salle's parties explored the branches of the Ohio in the present State of Indiana until during the later period of his career.

#### FIRST RECORD OF THE TIPPECANOE

Franquelin's map of 1684 and D'Anville's map of "La Salle's explorations from 1679 to 1683," are the first to give the courses of the Wabash, the Tippecanoe, the Eel, and lesser tributaries of the Ohio system. But all indication of French settlements is absent from even these later maps, although La Salle's explorations and the cartographic records of them issued by the French government constituted the basis of its territorial claims in North America. But for twenty-five years after La Salle's death, before the Miami Confederation of Indians, who had abandoned their homes at the instigation of La Salle and joined the western alliance against their Iroquois enemies, returned to Indiana soil under the protectorate of New France. Until the early part of the eighteenth century the Ohio country claimed by France was not safe from the incursions of the Five Nations, consequently no French settlements showed on the maps of that period—as there were none.

#### VERSAILLES, THE COLONIAL SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

From La Salle's time until the treaty of Paris placed New France formally in the hands of Great Britain, what is now Indiana was governed from Versailles, old France, which was the seat of the colonial office, orders from which were dispatched to the governor general in the New World.

#### INDIANA AS A PART OF NEW FRANCE

A panoramic view of the French control of Indiana is well presented by Dr. William S. Haymond, for twenty years one of the most scholarly and prominent citizens of Monticello and afterward an honored resident of Indianapolis and a national figure in Congress. As shown in his "History of Indiana," published six years before his death, it is unfolded in this wise: "In 1670, and for many years previous, the fertile region of country now included within the boundaries of the State of Indiana, was inhabited by the Miami Confederation of Indians. This league consisted of several Algonquin tribes, notably the Twightwees, Weas, Piankeshaws and Shokeys, and was formed at an early period—probably in the early part of the seventeenth century—for the purpose of repelling





the invasions of the Iroquois, or Five Nations, at whose hands they had suffered many severe defeats. By the frequent and unsuccessful wars in which they were compelled to engage in self-defense their numbers had been greatly reduced until, at the date mentioned, they could not muster more than fifteen hundred or two thousand warriors. They dwelt in small villages on the banks of the various rivers in Indiana and extended their dominion as far east as the Scioto, north to the Great Lakes and west to the country of the Illinois. Their principal settlements were scattered along the headwaters of the Great Miami, the banks of the Maumee, the St. Joseph of Lake Michigan, the Wabash and its tributaries. Although once important among the nations of the Lake Region they had become greatly demoralized by repeated defeats in war, and when first visited by the French their villages presented a very untidy appearance. They were living in constant terror of the Five Nations, practicing only sufficient industry to prevent starvation and indulging all their vicious passions to a vulgar extreme.

#### GREAT CHAIN OF FRENCH FORTS

"Almost immediately following the discovery and exploration of the Mississippi by La Salle in 1682, and a few years later by James Marquette, the government of France began to encourage the policy of connecting its possessions in North America by a chain of fortifications and trading posts and missionary stations, extending from New Orleans on the southwest to Quebec on the northeast. This undertaking was inaugurated by La Motte Cadillac, who established Fort Pontchartrain on the Detroit River in 1701.

#### FRENCH-INDIAN AMALGAMATION

"At this period the zealous Jesuit missionaries, the adventurous French fur traders, with their coarse blue and red cloths, fine scarlet, guns, powder, balls, knives, ribbons, beads, vermilion, tobacco and rum; the careless rangers, or *coueurs des bois*, whose chief vocation was conducting the canoes of the traders among the lakes and rivers, made their appearance among the Indians of Indiana. The pious Jesuits held up the cross of Christ and unfolded the mysteries of the Catholic religion in broken Indian to those astonished savages, while the speculating trader offered them fire water and other articles of merchandise in exchange for their peltries, and the rangers, shaking loose every tie of blood and kindred, identified themselves with the savages and sank into utter barbarism."

The Jesuit missionaries were always cordially received by the Miami tribes. These Indians would listen patiently to the strange theory of the Savior and salvation, manifest a willing belief in all they heard, and then, as if to entertain their visitors in return, would tell them the story of their own simple faith in the Manitous, and stalk off with a groan of dissatisfaction because the missionaries would not accept their theory



with equal courtesy. Missionary stations were established at an early day in all of the principal villages and the work of instructing and converting the savages was begun in earnest. The order of religious exercises established at the missions among the Miamis was nearly the same as that among the other Indians. Early in the morning the missionaries would assemble the Indians at the church, or the hut used for that purpose, and after prayers the savages were taught concerning the Catholic religion. These exercises were always followed by singing, at the conclusion of which the congregation was dismissed, the Christians only remaining to take part at mass. This service was generally followed by prayers. During the forenoon the priests were generally engaged in visiting the sick and consoling those who were laboring under any affliction. After noon another service was held in the church, at which all the Indians were permitted to appear in their finery and where each, without regard to rank or age, answered the questions put by the missionary. This exercise was concluded by singing hymns, the words of which had been set to airs familiar to the savage ear. In the evening all assembled again at the church for instruction, to hear prayers and to sing their favorite hymns. The Miamis were always highly pleased with the latter exercise.

Aside from the character of the religious services which constituted a chief attraction in the Miami villages of Indiana while the early French missionaries were among them, the traveler's attention would first be engaged with the peculiarities of the fur trade, which during the first quarter of the seventeenth century was monopolized by the French. This traffic was not, however, confined to those whose wealth enabled them to engage vessels, canoes and carriers, for there were hundreds scattered through the various Indian villages of Indiana at almost any time during the first half of the eighteenth century, who carried their packs of merchandise and furs by means of leather straps suspended from their shoulders, or with the straps resting against their foreheads.

Rum and brandy were freely introduced by the traders, and always found a ready sale among the Miami Indians. A Frenchman, writing of the evils which resulted from the introduction of spirituous liquors among these savages, remarked: "The distribution of it is made in the usual way; that is to say, a certain number of persons have delivered to each of them a quantity sufficient to get drunk with, so that the whole have been drunk over eight days. They begin to drink in the villages as soon as the sun is down, and every night the fields echo with the most hideous howling."

#### INDIANA TRADING POSTS

In those early days the Miami villages of the Maumee, those of the Weas about Ouiatenon, on the Wabash, and those of the Piankeshaws around Vincennes, were the central points of the fur trade in Indiana. Trading posts were established at these places and at Fort Wayne in



1719, although for twenty years previous the French traders and missionaries had frequently visited them. A permanent church or mission was established at the Piankeshaw village near Vincennes, in 1749, by Father Meurin, and the following year a small fort was erected there by order of the French government. It was in that year that a small fort was erected near the mouth of the Wabash River. These posts soon drew a large number of French traders around them and in 1756 they had become quite important settlements, with a mixed population of French and Indian.

At this date the English became competitors for the trade with the Indians in Indiana and the surrounding country, and at the close of the old French war, in 1763, when Canada and its dependencies fell into the hands of the British, this monopoly passed over to the victors. Notwithstanding this change in the government of the country, the French who had settled around the principal trading posts in Indiana, with a few exceptions, swore allegiance to the British government and were permitted to occupy their lands in peace and enjoy the slight improvements they had wrought.

#### GOVERNED FROM VINCENNES

The Post, or the Old Post—later known as Vincennes—was established in 1727 and until after the Revolutionary war was the only white settlement in Indiana, although French military forts were established both at the head of the Maumee and at Ouiatenon—the latter on the Wabash, about eighteen miles below the mouth of the Tippecanoe. The post at Ouiatenon is claimed to be the first of its kind in Indiana and dated from 1720. From its settlement until it was finally transferred to Great Britain, Vincennes was under the jurisdiction of New Orleans, although its trade was largely with Canada. It was in command of a governor, Francois Margane, Sieur de Vincennes holding that office from the founding of the post until his death in 1736. During that period, therefore, Indiana was under the direct jurisdiction of Governor Vincennes, and indirectly of New Orleans and Versailles.

#### INDIANA UNDER BRITISH RULE

Vincennes was slain in battle with the Indians at the mouth of the Ohio, in 1736, and Louis St. Ange commanded Old Vincennes until 1764, or a short time before it was finally surrendered to the British. In May of that year, about six months previous to the proclamation of General Gage, the British commander-in-chief in North America, announcing the cession of the country of the Illinois to His Britannic Majesty, St. Ange appointed his successor to the command of the Old Post and started for Fort Chartres to relieve the commandant at that post, who was on his way to New Orleans. For nearly thirty years he had led and governed the people of Old Vincennes.



## SEMI-CIVIL GOVERNMENT AT FORT CHARTRES

On the 10th of October, 1765, St. Ange made a formal delivery of Fort Chartres to Captain Sterling, representing the British government. That military center of the Illinois country became the first semi-civil seat of government established northwest of the Ohio and including the present territory constituting the State of Indiana. Captain Sterling in turn received his orders from General Gage, whose headquarters were at New York, the British seat of colonial government in North America.

Fort Chartres was a very unhealthful place and Captain Sterling, its first British commandant, lived only three months after taking possession. In September, 1768, Lieutenant Colonel Reed, in command, set up a sort of civil government for the Illinois country. Its main feature consisted of the seven judges, who constituted the first court west of the Alleghanies and retained authority until 1774, when the British Parliament restored civil law in full force.

## UNCERTAIN FRENCH TITLES TO LANDS

The steps leading to the formal assumption of the civil administration of the territory embracing Indiana by the Canadian authorities, with Quebec as the seat of the dominion government, are thus epitomized: "The arbitrary act of General Gage, in 1772, in ordering all the whites to immediately vacate the Indian country, aroused the settlers and they at once vigorously protested. They declared they held the title to their lands from officers of the French government, who had a right to convey such titles, and that when the French government transferred the territory to the English their rights were duly protected by the treaty of cession. Gage was autocratic and determined, and on the receipt of this remonstrance he ordered that all written titles to the possession of the lands should be forwarded to him at New York for examination. The inhabitants were a careless set and mainly ignorant, and had failed to properly care for the written evidence of the grants made to them, and many of them had been left in the hands of the notary who had drawn them. They never dreamed of any question ever being raised as to their right to the lands they were occupying and had been occupying for nearly half a century. So it was that this last order of Gage fell like a thunderbolt upon the poor inhabitants. Some deeds were found, but many more could not be found. An appeal was made to St. Ange at St. Louis. He responded by reciting that he had held command of the post (Vincennes) from 1736 to 1764, and that during that time, by order of the governors, he had conceded many parcels of lands to various inhabitants by written concessions, and had verbally permitted others to settle and cultivate lands, of which they had been in possession for many years. Other officers testified that many deeds had been carried away, others removed to the record office of the Illinois (at Fort Chartres) and still others had been lost or destroyed by rats. But the British government had already heard the





mutterings of discontent in the eastern colonies and did not want to add to the embarrassments at other points, and in 1774 the whole territory northwest of the Ohio was put under the dominion of Canada."

#### AS A PART OF CANADA

When the Illinois country, or the territory northwest of the Ohio, was transferred from France to Great Britain about a decade before, the entire population did not exceed 600 families, or perhaps 4,000 people, and when it came under the government of Canada it was considerably less, as many of the inhabitants had gone to St. Louis, New Orleans, and other points in Louisiana.

The British took possession of Vincennes in May, 1777, but it was captured by the Americans in August of the following year, who relinquished it for three months to the English, when it was recaptured by Gen. George Rogers Clark and became forever a possession of the United States.

#### AN EXTENSION OF VIRGINIA

During the Revolutionary war no British or American settlements were made within the limits of Indiana, although while General Clark was in authority at Vincennes a number of Americans were added to the post settlement, and the Indians ceded to the commandant himself 150,000 acres of land around the falls of the Ohio River, which grant was afterward confirmed by Virginia and the National Congress. As an energetic Kentuckian, an able, brave man, of military genius, and backed by the Old Dominion and the statesmanship of Patrick Henry, then governor, General Clark was admirably fitted to be the conqueror of the Northwest, whether fighting against the British or the Indians.

#### IN THE COUNTY OF ILLINOIS

In 1778, when the news of Clark's capture of Vincennes and Kaskaskia reached Virginia, its assembly passed a law organizing all the territory northwest of the Ohio into the County of Illinois and placing Col. John Todd in control as county lieutenant. As Kaskaskia was the seat of government, Indiana again came under a new administration centering ultimately at Richmond, Virginia. Todd arrived at his capital in May, 1779, and at once commenced his administration as county lieutenant, leaving Clark free to pursue his military enterprises; but he himself was killed at the battle of Blue Licks in 1782. Although by statute the organization of the County of Illinois had expired in 1781, its civil officers continued to exercise power and grant land concessions until the passage of the ordinance of 1787.

#### THE NORTHWEST BECOMES NATIONAL TERRITORY

We now approach the period of stable American government, when the United States as a nation extended its jurisdiction to the County



of Illinois and the territory northwest of the Ohio River. That immense domain was claimed by Virginia by right of conquest, but in January, 1783, the General Assembly of the Old Dominion, in the interests of the United States, ceded to the National Congress all its rights, title and claims to that great land. The Virginia deed of cession was accepted by Congress in the spring of 1784, and in July, 1788, Gen. Arthur St. Clair, who had been elected by Congress governor of the Northwest Territory under the famous ordinance of the previous year, arrived at Marietta, Ohio, to take over the civil administration of the national domain now included within the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. At that time, therefore, the future Hoosier State was governed indirectly from Philadelphia and directly from Marietta, the territorial capital.

#### POPULAR ASSEMBLY FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY

Until Indiana was organized as a territory in 1800 there were few settlements within the limits of the present state. In 1798, under the provisions of the ordinance creating the Northwest Territory, and providing that when its population should number 5,000 free inhabitants, a popular assembly was elected to represent the Northwest, and in January, 1799, convened at Cincinnati, whither the seat of government had been moved from Marietta. Ten members of the upper house, of council, were then appointed by President Adams, upon recommendation of the elected assembly, and when the two bodies met at the new territorial capital in September, 1799, a near approach to popular government had been effected in the territory northwest of the Ohio River.

#### INDIANA TERRITORY CREATED

The Legislature selected as the territorial delegate to Congress, William Henry Harrison, who was filling the position of secretary of the Northwest Territory. The new government was hardly under way before the tremendous domain over which it had jurisdiction underwent its first carving, under authority of the Ordinance of 1787. By act of Congress, approved May 7, 1800, it was declared that "from and after the fourth of July next, all that part of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio river which lies to the westward of a line beginning at the Ohio opposite the mouth of the Kentucky river and running thence to Fort Recovery, and thence north until it shall intersect the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall, for the purpose of temporary government, constitute a separate territory to be called the Indiana Territory." The seat of government was fixed at Vincennes and William Henry Harrison was appointed governor. He reached Vincennes in January, 1801, the gubernatorial duties having been performed since the preceding July by John Gibson, secretary of the territory.



## FIRST TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE

The judges and juries were soon in action and in July, 1805, the first Legislature of the Territory of Indiana met at Vincennes. At that time Indiana had been shorn of Michigan for about six months, and in 1809 Illinois was carved away, leaving its territory as at present.

## GOVERNOR HARRISON, FATHER OF INDIANA

Governor and General Harrison is acknowledged to be the father of a settled and secure Indiana. Within five years from the time he assumed control of affairs, both civil and military, he had perfected treaties with the Indians securing cessions to 46,000 square miles of territory, including all the lands lying on the borders of the Ohio River, between the mouth of the Wabash River and the western boundary of the State of Ohio. At the same time, in co-operation with the Legislature, he guided the revision and improvement of the territorial statutes, and at his recommendation Congress established several land offices. In 1804 three were opened—at Detroit, Vincennes and Kaskaskia, respectively—and in 1807, a fourth at Jeffersonville, Clark County.

## INDIAN COMPLAINTS NOT GROUNDLESS

But despite treaties and the protection of the National Government, personified by such a rugged character as Harrison, the original lords of the soil continued to show just causes for uneasiness and indignation. Even the governor, in his 1806 message to the Legislature, remarked that they were already making complaints, some of them far from groundless. While the laws of the territory provided for the same punishment for offenses committed against Indians as against white men, unhappily there was always a wide difference in the execution of those laws. The Indian was, in all cases, the sufferer. That partiality did not escape their observation. On the contrary it afforded them an opportunity of making strong comparisons between their own observance of treaties and that of their boasted superiors.

During the period from 1805 to 1810, especially, the Indians complained bitterly against the encroachments of the whites upon the lands which they had not ceded. Not only the invasion of their favorite hunting grounds, but the unjustifiable killing of many of their people, were frequent charges which they brought to the attention of Harrison. An old chief, in laying the troubles of his people before the governor, said earnestly: "You call us your children; why do you not make us as happy as our fathers, the French, did? They never took from us our lands; indeed, they were in common between us. They planted where they pleased; and they cut wood where they pleased; and so did we. But now, if a poor Indian attempts to take a little bark from a tree to cover him from the rain, up comes a white man and threatens to shoot him, claiming the tree as his own."



## TECUMSEH AND THE PROPHET IMPLACABLE

All such complaints found voice in Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet, the one playing upon the superstitions and passions of the Indians and the other organizing them into a strong confederacy, which was to control the disposition of lands instead of allowing them to be ceded by separate and disunited tribes. Both in 1808 and 1809 the Prophet visited Harrison at Vincennes to assure him of his friendliness and to protest against the charge that he and Tecumseh were in league with the British. In the later part of the year 1809 it was estimated that the total quantity of land ceded to the United States under treaties which had been effected by the governor exceeded 30,000,000 acres; and all of these concessions were accomplished in direct opposition to the influence of Tecumseh and the Prophet; but the break between these powerful leaders of the white and the red races was near at hand.

In July, 1810, Governor Harrison made an attempt to gain the friendship of the Prophet by sending him a letter offering to treat with him personally in the matter of his grievances, or to furnish means to send him, with three of his principal chiefs, to the President at Washington. The bearer of this letter was coldly received both by Tecumseh and the Prophet, and the only answer he received was that Tecumseh, in a few days, would visit Vincennes and interview the governor; this he did, with seventy of his principal warriors, in the following month. For over a week conferences were carried on with the haughty Shawnee chief, who on the 20th of August delivered an ultimatum to Harrison, to the effect that he should return their lands or fight.

While the governor was replying to Tecumseh's speech, the Indian chief interrupted him to declare angrily that the United States government, through General Harrison, had "cheated and imposed on the Indians." Whereupon a number of the Indian warriors present sprung to their feet and brandished their clubs, tomahawks and spears. The governor's guards, which stood a short distance off, marched quickly up, and the red men quieted down, Tecumseh being ordered to his camp.

On the following day Tecumseh apologized and requested another interview. The council was thereupon reopened, but while the Shawnee leader addressed Harrison in a respectful manner, he did not recede from his former demand as to the restoration of the Indian lands.

The governor then requested Tecumseh to state plainly whether or not the lands purchased at the Treaty of Fort Wayne in 1809 could be surveyed without molestation by the Indians, and whether or not the Kickapoos would receive their annuities in payment for such cession. The proposed grant was partly in Illinois. Tecumseh replied: "Brother, when you speak of annuities to me, I look at the land and pity the women and children. I am authorized to say that they will not receive them. Brother, we want to save that piece of land. We do not wish you to take it. It is small enough for our purpose. If you do take it, you must blame yourself as the cause of the trouble between us and the tribes who sold it to you. I want the present boundary line to continue. Should





you cross it, I assure you it will be productive of bad consequences." This talk terminated the council.

On the following day Governor Harrison, attended only by his interpreter, visited Tecumseh's camp and told him that the United States would not acknowledge his claims. "Well," replied the Indian, "as the great chief is to determine the matter, I hope the Great Spirit will put sense enough into his head to induce him to direct you to give up this land. It is true, he is so far off he will not be injured by the war. He may sit still in his town and drink his wine, while you and I will have to fight it out."

Tecumseh's last visit to the governor previous to the battle of Tippecanoe, which crushed the red man's power in Indiana and the Northwest, was on July 27, 1811. He brought with him a considerable force of Indians, but that showing was offset by the 750 well-armed militia which Governor Harrison reviewed with some ostentation: The interview was conciliatory on the part of Tecumseh, who, however, repeated that he hoped no attempts would be made to settle on the lands sold to the United States at the Fort Wayne Treaty, as the Indians wished to keep them for hunting grounds. He then departed for the express purpose of inducing the southern Indians to join his confederacy.

#### THE BATTLE OF TIPPECANOE

While Tecumseh was absent on that mission the battle of Tippecanoe was fought under the leadership of the Prophet, and Indiana became white man's land forever. After Governor Harrison had exhausted every means to maintain peace with the Indian leader he resorted to decisive military measures. His army moved from Vincennes in September, 1811; he built a new fort on the Wabash in the following month, resumed his march, and on the 6th of November, after an unsatisfactory conference with a representative of the Prophet, about half a mile from the town, encamped on the battleground, six miles north of the present City of Lafayette. The selection of that location is said to have been at the suggestion of the Indians, who pronounced it a good place for a camp; the Prophet may therefore be said to have selected the ground on which his people met with such signal defeat.

General Harrison's force consisted of about 250 regular troops, 600 Indiana militia and 150 volunteers from Kentucky. Just before day-break of the 7th of November the Indians made a sudden attack on that part of the camp guarded by the militia. They broke at the first onslaught, but soon reformed, and the entire body of Americans presented a determined front to the wily foe, but did not attempt an offensive until it was light, when several gallant charges were made by the troops and the Indians totally defeated. The Indians being familiar with the ground had been able to inflict severe losses on the Americans. Among the killed were Maj. Jo Daviess, the gifted and brave Kentuckian and Col. Isaac White, the gallant Virginian, who fell aide by side while leading a charge of dragoons.



## SKETCH OF COL. ISAAC WHITE

*By George F. White*

It is gratifying to know that the county was named in honor of so brave a gentleman as Col. Isaac White, an interesting sketch of whom has been written by his grandson, George F. White. As stated by the author, "much of the information was gained orally from his father, some from his cousins in Virginia and some from old letters."

The article follows: "Isaac White was born in Prince William County, Virginia, shortly after the beginning of the Revolutionary war. The exact year is not known, but from the record of his initiation in 1811, as member of Vincennes Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M., in which he states his age was then thirty-five years and from certain interesting family notes written by Mrs. Sarah M. Hayden, it is likely he was born in 1776. His father was probably of English origin and was a man of education, refinement and good standing for before he settled in Virginia, he held a captain's commission in the British Merchant Marine Service. Surrendering this office he purchased a large tract of land in Prince William County, and devoted himself to farming until the Revolution began when he took up arms with the colonies and lost his life, near the close of the conflict, nobly battling for his country.

"The old house where he lived, a substantial stone structure, indicating a home of refinement and luxury, is still standing in an excellent state of preservation, near Brentsville, Virginia, the county seat of Prince William County. In this home Isaac White was born as was also his elder brother, Thomas, and one younger sister, Katie, and here he continued to live with his mother, assisting her as he grew in age and experience until he was past twenty-three years old, when an unhappy event in his mother's life impelled him and his brother Thomas to seek a more adventurous career in the great Northwest Territory.

"It seems that one day when the two sons and all the male tenants of the plantation were absent, a strange man called at the house and asked for something to eat, and in accordance with the hospitality of those days, his request was at once granted but, not satisfied with such kindly treatment, he demanded of her the keys to the drawers where the family treasures were kept. She refused and he tried to get them from her by force. Her screams attracted the attention of a neighbor who, as the account states, was 'a bachelor gentleman,' on a hunting expedition, who rushed in and brained the would-be robber at once. For this valiant act he was arrested, tried, acquitted and wholly exonerated from all blame. As stated, he was 'a bachelor gentleman,' she a widow. His was a heart innocent, confiding and susceptible, while she, like most widows, was conversant with all the wiles and snares which so beset the pathway of bachelors. He was weak. She was strong. He surrendered: they were married and 'lived happily ever after.'

"Of course her two sons, Thomas and Isaac, objected to this union, but to no avail. However, they remained with their mother until their sister Katie was married, and then with only a small amount of money



left home and went to Vincennes, which was soon to become the Capitol of the Northwest Territory. This was in the early part of the year 1800. His appearance at Vincennes created some excitement, as he was full of spirit, well bred, dashing and a general favorite with all, but especially with the young ladies. Mrs. Hayden's notes are full of references to the family of Judge George Leech, then living at Vincennes, and especially of his oldest daughter, Sallie, who soon succeeded in capturing the heart and affections of our hero.

"Such, in brief, is the account coming to us from Mrs. Hayden, whose mother was formerly Miss Amy Leech, a sister to Sallie, who became the wife of the subject of this article. This Amy Leech subsequently became the wife of the Hon. John Marshall, for many years President of the Bank of Illinois, at Shawneetown, Illinois.

"Isaac White was somewhat aristocratic, his wife seems to have been an honest well-meaning backward girl of her period, but their marriage was a most happy one. It is thought Judge Decker officiated at the wedding which was some event as the wedding dinner is said to have been quite an elaborate affair.

"This gentleman, Judge George Leech, into whose family Isaac White married, had emigrated from Louisville, Kentucky, to Vincennes, in 1784, and the members of his family had each selected homesteads in Knox County, but after three years of hardships among the Indians, all except Francis Leech, who had died, moved back to Louisville, but nine years later, in 1796, Judge Leech moved back again to Vincennes, but the Governor of the Northwest Territory refused to allow him to re-occupy his old home, though it was vacant, and he was compelled to occupy the land which had been his brother's. After William Henry Harrison was appointed Governor of the Northwest Territory, Judge Leech was granted one hundred acres more land which he gave as a marriage present to his daughter, and to this day it is known as the 'White-Hall' farm in Knox County, Indiana, and this was the nucleus of a very considerable estate which Isaac White acquired subsequent to his marriage.

"They were encompassed with the many hardships incident to pioneer life, but they were surrounded by good neighbors and when their home was destroyed by fire, these good friends rebuilt for them a substantial log residence in which their only child, George Washington Leech White, was born. That the family of Isaac White was refined and highly respectable is proven by the fact that a strong friendship was cemented between it and the family of Governor Harrison which has been transmitted to their successors.

"On April 30, 1805, Governor Harrison appointed Isaac White Agent for the United States at the Salt works at Saline Creek, Illinois, contiguous to the village of Equality in Gallatin County, Illinois. Here Isaac employed John Marshall, a man of sterling character, who afterward became a banker and acquired a splendid reputation in Indiana and Illinois. The following year Mr. Marshall married the younger sister of Mrs. White, Miss Amy Leech. This wedding occurred October 21, 1806, and the day following both White and Marshall, accompanied by



their wives, departed for the Salt works. On September 8, 1806, Gov. Harrison appointed Isaac White Captain of the Knox County Militia and on September 10th, of the same year, his oath of office was taken before 'William H. Harrison.'

"The Salt works did not long survive. The Act of Congress of March 3, 1803, authorized the leasing of the springs belonging to the government and White, in 1807, had acquired an interest in the Salt works which he held until just before his death, when he disposed of it to Wilkes, Taylor & Co., and returned to Vincennes.

"While living at the Salt works he had two daughters born to him, Harriet Grandison, June 12, 1808, and Juliet Greenville, on July 30, 1810. While he was employed at the springs, White was commissioned a Colonel, probably in the Illinois Militia, which organization was perfected under the Act of Congress of February 3, 1809. This commission is now lost but there is little doubt of its having been issued to him. Shortly after he was commissioned Colonel, occurred one of the most important incidents connected with his life. Duelling was at that time, not uncommon, especially in military circles, but Col. White had a great antipathy to that method of settling differences that arose between men. On May 23, 1811, he wrote a tender and pathetic letter to his wife saying that on the next day he would fight a duel with one Captain Butler, who had offended him, and when his offense had been resented had challenged him and he had accepted. He tells his wife in this letter to sell 'Sukey and the children' and from the proceeds buy a slave in the Territory and then having written his will, bids his wife a tender farewell.

"Their meeting took place on time at a place now called Union Springs, Kentucky, opposite Shawneetown, Illinois, but the result was somewhat different from what might have been expected. By the rules governing the code the challenged party could choose the weapons and the distance; availing himself of this privilege, Col. White chose horse pistols at a distance of six feet. Captain Butler protested, saying that it meant certain death to both, but White insisted that he had the right to name the weapons and fix the distance whereupon Butler left the field and the little affair of honor was ended. In view of the Ordinance of 1787, which prohibited Slavery in the Northwest Territory, it may seem strange that he would advise his wife to 'sell Sukey and the children' and invest the proceeds in a slave in the Territory, but it is a fact that Slavery existed for many years in the Territory and in that part which is now comprised within the limits of our own state.

"The records of Vincennes Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M., disclose the fact that on September 18, 1811, Isaac White was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in said lodge, by Joseph Hamilton Daviess, Grand Master of Kentucky. Daviess was a Major from Kentucky, who had come to Vincennes to offer his services to Gov. Harrison, in his projected campaign against the Indians, in the Wabash Valley. With the consent of his friend, Major Daviess, White joined the expedition in the capacity of a private soldier, which accounts for his name being on the south





tablet of the Battle Ground Monument, among the 37 privates killed in this battle. His is the last name but one on this tablet. They left Vincennes on September 26, 1811, and on their departure, Daviess and White, notwithstanding one was a Major, and the other a private, exchanged swords, and when they were afterwards found on the battlefield, each had the other's sword. Lieut. George Leech, brother-in-law of White, says both were buried in one grave under an oak still standing not far from the grave in which the other dead were placed and some logs were hastily rolled over the grave and burned that the Indians might not be able to discover and loot the grave, but all to no avail, for as soon as the soldiers left, their bodies were exhumed by the Indians and left to wither and rot on the ground. Isaac White was thirty-six years of age when he met his death, yet he left, what for that period, was a considerable fortune, for notwithstanding his well known liberality, he died seized of several thousand acres of land in addition to a fair amount of personal property. He was a man of chivalrous manner, kindly and generous disposition and well beloved by his associates. In 1816, his widow married for her second husband, Samuel Marshall, brother of John Marshall, with whom she lived until her death in 1819.

"Isaac White left three children, one of which, George Washington Leech-White, afterward became a prominent citizen of Indiana and served his country in the Black Hawk War;

"Harriet Grandison White, who married Albert Gallatin Sloo, at 'White-Hall' farm in Knox County, and Juliet Greenville White, who married James Huffman. From Isaac White's son, who marriage Miss Eliza Griffin Mauntleroy, of Kentucky, have descended many quite prominent people.

"By his Will, written with his own hand the day before his duel was to have been fought with Captain Butler, he ordered the payment of all his debts: to his wife he gave all his household and kitchen furniture and two hundred acres of land, in the same item charging her with the proper rearing of his children, and expresses the hope that his son, George, be given a classical education and especially that he be taught fencing: as to the two girls, they were to be given 'a good English education.' He gives to his neighbors, Charles White and John Justice 464 acres and seventy poles of land, one moiety to each, with certain restrictions, and also 'To my niece, Betsey White, one mare, saddle and bridle,' to be worth in cash \$100. Let us indulge the hope that Betsey fully enjoyed her equine gift.

"The will then gives to his son George all the residue of his estate out of which he is to pay to his sister Harriet, at her majority or marriage, \$1,500 and to his sister Juliet on the same contingency he is to pay \$1,000. This Will is dated May 23, 1811, and is duly witnessed by G. C. Harb and Francis Leech."

Several counties in this state are named in honor of those who were engaged in the battle of Tippecanoe, and when White County was organized in 1834, it took its name from Isaac White, the subject of this article. On November 7, 1836, the twenty-fifth anniversary of this battle, John



Tipton, who then owned the Tippecanoe Battle Ground, and who was also present in the engagement, conveyed the grounds to the State of Indiana, and the constitution of our state makes it obligatory on the Legislature to forever maintain it in memory of those who participated in the battle. For many years efforts were put forth by various organizations to induce the state and Federal governments to erect a monument over the graves of those who were buried there; but not until November 7, 1908, were their efforts crowned with success. On the last named date, being the ninety-seventh anniversary of the battle, was unveiled the splendid obelisk which now towers over the graves where in solitude and silence for more than a century, have lain the bodies of those, who fell in this action. It was, judged from the men engaged, a mere skirmish, but in its results, it was one of the most important battles ever fought on this continent.

May we ever hold in loving memory the hero after whom our goodly county is named!

#### BIOGRAPHY BY B. WILSON SMITH

The author is pleased to add to the foregoing the main portions of the very interesting biography of Colonel White written by B. Wilson Smith and published in the historical edition of the Monticello Herald, December 8, 1910; the omissions are those portions of the sketch which would be but repetitions of the story prepared by Colonel White's grandson, and even as given there are necessarily several overlappings of facts in the two papers.

"Thirteen counties of Indiana," says the Smith biography, "were named for heroes who fought at Tippecanoe—practically one-seventh. That battle is usually measured by the number engaged rather than the mighty issues involved. It is too easily forgotten that the last and greatest Indian confederacy on this continent, headed by the greatest of the great Indian warriors of our history, was overthrown just on the eve of its completion by the clear comprehension of General Harrison in crushing this gigantic combination of so many tribes before its consummation.

"For more than fifty years I have been a gatherer of scraps of information here and there of events of our State building, which unfortunately had no great chronicler embodied in one well equipped writer.

"Among the notable men and heroes who fought and fell at Tippecanoe was Col. Isaac White, for whom our county is named. I think our school children ought to be taught thoroughly the early history of their State, county and towns—should know these by heart. These things should be taught at the fireside, in the schools and by the press. We forget that children learn history with avidity before they can grasp the problem of arithmetic. Memory antedates the reasoning faculties.

"Col. Isaac White was born in Prince William county, Virginia, shortly after the commencement of the Revolutionary war. The exact date of his birth is not now exactly known, but from the records of his initiation in 1811 as a member of Masonic Lodge, No. 1, of Vincennes,



Indiana, in which his age is stated to be 35 years, it is altogether likely that he was born in the year 1776. His father was an Englishman by birth and held a commission as captain of British Marines. He resigned his commission and came to Virginia, bought a large estate, and on the breaking out of the war of Independence, cast his lot with the oppressed colonies, and fought through the war till near its close, when he lost his life in defense of his adopted country. He left three children, Isaac, Thomas and daughter Katie. The first lost his life at Tippecanoe and the second was shot through the body in that battle. It was he of whom it is told that the surgeons several times drew a silk handkerchief through the wound to cleanse it. Though supposed to be mortally wounded, he recovered.

"On account of the unsatisfactory second marriage of their mother these two brothers were impelled to seek a new and more adventurous career in the Northwest Territory. They made their way to Vincennes, soon to become the capital of Indiana Territory, in the year 1800. They were not heavily encumbered with property but had a wealth of determination and energy. Isaac White, the subject of this sketch, soon after his arrival met the lovely and accomplished daughter Sallie of Judge George Leech, who came to Vincennes from Louisville, Kentucky, as early as 1784, but after many hardships, ending with the burning of his home over his head by the Indians, returned to Kentucky and did not again take up his residence at Vincennes till 1796. \* \* \* Soon after the organization of Indiana Territory, and the coming of Governor Harrison to Vincennes, the Harrisons and Whites became very intimate friends. A striking evidence of this is shown by the appointment of Mr. White as agent of the United States at the Salt Works on Saline Creek, in Gallatin county, Illinois. The following is a copy of this appointment:

" "Indiana Territory:

" "William Henry Harrison, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Indiana Territory,

" "[SEAL.] To all who shall see these presents, greetings:

" "Know ye, that in pursuance of instruction from the President of the United States, I have constituted and appointed, and do by these presents constitute and appoint Isaac White of Knox county to be agent for the United States, to reside at the Salt Works on Saline Creek, for the purpose of receiving and selling the salt, and to perform such other acts and things as the Government of the United States may think proper to charge him with. This commission to continue during pleasure.

" "Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory, at Vincennes, this 30th day of April, 1805, and of the Independence of the United States the Twenty ninth,

" "WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,

" "By the Governor,

" "John Gibson, Secretary.



"During the year 1806 Governor Harrison appointed Mr. White a captain in a regiment of Knox county, commission dated Sept. 10th, 1806. (The commission by copy is now before me). After a short service as agent for the Government at the Saline, he on the change of the Government as agent, became a lessee with partners and during this relation acquired considerable property. This interest he sold during the summer of 1811 and removed with his family to Vincennes.

"It is claimed by some that he was appointed colonel of Illinois Militia during his sojourn at the Saline. (Illinois was organized as a Territory Feb. 3rd, 1809.) But I am quite sure this is a mistake. He never was colonel of an Illinois regiment, and never brought an Illinois company with him to the Battle of Tippecanoe, but he *was* colonel of the 3rd Regiment of Indiana Militia and tendered this regiment to Governor Harrison for the expedition to the Prophets' town.

"A very important incident occurred in Col. White's life just before leaving the Saline in Illinois during the year 1811. He was challenged to fight a duel by one Mr. Butler. Though, unlike most Virginians of that day, he was morally opposed to dueling, yet he thought there were cases where it could not be avoided. Particularly a military man when challenged could not decline. Col. White accepted, chose horse pistols as the weapons, and six paces as the distance. The meeting place was Union Springs, Kentucky, opposite Shawneetown, Illinois. All parties were on time at the meeting, but when the terms became known, the challenger and his friends objected to the conditions as not offering any chance for the escape of either challenger or challenged. Col. White and his friends stood firmly by the terms, and the challenger and his friends abruptly and precipitately withdrew. The want of space forbids the insertion of Col. White's letter to his wife on the eve of this occurrence.

"Soon after Col. White's sale of his interest in the Illinois Salt Works and his return to Vincennes, he was entered and passed as an apprentice and fellowcraft Mason in the Masonic Lodge at Vincennes then under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and on the 18th of September, 1811, he was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason by his friend the celebrated Colonel Joseph H. Daviess, Grand Master of Kentucky, who had come to Vincennes to offer his services to Governor Harrison in an expected campaign against the confederated Indians at the Prophet's town.

"Col. White earnestly solicited Governor Harrison to have his regiment (the 3rd Indiana Militia), or at least a part of it, included in the forces of the expedition but was told that the United States troops then on the way—the 4th Regiment from Pittsburgh and the other forces already organized, would be sufficient for the expedition. But he was not to be deterred, and with Thomas Randolph, late Attorney General of the Territory, he enrolled himself in the company of dragoons commanded by Captain Parke, which company and two others were placed, as a squadron of dragoons, under command of his friend Col. Daviess. An incident of this early soldier association is worthy of mention. Col.





Daviess and Col. White exchanged swords, and on the fatal November morning, November 7th, the sword of Col. White was found buckled to the belt of Col. Daviess, and the sword of Col. Daviess was found held in the iron grip of his friend Col. White. They had fallen side by side in that fatal charge. White was stark and cold in death, and Daviess, though living, was pierced by three balls in the breast, either of which would have been fatal. The flash of his pistol had exposed him to the deadly aim of three savages.

"At daylight the Battle of Tippecanoe was won—but at what a fearful price! Of the nine hundred men, one hundred and eighty-three killed and wounded, of whom thirty-seven were killed in action and twenty-five died of their wounds.

"And now, side by side, these two noble patriot friends sleep their last sleep, and with them in the same grave, their common friend, Col. Owen, an aid to General Harrison, who fell early in the action at the side of his commander. On the battlefield markers tell where Daviess and Owen fell, but by inexcusable ignorance no marker tells where Col. White fell, nor is his name on the monument among the officers, but in the list of privates. Will White county permit this neglect of the gallant soldier whose name she bears?"

#### INDIAN STRAGGLERS SETTLE IN WHITE COUNTY

Milton M. Sill, in his unpublished "History of White County," has this to say about one aftermath of the battle which specifically relates to home matters: "After the decisive battle of Tippecanoe with the Pottawattamie Indians, and their defeat and the destruction of their principal town at the mouth of the Tippecanoe river, the remnant of that tribe, fleeing north, settled at various points on the river (two within the limits of White county) and built villages. One of their villages was located on the west bank of the river half a mile above Monticello, and the other five miles further north on the east bank near what was afterward known as Holmes' ford. At both the villages a small patch of ground was cultivated in corn, all the labor being performed by the squaws, the men deeming it beneath their dignity to perform menial labor until they became too old for war or the chase; and even then they avoided any manual labor by being installed members of what they called the Council.

"The Pottawattamies were divided into two distinct and separate bands or tribes, each having a head man or chief, and having little, if any, communication. By far the larger section of the tribe inhabited southern Michigan and a part of northern Indiana. They were under the guidance of a chief called Pokagon, who lived to a great age, and was distinguished for his firm and unswerving friendship for the white settlers and his unflinching integrity, as well as his scholarly attainments which were by no means limited." As we know, the other tribe was controlled by the unfortunate Prophet.



## CHANGES IN GOVERNORS AND CAPITALS

Governor Harrison's prolonged absences from the seat of government on military duties made it necessary to place the civil administration in other hands. In 1812 and the first four months of 1813 these responsibilities devolved on John Gibson, secretary of the territory. In February of the latter year President Madison nominated Thomas Posey, United States senator from Louisiana, for governor of Indiana, as General Harrison had been made commander in-chief of the American forces in the West. Governor Posey arrived at Vincennes in May, 1813, and in December of that year the Legislature met at the new capital—Corydon, Harrison County. The State House at that place had been partially erected in 1811, but was not entirely completed until 1815.

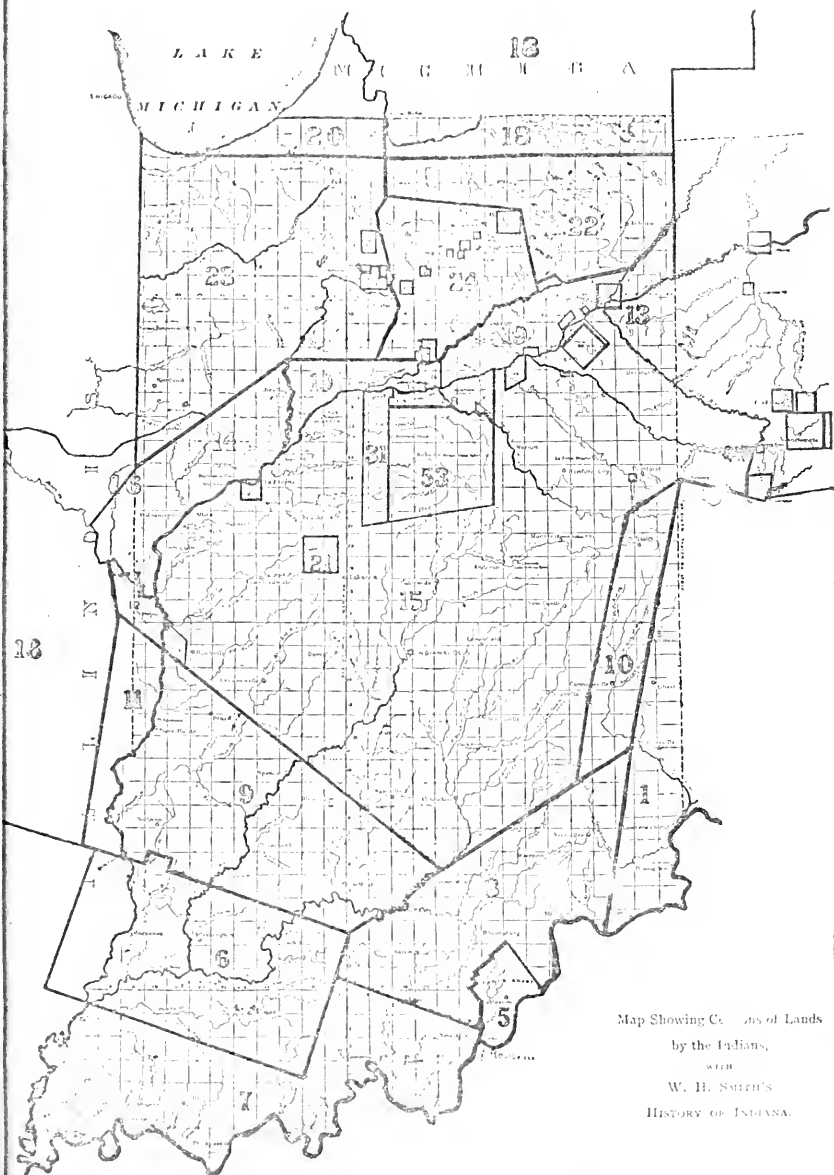
## STATE CONSTITUTION ADOPTED AT CORYDON

In December of the latter year, the Territory of Indiana applied to Congress for admission into the Union as a state, since more than 60,000 free white inhabitants then resided within its limits—to be exact, 63,897. Congress passed the enabling act in May, 1816, and the delegates elected to frame a state constitution held a convention at Corydon, lasting from the 10th to the 29th of June, of that year. Instead of deliberating in the stuffy little State House they held most of their meetings under a huge elm tree on the banks of Big Indian Creek, several hundred feet north-west of the capitol. The grand old tree still stands, fifty feet in height with a spread of branches nearly 125 feet across. The first session of the Legislature of the State of Indiana opened at the Corydon State House on November 4, 1816.

## INDIANAPOLIS FIXED AS PERMANENT CAPITAL

Corydon remained the state capital until 1825, although the site of Indianapolis had been selected by the commissioners appointed for that purpose by the Legislature in 1820. In 1819 Congress had donated to the state four sections of land to be selected from any tract of the public domain then unsold, and in May of the following year the locating commissioners fixed upon a tract on the west fork of White River near the geographical center of the state and platted the new capital as Indianapolis. The seat of government of the commonwealth was moved thither in 1825, as stated, and the first state house completed in 1836. As designated in the congressional grant, Indianapolis was fixed as the permanent capital of Indiana, and all its counties have since looked to that city as the seat of their governmental authority. The transfer of the center from Corydon was effected seven years before White County was created.





Map Showing Cessions of Lands  
by the Indians,  
with  
W. H. SMITH'S  
HISTORY OF INDIANA.

MAP OF INDIAN CESSIONS, INCLUDING WHITE COUNTY



## CHAPTER III

### LIFTING OF INDIAN CLAIMS

POTTAWATTAMIES, THE HOME TRIBE—THEIR CHIEF VILLAGE IN THE COUNTY—HOW THE LANDS PASSED TO THE UNITED STATES—THE FOUR BASIC CESSIONS—FIRST MIGRATION OF THE POTTAWATTAMIES—THE FINAL REMOVAL EN MASSE—THE TRIBE GATHERS AT PLYMOUTH—THE MARCH WESTWARD—POKAGON'S PROPHECIES—ANOTHER PICTURE OF THE MIGRATION.

Historians concede that the Miamis preceded the Pottawattamies in the occupation of the soil included within the present limits of Indiana. When the French first came into the country they were both being crowded south by the Sacs, Foxes and other northwestern tribes, and at the beginning of the nineteenth century the Pottawattamies had been circumscribed to the country around the southern shores of Lake Michigan and extending over northwestern Indiana to the Wabash River. They were inferior in every way to the Miamis and acknowledged their dependence upon them by insisting in every cession which they made of the lands they were occupying that the Miamis should sanction such action.

#### POTTAWATTAMIES, THE HOME TRIBE

At the beginning of the War of 1812 the Pottawattamies occupied Northwestern Indiana from the north bank of the Wabash and had several prosperous villages along the Tippecanoe and its branches. As we have seen, after the battle of Tippecanoe in 1811, at least two villages of considerable size were founded in White county, the larger being on the east bank of the Tippecanoe River, at what afterward became known as Holmes' ford in Liberty Township, seven miles north of Monticello.

#### THEIR CHIEF VILLAGE IN THE COUNTY

When the whites first came into the county in the early '30s this Indian village consisted of nearly 100 wigwams and some 300 Pottawattamies. They had three or four acres adjoining the village which they cultivated to corn, pumpkins, squashes and potatoes with which to vary their meat diet of possum, venison and other wild game. They were hospitable, dirty beggars, and neither their cooking nor their personal habits appealed to the settlers, who were glad to see the last of them.





mourful and romantic as was their departure for their western reservation a decade later.

#### HOW THE LANDS PASSED TO THE UNITED STATES

Without going into the intricacies of the general, or blanket treaties, by which Great Britain and the United States secured their color of title from the Indians, it is sufficient to know that the specific treaties by which the primitive owners transferred the White County lands to the general Government were made in 1818, 1826 and 1832.

#### • THE FOUR BASIC CESSIONS

On October 2 and 3, 1818, the Pottawattamies, Weas and Delawares—all closely related in tribal affairs—ceded their lands in Indiana west of the Tippecanoe River, the last two relinquishing all claims to real estate within the limits of the young commonwealth. The Pottawattamie treaty of October 2d, which is the most important from a White County standpoint, was concluded at St. Mary's, Ohio, between Gov. Jonathan Jennings, Lewis Cass and Benjamin Parke, United States commissioners, and the principal chief and warriors of the Pottawattamie nation. The following tract was thus ceded to the general Government: Beginning at the mouth of the Tippecanoe River and running up the same to a point twenty-five miles in a direct line from the Wabash River, thence on a line as nearly parallel to the general course of the Wabash River, thence down the Vermillion River to its mouth, and thence up the Wabash River to the place of beginning.

Within the following eight years the Miamis, the Pottawattamies and the Weas ceded various tracts in central and western Indiana, which did not affect any territory within the present White County.

Both the Pottawattamies and the Miamis ceded all their lands east of the Tippecanoe by the treaty of October 23, 1826, the tract being thus formally described: Beginning on the Tippecanoe River where the northern boundary of the tract ceded by the Pottawattamies to the United State at the treaty of St. Mary's in the year 1818 intersects the same, thence in a direct line to a point on Eel River, half way between the mouth of said river and Parrish's village, thence up Eel River to Seek's village (now in Whitley County) near the head thereof, thence in a direct line to the mouth of a creek emptying into the St. Joseph's of the Miami (Maumee) near Metea's village, thence up the St. Joseph's to the boundary line between the Ohio and Indiana, thence south to the Miami (Maumee), thence up the same to the reservation at Fort Wayne, thence with the lines of the said reservation to the boundary established by the treaty with the Miamis in 1818, thence with the said line to the Wabash River, thence with the same river, to the mouth of the Tippecanoe River, and thence with the Tippecanoe River to the place of beginning.

By the treaty with the Pottawattamies, of October 26, 1832, a tract



of land in the northwestern portion of the state was obtained by the Government, which overlapped the Kickapoo cession in Illinois. It embraced a portion of White County to the north and northwest. On the following day the Pottawattamies of Indiana and Michigan also relinquished all claims to any remaining lands in those states, as well as in Illinois, south of Grand River, thus perfecting the Government title to a northern strip of what is now Liberty Township.

By the four treaties mentioned, the settlers of White County, the pioneers of whom commenced to come into the county at the time of these Pottawattamie cessions, were enabled to read their titles clear to their homesteads and mansions on earth.

On the 11th of February, 1836, the Government concluded the agreement with the Pottawattamies by which all former treaties were ratified and a stipulation made that they would migrate, within two years, to their reservation beyond the Missouri River, the United States to pay the expenses of such removal and furnish them one year's subsistence.

On April 23, 1836, there was introduced in the Twenty-fourth Congress a memorial from the Indiana Legislature asking Congress to extinguish the title of the Pottawattamie and Miami Indians to all lands in said state. This memorial recites that said matter is one of the greatest interest and importance and asks that their titles be extinguished and the Indians removed from said state. This was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed. Two years later the Indians were removed beyond the Mississippi River.

The last tribal title to lands in Indiana was not extinguished until 1872, when Congress partitioned the ten-mile reserve originally granted in 1838 to the Metosinia band of Miamis (in Wabash County) to sixty-three of the descendants of the original chief.

#### FIRST MIGRATION OF THE POTTAWATTAMIES

Dr. J. Z. Powell, in his "History of Cass County," published by the company which issues this work, gives an authentic and condensed account of the various steps by which the Pottawattamies and Miamis were transferred to their reservations in the far West; the bands from White County were tributary streams to the main bodies which moved down the valley of the Wabash toward Illinois and the Mississippi River.

"The first emigration of the Pottawattamies," says Doctor Powell, "took place in July, 1837, under the direction of Abel C. Pepper, United States commissioner, and George Profit conducted them to their western home. There were about one hundred taken in this band and Nas-wan-gee was their chief. Their village was located on the north bank of Lake Muck-sen-cuck-ee, where Culver Military Academy (Marshall county) now stands. The old chief, Nas-wan-gee, was a mild-mannered man and on the morning of their march to their western home, as he stood on the banks of the lake and took a last, long view of his old home to which he was never to return, he was visibly affected and tears were seen to flow from his eyes.



## THE FINAL REMOVAL EN MASSE

"The last and final removal of the Pottawattamies was made in the fall of 1838. They were unwilling to go and Colonel Abel C. Pepper, then United States Indian agent stationed at Logansport, made a requisition on Governor David Wallace (father of General Lew Wallace, author of *Ben Hur*) for a company of militia, and General John Tipton, of Logansport, was directed to enlist a company of one hundred men, which he speedily did. The recruits were mostly from Cass county. The names of the men composing the company of militia are not obtainable, but the writer's father, Jacob Powell, and Isaac Newton Clary, pioneers of Bethlehem and Harrison townships, were among the number.

## THE TRIBE GATHERS AT PLYMOUTH

"Sixty wagons were provided to haul the women, children and those unable to march. There were eight hundred and fifty-nine Indians enrolled under the leadership of Chief Menominee. Their principal village was situated on Twin lake, about seven miles southwest of Plymouth, in Marshall county, where the entire tribe assembled and bid farewell to their old homes. The village consisted of one hundred and twenty wigwams and cabins; also a chapel in which many of them were converted to Christianity by Father Petit, a missionary in Indiana at that time. Many affecting scenes occurred as these red men of the forest for the last time viewed their cabin homes and the graves of their loved ones who slept in a graveyard near their little log chapel.

## THE MARCH WESTWARD

"On September 4, 1838, they began their sad and solemn march to the West. Their line of march was south on the Michigan road to Logansport, where they encamped just south of Honey Creek on the east side of Michigan avenue, on the night of the 7th of September, 1838; and that night two of the Indians died and were buried just north of Honey creek where the Vandalia Railroad crosses the stream and on the east side of Michigan avenue; and their bones lie there to this day.

General Tipton conducted these Indians along the Wabash river through Lafayette, and on to Danville, Illinois, where he turned them over to Judge William Polke, who took them to their reservation west of the Missouri river. Many of the whites had a great sympathy for this band of Indians and thought they were wrongfully treated in their forcible removal, although, by their chiefs, they had agreed to move West.

## POLYGOON'S PROPHECIES

"A few of the Pottawattamies moved to northern Michigan and some remnants of this once powerful tribe have lived there to recent times. Among their number was Simon Polygoon, who died January 27, 1890.



Just prior to his death he wrote an article for an eastern magazine in which he said: "As to the future of our race, it seems to me almost certain to lose its identity by amalgamation with the dominant race." When Pokagon was asked if he thought that the white man and Indian were originally one blood, he said: "I do not know, but from the present outlook they will be."

"There were bands of Pottawattamie and Miami Indians in Cass and adjoining counties that moved to the West at different times; sometimes they went voluntarily, at other times they were escorted. The last of the Miamis were conducted to their reservation west of the Mississippi by Alex. Coquillard in 1847, and again in 1851."

#### ANOTHER PICTURE OF THE MIGRATION

By the fall of 1838 there were few Pottawattamies left in their old encampments anywhere along the Tippecanoe. Another eye-witness to their greatest march toward the setting sun, that of September in the year named, and toward which the Pottawattamies of White County contributed a considerable contingent, thus describes the enforced migration: "The regular migration of the Pottawattamies took place under Colonel Abel C. Pepper and General Tipton in the summer of 1838. Hearing that this strange emigration, which consisted of about one thousand of all ages and sexes, would pass within eight or ten miles west of Lafayette, a few of us procured horses and rode over to see the retiring band as they reluctantly wended their way toward the setting sun. It was a sad and mournful spectacle to witness these children of the forest slowly retiring from the homes of their childhood. As they cast mournful glances backward toward the loved scenes that were fading in the distance, tears fell from the cheeks of the downcast warriors, old men trembled, matrons wept, the swarthy maiden's cheek turned pale, and sighs and half-suppressed sobs escaped from the motley groups as they passed along, some on foot, some on horseback and others in wagons—sad as a funeral procession. I saw several of the aged warriors casting glances toward the sky, as if they were imploring aid from the spirits of their departed heroes who were looking down upon them from the clouds, or from the Great Spirit who would ultimately redress the wrongs of the red man, whose broken bow had fallen from his hand and whose sad heart was bleeding within him.

"Ever and anon one of the party would start out into the brush and break back to his old encampments on the Tippecanoe, declaring he would rather die than be banished from his country. Thus scores of discontented emigrants returned from different points on their journey and it was several years before they could be induced to join their countrymen west of the Mississippi."





## CHAPTER IV

### NATURAL FEATURES AND INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRIES FOUNDED ON NATURE—NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL DRAINAGE—  
IN A STATE OF NATURE—EFFECT OF PRAIRIE FIRES—USEFUL TREES—  
SOIL AS VARIED AS TIMBER—EARLY PREJUDICE AGAINST PRAIRIE  
LANDS—THE PRAIRIE'S BLUE-JOINT GRASS—NATURE AS MOLDED BY  
MAN—DISAGREEABLE ANIMALS AND REPTILES DISAPPEAR—MOST  
EDIBLE BIRDS GONE—BIRDS THAT ARE LEFT—NATURE CHANGED FOR  
THE BETTER.

Speaking in terms of Nature, White County lies in a gently undulating bed of limestone, within the arms of the great prairie of Illinois which stretches away toward the West and the Northwest. Geologically, it is embraced by the Niagara limestones of the Upper Silurian period, overlaid with drift deposits contributed by glacial action, or by the slower accumulations added by the waters of prehistoric as well as historic times. The result is a superabundance of loam, clay and sand, often thoroughly intermixed, and the formation of a soil which has brought rich returns to the agriculturist, the horticulturist and the live-stock man.

#### INDUSTRIES FOUNDED ON NATURE

At least half of the area of the county is easily farmed and the remainder has been made wonderfully productive by a thoroughly conceived and well executed system of drainage. In this latter feature it is one with much of Northwestern Indiana. Both naturally and artificially, White County is finely adapted to the raising of wheat, corn, oats, root crops and fruit. It is a good apple country and becoming better every year. Its deposits of limestone and fire clays are being utilized commercially, in the manufacture of tiling, building and paving blocks, and the former, in some localities, is crushed into fertilizing products.

Tracts of rich and beautiful prairie are found in various portions of the county, and there is scarcely a square foot of land which cannot either be cultivated or turned over with profit to cattle, horses, pigs and poultry. Considerable heavy timber is still found on the Tippecanoe River and its tributaries, and clusters of oaks and other native trees occur on the sandier tracts far away from the larger water courses. The high bluffs along the river vary the natural beauties of the country, and



these charms of scenery add to the insurance of permanent homes and contented residents.

#### NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL DRAINAGE

The beautiful and historic Tippecanoe River enters the county six miles west of its northeast corner in Liberty Township and flows in a southerly direction about half way through its area, and a short distance southeast of Monticello commences to form the Carroll County division, continuing along that boundary for some six miles, after which it winds into Carroll County on its southerly course to the Wabash. Although it receives such tributaries as the Big and Little Monon from the north-western sections and Honey and Big creeks from the central portions, the actual drainage of the county has long ago been delegated to the "ditches" which network the land everywhere. These ditches serve both to drain and to fertilize, relying primarily for their usefulness on the natural water courses.

Thus Nature, as always, has given to man in White County all the main elements of his prosperity and general development.

#### IN A STATE OF NATURE

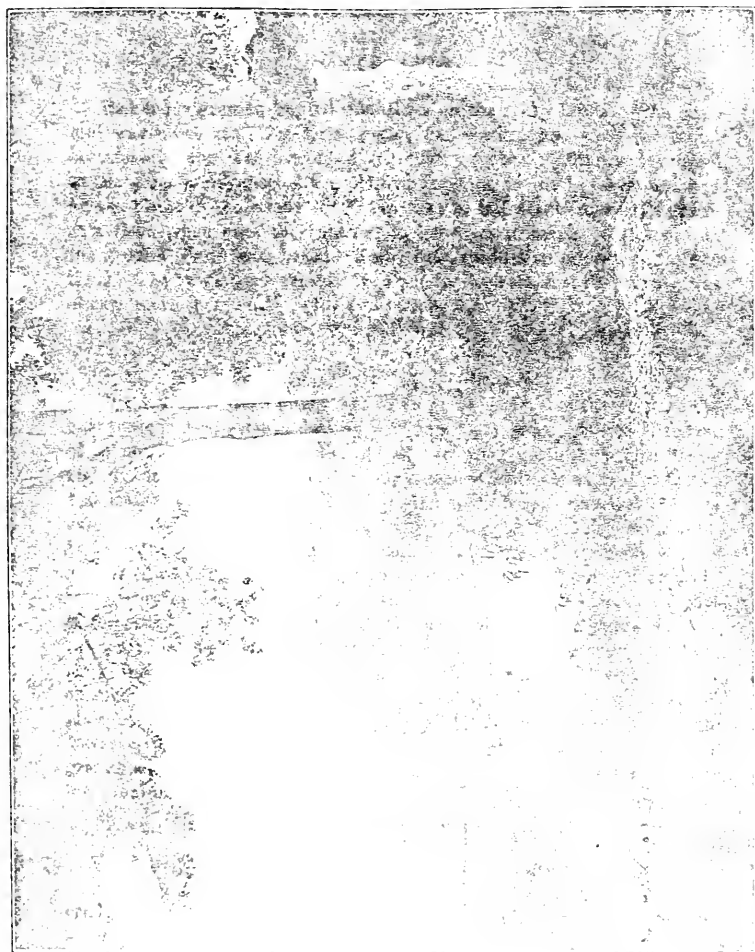
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The surface of White County is comparatively level; the hills never exceed 150 feet in height and the valleys are therefore shallow and but a few acres in extent. Originally the county was quite heavily timbered, especially that portion east of the Tippecanoe River. The timber land on the west side was entirely free from undergrowth and often appeared in the shape of groves of oak, hickory, black walnut, ash, sugar maple and sycamore, the last named confined to the immediate neighborhood of the river and its tributaries.

#### EFFECT OF PRAIRIE FIRES

The absence of undergrowth on the west side of the Tippecanoe is thus explained by a pioneer and local writer: "The rank growth of grass in the prairie land in the western part of the county, often attaining a height of six feet or more during the summer, would be killed by the frosts of autumn and when thoroughly dried furnished fuel for the devastating prairie fires that yearly swept over the country from west to east, burning every living thing in its course but the hardy oak, which had gained a footing on the higher land while yet the lower prairie was covered with water. The river formed a barrier which these fires could not pass, and hence, while there was little, if any, undergrowth on the west side, on the east side was found an almost impenetrable mass of hazel, sassafras, soft maple, paw paw, white hickory and poplar, with young oaks and other young timber in great variety. How the prairie fires were started was a matter of conjecture, but it was believed that the Indians in pursuit of game were the authors, as there





RIVER SCENE NEAR MONTICELLO



were few whites west of the Tippecanoe in the times of the heavy prairie fires. The Indians always denied their responsibility in that matter. It was 'bad chemokeman' (white man) who had done the evil deed; 'nishnobby' (Indian) 'always good'."

#### USEFUL TREES

Red cedar grew in limited quantities on the rocky bluffs of the river and was much used for fence posts; the black locust also was found occasionally and was also used for that purpose. Willows flourished to the great annoyance of the pioneer farmers, in the low grounds and on the banks of the streams. It was next to impossible to wholly eradicate them when once they started to grow, as a simple slip placed in the ground would soon become a tree with sprouts running in all directions. The twigs were extensively used for baskets, but the supply was always more than equal to the demand.

#### SOIL AS VARIED AS TIMBER

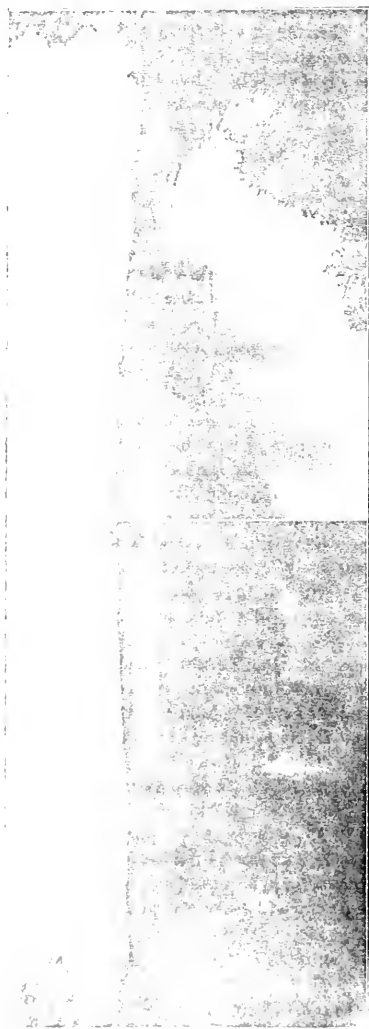
The soil of White County was of as great variety as the timber; the past tense is used even in dealing with this topic, since, with the removal of so much of the timber, the almost universal drainage of the lands and the adoption of such modern agricultural methods as crop rotation and artificial fertilization, the soil itself has undergone marked changes as compared with its composition in the times of the pioneer farmers. In the prairie tracts it was originally a uniform heavy loam with a subsoil of clay, sand or gravel, and underneath all a solid bed of limestone, varying in thickness from two to three feet in the northern part of the county to fifty or sixty feet further south. In the timbered portions the soil was lighter, alternating between ridges of sand and low, level land, little higher than the water in the ponds and sloughs, but all of such fertility that roots, fruits, vegetables, melons, and all kinds of grain could often be grown on a farm of 160 acres. More specifically, however, the prairie was best adapted to the raising of corn, oats and grasses and the timber land to wheat, fruits, melons, vegetables (including potatoes), and all garden products.

#### EARLY PREJUDICE AGAINST PRAIRIE LANDS

The first settlers located in the timbered districts, as they were generally from the East and South and were unfamiliar with the prairies, so bleak and forbidding during many months of the year. It was also a hide-bound and ancient saying, whose complete eradication required the experiences of several generations, that the soil of the timbered lands was necessarily the "strongest" and the most fertile. A few of the pioneer skeptics located in the groves and points of timber reaching out into the prairies, where they could experiment with the comparative qualities of prairie and timber soils, but for years the principal settle-







RIVER VIEWS FROM MCKAIN FARM

© C. L. Foster



ment was confined to the heavily timbered lands near the Tippecanoe. "Those who ventured out to the prairie's edge," says one who passed through the change of opinion among the White County farmers, "were well rewarded at the opening of spring when Nature put forth her mantle of green and the prairie became a great flower garden. With the stately golden rod, the wild rose, the gay and variegated cow-slip and the more humble, not less beautiful violet and wild strawberry plant, besides others of lesser note, in full bloom, it presented a picture worthy of the greatest of painters to depict."

#### THE PRAIRIE'S BLUE-JOINT GRASS

The prairie country of White County, before it was settled to any extent, has not been better described than in Turpie's "Sketches of My Own Times," from which we quote: "It was during the campaign of 1852 that I became really acquainted with the prairie and its people. The country was very sparsely settled; there were few roads and the traveler might ride for hours without meeting or seeing anyone; he directed his course by the sun, or, if it was a cloudy day, by the distant groves, which looked like islands in this vast expanse of grassy plain. Sometimes he traveled in solitude a tract where he could not see timber at all, like the sailor out of sight of land; the landscape in every direction was bounded by a horizon wherein nothing appeared but the green below and the blue above. The surface was generally level, broken only by slight undulations, and had the monotony of an ocean view with the same pleasing variety—whenever the wind blew, the tall grass rippled, fell and rose again in marvelous similitude to the sea. When the sun was not to be seen, and the weather was so lazy that the groves were not visible, the stranger had better retrace his steps; to be lost on the prairie was by no means a pleasant experience.

"The most notable plant in these great natural meadows was the blue-joint grass, so called from the color of its stalks and leaves, which was dark green with a bluish tint near the ground. It was indigenous to the prairie, not found in the woodlands. The blue-stem ordinarily grew to the height of a man's shoulder, sometimes so tall as to conceal a man on horseback. Cattle, sheep and horses were all fond of it; during the whole growing season and until late in the fall it was tender, juicy and succulent; cut and cured as hay, it was by many thought to be as good as the best varieties of cultivated grasses. It was not at all like the swamp or marsh grass, being found on rich and comparatively dry land. The acreage of this wild meadow growth was coextensive with the prairie.

"Although the range was pastured by numerous and large herds, there were many miles of blue-stem that seemed never to have been trod upon save by the deer. When the deer, tempted by curiosity more than by hunger, made a visit to the fields and clearings in the timber, a chase followed. As long as the pursuit was confined to the timber, he might be overtaken or brought to bay; but when the steer



reached the open prairie he ran no longer; he jumped, he leaped twenty or thirty feet at a bound; the hounds entangled in the long thick grass soon lost both scent and sight, and the game escaped. The prairie was a grand resort for game, both great and small, but it was hard to draw the cover.

"The blue stem was a free born native of the soil. It would endure burning and thrived lustily after its cremation, but it could not bear captivity. It scorned enclosure, resented being too often trodden under foot, and brook'd not cultivation in any form. Thus when fields and fences came into vogue, it soon disappeared and has now become almost extinct."

#### NATURE AS MOLDED BY MAN

As stated by a close observer and thinker of this section on the Wabash Valley: The changed conditions have driven out many plants that were found here by the pioneer. The forests have been cut down and many plants whose habitat is in the shade cannot survive and have become extinct. The drainage of wet places has driven out many other varieties which depended upon constant dampness for their existence. The old time rail fence furnished a home for many species to which the modern wire fence gives no protection. The changes due to advancing civilization have all opened the way for new plants, brought in by rail-roads and other agencies. The writer well remembered fifty-five years ago of gathering medicinal plants such as spignet, yellow root, ginseng, may apple and snake root; wild grapes, plums, paw-paw, cherries and black and red haws, and walnuts, butternuts, hickory nuts, hazel nuts and acorns. Many of these have become extinct and others a rarity.

#### DESIRABLE ANIMALS AND REPTILES DISAPPEAR

Of the animals found in the early times, only an occasional skunk and coon could now be found in the woodlands along the river or creek, and with some frequency, appear squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks, muskrats and house mice, but the old-time bear, deer, beavers, otter, panther, wolf, coyote, wild boar and lynx have disappeared from these parts forever.

Rattlesnakes, copperheads, black, water and land snakes, green snakes, tree snakes, blue racer, garter snake, hard and soft shelled turtle, bull frog, green frog, salamanders, eels and toads were numerous in all parts of the country, in the "good old times of yore," but the clearing of the land, the draining of the ponds and careful cultivation of the soil have almost exterminated the reptiles; even the hoarse croak of the big bull frog is now a thing of the past.

In the settlement of the county: wild turkeys, geese, ducks, pheasants, prairie chickens, pigeons, snipe, plovers, eagles, sand hill cranes and other wild bird species were abundant, all of which have virtually disappeared with the advances and improvements of the modern period.



## MOST EDIBLE BIRDS GONE

"The edible birds and animals were quite a source of food for the early settlers; in fact, these were the only meats they had until the land could be cleared and corn raised to fatten hogs and cattle. Quite a number of small birds, with crows, hawks and buzzards, are still numerous, but no edible birds are left except a few quail. The hoo of the prairie hen and the rumble of the pheasant, the gobble of the wild turkey, the cry of the eagle, the thunder of the thunder-pumper, the mournful sound of the whip-poor-will and the the hooting of the owl are seldom now heard.

"Removing the timber and breaking the ground and draining the swamps began to show their effects upon the springs and water courses. Many became dry during the warm season. All life, be it salamander, fishes, mollusks, insects or plants that found therein a home, died. The birds that lived among the reeds and flags, mingling their voices with the frogs, disappeared, and the land reclaimed tells, in its luxuriant growth of corn, no story to the casual passerby of the inhabitants which formerly occupied it.

## BIRDS THAT ARE LEFT

"The following list of birds may still be found, but not in such numbers as formerly: Robin, meadow-lark, blue-jay, blackbird, bluebird, woodpecker, dove, peewee, chipbird, catbird, thrush, kingbird, hawk, crow, owl, swallow and English sparrow. The last named, introduced some years ago is very hard and prolific and is becoming a nuisance rather than otherwise. It has great endurance, its fighting qualities and audacity are unheard of, and it is driving out such birds as the martin, bluebird, peewee and barn swallow, with which it comes so intimately in contact."

## NATURE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER

Altogether, however, the evolution of the local fauna and flora, forced by the agencies of modern advancement and clearly traced in the life-span of old men and women, is for the betterment of humankind. Prosperous villages have replaced the forest-haunts of wild beasts, ploughed and teeming fields appear instead of swamps and bogs alive with noxious and dangerous reptiles, and the wild tangle of plants and bitter fruits has disappeared before the cultivated grasses and fruits, the pastures covered with hardy livestock, and the orchards of the contented homesteaders loaded with apples, peaches, and other products of care and industry.

Thus we believe we have laid the basis and painted in the several backgrounds necessary to continue the narrative, leaving the development of White County in the details which the reader will naturally crave.





## CHAPTER V

### THE TIES WHICH BIND

PLAN OF GOVERNMENT SURVEYS—BASIS OF COMMON SCHOOL FUND—WHITE COUNTY LANDS CLASSIFIED—MEXICAN LAND WARRANTS MAKE TROUBLE—CANAL AND SWAMP LANDS—LAST OF THE STATE LANDS—REGULATIONS FOR TOWNSHIP SURVEYS—NATURAL FEATURES TO BE NOTED—SUBDIVISIONS OF THE TOWNSHIPS—EARLY SURVEYS WITHIN THE PRESENT COUNTY—SURVEYING BEFORE LAND DRAINAGE—SWAMP LANDS DRAINED—EARLY WATER TRAVEL—PIONEER ROADS—STATE AND NATIONAL HIGHWAYS—COUNTRY ROADS SURRENDERED TO THE TOWNSHIPS—MODERN ROAD BUILDING—CANAL AND RAILROAD COMPETITION—PIONEER RAILWAYS—FIRST WHITE COUNTY RAILROAD—THE BENEFITS IT BROUGHT—HEADED FOR MONTICELLO—LOGANS-PORT, PEORIA AND BURLINGTON GETS THERE—WHITE COUNTY'S RAILROAD WAR—ROAD OPENS WITH BLOODSHED—GRAND PRAIRIE—RAILWAY STATIONS ON THE NEW LINE—THE AIR-LINE DIVISION OF THE MONON—OPENING OF THE INDIANAPOLIS, DELPHI & CHICAGO RAILROAD—THE TIES WHICH BIND THE COUNTY.

No subject can be named of more practical moment in connection with the basic development of a country or county than that which relates to the security and accessibility of its land holdings. The subject touches both the stable founding of homes and communication with desirable markets and communities, with attendant prosperity, social gratification and the expansion of individuality. More precisely, the steps by which this development in a raw country are successively taken include reliable land surveys, the building of land roads and the improvement of waterways as they are required by individuals and settlements, the regulation of titles by which those who desire to use the land shall have priority over speculators, and the devising and operation of measures of such public utility as extended drainage or water distribution, of benefit to large tracts of country which could not be brought into operation if left to individual initiative.

#### PLAN OF GOVERNMENT SURVEYS

For several years before the passage of the Ordinance of 1787 creating the territory northwest of the Ohio River, Congress was discussing the best method of dividing the lands of the national domain. On May 18, 1784, an act was finally introduced to divide them into townships, each



ten miles square; in April of the following year, another measure was brought before the Congress proposing that each township should be seven miles square, and on the 20th of the following month that act was amended, making the congressional township six miles square, as at present.

After the appointment of surveyors and geographers the south line of the State of Pennsylvania extended west was fixed as the base line. The north and south meridian was also established. The surveyors were ordered to note "the variations of the magnetic needle at the time the lines were run," and when seven ranges, or forty-two miles, had been surveyed, one-seventh of the same was to be set apart "for the use of the late Continental army."

#### BASIS OF COMMON SCHOOL FUND

Then the section numbered 16 in each congressional district was set apart for the use of the public schools, the proceeds derived from the sale of the lands therein forming the basis ever thereafter of the American common school fund.

It may be said with pride that the lands in White County have never been involved in extensive litigation, owing to the fact that all questionable claims by the Indians or others were settled long before the advent of the white man, and there is not a single Indian reservation in the county. In this, White County has been more fortunate than her sisters to the south and east.

#### WHITE COUNTY LANDS CLASSIFIED

Of course, the title to all our lands is derived from the United States, but at various times the Federal Government has granted to the state over 3,500,000 acres, of which nearly 1,500,000 acres was applied to the completion of the Wabash and Erie Canal, and some 1,250,000 acres comprised the swamp lands. The canal and swamp lands, together with those conveyed by the Government direct to the purchaser and known as government land, include nearly all the area of White County, 504 square miles.

#### MEXICAN LAND WARRANTS MAKE TROUBLE

After the war with Mexico a land warrant was issued to each American who served and was honorably discharged, entitling him to a quarter section of land anywhere in the United States where there was government land subject to entry. Thousands of these warrants were thrown upon the market, most of the soldiers preferring the money to the land. These warrants passed into the hands of land speculators and brokers at prices ranging from \$80 to \$100 each, and many valuable tracts of land in White County were thus held against those who wished to actually settle.



## CANAL AND SWAMP LANDS

The same may be said even more forcibly of the canal and the swamp lands, the former of which were thrown on the market at a period previous to the flood of Mexican land warrants and the swamp lands at a later date. They were all largely purchased by non-resident speculators, who advanced the Government price of \$1.25 per acre to double and even quadruple those figures.

In many other ways the history of the Wabash and Erie Canal reflects no credit on its promoters. When partly finished it was turned over to the creditors for completion, who also failed to finish it, but made many attempts to get the Legislature to make an appropriation for the purpose. Finally, in 1873 an amendment to the state constitution was adopted forever prohibiting the payment of any part of the claims.

As to the swamp lands, they should have been sold and the proceeds placed to the credit of the school fund, but the deadly politician came into action and most of this gift—to use the mildest expression—was dissipated. The loss of the state in these transactions has been variously estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000, of which White County lost her full share.

## LAST OF THE STATE LANDS

The last lands to be entered, or purchased from the state, was about 400 acres known as University lands, and which were sold about 1890 under an act of the Legislature of 1889. Since then neither the state nor the Federal Government has held any title to lands in White County.

Although the early settlers of White County had their share of trouble over their land tenures, they were much more fortunate than the counties which were along the direct route of the canal, were more populous and ambitious, and were an intimate part of the "boom" of the '30s, caused by the building of the state roads and the Wabash and Erie Canal from the Great Lakes to the Ohio River. In the prosecution of the largest of the enterprises connected with Indiana's ambitious system of internal improvement, White County was somewhat away from the main routes, which generally included the valley of the Wabash, but, as has been intimated, such geographical accident had its advantages in that its territory escaped in some measure the invasion and manipulation of foreign "promoters" who so worked to the disadvantage of the founders and builders of homes.

## REGULATION FOR TOWNSHIP SURVEYS

By the congressional ordinance of May 29, 1785, it was specified, after providing for the appointment of surveyors and a commissioner, that: "The first line running north and south as aforesaid, shall begin on the river Ohio, at a point that shall be found to be due north from the western terminus of a line which heretofore runs as the southern boundary



of the state of Pennsylvania; and the first line running east and west shall begin at the same point, and shall extend through the whole territory; provided that nothing herein shall be construed as fixing the western boundary of the state of Pennsylvania. The geographer shall designate the townships or fractional townships by numbers, progressively, from south to north—always beginning each range with No. 1; and the ranges shall be distinguished by their progressive numbers to the westward, the first range extending from the Ohio to Lake Erie being marked No. 1. The geographer shall personally attend to the running of the first east and west line and shall take the latitude of the extremes of the first north and south line and of the mouths of the principal rivers.



AN OLD-TIME MAIL COACH

#### NATURAL FEATURES TO BE NOTED

"The lines shall be measured with a chain; shall be plainly marked by chops on the trees and exactly described on a plat; wherein shall be noted by the surveyor at their proper distances, all mines, salt springs, salt licks and mill seats that shall come to his knowledge, and all other courses, mountains and other remarkable and permanent things over or near which such lines shall pass, and also the quality of the lands.

#### SUBDIVISIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP

"The plats of the townships, respectively, shall be marked by subdivisions into lots of one mile square, or six hundred and forty acres, in the same direction as the external lines and numbered from one to thirty-six—always beginning the successive name of the lot with the number next to that with which the preceding one concluded. And where, from the causes before mentioned, only a fractional part of a township shall be surveyed, the lot proportioned thereon shall bear the





same number as if the township had been entire. And the surveyors in running the external lines of the township shall, at the interval of every mile, mark corners for the lots which are adjacent, always designating the same in a different manner from those of the township."

#### EARLY SURVEYS WITHIN THE PRESENT COUNTY

Chapter 80, Acts of Indiana Legislature 1831, approved February 10, 1831; page 129, section 6, enacts as follows: "That Samuel Basye of Tippecanoe county, be appointed a commissioner to locate a road from Lafayette in Tippecanoe county to the mouth of Trail creek on Lake Michigan."

By the same act commissioners were appointed on other roads and all were ordered to meet on the first Monday of May, 1831, "or some subsequent day," take an oath, proceed with a surveyor to locate and mark out said roads in the nearest and best directions, "having due regard to the quality and situation of the ground; a plat of which location they shall file in the clerk's office of each county through which the same shall pass, so far as it shall run through said county." Their pay was fixed at \$1 per day for each day they were engaged at said work. This was prior to the organization of White County and the plat of the road through its boundary was filed in the clerk's office of Carroll County, of which county at that time we formed a part.

Trail Creek empties into Lake Michigan at Michigan City, and from this fact the road, a part of which is Main Street in Monticello, has been known as the Lafayette and Michigan City State Road. The direct route between these points was almost wholly a series of swamps, which rendered it necessary to depart from the shortest line. Over a large part of this road an old-fashioned stage line operated a daily service between Lafayette and Monticello for many years.

Section 7 of the above named act of 1831 directed Thomas Gilliam, present commissioner on the state road leading from Frankford (as Frankford was then known) in Clinton county to Delphi in Carroll county to make such changes in its location as he might think best, "and also to extend the location of such road in or near the same direction to where the same shall intersect the road leading from Lafayette to the mouth of Trail creek on Lake Michigan."

Thus we see that nearly four years prior to the organization of White County, we were united by these roads with Frankford, Delphi, Lafayette and Lake Michigan, but we must not forget that these roads were little more than trails.

By an act of the Indiana Legislature, approved January 18, 1833, (see Acts 1833, page 164), John Armstrong, of Carroll County, was appointed to view, mark and locate a state road, "commencing at the public square in the town of Lafayette in the county of Tippecanoe, running from thence northwardly, crossing the Wabash river at what is called Davis' ferry, thence by or near to Moots' ford, Moots' creek, thence the nearest and best way to section sixteen in township number



twenty-six, north of range three west, where the same will intersect a state road leading from Delphi in Carroll county to Lake Michigan." This section 16 is less than two miles south of Monticello, and from this it will be seen that at least three roads were opened through our county prior to its organization in 1834.

But the Northwest Territory was quite a tract of land, and even when White County was organized in 1834 many of its congressional townships had not been divided into sections, and those which had been were so lately done that the section and quarter-section corners were still plainly marked with stakes, witness trees or mounds of earth; the lines could be easily traced without the aid of compass or chain. There was therefore little work for a surveyor in White County for a number of years after its creation and one was not elected by the settlers until 1838.

Before then, about the only time that the services of a surveyor were desired was when some enterprising and hopeful settler concluded that he had located at the point of a future town or city. Several men located in the early '30s, who brought their compasses, chains and rods with them, and were equal to the platting of any town on earth; among the best known surveyors of those times were Malachai Gray, Joshua Lindsay, Asa Allen, John Kiouss and John D. Compton.

But after a few years the Government stakes and trees which marked the original surveys were burned by prairie fires, or leveled by hunters and settlers, without knowledge of their significance, and the mounds of earth thrown up in places where timber was scarce disappeared before the plough of the husbandman and the hoofs of the cattle. Then the settlers saw the necessity of having an authorized official to restore the obliterated lines and corner markings, as well as complete the subdivisions required by the incoming land buyers. Asa Allen was therefore elected the first county surveyor and served for a period of four years, during which much of this pioneer work was accomplished.

#### SURVEYING BEFORE LAND DRAINAGE

For several years the surveyor's office was far from desirable, both on account of its meager fees and the trials and expense incident to field work. During fully three months of the year much of the land was partially covered with water and often the lines had to be run through areas submerged from two to four feet and from 80 to 160 rods in width. The surveyor must either wade through the sloughs in the wake of his chainmen, or await the coming of winter and fix his "corners" on the ice. The latter method was preferable to wading, considered from the probability of correct measurements, but too frequent winter storms were by no means pleasant to meet; so that there were decided drawbacks to the prosecution of surveying operations at all seasons of the year. The draining of the lands lightened and facilitated the work of the surveyor and was an encouragement to the land buyer in divers other ways, about to be described.



## SWAMP LANDS DRAINED

It was many years, however, before these benefits, either to the surveyor or the farmer, were to be realized in White County; for at least a quarter of a century its residents were to be the prey of the unscrupulous politician and speculator, who filled their pockets with thousands of dollars which legitimately belonged to the tillers and toilers of the soil.

By the congressional act of September 28, 1850, the United States granted to the State of Indiana all the overflowed land remaining unsold therein; it is estimated that the swamp lands in White County covered an area of at least 100,000 acres, or nearly a third of its total territory. It is fortunate for the authoritative discussion of the subject in hand that we have an account written by the late Milton M. Sill, county surveyor in 1859-61, and afterward editor and proprietor of the *Monticello Herald*, draft commissioner, sheriff and provost marshal during the Civil war, and later a respected practitioner at the bar.

Mr. Sill's words, clearly and earnestly written as one having authority, are as follows: "Much benefit was expected to inure to the settlers in White county by this action of Congress and doubtless their expectations would have been fully realized had the act been carried out in good faith; but it was not—it was a gigantic steal from start to finish. Commissioners were appointed by the legislature to select and plat the swamp lands, who, in express violation of the act of Congress granting the land, selected and designated large tracts of the very best of our high rolling prairie as swamp land; and it was so taken and accepted, and sold as swamp land at one dollar and twenty-five cents, the law prohibiting a less price.

"Nearly all the land passed into the hands of non-resident speculators, who held it for an advance from the purchase price, expecting the money they had paid in would be applied to the drainage of the land. In this they were sorely disappointed; not one-tenth of the money paid into the treasury by them was applied to the drainage of the land. It is true that under the act of the Legislature of May 20, 1852, some ditching was done in this county, but no practical benefit was derived therefrom except to the men engaged in the work, who were paid a slight advance above ordinary wages. The ditches in many places were never completed, and in others were found to be wholly insufficient in capacity. In short, the money was squandered and went into the pockets of men who handled it for their own personal benefit; the water was still on the land and must be got off before the farmers could hope to get a fair return for their labor.

"It is truly said 'Where there's a will there's a way;' and it was found at last, though twenty years elapsed before the way was found. On the 10th of March, 1873, an act of the State Legislature was approved authorizing the formation of draining companies, and giving them power to assess benefits against all lands benefited by the work. This act, though somewhat complicated, was the beginning, and as improved by



subsequent acts was the means of finally clearing the county of its seas of water and rendering a vast area of land productive and fruitful.

"Better still is the showing as to health. The last report of the State Board of Health places White county at the top of the list, with the smallest mortality in proportion to its population of any county in the state. The visitor who returns now after an absence of twenty years may well express his astonishment at the marvelous change. Where once he saw only stagnant pools and seas of water, now gently wave vast fields of golden grain. Neatly painted farm houses and barns have replaced the log cabin and stable of the early settler. Where once he could travel for miles through the open prairie without road or path and with no fence to bar his progress, he must now follow roads on established lines through lanes of hedge or wire on either side, and cattle, horses, sheep and other stock grazing in the fields to right and left. Would he know the price of land which could have been purchased twenty years before for five, ten, fifteen or twenty dollars per acre, he will be informed that now it is worth from thirty to two hundred and fifty dollars per acre, if for sale at all. Much of this rapid advance in the price of real estate is due to this splendid system of drainage; but nature should be given a share of the credit also. The Tippecanoe river, flowing from north to south through the county its entire length, with an average fall of five feet to the mile and an average depth below the surface level of sixty feet, with branches on either side reaching to and beyond the county's eastern and western limits, affords opportunity for successful drainage at comparatively small cost."

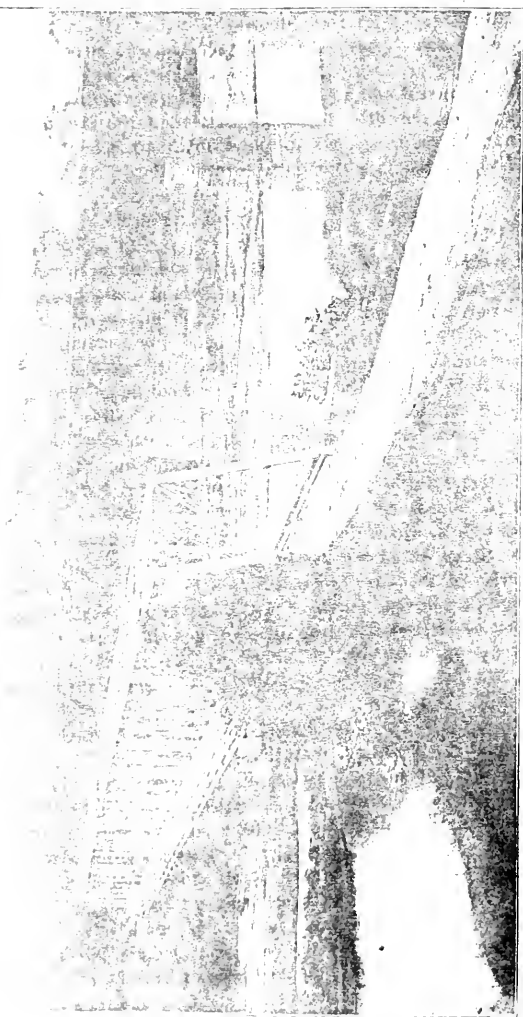
Within ten years after the passage of the decisive legislative act of 1873 the different ditch companies probably spent \$300,000 in the county, of which about two-thirds was for open ditches and the remainder for tiling and closed drainage. Most of this work, which laid the basis of the fine system of drainage which now prevails, was accomplished in the later part of that period. The improvements in this regard have been so continuous and thorough that it would take far more space than the editor has at his command to enter into details as to the location and courses of even the open ditches; but any good map of the county will indicate them as a fine network spread over the entire county, perhaps the closest woven in the townships of Honey Creek, Monon, Cass, West Point and Prairie.

#### EARLY WATER TRAVEL

Although the Tippecanoe River was freely used by the early settlers of White County, it could not become such a well traveled water way as the broader, deeper and geographically important Wabash. The traders, voyageurs and hunters naturally made less frequent use of its waters than those of the parent stream, and the boats which followed its course were smaller and more fragile than those which plied the Wabash. But before the lands were drained to any considerable extent the Tippecanoe and its tributary streams were almost necessities of exist-







BRIDGE AT TROY, NEAR MONTICELLO

Gift of C. L. Foster



ence to the farmer, hunter and woodsman, who must seek such markets as Logansport and LaFayette for the sale of their produce and the replenishing of their households and individual establishments. Flat boats would often be built in the summer and loaded with corn, wheat and other products, and then the proprietors would wait for a heavy rain or a freshet to carry them out into the Tippecanoe and thence to the Wabash.

As the settlers ventured away from the valley of the Wabash into both the eastern and western tributaries, they cut pathways through the woods, winding in and out and following the courses which had the fewest bogs and other drawbacks, such as inequalities of surface and tenacious clay.

### PIONEER ROADS

With the increase of population and the opening of new farms on the upland prairies and other fairly dry lands, it became necessary to straighten the roads before laid out along the lines, or rather curves and loops, of least resistance, and to place them on section and quarter section lines. This could not be accomplished for any great distance without encountering a slough too wide to bridge and too miry to ford. In such cases the logs, rails, brush and sand of the neighborhood were called into requisition in the construction of the old-time corduroy road; the sand, loam or muck covering, as the case might be, was about a foot thick, but soon sifted between the crevices, and it called for good nerves and solid flesh to withstand much travel over these crude highways. But they shortened the distance between points, which was an advantage over the old windings, and although they were frequently of insufficient width to allow the passage of teams and caused delay when travelers in opposite directions met on a long road, and one or the other had to give way and retrace his course—still, even that experience was better than to become lost, mired or completely exhausted by travel over the old excuses for roads.

### STATE AND NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

White County did not receive the direct benefit from the building of any of the general highways surveyed and put through the state by the Legislature and the general Government, such as the Michigan, the Cumberland and the National roads. On January 21, 1828, the State Legislature passed an act directing the survey of the Michigan Road. This was done and a lane put through the forest 100 feet wide. In 1832 the work had reached Logansport from the Ohio River, and within the following two years, or about the time White County was created, it had been extended northward to Rochester and finally to Lake Michigan. The Michigan, although a crude, ungraded road, with many stumps left standing in its course and furnishing illustrations of some of the most trying examples of corduroys in the Northwest, was, nevertheless, a passageway through the State of Indiana, connecting with the



Cumberland and its extension, the National, at Indianapolis. Emigrants from the East came down the Ohio River, then took the Michigan Road to all points in Indiana and the Northwest. Others, traveling in wagons, drawn by oxen as a rule, came over the National Road to Indianapolis, and thence north over the Michigan Road to Logansport and other northern points. The early roads built in White County, before the drainage of its lands commenced in earnest and it became possible to construct the modern turnpikes, were mostly designed to be feeders to the Michigan Road which passed along the valley of the Wabash.

#### COUNTY ROADS SURRENDERED TO THE TOWNSHIPS

Up to 1852, when the new constitution was adopted, the roads were looked after almost entirely by the county. At that time the control of the roads was practically surrendered to the townships, together with the care of the poor and the schools. In 1859 the Legislature abolished the board of three township trustees and gave the one trustee much more power.

#### MODERN ROAD BUILDING

But the greatest impetus to road building in county and state was the enactment of the Free Turnpike Law of 1877, passed four years after the measure went into effect creating the drainage system under which a third of the county has been redeemed from the swamps and finely developed as a country of good roads. White County was not slow to take advantage of the law. Though much opposition was encountered at first from the large land owners along the lines of road first subject to improvement, after a few miles had been completed the assessments were, as a rule, paid without undue solicitation. The result of this road building up to date is that the county has within its limits 175 miles of gravel and 170 miles of stone and macadam road.

#### CANAL AND RAILROAD COMPETITION

We now come to the period of the Wabash and Erie Canal and the competition of the first railroads in the state. The decade previous to 1856 witnessed the keenest rivalry, that year marking the decline of the canal trade. Briefly, the northern sections of the canal were completed to Logansport in 1840, and farmers as far north as Plymouth and much farther west than Monticello, brought their produce to Logansport to be shipped east over the canal. It was completed to Lafayette the following year and to Evansville, on the Ohio River, several years thereafter. Both Logansport and Lafayette received their full share of the canal boom during the following period of fifteen years, while Monticello and White County were benefited, albeit not stimulated, in that they were placed in more intimate connection than ever before with the markets to which they were tributary.



## PIONEER RAILWAYS

The Madison & Indianapolis Railroad, the first railway in the state, was completed from the Ohio River to the capital in the fall of 1847, but the first definite approach of a railroad toward White County was to be from Cincinnati by way of Logansport. In 1848 the citizens of Cass County began the agitation of a line to their town from the Ohio metropolis, and the result was the incorporation of the Lake Michigan, Logansport & Ohio River Railroad Company, designed to build a line from Cincinnati to Chicago via Logansport. A few years later the enterprise was revived in the New Castle & Richmond Railroad, now the Richmond and Logansport Division of the Panhandle or Pennsylvania Railroad.

## FIRST WHITE COUNTY RAILROAD

About this time the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad was projected from New Albany, on the Ohio, to Michigan City at the foot of Lake Michigan, and it was completed through the state in 1853-54. Its construction through the very center of White County was immediately felt in the stimulus both of town creation and rural expansion. Monon, under the name of New Bradford, Chalmers, as Mudge's Station, Brookston and Reynolds, as now known, were all products of that period and originally mere stations of the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad. They were soon centers of trade and supplies for a large portion of the settlers.

## THE BENEFITS IT BROUGHT

The road "was of great benefit to the farmers of White county, passing, as it did, through the county near the center for a distance of twenty-four miles, and affording a market for their grain and stock at home which they had not before enjoyed. They were not the only beneficiaries, however; the merchants, shippers of stock and travelers were all benefited. The merchant, instead of mounting his horse and riding to Cincinnati, a distance of two hundred miles, or going by stage coach with the money with which to purchase his goods in a leather belt strapped around his waist, or carried in his saddle bag or valise, could get aboard the train and in a tenth part of the time, and with less than one-half of the expense required by the old way, get to his destination, purchase his goods and return home, without his absence being discovered by his friends and neighbors.

"Another benefit was the facility of communication by letters between distant points. It was possible to transmit affairs of business, or send missives of friendship, to distant points and receive answers in return in a few hours, where before it had required days and even weeks to accomplish that feat. It was also possible to get the news of daily events transpiring in the outside world, which had only been learned









sionists, started from Bridge street, on Monday morning, made the trip through to Peoria, and returned on Wednesday evening, the 28th. As the opening of this road (the Logansport, Peoria and Burlington) is justly regarded as of much importance to our people, we are induced to give a space to a notice of the occasion commensurate with the great interest in the enterprise felt here and elsewhere.

"The party, composed of some twenty citizens, two or three contractors, Mr. Gilman of New York, one of the directors, and Mr. Crugar, the superintendent of the Oquaka road, after a very short notice, assembled near the Wabash bridge at 11 o'clock. The train started at 11:30.

"The run to Monticello, twenty-one miles, was made in about an hour. The track, though just put down, was in very good condition. At Monticello too short a stay was made to enable several to join the company, who intended to have done so.

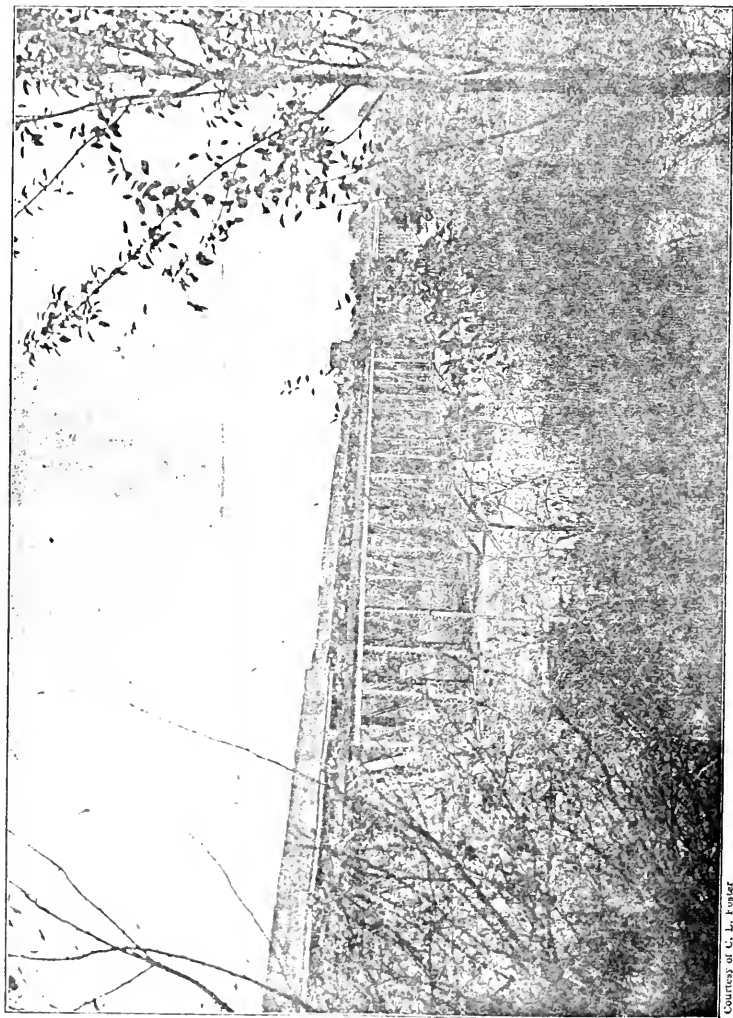
"At Reynolds Station we found a large car used for boarding-house purposes, fifty-five feet long and eighteen wide, two stories, on the track. The rails had been removed from the road, both before and behind the car, and it seemed immovable. This arrangement was in pursuance of a plan, ostensibly, to obtain pay for the hands who had been laying the track, but really was intended to obstruct the road so that the cars could not pass over before the first of January. Upon this condition, subscription notes for over \$120,000 became payable, and it is rather probable that the demonstration was instigated by some such interest as this.

"The company had paid off the track-laying contractors on Saturday, and owed nothing on that score. The contractors were paying off their men at Logansport at that moment and designed paying those at the Station on the next day (which was actually done). The contractors were at the Station and gave assurances as to the true state of the case, but without effect.

"Strychnine whiskey and bad counsel possessed too much influence. The insurgents had no complaint whatever against the company; and the obstruction was a high-handed outrage against right and the law. Extensive preparation had evidently been made for a fight, for some forty men were garrisoned in the car, each bearing a freshly made club. The effective force upon the train was small, so, after a parley of two hours and a counsel of war, the train was run back to Monticello. Here warrants were obtained for the arrest of three of the more active insurgents.

"On the return of the train with the sheriff, nearly half of the car force left, and another parley took place with the rioters, but it was bootless except to one of the force, who was kicked from the platform. Propositions to telegraph to Governors Wise and Willard and President Buchanan were overruled. After an hour spent in unavailing quarreling, it was concluded to take the car by storm, which was handsomely done by a detachment of the excursionists headed by the sheriff (time, six minutes). For a few minutes a bloody scuffle took place for possession of the iron rails which were in the car. Clubs, axes, spikes, iron





Courtesy of G. L. Foster

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD BRIDGE AT MONTICELLO



chairs and pistols were uncomfortably thick and active. One of the car party rushed upon one of the assailants with an axe and received a pistol ball in his breast. This ended the conflict, for the fight instantly turned into a rout, and the front door was filled by the retreating party, who took no care upon which end they landed so they got upon the ground somewhere.

"The rails were replaced in a few minutes and in a short time the train, with the captured fort, was on its way again to Monticello, where a switch received the obnoxious edifice. The train then returned to Reynolds, took up the excursionists and at 7 o'clock recommenced the trip to Peoria. •

#### GRAND PRAIRIE

"The scenery through which the road passes was new to most of the excursionists. The Grand Prairie was entered just beyond Reynolds Station, but nothing could be seen until daylight. At that time the eye fell upon a country unbroken by timber and only occasionally diversified by houses. In many places the eye seeks in vain for single object other than the sky and earth, not a tree, house, fence or animal appearing for miles. The soil of the prairie appears of an excellent quality, and the cultivated places give abundant proof of fertility, in the great heaps of corn stacked up for sale or use."

#### RAILWAY STATIONS ON THE NEW LINE

Old Burnettsville had been platted several years before the coming of the railroad and was somewhat off its line, but during the month following the lively celebration of its opening, Sharon, adjoining Burnettsville, was platted and the two were soon consolidated under the original name. Idaville, three miles west, was platted and made a railroad station in July, 1860, and Wolcott, in the western part of the county, came into line during the following year.

#### THE AIR-LINE DIVISION OF THE MONON

By the building of what is now the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis (Pennsylvania) line through White County, which bisected the present Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville Railroad (Monon) at Reynolds, the settlers were provided, to a fair degree, with railway accommodations. The third step in securing such conveniences, and a great addition to them, was taken in the building of the Indianapolis, Delphi & Chicago Railroad in the late '70s. The opening of the road from the western Indiana line to Monticello was celebrated in that place on August 14, 1878. Large delegations were present from Rensselaer, Lowell, Bradford, Delphi and other localities along the line of the new road. The Monticello and Delphi bands furnished the music and the crowd of visitors was escorted to the courthouse, where the celebration centered. John H. Wallace, chairman of the committee of arrangements; H. P.





Owens, a bright Kentuckian; John Lee, president of the road; A. W. Reynolds, L. B. Sims of Delphi, ex-president of the road, and others connected with the enterprise and with the building of narrow-gauge lines, were among the speakers who instructed and amused. It was a very successful celebration and boomed the Chicago Air Line immensely.

#### OPENING OF THE INDIANAPOLIS, DELPHI & CHICAGO RAILROAD

The opening of passenger traffic on the Indianapolis, Delphi & Chicago (now Monon Route) was announced for May 21, 1883, but on account of difficulty in securing entrance facilities at Indianapolis the date was postponed. The first passenger train began regular service June 17, 1883, running only from Monon to Indianapolis. Another train was scheduled from Chicago to Frankfort in the same time-card. The first through service between Chicago and Indianapolis was scheduled the third week in October, 1883.

The completion of the Indianapolis, Delphi & Chicago Railroad not only vastly increased the facilities of Monticello and Monon in the way of getting into more direct communication with the larger markets of the country between the Ohio River and Lake Michigan, but was of much local advantage to the agriculturists and the small rural communities in the northwestern part of the county. Through trains commenced to run about 1881.

The building of what is now a second or air-line division of the Monon system did not result in the founding of any important towns in White County; in fact, only Guernsey, in Honey Creek Township, and Lee, in Monon Township, were founded as stations.

#### THE TIES WHICH BIND THE COUNTY

Thus has White County been transformed into a country well adapted to the founding of pleasant and contented homes and prosperous communities—all bound together and brought into intimate touch with related towns, cities and states, through its improved lands, its good roads of gravel and macadam, and its well conducted railroads. Transportation and communication by water has become a negligible quantity in the calculation of its general progress.



## CHAPTER VI

### THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

WHILE A PART OF CARROLL—NORWAY CARVED FROM PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP—NAME CHANGED TO BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP—PIONEERS ANTE-DATING COUNTY ORGANIZATION—ACT CREATING WHITE COUNTY—CHANGES IN TERRITORY—FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS—FIRST COUNTY BOARD MEETING—SEAT OF JUSTICE LOCATED—THE COUNTY SEAT TITLE—PUBLIC SALE OF LOTS—THE OLD COURT HOUSE GRANT—FIRST JUDICIAL SESSION—FIRST FULL COURT KEPT BUSY—THE LITTLE FRAME COURT HOUSE—THE JAIL AND ITS FIRST PRISONER—THE COUNTY'S UPS AND DOWNS—THE CLERK'S OFFICE BUILT—THE BRICK COURT-HOUSE—CHOLERA INTERFERES WITH ITS COMPLETION—DESCRIPTION OF DEAR OLD BUILDING—COUNTY OFFICES AFFECTED BY LEGISLATION—NEW JAILS ERECTED—COMBINED JAIL AND SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE—CORNER STONE OF PRESENT COURTHOUSE LAID—THE POOR FARM—COUNTY'S GROWTH BY DECADES—DEDUCTIONS FROM CENSUS FIGURES—WHITE COUNTY'S POPULATION, 1890-1910—PROPERTY VALUATION IN 1905 AND 1910—TAXABLE VALUATION IN 1915—RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

The pioneer settlers of what is now White County were for about five years under the jurisdiction of Carroll County. As early as 1829 they commenced to locate west of the Tippecanoe River in what are Prairie and Big Creek townships; in 1831, the territory included in the present Union and Jackson townships received its first instalment of sturdy settlers, and Liberty, Monon and Honey Creek were first occupied by the whites in 1834, the year of the county's creation.

#### WHILE A PART OF CARROLL

The territory included within the presents limits of White County had a political existenece before it was organized as a separate civil body. Its area, besides much more country north and west, was attached to the County of Carroll by legislative enactment, at the time the latter was erected in 1828. On the 11th of May, 1831, the commissioners of that county ordered that all the territory attached to the county, or a part of the county, west of the Tippecanoe River should thereafter be Prairie Township; and an election was ordered held on the first Monday of the following August for the election of one justice of the peace, the vote to be polled at the house of Jesse L. Watson, who was appointed inspector.



At this election the following men voted: J. L. Watson, Jesse Johnson, Samuel Smelcer, Michael Ault, Jeremiah Bisher, W. H. McCulloch, Aaron Cox, Royal Hazleton, Ed McCarty, Charles Wright, William Phillips, R. Harrison, Robert A. Barr, William Woods, Ashford Parker—total, fifteen. The entire vote was cast for Noah Noble for governor. For justice of the peace, Royal Hazleton received nine votes, and Jesse Johnson four. In May, 1832, the elections were changed to the house of Samuel Alkire and Jesse L. Watson continued inspector. At the April election in 1832, only six votes were polled, as follows: J. L. Watson, Jesse Johnson, William Phillips, Charles Wright, Edney Wright, J. G. Alkire. Charles Wright was elected constable; Jesse Johnson and Robert Newell, road supervisors; William Phillips and William Woods, overseers of the poor; Samuel Smelcer and Samuel Alkire, fence viewers. These were undoubtedly the first officers of the kind elected in White County. In September, 1832, all of White County, east of the Tippecanoe River was formally attached to Adams Township, Carroll County.

#### NORWAY CARVED FROM PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

At the March session of the court of commissioners of Carroll County, all of Prairie Township (which then included all of the present White County west of the Tippecanoe River) north of the line dividing townships 25 and 26 north was constituted Norway Township, and the elections were ordered held at the Norway mill. A justice of the peace was ordered elected the first Monday in March, 1833, Henry Baum, inspector. This election was not held until April, 1833. The voters were John Rothrock, Benj. Reynolds, Joseph Lewis, Jesse Johnson, Sibley Hudson, John Burns, Henry Baum, Daniel Wolf, Jeremiah Bisher, James Barnes, George Bartley, Robert Rothrock, George Kemp, Ashford Parker, Ira Bacon, George A. Spencer and Thomas Emerson. The vote was: For justice of the peace—G. A. Spencer, 11; Robert Newell, 3; Melchi Gray, 1. Constable—James Barnes, 12; Benj. Reynolds, 5. Overseers of the poor—Armstrong Buchanan, 14; John Reese, 9. Fence viewers—B. N. Spencer, 11; Jeremiah Bisher, 5; Andrew Ferguson, 9; John Burns, 3. Road supervisors—John Roberts, 14.

#### NAME CHANGED TO BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP

In May the name Norway was discarded and Big Creek was adopted, and the August election was ordered held at the house of Benj. N. Spencer. On this occasion twenty-six votes were polled as follows: Peter Price, James Signer, Samuel Gray, George Bartley, Cornelius Clark, George Gates, John Roberts, Phillip Davis, Elias Lowther, B. N. Spencer, Benj. Reynolds, John Rothrock, Melchi Gray, Joseph Rothrock, G. A. Spencer, James Johnson, Robert Newell, Henry Baum, Royal Hazleton, Jeremiah Bisher, James Barnes, Ira Bacon, James Clark, John Reese, George Kemp and Andrew Ferguson.

In September, 1833, Big Creek was divided as follows: All of White



County west of Tippecanoe River and north of the line dividing townships 26 and 27 north was constituted Union Township, and elections were ordered held at the house of Melchi Gray. About this time John Barr was made agent to expend the 3 per cent fund belonging to White County. No other changes were made in the county until the organization in 1834.

#### PIONEERS ANTE-DATING COUNTY ORGANIZATION

X It is generally claimed that Joseph H. Thompson was the first white man to make settlement within the present boundaries of the county. He located in what is now Big Creek Township in the spring of 1829, while yet the surveyors were subdividing the townships into sections, they having begun the work in the fall of 1828. Mr. Thompson was soon followed by George A. Spencer, Benjamin Reynolds, John Burns, John Ferguson and others who became settlers of the same township, while Prairie Township of today was first inhabited about the same time by Royal Hazleton, John Barr, Cyrus Barr, William Woods, John and James Gay, Joseph Bostick, John Adamson, Charles Wright, Samuel Smeleer, Jesse L. Watson, Lewis Watson, William Ivers and Solomon McCulloch. Previous to 1834 there also came to Union Township, James Johnson, John Wilson, Peter Price, George R. Bartley, John Rothrock, Hans Erasmus Hiorth (pronounced Yert), Benjamin N. Spencer, Thomas Wilson, Samuel Gray and Melchi Gray. Jackson Township received a colony near what is now the Town of Idaville, composed of Christopher Burch, George Hornbeck, Allen Barnes, Thomas Harless, John McDowell, Solomon Burkitt, Thomas McCormick, William W. Mitchell, Robert and Andrew Hanna, William James, Joseph Mason, Joseph Dale, David Bishop, William Gibson, John Tedford and Aaron Hicks. Further east, in the vicinity of the present site of Burnettsville, Daniel Dale, William R. Dale, Greenup Scott and others made their homes, and at a later date the following settled in Monon Township: Joseph Wilson, James K. Wilson, William Wilson, David Berkey, Thomas Murphy, Elias Lowther and Ira Bacon.

These pioneers, who came before the county was organized, usually located in family groups, largely determined by their home states. There were little settlements composed respectively of Kentuckians, Tennesseans, Virginians, Ohioans and Pennsylvanians, the last two states largely predominating in the number of people who first came to White County. After the county was organized, its boundaries defined and the county seat located, the flow of immigration increased with great rapidity.

#### ACT CREATING WHITE COUNTY

In 1833 many located in the county—so many, in fact, that the representatives in the Legislature were asked to have a new county created and organized. Accordingly, during the session of 1834, the following enactment was passed and approved:

“Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, that





from and after the first of April next, all that tract of country, included in the following boundary lines shall form and constitute a new county to be known and designated by the name of the county of White (in honor of Major Isaac White, who fell at the battle of Tippecanoe) to-wit, beginning at the northwest corner of Tippecanoe County, thence running east with the north line of Tippecanoe County to the southwest corner of Carroll County, thence north with the west line of Carroll County to the northwest corner of the same, thence east with the north line of Carroll County to the west line of Cass County, thence north with the west line of Cass County to the northwest corner of the same, thence west to the center section line of range six west, thence south to the northwest corner of Tippecanoe County to the place of beginning.

"Sec. 2. That the new county of White shall, from and after the first day of April next, enjoy and possess all the rights, privileges, benefits and jurisdictions which to separate and independent counties do or may properly belong or appertain.

"Sec. 3. That James H. Stewart, of Carroll County, Benedict Morris, of Fountain County, John Killgore, of Tippecanoe County, Enos Lowe, of Parke County, and John B. King, be, and they are hereby appointed Commissioners, agreeable to an act entitled 'An act fixing the seats of justice in all new counties hereafter to be laid off.' The Commissioners aforesaid shall meet on the first Monday in September next at the house of George A. Spencer, in the said county of White, and shall proceed immediately to perform the duties required of them by law; and it shall be the duty of the sheriff of Tippecanoe County to notify said commissioners, either in person or by writing, of their appointment, on or before the first day of August next, and for such service he shall receive such compensation as the Board doing county business in said county of White may, when organized, deem just and reasonable, to be allowed and paid as other county claims.

"Sec. 4. The Circuit Court and the Board of County Commissioners, when elected under the writ of election from the executive department shall hold their sessions as near the center of the county as a convenient place can be had, until the public buildings shall be erected.

"Sec. 5. The agent who shall be appointed to superintend the sale of lots of the county seat of said county of White shall reserve ten per cent out of the proceeds thereof, and pay the same over to such person or persons as may be appointed by law to receive the same for the use of a county library.

"Sec. 6. The County of White shall be attached to the first judicial circuit of this State for judicial, and to the county of Carroll for representative purposes.

"Sec. 7. That all the territory lying west of the county of White to the State Line, be and the same is, hereby attached to the county of White for civil and judicial purposes.

"Sec. 8. That the Circuit Courts shall be held in the county of White on the Tuesdays succeeding the week of the Tippecanoe Circuit Court, and sit three days each term, should the business require it.



"Sec. 9. The board doing county business may, as soon as elected and qualified, hold special sessions not exceeding three, during the first year after the organization of said county, and shall make all necessary appointments, and do or perform all other business which may or might have been necessary to be performed at any other regular session, and take all necessary steps to collect the State and County revenue, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding. This act to be in force from and after its passage.

"Approved February 1, 1834."

#### CHANGES IN TERRITORY

A little later the following was enacted: "That all the territory lying north of the county of Cass to the line dividing Townships 32 and 33 north, be, and the same is hereby, attached to said county for judicial and representative purposes, and that all the territory lying north of the county of White and of the territory attached thereto to the aforesaid line be, and the same is hereby, attached to the county of White for the same purpose. This act to be in force from and after its publication in the Indiana Journal, printed at Indianapolis.

"Approved December 24, 1834."

So far as can be learned no changes were made in the boundaries of White County until the following law was passed: "That the following described territory be, and the same is hereby, taken from the county of Carroll and incorporated and made a part of White: all north of Section 33 and west of the Tippecanoe River in Township 26 north, Range 3 west. This act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

"Approved February 4, 1837."

Again a little later the following became law: "That hereafter the Tippecanoe river shall be the western boundary of Carroll County, whence the north line of said county strikes the river, until said river strikes the section line dividing 33 and 28, in Township 26, and all the territory west of said river and north of said line in Township 26, and Range 3 west, is hereby attached to the county of White, as intended by the act, entitled 'An act to alter the boundary line between Carroll and White,' approved February 4, 1837. This act to be in force from and after its passage.

"Approved February 14, 1839."

The large section of country north and west now constituting the counties of Jasper, Newton and portions of Benton and Pulaski, which was attached to White County for political and judicial purposes, remained as portions of its civil body until its was organized into separate counties—Jasper in 1837, Pulaski and Newton in 1839, and Benton in 1840. These acts completed the paring down of White County to its present body, the area of which (504 square miles) makes it the fifth in size of the ninety-two counties in the state.



## FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS

Under the provisions of the Organic Act creating the county, the first step taken in its civil organization was the selection by the voters of a local judiciary, a board of commissioners and the principal county officers. The election for that purpose was held on the first Monday in August, 1834, and resulted in the choice of James Barnes and Thomas Wilson for associate judges; David McCombs, Ira Bacon and Robert Newall, county commissioners; William Sill, clerk, auditor and recorder; Aaron Hicks, sheriff, and George A. Spencer, treasurer.

It appears, however, from the records that John Wilson, who had been appointed sheriff the month before the election, served in that capacity until April, 1836, except for a short period after the election; nor is it officially evident that Mr. Hicks was ever present at any session of the county board or Circuit Court.

The only discovered records bearing on the matter noted an allowance of \$6.00 made by the board of commissioners to Mr. Hicks, "in full for services as sheriff for the year 1834;" this item was a part of the proceedings of that body at the May term of 1835. At the same term John Wilson was allowed \$7.50 "in full for his services as sheriff up to date." These allowances were probably made for extra services, such as notifying road viewers of their appointment, summoning jurors, etc.

## FIRST COUNTY BOARD MEETING

The commissioners held their first meeting at the house of George A. Spencer on the 19th of July, 1834. They first proceeded to create the commissioners' districts, as follows:

District No. 1.—To comprise all the county's territory south of the line passing east and west between sections 16 and 21, township 26 north, range 3 west.

District No. 2.—All county territory north of such line and west of Tippecanoe River.

District No. 3.—All county territory east of Tippecanoe River.

At the same time the county and all territory attached thereto were divided into the following townships: Township 25 north, in White County, and all the territory attached thereto to be Prairie Township. Township 26 north, in White County, and all the territory attached thereto to be Big Creek Township. Township 27 north, and all of township 28 west to Tippecanoe River, the same being in White County, and all the territory attached thereto, to be Union Township. Elections for Prairie Township ordered held at the house of William Wood, with Solomon McCulloch, inspector. Those of Big Creek at the house of George A. Spencer, with James Kerr, inspector. Those of Union Township at the house of Melchi Gray, with James Spencer, inspector. Those of Jackson Township at the house of Daniel Dale, with John Scott, inspector.

Cornelius Clark was appointed county assessor, and George A. Spen-



cer, county treasurer. Clark was also appointed collector of state and county revenue. At this time William Sill served as county clerk and John Wilson as sheriff.

#### SEAT OF JUSTICE LOCATED

At the September meeting of the county board the report of three of the five commissioners appointed to locate the county seat was accepted, they were paid \$60 for their services and discharged. The report follows:

"To the Honorable the Commissioners of the County of White: The undersigned, commissioners appointed by the Legislature of the State of Indiana to locate the county seat of said county beg leave to report that they, agreeable to the provisions of the act for the formation of said county, met on the first Monday of September, 1834, and after being qualified according to law, they proceeded immediately to the performance of the duties assigned them. They took considerable pains to become acquainted with the situation of your county, and with that view made a personal examination of the greater portion of said county. The commissioners have had considerable difficulty in making up their minds as to the best location to fix the seat of justice, and at last came to the conclusion to locate the seat of justice on the center line dividing the following described fractions, viz.: The southwest fraction of the northeast quarter and the northwest fraction of the southeast quarter of Section 33, Townships 27 north, Range 3 west, on a bluff of Tippecanoe River. Eighty acres of the above described fractions have been donated for the use of the county of White by Messrs. John Barr, Sr., H. E. Hiorth and John Rothrock, to be taken off the east side of said fraction by north and south line. A bond for the conveyance of the same is herewith submitted. The name we have selected for the said county seat is Monticello, after the home of the great disciple of human liberty, Thomas Jefferson.

"In conclusion, gentlemen, permit us to indulge the hope that all local dissensions will vanish amongst you, and that the citizens of White will go together as one man for the improvement of your county and county seat. We are gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

"JOHN KILGORE,

"JOHN B. KING,

"JAMES H. STEWART,

"Locating Commissioners.

"September 5, 1834."

The locating commissioners had first met on Monday, September 1st, and, after viewing several ambitious locations, one of which was in Big Creek Township, completed their labors on Friday, the 5th of September, the day of the report. At that time the land upon which the county seat was located had not yet been entered, or in other words was yet the property of the United States. The land was selected because it seemed the most eligible site near the center of the county, and for the further reason





that whereas other points wishing the location were somewhat exacting regarding the donations to be made, it became clear to the locating commissioners, from an offer they received from John Barr, Sr., Hans E. Hiorth and John Rothrock, that the new county would be far better off financially, if the county seat was fixed at Monticello; of course there was not a house then standing on the present site of the town. The offer made by Barr, Hiorth and John Rothrock to the locating commissioners was that if the latter would agree to locate the county seat at Monticello, on land which yet belonged to the Government, the former would proceed to Laporte and enter the land and donate the entire eighty acres, upon which the town was located, with reservation, to the county. This offer was accepted by the commissioners. But the land instead of being entered by these three men was really entered by Robert Rothrock. The following bond explains the situation:

"Know all men by these presents, that I, Robert Rothrock, acknowledge myself to owe and to be indebted to John Barr, H. E. Hiorth and John Rothrock in the sum of \$1,000 gold and lawful money of the United States, to the payment of which I bind myself, my heirs, administrators and executors firmly by these presents, signed and sealed this 10th day of September, A. D. 1834.

"The condition of the above obligation is such, that, the aforesaid John Barr, H. E. Hiorth and John Rothrock having placed in the hands of the said Robert Rothrock the sum of \$137.77½ for the purpose of entering at the Laporte Land Office the following fractional lots, to-wit: the south half of the northeast quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 33, Township 27 north, Range 3 west, containing in all 110 22-100 acres, which lots were purchased for the purpose of a county seat in White County. Now, if the said Robert Rothrock shall make to the said John Barr, H. E. Hiorth and John Rothrock good and sufficient title in fee simple, then the above obligation to be null and void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue; the above deeds or titles to be made as soon as the patent can be obtained from the Government.

ROBERT ROTHROCK [SEAL].

"Attest:

"JOSHUA LINDSEY,

"PETER B. SMITH."

#### THE COUNTY SEAT TITLE

Tradition says that Robert Rothrock coveted the distinction of having entered the land where the county seat was located, and to humor this ambition the three men furnished him the money, taking his bond as above. The county seat was located, then, by the 5th of September, and on the 6th, as shown by the tract book, Robert Rothrock entered the land at Laporte; but the above bond was signed and sealed on the 10th of September, four days after the land had been entered. In other words, Robert Rothrock entered the land four days before his bond was signed,



and was therefore entrusted with the money before he had obligated himself to transfer the land to the proper owners, Barr, Hiorth and John Rothrock. The title actually passed from Robert Rothrock to these three men, or rather directly to the county agent, the three men quit-claiming their title.

## PUBLIC SALES OF LOTS

As stated above, Monticello was laid out on the 3d of November, 1834, and on the 7th, in pursuance of an order of the county commissioner, a public sale of the lots took place, Melchi Gray officiated as auctioneer or crier and Joshua Lindsey serving as clerk of the sale. The terms were one-fourth of the purchase price in ninety days from date, the remainder in two equal annual payments, the buyer to "give good security for payments deferred."

As no report of the sale of these lots is of record until March 8, 1836, it is fair to presume that Mr. Barr received no cash at the first sale. At the date named he filed his report as follows:

Gross receipts of sales from November 7, 1834, to March 8, 1836 .....	\$1,870.37½
Amount donated by sundry individuals.....	110.00
<b>Total receipts .....</b>	<b>\$1,980.37½</b>
Paid Jonathan Harbolt on courthouse.....	\$124.68¾
Paid Oliver Hammond on courthouse.....	70.00
<b>Total expenditures .....</b>	<b>194.68¾</b>
<b>Balance .....</b>	<b>\$1,785.68¾</b>
Cash received on sales.....	\$ 566.06¼
Paper .....	1,414.31¼

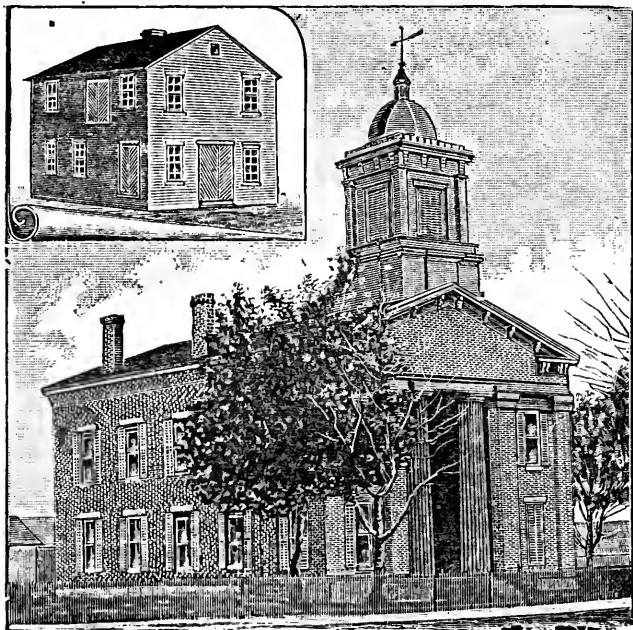
The various fractions of cents in the foregoing report will puzzle many readers until they are reminded of the great scarcity of American currency at that time. On the other hand, Spanish silver coins of 6¼, 12½ and 25 cents, as well as French five-francs pieces, valued at 93¾ cents, were in circulation during the period of these first land sales and for several years thereafter. Hence the fractions noted in Mr. Barr's report.

## THE OLD COURTHOUSE GRANT

The old courthouse grant was bounded on the north by Marion Street, east by Tippecanoe, south by Jefferson and west by Illinois. On the 6th of March, 1837, the title to the land not having yet passed from Robert Rothrock to Barr, Hiorth and John Rothrock, the former conveyed the following tract of land to John Barr, county agent, and his successors in office: Beginning at a point where the west line of Illinois Street in the said Town of Monticello running north as the town plat of



the said town is laid out would intersect the north line of the southwest fraction of the northeast quarter of section 33, township 27 north, range 3 west, thence east with the north line of said fraction of the Tippecanoe River, thence with the meanderings of the said river to the south line of the northwest fraction of the southeast quarter of section 33, township 27 north, range 3 west, thence with the south line of said last mentioned fraction west to a point where the west line of said Illinois Street aforesaid extended south would intersect said last mentioned line,



VIEWS OF OLD COURTHOUSES

thence north with the west line of said Illinois Street, extended as aforesaid to the place of beginning. The conveyance was made upon the express condition that the county seat should forever remain located upon the land. Appended to this document was a quit claim of all the rights, titles and interests of Barr, Hirth and John Rothrock in the land, conditioned that the land should forever remain the site of the county seat. In view of these conditional transfers, and the lapse of time and the growth of public institutions and interests, the difficulty of removing the county seat to some other point in White County becomes at once apparent.



## FIRST JUDICIAL SESSION

The first session of the Circuit Court for White County was held at the house of George A. Spencer, six miles southwest of Monticello near the center of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 12, township 27 north, range 4 west. On the 17th of October, 1834, the presiding judge, John R. Porter, was absent; which fact threw the responsibility of the proceedings on the associates, James Barnes and Thomas Wilson. William Sill, father of Milton M. Sill, of Monticello, served as clerk, and John Wilson as sheriff. The grand jury consisted of Royal Hazelton (foreman), William Woods, James Johnson, Samuel Gray, Robert Barr, Aaron Hicks, Daniel Dale, Robert Hanna, John Roberts, John Ferguson, James Parker, Joseph James, Sr., Cornelius Sutton, William Kerr and Joseph Thompson.

A case of "malicious mischief" was the only matter brought to the attention of the court. It seems that Jere Bisher had tied something to the tail of one of his neighbor's fractious horses, and the court bound the offender over to the next term with security of \$50 for his appearance. Then William P. Bryant, Andrew Ingraham, Aaron Fitch and William M. Jenners were sworn in as attorneys qualified to practice in the county, and the session was adjourned.

## FIRST FULL COURT KEPT BUSY

At the second term of court, beginning April 17, 1835, also in Mr. Spencer's house, all the judges were present and a number of cases were brought before them. Mr. Spencer himself acted as bailiff, William Sill, clerk, and John Wilson, sheriff. Bisher's case of malicious mischief was at once taken up and the defendant was fined \$5, and sentenced to the custody of the sheriff for the space of one minute, "the fine to go to the funds of the county seminary."

The grand jury returned the following indictments: Against Jacob Gates for retailing liquor without a license; against Joseph Gates for firing the prairie; against Royal Hazelton for marking hogs; against Jeremiah Bisher for trespass to land (Bisher instead of Gates seems to have been the real firebrand of the county); against William Keen for selling liquor to the Indians; against John Beaver and Luke Beaver for fighting and against William Farmer, D. Runion and S. Pharris for selling clocks without a license. The indictment against Mr. Gates was quashed; the jury found Mr. Hazelton and the Beavers not guilty; Mr. Bisher was fined \$1.12½ cents; and Messrs. Keen and Farmer pleaded guilty, the former being fined \$5 and costs and the latter, \$2 and costs.

Such court matters are adduced as much to throw rays of light upon the affairs of the young county and its people, as because they represent the legal business transacted at the first "full court" held within its borders.

The house of Mr. Spencer, where the sittings were held, was in Big Creek Township, and the Circuit Court continued its sessions there until





the autumn of 1836, when it adjourned permanently to the county seat, a courthouse then being in process of erection at Monticello.

### THE LITTLE FRAME COURTHOUSE

The steps by which the site for the county buildings was acquired have been noted, and at its May session the board of commissioners had ordered that lot 29, original plat of Monticello on the east side of Main Street, second lot south of Harrison Street, be set apart for the erection of a frame courthouse two stories in height, 20 by 22 feet in dimensions. Two partitions above were to divide the rooms equally and one below to separate two rooms, 20 by 20 feet and 12 by 20, respectively. Robert A. Spencer, afterward a prominent physician and surgeon, Solomon Sherwood, Jonathan Harbolt and Oliver Hammond were employed to erect the structure, the contract price being \$800. The courthouse was nearly completed, when it was leveled to the ground by a violent wind; but it was promptly rebuilt and finally completed in the summer of 1837. This unforeseen accident somewhat interfered with the original architect's plans, and the final courthouse was not exactly as intended.

### THE JAIL AND ITS FIRST PRISONER

The jail, which had been projected about the same time, was erected by William M. Kenton on the east side of Illinois Street near Marion, and was completed in the fall of 1838. Mr. Sill's description of that fearsome edifice and his account of the first desperado incarcerated therein leaves nothing to be desired for completeness and picturesqueness and are therefore reproduced: "The jail was built of hewn logs, one story in height, twenty by forty feet, divided by a partition near the center into two rooms; the front room designed for delinquent debtors, for a man could then be imprisoned for debt; and it is the opinion of many now that the act ought never to have been repealed, but instead amended so as to apply to those who could pay their honest debts and will not, and also for milder offenses against the law.

"The rear room was designated the dungeon, and was intended for the incarceration of prisoners charged with the perpetration of higher crimes. The front door was constructed of inch plank running diagonally from one corner across to the corner on the opposite side, and four inches thick, bolted together with iron bolts passing through the planks and riveted on the opposite side. There were two doors to the dungeon, the first similar to the front door and the second of iron bars riveted together in such manner as to form an opening between of three inches square. A short chain was riveted on the side of this door about half-way up from the floor, and a staple driven in the door frame over which it passed, a common padlock passing through the staple to secure it. The wooden doors were also provided with locks of huge size made especially for them, with a key for each lock half as long as a man's arm and weighty enough to worry a small boy to carry. The object in having



the two doors to the dungeon was, in the event of the imprisonment of a desperate criminal, to protect the jailor, who could open the first door and take a view of the inside through the grated iron door before he entered with food and water for the prisoners.

"Singular as it may appear, the first person to occupy the new jail was a school teacher, who was guilty of unduly chastising one of his pupils, Erastus Gray, for an infringement of his rules. He whipped the boy with a rawhide until the blood streamed down his body and stood in pools on the floor of the school room. Without any doubt Erastus deserved some punishment; for he was not a model of good behavior and the parents universally believed in the use of the rod; but the majority of them thought the boy had a little too much, and so the teacher was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to one hour imprisonment in the county jail. He was not without friends, however, who justified his action, and one of them went with him and kept him company during his incarceration. His school was broken up shortly after this, and the talk of tar and feathers, and a free ride astride a rail, became a subject of every-day gossip until he finally abandoned his charge and left for parts unknown."

#### THE COUNTY'S UPS AND DOWNS

The old courthouse and jail were not replaced by better buildings until fourteen and seventeen years had respectively passed; and that period was one of many ups and downs for both the county and country. The first three years of the county's life fell within the prosperous era and its population probably increased from a 100 to over a 1,000. While the first settlers were men of limited means, nearly all of them brought money enough to enter tracts of land varying from forty to 160 acres, with sufficient cash retained to provide for the necessities of self or family until their crops should mature. As a rule they brought their families, which accounts for the rapid increase in population. During this period the county's financial operations were not impressive, both receipts and expenditures averaging from \$200 to \$300, much of its income being the result of the sale of the lands at Monticello, the proceeds of which were to be donated for public purposes.

When the hard times approached in 1837, money had become very scarce and for some time canal script was almost the sole circulating medium of exchange, with even more crude substitutes, such as furs, pelts and hides. From 1837 to 1842 the general and local distress continued and emigration to White County was slow; yet, by 1840, its population had increased to 1,832, and after 1842 the increase and all-around improvement were very marked. By 1850, the population had reached 4,761.

It was during the later portion of the prosperous decade, 1840-50, that the public enterprises of the county took an upward turn, although they did not materialize into any definite improvements until a little later.



## THE CLERK'S OFFICE BUILT

The board of commissioners commenced to agitate the necessity of improved public buildings in the early part of 1845, but it was not until June, 1846, that any decisive step was taken. At that time the county agent was ordered to arrange for the erection of a frame building, 16 by 20 feet, on lot 29. It was also ordered that the agent collect a sufficient amount of the outstanding donation fund to cover the expenses of construction. Zachariah Van Buskirk was given the contract, and the structure, known as the clerk's office, was completed in September, 1846, at a cost of \$500.

## THE BRICK COURTHOUSE

✓ In 1848 the work of building a new and much larger courthouse was begun, George Brown, of Lafayette, taking the contract. No definite time was set for the completion of the house, as the funds of the county were very low, and the means of obtaining suitable additions to carry on the necessary expense were largely beyond the reach of the commissioners. County orders which had been issued to the amount of several thousand dollars were selling at about 5 per cent discount, and new ones gave no promise of selling for a better figure—just the reverse.

Regardless of this discouraging condition of affairs the commissioners borrowed \$2,000, and ordered the work to commence. But the progress of construction hung fire, and the building was not ready for occupancy until 1851. The total cost, including the furnishings, was nearly \$8,000.

In September, 1850, the "Clerk's Office" was ordered sold, the proceeds to be applied on the new courthouse. On the 4th of December, 1851, more than three years after the house had been commenced, the board ordered the offices of clerk, auditor, recorder and treasurer removed to the new house.

## CHOLERA INTERFERES WITH ITS COMPLETION

✓ The old brick courthouse, with its long corridors, heavy windows and its front porch supported by two massive pillars, had a hard time being born, and this was not the fault of its father, George Brown; the chief delay was caused by a prolonged cholera scare. The contractor had worked on the courthouse only a few days when one of his children was stricken with what resembled the prevailing cholera. A few deaths had already occurred at Lafayette, which had probably hastened Mr. Brown's removal to Monticello. As soon as the child's sickness became known panic spread through the town. Those in the neighborhood of Mr. Brown's residence on South Main Street hastily loaded their household goods into wagons and fled to the country. On the morning after the little girl's death a boy coming to town on horseback with a pail of butter for a relative met the procession a mile north of town, rapidly moving from the plague-stricken place. The occupants of the front wagon stopped the boy and tried to persuade him to turn back, even offering to buy his butter



if he would return home; but no, the butter was not for sale, he was charged with its delivery and he "would do it, cholera or no cholera."

The county records were moved to the Presbyterian Church, as far away from the infected district as possible; merchants locked their stores and, with their families, went to the country; business was entirely suspended, and for two months Monticello was almost deserted. Work on the courthouse was suspended, the laborers fleeing to the country and positively refusing to return, in consequence of which its construction was at a virtual standstill until the following spring. Mr. Brown refused to re-employ the workmen who had deserted him the previous year, and masons and brick-layers being scarce, the work progressed but slowly up to its completion in December, 1851.

#### DESCRIPTION OF DEAR OLD BUILDING

The writer turns again to Sill's unpublished history for a detailed description of the old brick courthouse, which, for forty-four years, was the center of the official, judicial and legal activities of White County and the scene of many occasions connected with patriotic meetings and public celebrations. "A description from memory," says the author, "while not infallible will be better than none. Beginning at the foundation, a trench three feet in depth, and similar trenches made at the sides of about eighty-five feet in length, were filled with stone of the genus known as 'nigger heads,' with which the county is amply supplied. On the top of these, blocks of cut stone were placed, projecting about three feet and presenting a level surface on which to lay the brick. The building was two stories in height and divided into four rooms below, providing offices for the auditor, treasurer, clerk and recorder. A hall eight feet wide passed through the length of the building between the offices with doors at each end. Each of the offices was provided with a brick vault with an iron door, and supposed by some to be fire proof, for the preservation of the records. There was a recess in front, twenty-five or thirty feet north and south by ten feet in width. On the southeastern corner of the building was another room ten feet square, which was occupied by the sheriff and presumably intended for him. If that was the case, a good joke on that official was perpetrated, as the room was scarcely large enough for a respectable chicken-coop.

"In the recess two fluted columns were built of the Tuscan order of architecture to a height of fifty feet, on the top of which rested a wooden dome or belfry, and high above all a huge wooden arrow for nearly fifty years faithfully indicated the course of summer breeze and winter blast.

"The second story, with the exception of a small jury room in the southeastern corner, was the court room. It was furnished with wooden benches with high backs, placed in two rows across the room, with an aisle between of sufficient width for two persons to walk abreast. The judge's seat was in the west end of the room on a high wooden platform with three steps at each end to enable him to ascend to his place with due judicial dignity and decorum. There was room on the platform for ten





or twelve persons and in time of political excitement, when a public speaker of some notoriety was announced, it was always occupied. The seats were gradually elevated from front to rear to enable those behind to see over the heads of those in the front, and about five hundred people could be comfortably seated on the benches and inside the bar, which had a wooden railing extending across the same about fifteen feet in front of the judge's seat.

"Access to the court room was gained by a broad staircase in front on the north side of the recess. The late Hon. Horace P. Biddle, of Logansport, was the first judge to open and hold court in the new Court House at the March term, 1852. The court officers were Ransom McConahay, clerk, and Michael A. Berkey, sheriff. The members constituting the Board of Commissioners who made the order for the building and received it when completed, were James K. Wilson, of Monon township, Solomon McCully, of Jackson, and Samuel Smelcer, of Prairie."

George S. Kendall, now living in Irvington, Indiana, relates a peculiar circumstance which occurred when the second courthouse was being built. This story was told by his grandparents and stated that in the spring-time of a certain year a small body of Indians passing through the town stopped for a brief rest in the courthouse yard and while there a squaw gave birth to a papoose, which she carefully wrapped in a blanket, mounted her horse and pursued her journey.

#### COUNTY OFFICES AFFECTED BY LEGISLATION

The new state constitution of 1851 made several noteworthy changes in the tenure of several county offices. The terms of the clerk and recorder were shortened from seven to four years, and the terms of the remaining officials, except those of the commissioners and auditor, were fixed at two years; the latter's term of four years was unchanged. As the constitution also changed the time for holding the general election from the first Monday in August to the second Monday in October, there were other complications. By this change the clerk and recorder, although elected in October, went into office on the 7th of July following, and the treasurer in September following his election.

Acts of the Legislature of subsequent date to the new state constitution made frequent changes in the election days of various county and township offices, as well as created numerous new positions. One of the most important of the new offices was that of county assessor, which came into being by legislative act of March 6, 1891. The original term was four years and the first county assessor was chosen at the general election in 1892.

Many changes were made in the judicial systems which had jurisdiction in the county. The Circuit Court, with its presiding judge and two local associates, was the legislative product of the period when Indiana was passing from a territorial to a state form of government, but was incorporated in the body politic of the commonwealth by the constitution of 1816. The Probate Court came in with the county, in 1834, and in 1853



its functions were transferred to the new Court of Common Pleas, which, in turn, was merged into the Circuit Court in 1873. Consequently the Circuit Court, of all the institutions identified with the administration of county affairs, is the oldest.

It was reserved for the Legislature of a comparatively late period to set the record in the creation of new offices, in the distribution of which generosity White County received its full quota. By the act approved March 4, 1899, a county council was created to consist of three (at large) members elected by all the voters of a county, and four members chosen by the commissioners' districts into which each county was to be divided preceding the election of 1900. Six hundred and forty-four new county offices were thereby created throughout the state. By an act approved during the previous month an advisory board of the county council was also authorized, comprising three members elected from each township; as White County had eleven townships, that act added thirty-three new offices to the seven created by the measure of March, 1899. Although the advisory board was created a few days before the main body came into existence, it was simply a little accident in the orderly and perhaps legal progress of constructive legislation which created no comment.

#### NEW JAILS ERECTED

But, despite all changes and complications, the county continued to push its campaign for better public buildings.

In June, 1854, the board gave the contract for a new jail to Michael A. Berkey and J. C. Reynolds, the work to be begun immediately, and the building to be finished by the 1st of June, 1855. The site of the structure was fixed on the west end of the Courthouse Square. The contractors faithfully performed their part of the agreement, though the building was not formally accepted by the board until September, 1855. The cost was \$1,640.

The new jail was not built on the original Courthouse Square, but on the tract purchased by the commissioners about 1865. The old brick courthouse was built in the center of the public square dedicated for that purpose when the town was platted by Mr. Barr, the county agent. Its dimensions were 180 feet north and south on the west side of Main Street, and 165 feet east and west on the north side of Main-Cross Street. The alley running north and south between Main and Illinois was widened to twenty-five feet, but although the western boundary of the old Courthouse Square, remained an unnamed street. A short thoroughfare on the north, now called Court Street, completed its boundaries.

#### COMBINED JAIL AND SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE

In 1864 the board of commissioners decided that the time had come for the construction of a new jail and sheriff's residence which should be fairly creditable to the taxpayers as well as to the public. They therefore purchased three lots west of the original square and fronting on





Courtesy of C. L. Foster

COURTHOUSE



Illinois Street, vacated the narrow nameless street and extended Court Street through to Illinois, thus more than doubling the area of the public square and providing a generous site for the proposed building. The contract was finally awarded to Jacob Hanaway and Charles Breckenridge, the price being \$6,800. At that time the county was not embarrassed to provide funds, notwithstanding the drafts made upon its treasury for soldiers' bounty, relief of soldiers' widows and orphans, and road and bridge expenses. The building was completed and accepted by the board in December, 1865, its site being lot 83, the location of the present jail and sheriff's residence. The three strong iron cells of the jail were certainly great improvements over the old arrangements.

#### ANOTHER AND BETTER JAIL

But in 1875 it was decided to build another and even a better jail and plans presented by Randall and Millard, of Chicago, were accepted. The contract was let to Ralph Dixon, of Logansport, Indiana, at \$7,700. John Saunders was appointed to superintend the construction. The building was immediately commenced, and was carried to rapid completion, and in December the finished jail was turned over to the county board, and formally accepted by them. This building is yet in use, although the second courthouse was replaced with the handsome structure now occupied, in the fall of 1895.

#### CORNER STONE OF PRESENT COURTHOUSE LAID

After several years of preliminaries, movements both on the part of the board of commissioners and enterprising citizens, the cornerstone of the new courthouse was finally laid, amid impressive ceremonies, on the 16th of August, 1894. Special trains unloaded visitors from Logansport, Monon, Brookston, Rensselaer, Idaville and other towns which had for years been on terms of special intimacy with Monticello, and various organizations from these places participated in the celebration.

The music for the procession and the crowd was furnished by the Logansport band and two local bands. The ceremonies were in official charge of Libanus Lodge No. 154, F. & A. M., of Monticello, which had the post of honor in the rear. Then came the members of the other masonic lodges—Orient, of Logansport; Goodland, Buck Creek, Monon, Brookston and Francesville (Indiana) lodges; St. John Commandery, No. 24, K. T., Logansport. The Masons were escorted by I. O. O. F. lodges from Monticello, Brookston, Rensselaer, Idaville and Logansport; Daughter of Rebekah, of Monticello; O. E. S., of Rensselaer; Uniformed Ranks Knights of Pythias, of Monticello, Monon and Rensselaer; Tippecanoe Post, No. 51, G. A. R., of Monticello, and the members of the Monticello schools.

After the crowd had assembled at the Courthouse Square to witness the ceremonies in connection with the placing of the cornerstone, Emery B. Sellers read a brief history of the county, including the effort to





secure a new courthouse, and named the list of articles in the box to be placed in the stone. They were as follows: The Monticello Herald of August 16, 1894; the White County Democrat of August 10, 1894; the Monticello Press, August 11, 1894; the Wolcott Enterprise, August 10, 1894; the Chalmers Ledger, August 11, 1894; the Idaville Observer, August 15, 1894; manual of Monticello Public Schools; roster of Libanus Lodge, No. 154, F. & A. M.; roster of Tippecanoe Post, No. 151, G. A. R.; copy of the charter of said post; roster of Monticello Lodge, No. 73, K. of P.; a knight's jewel; rosters of Monticello Independent Battery, Stewart Encampment, No. 159, I. O. O. F., Monticello Lodge, No. 107, I. O. O. F., Endora Lodge, No. 201, Daughters of Rebeeca, and by-laws of Monticello Chapter, No. 103, R. A. M.; constitution and by-laws of Journeymen Stone Cutters Association of North America; a history of stone cutters' strike; roster of Monticello Fire Company; photos of old courthouse while in process of demolition; zinc etchings of the first courthouse, of the second and of the new one; a Grand Army badge and boutonniere; the invitations issued by the board of commissioners, by Libanus Lodge and Tippecanoe Post; "White County in the War of the Rebellion," written by James M. McBeth; a ticket to the Columbian exposition; one cent—a day's wages; one horseshoe, made by John H. Day; one silver three-cent coin; copy of charter Stanley Camp Sons of Veterans; copy of Order of Exercises of these ceremonies; the fourth part of a dollar; a twenty-five cent "shinplaster"; a picture of John Rothrock, born 1779, first settler of the land on which this courthouse stands; a record of the organization of White County and of the location of the county seat; a certified copy of the deed from Robert Rothrock to John Barr, Sr., agent of White County for the land on which the original plat of Monticello is located; a copy of the first order of the board of commissioners for the erection of this building; one cannery check issued to William Harbolt; the Chicago Herald of this date; the Chicago Inter-Ocean of this date; the Holy Bible; roster and by-laws of Brookston Lodge, No. 66, F. & A. M.; history of the Forty-sixth Regiment Indiana Volunteers; this record of these ceremonies prepared by order of Libanus Lodge, No. 154, Free and Accepted Masons.

Charles Gardner then sealed the box and the ceremony of placing it in position was performed by Frank E. Gaven, the Grand Master of Masons of the State of Indiana, and a judge of the State Appellate Court. After the laying of the cornerstone, the crowd dispersed until 2 o'clock P. M., when Lieutenant-Governor Nye delivered the address of the day.

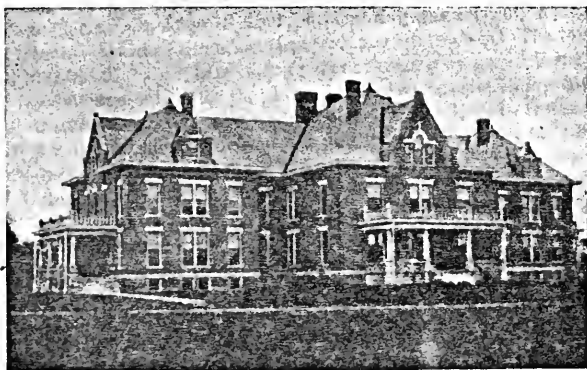
Within a year from the date of this enthusiastic and appropriate celebration, the courthouse, virtually as it stands today, was ready for occupancy. The architects were LaBelle and French, of Marion, Indiana, and over \$70,000 was put into the building, exclusive of furnishings, the entire cost being nearly \$100,000. It could not be constructed for considerably more than that sum at the present time, as it is a massive, beautiful building of Bedford stone, two stories and a lofty basement in height, with a handsome tower in its southeast corner and ornate projections on all sides. The present courthouse stands 88 by 108 feet on the



ground, nearer the center of the square than any of its predecessors, and its court and office conveniences, as well as heating, lighting and sanitary arrangements, are up-to-date. Among the other accommodations of the times, which has become a matter of course, is its provision for a comfortable rest-room for women, girls and children; this has come to be considered in the light of consideration for the sex and as justice to the taxpayers and their families who are obliged to come from a distance, often in their own vehicles, to transact business at the county seat.

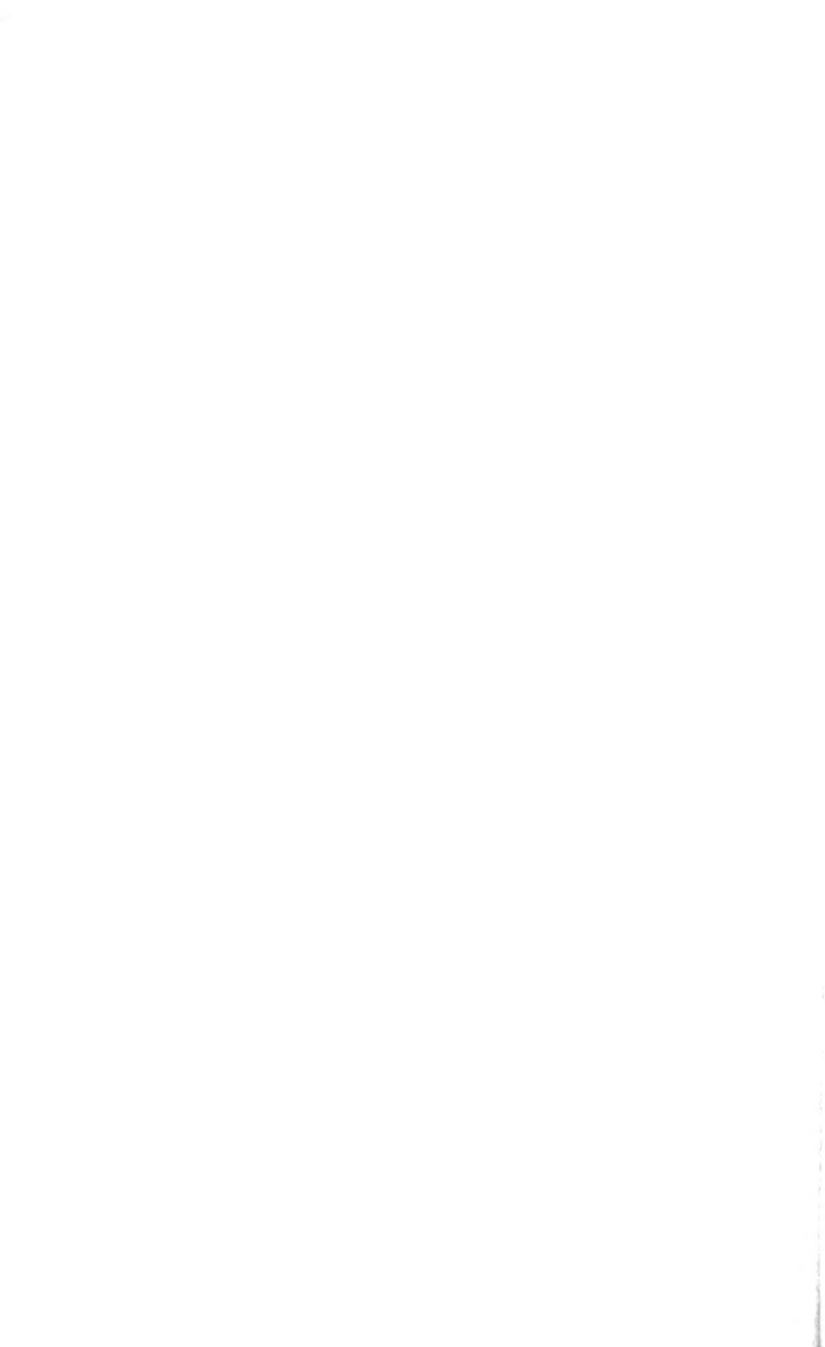
#### THE POOR FARM

During the early years of our history the needy poor were cared for by being placed in reliable families, the expenses of their board and clothes



WHITE COUNTY ASYLUM

being paid by the county. This varied from \$39 for the year ending May 1, 1839, to \$817.36 for the year ending June 1, 1856. But this system proved unsatisfactory and on March 2, 1857, the county purchased from James C. Reynolds 200 acres of land, five miles northwest of Monticello, being the southeast quarter of section 13 and the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 17, both in township 27 north, range 4 west, paying therefor \$3,250. On the first described tract stood a house and into this house the poor were collected and early in 1858 Uncle Charley Rider was employed and took charge as first keeper of the poorhouse. This old building, with its various additions, was always a reproach to the good people of White County and in 1875 the commissioners let to Harbolt & Tilton, of Monticello, a contract to erect a new frame building at a cost of \$3,000, which was completed and occupied in December, 1875. But this became unsanitary and in March, 1907, the commissioners and county council met in joint session to consider a site



for a new county infirmary. After viewing and studying carefully both sites owned by the county and several others, it was decided to purchase of Daniel McCuaig the farm known as the old Breckenridge farm on the gravel road north of Monticello. The farm is three miles from the public square in Monticello and contains 150 acres. Eighty acres lie west of the north and south road and south of the road running west. Seventy acres lie east of the road and north of the road leading east to Norway. The Tippecanoe River forms the east boundary line. The purchase price was \$16,500. The county council appropriated \$31,000 for building purposes. The site selected for the new building is on a bluff overlooking the river, which, in addition to its picturesqueness, affords perfect drainage. Plans for the new building were furnished by the state board of charities. These were adapted to the needs of White County and the building planned by Samuel A. Young, a local architect. Work on the new building was begun promptly and carried to completion under his superintendence. On June 16, 1908, the building was formally accepted by the county board of commissioners from the contractors. The total cost was \$33,364.91. Built after many years of urging by grand juries, press and public and only after the old buildings had become almost scandalous in their unfitness, the new asylum places White County in the front rank for her humane provision for her poor. The natural advantage of drainage, afforded by the Tippecanoe River, is supplemented by the plumber's art which exemplifies throughout the building the most modern ideas of sanitation. Water is supplied to all parts of the building by a Kewance water system. There are bath and toilet rooms on both upper and lower floors. The basement is cemented throughout and well furnished with bell traps for carrying off water used in cleaning. The building is lighted by electric incandescant lamps, power for which is supplied on the premises by means of an 8-H. P. gasoline engine, the same power also operating the water system. A steam heating plant furnishes heat. The sexes are segregated. The women occupy the east wing of the building and have their own dining room. The men occupy the west wing. The superintendent and family occupy the central front. A driven well, 131 feet deep, provides water for cooking and drinking. Two 150-barrel cisterns with filters provide soft water. The water is forced to all parts of the building by compressed air which is contained in two big tanks in the basement. Ventilation is provided by means of four big stacks or chimneys in which are separate air flues for each floor and section of floor. Each room has its own ventilating shaft and all foul air is discharged out of doors.

As the building now stands, it will house forty-eight inmates and this capacity can be more than doubled at but little expense.

#### COUNTY'S GROWTH BY DECADES

When the preceding courthouse was completed, White County had a population of about 5,000, which, in 1895, had increased to some



17,000, while the expansion in the value of taxable property was even more marked, being ten-fold from 1860 to 1880. In 1860 the population was 8,258; 1870, 10,554, and 1880, 13,447. The 1880 census exhibits the townships as follows: Union, 2,213; Round Grove and White Post, 1,635; Jackson, 1,724; Cass and Liberty, 1,785; Monon, 1,172; Honey Creek, 902; Big Creek, 776; Prairie, 2,144; Princeton, 1,396.

## DEDUCTIONS FROM THE CENSUS FIGURES

Although the figures for 1890 and 1900, respectively, indicate a fair increase in population, since the latter year there has been a readjustment of general conditions, the record for 1910 showing a decrease. Within more recent years another upward tendency has been evident; but "better times" have been manifest perhaps more in the increase in property valuation than in numbers of residents. The temptation for the younger generation to desert old and well settled districts for the newer and cheaper lands of the West is still strong and practically effective; but those who are in a condition to remain on the improved homesteads, or connected with growing industries, find no section better than White County for comfort and the satisfaction of moderate ambitions. These general remarks will be supported by the statistics contained in the following tables.

## WHITE COUNTY'S POPULATION, 1890-1910

Townships and Towns	1910	1900	1890
Big Creek Township, including Chalmers town..	1,080	1,292	955
Chalmers town .....	513	462	
Cass Township .....	946	1,215	893
Honey Creek Township, including Reynolds town	1,165	1,170	1,018
Reynolds town .....	377	393	348
Jackson Township, including Burnettsville town	1,812	1,990	1,958
Burnettsville town .....	489	497	479
Liberty Township .....	1,011	1,266	1,221
Monon Township, including Monon town.....	2,363	2,441	1,960
Monon town .....	1,184	1,160	1,064
Prairie Township, including Brookston town....	2,181	2,325	1,885
Brookston town .....	907	946	447
Princetown Township, including Wolcott town..	2,158	2,282	1,465
Wolcott town .....	873	825	246
Round Grove Township.....	628	890	779
Union Township, including Monticello town.....	3,336	3,307	2,632
Monticello town .....	2,168	2,107	1,518
West Point Township.....	922	960	905
Totals .....	17,602	19,138	15,671





## PROPERTY VALUATION IN 1905 AND 1910

A more conclusive proof of the betterment of property conditions during the past decade is found in the figures of the assessors for 1905, 1910 and 1915. The comparative showing for 1905 and 1910 is as follows:

Townships and Towns	1905	1910
Prairie .....	\$ 1,586,840	\$ 1,913,930
Big Creek .....	764,240	1,006,500
Union .....	957,260	1,347,610
Monon .....	876,930	1,184,540
Liberty .....	640,137	616,640
Jackson .....	747,430	854,370
Princeton .....	1,277,270	1,332,490
West Point .....	1,097,220	1,195,730
Cass .....	501,420	499,910
Honey Creek .....	562,280	852,950
Round Grove .....	709,300	826,480
Monticello .....	1,040,810	1,040,870
Brookston .....	367,080	366,650
Reynolds .....	109,150	153,120
Burnettsville .....	142,780	172,690
Monon .....	302,350	360,500
Wolcott .....	397,020	326,930
Chalmers .....	180,140	206,930
Totals .....	\$12,259,757	\$14,258,800

## TAXABLE VALUATION IN 1914

The following table shows the valuation of real and personal property (including that of corporations), with mortgage exemptions deducted, and the net value of all properties in the county subject to taxation in 1914:

Townships and Towns	Real Estate	Personal	Net Value
Prairie .....	\$ 1,424,200	\$ 370,050	\$ 1,949,870
Big Creek .....	715,130	172,410	1,010,060
Union .....	795,340	274,580	1,272,580
Monon .....	813,460	318,610	1,478,390
Liberty .....	475,660	198,810	676,530
Jackson .....	571,820	283,980	936,300
Princeton .....	1,040,040	184,700	1,349,720
West Point .....	1,019,800	266,930	1,288,320
Cass .....	395,770	134,670	531,560
Honey Creek .....	502,960	146,040	955,290
Round Grove .....	709,390	165,240	876,300
Monticello .....	740,120	518,060	1,319,640



Townships and Towns	Real Estate	Personal	Net Value
Brookston .....	219,710	152,000	388,710
Reynolds .....	70,080	64,420	168,800
Burnettsville .....	81,960	85,180	185,360
Monon .....	233,090	172,070	440,300
Wolcott .....	216,030	145,020	373,810
Chalmers .....	114,490	165,130	299,990
Total.....	\$10,139,050	\$3,817,900	\$15,501,560

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

From the last report of the county auditor for the year ending December 31, 1914, a few interesting facts are gleaned illustrative of the finances of the county. At the first of the year there was a balance in the treasury of \$208,928.09 and the receipts from all funds amounted to \$641,660.34; so that the county had total resources to draw upon of \$850,588.43. The total disbursements were \$761,846.04. The receipts of the year from the county fund reached \$64,769.36 and the disbursements \$66,022.44. Only two larger funds were shown in the budget—those designated macadam roads and the five-mile ditches. The former indicated a balance of \$70,489, and the latter of \$42,457.53. The receipts derived from the macadam roads of the county amounted to \$160,428.17, and as there was a balance the first of the year of \$158,398.16, the available fund reached a total of \$318,826.33; the total disbursements were \$257,875.05. The receipts from the five mile ditches, including the balance brought over from the previous year, amounted to \$135,470.18, and the disbursements \$117,185.05. The other large items related to the special school, tuition, road, turnpike and common school taxes. The grand result, or the net balance in the county treasury (after deducting the amount collected since the November settlement), proved to be \$95,492.39.



## CHAPTER VII

### THE COUNTY IN LAW

THE COURTS BORN OF AMERICAN RULE—FIRST TERRITORIAL COURT—JUDGE PARKE REFUSES TO HOLD COURT—THE COURTS UNDER THE FIRST STATE CONSTITUTION—UNDER THE SECOND CONSTITUTION—COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS—CREATURES OF THE LEGISLATURE—PROBATE COURTS—COURT OF COMMON PLEAS DEFINED—THE NEW CIRCUIT COURT—FIRST CIRCUIT JUDGE—FIRST ACTIVE GRAND JURORS—PIONEER LAWYERS OF THE CIRCUIT—ALBERT S. WHITE—TURPIE'S SKETCHES OF JUDGE WHITE—YOUNG TURPIE HEARS FIRST STUMP SPEECH—BOYS ABASHED AT WHITE'S GREATNESS—MEETING OF ALPHA AND OMEGA—MEET IN EARLY MATURITY AND OLD AGE—TOGETHER THEY CALL ON PRESIDENT LINCOLN—THOMPSON, FIRST LOCAL LAWYER—DANIEL D. PRATT—HIS KIND HELPFULNESS TO YOUNG MEN—JUDGES AND ATTORNEYS, 1838-43—HORACE P. BIDDLE—BIDDLE VS. PRATT—CHARACTERISTICS OF DAVID TURPIE—BRIEF FACTS OF HIS LIFE—DESCRIBES HIS COMING TO MONTICELLO—AUTHOR OF THE CATTLE-LIEN LAW—GOOD SQUIRE HARBOLT—TRAITS OF EARLY JUDGES AND LAWYERS—"THE CHOCTAW LINE"—PLAYED "WHEN SCHOOL WAS OUT"—NOT DOLLAR-SLAVES—ROBERT H. MILROY—JOHN U. PETTIT—JOHN M. WALLACE—OTHER CIRCUIT JUDGES, 1855-1915—THE "WHEREFORE" FOR SO MANY JUDGES—REYNOLDS, FIRST WHITE COUNTY JUDGE—FORGOT HE WAS JUDGE—TRUMAN F. PALMER—JAMES P. WASON—THE PROBATE JUDGES—ROBERT NEWELL—WILLIAM M. KENTON—ZEBULON SHEETZ AND AARON HICKS—COURT OF COMMON PLEAS AGAIN—SAMUEL A. HUFF—COMMON PLEAS JUDGES, 1854-73—CAPTAIN AND JUDGE ALFRED F. REED—THE LAWYERS OF 1834-51—THE SILLS—LAWYERS OF 1856-1900—JOSEPH H. MATLOCK—ORLANDO MCCONAHY—LAWYERS IN ACTIVE PRACTICE.

Until about the middle period of the Revolutionary war, after General Clark had conquered the territory northwest of the Ohio for the patriot army, no earnest attempt was made by either France or Great Britain to establish civil or judicial administration over any part of the country west of the Alleghany mountains; and then it was too late for either mother country to do anything in that line. In other words, neither France nor Great Britain ever attempted to establish other than a military rule over the Northwest. Under French rule the commandants of the posts decided most points at issue between the civilians and the Indians, or which came up between the whites themselves; when the



cases seemed particularly involved or important, some of the most influential characters of the special locality which was disturbed would be called into consultation. But few cases of lawsuits could arise, as few of the settlements in Indiana consisted of more than fifty families; they were happy-go-lucky people who did not worry about definite titles to their land so long as their neighbors did not object, and much of the land in the settlements was communal, each man usually cultivating only so much as would furnish him or his family with the necessities of life.

When the common law of England was extended over the territory, no attempt was made to establish courts, as the new owners discouraged settlement west of the mountains. They did not think it worth their efforts to even take possession of Vincennes until 1777, the only real center of civilization in the Northwest.

### THE COURTS BORN OF AMERICAN RULE

But when General Clark conquered the territory for Virginia and the Americans, and John Todd was appointed lieutenant for the County of Illinois, the authority of the courts commenced to be established. His headquarters were at Fort Chartres, but he sought also to establish a court of civil and criminal jurisdiction at Vincennes, of which the commandant of that post, Col. J. M. P. Legras, was president. A historian of those times says that "no record of an action by this court remains, except its assumption of the right to make grants of land, and it exercised that authority with royal liberality, most of the grants being made to the members of the court." That was the first judicial tribunal which legally and theoretically exercised jurisdiction over what are now Indiana and White County, although fifty years were to elapse before any white men came to that section of the state to look for civil or judicial protection.

Under the ordinance of 1787 Samuel H. Parsons, James M. Varnum and John C. Symes were appointed judges of the Northwest Territory, who, with Governor St. Clair, were authorized to enforce such laws of the original states as might be applicable to the new territory. It appears that the judges who held their first session at Marietta exceeded their authority and tried to incorporate some original—very original—laws, which were repudiated by the Congress of the United States. In 1795 the governor and judges met at Cincinnati and enacted a number of laws which conformed to the authority of the organic ordinance; the validity of the laws promulgated at Marietta was questioned until 1799, when, to avoid complications, they were readopted, as a whole, by the Territorial Legislature.

### FIRST TERRITORIAL COURT

In January, 1801, William Clark, Henry Vanderburgh and John Griffin, who had been appointed the first judges of Indiana Territory,





met Governor Harrison at Vincennes, the capital, for the purpose of passing a code of laws to supersede that enacted at Cincinnati for the government of the Northwest Territory. Among those passed as a part of the new code was one establishing courts of general quarter sessions of the peace in the counties of Knox, Randolph and St. Clair.

The first session of the General Court was opened at Vincennes on the 3d of March, 1801, all the judges present. The grand jury called, as will be seen by an examination of the names of its members, was largely of French extraction, consisting of Luke Decker, Antoine Marshal, Joseph Baird, Patrick Simpson, Antoine Petit, Andr. Montplaiseur, John Ockiltree, Jonathan Marney, Jacob Tevebaugh, Alexander Vadney, Francois Turpin, Fr. Compagnoitte, Charles Languedoc, Louis Severe, Fr. Languedoc, George Catt, John St. Barrios, Abraham Decker and Philip Catt. With a court of general sessions and a grand jury in operation, the judiciary of Indiana may be said to have been fully established.

#### JUDGE PARKE REFUSES TO HOLD COURT

In February, 1805, the first popular assembly of the territory met at Vincennes and split off Michigan from Indiana Territory, and four years later Illinois was carved out of it. In 1814, what is now Indiana was divided into five districts, each of which was to elect a member of the Territorial Council; this action originated in Congress. In the same year the General Assembly divided the territory into three judicial districts, but Judge Parke refused to act, on the grounds stated in the following letter to Governor Posey: "By an act entitled 'An act reorganizing courts of justice,' passed at the late session of the Legislature, the Territory is divided into three districts, in each of which a circuit court is established—the court to consist of one of the judges appointed by the government of the United States for the territory, as president, and three associates commissioned under the authority of the territory, and to have jurisdiction in all cases at law and in equity. The first circuit, comprising the counties of Knox, Gibson and Warrick, is assigned to me. The Legislature is empowered to make laws in all cases for the good government of the territory not repugnant to the laws of the United States. In the delegation of power that which is not expressly given is reserved. Implications cannot be admitted further than to carry into effect the power given. The laws of the United States being paramount to the laws of the territory, if they are found in conflict, the latter must yield to the former. Congress has defined the jurisdiction of the judges appointed by the General Government and made one judge, in the absence of the others, competent to hold a court. The judges are coordinate and their jurisdiction extends over the whole Territory. They are judges in and over, and not of a part of the Territory. As the judges derive their jurisdiction and power from the government of the United States, they cannot be controlled, in the exercise of their functions, by persons deriving their authority from the government of the Territory.



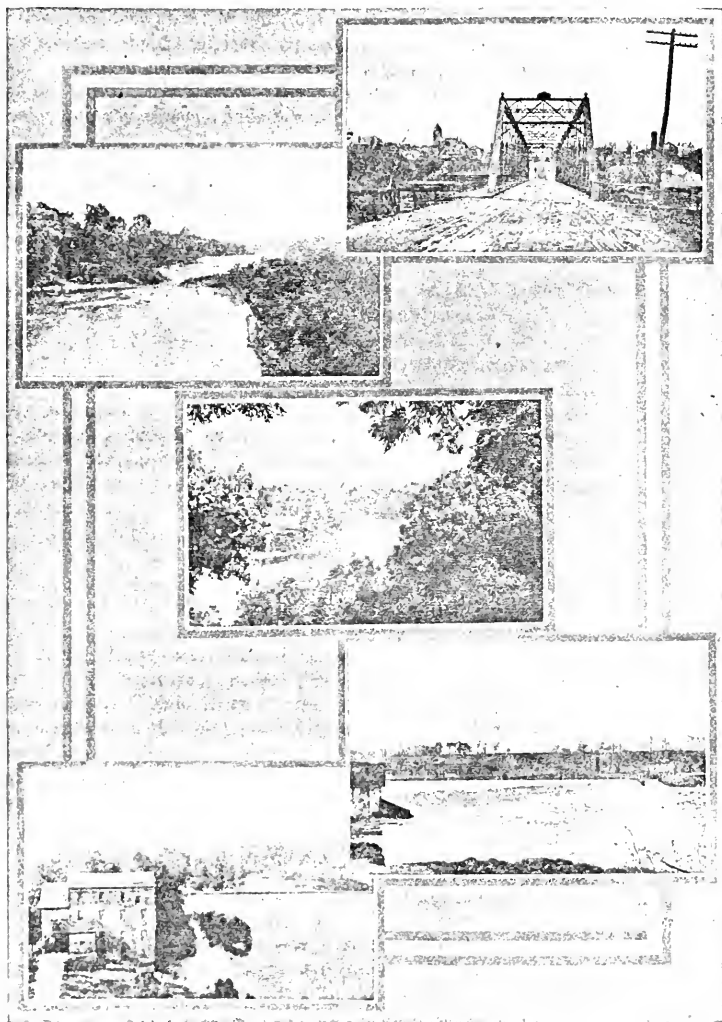
The judges appointed for the Territory are limited, by the laws of the United States, to the exercise of a common-law jurisdiction. The act, therefore, as it regards the organization and jurisdiction of the circuit courts, is repugnant to the laws of the United States, and neither confers any powers, nor imposes any duty, on the judges appointed for the Territory by the United States. The General Government has appointed for the territory three judges with common-law jurisdiction; but when, where or in what manner they are to hold a court, or rather exercise the jurisdiction with which they are invested, Congress has not provided. I consider it the duty of the legislature to do it. To you, sir, it belongs to watch over the affairs of the territory and to see that the laws are faithfully executed, and, on account of the relation in which I stand to the Territorial Government, I have thought it my duty to make this representation to you. The peculiarity of the case leaves me no other mode of stating my objections and the cause of my not conforming to the law. The legislature has organized certain courts and assigned me to perform certain duties; but the law constituting the one, and directing the other, is unconstitutional, and as I can derive no authority from it, it imposes no obligation. I shall, therefore, not hold the courts for the circuit."

This refusal of Judge Parke, with various appeals to the General Assembly to establish courts which should modify the one-man power of the Superior Court (one judge being competent to hold court) hastened the establishment of the Circuit Court which was alive when White County was created. At the legislative session which convened at Corydon in August, 1814, the territory was divided into three judicial districts, each of which was to be presided over by a judge appointed by the governor. In selecting the presiding judges, the chief executive was required to choose men "learned and experienced in the law," who were citizens of the United States and who had "regularly practiced in some of the courts of the United States, or in this territory, three years." The two associate judges of each county were to be residents of good standing, but not necessarily lawyers. Two judges were to constitute a quorum.

#### THE COURTS UNDER THE FIRST STATE CONSTITUTION

The entire judicial system, which prevailed in Carroll and White counties from the years of their organization in 1828 and 1834, respectively, until the Common Pleas Court was established in 1852, was fixed and consolidated under the state constitution of 1816. Under its provisions the judicial bodies were to consist of a State Supreme Court, Circuit courts, and such inferior courts as the General Assembly might establish. The highest body was to consist of three judges to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate, their term of office to be seven years. The Supreme Court was given jurisdiction in capital or chancery cases where the president of the Circuit Court might be interested or prejudiced.





RIVER SCENES: (A) WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE; (B) AT TIOGA DAM;  
 (C) GENERAL SCENE; (D) MONTICELLO DAM AT FLOOD TIDE; (E) OLD  
 MONTICELLO FLOURING MILL



The Circuit courts were to consist of a presiding judge and two associates. The president alone, or with one of the associates, or the two associates together, could hold court, although capital and chancery cases could not be tried in the absence of the presiding judge. The presidents of the Circuit courts were elected by the General Assembly in joint session and the associate judges were chosen by popular vote.

The state constitution also provided that the clerk of the Supreme Court was to be appointed by the court and that the clerks of the Circuit courts were to be elected by the people, but no clerk could qualify who had not obtained a certificate of competency from a judge either of the Supreme or Circuit Court. The constitution also provided for justices of the peace.

#### UNDER THE SECOND CONSTITUTION

The constitution of 1851 made the supreme judgeship elective instead of appointive and reduced the term of service from seven to six years. The choice of a clerk for the Supreme Court was also given to the people, and the associate judges of the Circuit courts were abolished. Further, the new constitution provided that no one elected to any judicial office should be eligible to any other office during the term of his service, other than a judicial one.

#### COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

"In creating inferior courts," says W. H. Smith, in his "History of Indiana," "the Legislature established what were known as Courts of Common Pleas. These courts were given exclusive jurisdiction in probate matters and concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Courts in some other matters. This created great confusion. All the courts assumed to pass upon the constitutionality of laws enacted by the General Assembly and the state witnessed the anomaly of having laws enforced in one county and declared unconstitutional in another. When the Legislature enacted the prohibitory liquor law in 1855, some of the Circuit judges declared it constitutional and enforced it, while others declared it void. This lasted until the Supreme Court finally overthrew the law. The confusion grew worse after the Common Pleas Court was established, for then some counties were operating under two different laws at the same time, according as the opinions of the judges differed. This confusion could not last, and finally the General Assembly abolished the Courts of Common Pleas, and in counties where the business was too great to be transacted by the Circuit Courts, Superior and Criminal Courts have been established, with well defined jurisdiction."

To condense judicial matters in so far as they relate to White County: From the organization of the county in 1834 to the adoption of the second state constitution in 1851 its immediate judicial affairs were under the jurisdiction of the Circuit and Probate courts, with right of appeal to the State Supreme Court; in 1852 all probate matters





were transferred to the Common Pleas Court, created by the Legislature; the Circuit Court continued its jurisdiction, with the abolishment of the two associate judgeships, and in 1873 absorbed the Court of Common Pleas; so that as far as White County is concerned, the Circuit Court has had a monopoly of judicial power for considerably over forty years.

At the time of the organization of the county in 1834 there were, besides the Circuit and Probate courts, one or more justices of the peace for each of the townships and the Court of Commissioners, comprising three members, the latter having charge of the location and improvement of highways, building of bridges, levying of taxes, allowance of claims against the county and general supervision of county affairs. Although judicial to a certain extent, its functions were so largely administrative that the commissioners' standing as a court has been largely obscured.

The state was divided into districts or circuits, and the presiding judge was required to reside in one of the counties embraced in his circuit, all civil and criminal cases coming before the body over which he presided. White County was attached to the Seventh Circuit, and it was not until 1888, when Alfred W. Reynolds ascended the bench, that the county was represented in that judiciary.

#### CREATURES OF THE LEGISLATURE

The first law passed after the adoption of the constitution of 1816 was for the creation of a Supreme Court; the second, defined the powers of the Circuit Court; the third was in relation to suits at law and chancery, and the fourth regulated the jurisdiction of justices of the peace.

#### PROBATE COURTS

Probate courts were established by an act of the General Assembly passed January 23, 1829, to consist of one judge, who was not required to possess a legal education. Exclusive jurisdiction was given in the probating of wills, granting letters testamentary, and in affairs relating to guardianship and the settling of estates. The judicial term was four years.

#### COURT OF COMMON PLEAS DEFINED

By the provisions of an act approved May 14, 1852, the Court of Common Pleas was established and its powers defined. Its jurisdiction was similar to the old Probate Court which it superseded; it also had jurisdiction over criminal cases which were not felonious. An appeal lay to the Circuit or Superior Court direct, at the option of the appellant. The judges could practice law in all courts except their own. The clerk of the Circuit Court and the sheriff of the county served also the Probate and Common Pleas Court.



## THE NEW CIRCUIT COURT

The constitutional convention of 1851, of which Judge Biddle was a leading member and in which he took a prominent part, provided that the Circuit Court should consist of but one judge instead of three, and by act of the Legislature of 1852 it was provided that there should be ten districts in the state. White was then assigned to the Eighth Circuit, with Cass, Miami, Howard, Wabash, Fulton, Pulaski, Jasper and Carroll. The term of the circuit judge was fixed at six years and John U. Pettit was the first judge to serve after the triple judgeship was abolished.

## FIRST CIRCUIT JUDGE

Little is known of John R. Porter, the presiding judge of the 1835 session. About all that can be stated in the way of facts is that he formerly presided over the Eighth Judicial Circuit, which embraced territory to the east and northeast of White County—the counties of Carroll, Cass, Miami, Wabash, Huntington, Allen, Lagrange, Elkhart, St. Joseph and Laporte. Like so many other of the early judges, he was rather “practical than technical,” and the “records show a lack of method and a non-observance of strict rules of procedure and practice.”

As has been noted, the first session of the Circuit Court at the house of George A. Speneer, in Big Creek Township, was held by the two associates, James Barnes and Thomas Wilson. The grand jury consisted of Royal Hazleton (foreman), William Woods, James Johnson, Samuel Gray, Robert Barr, Aaron Hicks, Daniel Dale, Robert Hanners, John Roberts, John Ferguson, James Parker, Joseph James, Sr., Cornelius Sutton, William Kerr and Joseph Thompson. In all probability Judge Porter had ascertained that only one little case of “malicious mischief” was on the docket and concluded that it could wait; but at the second session, held at the same place, April 17, 1835, all the judges were present and both bench and docket were full.

## FIRST ACTIVE JURORS

The grand jurors who returned the indictments consisted of Benjamin Reynolds (foreman), Ashford Parker, David Berkey, Elias Louthier, Jonathan Harbolt, William Walters, Rowland Harris, William Phillips, Matthew Terwillager, James Kent, Phillip Davis, Armstrong Buchanan and Robert Newell. William Sill acted as clerk, John Wilson as sheriff, and George A. Speneer, in whose house court was held, as bailiff.

As this was the first session of court in White County where cases were actually adjudicated, the matters brought before Messrs. Porter, Barnes and Wilson have been noted as an important incident in the general history of the county. The petit or special jury which tried the cases legally allotted to it consisted of Joseph Sayre, Jacob Crooks,



John Price, Henry Smecker, Oliver Hammond, Jacob Keplinger, Thomas Kelley, Henry Baum, Robert A. Spencer, Joseph James, Joseph Dale and Elisha Bowles.

#### PIONEER LAWYERS OF THE CIRCUIT

For four years the practitioners at the White County Bar were drawn from outside localities. At the October session of 1834 William P. Bryan, Andrew Ingram, Aaron Finch and William M. Jenners were licensed to practice. At the close of that very uneventful sitting these gentlemen, with the judges and the new county officers, visited the county seat at Monticello, and seriously inspected the lone cabin in which the clerk held forth, at the same time enthusiastically praising the good judgment of the commissioners in selecting the site.

At the April term of 1835 so many cases came before the court that it became necessary to have a prosecuting attorney to represent the state. William P. Bryan was appointed to that office, and Thomas B. Brown and John W. Wright were sworn in as members of the White County Bar. At the April term of 1837 Albert S. White, Rufus A. Lockwood and M. C. Dougherty were admitted to practice, and at the October session Zebulon Baird, A. L. Robinson, Samuel C. Wilson, Williamson Wright and Joseph Tatman were licensed as attorneys. None of the lawyers mentioned resided in White County, but followed the judge in his circuit and attended to what legal business they could secure.

#### ALBERT S. WHITE

The best known of these early lawyers, who became a character of national distinction, was Hon. Albert S. White. He was learned in his profession, literary in his tastes, graceful in his diction, popular in his intercourse with his fellows, and of unimpeachable morality. During most of his mature life his residence was Lafayette, but while he actively practiced his profession there were few lawyers in Northwestern Indiana who were abler or more widely known, and it was no surprise to his numerous admirers when he graduated to Congress, the United States Senate and United States District Court. His death occurred at Stockwell, Indiana, September 4, 1864, and his funeral was the occasion of an impressive demonstration of deep and widespread grief, observed by public officials, railroad employes, and those of all classes included in those democratic words—the people.

Judge White is described as a small, wiry, wide-awake, nervous man, near-sighted, with aquiline nose and thin face. He shared with Hon. Daniel D. Pratt, of Logansport, the highest honors of the profession and of public life among the early practitioners of Northwestern Indiana. Both were elder friends of Hon. David Turpie, whose fine record as a lawyer, jurist and public man is more intimately identified with the history of White County than the careers of the elder statesmen.



## TURPIE'S SKETCHES OF JUDGE WHITE

It was the pleasure of the late Judge Turpie to meet Judge White at different periods of his life, from boyhood to middle age—in his school days at Lafayette, in his practice as a young lawyer, and in the halls of Congress after he had acquired a high standing as practitioner and judge. Turpie's delightful book, "Sketches of My Own Times," has this first picture of Mr. White, which is illustrative of both characters: "In the outskirts of the town (Lafayette) where we lived was an inn—so called—so kept. It stood upon a street corner, which we passed every day in going to school. Here Mr. Albert S. White had his rooms and lodging; he was one of the United States senators from Indiana; he was at this time a bachelor, had an office down town, but dwelt at the inn—no doubt from choice, as it was a quiet, pleasant house, and convenient for those who called to see him. He was a man of very affable manners, always spoke to the school boys whom he met, touched his hat when we doffed ours, and occasionally stopped to talk with us. We saw and noticed him day after day, and often made our small reflections about the high place which he held and his manner of life in Washington.

## YOUNG TURPIE HEARS FIRST STUMP SPEECH

"After we had been going to school for a year or two, one day the town was billed with notices of a Whig meeting to be addressed by Senator White; the time was fixed for Saturday at one o'clock in the afternoon. As Saturday was always a holiday with us, we made up a party to attend the meeting, chiefly to hear him. The meeting was held out of doors and the attendance was large, mostly of people from the country. When we arrived Mr. White had already commenced his address, which was delivered from a wagon standing under the shade of an old beech. He held in his hand a document from which he read, commenting upon it as he proceeded. This document was the celebrated Ogle report. The Whigs charged at that time that there had been a very lavish and unnecessary expenditure of public money in furnishing the White House, its gardens and grounds, and that the Democratic president, Mr. Van Buren, was responsible for this expenditure. The first words of the address which I heard related to the purchase of golden spoons for the use of the president's table. Mr. White said this was a mere waste of the national revenue, and he sharply contrasted these costly spoons with those of horn and wood still not out of use among the people.

"In the course of reading the report, he came to an item for the purchase of a large number of young trees of the *Morus Multicaulis*, saying that his Latin was a little rusty, but that he understood these words to mean, the many-leaved mulberry, whose foliage was fed upon by the silk worm; that the president had gone into the mulberry trade in order to procure, as he supposed, silk napkins, table-cloth and towels,





to match the golden spoons. He added that there was another kind of tree which would have been far more appropriate to adorn the lawn and gardens of the executive mansion than the Morns Multicaulis; that tree was the *Ulmus Lubrica*—in English, the slippery elm. When he spoke of the slippery elm, he was interrupted by prolonged shouts and laughter.

"Mr. Van Buren was already well known to the public as the Kinderhook Wizard and the Little Magician, and although Mr. White had applied none of these epithets to the president, the audience readily made the application. In the latter part of his address Mr. White became more grave and serious, describing the Whig national convention held a few months before, which had nominated General Harrison for the presidency. He related the account of Harrison's government of this territory; his faithful and long continued safeguarding of white settlers on the frontier, his treaties with the Indian tribes, his defeat of the Prophet at Tippecanoe, the subsequent overthrow and death of Tecumseh at the Thames, closing with an appeal, full of force and feeling, to the old soldiers and settlers of Indiana to stand by their former friend and commander as one who had worthily deserved the highest honors of the republic.

#### BOYS ABASHED AT WHITE'S GREATNESS

"The speech was well received, applause was manifested by the waving of hats and clapping of hands, and many of the audience walked to the speaker's stand and tendered their congratulations. None of our group of school-boys went forward; our old acquaintance, Mr. White, had suddenly become in some way a stranger to us; he seemed upon the stand before a public assembly to be so much greater, higher, than upon the street—we felt too much abashed to approach him. This address, made now more than sixty years ago, was the first stump speech I ever heard. It was, judging from the effect following it, an excellent specimen. It gave life and movement to the Whig campaign, which from that day prospered without ceasing until it ended in the election of General Harrison to the presidency."

#### MEETING OF ALPHA AND OMEGA

In 1850, soon after his admission to the bar and at the commencement of his practice, Mr. Turpie again met his elder practitioner at Monticello. Let him tell the story: "Mr. Albert S. White appeared only once in the White Circuit Court—it was at the second term after my admission. He came to present an argument upon a demurrer pending in an important cause which had been brought to our county on change of venue. He spoke more than an hour. There was a large audience and a full bench, though upon mere questions of law the two associate judges seldom acted. Every one liked to hear Mr. White. He had a very copious and accurate command of legal terms and phraseology.



The case involved the construction of a will, and when he spoke of real estate he used the word devise; when of personalty, the word bequeath; and he never confused them. His own position was always defined in language measured, precise and deliberate, with courteous deference to the court, implied, even more than expressed in his tone and manner. In criticizing the position of opposing counsel, he was trenchant and severe, but classic and ornate. He had an elegant way of transposing maxims and cases cited by the adverse party to his own advantage, which had all the effect of surprise or accident.

"At the close of his argument he was complimented in high terms from the bench and by the attorneys in attendance. I went forward, among others, and offered my hand, giving him my name. He recognized me, in the friendliest manner, as the school-boy of his former acquaintance. 'Why,' said he, 'here is a meeting of Alpha and Omega; you are commencing your professional course, and I am just closing mine.' He told that he had become president of a railroad company recently organized in his city, which required all his time and attention; that he had given up the practice of the law, and did not think that he should ever appear in another case. I was invited to call on him at his room, and I called in the evening. He inquired about my previous occupation and said he was glad I had been engaged in teaching in the country. The business men about a town who know and become acquainted with a young man as a schoolmaster seem to entertain a kind of misgiving as to his ability for any other pursuit. If he becomes a lawyer they avoid him; they are unwilling to consult him in their affairs; they think there is a sort of dust of incapacity that settles upon a school-teacher, not to be brushed off; but a teacher in the country is not so much subject to this disparagement. Kindly directing the conversation to those things most interesting to myself, he gave me an account of his early experience in the law practice at Rushville and Paoli, Orange county, where, as a young man, he had labored in the profession."

#### MEET IN EARLY MATURITY AND OLD AGE

When Mr. Turpie went to Washington, in the winter of 1863, to serve out the unexpired term of Jesse D. Bright as United States senator, he again met Mr. White, who was serving his second term in the house of representatives; "nor did I meet any one in Washington," he says, "with more pleasure than my friend Albert S. White. He had previously served in the House and the Senate as a Whig; now, in his old age, he had been elected to the House as a Republican. But these political changes had not affected in any way the goodly and gracious personality of the man.

#### TOGETHER THEY CALL ON PRESIDENT LINCOLN

"We had lived in the same section of our state and, though the tide of events had separated us, yet we had at home many personal friends



and acquaintances common to both. One of them had taken office at the beginning of the new administration and in the course of his service had fallen into some embarrassment that required executive action for his relief. We called upon Mr. Lincoln together concerning this affair. The president informed us that the papers in the case had reached his desk, that he had not overlooked them, neither had he as yet looked them over very closely. Mr. White made a full statement of the facts; I followed with some remarks about the law of the case. Mr. White resumed, speaking of his long acquaintance with the man, his honesty and good faith; among other things, of an instance in which a large sum of money had come into his hands for which he was not bound by any note or bond, yet he had fully accounted for it, principal and interest, without suit. Mr. Lincoln, as I noticed, paid very close attention to this, shifted his legs upon his knees (a bodily habit of his) and seemed to be much moved by parts of his recital. When Mr. White had finished, the president said: 'Gentlemen, I shall carry this case, as we say in Illinois, over to the chancery side. We all know what statutes are made for—it is to see that the right thing is done; it is my duty to take care that no innocent man is wronged by them; by that rule I shall be guided.' We went away feeling hopeful as to our mission and were not disappointed in the result.

"Mr. White did not desire to be a candidate for re-election to the House. At the expiration of his term he was appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate as a member of an Indian commission. Talking of this some time afterward, Mr. Lane (Henry S. Lane, Mr. Turpie's colleague in the Senate) said to me that he supposed it would be the last we should hear of our old friend. It happened that in a few months a vacancy occurred in the United States District Judgeship for the district of Indiana, and he was immediately nominated and confirmed for that office, but died a short time thereafter. All Mr. White's preferments were due to the personal favor of the president. Mr. Lincoln was not at all careless; he was very cautious in the bestowal of his friendship and confidence, but when they were once given they were given wholly, without reserve. It may be said there might have been an unworthy recipient; he never chose an unworthy recipient when he acted upon his own personal judgment and observation.

"I have since deeply regretted that Mr. White did not live some years to preside in the federal courts of our state. He would have brought to the duties of the bench great store of legal learning and acumen, the most patient diligence in all his work, accompanied by an inborn courtesy, an urbane suavity of manner which much becomes those who sit in these high tribunals."

#### THOMPSON, FIRST LOCAL LAWYER

In April, 1838, the year after Albert S. White became a member of the White County Bar, Thomas M. Thompson and Nathaniel Niles were admitted, and in December of the same year Joseph A. Wright, after-



ward governor of Indiana, Hiram Allen and Nathan Darnell were licensed. In the name Thomas M. Thompson we at last recognize a resident of White County. His full name was Thomas McKean Thompson and his father, after whom he was named, was a nephew of Thomas McKean, formerly a governor of Pennsylvania and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In 1817 the family moved from Steubenville, Ohio, where the son had been born seven years previously, and located in Branville, that state, where the future lawyer reached manhood. After receiving a collegiate training at Kenyon College and Miami University, he pursued his legal studies in the office of Colonel Marthiat, of Newark, Ohio, and soon after his admission to the bar in 1834 began practice at Indianapolis. About four years afterward he settled at Monticello, as its first local attorney, engaging in other occupations to tide over the small years.

Soon after his admission to practice before the White County courts he became deputy county clerk, recorder and auditor under William Sill, and when his superior died in January, 1846, was appointed to the head of the consolidated offices, continuing to discharge their duties until the succeeding general election of August. The constitution of 1851 separated these offices, and in August, 1852, he was elected auditor for a term of four years. Mr. Thompson was a whig and, naturally, a republican at the organization of the party. He appears to have been an industrious, reputable lawyer and official, never attaining prominence in either capacity; but, what is more to his credit, he has left a name which is bright in kindly ways and liberal deeds, and his death in August, 1881, was sincerely mourned. He married Mary Ann Sheetz, member of another staunch pioneer family, and both were buried in the old Sheetz burial ground a short distance above Monticello, on the east bank of the Tippecanoe. The wife preceded the husband many years. They were the parents of seven children and in their descendants are therefore personified much that stands for the early bench and bar of White County; that fact will be more evident when it is considered that Zebulon Sheetz, the founder of the family, was one of the pioneer probate judges who held sway before their functions were absorbed by the Court of Common Pleas.

#### DANIEL D. PRATT

At the November term of the Circuit Court, in 1839, the members of the White County Bar—that is, those allowed to practice in its courts—were increased by the admission of Daniel D. Pratt and Daniel Mace, and in April, 1840, H. J. Harris and John L. Scott were entered on the roll of attorneys.

Mr. Pratt earned a fine standing at the bar and as a public man. During the forty years of his most pronounced successes he resided in Logansport, although he quite frequently appeared in the courts of White County, and was everywhere recognized as one of the most eloquent, adroit and successful pleaders before a jury. As he was also





very careful in the preparations of his cases and based his eloquence upon the facts, his standing as a lawyer was very substantial, resting as it did upon practical results, suits actually won.

### HIS KIND HELPFULNESS TO YOUNG MEN

Mr. Pratt studied law in Indianapolis during his younger years, and located at Logansport in 1836. He served one term in the State Legislature, was in the United States Senate from 1869 to 1875, and died in his adopted city, and which had adopted him as perhaps her foremost citizen, in June, 1877. The veteran and beloved lawyer became the preceptor of many young men who were ambitious to succeed in the profession, and who, in after years, freely acknowledged their indebtedness to his generous and fatherly instruction. Among the number was David Turpie, who speaks of him thus, and by his words closely connects the personality of Mr. Pratt with the young lawyer who was first to give the bar of White County a high standing abroad: "A few days after the close of my first school I went to Logansport, taking with me several letters of commendation addressed to Mr. Daniel D. Pratt, an eminent attorney of that city, in whose office I was desirous of pursuing my law studies. Mr. Pratt read the letters and received me very kindly, said I was quite welcome to a place as student in the office, and that he would take pleasure in directing the course of my reading. Mr. Pratt was then, as a member of the bar, in the meridian of his fame. He had, and deserved, the highest professional reputation and in fullest measure the confidence of the people. It was a privilege to make my studies under the guidance of such a preceptor. This gentleman was considerate in his treatment of young men and conscientious in the discharge of his duty toward them. Unless actually engaged in court, he spent some hours every Saturday with his students, questioned them closely on the subject upon which they were reading, answered himself questions upon the same, and sometimes advised that a particular section or chapter should be read over, saying, by way of encouragement, that he had, when a student, taken the same course. He accepted no compensation for his services; the work which a student did in the office was perhaps of some assistance to him, but more to the student."

### JUDGES AND ATTORNEYS, 1838-43

At the December term of the Circuit Court in 1838 Isaac Naylor succeeded John R. Porter as its presiding judge, and in April, 1842, John W. Wright became the third incumbent. James Barnes continued as an associate, while Thomas Wilson was replaced by Thomas McCormick; they were the last of the associate judges of the Circuit Court. At the October term of that year Godlove S. Orth, afterward a congressman, William S. Palmer and John Hanna were admitted to the bar, and in October, 1843, Samuel A. Huff, subsequently judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and Robert Jones were added to the list.



## HORACE P. BIDDLE

At the April term, 1847, Horace P. Biddle ascended the circuit bench as the successor of John W. Wright. Judge Wright was known as "ready," although not profound, in his decisions. After he left the bench he was mayor of Logansport, became influential in railroad matters, and spent the last years of his life at Washington, District of Columbia.

If ever there was an able, versatile and eccentric character on the bench of the old Circuit Court it was Judge Biddle. He was a little, fiery man, but although he had not a few personal encounters when he was an advocate at the Logansport Bar, as a judge he seemed to retain a calm equipoise and made a fine record both as a member of the constitutional convention of 1851, and as an occupant of the Circuit and State Supreme courts.

## BIDDLE VS. PRATT

Daniel D. Pratt was as large physically as Horace P. Biddle was small, and at the Logansport Bar they were sometimes pitted against each other with exciting clashes. Upon one occasion, while they were fighting out a case before Judge John U. Pettit not long after Biddle's term had expired as circuit judge, Mr. Pratt turned fiercely upon his diminutive but sturdy antagonist and shouted, "Why, I could swallow you!"

Biddle returned like a flash, "If you did, you would have more law in your belly than you ever had in your head."

On another occasion Biddle was incensed at Pratt's abuse and next day carried a sword into court with him. Pratt again referred to Biddle in very uncomplimentary language and Biddle slapped him in the face with the flat of his sword. The two men clinched, but Pratt's powerful form soon stood over the frail Biddle, when the latter was about to unsheath his sword and thrust it into Pratt's ponderous abdomen, but the sheriff separated the combatants. Judge Pettit fined Biddle \$1,000 for contempt of court, but the fine was never collected. As stated, Judge Biddle was one of the most influential members of the second constitutional convention, served for many years as judge of the higher courts, became widely known for his strong and polished pen, and died in 1900 at his home in Logansport.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF DAVID TURPIE

In 1849, or about midway in Judge Biddle's term, the local bar, heretofore represented by Mr. Thompson, was re-enforced by a young man of twenty-one, who was to make history for himself, the county and the state—David Turpie, lawyer, judge, statesman, classical scholar and litterateur, and in many respects the most remarkable character with which this history deals. The activities of his broad career and the charms of his large and strong personality (notwithstanding its weak-



nesses) embrace, as their fields, Monticello, Logansport and the capitals of both the State of Indiana and the United States of America. He was a brilliant lawyer, lacking somewhat the patience to be a profound judge; a constructive statesman; a cultured companion who did not need the printed page either to expound the gospels or present the beauties of the classics; a writer of the Goldsmith and Irving grace of diction, and a friend and citizen who, on the whole, inspired both by spirit and action. As a test of his standing in authorship, when applied to home and domestic history, the best critics place his "Sketches of My Own Times" in a class by itself; in other words, pronounce it an Indiana classic.

Like other men of genius, Mr. Turpie was so wrapped in his own thoughts that self-consciousness was quite foreign to his nature, with the result—which is also not unusual—that his most intimate friends were never sure of what treatment to expect from him; whether the geniality of unaffected comradeship or a complete ignoring of bodily presence. While such breaches of the common standards of courtesy seemed to the careless observer as little more than freaks of an unbalanced nature, those who were capable of appreciating Senator Turpie knew that his nature was so absorbed that he had no thoughts for appearances. But such peculiarities brought him many enemies and unfitted him to be a successful politician, although his great force of character carried him repeatedly into public office, despite what in one of less strength would have been insurmountable obstacles to advancement.

#### BRIEF FACTS OF HIS LIFE

David Turpie was an Ohio man, born in Hamilton County, July 8, 1829. He graduated from Kenyon College in 1848; studied law with Hon. Daniel D. Pratt, of Logansport, who twenty years afterward commenced service in the United States senate, and soon after being admitted to the bar in that place moved to Monticello for the practice of his profession. In 1868 he returned to Logansport, where he continued actively engaged in the law until 1872, after which Indianapolis was his home. His death occurred in the capital city April 21, 1909, when he had nearly reached his eightieth year.

Mr. Turpie's public career included a seat in the lower house of the State Legislature as a stalwart democrat, from 1853 to 1858; a term as judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1854; the completion of the unexpired term of Jesse D. Bright as United States senator from January to March, 1863; representative in the State Assembly again, in 1874-75, during which he served as speaker; a leading participation in the revision of the state laws, as one of the three members constituting the board of commissioners appointed for that purpose whose labors covered 1878-81; able professional service as United States district attorney in 1886-87; delegate at large to the democratic national convention of 1888 and, as a deserved conclusion, dignified, useful and brilliant



performance of the duties attaching to the United States senatorship, from 1887 to 1899.

Mr. Turpie served as United States senator until the expiration of his second term, March 3, 1899, and made a fine record as chairman of the Committee on Census and member of the Foreign Relations Committee. He was long recognized by his fellow senators as a rich source of information and a valued counselor in the general deliberations of the upper house. Quotations, facts, literary and practical information of all kinds were promptly available as the result of a personal interview; so that when in doubt about any knotty point or authority, the instinctive advice would be given—"Ask Turpie."

#### DESCRIBES HIS COMING TO MONTICELLO

Senator Turpie died at his home in Indianapolis, the later years of his life being largely devoted to the preparation of his "Sketches," or reminiscences, published in 1903. He himself tells of his advent into the community which he was so long to honor. "Having completed my third term as schoolmaster," he says, "I went to Logansport a few days afterward, made a review of my law reading and applied for admission to the bar. The examination lasted three hours. The report thereof being favorable, my name was entered upon the roll of attorneys and a certificate of admission was given me which bears date April 14, 1849. I was yet in my twenty-second year. Before this some conference had occurred between Mr. Pratt and myself concerning a suitable location to commence the practice. He had told me of a large county lying directly west of the one in which he resided, where there was no resident attorney. It was, as he stated, a county of rich land and, although very sparsely settled, would become at no distant day wealthy and populous; he thought it was an eligible place for a beginner. Soon after my admission, I took a livery conveyance and was driven to the capital of White County. On the day after my arrival, an entire stranger, I called upon and delivered to three gentlemen residing there my letters of introduction, thus commencing an acquaintance not yet ended and a residence of many years."

#### AUTHOR OF THE CATTLE-LIEN LAW

When Mr. Turpie commenced his practice at Monticello, and for several years thereafter, the farmers of White County and neighboring country were in the habit of grazing cattle driven in from Eastern Indiana, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, for that purpose. Disputes often arose between the herders, or agistors, and the eastern owners as to the charges due for such pasturage and services; as the country where the herds were grazed was mostly free range, such charges were really more for herding than for feed. One of these prairie herdsmen having had, at the close of the season, a dispute with the owners of certain cattle about the amount of his bill, which they refused to pay, impounded the





whole herd, declined to deliver it and forcibly prevented the sheriff from serving a writ of replevin, which they had issued to recover possession.

At this juncture mutual friends of the parties intervened, the herder's bill was settled and paid upon compromise and the cattle were delivered to their owners. Some months after this, however, the grand jury returned an indictment against the herder and a number of his tenants and friends who had aided him in resisting the process of the sheriff. They applied to Mr. Turpie to assume their defense, who advised them to plead guilty, as they had no remedy under the existing laws; but they insisted and the case went against them, the judge instructing the jury that the herders had no lien upon the cattle at common law and were therefore trespassers. The defendants were therefore all convicted and fined. But in the spring of 1852 a number of farmers in the herding business urged that Mr. Turpie become a candidate for the Legislature upon the platform of a new cattle-lien law. This he did and, despite opposition from Mr. Pratt and other prominent men, the measure was passed and incorporated into the state statutes. No one service which he accomplished during his career in the Legislature was more generally appreciated by the farming element than that mentioned, which is credited to the General Assembly of 1853.

#### GOOD SQUIRE HARBOLT

One of the first justices of the peace appointed to serve White County was Jonathan Harbolt, of Monticello, and no one served longer or more conscientiously in that office. The "Sketches" thus picture him: "The principal character in our village was the Squire. Of course the county officers lived there, but they were not so well known, nor nearly so often spoken of as the old Squire. He had been a justice of the peace for a long time—in his case, it proved to be a life office. He was a man of fifty years, a native of Culpeper County, Virginia, who had crossed the mountains on horseback when a youth just out of his apprenticeship, and after traveling through the West for some time settled down in our village. By trade he was a joiner and cabinet-maker, and his office and court were held in the carpenter-shop, a roomy apartment, where I often appeared for parties litigant. His books and papers were kept neatly in place, the docket entries were clear and legible, especially the signature; indeed, the Squire may have been a little vain of his handwriting—it was the only vanity he cherished.

"The margin of the docket page was reserved for costs; here, as the case proceeded, his fees were entered with precision to the cent or half-cent; but if he was strict in taxation he was liberal in collection; he would at any time throw off half his costs—all his costs—if he could only induce the parties to settle without further action. Great stress was laid upon the last word of his official title; peace, he said, was better than pennies; peace was better than to gain a lawsuit or to lose it; it was his duty to make peace, as well as to keep it. In religion he was



a Presbyterian of the old school, a resolute stickler for the Five Points of Calvin, though no proselyter; but when attacked, if he did not convince his assailant, he often reduced him to silence by a battery of well-chosen texts, aided by his imperturbable good humor and his unfeigned sincerity. If there were in his creed any lack of charity, it abounded in his life and conversation. Whenever he entered a final judgment for principal, interest and costs, he closed it with the formula: 'And the defendant in mercy,' the form used at that time in such cases in the Circuit Court. I have frequently heard him repeating this clause over and over after he had written it, the words seeming to charm his ear. He observed closely; knew more of men than he said or than they thought, and, although he was willing to overlook the follies of mankind and much commiserated their sins and shortcomings, yet he treated offenses against the statute in such case made and provided, with somewhat more of rigor. His probity has passed into a proverb: 'As honest as the old Squire.' In his prolonged service he had become well versed in the law of his jurisdiction, and was so thoroughly impartial in judgment that appeals from his court were seldom taken. In politics the Squire was always a Democrat, and as such he was elected by the people of a district composed of three counties, a delegate to the constitutional convention of 1851. He went to Indianapolis, served through the session of that body, was held in the highest esteem by his distinguished members, and when he returned from the capital resumed the duties of a magistrate, which he continued to discharge until his death.

"The praises justly due to the excellencies of such a character may in some degree be reflected upon the people and the constituency which he served, who, if they did not all possess these qualities, yet appreciated them, and upon this consideration honored their fellow townsman with a lifelong trust and confidence." Good Squire Harbott passed to his future reward on the 12th of August, 1872, in his sixty-seventh year and no one has ever died in Monticello who carried to the unknown more kindly thoughts and remembrances.

#### TRAITS OF EARLY JUDGES AND LAWYERS

No writer has drawn with clearer or more graceful outlines the relations of the pioneer bench and bar than Mr. Turpie, if any excuse were needed to reproduce those pictures of the times in which his young manhood was cast: "The members of the bar fifty years ago were a convivial fraternity. They made a free use of stimulants; they drank, not to any gross excess, but the habit was general. In like manner, with few exceptions, they played cards and frequently for money; but the stakes were small and no one was ever enriched or impoverished by the result. Our circuit judge (Biddle), though he was an inveterate player, would never admit that he gambled. He had a handsome euphemism for the occasion. Approaching an attorney with whom he was well acquainted, he would say that he had a little money in his pocket about which he was uncertain whether it belonged to himself or to the person



he addressed, and would invite him to his room in the evening so that they might have a trial of the right of property to determine its ownership. The trial of course took place at chambers. Any member of the bar who called might interplead and take part in the action. Outsiders were not admitted; to that extent the game was exclusive.

### "THE CHOCTAW LINE"

"When a regular symposium was held, usually at the close of the term, these games were accompanied by music, the songs of the circuit. The ballads sung were jovial, but not beyond the line of becoming decorum. 'In the Season of the Year,' 'Gabriel's Wedding,' 'Life Let Us Cherish' and the 'Arkansas Gentleman,' were specimens. The 'Arkansas Gentleman' was a general favorite. It was a sort of poetical centipede, having rhymed terminals, though the feet in the lines were irregular and almost innumerable.

"'This fine Arkansas gentleman went strong for Pierce and King,  
And when the election was over he went down to Washington to get  
an office or some other comfortable thing;  
But when he got there the boys told him that the trumps were all played  
and the game was up, yet they treated him so fine  
That he came back to his plantation and lived happier than ever just on  
the Choctaw line.'

"The counterpart of this pilgrim to Washington might doubtless be found in many places today; no poet has celebrated his journey, and even if some of our bards had done so it is hardly to be supposed that any member of the bar would now sing or even deign to listen to such a roundelay.

"The Choctaw Line became a proverbial expression in our circuit for a life of good cheer and hospitality. A witness called in a certain case to a question of character, after answering the usual inquiries, summed up his statement with the remark that the gentleman asked about was an honest man, a good neighbor and citizen, and had lived for many years as near to the Choctaw Line as any person he had ever known. This evidence was perfectly understood both by the judge and jury engaged in hearing the cause.

### PLAYED "WHEN SCHOOL WAS OUT"

"These convivialities of the bar were limited to the members of their own brotherhood and occurred when those who participated in them were off duty. These same gentlemen, when engaged in the courtroom in the trial of a case pending, were models of the gravest propriety. When the active business of the term was over the revels commenced; all waited for the final adjournment, and no one ever thought of leaving the judge to make the journey alone to the next appointment. It must not be for-



gotten that these veterans of the bench and bar were living at the close of what might be called an old dispensation, the distinctive feature of which was the circuit practice. Much of their time was spent away from home. On their travels, mostly made on horseback, they encountered bad roads and often worse weather; their professional work was performed with great skill and fidelity, frequently under circumstances of much discomfort. When the labors of the term were ended, or, to use their own expression, when school was out, they felt as if they had a right to some amusement. They took not the least pains to disguise or conceal the character of their recreations, as these were not, in their view, the subject of any reasonable reproach or discredit.

#### NOT DOLLAR-SLAVES

"Members of the old bar were not at all inferior to those of the new in capacity or integrity, in dignity, courtesy or learning. These patri-archs made no sort of claim to virtues, or so-called virtues, which they did not possess, or to habits which they did not practice. They did not write elaborate essays for the magazines upon the subject of professional ethics, but they thoroughly understood and rigidly enforced the rules of that species of morality. The attorney who indulged in sharp practice against his fellow member of the bar might be once or twice forgiven, but he who resorted to such means in dealing with a client or a layman instantly lost caste, and that beyond respite or remedy.

"The fee was regarded as a proper accompaniment for legal service, but it was not the chief object in professional life. The lawyers of those days were untouched by the commercial spirit, untainted by the slightest trace of reverence for wealth as such. They felt in their faces the breath of the coming age; overheard in the distance the gigantic steps of approaching material progress, and somewhat adapted their methods to its action, but always within the elemental lines of rectitude and justice. Sometimes seated around a blazing log fire in a wayside country tavern, they discussed with keen zest and much philosophic foresight the probable legal questions of the coming time. Having done this, they left these subjects, not without deep concern, but with unfaltering trust and confidence, to the wise and pure arbitrament of the tribunals of the future."

#### ROBERT H. MILROY

Robert H. Milroy, who succeeded Judge Biddle in November, 1852, was a resident of Delphi, Carroll County. The Ninth Circuit, of which he was the presiding judge, was then composed of White, Carroll, Lake, Laporte, Porter, St. Joseph, Marshall, Starke, Fulton, Cass, Pulaski, Howard and Miami. Judge Milroy left a good record as a lawyer, a judge and a soldier, serving as a captain in the Mexican war and a colonel in the War of the Rebellion.





## JOHN U. PETTIT

John U. Pettit, who became presiding judge in May, 1853, served about a year, and then resigned for congressional honors, finally becoming speaker of the House of Representatives. He was also one of D. D. Pratt's boys; was admitted to the Logansport bar in 1841, but located in the following year at Wabash, where he resided until his death in 1881.

## JOHN M. WALLACE

John M. Wallace, who was Judge Pettit's successor, ascended the bench in November, 1854, and also ranked high in his profession. Before he became judge he had served with credit in the Mexican war and was afterward a colonel in the Civil war and a paymaster in the regular army.

## OTHER CIRCUIT JUDGES, 1855-1915

John Pettit, of Lafayette, who afterward served as one of the judges of the State Supreme Court, presided over the Circuit Court of White County from March, 1855, to March, 1856, and the following occupied the bench from that date until 1888, when Alfred W. Reynolds, already designated as the first member of the profession from White County to be thus honored, assumed his judicial duties: Andrew Ingham, commenced his term in March, 1856; John Pettit, September, 1857; Charles H. Test, March, 1858; David P. Vinton, 1870; Bernard B. Daily, who was the first judge of the new circuit composed of White, Carroll and Pulaski counties, May, 1875; and John H. Gould, who refused a third term, October, 1876 to 1888; Alfred W. Reynolds, 1888-94; Truman F. Palmer, 1894-1906; and James P. Wason, of Delphi, the present incumbent, since 1906.

## THE "WHEREFORE" OF SO MANY JUDGES

Sill's unpublished "History of White County" thus condenses a number of salient facts connected with the White County Circuit Court: "The remarkable increase in population in northwestern Indiana, and especially in White county, which had more than doubled in the decade between 1840 and 1850, created a necessity for a frequent change of circuits and the creation of new ones. The legislature could not legislate a Circuit judge out of office as it could the judge of a court created by statute, for the Circuit Court was provided for in the constitution of the state and could not be legally abolished; but where a circuit embraced two or more counties a new circuit could be created out of the counties detached from the old one, and the governor would appoint a judge who resided in the new circuit to act until his successor was elected and qualified. This will account for the great number of judges holding the circuit in White county. No resident judge had been elected from the organization of the county in 1834 until the election of Judge Reynolds



in 1888. In the interim our judges had been provided for us, either by election or appointment, from the counties of Warren, Tippecanoe, Carroll, Cass, Miami and Jasper. At one time our circuit extended from the eastern line of Miami county to the state line on the west, and north to the north line of Pulaski county. Now there are four circuits, and part of a fifth, covering the same territory."

#### REYNOLDS, FIRST WHITE COUNTY JUDGE

Judge Reynolds was in his twentieth year when Monticello and White County first knew him as an earnest law student whose course was directed by David Turpie. He was a native of Somerset, Ohio, born September 16, 1839, coming to Monticello in 1856. He attended Wabash and Monmouth colleges two years as a preparation for his legal studies, and after his admission to the bar practiced for a short time at Winamac, but soon returned to Monticello, where within a few years he had secured a high-class and lucrative clientele.

As warmly sketched by a long-time friend at the time of his death in his seventy-fifth year, after he had secured so firm a hold upon the respect, admiration and affection of all: "Judge Reynolds had many traits of character which drew and held friends and contributed to his success at the bar. He was in love with his profession and seemed to enjoy the work which it entailed. He not only mastered every detail of his cases, but he made his client's cause his own, and was ready to fight for him if need be. At the same time he was not exorbitant in the matter of fees and was kindly discriminating in favor of the poor. Faults he had, but ingratitude was not one of them. He never forgot a friend, nor was he prone to cherish malice against an enemy. For his fearlessness, his determination and his singleness of purpose in the pursuit of one of the highest callings that engage the human intellect, he will be remembered by his profession far and near."

#### FORGOT HE WAS JUDGE

Mr. Reynolds was judge of the White County Circuit Court from 1888 to 1894 and discharged his duties well; but he was primarily an advocate and at least one instance is related, which occurred during the first year of his judgeship, illustrating that fact. The case of Dickey vs. Garrigan, by change of venue from Pulaski County, was before him in December, 1888. The judge was uneasily watching the maneuvers by which counsel for the defendant were endeavoring to introduce indirectly a piece of incompetent testimony that the court had once ruled out. When at last the main question, which was clearly irrelevant, was put, the words were hardly out of the lawyer's mouth before Judge Reynolds, carried away by the instincts of the veteran advocate, lost his judicial consciousness and shouted from the bench "We object!" A burst of laughter from jury, bar and witnesses at once recalled the judge



to a realization of his position, who added, almost in the same breath, "And the Court sustains the objection."

At the conclusion of his six years on the Circuit bench, Mr. Reynolds resumed his beloved practice, in which he continued to be actively engaged until stricken by his last illness a few months before his death at his home in Monticello, on the 27th of April, 1913.

#### TRUMAN F. PALMER

Truman F. Palmer succeeded Judge Reynolds in 1894 and continued on the Circuit Bench until 1906. He is a son of Rev. Truman F. Palmer, A. M., and Plumea (Perry) Palmer, M. E. L. The father was a graduate of Allegheny College (about) 1847, and the parents were married at Meadville, Pennsylvania, the same year. They came to Indiana and the father was attached, as a minister, to the Indiana conference, as a member of which body he preached at Fort Wayne and other places until January 17, 1851, when he died, while in charge of the church at Orland, Indiana, aged about twenty-six years. The mother lived until May 23, 1900, and passed away at Burnettsville, in White County, where she had lived most of the time since her husband's death. There were two children: Emma, a widow, who resides with her brother, Truman F., in Monticello. She was for many years a teacher in the Monticello schools. The mother was well educated and had excellent literary taste. She was a writer of considerable note in her younger days, but gave up her ambitions in order that she might rear and educate her children. She was a teacher of English for many years in the old Thorntown Academy, which was one of the prominent schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church during, and for a long time after the Civil war. Of her it is said by resolution of her church, which is inscribed on a memorial window of the church building at Burnettsville, as follows: "She has woven her noble influence for good into the lives and characters of more people in this community than any other person who ever lived in it."

Truman F. Palmer (2nd) was born at Orland, Steuben County, Indiana, on the 7th day of January, 1851, and three years thereafter came with his mother to White County, where (his boyhood at Burnettsville) his home has been most of the time since. He was educated, in a very irregular way, at Battle Ground Institute, Thorntown Academy, Farmer's Institute, at Clinton, Indiana, and Indiana University, and his professional preparation was at the last named institution. After graduating in the law, he was for four years deputy clerk of the Circuit Court of White County, and thereafter (July 5, 1879) he opened a law office at Monticello. Since that time he has been engaged in the practice except for an interval of twelve years, from 1894 to November, 1906, during which time he served, by two successive elections, as judge of the Thirty-ninth Judicial Circuit. He was president of the Indiana State Bar Association in 1904-05, and was a delegate from the American Bar Association to the International Bar Association in 1904.

He is a thirty-third degree Mason, crowned at Boston in September,



1904, and is at present one of two members from Indiana of the very important Committee on Charitable Foundation of the Supreme Council. He has been since November, 1906, a member of the legal firm of Palmer & Carr, composed of himself and Mayor Benjamin F. Carr. Politics, republican.

#### JAMES P. WASON

James P. Wason was born September 26, 1867, in Toledo, Ohio. He was the son of Robert A. and Gertrude L. Wason (nee Freleigh) and came to Delphi, Indiana, September 24, 1881, with his parents; attended the common schools at Toledo, including the eighth grade and graduated from the Delphi High School in May, 1885; studied law for a short time with the firm of Applegate & Pollard and then entered the store of Bolles & Wason in Delphi in 1887, where he was employed until the fall of 1894, when he went to Ann Arbor and entered the law department of the University of Michigan, graduating from there with the degree of LL. B. in June, 1896; while at Ann Arbor was assistant law librarian for the purpose of partially defraying his expenses; formed a partnership with John H. Cartwright in 1896, under the firm name of Cartwright & Wason, which lasted until his elevation to the bench. Was attorney for the board of commissioners of Carroll County in 1903-1904. Was elected judge of the Thirty-ninth Judicial Circuit, composed of Carroll and White counties, in November, 1906, by a majority of forty-one and was re-elected in 1912, by a majority of 1,315; is a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church and also a member of Mt. Olive Lodge, F. & A. M., No. 48; Delphi Chapter, R. A. M., No. 21; Monticello Council, No. 70, R. & S. M.; Delphi Commandery, K. T., No. 40; Delphi Lodge, K. of P., No. 80; Delphi Company U. R. K. of P., No. 86, and Tippecanoe Tribe, I. O. R. M., No. 505. In politics is a democrat.

#### THE PROBATE JUDGES

Like the old-time associates of the circuit judges and the justices of the peace, the probate judges of White County were "homey" men, often citizens of simple common-sense without legal knowledge or many other intellectual qualifications. Yet they were generally classed as "honorables" and invariably claimed the title of judge.

#### ROBERT NEWELL

Robert Newell, the first probate judge, who was appointed by Governor Noble in 1835, was an honest, popular Big Creek farmer, and served until the general election in August, when he resigned from the bench to accept a nomination for state representative. Judge Newell is described as a jolly, unassuming man, and quite regardless of personal appearances. He would often come into court barefoot and coatless, with the merest excuse for a hat, and if the docket showed no business





would adjourn court, and join the boys in a game of quoits, or in jumping, wrestling and any other sport at hand. If any business turned up he would enter into its disposal with the same zest as marked his participation in the sports of the villagers.

#### WILLIAM M. KENTON

Mr. Newell was succeeded by William M. Kenton, son of the famous frontiersman and Indian fighter of Kentucky and himself one of the largest landowners and most prosperous cattlemen in the state. In his youth he had been well educated at West Point, married early and soon afterward brought his wife and child from Logan County, Ohio, to what was then Big Creek Township, Carroll County. That was in the fall of 1832, and Mr. Kenton selected for his homestead a tract of land three miles west of the present site of Monticello. In 1851 he moved to Honey Creek Township, where he died, April 30, 1869, his widow following him on the 3d of July, 1881. They were the parents of ten children and many of their descendants of the third and fourth generations are still living in the county.

Mr. Kenton was a man of far more education and dignity than his predecessor in the probate judgeship, although most of his life since his youth had been spent amid outdoor scenes of primitive life in what was then the western frontier. But he tired of his judicial dignities in about a year and returned to his farm a few miles west of the Tippecanoe River. It was while living there that Mr. Turpie met him, not long after locating at Monticello in 1849. "The best known citizen of the county at that time," he says, "was William Miller Kenton, a son of Simon Kenton, the far-famed Indian fighter and hunter of Kentucky. His early youth had been spent on the farm and in attending his father in his numerous excursions in search of lands and game. The Indians where they lived then gave little trouble. After the age of sixteen the friends of his father, who were quite influential, including all the elder congressmen and senators from his state, procured for young Kenton a commission in the navy. Disliking this employment, after a brief service as midshipman with the home squadron in the gulf, he resigned. The same friends obtained for him an appointment to the military academy at West Point, then a very primitive institution. Young Kenton here excelled in the drill and manual of arms and in all athletic sports and exercises; but with books he failed, not from any lack of mental ability, but from his innate aversion to regular study and application. After a certain time spent at the academy, he was honorably relieved from further attendance, went home, married and, with considerable means derived from his parental estate and other sources, removed to what was then Carroll, later White county, bought large tracts of government land, and was among the first settlers of the Grand Prairie.

"When I first knew him Kenton lived on a farm of a thousand acres on what was called the Range Line, in the open prairie about four miles west from the Tippecanoe River, and owned another plantation of two



thousand acres not far away. His house was a large one, a frame of two stories. Here he dispensed a profuse hospitality; no one was ever turned away from his door. Whites and Indians were equally welcome. His Indian visitors were frequent, for he had settled in the county some time before their removal by the government to their new home in the West. Some of these guests had seen and known his father; they loved the son for the father's sake, yet their attachment may have been partly due to the well stored pantry and kitchen which ministered to their wants.

"Besides farming, Kenton was largely engaged in rearing cattle and live stock for the market, and among other things he gave much of his time and attention to the prosecution of certain land claims located in Kentucky, which he had inherited from his father's estate.

"The younger Kenton was a man of considerable reading and information, fond of the chase, a notable wrestler, runner and boxer, surpassing most of his contemporaries in these exercises; but he was a person of exceeding equable temper, and resorted not to force or violence save under extreme provocation. He, like his father, had lived in his youth so much among the Indians as to have contracted somewhat of their habits. He was of a firm step, with a decided military bearing, yet inclined to the Indian gait. His eyes were large and brilliant, constantly in the attitude of expectancy, as if watching or awaiting some one. He was in politics a zealous Whig, a personal friend and a steadfast adherent of Henry Clay, who had also known and befriended his father in days of yore.

"As the representative of a district composed of a group of our northern counties, of which White was one, he had served, with much acceptance to his constituents for several sessions in the general assembly; he was a close friend and ally of Albert S. White, and in the Whig caucus, it is said, had placed that gentleman's name in nomination for United States senator when he was chosen to that position. Kenton's conversation was very interesting, especially when it related to the life and adventures of his father.

"Mr. Kenton was a very careful herdsman and feeder, a better judge of live stock than of the market. He often made unfortunate sales, and as his transactions were on a large scale, met with serious losses. Toward the close of his life, in his old age, he fell into some pecuniary embarrassment. His creditors came in a cloud, all at once, to summon him with writs of indebtedness. The old pioneer made a gallant fight. Some of them he paid, with others he settled, many of them he defeated, and two or three of the most insolent claimants he literally whipped into terms of submission. He saved a large portion of his real estate and, though he did not long survive his campaign in the courts, spent his last days in comfortable competency and died in peace with all the world. His memory is yet highly respected, even fondly cherished, by the descendants of the friends and neighbors with whom he formerly associated, and whom he had often aided in the struggles of their early life on the frontier."

With most of his family he was buried in the old Kenton graveyard.



about five miles southwest of Monticello, but about thirty years ago their remains were disinterred and deposited in the old cemetery at Monticello. The old-fashioned tombstones were left in the original burial ground, where they may still be seen.

#### ZEBULON SHEETZ AND AARON HICKS

When Mr. Kenton resigned after his year's service as probate judge, Zebulon Sheetz was elected to succeed him. He was also one of the pioneers of the county, as were usually the occupants of the probate bench, and was a mild, dignified Virginian, who firmly suppressed any levity in court, either on the part of attorneys or laymen. He and Judge Newell were as different as honest dirt and pure snow.

Mr. Sheetz was succeeded, after a creditable service of four years by Aaron Hicks, who had come into the Wabash country as one of a colony of Ohio emigrants as early as 1825, first settling near the mouth of Rock Creek, in what is now Grant County. He had lived there for several years among the Miami Indians and a sprinkling of white people, until he migrated still westward beyond the Wabash into White County. He was also an advocate of decorum, and bears the reputation of a man who was rather timid in the maintenance of his own opinion, or, better still, of one who was anxious to correct an opinion when the evidence showed that he was in the wrong. Judge Hicks served for six years, or until the office was legislated out of existence.

Altogether the probate judges of the county, although selected from the unprofessional, were men of integrity and fair practical ability.

#### COURT OF COMMON PLEAS AGAIN

When the Court of Common Pleas became an established fact, under the legislative act of May, 1852, a legal and a higher order of talents was demanded. By that act the state was divided into thirty-eight judicial districts, in each of which a judge was chosen at the succeeding election to hold the office for four years. As stated, it absorbed the Probate Court and relieved the Circuit Court of its minor business concerning both civil and criminal actions.

#### SAMUEL A. HUFF

Samuel A. Huff, the first of the common pleas judges, entered office at the January term of 1853, his district comprising Tippecanoe and White counties. Then, and for many years afterward, he was a resident of Lafayette, although he spent the last of his life in Monticello with his son, William J. Huff, of the Monticello Herald. In his early manhood, Judge Huff himself had been connected with several Indiana newspapers. Born at Greenville, South Carolina, on the 11th of October, 1811, he settled at Indianapolis in his nineteenth year and entered the counting room of the Indiana Agriculturist; in 1832 he became a printer in the



office of the Indiana Democrat, and in the following year joined the business department of the Lafayette Free Press.

After three years of such experimenting, Mr. Huff decided to study law, and commenced his course in the libraries of John Pettit, afterward his brother-in-law, and Rufus A. Lockwood. He was admitted to the bar in 1837, and practiced alone and in partnership with Judge Pettit, Zebulon Baird and Byron W. Langdon. When he was elected to the common pleas bench he had acquired a substantial standing as a lawyer and had become widely known as an ardent Free Soiler. He resigned the judgeship after eighteen months of service, and later vigorously championed the cause of the new republican party, being one of the presidential electors from Indiana who cast his vote for Lincoln in 1860.

Several years before his death Judge Huff moved from Lafayette to Indianapolis, but the years were telling upon his vitality and he soon joined his son in Monticello. There his death occurred in January, 1886. His remains were taken to his old home for burial, where the courts and members of the bar, as well as numerous friends outside the pale of his profession, testified to the great ability and generous impulses of the deceased.

#### COMMON PLEAS JUDGES, 1854-69

David Turpie succeeded Judge Huff, but occupied the bench only for the July term of 1854, and Governor Wright appointed Gustavus A. Wood as his successor. Judge Wood occupied the common pleas bench but one term—that of October, 1854—and then came, in succession, Mark Jones, who served until 1856; Judge Wood, again, from December, 1856, to May, 1861 (with the exception of the March term of 1860, at which Godlove O. Behm presided); Judge Godlove, the May term of 1861; David P. Vinton, 1861-67; Alfred Reed, 1867; B. F. Schermerhorn, one term, 1869, and Alfred Reed, from October, 1869, until the court was abolished in 1873.

#### CAPTAIN AND JUDGE ALFRED F. REED

In 1867 a new common pleas district was formed, comprising the counties of Carroll and White. Up to that time the district had consisted of Tippecanoe and White counties, and all the judges, save Mr. Turpie, had been residents of the former county. With the new districting, White County felt that she was entitled to representation upon the bench, and her wishes were gratified by the nomination and election of Capt. Alfred F. Reed, who had practiced for a number of years before the Civil war, served gallantly as captain and lieutenant, resigning his seat in the state senate to return to the arduous duties of a soldier, and after the conflict at arms was over, quietly and earnestly resumed the practice of his profession. He was elected and commissioned judge of the Common Pleas Court, October 1, 1869, and again on October 28, 1872. When the court was abolished by act of March 6, 1873, he resumed





the practice and speedily regained his former standing and professional business, his judicial record adding to both as time progressed. Monticello and White County have reason to be proud of his character and his acts.

Captain Reed was born in Clark County, Ohio, February 3, 1824. Although his parents first came to Indiana in his childhood, the family did not permanently locate in White County until in November, 1852. After that date Monticello was their home. In the meantime Alfred F. had married and been admitted to the bar. He practiced his profession until the outbreak of the Civil war, and on August 1, 1861, was commissioned captain of Company K, Twentieth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. As such he served until the fall of 1862, when he resigned to assume his seat in the state senate; but, after one session at Indianapolis, he felt that his duties called him to the front; he then resigned the senatorship and in March, 1864, was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the Twelfth Indiana Cavalry, continuing as such until the close of the war. He was many times wounded and the stress of army life undoubtedly hastened his end, as his death at Monticello occurred October 23, 1873, in his fiftieth year.

#### THE LAWYERS OF 1834-51

Before the coming of Mr. Reed, in 1852, to engage in the practice, the following were the members of the bar who had professional business at the county seat, only two of whom—Messrs. Thompson and Turpie—were residents: William M. Jenners, William P. Bryant, Andrew Ingraham, Aaron Finch, Rufus A. Lockwood and John Pettit, who first appeared in 1834; John W. Wright, 1835; Zebulon Baird, 1836; William Wright, 1837; Thomas M. Thompson and Hiram Allen, 1838; Daniel D. Pratt, 1839; D. Mace and W. Z. Stewart, 1840; L. S. Dale, 1841; G. S. Orth, 1842; Robert Jones, Jr., 1843; Samuel A. Huff, David M. Dunn and J. F. Dodds, 1843; William Potter and A. M. Crane, 1847; J. C. Applegate, Elijah Odell and A. L. Pierce, 1848; David Turpie, Robert H. Milroy and T. C. Reyburn, 1849; Hiram W. Chase, 1850, and Abraham Timmons, 1851.

Not long after Captain Reed located at Monticello as a practicing attorney, the roll of resident lawyers was augmented by the admission of W. H. Rhinehart, Benjamin F. Tilden, James Wallace and Robert W. Sill, so that White County was no longer so dependent upon the profession drawn from Logansport, Lafayette and Delphi.

#### THE SILLS

The last named was the widely known Sill family, being a son of the founder in the State of Indiana, viz.: William Sill, the first clerk of White County, who came with his wife to Washington County in 1828, two years later moved to Tippecanoe County, and in the fall of 1830 settled in what is now Prairie Township, White County. There he



farmed and taught school for a time, and in 1834 located in what is now Monticello, erecting the first house in town on lot 1, at southwest corner of Bluff and Marion streets. He served seven years as county clerk, and was in the fifth year of his second term when he died, January 7, 1846.

Robert W., the oldest of the eight Sill children, studied law; was sheriff of the county from 1848 to 1852, and not long afterward commenced active practice at Monticello. At a later day another son, Milton M., made a substantial record as both a newspaper man and a lawyer. As the author, also, of a history of White County, which he had not completed at the time of his death, he has rendered a good service to the editor of this work.

#### LAWYERS OF 1856-90

In his article on the "Bench and Bar," Milton M. Sill had this to say of his fellow-practitioners: "Between 1856 and 1890 many members were added to the local bar. Johnson Gregory, who had located at Reynolds; William J. Gridley, Ellis Hughes, Judge Joseph H. Matlock, Joseph W. Davis, Judge A. W. Reynolds, W. E. Uhl, Thomas Bushnell; Robert Gregory, a son of Johnson Gregory; E. B. Sellers, O. McConahay, Hugh B. Logan, Daniel D. Dale, W. S. Bushnell, William Guthrie, Judge T. F. Palmer, John H. Wallace, W. S. Hartman, Isaac Parsons, George F. Marvin, A. K. Sills, W. H. Hamelle and Charles C. Spencer, all joined and became members of the White county bar between these dates, presenting quite an array of legal talent in our courts.

#### JOSEPH H. MATLOCK

"Judge Matlock removed here from Peru with his family and built a neat and commodious office on the present site of the Herald building. His first partner was Joseph W. Davis, a bright and promising young lawyer who had moved from our neighboring county of Carroll, but he dying in the early spring of 1872, Judge Matlock formed a second partnership with Henry P. Owens, a young lawyer from Kentucky, and they together enjoyed a large and increasing practice until the death of Judge Matlock in ——. [Editor: December 29, 1878.] After the death of Judge Matlock a partnership was formed by Owens with William E. Uhl, which was continued until the declining health of Mr. Owens compelled him to retire from the practice altogether."

#### ORLANDO MCCONAHAY

Undoubtedly there have been not a few greater lawyers than Orlando McConahay, there have been none more popular or charged with more vim, either professional or personal. His friends were legion, especially in Monticello and Monon, his home towns during most of his life and the chief scenes of his practice, his official activities and his personal conflicts and complications of all kinds. He came of Scotch-Irish ancestry,



his father, Ranson, being a native of Bourbon County, Kentucky. Three years after his marriage the father moved to Tippecanoe County, where Orlando was born in 1832. The family home afterward became what is now Liberty Township, and in January, 1846, the elder McConahay commenced to serve out the unexpired term of William Sill, the first county clerk. This he completed, was re-elected to the office, and completed his official life in 1858, and his career on earth a decade later.

The son, Orlando, assumed the clerkship which the father relinquished and performed its duties for eight years. In the meantime he had been admitted to the bar and located at Monticello for practice at the expiration of his official term in 1867, forming a partnership with Ellis Hughes in 1871.

Mr. McConahay's successor in the office of county clerk was his fellow attorney and former assistant, Daniel D. Dale, and there are a few of the profession yet in the county who remember the acrimonious triangular contest between Messrs. Dale, McConahay and Robert Gregory, which raged with such fury in 1873. Without going into the merits of the charges and counter-charges, it will probably be admitted from the perspective of the present that Mr. Dale, who was generally pounced upon by both Messrs. McConahay and Gregory, came out of the fray with his feathers considerably ruffled and his comb pretty well picked to pieces. McConahay was drawn into the fight at its last stage, and most of his friends were sorry he mixed in; they felt, as was expressed by a poetic contributor to the press, who signed himself "A German Fellow Citizen," and starts out with this hitch:

"Vell, McConahay, now how you feel,  
Mixed up mit Dale and Gregory into dem ugly steal?  
You plays der dickens mit yourself ust now  
In nixen into dose unhealthy row."

Mr. McConahay built up a fair practice in Monticello, notwithstanding his rather fiery temperament and somewhat indiscreet conduct, and afterward moved to Lafayette, where he remained about two years. While in that city he served as justice of the peace. In 1885 he located at Monon, where he lived the remainder of his life, holding such offices as town attorney and notary public.

#### LAWYERS IN ACTIVE PRACTICE

The members of the bar of White County who have been enrolled since 1890 are as follows, those engaged in the practice being indicated by an \*:

Law firms: Spencer, Hamelle & Cowger, Monticello; Palmer & Carr, Monticello; Sills & Sills, Monticello.

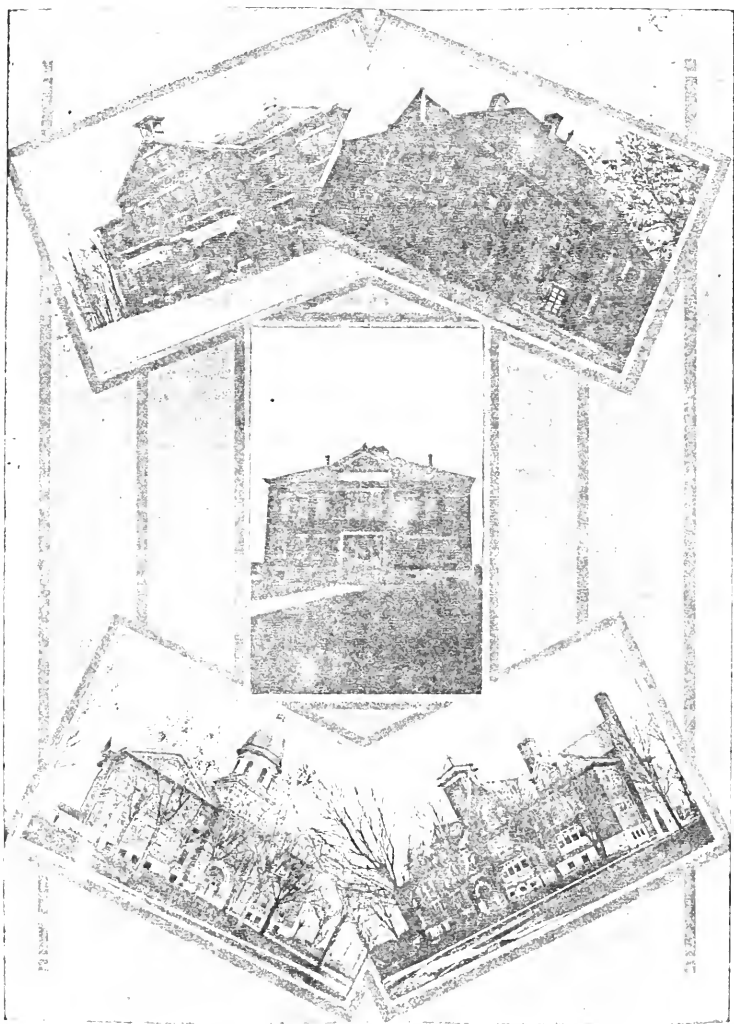
Resident attorneys: \*E. B. Sellers, Monticello; \*T. F. Palmer, Monticello; Benj. F. Carr, Monticello; \*W. S. Bushnell, Monticello; \*Wm. Guthrie, Monticello; \*W. H. Hamelle, Monticello; \*W. J. Gridley, Monticello.



cello; \*A. K. Sills, Monticello; \*Charles C. Spencer, Monticello; \*George F. Marvin, Monticello; L. D. Carey, Monticello; M. B. Beard, Wolcott; James T. Graves, Monticello; George W. Kassebaum, Monticello; Thomas J. Hanna, Monticello; \*A. R. Orton, Monticello; Clarence R. Cowger, Monticello; W. R. Taylor, Monticello; A. K. Sills, Jr., Monticello; H. T. Brockway, Monticello; S. L. Callaway, Monticello; Henry C. Thompson, Monon; W. A. Ward, Reynolds.







SOME WHITE COUNTY SCHOOL BUILDINGS



## CHAPTER VIII

### EDUCATION AND PROMINENT MEN

TERRITORIAL LEGISLATION—PUBLIC EDUCATION UNDER THE FIRST CONSTITUTION—TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL LANDS—TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES—THE OLD-TIME COMFORTABLE SCHOOLHOUSE—EARLY CONDITIONS IN WHITE COUNTY—THE THREE-DAYS SCHOOLHOUSE—PIONEER EDUCATIONAL MATTERS—FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE IN THE COUNTY—A SEMINARY WHICH WAS NEVER BORN—THE COUNTY LIBRARY MORE FORTUNATE—A MONTICELLO SCHOOL WITH CLASS—SCHOOLS IN JACKSON TOWNSHIP—JONATHAN SLUYTER'S GOOD WORK—SPREAD OF THE SPIRIT INTO MONDN—WEST POINT SCHOOL AND TOWN HALL—GEORGE BOWMAN, AS MAN AND TEACHER—THE PALESTINE AND NORDYKE SCHOOLS—SPROUTINGS IN CASS TOWNSHIP—THE STATE BRINGS BETTER ORDER—SCHOOL EXAMINERS—BUILDING SCHOOLHOUSE UNDER THE NEW ORDER—THE TEACHERS—FORERUNNERS OF THE HIGH SCHOOLS—THE FARMINGTON SEMINARY—PROF. WILLIAM IRELAN—THE BROOKSTON ACADEMY—CORN-CRIB AND REGULAR SCHOOLS—FIRST ROUND GROVE SCHOOLHOUSE—PRESENT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION—TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION AND INSTITUTES—RULES AND REGULATIONS—PRESENT STATUS OF THE COUNTY SYSTEM—DR. WILLIAM S. HAYMOND—CHARLES S. HARTMAN—DR. WILLIAM E. BIEDERWOLF.

Nothing was ever done by either the French or British governments to establish or encourage the founding of public schools among their scattered subjects in the western wilds, but with the first extension of American paper rule over the Northwest the cause was brought forward as one of the fundamentals of popular sovereignty. As has been stated, a congressional ordinance of 1785 provided for the donation of section 16 in every congressional township for the maintenance of public schools, and the more comprehensive and famous measure of 1787 declared that "religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to the government and happiness of mankind, schools and means of education shall forever be encouraged." In this matter the fathers of the Northwest sustained the character of the founders of the United States, and its greatest supporters ever since, of being both idealists and practical men. They first provided the basis of a fund for the popular schools; then pledged the future American generations forever to encourage them. Forever is a large word, but America has always dealt in futures, and when 128 years have passed after that pledge was given,



the generations of the present are encouraging the cause of public education with greater zeal and immeasurably greater resources than their sponsors of 1787 ever dreamed of.

#### TERRITORIAL LEGISLATION

Indiana Territory had the Indians to fight, as well as the wilderness to break, but her public men brought up the subject repeatedly, Governor Harrison in one of his messages suggesting that military education be grafted into the public system. In 1807, after a sweeping preamble re-dedicating the people to the principle of popular education, the Legislature incorporated the Vincennes University "for the instruction of youth in the Latin, Greek, French and English languages, mathematics, natural philosophy, ancient and modern history, moral philosophy, logic, rhetoric and the laws of nature and nations." In the following year the Territorial Legislature authorized the judges of the Courts of Common Pleas to lease the school lands, and in 1810 they were authorized to appoint trustees for that purpose; these agents, however, were forbidden to lease more than 160 acres to any one person and the destruction of timber on the leased lands was forbidden. These acts concluded the actual performances in behalf of the cause, but, considering how many other measures came before the territorial authorities and legislators in the nature of self-defense and self-preservation, it is remarkable that so much was accomplished.

#### PUBLIC EDUCATION UNDER THE FIRST STATE CONSTITUTION

The first state constitution, adopted in 1816, provided that none of the school lands should be sold by the authority of the state previous to 1820, and that it should be the duty of the General Assembly, as soon as possible, "to provide by law for a general system of education, ascending in a regular gradation from township schools to a State University, wherein tuition shall be gratis and equally open to all. And for the promotion of such salutary end, the money which shall be paid as an equivalent by persons exempt from military duty, except in times of war, shall be exclusively, and in equal proportion, applied to the support of county seminaries; and all fines assessed for any breach of the penal laws shall be applied to said seminaries in the counties wherein they shall be assessed."

#### TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL LANDS

The General Assembly of 1816 took up the work and made provision for the appointment of superintendents of school sections, with power to lease the school lands for any term not to exceed seven years, and each lessee was required to set out annually on such lands twenty-five apple and twenty-five peach trees until 100 of each had been planted. Between 1816 and 1820 several academies, seminaries and literary societies were incorporated in the older and more populous counties.



The first measure which provided for any comprehensive system of public education was passed in 1824, the bill being the result of the labors of a special commission appointed by the Legislature several years before; the act, which became law, was "to incorporate congressional townships and provide for public schools therein."

#### TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

After providing for the election of three school trustees in each township, who should control section 16 and all other matters of public education, the law made provision for the erection of schoolhouses, as follows: "Every able-bodied male person of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, residing within the bounds of such school district, shall be liable to work one day in each week until such building may be completed, or pay the sum of thirty-seven and one-half cents for every day he may fail to work." The trustees might also receive lumber, nails, glass or other necessary building material, in lieu either of work or the daily wages.

#### THE OLD-TIME COMFORTABLE SCHOOLHOUSE

The schoolhouse, according to the law of 1824, provided: "In all cases such school house shall be eight feet between the floors, and at least one foot from the surface of the ground to the first floor, and be furnished in a manner calculated to render comfortable the teacher and pupils."

As no funds were provided for the pay of teachers or the erection of buildings, the schools were kept open as long as the subscriptions held out, and the comfort of the teacher and pupils depended on the character of the householders who supported the institution. Neither could the school trustees levy a tax except by special permission of the district, and even then the expenditure was limited to \$50.

In 1832 the Legislature ordered the sale of all county seminaries, the net proceeds to be added to the permanent school fund. Its action did not affect White County, as its citizens did not commence to collect funds for that purpose until 1834, when they were organized under a separate government. In 1837 the county received its quota of the surplus disbursed from the United States treasury to the various states during the preceding year. Indiana's share was \$806,000, and of that sum the State Legislature set aside \$573,000 for the permanent use of the common schools of the commonwealth; but only the interest of the fund could be used by the counties.

#### EARLY CONDITIONS IN WHITE COUNTY

When White County commenced its political existence there were no public schools, in the accepted sense, within her borders, and nearly twenty years were to pass before anything like the prevailing system of popular education was to be in force. The conditions then prevailing were these: "The man or woman who had a desire to become an in-





structor would get up a written agreement called a subscription paper, and pass it around among the people of a certain neighborhood for signatures. The agreement usually called for a certain number of pupils at a certain price per pupil, and when the required number was obtained the school would begin. The ruling price for a term of three months was two dollars per pupil, and the number of pupils to be taught was to be not less than twenty. The board and lodging for the teacher would be provided by the patrons of the school, each one, in turn, furnishing a share during the term, or if the teacher preferred, which was nearly always the case, he or she might choose a boarding place and remain there during the term for a small compensation to the patron of the school whose home was selected. The board and lodging of the school teacher was regarded as a small matter by the early settlers, and one dollar per week was taken as ample compensation for the trouble imposed by this arrangement. The first plan was designated as 'boarding among the scholars' and the second as 'boarding himself' or 'boarding herself.'

#### THE THREE-DAYS SCHOOLHOUSE

"The first matter of importance, however, before the beginning of the school, was to provide a building for the accommodation of the teacher and pupils; but this was, also, an easy matter for the pioneers. The settlers of a neighborhood would get together on a specified day, say a Thursday, and begin the erection of a school house at some point as nearly central in the neighborhood as a site could be procured; which was always easy to obtain, as land was worth one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, and a suitable site could be found where the owner of the land, if he had children of school age, was only too willing to donate an acre or half an acre of his land for the purpose. Beginning the building on Thursday, they would finish their work on or before Saturday night, so that it would be ready for occupancy on Monday morning."

#### PIONEER EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

The mellow memories clinging to the old log schoolhouse have so often been spread upon the printed page that we leave the familiar ground for more personal matters directly concerning the pioneer schools and teachers in the White County field before the commencement of the modern era in 1852.

#### FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE IN THE COUNTY

The first schoolhouse built within the limits of White County was located on the banks of Big Creek, in what was known as the Robert Newell neighborhood—so named after that old settler, afterward probate judge, who has already appeared several times in the course of this history. It stood on the land of George A. Spencer, whose home was also White County's first courthouse. The schoolhouse, which was



constructed of round logs and was 12 by 14 feet in size, had been built for a family residence. After a short occupancy for domestic purposes it had been abandoned, and some time in 1834 was opened as a school, Mr. Spencer having kindly placed seats in it and otherwise transformed the room into a temple of learning. Mr. Spencer had children, and the other resident families who supported the enterprise were headed by Benjamin Reynolds, John Burns, Robert Newell, William M. Kenton, Zebulon Dyer, James Shafer, John Phillips, and perhaps a few others.

From a description which has come down to us from one of the old settlers it is learned that a log had been left out of the south side of the hut to admit the light, and that two puncheons, fastened together with wooden pins and hung on wooden hinges, formed the door, which was securely closed with a wooden latch in a wooden catch. A string passed through the door above the latch and served to raise it from the outside at all times, unless the pupils caught the master out, when it would be drawn in and, by barricading the window with benches, they often succeeded in delaying the routine of study, but such an act was certain to bring upon the daring culprits the dire vengeance of the master, whose authority was thus set at naught.

The first teacher in this first school was Matthias Davis, father of Mrs. Daniel McCuaig, of Monticello, a man of rare mental qualifications for that period and a kindly and conscientious teacher, who delighted in his work and was beloved by his pupils. He could be severe, however, when he "was locked out," or his authority otherwise flouted.

#### A SEMINARY WHICH WAS NEVER BORN

Soon after the organization of the county the citizens commenced to agitate the founding of a county seminary, authorized by the state constitution of 1816. The movement materialized in the legislative enactment providing that certain fines and penalties, assessed against those who swore, broke the Sabbath, or engaged in rioting, should be thus applied. The law provided that when \$400 had been collected, the board of trustees might proceed to erect a seminary building. In May, 1835, Jonathan Harbolt was appointed seminary trustee to serve for one year. The fund went on so slowly collecting under Mr. Harbolt and his successors that it had reached only \$403 in June, 1853, and \$781 in 1857; by that time the new school law established under the constitution of 1852 had gone fully into operation, and as there was no place in that system for a county seminary, its fund was turned over to the common schools.

#### THE COUNTY LIBRARY MORE FORTUNATE

The old county library met with a similar fate, funds for its establishment being secured much in the same way as for the seminary. Although quite unsteady, the library actually got upon its feet. A few books were purchased as early as 1838 and small additions were made to the original collection, so that by 1845 several hundred volumes were



scattered over the county in the homes of the early settlers. In that year the board of commissioners organized themselves as trustees of the county library, Allen Barnes becoming president and Charles W. Kendall librarian and clerk. The clerk was directed to collect by public notice all the books in circulation, prepare a catalogue, and purchase such additional books as the library funds would allow; also to prepare a constitution and by-laws for the consideration of the trustees. It does not appear that Mr. Kendall ever served—in fact, he refused to serve, and J. M. Rifenberriek was appointed in his place; so that Mr. Rifenberriek must have accomplished this preliminary work. John R. Willey became librarian in 1849, but the county institution had no excuse for existence under the new educational dispensation inaugurated in 1852, which included, among other features, the operation of township libraries. The county library was therefore abandoned by the state and its books melted away; but they undoubtedly accomplished some good in the way of lightening the long hours of lonely pioneer life, and supplying mental food to a limited circle, at a time when it was so scarce and therefore so highly valued.

#### A MONTICELLO SCHOOL WITH CLASS

In 1835, the year after opening the Big Creek schoolhouse, Mathias Davis, of Carroll County, was called to Monticello to take charge of a more finished establishment. A frame building had been erected, 20 by 30 feet, with iron latches and hinges for the door and sash and glass lights for the windows. The latter were placed near the roof to protect them from the boys; for, at that time, the breaking of a window pane, whether by accident or malice aforethought, was an expensive disaster which the school authorities could not afford. Mr. Davis remained at the head of the Monticello school until 1838, and was followed, at different periods, by William Cahill, Mr. Montgomery, James Kelley and James Givens. Perhaps the most remarkable characteristic of these pioneer teachers of Monticello was that none of them seemed to be able to combine mentality and muscularity in the proportion which should meet the requirements of the situation. They ranged all the way from the clever but too mild Cahill to the fierce and conclusive Montgomery, who was sent to jail for so cowhiding one of the boys that pools of blood were drawn upon the schoolroom floor.

#### SCHOOLS IN JACKSON TOWNSHIP

In the early '50s a small settlement sprung up about half a mile north of the old town of Burnettsville, Jackson Township, and in 1836 a post-office was established there called Burnett's Creek. About the same time the settlers got together and built a little log schoolhouse near by, and William R. Dale, the postmaster, also became the schoolteacher.

Some time before—just how long it is not of record—a small class had been taught in a vacant hut owned by Ephraim Chamberlain; it was situated in the southeast quarter of section 33 and was taught by



James Renwick. This, which was really the pioneer school in the township and one of the first in the county, was located near the Carroll County line.

#### JONATHAN SLUYTER'S GOOD WORK

In the early autumn of 1837 Liberty Township joined the little group of educators in White County, through such of her early settlers as Messrs. Funks, Conwells, Hall, Louders and Sluyter. Mr. Sluyter (Jonathan W.) was especially enthusiastic over the erection of a log schoolhouse for the dozen or fifteen children who were ready to attend; he had been in the township, on his land along the Tippecanoe, for several months, and being a blacksmith, as well as considerable of a mechanic, the work of erecting the schoolhouse was largely intrusted to him. As completed, it was of round logs, fifteen feet square, had a large fireplace, was supplied with backless puncheon seats and had one window. David McConahay was the first teacher in that school, and he was followed within the coming three years by George Hall, John C. V. Shields and Lester Smith.

Then, in 1840, Mr. Sluyter again came to the scene and built a second schoolhouse on the site of the first; the new was an improvement on the old, because it was larger, built of hewn logs, had more windows and the seats were more finished and comfortable. All of which was to the special credit of Jonathan W. Sluyter, the head of the family.

#### SPREAD OF THE SPIRIT INTO MONON

At that time the only school which may be said to have been established was the one at Monticello, which went into a partial decline and disgrace. But the educational spirit had spread westward with the incursion of new settlers with their children, so that in 1840 a schoolhouse was built near the Town of West Bedford. Salome Bentley is said to have been the first teacher and Michael Berkey, the second, with David Hall, Peter Scott, Power Moore and Mary Lindsay, trailing along in about that order. This was one of the first schools to be established away from the Tippecanoe River.

#### WEST POINT SCHOOL AND TOWN HALL

In 1844 a schoolhouse was erected in West Point Township, near the site of the house now in use. It was used for both political and educational purposes; was a town hall as well as a schoolhouse, the first elections in the township being held therein. The structure was of the round-log variety, 18 by 24 feet in size.

#### GEORGE BOWMAN, AS MAN AND TEACHER

It was reserved for Monticello to make the first real advance in offering superior educational advantages to the students of White County,





through the personal labors of George Bowman and his graded school. Even in the period of modern improvements in this field, as of others, it is doubtful if his superior as a thorough and inspiring educator can be named among the teachers of White County.

Professor Bowman was born near Martinsburg, Virginia, in 1818, and was left an orphan when only six years of age. With several brothers and sisters, he was brought up by relatives on a typical Virginia plantation, his education being obtained both in a country school and a rural store in the neighborhood. From a very early age books were his inspiration and solace, and when he had about reached his majority he joined his brothers who had settled at Delphi, Carroll County. There he continued his Virginia life by dividing his time between study, teaching and clerking, his business connection at Delphi being in the large store kept by Enoch Bowen. After several years of that varied experience, he was induced by several elderly friends to enter Wabash College, Crawfordsville. His studies there were interlarded with various occupations incident to "working through college," such as clerking in a country store and peddling a religious publication in White and Carroll counties.

In September, 1848, he left college within a year of graduation, and married Miss Ruth Angell, taking his young wife to Monticello, and assuming charge of the town school. Two years thereafter his wife died, leaving him an infant daughter. That misfortune changed his plans. Returning to Wabash College he graduated therefrom in 1852 and soon afterward was placed in charge of the Delphi schools. A few months after his second marriage to Miss Mary D. Piper, in 1858, he returned to Monticello.

Just a decade from the time of his first coming to Monticello, in September, 1858, Professor Bowman opened the academy, or grade school, as it was called, which became such a noteworthy institution in the development of the educational system of the county. He introduced the studies of natural philosophy, astronomy, algebra and Latin, and young men and women for the first time in the educational history of White County had an opportunity of acquiring something more than the fundamentals of an English education. Composition and declamation were cultivated and pupils were required to give reasons and illustrations in support of any theory or principle advanced.

The return of Mr. Bowman to Delphi, in the fall of 1850, had been discouraging to the cause of higher education, since no instructor could be found to take his place. The subsequent history of the movement, especially the professor's part in it, is thus presented: It is probable about this time that an effort was made to erect a brick school building at Monticello. Whether the schoolhouse was to be built with the county seminary funds, or as an institution wholly for the District of Monticello, is not certain, but it is known that it was completed a short distance above the foundation, then abandoned and the material removed. For some years thereafter several attempts were made, through private schools, to meet the demand of parents both for instruction in the com-



mon branches and (among a more limited number) for training in the classics and the advanced studies. Among the really excellent schools taught during that period of earnest endeavor was one in the Democrat Building, its teachers numbering Maria Hutton and Mrs. Dr. Haymond.

The return of the professor to Monticello in 1858, after he had ably served as the principal of the Delphi schools for six years, was heralded as a saving event, and arrangements were made to furnish better facilities than he formerly commanded. An old warehouse was remodeled for school purposes, a bell was placed on the roof and the principal then engaged two assistants to get the situation well in hand. Within the following three years the Monticello Graded School, as it was called, became an educational force whose influence even spread beyond the bounds of White County. It was divided into three departments, corresponding to the high, grammar and primary divisions of the public system, graduates from the high school being prepared for college.

Professor Bowman's assistants in 1860 were Miss Mary Bowman and H. H. Tedford. He continued as head of this private graded school until August, 1862, when he was mustered into the Union service as captain of Company D, Twelfth Indiana Volunteers, the members of which were enlisted largely through his exertions. He was captured at Richmond, and wounded both at Jackson and Missionary Ridge—at the latter engagement so badly that he was discharged from the service as incapacitated. He was honorably discharged in March, 1864, and in the following year returned to Delphi, where he remained until 1870 as principal of its schools and engaged in farming. He had bought a farm on the banks of the Tippecanoe, about six miles south of Monticello in White County, and thither retired with his wife and six children.

But Mr. Bowman did not succeed as a farmer, and as his widow wrote pathetically and affectionately years afterward: "We named our home Hopeful Bluff and lived on hope for eight years. Mr. Bowman was a born teacher, but knew nothing about farming, consequently he failed at every point. Those were trying days, though filled with love and many happy hours. We had good neighbors and many kind friends. Mr. Bowman was later elected county superintendent of schools, which gave us the opportunity of meeting the best of people. He was a kind, loving husband and father, always looking on the bright side of life. He was truly an optimist."

Professor Bowman served as county superintendent from 1873 to 1881, and under his administration the schools obtained an impetus in the right direction which has never been lost. The family had returned to Monticello in 1878, and at the conclusion of his term as county superintendent of schools, Mr. Bowman devoted himself to his beloved books (taking up the study of Hebrew after he was seventy); also spent considerable time in teaching private pupils, and in 1890 he was induced, partly by friends and partly urged by his strong instincts as a natural teacher, to assume regular duties in connection with the county schools of White and Carroll counties. But he counted too confidently on his old-time vitality for one in his seventy-third year. In the fall of that



year he was unable to rally before the attack of a severe illness, and passed away on November 29 (Thanksgiving), 1890. The deceased was an earnest Presbyterian of many years standing and a Christian by faith and deed.

#### THE PALESTINE AND NORDYKE SCHOOLS

The first schools of Princeton Township, in the western border of White County, did not come to the surface until the late '40s, being mostly established in its central sections. The Palestine settlement, the first in the township, claims to have started the pioneer school, as does the so-called Nordyke Settlement. Neither as to time nor stateliness is there much to choose between them. They were both opened in 1849; they were both 16 by 18 feet in dimensions. While the Nordyke affair may have had the edge on the Palestine schoolhouse, in that it was built of hewn instead of round logs, on the other hand the Palestine structure had two windows instead of the usual one opening, and they occupied its two sides lengthwise; thus, matters of superiority were balanced. The Palestine School stood on Mortimer M. Dyer's land and its first teacher was Edwin Bond, while B. Wilson Smith taught the children at the Nordyke settlement. But Nordyke finally triumphed decisively over the Palestine settlement, by building the first frame schoolhouse in the township, about half a mile north of the old log structure, in 1854.

#### SPROUTINGS IN CASS TOWNSHIP

Cass Township commenced its school building in 1850, although several classes had been taught in private houses for two years previously. In the winter of 1848-49 Samuel Gruell taught a few children in a round-log cabin on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 6, in the extreme northwest corner of the township about a mile east of the Tippecanoe. Mrs. Anna McBeth, mother of James M. McBeth, assumed the work in 1849. The pupils who thus started the educational ball rolling numbered twenty-four, distributed by families as follows: Christopher Vandeventer family, five; Florin's, four; Daniel Germberlinger, two; John Baker (Pulaski County), two; Daniel Yount, two; Albert Bacon, three. In the winter of 1849-50, Mrs. McBeth opened a school in the family home, a round-log hut on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 6. She was a lady of great intelligence, coming of a well educated Ohio family, and her twenty pupils prospered under her instruction. Her husband died a few years afterward, but the widow lived to be an aged honored mother and grandmother of the county. One of their sons Joseph was a good soldier of the Civil war and prominent in the public affairs of the township, and several of the later generation still reside in the county.

#### THE STATE BRINGS BETTER ORDER

The foregoing are but illustrations which might be deduced from every sparsely settled county in the state, of the struggles which were common among the pioneers to educate their children as best they might. But all



such facilities were the result of individual exertion and determination, unsystematized and virtually unsupported by the state. With the inauguration of the new constitution of 1851, much of this confusion and working at cross purposes cleared away and a working plan was evolved. By legislative act "to provide for a general uniform system of Common Schools and School Libraries, and matters properly connected therewith," approved June 14, 1852, the way was made clear for the establishment of the public educational system which is still expanding and developing in its details.

The free school system of Indiana became practically operative on the first Monday in April, 1853, when the township trustees for school purposes were elected. The new law gave them the management of the school affairs of the township, subject to the action of the voters. But it was a number of years before White County was able to derive much practical benefit from the system, as the quota of the common school fund derived from the state was small and increased slowly, as it was based upon the number of children of school age residing in the various districts. In the meantime most of the actual management of school matters was vested in the old-time school examiner.

#### SCHOOL EXAMINERS

The school examiners for White County, whose services extended into the formative period of the present common school system, including the supplementary law of 1855-56, were as follows: James Kerr, 1836; N. Bunnell, 1838; Jonathan Harbolt, 1839; Charles W. Kendall, 1845; James Kerr, 1846; Charles Dodge, 1848; Jonathan Harbolt, 1849; George G. Miller and Robert Irwin, 1856.

#### BUILDING SCHOOLHOUSES UNDER THE NEW ORDER

In 1859 the board of three township trustees was abolished and school matters were placed in the keeping of one trustee, who was enabled to work to greater advantage with the examiner than under the old system, but it was not until nearly twenty years later that the trustee assumed greater control of the schools within his township. As the interest of the common school fund was only available, under the constitution, it usually became necessary for the citizens of a district in pressing need of a schoolhouse to contribute a part of the expense incurred both in its erection, furnishing and maintenance. The law required the trustee to own the land upon which every public schoolhouse was erected and a perfect title from the owner of the land to the trustee and his successors in office must be procured before the building could be commenced. A word from the trustee expressing the necessity for a new schoolhouse usually brought half a dozen offers from property owners offering sites of from half an acre to a whole one, provided the township would pay the expenses of executing the deed and recording it. Land was much cheaper than money in those days; but the early settlers contributed of both, as well as of honest labor and necessary materials, for the erec-





tion of the building which was to house their children as pupils. Not infrequently the trustee erected a neat frame building beside the old log schoolhouse, that the entire township might compare the two with pride over the improvement manifest in the new.

#### THE TEACHERS

X Having procured their certificates of qualification from the county examiner, the applicants for the position of teacher laid their cases before the trustee; and the primary selection rested with him, his choice being ratified by the patrons of the school. Sometimes when there was a decided division of neighborhood sentiment as to the merits of several



MONTICELLO'S FIRST GRADED SCHOOL

This building is now used as a stable, and the shed is an addition of later years.

candidates, a meeting was held and the decision left to a majority vote. Good conduct determined the length of service, and the question of salary was left to the patrons of the school; the average salary for the male teacher of the earlier years was \$20 a month and board, the female instructor drawing about half that amount. The farm hand was paid about the same wages, and the fairly-educated laborer was quite apt to prefer a cozy district schoolroom to outdoor work, especially in winter. So there was seldom any dearth of district school teachers. As the standard of qualification was raised, the supply of male teachers decreased, which heralded a brighter day for the prospects of the school ma'am.

#### FORERUNNERS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL

A number of years passed, while the public school system in White County was gathering strength and getting into shape, before high schools were established as an important department of the curriculum. Their place in the scheme was taken, for the time being, by such private institutions as Professor Bowman's Graded School, the Farmington Male



and Female Seminary at what is now Burnettsville and the Brookston Academy. Professor Bowman's school has already been sketched.

#### THE FARMINGTON SEMINARY

The Farmington Seminary was founded about 1852 by Isaac Mahurin. The building was erected by a joint-stock association, its certificates of stock being redeemable in tuition. After about two years, Mr Mahurin was succeeded by Hugh Nickerbocker, who taught three years, when he was succeeded by Joseph Baldwin. Professor Baldwin's administration of three years gave the seminary a fine reputation and its pupils came from such places as Logansport, Lafayette, Peru, Delphi and Winamac. Other teachers followed who added to its standing and it finally became the headquarters of those splendidly conducted normal institutes conducted by such men as Rev. William Irelan and Prof. D. Eckley Hunter.

#### PROF. WILLIAM IRELAN

The Burnettsville academy reached the height of its fame as a normal training school in 1876, when Professor Irelan was county superintendent of schools. There were few men in the county more popular or honored. He had served with bravery in the Union ranks until shot through the eye at Missionary Ridge, when he was obliged to return to his home in Monticello. He served as county examiner from 1865 to 1868, and in 1875, after the change in the law, was elected county superintendent, his only predecessor in that office being Prof. George Bowman, who also succeeded him. For many years the honors and popularity as educators in White County were about equally divided between these two fine men and citizens. It is believed, however, that Professor Irelan is best known for the work which he accomplished in the training of teachers, during the '70s, as head of the Burnettsville institution.

While a resident of Burnettsville, Professor Irelan was the pastor and moving spirit in the Christian Church at that place, but about 1886 moved with his family to Topeka, Kansas, and several years later joined his daughter, Miss Elma Irelan, at Monterey, Mexico, where she was stationed as a missionary of that denomination. During his absence from Burnettsville, the church there of which he had been pastor had been discontinued, but during a visit to his former parishioners, made in 1909, he revived the church and then rejoined his daughter in Mexico. It was under these circumstances that he died on the 9th of October, 1911, at a ripe age and with abundant fruitage to his credit.

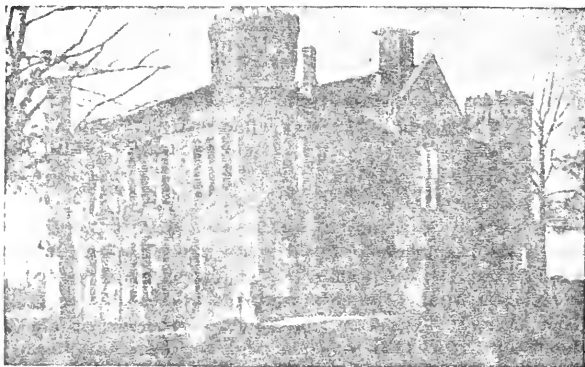
#### THE BROOKSTON ACADEMY

The Brookston Academy has had a continuous history up to the present time, being now represented by the Town Commissioned High School of that place. Dr. John Medaris, suggested to the county superintendent, during the later part of the Civil war, the desirability of establishing an institution of higher learning which should be partially supported by the county, although a township enterprise. Meetings were held to interest the citizens in the movement, and the response was so gratifying that



during the winter of 1865-66 \$7,000 was subscribed toward the erection of a suitable building at Brookston. By the fall of 1866 the building was inclosed and the association was about \$6,000 in debt. That sum was eventually raised by the sale of new stock. The board of commissioners also subscribed to the amount of \$5,000, under the following conditions: "It is ordered by the Board that \$5,000 worth of stock of the Brookston Academy be taken by the county, upon the condition that the Board of Trustees of said Brookston Academy shall, from henceforth forever, educate all orphan children, and all children of widows who are not owners of real estate of the value of \$500, and shall be bona fide residents of the county of White, free from tuition of all kinds, until said children shall attain their majority."

With the \$11,000 thus realized and an additional \$4,000 of borrowed money, the academy building was completed and opened in the fall of



BROOKSTON ACADEMY

1867. As it stood in a beautiful grove just south of the corporation, it was, for those times, an imposing structure of brick, with castellated towers in front at either corner, and the main entrance between. It was 80 by 60 feet in size, two stories in height. When the building was completed a debt of \$8,000 hung over it which the trustees were unable to lift, so that in 1873 it was sold to the trustee of the township, who, in turn, leased it for ninety-nine years to the corporation of Brookston; that arrangement is therefore in force until 1972.

When the Brookston Academy opened in 1867 Professor Hart, a graduate of Yale College and formerly principal of the public schools at Danville, Kentucky, was at the head of its faculty; Miss Serena Handley, principal of the grammar department; Miss Sallie Mitchell, of the intermediate; Miss Jern Cook, of the primary; Miss Rachel Hayes, assistant, and Miss Lida Oakes, teacher of music. The first trustees were John Medaris, Russell Stewart, Samuel Ramey, E. A. Brown, Alfred Ward and



G. W. Cornell. Doctor Medaris was for many years president of the board of trustees and by far the most influential member connected with the management of the academy.

#### CORN-CRIB AND REGULAR SCHOOLS

Honey Creek and Round Grove townships did not join the class of educators until the second state constitution had partially licked into shape things educational. The first schoolhouse built in the former was erected in the original plat of Reynolds in 1855. It was a subscription affair, Benjamin Reynold donating the ground and Nathaniel Bunnell giving \$25 toward the building. Miss Nannie Glazebrook is said to have been the first teacher to hold forth in this first regular school in Honey Creek Township, albeit Miss Ann Braday may, as the story goes, have taught in a big corn-crib in the summer of 1854. The crib, which was 12 by 30 feet, is said to have made a very fair summer schoolhouse and furnished accommodations for twenty pupils during the three warm months.

#### FIRST ROUND GROVE SCHOOLHOUSE

In 1857 the Stanley Schoolhouse, a frame structure, was erected near the center of Round Grove Township. It was 16 by 18 feet and Elizabeth Ballintyne had the honor of opening it.

#### PRESENT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

As now organized and systematized the public schools are under the control of the county board of education, consisting of one trustee from each of the eleven townships, the presidents of the town and city school boards and the county superintendent, who is made president of the entire board. The present county superintendent is Henry J. Reid, and the township trustees who went into office January 1, 1915, as follows: Big Creek, Robert W. Barr, Chalmers; Cass, William E. Stillwell, R. 19, Idaville; Liberty, Cassius D. Imler, Monticello; Jackson, David A. Seroggs, Idaville; Monon, Henry C. Thompson, Monon; Honey Creek, Levi Reynolds, Reynolds; Union, William Paschen, Monticello; Round Grove, J. E. Burdge, Brookston; West Point, Andrew Humphreys, Wolecott; Prairie, Edgar M. Ferguson, Brookston; Princeton, E. J. Dibell, Wolecott.

H. C. Johnson is president of the city school board of Monticello, and the following are presidents of the town boards: Brookston, Lawrie T. Kent; Burnetts Creek, John C. Duffey; Monon, Carl C. Middlestadt; Wolecott, Charles Martin.

#### TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION AND INSTITUTES

The teaching force of the county is in close combination through the Teachers' Association and the township institutes. The president of the association is T. S. Cowger, of Monon, and the principals of the township institutes are: Big Creek, J. C. Downey; Cass, Ivy Morris; Honey Creek, P. E. Young; Jackson, Fred Francis; Liberty, Rolla Ben





jamin; Monon, T. S. Cowger; Prairie, Finis Oilar; Princeton, Russell Wooden; Round Grove, Gus Collins; Union, each teacher in turn, principal; West Point, John Humphreys.

The County Teachers' Institute is held annually the last week in August and the following dates are reserved for the township institutes: First Saturday, Big Creek, Honey Creek, Prairie and Round Grove; second Saturday, Jackson, Princeton, Union and West Point; third Saturday, Cass, Liberty and Monon.

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS

The White County Board of Education has promulgated a set of rules and regulations for the government of the public schools which are worthy of study. They bear with insistence on the necessity for the observance of orderly and moral conduct, the restrictions as to the use of tobacco and cigarettes being especially strict, as witness:

"Tobacco shall not be brought to school, and using tobacco on the way to or from school shall be considered conclusive evidence that tobacco was brought to school.

"Pupils, teachers, superintendents, principals, janitors and hack drivers shall not use tobacco while at school work. The carrying of pipes to school is prohibited. Pupils with the odor of tobacco on their person or clothing shall be dismissed from any session of school and a persistent violation of this rule shall be a just cause for expulsion.

"As to cigarettes, below is Section 1, Chapter 223, page 643, of Law of 1913: 'Section 1—Be it enacted by the general assembly of the State of Indiana, That it shall be unlawful for any person under the full age of twenty-one years, by himself or through any other person or by any means, directly or indirectly to buy, receive or accept for his own use or the use of any other person whatsoever, or to keep or own or to have in his possession, to sell either as principal or agent, or to use any cigarette, cigarette paper, cigarette wrapper or any paper or wrapper containing morphine, nicotine, oil of hemp, or any deleterious or poisonous ingredients or substance, or intended, suited, made or prepared for the purpose of being filled with tobacco for smoking, or any substitute for such cigarette paper, cigarette wrapper or other such paper.' "

The truant laws are strictly enforced, hygienic measures are formulated and the modern movement of encouraging the transformation of schools into social centers is given full support. Domestic science and home sewing are strongly urged, and the suggestions as to getting the most practical good out of the agricultural course are as follows: "In the one room schools, only the boys of the 8th grade will be required to do the work in Agriculture.

"The boys in the 7th grade and girls in the 8th grade may do the work if the teacher thinks it advisable.

"Do the work as outlined in the State Course and in the Tentative Course of Study in Agriculture. If the teacher does not have a Tentative Course of Study in Agriculture, he may get one of the county superintendents.

"Special emphasis is to be placed on soils and crops. Use 'Produce



tive Farming' by Davis as a text, but only such parts as are needed to follow the course.

"Perform as many experiments as possible."

Young peoples' reading circles are warmly encouraged and this sensible warning is sent out: "Teachers should see that children have clean games and sport, both indoors and out. Every teacher ought to know enough good games and sports to be able to start one or more when the children do not seem to play some good game of their own. The best way to get rid of bad games or unsatisfactory play is to suggest a good game or sport and teach them how to play it.

"Ball, bean-bags, jumping-rope, horse-shoe, dare-base, blind-man's bluff, London Bridge, black-man, tag, see-saw, tap-ring, drop the handkerchief, guessing games, ciphering."

The last session of the Indiana Legislature gave the state the most advanced law on industrial and vocational education of any of the states. It made the age limit for compulsory attendance at school sixteen years instead of fourteen unless the child obtains work papers. It gave the state uniform text books for the high school. It created another class of teachers under the minimum wage law and several other laws were enacted of great importance to the public schools of the state. In all of which progressive legislation White County is receiving its due benefit as a stable unit of the great state system of public instruction.

#### PRESENT STATUS OF THE COUNTY SYSTEM

The last figures compiled by County Superintendent Reid for 1915 indicate that the total value of property in White County now amounts to \$15,246,560, the enrollment of those of school age to 4,330, number of teachers, 124, and number of schoolhouses, 99. The details follow:

Townships and Corporations	Enrollment	Teachers	Houses	Value of Property
Big Creek .....	270	7	5	\$ 1,280,900
Cass .....	277	9	9	538,870
Honey Creek .....	268	7	8	1,109,380
Jackson .....	276	8	5	931,330
Liberty .....	276	10	9	648,410
Monon .....	253	9	10	1,395,810
Prairie .....	211	8	10	1,906,830
Princeton .....	213	9	10	1,329,850
Round Grove .....	110	6	8	864,380
Union .....	202	9	10	1,279,440
West Point .....	212	9	9	1,250,080
Brookston .....	269	5	1	375,280
Burnettsville .....	239	4	1	185,760
Monon .....	384	8	1	428,730
Wolcott .....	295	6	1	371,170
Monticello .....	575	10	2	1,317,010
Totals .....	4,330	124	99	\$15,246,560



## DR. WILLIAM S. HAYMOND

No more learned or versatile character has ever cast his lot with the progress of White County than Dr. William S. Haymond, successful physician and surgeon, mathematician, linguist, railroad president, congressman, orator and author. Two decades of his remarkable career were spent in Monticello; in that city was laid the foundation of his later and broader fame, which was honestly and fairly earned as a resident of Indianapolis, but toward whatever place he called his home, the affection and admiration of his old friends in White County were earnestly directed. His death at the state capital occurred December 23, 1885, in his sixty-third year.

From the many obituaries and eulogies which appeared in the newspapers of the state, the following from the Indianapolis Journal of December 26, 1885, is selected as both concise and complete: "The funeral of Dr. William S. Haymond, will take place from his late residence, No. 399 College avenue, this afternoon at 1:30. He was born in Harrison county, near Clarksburg, Virginia, February 20, 1823. At the age of twenty, though only possessed of a common school education, he was regarded as one of the most accomplished mathematicians in the State. At twenty-three, he began the study of medicine, and after qualifying himself for his profession moved West and located at Monticello, where, in 1852, he began the practice of medicine and surgery, soon after which he graduated at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York. He soon came to rank with the foremost men of his profession in the northwestern part of the state, and at different times contributed valuable papers to the medical journals. While busily engaged in his practice, he daily devoted himself to the study of languages, his course embracing Latin, Greek, French, German, Spanish and Italian. He also made it a regular habit from year to year to review geometry and other branches of mathematics. In the fall of 1861 he was appointed assistant surgeon in the Forty-sixth Indiana Regiment. He remained in the army until 1863, when, by reason of ill health, he was compelled to return home. In 1866 he received the unanimous nomination by the Democrats and Liberals as their candidate for the State Senate, but was defeated for election.

"In 1872 Dr. Haymond was elected president of the Indianapolis, Delphi and Chicago Railroad Company, and held that office until his election to Congress two years later. He was the first person who saw clearly the importance of opening a through railroad line which would give the Western States direct trade, by way of Port Royal, with South America, the West Indies and Europe. On this subject he addressed, by special invitation, a joint railroad convention at Augusta, Georgia, in May, 1873. The project having attracted widespread attention, a company was formed of which Dr. Haymond was made president. At a large railroad convention held in Chicago in October, 1873, the proposed road was strongly favored. Bankers of large capital and credit had pledged substantial aid to the enterprise, when the panic inaugurated by the failure of Jay Cooke so unsettled financial matters that operations were suspended.



"In 1874 Dr. Haymond received, without solicitation, the unanimous nomination to Congress from the Tenth (Schuyler Colfax's) district, and was triumphantly elected—the first Democratic victory in twenty-two years. He retired at the close of the term March 4, 1877. His eulogy on the death of the speaker, Hon Michael C. Kerr, was pronounced by competent judges the finest literary effort made on the occasion. He was renominated for Congress in 1876, but met with a serious accident about the last of August of that year which came near terminating his life, confining him to his bed for several months. He was defeated, the district being largely Republican and because he was unable to give his personal effort and presence to the campaign.

"The Doctor was endowed with a rare executive ability and as an organizer had few superiors. In deportment he was modest, suave and rather reticent; but his social qualities were pleasant and lasting to those who made his acquaintance. About ten years ago, desiring to occupy a new field of labor and lessen the physical drudgery under which he was tiring through professional labors, he removed to this city. He took an active and leading part in the organization of the Central College of Physicians and Surgeons, of this city, with which, in various positions, he was connected until his death."

To the foregoing, the editor may add that while in Congress Doctor Haymond had the reputation of being one of the most widely informed men in that body. He was a member of the Committee on Banking and Currency, which, at that time especially, was dealing with matters vital to the stability of the country. It is stated, on good authority, that upon one occasion when a certain congressman went to Speaker Cox to consult him about some financial matter, he gave this advice: "You go and see Haymond; he knows more about finance than any man on the committee." The doctor's friends, who know of his characteristic thoroughness, may well believe the story.

In Doctor Haymond's list of accomplishments mention should also be made of the "History of Indiana," of which he is the author, which was published in 1879. It contains much valuable matter, well arranged, but largely deals with civil and political matters marshaled under the different gubernatorial administrations.

Looking at the subject from all sides, no man who has ever resided in White County and gone forth to participate in movements high and broad in their scope, has earned a more enduring reputation than that of Dr. W. S. Haymond.

#### CHARLES S. HARTMAN

Hon. Charles S. Hartman, a native of Monticello, where he was born March 7, 1861, gained prominence in the West. He was educated in the public schools of his native town and his marriage to Miss Flora B. Innes, of Monticello, as well as his admission to the bar, fell in 1884. As he also moved to Bozeman to enter practice in that year, it certainly made a distinct division in his life.





Mr. Hartman, although so young, came into rapid notice, and the very year of thus becoming a resident of Gallatin County, Montana, was elected to the probate judgeship. After serving a term of two years on that bench, he resumed practice as a lawyer and in 1888 was a candidate for the Territorial Legislature. Although defeated, he was chosen a member of the Constitutional Convention of the following year, under which Montana was admitted to the Union of states. Mr. Hartman served through the Fifty-third and the Fifty-fifth sessions of Congress, his terms commencing in 1893 and 1899, respectively. He then returned to his large law practice in Bozeman and in 1913 President Wilson appointed him minister to represent the United States in Ecuador where he now resides.

#### REV. WILLIAM E. BIEDERWOLF

The editor also presents with pardonable pride a human product of White County, whose enthusiasm and inspiration for the higher forces of life are spreading his Christianizing influence over the land; reference is made to Rev. William E. Biederwolf, whose home is still in Monticello, but the headquarters of his evangelical work, Chicago. Thence he sends out his individual literature through the Glad Tidings Publishing Company, of which he is the head, and formulates his plans for his campaigns against the common enemy; his weapons are an all-absorbing personal conviction that he is fighting for God and truth, with a thorough intellectual and theological training and a natural eloquence behind his faith; an accomplished patient, helpful and earnest wife as a sympathetic and tactful partner in all his work; and his Christian assistants who are specially assigned to evangelical work at different points in his itinerary, which embraces every section of the United States. Previous to the outbreak of the world-war he was under an engagement to engage in evangelical work in London, but that dire event made all European plans impossible.

Mr. Biederwolf is of German blood, as his name implies, and was born at Monticello, September 29, 1867. He graduated from Wabash College in 1890, from Princeton College in 1894 and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1895. He rounded out his mental and theological training with post-graduate studies in various German universities covering two years. The funds which enabled him to enjoy this scholastic privilege were derived from the New Testament Fellowship which he had won at the Princeton School of Theology. In 1897, the year following his marriage to Miss Ida Casad, of Monticello, he entered the Presbyterian ministry and was called to the Broadway Church, at Logansport. At the second call for volunteers during the Spanish-American war he offered his services as chaplain of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana Regiment. In that capacity he served six months in the United States and a like period in Cuba, after which he returned to the Logansport Church and continued his pastorate there until 1900.

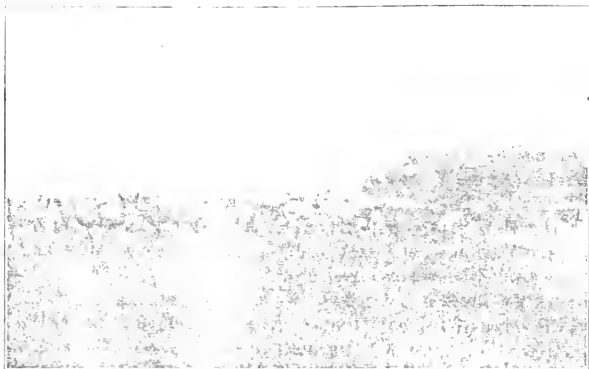
In the year named Mr. Biederwolf resigned from the pulpit to give himself to the cause of evangelization, in which he is one of the



foremost figures in America. He is president of the Interdenominational Association of Evangelists; general secretary of the Family Altar League; general secretary of the Evangelistic Commission of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; and a director of the Winona (Ind.) Assembly and Bible Conference and the Industrial Evangelical Foundation. He is a prohibitionist in the full sense of the word.

The books which Mr. Biederwolf has written and publishes through the Glad Tidings Publishing Company are: *A Help to the Study of the Holy Spirit*; *How Can God Answer Prayer?*; *The Growing Christian*; *The Christian and Amusements*; *The White Life*; *The Square Man*; *Unvarnished Facts About Christian Science*; *Russellism Unveiled and Spiritualism*. He also issues the *Family Altar Magazine*, a monthly publication and the official organ of the Family Altar League.





SPECIMEN CATTLE AND HOGS OF WHITE COUNTY



## CHAPTER IX

### COUNTY SOCIETIES

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—PIONEER LIVE STOCK MEN—LOCAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES—INITIAL MEETING IN BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP—FAIR OF THE TRI-COUNTY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION—WHITE COUNTY SOCIETY ORGANIZED—FIRST AND BEST COUNTY FAIR—THE SECOND FAIR—DIVISION OVER COUNTY SEAT REMOVAL—ATTEMPTS AT REVIVAL—THE OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION—FIRST MEETING AT JOHN BURNS' GROVE—FIRST KNOWN OFFICERS—PRESIDENT GEORGE A. SPENCER—FIRST WELL-ORDERED ASSOCIATION—PIONEERS OF 1829-67—WHITE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY—WHITE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY—DR. JOHN W. MEDARIS—DR. MADISON T. DIDLAKE.

There are several societies of county-wide interest and influence, the efforts and acts of which are both worthy of record. Some of their aims, laudable though they be, have failed of accomplishment from lack of membership and financial means; but the future may still bring realization to such efforts, which have been directed through co-operative channels toward the education and improvement of the citizens of the county, either in specialties or in general.

#### COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

No organization of that character was founded earlier or more persistently supported by a chosen few than the Agricultural Society and its practical manifestation, the county fair. Now it seemed alive; then dead; perhaps the next step was a revival, and the following a decline; so that for many years neither the farmers nor the townsmen knew what to expect. The society is now supposed to be sleeping, albeit the general sentiment is growing that it should be awake and doing.

#### PIONEER LIVE STOCK MEN

County agricultural societies were authorized by enactment of the State Legislature in 1838. The farmers and live stock men, especially of Honey Creek, Big Creek and Union townships, held a number of meetings, but were not strong enough in numbers to organize at that early time. Besides raising barely enough grain for their family consumption, the agricultural activities of White County for some twenty years after its organization consisted largely in raising horses, cattle and hogs for





the markets at Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and New York. Sometimes the live stock was fattened for eastern parties; sometimes raised by the home farmers and driven to the East. One of the first men to make the venture of driving stock to the eastern markets was Sylvanus VanVoorst, of Reynolds. In the fall of 1849, he started a mixed drove of cattle and horses East, with no definite market in view, and continued his journey as far as New York City before he was able to sell at satisfactory prices.

But these ventures, as a rule, proved to be unprofitable, and the farmers who grazed the herds of eastern owners on the free range got into all kinds of wrangles as to compensation; the consequence was that along in the '50s they commenced to improve their home stock and own the herds and droves for which they cared. These pioneer live stock men most favored the Morgan, Lexington and Copper Bottom horses; Short Horn, Durham and Hereford cattle, and the Berkshire and Cheshire hogs. The first men to give their serious attention to the improvement of stock in the county were Samuel Alkire and John Barr, of Prairie Township, cattlemen; John Burns, Philip Wolverton, Jonathan High and Benjamin Reynolds, Big Creek, who bred cattle, horses, hogs and sheep; Isaac Beaby, West Point Township, horses; Peter Price and John Roberts, Union Township, and Isaac Adams, horses, cattle and hogs; James K. and William Wilson, Monon, the same; and Christian Vandeventer and Robert and Crystal Scott, Liberty and Cass townships, hogs and cattle.

#### LOCAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

The result was that before long eastern buyers came regularly to White County, instead of vice versa, and the home farmers and live stock men commenced again to talk about organizing a County Agricultural Society. The townsmen, many of whom had agricultural interests, also joined in the movement. The people of Monticello and Reynolds were particularly enthusiastic, the People's Agricultural Society being organized in the former place in the late '50s for the purpose of promoting agriculture, horticulture and stock breeding in the county.

#### INITIAL MEETING IN BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP

But the movement which led directly to the organization of a county society originated in Big Creek Township, the home of George A. Spencer and Benjamin Reynolds. At a meeting held on the 13th of October, 1857, of which Albert S. White was chairman and E. D. Smith, secretary, it was resolved "that this meeting deem it expedient that an effort be made to organize an Agricultural Society for White county, and that the citizens of the county be requested to assemble at Monticello, on Saturday, November 14th, at noon, to consult upon the subject, and, if deemed advisable, to take the proper steps for the organization of such society. A general attendance from each township is requested."



## FAIR OF THE TRI-COUNTY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

In the meantime the Farmers' Association, which had been organized in the preceding February, met at Burnettsville with a membership of about forty, and on November 7th had an exhibition or fair at that place. This appears to be the first event of the kind in White County and, notwithstanding rather inclement weather, a fair attendance of spectators and exhibitors was reported from Cass, White and Jasper counties, which constituted the territory covered by the association. The exhibits embraced horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, vegetables and grain and specimens of domestic work.

## WHITE COUNTY SOCIETY ORGANIZED

But the people of White County felt that they were strong enough to have a society and a fair of their own; hence the Monticello meeting of November 14th. It was held at the courthouse. Judge David Turpie presided and addressed the meeting on the necessity of organizing a County Agricultural Society. Committees on articles of association and membership were appointed, after which an adjournment was taken until December 7th. On that day the society was formed for the "Promotion of the interests of agriculture, manufactures and the arts in this county." A constitution was adopted in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the State Board of Agriculture, and the following officers elected for the ensuing year: President, Albert S. White; vice president, Lucius Pierce; treasurer, Randolph Brearly; directors—R. W. Sill, Honey Creek; Anderson Irons, West Point; John B. Bunnell, Princeton; C. Hayes, Prairie; John C. Hughes, Liberty; W. H. King, Cass; James Elliott, Jackson; Peter Price, Union; A. A. Cole, Monon, and George A. Spencer, Big Creek.

## FIRST AND BEST COUNTY FAIR

At various meetings held within the following four months committees were appointed to prepare a premium list for the county fair to be held in the coming autumn and to procure grounds and erect the necessary buildings for the exhibition of live stock, products of the farm and garden and the display of domestic manufactures. In the spring of 1858 the directors received the reports of the committees, from which the cheerful prospect evolved that, after building a portion of the pens and sheds and thereby draining the treasury, it would be necessary to raise \$1,000 to meet the premiums which had been offered. The strain was eased somewhat by substituting diplomas for cash premiums on many articles, the change being generally accepted with good grace, as prize ribbons could be kept for future display and glory, while money could not.

The Committee on Grounds and Buildings reported that Peter P. had generously donated a forty-acre tract of land about half a mile w



of town on the north side of the highway, and that buildings were so far advanced that they would be ready for occupancy by the 1st of September. The time fixed for holding the fair was the last week in that month, when it was assumed that the grains and vegetables of the county would be sufficiently matured to be placed on exhibition to the best advantage.

This first fair was a grand success, despite the fact that the country had not yet recovered from the monetary panic of 1857, for the general election was at hand and various candidates for state and county offices were in attendance. That feature of itself drew many to the fair. The exhibition was a novelty and was really creditable. Furthermore, the funds which the people brought with them purposely to spend were enhanced by generous contributions from office-seekers. No fair was therefore more of a success than the first.

One in attendance wrote of the exhibition, years afterward, in this strain: "The exhibits of grain, vegetables and farm products were extensive. Wagon loads of sweet and Irish potatoes, cabbages, pumpkins, squash, corn, oats, wheat and rye were brought in by the farmers and entered for premiums. The breeders of fine stock—cattle, horses, hogs and sheep—were well represented. There were many men living in the county who had for a long time made a specialty in the breeding of the best stock obtainable, and to them we are indebted for the high repute of White County in the production of the best horses, cattle, sheep and swine of any of her sister counties in this part of the State.

"But horses, cattle, hogs and sheep were not the only stock on exhibition at our fair. Chickens, turkeys, geese and Guinea fowls were also brought and entered in their classes for premiums. The woman department was not neglected either. Premiums were offered for home-made laces, embroideries, quilts, bedspreads, woolen socks and other wearing apparel; also for the best five pounds of butter, the best loaf of bread, the best cake, the best home-made cheese and many other articles involving the culinary art."

The unexpected success of the County Agricultural Society in its first venture at holding a fair made the managers quite sanguine of the future, and search was immediately instituted for permanent grounds.

#### THE SECOND FAIR

The second fair held at the Monticello grounds in 1859 was less encouraging for several reasons. Times had become really hard; the country was flooded with worthless money; Wild-Cat banks were winding up their unbusinesslike affairs everywhere, and stores and manufacturing were either failing or reefing their sails in an endeavor to weather the storm. Good money was at such a discount that the few banks which had conducted their business within reason were grimly holding on to it, although constantly besieged by business men who were still solvent, but could hardly keep afloat without a medium of exchange of some kind.



## DIVISION OVER COUNTY SEAT REMOVAL

Then there was the prevailing agitation over the transfer of the county seat from Monticello to Reynolds, which divided the membership of the County Agricultural Society and threatened to disrupt it. But these differences were finally compromised, although the movement had its retarding effect. Neither did the second fair present a drawing card in the presence of public speakers whom the people of the county were eager to hear, as no election of importance was pending.

Despite these drawbacks the exhibits were most creditable, those in the lines of agricultural products, machinery, manufacturers and stock being superior to those of the first fair. About this time the first threshing machines were appearing in the grain fields of White County farmers. They were operated by horses. It is hard to realize, in this connection, that it was twenty years after the county was organized that threshing machines commenced to be manufactured in the United States. Reverting to the county fair of 1859, the truth is that its exhibits were good, but the attendance was very poor, and the society received a blow which seemed to benumb its activities.

The prevailing sentiment of the committee on grounds and the society generally was that the site of the county fair should be near the county seat, and, as Reynolds and Monticello were still contending for that honor, the choice of grounds was greatly complicated; in fact, a decision was never made. The citizens favoring Reynolds had offered the society forty acres of land near that place, where a fair was afterward held, and further agreed to aid in its improvement, provided the society would make it a permanent location for the county fair to be held in the future. A majority of the committee, however, was opposed to Reynolds, either as a location for the county seat or the county fair, and voted to postpone the purchase of fair grounds until the state of the treasury should warrant.

## ATTEMPTS AT REVIVAL

That time never came and, although fairs were held for several years afterward, the County Agricultural Society was finally dissolved. An effort was made to revive it in 1874, at a time when the people were just recovering from the panic of 1873. Several citizens of Monticello leased a tract of land from William Rothrock, a mile south of town, prepared the grounds, advertised the enterprise extensively, offered liberal premiums to exhibitors and held the fair. Although it was a success and resulted in leaving several hundred dollars in the treasury, the farmers and stockmen of the county did not follow up the movement, and no attempt has since been made to hold a county agricultural fair. Various local fairs are held at such points as Brookston, Monon, Woleott and Monticello, the monthly sale of horses at the county seat being perhaps the most prosperous of these enterprises. The advisability of again organizing a society which shall combine all these interests and, in other ways, stimulate agricultural, horticultural and live





stock matters throughout the county, is periodically discussed and may result in another and a stronger County Agricultural Society.

#### THE OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION

The old settlers of White County have been organized since 1858, their annual meetings having always been occasions of warm sociability and great interest. Since the fall of 1911 the contributions to the history of the county contained in the speeches and papers prepared by the old settlers have been preserved through the efforts of the White County Historical Society, which was organized in that year. That organization has been a credit to its name, and among its other good works is its practical support given to this history of White County.

#### FIRST MEETING AT JOHN BURNS' GROVE

All the accounts of the Old Settlers' Association state that its "first organized meeting" took place at the grove of George Spencer, Big Creek Township, in September, 1858, but make no mention of a gathering held in the previous month at the grove of John Burns, on the Grand Prairie. Mr. Burns, a genial Ohio man, then in his fiftieth year, had settled in what afterward became Big Creek Township as early as 1830. He had then barely passed his majority, although he had been married four years. Upon his 80-acre tract he erected a little log cabin, with dirt floors, but at the time of the old settlers' gathering in his grove he had a large, finely improved farm, and eventually became the most extensive land owner and live-stock breeder in Big Creek Township.

The first meeting of old settlers, whether it could be called organized or not, was held in the Burns grove about the middle of August, 1858, as stated in a communication published in the *White County Jacksonian*, August 18th of that month. The account of this initial meeting is written so unaffectedly as to be refreshing, despite the formality of some of the expressions. It is therefore reproduced: "On Friday last a most agreeable entertainment came off at the grove of Mr. John Burns on the Grand Prairie. Information had spread abroad that there would be an 'old settlers' festival' at the time and place above mentioned, and early in the forenoon the settlers, old and young, came flocking in from all directions until at 10 o'clock, when the organization took place, quite a mass of citizens, male and female, had collected on the grounds.

"Judge Test was chosen President of the day, who, in a succinct and felicitous manner, stated the object of the meeting and in turn the old settlers of White county told the tales of their early adversities, the successes that attended their perseverance and industry, their many privations and discomforts; how glad they were to see the face of a friend, or that of a stranger, if he had even come from the same State they had left; the difficulties of obtaining supplies for necessary wants, the places whence they came, etc., etc.

"I assure you, Mr. Editor, of the many entertainments in which I



have participated I never partook of more enjoyment than upon this occasion. Each old settler, in a style of unvarnished frankness and truth, gave his experience; and to me what they said was more refreshing than if they had clothed their language with flowers of faultless beauty and formed their sentences with the precision of a well-arranged garland. And it was pleasant to look upon the form, the honest brow, the well-developed man; now numbered among the patriarchs of the county and who can look back with so much enjoyment upon a life well spent in the service of his country and for his posterity. In these exercises the clergy also added their experience, and opened and closed the ceremonies with an invocation of all good and all peace to those present, and all mankind.

"The ladies—God bless them!—were out in large numbers, giving a zest and affording a brightness to every surrounding scene; for without these angels of beauty what would be the life of man?

"The vocal music was good, and the ladies and gentlemen who did the singing acquitted themselves handsomely.

"The presiding officer, Judge Test, who had said so many good things, closed the proceedings before dinner with many happy remarks well adapted to the occasion, including his own backwoods experience, all of which was well received and rapturously applauded by the audience.

"In accordance with the arrangements prescribed by the committee, the company repaired to the well-arranged dinner table, one hundred yards long, covered with the substantial and luxuries of the surrounding country, and furnished by the ladies, whose hearts always overflow with kindness and liberality, and by the bounty of the hospitable proprietor of the grove, Mr. Burns. The provisions were discussed with much relish, and many thanks were uttered to the old settlers for the comforts and plenty which their industry and hardships had been the means of bestowing.

"After the festivities at the table, the party returned to the stand where appropriate sentiments were given and received with much good cheer; and when the ceremonies of the day were pronounced closed the young and gay, with light and buoyant hearts, repaired to an eligible part of the grove and 'tripped the light, fantastic toe' so merrily as to make them forget, until the sun sat in the prairies, the toils and privations of their progenitors. But if these amusements of the young were lively and gay, they were perfectly innocent and harmless, with which no sensible person should find the slightest fault.

"And shall I speak of this lovely grove—this delightful spot? Here is the residence of our hospitable friend, Mr. Burns, which he sought a long while ago when there were few to dispute his wise selection of a home—and he, too, is an old settler. His farm is one of the largest and prettiest in the county, and his liberality toward the old settlers and his neighbors shows that he has a heart to enjoy it. And, indeed all around his chosen residence appear green fields, well cultivated farms, lovely groves, cattle on a thousand hills, presenting an amphitheatre



of enchantment. Travel where you will, at this season of the year you cannot look upon a more lovely landscape.

"What is more rational, what more entertaining, what more interesting than similar gatherings to this, when the harvest is over and the husbandman is at his ease?"

#### FIRST KNOWN OFFICERS

It may be that a regular organization of the Old Settlers' Association was effected at the meetings said to have been held at the grove of George A. Spencer, one of the first three pioneers of Big Creek Township—the gatherings of September, 1858, and September, 1859. Although several hundred people are reported to have been present at the latter gathering, there is no record of its proceedings. The first officers known to have been elected were those chosen on September 8, 1860; also at Spencer's grove. At that time Mr. Spencer was himself chosen president of the association; Thomas Spencer, John Roberts and William M. Kenton, vice presidents; Lucius Pierce, marshal; J. J. Barnes, secretary. At this meeting addresses were delivered by Charles H. Test, Alfred Reed and Rev. H. C. McBride.

#### PRESIDENT GEORGE A. SPENCER

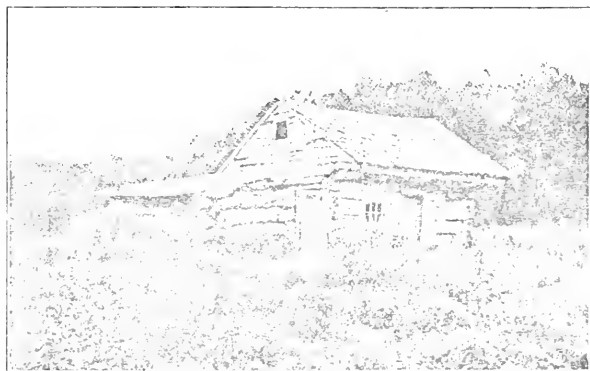
George A. Spencer, whose name has already appeared so often, was for nearly forty years one of the most prominent men in the county. He was a native of Pennsylvania, but in his youth became a resident of Perry County, Ohio. There he was afterward married and served in the War of 1812. In 1829 he walked from his Ohio home to a locality about three miles west of the Tippecanoe, where he decided to settle with his family. In the following year he bought 320 acres at the land sale in Crawfordsville, bringing his family on from Ohio soon afterward. This land he improved, increased his holdings to fully 1,000 acres, and resided on the original homestead until his death in January, 1867. As stated, the first courts of White County were held in Mr. Spencer's house, and as its first treasurer he also made his early home doubly official. Afterward he served as justice of the peace for about twenty-five years. By trade he was both a tanner and carpenter, which fact, in connection with his standing as a farmer and a citizen, made him one of the most useful and widely known men in White County. Mr. Spencer was too old to be a soldier in the Civil war, but several of his sons acquitted themselves well in that regard, and the Spencer family in White County has always stood for honor and stability.

#### FIRST WELL-ORDERED ASSOCIATION

The Old Settlers' Association, of which Mr. Spencer was perhaps the first president, virtually left no records until the early '70s, the anxieties, horrors and responsibilities of the Civil war overshadowing much



of that uncertain period. But the 16th of August, 1873, was its red letter day, as the old settlers then assembled at the courthouse in Monticello, elected permanent officers and arranged to keep a record of all subsequent meetings of the association. The officers thus chosen were as follows: Alfred Reed, president; Charles W. Kendall, secretary; Israel Nordyke, treasurer; Peter Price, William Burns (son of old John Burns and the first or second child born in the county), Robert Rothrock, Solomon McCully, Noah Davis, Thomas Downey, Samuel Smelcer, Nathaniel Rogers, John Burns, Joseph McBeth, Joseph H. Thompson, William Jordan and Austin Ward, vice presidents. All persons who had resided in the county for twenty-one years were made eligible to membership and the secretary was directed to enter the names of all



PIONEER HOME

applicants, with the dates of their first residence in the county. At each annual meeting he was also to record deaths or removals from the county. Thus was the Old Settlers' Association put upon a business-like basis, which has since endured and brought so much pleasure and profit to its members. The annual meeting is fixed as the last Saturday in August. The citizens of Monticello have been especially enthusiastic and liberal in support of the entertainments, which are so thoroughly appreciated by the thousands who now throng to the gatherings of the old settlers, their relatives and friends, wherever found, but mostly collected from within the limits of White County.

#### PIONEERS OF 1829-67

As entered in the record book of the association the following are the best-known of the old settlers who have joined that organization, with the years of their coming:

1829—Joseph H. Thompson, Robert Rothrock, Mary Thompson, Calvin C. Spencer, Matilda Peirce, Eliza M. Kendall, Louisa Virden.







TYPICAL PIONEER FARM



1830—John Herron, Jacob Buchanan, George D. Washburn.

1831—John Burns, Samuel Alkire, Catherine Bartley, John Roberts, Wm. Burns, Catherine Orr, Peter Price, George W. Spencer, Joseph Rothrock, Samuel Smeleer, Jeremiah Bisher, Robert Neal, G. W. Redding, Martha Roberts.

1832—John Gates, John Gray, Solomon McCully, Thos. Spenceer, Margaret Renwick.

1833—John Worthington, Andrew Hanna, J. M. Smeleer, Orlando McConahay, Abram N. Bunnell, David McConahay, Elizabeth Sill, Miranda Reynolds, Nancy Bunnell, Samuel Virden, T. W. Berkey, Ann Smith, Lucy Jane Crese, Mary A. Kenton, Isaac Davis, Mary Davis, Susie Redding, Adam Gibson, Harriet E. Rinker, Silas M. Virden, Oliver S. Dale.

1834—Allen Barnes, John Hannah, Nathaniel White, Nathaniel Bunnell, Stephen Bunnell, Sophia Bunnell, Elizabeth S. Cowger, Samuel Shafer, Susanna Shafer, Milton M. Sill, Elizabeth Neal, Isaac S. Vinson, Sarah Line, Peter Bishop, Sarah A. Cowger, Abraham Bunnell, Rachel Redding, George W. Redding.

1835—G. H. Gibson, Alexander Barnes, William Price, William York, John York, Matilda Dodge, William Spencer, William M. Roth, Rowland Hughes, Jane Cullen, Ellis H. Johnson, Abram Snyder, L. T. Korn, William Duncan, Rachel Cornell, Richard H. Cornell, Benjamin Greenfield, George H. Mitchell, George B. Smith.

1836—Hiram Sluyter, Zachariah Rothrock, Morgan H. Dyer, Aaron Price, Esther M. Hall, Randolph Brearley, John D. Seroggs, Davis C. Seroggs, Gideon E. Seroggs, Eliza C. Rothrock, Daniel M. Tilton, Elisha Warden, James Downey, Elizabeth Sluyter, W. H. Rinker, Henry Chamberlain, Richard Innes, Sr., Margaret Nutt, Nelson Hornbeck, Elizabeth Reese, Hannah C. Franklin.

1837—Jonathan Oats, Hugh Lowe, James C. Reynolds, Georgianna M. Reynolds, Mary C. Patterson, Mary J. Reynolds, George Snyder, Henry Snyder, Sarah Rothrock, Eli Cowger, Liberty M. Burns, Martha Greenfield, Walter Billingsley, Mary Simonds.

1838—Elizabeth Shriner, Mary Sill, James W. Mason, Daniel J. Tilton, Perry Spencer, Esther Rinker, George Elston, J. W. Watkins, Elmira Woltz, Samuel Heekendorn, William Kinney, Ann M. Ford, Clark S. Little, Mary Huff, Phebe Hornbeck, Henry T. Little.

1839—Abraham Neal, Hugh B. Logan, H. C. Neal, John C. Karr, Hannah Stout, Reuben Stout, J. W. Welch, O. C. Sleeth, John Haxey, Charles W. Kendall, Samuel E. Logan, David C. Tedford, William Dowell, J. Lytle, Maria Fraser, John D. Rinker, Louisa Lear, Mary Failing, Elizabeth Wiley, Mary E. Townsley.

1840—William D. Edson, Elisha H. Davis, Letitia Davis, J. C. Grewell, Philip Benjamin, William S. Davis, George Perrigo, Perry Gates, Susan Patton, J. E. Dunham, Sarah McConahay, Henry Murren, Asa Bailey, Jonas Monbeck, John Hornbeck, Mary Grace Wirt.

1841—John P. Shafer, Noah Davis, Israel Davis, Theodore J. Davis,



Owen C. Davis, William W. Davis, Philip Benjamin, Elizabeth Sluyter, Sarah Bunnell, Thomas Rinker, William Boze, Jane M. Sleeth.

1842—Isaac Price, Bushrod W. Cain, Mary Wright, Lorin Cutler, James McKinney, Catharine McKinney, Alexander Yount, W. W. McCulloch, Rebecca Little, John Eldridge.

1843—Thomas Barnes, J. S. Spencer, Lucius Peirce, Mary A. Burns, William H. Gray, Samuel G. Neal.

1844—Theodore M. Davis, T. A. Robison, N. J. Robison, Wm. H. Brannan, Adin Nordyke, Israel Nordyke, Samuel Fleining, William Orr, John Matthews, Katherine J. Chamberlain, S. P. Cowger.

1845—Isaac B. Moore, John C. Hughes, James W. Bulger, Minerva Bulger, Simon Bailey, Louisa Bailey, E. H. Johnson, Albert Bacon, William Haas, Emily Yount, John Short, John Wright, Jane Wickham, Lucy F. Miller, W. T. Dobbins, James R. Moore, George B. Woltz.

1847—Elizabeth Hughes, Lydia Worthington, John Snyder, Nathan C. Pettit, Sarah Monbeck.

1848—John Willbarn, Catherine A. Logan, Amer S. McElhoes, Mary McElhoes, Joseph L. Hall, Nancy Hall, Eliza Perrigo, Sarah Bailey, John P. Carr, Samuel Cromer, James Spencer, Elneline Hughes, John Shell, Catherine Hughes.

1849—Calvin Cooley, David Droke, David S. Droke, Edward Reynolds, Joseph DeLong, Joseph Paugh, Catherine DeLong, Robert Ginn, Ellen R. Ginn, A. H. Wingard, Sarah Cromer, John H. Switzer.

1850—Charles Reid, Eliza J. Wickham, Nicholas Myers, Mary Roach, Samuel Snyder, Philip M. Benjamin.

1851—Daniel Morse, Thomas E. Barnes, Jr., James M. Thornton, Lizzie Clark, Levi Mowrer, M. J. Anderson, Alexander Reed.

1852—Thomas B. Moore, W. F. Edwards, Louisa A. Moore, William B. Keefer, Matilda J. Mowrer, John W. Brown, George Cullen, Ira Keller, E. McDonald, Hamilton Templeton, Philip Wolverton, W. S. Bushnell.

1853—Elisa Dickey, S. E. Brannan, Elizabeth Hughes, Peter Carnahan, Susan Carnahan, John N. Harbert, Job J. Holmes, Frank Carnahan, Robert L. Cox.

1854—Elmira J. Thomas, Mrs. McBeth, John Horen, Ferdinand Hays, Jane Bishop, Solomon Delzell.

1855—Shelton Rutherford, Verlina Rutherford, Permelia Bacon, James Coble, Wm. H. McKinney, Peter Loftus, Margaret Loftus, Miranda Dickey, Richard Cornell.

1856—Solomon Crose, James A. Barr, E. J. Berkey, W. J. Gridley, Samuel Townsley, Thomas Cooper, Cornelia Crouch.

1857—Robert Gregory.

1858—Amaziah Davisson, Sarah A. Davisson.

1859—George Phil.

1860—John Moriarty, Harriet Moriarty.

1861—Nathaniel Sweet, John Morrell.

1863—Charles J. Hutton, Nancy A. Hutton, John L. Pitts.

1866—Samuel B. Wright.

1867—Andrew Goble.



## WHITE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the White County Old Settlers' meeting, held at Monticello, August 26, 1911, the importance of a county historical society was presented and urged by William H. Hamelle, and accordingly a committee was appointed to organize such a society for White County. The committee, consisting of J. B. VanBuskirk, William H. Hamelle, Bernard G. Smith, James P. Simons and Will S. Bushnell, met at the office of Spencer & Hamelle on the evening of September 1, 1911, and effected an organization to be known as "The White County Historical Society," with the following officers: President, William H. Hamelle; vice president, Will S. Bushnell; secretary, Jay B. VanBuskirk; treasurer, Bernard G. Smith. The president was authorized to purchase the necessary records and books for the society, and the meeting adjourned.

The charter members of the society are as follows:

Monticello—B. G. Smith, Will S. Bushnell, Wm. K. O'Connell, Mrs. P. V. Mikesell, R. D. Roberts, Wm. F. Bunnell, B. F. Price, Sr., George G. Breese, C. D. Meeker, J. D. Timmons, T. W. O'Connor, Miss Anna Magee, T. J. Woltz, Wm. P. Cooper, J. B. Roach, George Biedewolf, A. B. Clark, George F. Marvin, Wm. H. Hamelle, J. B. VanBuskirk, H. D. Shenk, Charles C. Spencer, Perry Spencer, John M. Turner, Sanford Johnsonbaugh, George K. Hughes, Frank R. Phillips, B. B. Baker, Wm. M. Reynolds, John McConnell, S. A. Carson, H. C. Johnson, M. T. Didlake, J. P. Simons, Felix R. Roth, Wm. Guthrie, and J. C. Jones.

Chalmers—S. M. Burns and James VanVoorst.

Monon—John W. Brannan, Thomas S. Cowger, Eli W. Cowger and John C. Lowe.

Reynolds—C. C. Wheeler.

Brookston—Robert H. Little, John C. Vanatta, James E. Carson, Alex. L. Telfer, Guy G. Jennings, Joseph H. Kious, August S. Bordner, and A. P. Gosma.

The objects of the society, as stated in its constitution, "shall be the collection and preservation of all material calculated to shed light on the natural, civil and political history of White county; the publication and circulation of historical documents; the promotion of useful knowledge; and the friendly and profitable intercourse of such citizens as are disposed to promote these ends."

Annual public meetings were inaugurated, the first one being held in Library Hall, Monticello, April 19, 1912. At this meeting a paper on the early history of Indiana, by W. H. Hamelle, was read by the secretary, and James M. McBeth read a history of the McBeth family, which he had prepared by request. Short talks giving cordial endorsement of the work and purpose of the society were made by James M. McBeth, Judge T. F. Palmer, H. C. Johnson, Rev. A. L. Martin and J. E. Loughry. Music was furnished by the high school orchestra and a ladies quartette composed of Miss Marjorie McBeth, Miss Grace Clapper, Miss Ruth Vogel and Miss Julia McCuaig.





Records were procured and the work of gathering historical material and collecting and indexing it by the most approved system was begun. Matter pertaining to the early history of the county, and especially biographical sketches, both of pioneers and later residents, were especially solicited, all such contributions to be sent to the secretary.

The present officers of the society are: President, William H. Hamelle; vice president, Will S. Bushnell; secretary, Jay B. VanBuskirk; treasurer, Bernard G. Smith.

Executive Committee—William H. Hamelle, Jay B. VanBuskirk, Bernard G. Smith, James P. Simons and Will S. Bushnell, all of Monticello.

Advisory Board—Cass Township, Joseph McBeth, Idaville; Jackson, \* Geo. H. Mitchell, Idaville; Liberty, James Spencer, Buffalo; Union, Jas. M. McBeth, Monticello; Monon, Eli Cowger, Monon; Honey Creek, Mrs. Sarah Gardner, Reynolds; Big Creek, S. M. Burns, Chalmers; Princeton, Albert Plummer, Wolcott; West Point, Walter Carr, Reynolds; Round Grove, A. L. Telfer, Brookston; and Prairie, Thos. W. Sleeth, Brookston.

#### WHITE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

The physicians of White County have always stanchly upheld the ethics of their profession, and they justly point with pride to the founder of their medical society, Dr. William S. Haymond, long of Monticello and afterward a resident of Indianapolis and a figure of national fame. It was shortly after his return from army service as a surgeon, in broken health, that he called a meeting of his fellow practitioners in White County for the purpose of organizing a society. Eight physicians met at his office in Monticello. Dr. H. P. Anderson was made chairman and after the adoption of a constitution, which had been previously prepared, these permanent officers were elected: Doctor Haymond, president; Dr. John Medaris, vice president; Dr. John A. Blackwell, secretary.

The time of meeting was fixed for the second Tuesday in each month, various committees were appointed, and Doctor Anderson was selected to read a paper upon any topic he should choose at the next meeting. The society then adjourned to meet at Reynolds on the second Tuesday of the following May. None but physicians of the regular school were admitted to membership; practitioners in other counties were admitted to honorary membership, and three active members constituted a quorum for the transaction of business.

Besides those already mentioned, some of the prominent early members were C. A. Barnes, W. H. Ball, J. R. Skidmore, John A. Wood, William Spencer, J. H. Thomas, William Mote, A. V. Moore, H. D. Riddle, C. E. Lamon, R. A. Harcourt and A. B. Ballou.

Meetings of the society were held quite regularly until 1869, after which there was a break for about six years. In October, 1875, they were resumed, at which time some changes in the laws were made.

\* Mr. Mitchell died about 1911 and his successor has not been named.



Doctor Haymond shared with Dr. John W. Medaris, of Brookston, the honors of prominence and ability in the membership of the County Medical Society. The former, however, while a citizen of more extended fame, withdrew from the historical field of White County in the early '70s, when he moved to Indianapolis and entered upon the broader plane of his life.

DR. JOHN W. MEDARIS

Doctor Medaris, although a physician of middle age when he became a resident of Brookston in 1859, continued to make that place his home and the center of his faithful practice, his Masonic activities and his splendid educational work—all tending to the progress of White County—for a period of more than half a century. At the time of his death on September 21, 1911, he was in his ninety-seventh year; the oldest person in White County, probably the oldest Mason in the state (having joined the order in 1846) and the veteran of the White County Medical Society, having survived Doctor Haymond for over a quarter of a century.

Doctor Medaris was born in Clearmont, Ohio, October 22, 1814, was educated in his native state, and received his medical training in the Miami School of Medicine at Cincinnati and the Sterling School of Medicine, Columbus. After his graduation he began practice at Hartford, Ohio, and in 1859 located at Brookston. The town was then very young and the doctor's circuit of practice was often many miles out in the country, over terrible roads and through storms and mud. But, like others of his fellows, he accepted such hardships with good cheer as matters-of-course in the career of the country doctor. No member of the profession was more widely known or beloved than Doctor Medaris.

In 1867, three years after the founding of the county medical society, Doctor Medaris realized another of his ambitions, which was particularly his triumph, in the building of the Brookston Academy, one of the prominent educational institutions of Northern Indiana. During the Civil war he had served as a member of the Indiana Sanitary Commission, having been detailed by Governor Morton to give medical aid and assistance to the Union soldiers of White County detained in the Memphis hospitals. But he was best known throughout the state for his enthusiasm and steadfastness in Masonry, which endured for sixty-five years—from the time he joined the order until his death. Throughout its official life he was one of the staunchest and dearest friends of the Old Settlers Association, and at its meeting of August, 1911, held the month before his death, appeared to be in his usual health. A few days before he was called away to the Future which knows no centuries, he received a dispatch announcing the death of his daughter, at her home in Danville. The attendant shock, with a decline in his physical strength which had been noted a short time previously, undoubtedly hastened his end. A strong personality, which was evinced in practical accomplishments, honesty and sincerity, with a generosity which often went far beyond the bounds of self protection, and an abiding affection for those



nearest him, as well as a broad charity for all, were the marked traits in this revered patriarch.

Among the members of the profession who joined the White County Medical Society at a later date than those mentioned were Doctors A. B. Jones, F. A. Grant, R. M. Delzell, R. S. Black, William Tracey, W. V. Trowbridge, John Harcourt, Madison T. Didlake, W. Holtzman, Robert J. Clarke, S. H. Parke, J. H. Reed, R. M. Reagan, J. W. McAllister, F. E. Lester, H. R. Minnick, J. E. Chaffee, James L. Carr, George R. Clayton, W. H. Clark, E. P. Washburn and Walter McBeth.

#### DR. MADISON T. DIDLAKE

One of the oldest and best known of what may be called the second generation of physicians, who are still in practice, is Dr. Madison T. Didlake, of Monticello. He is a Kentuckian who passed the earlier stages of his development as a resident of Bloomington, Illinois. There he finished his literary education with two years of study at the Wesleyan University, and at the age of twenty began his professional training under Dr. C. R. Parke, of Chicago. In the winter of 1866-67 he graduated from the Chicago Medical College, and for several years thereafter practiced at Augusta, Arkansas, and Stanford, Illinois. In 1871 he commenced his professional career in White County by locating at Wolecott, but since 1881 has been a practitioner at Monticello. Besides enjoying a large practice, Doctor Didlake has served in several public capacities, being county treasurer in 1880-84 (two terms).

The White County Medical Society of today has a membership of twelve, with the following officers: Guy R. Coffin, president; Madison T. Didlake, vice president; Grant Goodwin, secretary, all of Monticello; and Augustus J. Blickenstaff, of Wolecott, treasurer.



## CHAPTER X

### HISTORY OF THE PRESS

THE DAWN OF NEWSPAPERDOM—THE PRAIRIE CHIEFTAIN—PRESERVING NEWSPAPER FILES—END OF THE CHIEFTAIN—THE WHITE COUNTY REGISTER—THREE OBSCURE NEWSPAPERS—WHITE COUNTY JACKSONIAN—WHITE COUNTY DEMOCRAT—MONTICELLO DEMOCRAT—DEMOCRAT-JOURNAL-OBSERVER COMPANY—MONTICELLO SPECTATOR—MONTICELLO HERALD—THE NATIONAL—MONTICELLO TIMES—MONTICELLO WEEKLY PRESS—THE DAILY JOURNAL—WHITE COUNTY REPUBLICAN—WHITE COUNTY CITIZEN—OTHER MONTICELLO PUBLICATIONS—EARLY NEWSPAPER FIELD AT REYNOLDS—THE WHITE COUNTY BANNER—THE BROOKSTON REPORTER—OTHER BROOKSTON ITEMS—THE REYNOLDS BROOM AND SUN—THE REYNOLDS JOURNAL—IDAVILLE OBSERVER—THE MONON DISPATCH—MONON TIMES—MONON NEWS—W. J. HUFF—THE WOLCOTT ENTERPRISE—CHALMERS DESPATCH—BURNETTSVILLE ENTERPRISE—BURNETTSVILLE DISPATCH—BURNETTSVILLE NEWS—GENERAL PROGRESS.

*By J. B. VanBuskirk*

Formerly editor of the Monticello Herald

The early newspaper history of White County is largely traditional. No files of the early newspapers were preserved, and it would be hard to establish the existence of some of them but for an occasional mention of their names in the court records. Up to the year 1850 the publicity required by law in certain legal proceedings was secured either by posting notices in public places or by publication in newspapers of adjoining counties. In this way the names of the LaFayette Journal, the LaFayette Courier, the Logansport Journal, the Delphi Times, the Carroll Express and other papers outside of White County are enshrined in the old records of the clerk's office as recognized "newspapers of general circulation" in those early days before White County had a newspaper.

#### THE DAWN OF NEWSPAPERDOM

That era of darkness came to an end in 1850, sixteen years after White County was born. The harbingers of the dawn were two men who came from other states and combining their money, their credit and their muscle, dispersed the gloom by founding the Prairie Chieftain. These men were Abram V. Reed, a brother of the late Judge Alfred





Reed, and John K. Lovejoy. The former came from Urbana, Ohio, where he had been publishing a democratic paper under such disadvantages that it had finally suspended. He was postmaster at Monticello under President Pierce's administration and died here during his term of office in June, 1856. His brother, Col. Alfred Reed, was the administrator of his estate, and it required almost nine years to get it out of court, the record showing the administrator was not discharged until May 11, 1865. The printing office of the decedent was inventoried at \$500 and was sold to James E. Robison, who gave his note with M. M. Sill and R. W. Sill as sureties. There is no evidence that Mr. Robison ever became an editor, but on the settlement of the Reed estate two judgments against him were listed as assets. John K. Lovejoy, who came from Illinois, was a brother of Halsey Lovejoy, a merchant here who was one of Monticello's bulwarks of integrity and sobriety. Lovejoy, the printer, was of a different temperament and less inclined to take life seriously. He soon retired from the Chieftain and moved West. He afterward engaged in the newspaper business at Downieville, Nevada, and died in that state in 1877. During his residence in Nevada, he won some newspaper notoriety by betting a coffin with a neighbor that he would live a year. He won the bet and on receiving the coffin remarked, "It was a good bet. I shall want the wooden overcoat before long, and it will be handy to have around."

#### THE PRAIRIE CHIEFTAIN

It is common tradition that the Chieftain was published in the old courthouse, a frame building which stood on the present site of Mrs. S. P. Cowger's residence, 209 South Main Street, and so it was, at least during a part of its existence, but it probably first saw the light elsewhere, for at the time of its birth the old courthouse was still occupied as a county building, its successor not being completed until 1851. Its crowded condition, which occasioned the building of a new courthouse, would hardly have permitted the use of any part of it for a printing office before that time. Just where the squeak and rumble of the Chieftain's old handpress first broke upon Monticello's expectant ear is now unknown and will likely remain so forever.\* But it was migratory, and according to a statement from Mr. James Spence of Buffalo, who was once the "devil" of the office, the last days of the Chieftain were spent in a building on the northwest corner of Illinois and Washington streets.

In former sketches of White County's newspaper history the date of the Prairie Chieftain's first issue has been assigned to 1849, but from the court records and from the serial number of the paper as shown in a facsimile copy still extant, it appears that the publication must have begun in July, 1850.

\* An inspection of the court records since the above was written shows that for several months prior to the advent of the Chieftain the sessions of the Circuit Court were held in the New School Presbyterian Church. It is possible, therefore, that the ambition of White County for a newspaper led the fathers to vacate the courtroom to give it an abiding place.



The *Prairie Chieftain* and its early successors were not bad-looking specimens of the printer's art. They were printed on "all-rag" paper, which cost 25 cents per pound. It was before the era of straw and wood pulp, which has so cheapened the production of paper that publishers now think the times are out of joint if they have to pay more than two or three cents per pound. It was also before the days of stereotype plate matter and ready-print sheets, so that the early country newspaper was an exclusively home production. It was limited to four pages, and an advertisement once set remained the same yesterday, today and forever. Though all the matter was home-set, there was a sad dearth of home news in the columns of these old newspapers. Practically all the reading matter was select miscellany from current magazines, speeches from the *Congressional Globe*, and news clippings from far-away weekly newspapers. The metropolitan daily was of no use to the Monticello editor in those days, when mails arrived only once a week, and even the weeklies were several days old before reaching here. Under such circumstances, it seems strange that the local newspaper did not resort more largely to local news, but it must be remembered that local happenings were few in such a sparse population, and that the editor from necessity was also foreman, compositor, pressman and sometimes "devil," leaving him little time for news gathering or editorial writing. Yet it must be recorded that the first murder trial in White County received a treatment in the *Prairie Chieftain* which would do credit to some of its present-day successors. Its issue of November 4, 1850, contained a nine-column report of the trial of Cantwell and Dayton for the murder of David Jones, including all the testimony, the judge's charge to the jury, the names of the jurors, their verdict, the overruling of the motion for a new trial, and the sentencing for life. It was a piece of newspaper enterprise which caused that issue of the *Chieftain* to be in great demand, and copies of it were preserved for many years even in adjoining counties. Yet at the present writing not even a single copy of this historic issue can be found, though the late Milton M. Sill, in his unpublished and uncompleted "*History of White County*," mentions a copy which belonged to the late Dr. R. J. Clark, who had secured it from a Mr. Harvey, a relative in Tippecanoe County.

All hail to the man who never throws anything away, be its current value much or little! He is as rare as copies of the *Prairie Chieftain* itself. A veteran printer of this city might now be the owner of untold literary wealth if he had not hung James Whitecomb Riley's autograph poems on the dead hook like common copy, as he set them day after day in a country print shop many years ago.

#### PRESERVING NEWSPAPER FILES

The idea of preserving files of local newspapers had not taken root with our county fathers at that early day, though as early as 1853 the Indiana Legislature enacted a law authorizing county commissioners to subscribe for local newspapers and keep them on file in the county re-



recorder's office at their option. This procedure appears to have been adopted in White County as early as 1857 or 1858, but not very faithfully executed. The papers were carried off or mutilated, and up to 1883 the files kept in the recorder's office were very scattering, and no attempt had been made to preserve them in bound form. During the term of Mr. James P. Simons as recorder he suggested to the board the advisability of binding their newspaper files, and upon the order of the board he gathered up and arranged the accumulations of past years and had them decently bound. Since that time this precedent has been followed, at intervals of one or two years, and now a more or less complete file of the county seat papers may be found in the recorder's office, extending back as far as 1858, though very fragmentary as to the earlier years of this period.

After the departure of John K. Lovejoy for the West his partner, Mr. Reed, continued the publication of the *Chieftain* alone until the summer of 1854, when he was joined by Mr. John Carothers, who also came from Urbana, Ohio. Mr. Carothers severed his connection with the paper in the fall of the same year, but continued his journalistic career elsewhere. During the Civil war he was publisher of the *Champaign County Union* at Urbana, Illinois. Later he returned to Urbana, Ohio, and was living there in 1896, at which time he wrote a letter to the *Herald* recalling his newspaper days in Monticello. He was moved to write the letter by receiving a copy of the *Herald* containing a facsimile of the first page of the *Prairie Chieftain* as it appeared during his connection with the paper.

#### END OF THE CHIEFTAIN

The existence of the *Prairie Chieftain* came to an end some time in 1854 or 1855, but the manner of its taking off is veiled in obscurity. There is reason to believe that it "struck the rocks" on account of hard times, its death being hastened, perhaps, by the appearance of another paper in a field barely large enough for the support of one. The *Chieftain* was a democratic paper, and the county was democratic, but the issues which led up to the Civil war a few years later were already coming to the front, and even in White County the discussion of these issues was waxing hot. Though the impression has prevailed that only one paper at a time existed in White County up to 1859, it is certain that the *Chieftain* had a contemporary in its last days, for in its issue of August 17, 1854, appears an account of a meeting held in *Prairie Township* at which a series of resolutions condemning the Nebraska Bill was adopted and ordered published "in the two papers of the county."

#### THE WHITE COUNTY REGISTER

The other paper is said to have been the *White County Register*, a paper bearing the name of Richard T. Parker as publisher and Benjamin F. Tilden as editor, the latter being an attorney from Starke County,



Ohio. Mr. Tilden died in the fall of 1854, and the Register apparently died with him. Its press and materials were sold by Rowland Hughes, his executor, upon an order of the Common Pleas Court, and Mr. Tilden's estate was settled as insolvent after long litigation. Richard T. Parker and Leonard H. Miller, two printers who had been connected with the office, each claimed a one-third interest in the equipment, and objected to the order of sale. Their objection was overruled, and they prayed an appeal to the Circuit Court, but their appeal was denied and the sale was made. The press was sold for \$225 to James P. Inse, of LaFayette, who had previously held a lien of \$167 on it, probably for purchase money.

### THREE OBSCURE NEWSPAPERS

In the meantime there appeared and disappeared three other papers, whose origin and history it is impossible to trace accurately. Nobody now living remembers them by name, and their existence seems like "the baseless fabric of a vision." Yet the court records show that in 1855 and 1856 the Monticello Tribune, the Monticello Republican and the Monticello Union were legally recognized as newspapers of general circulation. Whether they represented three separate efforts of three venturesome men to fill a long-felt want or were only the afterglow of some vanished luminary which had preceded them, can only be surmised. The Tribune appeared early in 1855, but no copy of it survives, and even the name of its editor is unknown. A little later in the same year the Monticello Republican is mentioned frequently in the records as the vehicle for legal notices, and early in 1856 the Union comes upon the field in the same capacity.

Whether these three papers were contemporaneous or successive, what party, element or interest they represented, how much "velvet" was accumulated by them or hard earnings sunk in them, what was their ancestry or what their progeny, are questions akin to "Who were the mound builders?" or "What became of the lost tribes of Israel?" The voice of history is silent, and to all our inquiries we hear only the raven echo, "Nevermore!" As if to tantalize the historian and make it impossible to dismiss these three old papers as a myth, one solitary copy of the Monticello Republican is now on file at the public library. It is dated "Sept. 22, 1855. Volume 1, number 21." It bears the name of Thomas T. Scott as editor and the motto, "Liberty and union, now and forever, one and inseparable!" Its name hints that the political party which afterward became such an important factor in history was then struggling into existence in White County, but its editorial columns give no hint of its political bias. They only convey a hint of the paper's approaching dissolution. The editor says:

"Two of our hands went fishing a few days since and on their return stated that they could hang their hats on the ague fumes they saw while absent. Today the 'ague fumes' have hung them on their beds and set





them to shaking teeth for a livelihood. \* \* \* It will be impossible for us to publish a paper on our next publication day. Ague, the frustrating 'yaller feller,' has got us down, clear down."

This was probably the swan song of the Monticello Republican. Its editor is said to have died here, but he left no estate, and his name does not appear on the public records. His paper contained a number of Crawfordsville advertisements, from which it is inferred that he came from that city.

After the Republican had passed away the Union seems to have run a similar brief course. In a proof of publication dated September 2, 1856, Henry C. Kirk makes affidavit that "the publisher has departed this life and no copy of his paper containing said notice is within reach of the affiant." The publisher's name is not stated, but it appears from an action brought by the administrator of A. V. Reed's estate to collect a note that it was none other than A. V. Reed himself, the former editor of the Prairie Chieftain. The defendants in the suit were James E. Robison, Robert W. Sill and Milton M. Sill, who, it was alleged in the complaint, were partners in the publication of a paper called the Political Frame at the time the note was given, July 24, 1856, and that they had purchased therewith the press and other material of the Union to be used in the publication of their oddly named paper. For more than a year the Frame was apparently the sole occupant of the newspaper field in White County. For the first few months it was under the management of Robert W. Sill, but in March, 1857, the name of H. C. Kirk, then sheriff of the county, appeared at the masthead. Though the name of the paper smacked strongly of politics, it had no avowed political allegiance, so far as can be discovered. Mr. Kirk, its last editor, said in his salutatory: "Politically, the Frame shall remain as heretofore, 'independent in all things, neutral in nothing.' It shall be devoted to the best interests of the people upon all local and national questions." Whether the Political Frame died or was translated or passed by transmigration into the Jacksonian, is not certain, but it ceased to appear in the year 1857. Both its editors closed their newspaper career in good health and lived for many years afterward.

#### WHITE COUNTY JACKSONIAN

Early in November, 1857, John H. Scott, of Logansport, came here and issued the first number of the White County Jacksonian, having purchased the press and material of the Political Frame. The word "Democratic" appeared in large type just below the heading on the first page and there was no question about its politics. Mr. Scott was regarded as a good newspaper man, and his paper gave promise of great success, but consumption claimed him and he died about one year after launching his enterprise here. His widow became the wife of the late Andrew Trook, whose perseverance and devotion as a fisherman are still remembered by many of the older generation.



Having now reached the end of what may be called the antebellum period we may treat with less detail the remaining newspaper history of Monticello, as the newspapers of the later era have been more generally preserved and are accessible to the public to speak for themselves.

#### WHITE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

In the spring of 1859 James W. McEwen came here from Pennsylvania and bought the plant of the Jacksonian. Mr. Scott before his death had changed the name of his paper to the White County Democrat, and Mr. McEwen continued it under the same name. For a time his office was located upstairs in the north end of the Commercial Block, but in later years it occupied the old Presbyterian church on Court Street, which gave him the advantage of a ground floor office and plenty of room. In 1866 he was joined by Mr. N. C. A. Rayhouser, and under this partnership the name of the paper was changed to the Constitutionalist. Mr. Rayhouser retired from the firm after a few months, and in 1870 Artemus P. Kerr bought an interest, which he retained until August, 1873. On his retirement Mr. McEwen continued to publish the Constitutionalist until January, 1877, when he sold his plant here to A. J. Kitt and D. A. Fawcett and moved to Rensselaer.

#### MONTICELLO DEMOCRAT

The new firm took possession January 26, 1877, and moved the office to rooms in the Reynolds block upstairs. They changed the name of the paper to the Monticello Democrat and its first issue appeared February 3, 1877. In the following April Mr. Kitt bought Mr. Fawcett's interest and changed the form of the paper to a five-column quarto. Fawcett went to Delphi and started a paper called the News. After six months as sole proprietor, during which time the Democrat showed the same ability and spiciness that have always marked Mr. Kitt's newspaper ventures, he sold the office to Will B. Hoover, a young man who had been doing reportorial work for the Logansport Journal, and whose father, Dr. R. B. Hoover, was engaged in medical practice at Burnettsville. He took possession October 30, 1877. He was ambitious and enthusiastic in his work, but his health failed and he died at the home of his father in Burnettsville, September 21, 1879. <sup>9</sup> He was succeeded in the newspaper business by Jasper H. Keyes, who took charge of the Democrat September 26, 1879. On March 20, 1881, his office was wrecked by a fire, and for several months White County was without a democratic paper.

In the following July a man named Cleveland J. Reynolds, of unknown antecedents, appeared on the scene and started a democratic paper called the Times. He proved to be a brazen pretender and early in January, 1882, he absconded after borrowing various amounts ranging from \$25 to \$150 from prominent supporters of his paper. He was



never seen here again, and following his departure there was another interval of darkness for the democratic party of White County.

But on June 16, 1882, appeared the first issue of the *White County Democrat*, which has continued without a suspension or change of name to this day. It was published by Harry P. Owens and Wm. E. Uhl, both of whom were lawyers and members of the White County bar. The subsequent history of the *Democrat* is thus related by Mr. James P. Simons, who for nearly twenty years graced the editorial tripod of that paper and by his long tenure and able editorial management gave to the *Democrat* a statewide influence: "In January, 1883, Mr. Uhl sold his interest to his partner, who a few months later sold a half interest to Mr. A. B. Clarke, of Remington, who was a practical printer, and who has continued with the paper almost continuously since that time, even down to the present day. In the fall of 1883 Mr. Owens sold his remaining interest to another young lawyer, Mr. Walter S. Hartman, who later, in 1884, sold his interest to his brother, Mr. A. D. Hartman, the firm name continuing Clarke & Hartman until 1886, when the Hartman interest was sold to John A. Rothrock. In 1889 Mr. Clarke removed to Colorado and Mr. A. B. Crampton, of Delphi, bought his interest and the publishers were Crampton & Rothrock, continuing thus until Mr. Rothrock purchased the Crampton interest, continuing the publication alone until December, 1894, when he sold the entire plant to Messrs. J. P. Simons and A. B. Clarke, the latter having returned from Colorado some time previously. These gentlemen assumed charge under the firm name of Clarke & Simons. The senior member, being a practical printer, took charge of the mechanical end of the work while Mr. Simons assumed charge of the news and editorial departments, and this arrangement continued for almost twenty years—until May, 1914, when Mr. Simons sold his interest to Mr. Charles L. Foster of Idaville."

#### DEMOCRAT-JOURNAL-OBSERVER COMPANY

Mr. Foster's connection with the paper began in December, 1912, at which time the *Democrat*, the *Idaville Observer*, the *Reynolds Journal* and the *Evening Journal* (Monticello's only daily paper) were incorporated under one management known as the *Democrat-Journal-Observer Company*. The *Reynolds Journal* was soon afterward discontinued, but the other publications have continued up to the present time under the same corporate management, from which, however, Mr. Simons has withdrawn. The present officers are A. B. Clarke, president; Joshua D. Foster (father of Chas. L. Foster), vice president, and Chas. L. Foster, secretary-treasurer.

#### MONTICELLO SPECTATOR

By 1859 the republican party had grown strong enough to create a field for a republican newspaper in White County, and the want was



supplied by the brothers James and Benjamin Spencer, who started the Monticello Spectator, a sprightly six-column folio. Its first issue appeared May 12, 1859. The press and type were brought from Rensselaer, where they had been used in the publication of the Gazette, a paper on which one or both the brothers had formerly been employed as printers. Some of the cases and stands thus imported are still in use in the present office of the Monticello Herald, which is a lineal descendant of the Spectator.

The Spectator was a typographical beauty and reflected great credit on the printers who produced it. It was all home print and showed more than ordinary editorial ability. It was not long in getting embroiled with its neighbor the Democrat on political issues, and from first to last it was engaged in a sturdy game of "give and take" on the questions of state rights, abolition of slavery, "nigger supremacy," free soil and other issues which divided the political parties of that day. The Spencer brothers had not reached the days of voting contests, and they were opposed to betting, but in the summer of 1860 they offered to send the Spectator "to all responsible Douglasites of White, Pulaski and Benton counties, payable when Lincoln carries Indiana." It is not recorded that they swelled their subscription list perceptibly by the offer or lined their coffers with Douglas gold, though Lincoln did carry Indiana at the November election. Early in September of 1860 Benjamin Spencer retired from the firm on account of failing health, and his brother James conducted the paper alone until it was transferred to Milton M. Sill early in 1862, after which he donned the blue and went to the front.

#### MONTICELLO HERALD

Mr. Sill changed the name of the paper to the Monticello Herald, which it still bears. Its first issue under the new name was February 14, 1862. Of this venture Mr. Sill himself says in his uncompleted history of White County: "The proprietor within a month learned that he had purchased one of the very largest and sleekest white elephants. The expense of publication so far exceeded the income that at the end of the first year he found his balance sheet showed a deficit of more than twelve hundred dollars. He still continued the publication, however, watching for an opportunity to let go, until in the fall of 1863 he accepted a position in the War Office at Washington and placed the paper in charge of James G. Staley, who continued its publication until January, 1864, sold the plant to A. H. Harritt, raised a company of volunteers for the 128th regiment, went to the front and was killed in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. What became of the proceeds of the sale of the Herald office the owner never learned and did not care to inquire. He found on his return in the summer of 1864 seventy-five dollars in the hands of the Auditor for the publication of the delinquent list in his absence, which he promptly accepted in full of all claims and was heartily grateful to the purchaser, Mr. Harritt, for stepping in as editor and proprietor of the Herald in his stead."





Mr. Harritt had been principal of the schools here and he took two of his pupils into the office with him as "printer's devils." Under his kindly tolerance they were permitted to issue a little paper of their own which they called *The Junior*, and which cannot be omitted in a veracious history of the newspapers of the county. It was about 9 by 12 inches in size and bore the names of A. P. Kerr and J. B. VanBuskirk as editors and publishers. It lasted until it began to consume more time than even the most indulgent of employers could afford to grant, and then the *Junior's* wind was gently shut off. Both of these juvenile publishers afterward drifted into the real thing—one as a publisher of the *Constitutionalist* and the other of the *Herald*.

Mr. Harritt was a vigorous and aggressive editor and the *Herald* under his management was an important factor in the republican victory of 1864 in White County. In February, 1865, he sold a half interest to Wm. H. Dague of Logansport, and six months later Mr. Dague became sole owner. He continued to publish the *Herald* until 1869, when he sold the plant to Mr. S. P. Conner and entered the practice of law here. In 1870 Mr. Conner sold a half interest to W. J. Huff, son of Judge Samuel A. Huff of LaFayette. After the election in the fall of 1870 Mr. Conner became dissatisfied with the political outlook and sold his interest to Mr. Huff, who remained sole proprietor until November, 1874, when he sold a half interest to J. B. VanBuskirk. In the meantime the fashion of country journalism had changed. A man named Kellogg had devised the plan of furnishing country publishers their papers ready printed on one side at only a trifle more than the cost of blank paper. The *Herald* had adopted the ready-print plan, had enlarged to an eight-column folio and was devoting more space than formerly to local news. In 1877 the office was moved from a tumble-down shack a few doors south of the court house on Main Street to the Kendall Building on the present site of the O'Connor block. In 1879 it exchanged its old hand press for a Potter cylinder and soon afterward added a steam engine. No firm of country printers ever worked harder or more harmoniously to build up a business than the firm of Huff & VanBuskirk. In 1884 they built the present *Herald* building on Broadway and moved into it on the Fourth of July. In 1885 the paper was changed to the six-column quarto form which it still retains. Mr. Huff on account of eye trouble decided early in 1888 to move to California and sold his interest to his partner, who continued the business alone. During a period of four years (1900-1903) the *Herald* was published by Mr. Ed F. Newton, under lease. In January, 1904, the management was resumed by the owner, who continued as editor and publisher until January, 1915, when he sold the office entire to the Monticello *Herald* Company, headed by Mr. Charles S. Preston, clerk of the Circuit Court, under whose management it still continues.

#### THE NATIONAL

The *National*, a weekly paper, was established here in 1878 by Jacob Clay Smith as the organ of the greenback party, which was then



causing quite a political stir in White County. The party soon died, but, except for an interval of about four years, the National continued to be published until 1905, when it was compelled to suspend by the sickness and death of its owner. He died August 4th of that year. In 1892 it passed for a time into the hands of W. I. Harbert, who continued its publication a few months under the name of the People's Advocate, representing the interests of the populist movement. The first issue of the Advocate appeared July 9, 1892, but in the fall of that year Harbert moved the plant to Reynolds and in partnership with W. D. Wattles launched the Broom, a short-lived publication similar to the Advocate. Mr. Smith, who in the meantime had been employed as a printer in the Democrat office, revived the National in 1896, and though in its later years it had no local organization to represent, he kept it alive until his health failed nine years later. The plant was sold piecemeal by his widow, the press being bought by the Democrat and used as a proof press.

#### MONTICELLO TIMES

During the stirring local discussion in 1892 which preceded the building of the present courthouse, Isaac Parsons, then editor of the Monon News, established a paper here called the Monticello Times. Its plant was located in an old building on the present site of the Baker-Uhl Building, and its first issue appeared September 16th. The editor said in his salutatory: "The Times will be thoroughly Democratic and free from all local dissensions. Its aim and purpose will be to harmonize and solidify the party." Notwithstanding this programme of peace, harmony and solidarity, the real purpose of the new paper was to provide a vehicle for certain legal advertising which the acerbities of the courthouse campaign had loosened from its accustomed moorings. Having reaped its harvest, and the animosities of the courthouse war having abated to some extent, the Times withdrew from the field early in the following year.

For about a year the Herald and Democrat again occupied the field alone, "scrapping" continuously, as had been their custom for several years—a custom which prevailed almost up to the closing of the grave upon one of the contending editors. It was a barbaric mode of journalism, apparently necessitated by force of circumstances in those days. It was afterward moderated to a more civilized plane of warfare, and for many years the journalism of the county seat of White County has been a model to the newspaper world.

#### MONTICELLO WEEKLY PRESS

The Monticello Weekly Press was the name of a paper launched by Cary M. Reynolds and Harry T. Bott in April, 1894. It was a five-column quarto and independent in politics. Its plant was located in an upstairs room on North Main Street. Mr. Bott soon retired from the firm, and about February 1, 1895, Mr. Reynolds sold the entire outfit to



W. J. Huff, who was then in the grocery business here. Mr. Huff moved the plant to the Woltz Building on Washington Street, enlarged the paper to a six-column quarto and in August, 1895, added a daily edition. Later he abandoned the independent field and made the Press a republican paper, but in spite of his long experience and the excellent character of his paper it proved a losing venture, and in September, 1897, the Press, both weekly and daily, suspended, and the unexpired subscriptions of the weekly were completed by the Herald and Democrat.

#### THE DAILY JOURNAL

In the meantime another daily paper called the Daily Journal had been launched by the original founders of the Press, Messrs. Reynolds and Bott, and though it had a struggle for existence it weathered every storm, and after a checkered career of nearly twenty years seems now to be a permanent fixture among the newspapers of the city. It made its first appearance March 7, 1896, as a morning paper but was soon changed to an evening edition and has so remained to this day. Mr. Bott was succeeded in the firm by Fred A. Clarke, who ultimately became sole proprietor, his partner going to Indianapolis, where he is now employed as a linotype operator on the News. In the fall of 1903, Mr. Clarke sold the plant to Ed F. and Chas. E. Newton and migrated to New York City, where he has taken high rank as a job printer, and is now a proofreader for the Kellogg Publishing Company. The Journal office was at that time located opposite the Forbis Hotel on Main Street, on the ground floor of what is still known as the Journal Building. Its publication was continued by Newton Bros. until December, 1912, when it was merged with the Democrat, the Idaville Observer and the Reynolds Journal, and is still published by the Democrat-Observer-Journal Company. Both the Newton brothers followed the Journal into its new environment. Until the spring of 1915 Charles E. Newton was retained as its editor, while his brother Ed for a time was in charge of the Idaville Observer, later being assigned to the Reynolds Journal and performing various other functions for the company. Since April, 1915, Mr. Ed N. Thacker has been editor of the Journal.

#### WHITE COUNTY REPUBLICAN

In December, 1899, a paper called the White County Republican was started in Monticello by Ashbel P. Reynolds, who installed a second-hand printing plant at his residence on Water Street, whence the paper was issued, with D. A. Reynolds as publisher and Milton M. Sill as editor. It represented the views of a limited element who were opposed to the Herald's attitude on certain questions of that day, and for a time waged an animated campaign against what it regarded as factionism in the republican party. Not finding sufficient support, it suspended publication within a year, and the plant was again on the market. It passed into the hands of Messrs. Hanna & Chilcott, and was used in the publi-



cation of a paper called the Independent, and later for a paper called the Socialist. Both of these ventures were short-lived, and the plant was finally dismembered, part of it being removed to Burnettsville and part to Brookston.

#### WHITE COUNTY CITIZEN

In the spring of 1914 a weekly paper called the White County Citizen was launched at Monticello as the organ of the progressive party by Mr. W. L. Murlin, who came here from Grant County, bringing a printing plant with him. His office was at first located in the south end of the Forbis Hotel Building on the ground floor. The first issue of the Citizen appeared May 29th as a six-column quarto. After the November election it was reduced to a seven-column folio and changed to a semi-weekly. Later Mr. Murlin tried the experiment of a daily edition, but the response was not encouraging, and the daily was limited to three issues, which appeared December 17th, 18th and 19th. The semi-weekly continued until the first day of January, when it too suspended. At the time of the Citizen's demise its office was located in a room on North Main Street.

#### OTHER MONTICELLO PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the publications above mentioned there have been several church and school periodicals which have found a field of usefulness and run a more or less successful course in Monticello. The Gleaner was the name of a bright church quarterly published here during the pastorate of Rev. S. C. Diekey of the Presbyterian Church during the latter '80s. A similar periodical called the Methodist Quarterly was published by Rev. W. B. Slutz during his two years pastorate of the M. E. Church, from the fall of 1887 to the fall of 1889. These quarterlies were in magazine form and represented the activities of their respective churches at one of the happiest periods of their history. A publication called the Bulletin, on a somewhat different plan, was issued in 1892-93 by Elder P. M. Fishburn, pastor of the Christian Church.

At one time the high school maintained a periodical called the Bee, and of late years the Armiger has become a household word as the annual publication of the senior class. It is a work of art rivaling many college annuals.

Mention must be made of one more periodical which was issued for a short time from the Journal press about 1907. It was the Soapmaw Journal, a freak conceived by a printer named Barney Pretz. He was an erratic genius with an artistic temperament which shone forth occasionally in music, poetry and the drama. At one time during his stay here he engaged in a public debate at the opera house with an alleged clergyman imported for the occasion, on the subject of the personality of the devil. Barney took the orthodox side of the question





and vanquished the dominion, but the gate receipts hardly paid the hall rent. The name of his publication was composed of the initials indicating the name of his cult, viz: "Society of America's Progressive Men and Women." Unfortunately it was mistaken abroad for an organ of the soap industry, and mail continued to arrive here for it from makers of soap and other toilet articles long after the Soapmaw Journal had ceased to exist.

#### EARLY NEWSPAPER FIELD AT REYNOLDS

Outside of Monticello, Reynolds was, in years past, considered the best newspaper point in White County. It is nearer the center than any other large town, and until it definitely abandoned its aspirations for the county seat, a possible future of large growth beckoned not a few to the place. Monticello held the newspaper field for more than twenty-one years, during which period, as we have seen, the *Prairie Chieftain*, the *Tribune*, the *Republican*, the *Union*, the *Register*, the *Political Frame*, the *White County Jacksonian*, the *White County Democrat*, the *Spectator*, the *Herald*, and the *Constitutionalist*, all successively or contemporaneously held the stage at the county seat, from 1850 to 1871, before Reynolds ventured into newspaperdom.

#### THE WHITE COUNTY BANNER

On February 24, 1871, appeared at Reynolds the first issue of the *White County Banner*, with the Reynolds Publishing Company as publishers and Kleist & Wood as editors, according to the heading on the first page. On the second page the name of Rudolph Kleist appeared as editor. It was a five-column folio, 20 by 26 inches in size, and its name is said to have been suggested by Abram VanVoorst, an old settler of the locality and father of Henry VanVoorst, afterward county auditor. In 1872 J. E. Dunham, a young lawyer and ex-superintendent of the Reynolds schools, purchased the paper and managed it for a year. He changed its name to the *Central Clarion*, which in 1876 became the *White County Register*. Under that name it suspended in 1878—in after years Mr. Dunham explained why: "The cause of its suspension was a change in the law governing the publication of sheriff's sales. The original law directed that they be published in the newspaper nearest the land to be sold, which law was changed to permit them to be published in any paper in the county of general circulation. When this patronage was withheld from the paper it could fight the battle no longer." Evidently, the *Banner* should not have depended upon one solitary source of supply to keep it floating on the breeze.

#### THE REYNOLDS BROOM AND SUN

Another eccentric Reynolds newspaper enterprise was represented in the *Broom*, which had its origin in the *National* established at Monticello by the greenback party in the spring of 1878.



The plant was bought by W. I. Harbert in 1892 and moved to Reynolds, where the Broom was started in the interests of the people's party. Associated with Harbert in its publication was W. D. Wattles, a man of considerable ability, who afterward gained some distinction as a socialistic writer. The Broom barely outlived the campaign which called it into existence.

The Reynolds Sun, established by L. M. Crom in 1899, had a similar brief career.

#### THE REYNOLDS JOURNAL

Reynolds' last newspaper was the Journal, which issued its last number October 24, 1913, after having been in operation about three years. It was issued under the same management as the Idaville Observer and was taken over with that paper by the new corporation formed at Monticello in 1912 and known as the Democrat-Journal-Observer Company, a full account of which is given in the history of the press at the county seat. Irvine Gardner, Margaret P. Snyder and Ed Heimlich were at different times resident editors of the Journal, but toward the close of its career it was edited by Ed F. Newton, who visited the town once or twice a week from the county seat.

#### THE BROOKSTON REPORTER

The second newspaper to be established outside the county seat was the Brookston Reporter, and it is still in the swim. It was founded April 3, 1873, by M. H. Ingram, and in August of the following year was purchased by David S. and Chester C. French, father and son. Originally, the Reporter was a six-column folio, but was later doubled in size. It has always been independent in politics.

#### DAVID S. FRENCH AND CHESTER C. FRENCH

The elder French was an Ohio man, who entered the ministry of the Baptist Church and held several charges in Illinois, as well as public office, before he moved his family to Brookston in 1868. In 1874 when, in partnership with his son, he purchased the Reporter, the younger man, Chester C., had secured a liberal education in Chicago and made some progress in medicine under Dr. John Medaris. Father and son continued in partnership until 1880, when the latter (C. C. French) became sole proprietor of the Reporter, Rev. David S. French having died on November 6th of the year named.

Besides his connection with the Brookston Reporter for about thirty years, Chester C. French attained prominence in the county as a public speaker and held such offices as census enumerator and town clerk. In July, 1905, he sold the newspaper to John A. Metzger, an experienced newspaper man, who still conducts it.



## OTHER BROOKSTON ITEMS

The Reporter was leased to D. A. Fawcett for about six months in 1878, and to George H. Healey for a year or more in 1897-98. Healey afterward started a paper called the Brookston Gazette, which was afterwards published by Wesley Taylor and finally absorbed by the Reporter.

A paper called the Brookston Magnet was started in that town by S. M. Burns in November, 1887, but the plant was sold and moved to Sheldon, Illinois, in September, 1888.

The Academy Student was the name of a school journal published at Brookston in 1872 by Prof. Thomas VanSeoy, principal of the Brookston Academy.

## IDAVILLE OBSERVER

Idaville made her first venture in journalism in the early '80s through George W. Lucy and Mell F. Pilling, who started the Independent. Within the following two years Mr. Pilling assumed the ownership and, in the spring of 1886, passed the plant along to Al. Good. Next the Independent was bought by Rev. Gilbert Small, who purchased a new press and printing outfit. He enlisted his sons Bert and Will in the enterprise and in June, 1886, appeared the first number of the Idaville Observer, under the auspices of Small Brothers.

It was the beginning of a typographical career for both these brothers, Bert being now connected with the American Press Association, and Will a successful traveling salesman for the Barnhart Bros. Type Foundry. The Observer has since passed through many hands. Among its owners and editors in after years were Wm. H. Heiny, Frank Downs, John L. Moorman, Byron McCall, Sanderson brothers (Harry and Bert), H. E. McCulley, R. M. Isherwood and Charles L. Foster. Mr. Foster took charge in 1904, and under his management it is said to have become an actual money-maker as well as an ideal country newspaper. In 1912 it became a part of the Democrat-Journal-Observer syndicate of Monticello, but still retains its local identity by means of a resident manager.

## THE MONON DISPATCH

Monon's first paper was the Dispatch, which made its first appearance in September, 1884, with Stokes & Martin as publishers. A. K. Sills, J. H. Turpie and Charles Downing were early financial backers of the enterprise, and Downing afterward became the sole owner. Later it drifted into the hands of a man named Fawcett, and ultimately was succeeded by the Monon Leader, which made its first appearance early in January, 1887, with Charles Cook as "editor and proprietor" and Dr. J. T. Reed as associate editor. After various vicissitudes the plant was sold and removed to Ladoga in January, 1889.



## THE MONON NEWS

John M. Winkley, who had lately been postmaster of Monon, then established a paper called the Times, which after about two years was succeeded by the Monon News. The latter, which has survived to this day, was published by Isaac Parsons, formerly a lawyer at LaFayette. He had two or three sons who were associated with him in the business. During the Parsons regime another paper, called the Review, was started at Monon by a man named Moore, but it withdrew from the field after a few months, and its subscription list was transferred to the Monticello Press. In November, 1897, Parsons sold the plant to W. D. Harlow, a hotel manager at Monticello, who had formerly been connected with the Crawfordsville Star. He found the newspaper path at Monon not a smooth one, and after a year or two he disposed of it to R. M. Streeter, of Winamac. Later it fell into the hands of a Mr. Jones, who soon afterward took French leave. He was succeeded by a man named Weeks, who died in 1905, leaving the plant to his sister, Mrs. J. L. Peetz. Mr. C. A. McAllister, still a resident of Monon, was also publisher of the News for a time.

The News gained a state-wide celebrity under the management of Mrs. Peetz by its enthusiastic support of her husband for state statistician, to whom she always referred editorially as "our husband." Mr. Peetz was elected, and in December, 1908, the paper was sold to W. J. Huff, a veteran printer and journalist, who, with his sons, Edgar J. and Walter S., have since conducted the business.

## W. J. HUFF

The senior proprietor learned the printer's trade in his native town of LaFayette. There Mr. Huff published the Liliputian for about a year and a half and in 1870 moved to Monticello, where he became part owner of the Herald; six months later he was sole proprietor and in 1874 went into partnership with J. B. VanBuskirk. In 1871 he was also appointed postmaster and held that office until October, 1885.

Mr. Huff has been handicapped in his career by an affliction of the eyes, and in 1888 he gave up the newspaper business on that account and removed to California. He soon returned, however, and re-entered the newspaper field. Prior to locating at Monon he was engaged in journalism at Valparaiso, Monticello, Greenwood, Spencer, Kirklin and New Richmond. Though he is now practically blind, the News has developed wonderfully under his management and is now equipped with a linotype and other modern machinery, placing it in the front rank of White County newspapers.

Mr. Huff is the son of the well known Judge Samuel A. Huff, who was a printer at Indianapolis in his earlier years and spent the bulk of his manhood as a citizen of LaFayette, engaged in legal practice, and in judicial and political activities.





## THE WOLCOTT ENTERPRISE

The Wolcott Enterprise was founded by Everett A. Walker on the 1st of April, 1892. Mr. Walker continued to edit and publish it until September, 1907, when the paper was sold to Edward N. Thacker, and in May, 1908, Mr. Thacker was succeeded by the present editor and proprietor, L. M. Kean. The Enterprise was the first paper in White County to install a typesetting machine.

## CHALMERS LEDGER

The first paper published at Chalmers was the Ledger. It made its appearance in November, 1893, with a Mr. Patterson as editor and publisher, though a man named Clark from Battle Ground had done the preliminary prospecting and installed the plant. Wilbur Walts was its publisher at two different periods in its career, the last in 1899, under lease from L. M. Crom, who had become its owner. In the spring of 1900 the Ledger was sold to George H. Healey, who published it for several months in connection with his other paper, the Brookston Gazette.

## CHALMERS DESPATCH

The Chalmers Despatch was founded in April, 1900, by Wilbur A. Walts. Mr. Walts was succeeded as publisher of the Despatch by Grant Mullendore about 1902, and he in turn by Francis M. Smith about a year later. Since May 3, 1909, Arthur F. Knepp has been owner, editor and publisher. During the campaign of 1912 a paper called the Progressive was issued from the Despatch office, but it suspended soon after the election.

## BURNETTSVILLE ENTERPRISE

Burnettsville's first paper was the Enterprise, established in 1888 by J. E. Sutton, who printed it at Logansport in connection with the Logansport Reporter. Benton Rizer was the local manager. He was succeeded about 1891 by Randolph J. Million, who continued in charge for some time after he had moved to Monticello to practice law, but in 1894 it suspended for lack of a local manager.

## BURNETTSVILLE DISPATCH

The Burnettsville Dispatch was founded about 1900 by Sylvester W. Rizer, being financed largely by J. C. Duffey. After a few months Mr. Rizer was succeeded by Guy Hanna and Charles Chilcott, who later turned it over to Frank Stuart, who assumed the financial obligations of the paper. He sold it after a year or so to Harriett Fuller, and shortly afterward it ceased to exist.



## BURNETTSTVILLE NEWS

The Burnettstville News, the first paper actually printed in Burnettstville, was established by J. Rolland Doan, November 21, 1907. He was a practical printer and also a successful manager. When he married a Delphi girl soon after his debut as a publisher he raised the subscription price of his paper accordingly and averted a deficit. He sold the News February 23, 1915, to A. O. Townsley and Frank Beshoar, who have since continued its publication under the firm name of Frank Beshoar & Co.

## GENERAL PROGRESS

It is safe to say that no county in Indiana has more newspapers in proportion to its population than White County. At the time the present writer entered the newspaper business here in 1874 there was only one paper outside of the county seat—the Brookston Reporter. In the early days the old Washington hand press was the stock in trade of the country newspaper. An expert, with a faithful roller boy to ink the forms, could work off a "token," or 240 papers, in an hour with it. The first cylinder press in the county was a second-hand Campbell, introduced by James W. McEwen when he moved the Democrat office to the old Presbyterian Church. In 1879 the Herald exchanged its hand press for a new Potter cylinder, and of late years the old hand press has disappeared even from the humblest printing office in the county. The old process of setting type by hand is also becoming obsolete, and now four of the printing offices in the county are equipped with linotypes—the Herald and Democrat at Monticello, the News at Monon, and the Enterprise at Wolcott.



## CHAPTER XI

### MILITARY MATTERS

A SOLDIER OF 1814-15—THE MEXICAN WAR TRIO—MESSRS. FORD, STEELE AND McCORMICK—PROMPT RESPONSES TO UPHOLD THE UNION—THE THREE-MONTHS' RECRUITS—FIRST WAR SACRIFICE—WHITE COUNTY'S LARGER CONTINGENTS—THE MONTICELLO RIFLES—COMPANY E, FORTY-SIXTH REGIMENT—CAPT. R. W. SILL'S COMPANY—REPRESENTATIONS IN THE SIXTY-THIRD REGIMENT—CAPT. GEORGE BOWMAN'S COMPANY—COMPANY F, NINETY-NINTH REGIMENT—THE THREATENED DRAFT OF 1862—ESCAPE FROM THE 1863 DRAFT—THE SIX MONTHS' COMPANY—CAPT. JAMES G. STALEY—THE HEAVY CALLS OF 1864—THE DRAFTS OF 1864 AND 1865—SUMMARY OF NUMBER OF TROOPS RAISED—BOUNTY AND RELIEF VOTED—THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

The broad participation of White County in military matters did not commence until the opening of the Civil war, although both the War of 1812 and the Mexican war appear to have drawn into their meshes several of the citizens of that section.

#### A SOLDIER OF 1814-15

The only direct interest which the local historian can take in the former war lies in the fact that Ira Bacon, a member of the first board of county commissioners, came in at the tag end of hostilities, as is proven by his honorable discharge to the following effect: "Ira Bacon, a private in Captain Van Meter's company of Ohio Militia in the service of the United States, has faithfully performed a six months' tour of duty, and is hereby honorably discharged from the service at Fort Meigs, this 22d day of February, 1815." The paper is signed by John Russell, major commanding Fort Meigs, and Jacob Linn, sergeant.

#### THE MEXICAN WAR TRIO

White County's connection with the Mexican war is more intimate. Two of her boys lost their lives in that conflict, and one of the three to enlist returned to his Jackson Township home without his right foot and carrying with him several severe wounds. The trio who thus first brought war home to the people of the county were William F. Ford, U. H. Steele and Beveridge McCormick, and they all were residents of



that township. At that time there were about 3,000 people in the entire county.

The contingent from Jackson Township, White County, joined Captain Tipton's Company E, of the United States Mounted Rifles, which rendezvoused at Logansport. The boys had enlisted on the 6th of June, 1846, for a term of five years. The regiment was mounted and fully equipped at St. Louis and in the winter of 1846 embarked from New Orleans for Vera Cruz. It is not necessary to write a history of the Mexican war as an excuse for the presence of these three brave soldiers from White County. It is enough to know that they met the hardships of the war with American grit, and that two of them were shattered at Cerro Gordo.

#### MESSRS. FORD, STEELE AND MCCORMICK

In the first day's fight Ford received a bad saber cut on the left thigh just above the knee, but he came back pluckily for the second day's engagement. At this trial with fate he was not so fortunate, as a shell shot away his right foot just above the ankle, one wrist was pierced by a lance and another by a bullet, and a bayonet made a jagged wound through the lower jaw. While lying helpless on the battlefield he was sufficiently conscious to tear an epaulette from the uniform of the wooden-legged Santa Anna, the Mexican commander, who had left it behind with other personal effects. When he became convalescent he retained this memento as a priceless relic of his war experience, and, on the whole, considered it of more value than the monthly pension which he drew from the Government.

Ford's two comrades were not so tenacious of life. McCormick also was badly wounded at Cerro Gordo by a ball which ranged across his breast and shattered the left arm near the shoulder. The attending surgeon found it necessary to remove the humerus from the socket, but the operation proved too great a shock to McCormick, who soon died. Steel gave up his life near Chapultepec as the result of some bowel disorder.

#### PROMPT RESPONSES TO UPHOLD THE UNION

White County was one with every other section of Indiana in its prompt response to the presidential call for troops to suppress the rebellion. Its population was about 9,000 at the outbreak of the Civil war and at times during the height of the conflict fully a fourth of its citizens of military age were absent at the front. Seven full companies were raised and many more soldiers formed part of other commands. The financial resources of the county were also strained to the limit, more than \$101,000 being raised officially in bounties and measures of relief, to say nothing of the thousands of dollars represented by the private donations in clothing, provisions and hospital and field supplies for the sick, wounded and dead.

Fort Sumter surrendered to General Beauregard, the Confederate





commander, on Saturday, the 13th of April, 1861, the following day President Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 troops, and within an hour from its publication, Robert H. Milroy, a Mexican war veteran, of Jasper County, began to recruit a company at Rensselaer. By the 16th the governor and adjutant-general, as well as citizens generally, were issuing proclamations and calls for public meetings to give expression to Union sentiment and raise recruits. Colonel Milroy, in his bills, announced that "the volunteer wants two shirts and two days' provisions in his sack" and that he would be on hand at the points specified in his call to "receive all who may wish to join his two hundred men from Jasper."

The call for a Union meeting issued on the 16th, inviting the citizens of Monticello and vicinity to gather at the courthouse "to give expression of sentiment in support of the Government in its present peril and of the Law here and elsewhere," was to be addressed by Judge Turpie and others, and was signed by Isaac Reynolds, A. R. Orton, J. C. Reynolds, R. Brearley, O. McConahay, M. Henderson, Hugh B. Logan, Daniel D. Dale, Thomas Bushnell, Thomas D. Crow, W. S. Haymond, James B. Belford, Joseph Rothrock, Richard Brown, William Rees, P. R. Faling, C. W. Kendall, D. Turpie, Major Levi Reynolds, A. Hanawalt, R. Hughes, T. P. Iden, Thomas Bunnell, Thompson Crose, E. J. C. Hilderbrand, J. Harbolt, James Wallace, James W. McEwen, H. H. P. Anderson and John Ream.

### THE THREE-MONTHS' RECRUITS

Not only at Monticello, but in every township in the county, were held enthusiastic Union meetings, attended by both sexes, and by the 19th the Monticello Spectator announced the following: "About one hundred men, residents of the county, have enlisted in their country's defense, some of whom joined Colonel R. H. Milroy's company from Rensselaer. Of these J. J. Staley, Watson Brown, Martin Coehell, Francis Sweet, Lewis Murray, Edward Neff, James Stevenson and brother, went from this place. Twenty-five were from Bradford and twenty from Reynolds." These men all joined Colonel Milroy's Ninth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, and a number of other men from White County went direct to Indianapolis and were received into Company K, of the Tenth. This first contribution of men, it will be remembered, were three-months' recruits.

### FIRST WAR SACRIFICE

One of the first to enlist was a young man named John Brown, a grandson of Gen. Simon Kenton, the famous Kentucky frontiersman. While the regiment was en route to Indianapolis, somewhat more than a week after the fall of Sumter, young Brown was killed by the ears at Clark's Hill - the first war sacrifice by the people of White County. The corpse was brought back and buried near Miller Kenton's residence, three miles southwest of Monticello.

About the middle of August, the White County boys who had left for



the three months' service returned to their homes, several of them wounded. The most serious engagement in which the Ninth and Tenth Indiana regiments had participated was that at Rich Mountain, where Colonel Milroy acquitted himself so gallantly. The reception accorded the home-comers was enthusiastic and affectionate, neither of which manifestations were to wane through the coming years of trial and bitter experience. A month before, Capt. Alfred Reed's company of three-years' men had marched to the front and the returning short-term soldiers were received at his residence by his good wife and the other ladies of the town. Other houses at Monticello were thrown open to them; but they did not long linger in the smiles of peace, but commenced at once to recruit and enlist for the companies which were being so rapidly organized for "three years or the war."

#### WHITE COUNTY'S LARGER CONTINGENTS

White County furnished the following companies for the Union service in the Civil war: Company K, Twentieth Regiment, Capts. Alfred Reed and J. C. Brown; Company E, Forty-sixth Regiment, Capts. William Spencer, Henry Snyder and Charles F. Fisher; Company G, same regiment, Capts. Robert W. Sill, Joseph D. Cowdin, Woodson S. Marshall, James Hess and Joseph L. Chamberlain; Company G, Sixty-third Regiment, Capts. John Hollodyke and T. S. Jones; Company D, Twelfth Regiment, Capts. George Bowman and B. F. Price; Company F, Ninety-ninth Regiment, Capts. George H. Gwinn and Andrew Cochran; Company K, One Hundred and Sixteenth Regiment (six months), Capt. Elijah C. Davis; Company F, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth, Capts. James G. Staley and Henry G. Bliss; Company G, One Hundred and Fifty-first Regiment (White and Pulaski counties), Capt. Carter L. Vigus.

#### THE MONTICELLO RIFLES

Some time in April the Monticello Rifles was formed, offered its services to the state and entered into a vigorous course of drilling so as to be in readiness for whatever might come. On the 9th of May the enthusiastic young soldiers learned from Governor Morton that their services would not be required, with an order to immediately forward the guns in their possession. The Rifles were considerably chagrined, but metaphorically stood by their guns though they actually sent them to Indianapolis, with the following protesting resolutions:

"Resolved, That White county feels that her interest in the preservation of the Union and the honor of the Stars and Stripes is equal to that of any other county in the state or the United States and she should have the opportunity of manifesting it on the field of battle.

"Resolved, That we shall maintain our organization and keep alive the tender of our services to the State at any time they may be required."

Whatever the cause, the chief executive of the state notified the Monticello Rifles about the middle of May that their services had been



accepted and that they should proceed to Camp Tippecanoe, Lafayette, on the 5th of July. This information created not only much enthusiasm but profound satisfaction, the public sentiment being well expressed by the Spectator of July 12th in the following paragraph:

"DEPARTURE OF CAPTAIN REED'S COMPANY! WHITE COUNTY REDEEMED!—The most interesting scene since the opening of the war, so far as relates to our town and county, occurred in this place on the first of the present week. On Tuesday the glad news came that Captain Reed's company, which was being organized in our midst, had been accepted and would march next day to Camp Tippecanoe, taking position in Colonel Brown's regiment. It was immediately announced that there would be a farewell meeting at the court house in the evening. The parents and friends of the volunteers flocked out until the house was crowded. Proceedings were opened with prayer and music. After the company had formed in line and everybody had shaken hands with the brave boys and bid them good-bye, the meeting adjourned to assemble next morning at the railroad, where a nice flag was presented the company, Rev. Mr. Smith making the speech, and more farewells were said."

The Monticello Rifles, under Captain Reed, journeyed to Indianapolis to join the other units of the Twentieth Regiment, which was there organized on July 22d. The Monticello boys elected Alfred Reed as captain; John T. Richardson, first lieutenant; Daniel D. Dale, second lieutenant; and John C. Brown, first sergeant. The company was mustered into the service as K, of the Twentieth Indiana, and, as an organization, passed through four years of trying warfare. It became first actively engaged with the enemy at Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina; participated in the engagement between the Merrimac, Cumberland and Congress, the capture of Norfolk, Virginia; in the Peninsula campaign of the Army of the Potomac, and the battles of Fair Oaks, Manassas Plains and Fredericksburg, in 1862; the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, in 1863, and the Campaign of the Wilderness, the sieges of Petersburg and Richmond and the final operations against the Confederate Army of Virginia, which, with minor events, covered the last two years of its service. The regiment, with Company K, was mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky, on July 12, 1865.

#### COMPANY E, FORTY-SIXTH REGIMENT

The second complete organization to enter the service from White County was Company E, Forty-sixth Regiment, with Dr. William Spencer, captain; Eli R. Herman, first lieutenant; and Henry Snyder, second lieutenant. These men had pushed the enlistment during the latter part of September and the earlier portion of October, and on the 15th of the latter month the company departed for Logansport to be organized and incorporated into the Forty-sixth Regiment under Graham N. Fitch. Before starting the boys listened to a farewell address from the courthouse steps delivered by T. D. Crow, to which Captain Spencer replied.

The regiment saw its first active service in Missouri as a part of



General Pope's army, afterward campaigning in Arkansas, in operations against Arkansas Post, Duvall's Bluff, etc. It also participated in the Yazoo River Expedition, the Siege of Vicksburg and the Battle of Champion Hills, before it was incorporated into the Army of the Department of the Gulf under Banks. It suffered in the misfortunes of the Red River Expedition, and was finally mustered out of the service in September, 1865.

#### CAPT. R. W. SILL'S COMPANY

Company G, which was composed entirely of White County men, also faithfully followed the fortunes of the Forty-sixth Regiment. Much of the company was enlisted while Spencer's was being organized, the most active figure in the work being R. W. Sill, and that he was to be captain of it was a foregone conclusion. There was evidently some rivalry between the two organizations, although perhaps not bitter enough to call forth the following from the Spectator, after the departure of Captain Spencer's command for the camp at Logansport: "Now for Captain R. W. Sill's company. Let it be filled up immediately, and cursed be the craven-hearted enr that offers opposition to it. It is a double duty we owe to Mr. Sill and our bleeding country to help the matter on. Let's do it like men."

Joseph D. Cowdin and John M. Berkey, who were Mr. Sill's most active assistants, were elected first and second lieutenants, respectively, when the company formally organized at Logansport.

Company G finally departed from Monticello on the 21st of November, the event being celebrated by a dinner given by the ladies of the town at the house of J. C. Reynolds and ceremonies at the courthouse, which included speeches by Colonel Fitch of the Forty-sixth, Judge Turpie and others, a sword presentation to Captain Sill and a flag presentation to the company. On the 11th of December the company, fully organized and equipped, was sworn into the service of the United States with other units of the regiment.

A few men from White County also entered Companies A, C, H and I of the Forty-sixth.

#### REPRESENTATIONS IN THE SIXTY-THIRD REGIMENT

The Sixty-third Regiment had a large representation from White County. During the early months of 1862, Capt. M. F. Johnson, Lieut. Joseph W. Davis and others enlisted about two thirds of a company which afterward became D, of the Sixty-third. In August Capt. John Holloway of Norway, Lieut. George W. Jewett of Reynolds, Lieut. Aden Nordyke of Seafield, and others, enlisted a full company, G, of that regiment. From January to August of 1862 more than 200 men left the county, about 150 joining the Sixty-third. Company G was organized with John Holloway as captain.

Company D formed part of a battalion which participated in Second Bull Run, but G, which was one of six companies raised under the call





of July, 1862, remained at Indianapolis until December, engaged in guard duty, and until April, 1864, was chiefly employed in guarding the Kentucky and Tennessee railroads. At that time as part of the Twenty-third Army Corps it became a part of Sherman's army, then about to enter the Atlanta campaign. The Sixty-third gave a good account of itself at Resaca, Lost Mountain and the engagements around Atlanta, the Battle of Franklin and the pursuit of Hood. The portion of the regiment comprising Company G was mustered out in June, 1865; that containing Company D, in the month previous. As a regiment it had a public reception in the capitol grounds, Indianapolis, before its final discharge from the service.

#### CAPT. GEORGE BOWMAN'S COMPANY

The enlistments in White County during the summer and fall of 1862 were especially active. Even by June of that year more than one-fourth of the voting population of the county was in the field. Two full companies were raised under the presidential call of July. George Bowman's company (D, of the Twelfth Regiment) was the first to get in marching order—the fifth full organization to enter the service from White County for three years or during the war.

During July war meetings were held throughout the county as an impetus to enlistment. An especially enthusiastic meeting was held at Idaville, on the 26th of July, upon which occasion Belford, Callahan and Wallace, loyal democrats all, vigorously delivered patriotic addresses, and urged all men, without regard to party, to stand by the Union. A rousing meeting was also held at Monticello.

On the same day of the meeting at Idaville, two meetings were held in Liberty Township, where eight volunteers joined Captain Bowman's company. Early in August the company received marching orders. On the 5th of August the boys were given a picnic dinner at Norway, on which occasion C. J. L. Foster and others spoke to the large crowd that had assembled to bid the boys good-bye. Essays were read by Miss Arnold and others; and patriotic toasts were responded to amid the enthusiastic cheers of the populace and the shrill rattle of fife and drum.

The following officers had been chosen on the 1st of August: George Bowman, captain; J. A. Blackwell, first lieutenant; Benjamin F. Price, second lieutenant. On the same day a large meeting was held, Rev. J. W. T. McMullen delivering the oration. One hundred dollars was raised in a few minutes for the families of the boys who were on the eve of departure for the uncertainties of the field of war. On the 5th, at the conclusion of the picnic at Norway, the company started for Indianapolis, followed by the sorrowing farewells of friends. In less than two weeks the company, with its regiment, the Twelfth, marched out in battle array on the field of Richmond, Kentucky, fought gallantly, was captured, paroled and scattered. Several of its boys were killed, among them Benjamin McCormick and Samuel McIntire, and Joseph H. Rooks died of his wounds. Col. William H. Link, who commanded the regiment, also



died of his wounds. Captain Bowman received a slight wound. After the exchange of prisoners the regiment joined General Grant's army and participated in the Vicksburg campaign. It was with Sherman from Memphis to Chattanooga and at Mission Ridge, in November, 1863, again suffered serious losses. At that engagement Captain Bowman was so badly wounded that he was sent home and was never able afterward to join the service. It afterward engaged in the pursuit of Bragg, the relief of Burnside at Knoxville, all the engagements of the Atlanta campaign and the movements through the Carolinas northward. The company and regiment were mustered out at Washington, D. C., on the 8th of June, 1865.

#### COMPANY F, NINETY-NINTH REGIMENT

By August, 1862, a full company had been raised at Brookston and vicinity, which was incorporated into the Ninety-ninth Regiment, with George W. Gwin as captain, Andrew Cochran, first lieutenant, and G. S. Walker, second lieutenant. About the same time Capt. Sidney W. Sea and others enlisted one-half of Company K, Nineteenth Regiment (Fifth Cavalry), the recruits coming mostly from the western part of the county.

Captain Gwin's Company F, of the Ninety-ninth Regiment, was ordered to South Bend and was mustered into the service in October, 1862. It did not get into action until the following May, during the Vicksburg campaign. At Jackson, Mission Ridge, Chattanooga, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Savannah and Port McAllister, it became thoroughly fireproof during two years of battling and campaigning.

#### THE THREATENED DRAFT OF 1862

After the departure of Captain Bowman's company, it was found that the county was not wholly free from the approaching draft of September 15th, and measures were immediately instituted to fill the required quota. Lieut. J. W. Berkey opened a recruiting office, as did also others. One of the largest war meetings held during the rebellion, assembled at the courthouse on the 11th of August to raise volunteers. It was advertised that Colfax and Colonel Hathaway would be present, and this brought out a vast crowd; but these distinguished men were unable to attend, and home talent was called upon. The following statement of county affairs was made out about the 1st of September:

Townships	Militia	Volun- teers	Exempts	Con- sien- tions	Volun- teers in Service	Number Subject to Draft
Prairie .....	275	137	42	..	136	233
Big Creek .....	106	41	22	..	39	84
Union .....	216	139	49	10	128	157
Monon .....	127	64	25	..	55	102
Liberty .....	120	52	20	..	44	100



Townships	Militia	Volun- teers	Exempts	Con- scien- tions	Volun- teers in Service	Number Subject to Draft
Jackson .....	175	85	41	5	81	120
Princeton .....	95	95	18	2	91	75
West Point .....	60	42	10	..	36	50
Honey Creek .....	74	55	17	..	52	57
Cass .....	65	27	13	3	24	46
Round Grove ....	27	15	1	..	14	26
Total .....	1,337	751	258	20	700	1,059

It was to be nearly two years after Captain Gwin's command went to the front before another complete company was to go forth from White County pledged to stand by the colors for three years or longer—if the war should endure so long. The recruits in the meantime went into such commands as the Ninth, Twentieth, Forty-sixth, Seventy-second, Seventy-third and the Eighty-sixth and Eighty-seventh; and still Moloch called for more. Volunteers did not satisfy him, but military necessity in the shape of the draft threatened; bounties were also offered and paid by the county, above the regular wages pledged by Uncle Sam, and by pulling every string and straining every nerve, White County escaped what was considered a partial reflection on patriotism until the fall of 1864. But that was certainly a period of stress and trial.

#### ESCAPE FROM THE 1863 DRAFT

As the shadow of the draft of 1863 approached, the press, the pulpit and public leaders everywhere in the county renewed their efforts to keep White County in the rapidly diminishing column of sections which had never been subject to the draft. The efforts of that year were also successful, although over 100 more men had to be raised in townships where there were not enough males to do the work of peace which normally fell to them. But war was war even in those days.

In November, 1863, a committee was appointed at a Monticello war meeting, consisting of R. McConahay, James Wallace, M. Henderson, Lucius Pierce and Thomas Bushnell to push enlistments and forestall the draft. Their manifesto, published in the Monticello Herald of November 10th, was as follows: "The quota of this county under the draft about to be made is 106 men, and is apportioned among the several townships as follows: Union, 16; Honey Creek, 5; Liberty, 10; Cass, 4; Monon, 10; Princeton, 8; West Point, 6; Round Grove, 2; Big Creek, 8; Jackson, 14; Prairie, 23.

"If this number is raised by voluntary enlistment our county will not be subject to the draft, but if it is not raised the draft will certainly fall upon us. Hitherto, we, as a county, have occupied a proud position among the counties of a state of whose record in this war Indians may



well be prond. We have been among the few counties that waited not for the compulsions of a draft.

"Shall we maintain our position, or shall we falter in this, the last, we hope, and the trying hour of the war? We believe the people of White County with one voice will exclaim: No! we will not falter in our efforts, nor fail in our undertakings, but will ever stand true to the maintenance of the Union and the crushing out of this wicked rebellion.

"We, therefore, for the purpose of facilitating the work of enlistment in the several townships, would appoint the following township committees:

"Prairie—Thomas B. Davis, Dr. John Medaris and E. P. Mason.

"Big Creek—John R. Jefferson, Clinton Crose and George R. Speneer.

"Monon—J. L. Watson, Dr. John T. Richardson and William G. Porter.

"Liberty—Thomas Wickersham, H. G. Bliss and George Cullen.

"Jackson—Eli R. Herman, Andrew Hanna and D. McCouahay.

"Princeton—John B. Bunnell, David Wright and R. C. Johnson.

"West Point—C. H. Test, O. P. Murphy and David Dellinger.

"Cass—Edward P. Potter, W. O. Hopkinson and Hannibal McCloud.

"Honey Creek—Frank Howard, I. S. Vinson and Nick Young.

"Round Grove—A. Ward, Stewart Rariden and Patrick Carroll.

"We recommend that each of said several committees should appoint a township meeting for as early a day as possible and advise this committee of the time and place of meeting, and speakers will be furnished."

The general and the township committeemen worked diligently and enthusiastically—at least, the draft did not fall upon White county in 1863.

#### THE SIX-MONTHS' COMPANY

In the meantime, under the call of June 15th for 100,000 six-months' men, Capt Elijah C. Davis and Lieuts. Joseph W. Davis and Isaac H. Jackson enlisted a full company, which was mustered in as K, of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Regiment, on the 17th of August, 1863. The camp of rendezvous was at Lafayette and the first two months of service was occupied in guarding the United States arsenal near Detroit, Michigan, and in routine duties in Kentucky. In October it participated in engagements at Blue Springs and Walker's Ford, but the remainder of its six-months' term was largely passed in guard and fatigue duty. It was mustered out, with other commands of the One Hundred and Sixteenth, at Lafayette.

Under the call of October 17, 1863, which asked for 300,000 soldiers for three years, the work of recruiting the 106 men demanded of White County progressed with vigor, as heretofore noted. Capt. D. M. Graves, of Newton County, appeared at various points in the county, and called for recruits for the Twelfth Cavalry. He had rousing meetings at Monticello, Brookston and elsewhere.

Lieutenant William C. Kent opened an enlistment office for the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Regiment. The papers at that time pub-





fished very flattering offers of bounty to both veterans and new recruits—to the former \$410, and to the latter \$380, per annum. The extensive and enthusiastic efforts soon freed the county. Many entered the old regiments. About half the company I of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth was from White County, as was also about one-third of Company F of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh (Twelfth Cavalry), and one-half of Company K of the same. Among the recruiting officers during the months of November and December, 1863, and January, 1864, were D. M. Graves, Henry H. Gaves, B. O. Wilkinson and W. C. Marshall. In December, 1863, a large war meeting at Brookston was presided over by Benjamin Lucas, president, and W. B. Chapman, secretary. Judge Turpie delivered the oration.

#### CAPT. JAMES G. STALEY

Through the winter months and on into the spring of 1864, the enlistment for Company F of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Regiment continued. This company was enlisted mostly by Capt. James G. Staley, Lieuts. W. C. Kent and Henry G. Bliss. The regiment rendezvoused at Michigan City. Captain Staley's company was full about the middle of March, 1864. While yet at Camp Anderson, Michigan City, the members of this company purchased a fine sword which was formally presented to Captain Staley by the regimental chaplain, Rev. William P. Koutz, of Monticello.

Company F was the seventh and the last full company to be enlisted in White County for the three-years' service. Its regiment was mustered into the service March 18, 1864, and first took the field at Nashville, Tennessee. In the Atlanta campaign it fought at Resaca, Dallas, New Hope Church, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta and Jonesboro. As part of Thomas's army it joined in the pursuit of Hood, and at the hard-fought Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864, its brave captain, James G. Staley, was killed.

One of Captain Staley's comrades writes of his death and career as follows: "In the beginning of the war he responded to the call of our country and served faithfully as a member of the Ninth Indiana for more than two years. He was commissioned captain of Company F, 128th Indiana, in January, 1864, and in March left the place of rendezvous with his regiment to take part in the memorable campaign of Atlanta. During that toilsome service of marching, digging, guarding, watching and fighting, lasting four months, without the soldiers being beyond the sound of musketry or artillery, he nobly, patiently, heroically performed his part. On the 11th of October we left Decatur, Georgia, to begin the fall campaign, and after much skirmishing and marching several hundred miles in Georgia and Alabama, we reached Franklin, Tennessee, closely pressed by the enemy in superior force. It is not my purpose to give a description of the engagement, but I will state that the 128th Indiana occupied breastworks near the extreme left of our line; that the enemy charged right up to and planted their colors on our works, and that their



dead and dying which filled the ditches, sufficiently proved how bloody and disastrous was their repulse.

"When the assault was made, Captain Staley was standing up watching the enemy and directing the fire and the use of the bayonets of his men. Just then Captain Bissell, of the same regiment, was shot through the head and fell against Lieutenant Bliss, who, with the assistance of Captain Staley, laid him upon the ground and placed a blanket under his head. This had scarcely been done when some one called out 'They are coming again,' and all prepared to receive the enemy. As Captain Staley turned to the works, a minie ball struck him in the forehead, and he, too, fell into the arms of Lieutenant Bliss and died almost instantly. There was no time then to listen to parting words. A desperate hand-to-hand conflict was straining every nerve for the possession of the works. The deadly musket shot, the clash of arms as bayonet came to bayonet and sword to sword, the hurried breathing of the men through their shut teeth, their words of encouragement and mutterings of vengeance, with the thunders of the two pieces of artillery that flanked the company, combined to bring into heroic exercise every muscle of the body and every power of the mind.

"Darkness came on and still the fighting continued. Every man was needed to repulse the desperate assaults of the enemy. The body of Captain Staley was carried to the rear by the stretcher corps and buried in the same grave with that of Captain Bissell, near the large brick dwelling house on the hill south of Franklin. This statement was made by Lieutenant Bliss. The grave where the heroes slept was left unmarked, but to have done otherwise was impossible. Though we had repulsed the rebel army, it was determined to withdraw under cover of darkness, and at midnight we retreated across Harpeth river and abandoned the battlefield and Franklin to the enemy."

Captain Staley's remains were recovered and brought home, through the efforts of the Christian Commission, arriving at Monticello on February 7, 1865, and on the 12th were reinterred with appropriate ceremonies.

This last of the long-term companies to be raised, as a whole, in White County, saw service after Captain Staley's death at Nashville, in the later pursuit of Hood, at Newbern and Wise's Fork, North Carolina, and at other points marking the closing operations of the war. The regiment was not mustered out of the service until early in 1866.

#### THE HEAVY CALLS OF 1861

The heavy calls of February and March, 1861, and finally the call of July 18th of 500,000 men for one, two and three years, somewhat staggered the county; but the citizens began to make earnest efforts to meet the demand. A most hopeful feeling prevailed at this time, as it was already apparent that the rebellion was wavering before the final fall. About one-half of Company B of the One Hundred and Forty-second went from Blaville during the month of September, 1861, Capt. James Thomas and Lieuts. R. H. Cary and R. W. Clary enlisting the men.



About twenty-five men from the county entered Company H of the same regiment. About fifteen recruits entered Company C of the Forty-second in October. Some fifty recruits joined Company G of the Sixty-third during the summer months of 1864. Late in 1864 and early in 1865 about fifty recruits joined Company F of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth. Among the recruiting officers in the county during the latter part of 1864 was M. F. Smith.

#### THE DRAFTS OF 1864 AND 1865

Until the fall of 1864, the county had warded off the draft by her tenders of money, the appeals of her orators and the influence of her women, but the calls of February, March, April and July, of that year, placed a burden on her which could not be sustained through voluntary enlistment. The county quota of February, 1864, with some deficiency, was 210; of March, 84; and of July, 237; or a total of 531. The draft took place in October, at Michigan City, under Provost Marshal K. G. Shryock, but the required number did not report and a supplementary draft took place. One of the reasons why it was difficult at that time to fill the ranks at home was that higher bounties were offered in large cities south and east than those in White County, and many left accordingly. Such men were credited, of course, to the localities paying the bounty, and were thus lost to White County.

The call of December, 1864, stimulated anew the enlistment. During the winter months of 1864-65 war meetings were held everywhere to clear the county, but the work was slow. Another draft came off at Michigan City in the early part of April, 1865, by which 163 men were raised in White County, most of whom were one-year men.

#### SUMMARY OF NUMBER OF TROOPS RAISED

The last report made by the military authorities on April 14, 1865, when all efforts to raise troops had been suspended, showed that White County had furnished thirty-five more men than were required by all the calls of the war.

A recapitulation of the number of soldiers raised in the county during the entire period of the Civil war would stand thus: From the outbreak of the war until September 1, 1862, 751 volunteers had joined the Union army. The calls of July and August, of that year, brought out 220 men; about 90 joined the six-months' service, under the call of October, 1862; 106 were furnished under the call of October, 1863; 170 under the February and March calls, in 1864; 237 under the call of July, same year; and 163 under the last call of the war in December, 1864. It is estimated that fully 100 men left the county to enlist; and to all these items must be added the 35 surplus above all calls. Thus the volunteers, recruits, conscripts and veterans from White County, some of whom enlisted more than once for short periods, numbered 1,572.



## BOUNTY AND RELIEF VOTED

Albeit a labor of love, it would be an impossibility to give an adequate picture of the relief work performed by the men and women of White County to alleviate the sufferings both of those at the front and those left at home. The great bulk of it can never be measured by dollars and cents; so that we can only say that an important feature of that work was included in the various sums raised by the county, in its official capacity, which is divided into the bounty and relief funds.

The first action taken by the county commissioners in the direction of relief to soldiers' families was in August, 1862, when township trustees were authorized to provide for the reasonable wants of the families of soldiers in the field, keeping proper vouchers, upon the presentation of which they would be reimbursed from the county treasury. It was not until the 26th of November, 1863, that the commissioners authorized the payment of \$100 bounty to volunteers under the call of October, but after that, and even long after the war had ended, large amounts were paid out. No proper record seems to have been kept of these important disbursements. The following imperfect exhibit, taken from the adjutant-general's report, is the best that can be given of the county bounty and relief funds:

	Bounty	Relief
White County .....	\$60,500	\$ 48.80
Prairie .....	25,000	1,776.86
Big Creek .....	450	34.92
Union .....	675	812.83
Monon .....	50	262.95
Liberty .....	100	68.89
Jackson .....	150	544.35
Princeton .....	3,300	.....
West Point .....	1,228	48.30
Cass .....	333	1,370.37
Honey Creek .....	.....	392.58
Round Grove .....	4,100	6.30
Total .....	\$95,886	\$5,364.15
Grand total .....		\$101,250.15

## THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

In the Spanish-American war, White County was ready for anything which came her way and furnished one company nearly complete, known as I, One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana Volunteers. William Guthrie went out as captain; Anthony A. Anheir, as first lieutenant; and John R. Ward, as second lieutenant. Dr. W. E. Biederwolf, of Monticello, chaplain of the regiment, was also the historian of Company I. From





his account it is learned that the first meeting looking toward the raising of a company for White County was called by Tippecanoe Post No. 51, G. A. R., to be held at the courthouse, April 21, 1898. A company was organized then and there, and the governor was notified that it was ready to serve at a moment's warning. He replied that the company would be needed and that the boys should get into military shape. In fact, events moved so rapidly that on June 30th Captain Guthrie received gubernatorial orders to report with his company at Indianapolis on the following Monday. But the boys were allowed to spend the Fourth at home on the Monticello Fair Grounds.

The White County contingent was mustered into the service at Indianapolis on July 13, 1898, as Company I, and on August 7th was ordered to Jacksonville, Florida, to be incorporated into the Seventh Army Corps under Gen. Fitz Hugh Lee. It reached that city August 14th and during its two months' stay there lost six of its men by disease—Clarence D. Kuns, Wallace D. Stivers, George Kepperling, William G. Weaver, Joseph F. Turner and Jacob W. Dexter.

The regiment spent the period from October 24th to December 12th at Savannah, and arrived at Havana, Cuba, on the 14th of the latter month, going into camp near Quemados about ten miles southwest of the city. There the command remained in that vicinity during the remainder of the winter, drilling and doing guard duty at various points. On March 29th the home-coming commenced—the regiment landing at Savannah March 31st and being mustered out on April 30th. It arrived at Indianapolis on the morning of May 3d, and reached Monticello at noon. The boys were welcomed at the state house by Governor Mount and, what was nearer to their hearts, by their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, wives and sweethearts, at Monticello. The home welcome extended over a period which is unknown to the writer, the public receptions covering several days.

In addition to furnishing Company I to put down the war, White County sent sixteen men into the Eleventh United States Infantry, who participated in the Porto Rico expedition; furnished twelve to the 160th Indiana Volunteers; three to the Second U. S. Infantry, of whom Gustave B. Stahlman was killed in the Santiago expedition; three to the Twenty-third U. S. Infantry which took part in the fourth expedition to the Philippines; three to the Sixth Illinois Volunteers, who went to Porto Rico; three to the 157th Indiana Volunteers, and smaller numbers to Troop L, U. S. Cavalry, Third U. S. Artillery and 16th U. S. Infantry.



## CHAPTER XII

### UNION TOWNSHIP

GENERAL FEATURES—SOIL AND PRODUCTS—SETTLED BEFORE THE TOWNSHIP WAS ORGANIZED—MR. AND MRS. PETER PRICE—"HEAP BIG SCARE" OF 1832—LAND ENTRIES IN 1831-34—ENTRY OF MONTICELLO'S SITE—BOUNDS OF ORIGINAL PLAT—SITE CONTROLLED MAINLY BY RESIDENTS—NORTH AND MOUNT WALLESTON—LEASES TO WILLIAM SILL—MARTIN CHERRIE'S WOOLEN MILL—THE FLOUR MILL IN MOTION—NORTH VERY EXCLUSIVE—MOUNT WALLESTON PLATTED—NORTH INTERESTS PASS TO THE KENDALLS—BOOM AT MOUNT WALLESTON—THE KENDALLS WITHDRAW—ROWLAND HUGHES OF MONTICELLO—INFANT INDUSTRIES AT THE COUNTY SEAT—FIRST TOWNSHIP OFFICERS—JEREMIAH BISHER—THE OLD KENTON GRAVE YARD—ENTERED GOVERNMENT LANDS IN 1835—THE BUSY LAND YEAR, 1836—HARD TIMES CHECK LAND ENTRIES—EXCLUDED SECTIONS—ENTRIES IN 1841-54—LAND, THE BASIS OF SOLID PROSPERITY—CONSTRUCTION OF GOOD ROADS.

Union Township was one of the four divisions of White County at its organization in 1834, and included all of the present territory west of the Tippecanoe River and north of the line dividing Townships 25 and 26 north, together with the attached territory of what now constitutes the counties of Newton and Jasper and the western portion of Pulaski. The political steps by which it was reduced to its present body include the creation of Monon Township in 1836, of Liberty in 1837, and Honey Creek in 1856.

#### GENERAL FEATURES

Thus Union Township was reduced to about thirty-seven and a half square miles. It is bounded on the north, chiefly by Liberty, with its northwestern section lying against Monon Township; on the east by Liberty and Jackson townships and the Tippecanoe River, which partly separates it from Carroll County; on the south by Big Creek Township and Carroll County, and on the west by Big Creek and Honey Creek townships.

The township has more high hills and low valleys than any other political division in the county, although the valleys are limited to a small area and the hills to the timber land lying along the river. South of Monticello the lands become a portion of the Grand Prairie. The



northern portion of the township, west of the Tippecanoe, is a succession of sand ridges, and flat timber land, with such stretches of prairie intervening as the valley of Honey Creek. That part of the township lying east of the river was much more heavily timbered than the sections west of it, as it was protected from the prairie fires which swept over the country from that direction. Only a thin fringe of timber marked the western banks of the Tippecanoe, with here and there a tree in the open plain, but no thickets of hazel, plum, sassafras, oak, hickory, cedar, sumach, mulberry, elder or honey locust ever survived the annual fires, from which the eastern banks were exempt, until those tracts were settled and protected.

#### SOIL AND PRODUCTS

The soil of Union Township in the timbered portions east of the river is a heavy loam with a subsoil of clay, sand and gravel, and well adapted



INDIANA CORN

to grain, grass, roots, fruit and vegetables. In the higher timbered part it is a light loam, with a deep subsoil of sand and gravel intermixed with clay. The northwestern portions of the township may be described as clay ridges traversing a rather low prairie. So-called "ridge farms," lying quite high and dry, with their easily cultivated soil, have come into considerable favor, as they are nicely adapted to live stock and fruit raising. The main branches of the Tippecanoe River in Union Township are Pike Creek, flowing in from the east, and Honey Creek, its western tributary. By nature, this portion of the county is well drained, and no township is better provided with ditches.

The chief products of the township are wheat, corn, oats and rye, in the grains; sweet and Irish potatoes, cabbages, parsnips, carrots, beets and tomatoes, in vegetables; melons and berries of all kinds.



## SETTLED BEFORE THE TOWNSHIP WAS ORGANIZED

Quite a number of settlers, most of them with their families, located in what is now Union Township before the county was organized, the most prominent of these being John Rothrock and his son, Robert; Peter Price, John Roberts, Reuben Stout, James Shafer, Jeremiah Bisher, Hans Erasmus Hirth, Peter B. Smith, Melchi Gray, Matthew Hopper, Zebulon Sheetz, Samuel Gray, James Spencer, William Orr, John Orr, Mahlon Fraser, Sr., Abraham Lowther, John Wilson, Richard Worthington, Henry Baum and George R. Bartley.

The first entry of land from the United States Government in what is now Union Township was made by John Rothrock, who, on November 30, 1830, purchased a large tract in section 3, township 26 north, range 3 west, and some time afterward erected a log house thereon. He was soon followed by Peter Price, his brother-in-law, who bought 160 acres in sections 32 and 33, on June 13, 1831; on that day also George R. Bartley purchased land in the same section.

## MR. AND MRS. PETER PRICE

While there is no dispute over the claim that Mr. Rothrock entered the first land in what is now Union Township, Mr. Price is generally credited with being the first permanent settler. In all likelihood, he has that honor because he brought with him his wife and child, thus founding the first family and homestead in the new country. Born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, February 11, 1799, he lived for several years before coming West in Lancaster and Mifflin counties, that state. While a resident of the latter he met and married Asenath Rothrock, a native of Mifflin County and about three years his junior. They were married in 1821 and in the spring of 1831 started for the valley of the Tippecanoe with their infant son, Joseph, John Rothrock and his sons, William and Robert.

The Prices and Rothrocks traveled by wagon and reached a locality a short distance west of the Tippecanoe River and just beyond the present limits of Monticello in the early part of June, 1831. He entered his "eighty" on the 18th of the month, as stated, and there he lived a useful life until it was ended in the peace of well-spent years, July 19, 1877.

At their coming to White County, Mr. and Mrs. Price had been bereft of two little ones, bringing the third to their western home. Six children were added to their flock on the banks of the Tippecanoe, three of their sons living to serve in the Union army from White County.

Mrs. Price was a woman of rare worth, and after the death of her husband continued to reside at the old homestead with her son, Capt. Benjamin P. Price, until her death January 18, 1892, in her ninetieth year. As age crept steadily on, her visits to Monticello became rare, but to her many friends who called upon her she was ever a cheerful, companionable lady of the pioneer generation. One of her favorite tales was the "heap big scare" of June, 1832.





## "HEAR BIG SCARE" OF 1832

In this, the year of the Black Hawk war, there were probably twenty families in what is now White County. Throughout the spring of 1832 tales of massacres and murders so worked upon the fears of the scattered settlers that some of them packed their goods into wagons and fled to the south side of the Wabash, driving their live stock before them. Every prairie fire was a possible sign of Indian devastation, but not a few families bravely clung to their barricaded houses and guarded farms. To assure both the brave and the timid that no hostile Indians had penetrated to that distant point, a company of about twenty men was formed at Delphi under Capt. Andrew Wood, and, well armed and provisioned, marched out on the Grand Prairie and thence up the Tippecanoe as far as the house of Melchi Gray near the mouth of the Monon. No Indians were found, except some timid Pottawattamies who were as frightened over the prospect of a raid by Black Hawk's warriors as were the most fearful of the whites who had deserted their homes.

Mrs. Peter Price, who had then been about a year in her new home, relates that her family had remained unconscious of any danger until early one June morning, when George A. Spencer rode rapidly up to their cabin door on his horse and shouted "Halloo, Peter, get up! The d—d Injins are coming and are killing everybody." In about a minute everybody's clothes were on and the messenger surrounded and bombarded with rapid-fire questions. It was decided to leave immediately, and hurried preparations were made to take the most valuable articles and leave the remainder to the torch of the savages. Mrs. Price and her children were taken to the house of a friend below Delphi, while Mr. Price returned to near the mouth of Spring Creek, Prairie Township, where some twelve or fifteen families had collected and made rather formidable preparations to receive the enemy. Every man and boy was on guard and every gun was loaded and in place. It is also stated that a sort of blockhouse was erected. Some thought the danger was to come from the Pottawattamies, while others feared the Saes and Foxes from the Mississippi River region. As a matter of fact, it may be repeated the Pottawattamies were as much frightened as any of the whites, and all went to the Indian agent for advice and protection. They thought the whites were going to attack them for some reason not apparent. It was a period of "creeps and horrors" all 'round.

## LAND ENTRIES IN 1831-34

In July, 1831, Samuel Gray entered land in section 7, and David Miller in section 6, during August, and in November of that year Mahlon Frazer, Sr., bought a tract south of Mr. Rothrock's in section 3.

Hans E. Hirth became a land owner in section 21 during July, 1832, in section 20 during August, and in section 8, in September; during October of that year James Spencer entered land in sections 17 and 18.



Benjamin N. Spencer in section 17, Elisha Rawls in section 6, and Thomas King in section 5.

The year 1833 brought purchasers of land as follows: Henry Baum, section 5, and James Johnson, section 31, in March; Thomas Wilson, section 17, and Samuel Gray, section 18, in April; Jacob Dewey, section 4, in May; Benjamin Price, section 3, in June; Melchi Gray, in October, and Richard Worthington, in November, both in section 7.

In 1834, at dates previous to the organization of the county, John Wilson entered land in section 17, on the 21st of April; Joseph James, in section 13, June 4th; John Tedford, in section 36, on the 10th of that month; George R. Bartley, in section 33, on the 13th, and James Staughton, in section 6, July 5th, two weeks before the meeting of the first board of commissioners. Afterward, but in the year of the county's birth, the following appeared in the list of land-holders: Robert Rothrock, section 33, September 6th; Samuel Rifenberriek, section 33, November 22d; Zebulon Sheetz, same section, November 1st, as well as in section 27, on the same date.

#### ENTRY OF MONTICELLO'S SITE

The main portion of Monticello was platted on section 33, the first public sale of lots occurring on the 7th of November, 1834. It is a matter of record that Robert Rothrock entered the land at LaPorte, in behalf of John Rothrock, his father, H. E. Hoirth and John Barr (county agent), for the purpose of which they placed \$137.77<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in his hands. He signed a \$1,000 bond to transfer to them "the south half of the northeast quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 33, Township 27 north, Range 3 west, containing in all 110 22-100 acres, which lots were purchased for the purpose of a county seat in White county." This he finally did.

#### BOUNDS OF ORIGINAL PLAT

The old plat of Monticello was bounded on the north by Marion Street, east by Tippecanoe or Bluff Street, south by Jefferson and west by Illinois. Legally, with the express condition that the county seat should forever remain at Monticello, the site, as conveyed by Robert Rothrock to County Agent Barr, with a quit claim to all titles of Messrs. Barr, Hoirth and John Rothrock in the same, the description of the boundaries of the original site is as follows: Beginning at a point where the west line of Illinois Street in the said Town of Monticello running north as the town plat of the said town is laid out would intersect the north line of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 33, township 27 north, range 3 west, thence east with the north line of said fraction to the Tippecanoe River, thence with the meanderings of the said river to the south line of the northwest fraction of the southeast quarter of section 33, township 27 north, range 3 west, thence with the south line of said last mentioned fraction west to a point where the west line of said Illinois Street aforesaid extended south would intersect said last mentioned line,



thence north with the west line of said Illinois Street extended as aforesaid to the place of beginning. That tract was laid out on the 3d of November, 1834, under the supervision of Mr. Barr, assisted by Asa Allen, Melchi Gray and Joshua Lindsey, surveyors.

#### SITE CONTROLLED MAINLY BY RESIDENTS

Little opportunity was given to non-resident land speculators to obtain land in the immediate vicinity of Monticello, as it was all taken by residents soon after the county seat was located. There was one notable exception. Jacob Walker and William M. Jenners, of Lafayette, and Benjamin Reynolds, of Big Creek Township, succeeded in purchasing a considerable tract of George R. Bartley adjoining the original plat of the town, on the south and west, and laid out Monticello's first addition in October, 1836. Barr's addition followed in April, 1837. Notwithstanding that residents, as a rule, controlled the site, they did not become wealthy from their investments, as the value of real estate at the county seat never rose rapidly; it never experienced a boom, as the growth of the county seat was substantial rather than spectacular.

#### HIORTH AND MOUNT WALLESTON

The lumber for the first buildings erected at Monticello, as well as for other structures, like little frame schoolhouses and churches put up in the central and northern portions of the county, came largely from the sawmill which Mr. Hiorth had commenced to operate in 1833. It is said that he was a venturesome Norwegian sailor, who, with a companion, known as Peter B. Smith, had tired of his roving and, having saved a neat sum of money, invested in about 1,000 acres of land about two miles north of what was to become the county seat; of that coming event, he was naturally in ignorance.

Mr. Hiorth's large tract was located in the vicinity of a pronounced hill, afterward known as Mount Walleston, and about 1833 he constructed a dam across the Tippecanoe River on his land in section 21 and there erected a sawmill, as stated. In that enterprise his old sailor friend, Smith, was a partner. As Hiorth's mill was the pioneer industry of the county and the water power on his land was the means of establishing other mills at that point, which, in turn, proved the foundation for the once flourishing Village of Norway, the writer pauses a moment here to enter into local details.

#### LEASES TO WILLIAM SILL

In April, 1843, after he had operated his sawmill for about ten years, Hiorth leased all the water power of the dam, except sufficient to run his industry, to William Sill, of Monticello. The lease also covered adjacent land not to exceed three acres, and stipulated that Hiorth was to keep the dam in repair. The arrangement was for ten years, at \$150 per



quinn, and whatever improvements Sill made, such as graveling or erecting buildings, were to be taken over by Hiorth at a fair valuation when the lease expired. A few months after the lease was made, Sill was also given power to sublet portions of the water power, provided that he did not allow anyone the privilege of erecting a sawmill; Hiorth considered that industry his monopoly.

#### MARTIN CHERRIE'S WOOLEN MILL

In September, 1843, Hiorth leased his sawmill, with the necessary water-power, to Martin Cherrie for a period of nine years; the lease also included land for a log yard and a dwelling. The new proprietor agreed to build a better mill, using so much of the old machinery as was possible. At the same time Sill subleased to Cherrie, for nine years, sufficient water power to operate a carding and fulling mill and a small piece of ground for a dyeing yard, the consideration for all these privileges being \$75 per year.

#### THE FLOUR MILL IN MOTION

In 1844 William Sill began the erection of his merchant grist mill, setting it in motion during the following year. For years it was the finest establishment of the kind for miles around and brought both business and permanent settlers to the locality.

Mr. Cherrie entered into a contract with Arthur Russell, in January, 1845, calling for the erection and equipment of a wool-carding and cloth-dressing mill, 32 by 25 feet, to be completed by October 1st of that year. Russell was then to superintend the mill for the nine years stipulated by the lease, was to employ all help and to receive annually, out of the profits of business, \$280. The contract was canceled in December, 1845, but not before the carding mill had been set in operation.

#### HIORTH, VERY EXCLUSIVE

In the meantime Mr. Hiorth had fallen a victim to consumption. Although enterprising, he had not encouraged the coming of new settlers. When he built the dam he had in mind not only the erection of a sawmill, but of a silk factory, and, in view of the latter enterprise, he planted on his land quite a grove of white mulberry trees. That enterprise, like others, came to naught because of his failing health, but when the other proposed mills commenced to assume shape and a number of people settled in the locality he refused to sell his land to encourage immigration, and to the platting of a town he was firmly opposed. His entries of Government land had made him by far the largest resident land owner in the township. His holdings in sections 20 and 21 embraced all of the Norway prairie and the land on both sides of the Tippecanoe River, giving him a monopoly of the water power as well as the best farming land of the prairie. We have seen what land and privileges he commanded to lease, and he permitted the building of one house on his





immense tract for the accommodation of the miller and his family; but beyond that and his own residence, no building of homes was permitted. At his death his widow, who was made his sole legatee, inaugurated a more friendly and generous policy.

#### MOUNT WALLESTON PLATTED

In March, 1845, soon after her husband's death, the widow, Bergetta Hiorth, employed John Armstrong to lay out ninety-six lots on the northwest fraction of section 21, township 27 north, range 3 west, and named the village Mount Walleston. The plat shows Hiorth, Washington and Franklin streets as running east and west, and Francis, Broadway, Norway and Hill, north and south thoroughfares. Soon after Sill's grist mill and Cherrie's woolen mill were in operation, prospectors were attracted to Mount Walleston, lots in the town plat were sold and the erection of houses and stores became brisk. Mill operatives, blacksmiths, carpenters and merchants soon formed quite a settlement. Lumber was for sale, large quantities of flour were manufactured for county consumption and shipment, and farmers came for miles around to have their wool carded and fullled. A ferry was also started, so that passengers and teams were brought to Mount Walleston from the eastern sections, a postoffice was established and Monticello had a real rival.

#### HIORTH INTERESTS PASS TO THE KENDALLS

The infusion of new and strong blood into the community had caused the progress noted. Perhaps the most important event tending to stimulate the locality was the throwing upon the market of the Hiorth property, which included the cream of the township. In February, 1848, all the lands in White County, formerly owned by Hans E. Hiorth and then held by his widow, were sold to C. W., F. G., and R. C. Kendall of Monticello for \$6,100. Two years before, Mrs. Hiorth had married Claus L. Clausen, a Norwegian clergyman, and after thus disposing of the property, which was somewhat encumbered, she left with her husband for Wisconsin and later removed to New Orleans, Louisiana.

#### BOOM AT MOUNT WALLESTON

The Kendalls located at Mount Walleston and until 1856 conducted a general store and the sawmill and flouring mill. Their coming was the signal for various improvements both of their own properties and the woolen factory, operated by the lessees, G. B. Woltz and Arthur Russell. The Kendalls furnished the latter additional water power to provide for a considerable increase in machinery and a third set of buhrs was added to the two sets which had been in use. Their general store carried a large stock and the town became the center of trade for a radius of country which extended into neighboring counties. Town lots were



readily sold and buildings were erected on them by the purchasers. All the trades and some of the professions were represented.

Among the first settlers of the town were James W. Bulger, the miller; Arthur Russell and his partner in the woolen mill, George B. Woltz; Rev. Abram Snyder, father of Capt. Henry Snyder, who owned and operated a large tannery; Abram and Watson Lowther, blacksmiths and gunsmiths; Cyrus Short, father of John Short, the hotel keeper; Dr. Harrison P. Anderson and Dr. J. H. Lower, physicians; William Weeks, carpenter and millwright, and Abram and Peter Repogle.

#### THE KENDALLS WITHDRAW

By 1856 it became reasonably apparent that Norway, or Mount Walleston, had seen its best days, and that Monticello had not; consequently, the Kendalls withdrew. R. C. Kendall sold his interests to his two brothers, who, in turn, disposed of the properties to Emanuel Shoup, the father-in-law of Francis G.; R. C. and F. G. Kendall moved to Burlington, Iowa, and Charles W. returned to Monticello. He resumed his place at the county seat as one of its leading business men and citizens; became its first republican postmaster and died at Monticello in 1875.

#### ROWLAND HUGHES, OF MONTICELLO

In the meantime Monticello had made more substantial progress. New comers were welcomed and two years after the town was platted its future was so assured that Rowland Hughes opened a tavern. He was one of those sturdy Pennsylvanians, who did so much for the town, the township and the county, in the early days. He had been married to a Green County (Ohio) girl, Nancy Ines, in 1833, two years later he moved to Lafayette, Indiana, and in December, 1835, entered land in section 27, just northeast of Monticello. In 1836 he opened his tavern at the county seat, established his dry goods store in 1839 and until his death in May, 1883, was one of the most prominent, popular and respected men in the county. In its early history he served as a member of the Legislature, always taking an outspoken and active interest in public affairs. Mr. Hughes was also strong in his attachment to home and family, and left a wife and four of their seven children.

#### INFANT INDUSTRIES AT THE COUNTY SEAT

As early as 1838 Joseph Rothrock had built a "brush dam" across the Tippecanoe River just below Monticello. He erected a small sawmill and two years later Daniel M. Tilton established a tiny carding mill, both affairs being as extensive as the weak water power could keep in motion. A short time after its erection the carding mill burned to the ground, despite the exertions of the bucket brigade from Monticello; but the sawmill, though standing close beside it, was saved.

But little progress was made in the industrial life of the county seat



until 1848, when the Monticello Hydraulic Company was incorporated to develop the water-power at that place. Both the old and the new hydraulic companies were strong forces in the early development of Monticello and the township, but the details of their operations belong to the chapter devoted especially to the history of the county seat.

#### FIRST TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

On the day of the creation of Union Township (July 19, 1834) the county commissioners appointed the following officers for the new township: Peter Price and Elias Lowther, overseers of the poor; Samuel Gray, Sr., and James Johnson, fence viewers; William Wilson, road supervisor. At the same time an election for a justice of the peace was ordered to be held on the first Monday of the following August, Joshua Lindsey being the choice of the voters. In May, 1835, Melchi Gray became inspector of elections for Union Township. The foregoing are the first political items obtainable, and mention various individuals who have been introduced in foregoing pages.

#### JEREMIAH BISHOP

Among the old-timers who settled previous to the organization of the township, and whose name has already appeared, was Jeremiah Bishop. Even in his younger manhood he appears to have been rather an eccentric character; it will be remembered that he was brought before the Circuit Court, at its first session, charged with malicious mischief in tying the tail of one of his neighbor's fractious horses, thereby causing the animal to injure itself. But he survived that ordeal as well as many trials of a more serious nature incident to a resident of some forty-four years in Union Township. His death occurred on his large and comfortable homestead, four miles southwest of Monticello, in May, 1875, and his remains were buried in the old Kenton grave yard about a mile from his residence.

#### THE OLD KENTON GRAVE YARD

In some ways that is quite a historical spot, as the grounds doubtless contain the grave of the first white person buried within the limits of White County. The epitaph reads: "John W. E. Rogers, son of Nathaniel and Rachel Rogers. Died May 18, 1833, aged 18 years, 11 mos. and 7 days."

In this same deserted country grave yard were also buried William M. Kenton, son of Simon Kenton, the famous Kentucky frontiersman, and four of his children. About thirty years ago his son removed their remains to the cemetery north of Monticello, but left the tombstones standing. William M. Kenton died April 30, 1869, in his sixty-third year.



## ENTERED GOVERNMENT LANDS IN 1835

Those who entered land in Union Township in 1835, most of whom settled thereon at the time or soon after, were as follows: George A. Brock, in sections 14 and 23, January 15th; James Parker, section 32, March 4th, and Richard Armstrong, section 33, March 11th; George W. Sill, in section 27, April 24th; Robert Rothrock, section 4, June 17th; David Scroggs, section 36, July 13th; Peter Martin, section 33, August 24th; Samuel Shannahan, section 31, September 22d; Jonathan Hutt, section 15, November 16th, and in section 23, December 5th; William Price, section 21, November 7th; John Hanawalt, section 21, November 10th, and section 28, same date; James Harrison, section 14, November 16th; Isaac S. Vinson, section 31, November 12th; Amos Wiley, section 8, December 28th; Thomas Crose, section 8, December 16th; James Shafer, section 27, December 22d; Henry Glassford, sections 25, 26 and 36, December 12th and Andrew T. Ream, section 28, December 30th.

## THE BUSY LAND YEAR, 1836

One of the busiest years in the matter of land entries in Union Township was 1836, as witness the following: Henry Ensminger entered land in section 36, on January 20th; in section 36, February 15th; section 23, March 18th; sections 24 and 25, same date; sections 26 and 27, February 5th. Daniel Cain entered land in section 19, on January 18th, and in February, Peter Martin filed claims in sections 21 and 35; Ira Bacon, in section 8; and Jacob Pitzer, in section 17. In March, 1836, the following entered: Harvey Rayhill, in section 17; Eli Cowger, section 22; Daniel Baum, section 15; Joseph Skidmore, sections 14 and 23; Matthew Hopper, section 28, and John Ross, section 32. Richard Worthington entered lands in section 32, in April, and in section 29, during May. In May Isaac Reynolds filed his claim in section 18; William Ingram, in section 20; and John L. Piper, in sections 17 and 20. The month of June, 1836, brought the following as land claimants: Thomas Downing, in section 32; Harrison Skinner, in sections 20 and 28; Isaac S. Piper, in section 17; and Reuben Hull, in section 28. In July came Jacob Meyer to section 29, and in August, George Paugh, to section 24. The November claimants were Peter B. Smith (Hiorth's partner), in section 18, and Daniel M. Tilton, section 31. Mr. Tilton also filed a claim in section 29 during December, and in the same month the following entered land: Zachens Rothrock, in section 14; Andrew T. Ream, in section 28, and John Press, in section 29.

## HARD TIMES CHECK LAND ENTRIES

The hard times of 1837-38 frightened purchasers of land and during that year only four made claims in Union Township, viz.: Elijah Adams in section 7; Isaiah Broderick, in section 13; Peter Wicklow, in section 14, and William Ingram, in section 17. The only one to enter land in 1838 was Thomas Hollaway, in section 14; the year 1839 is also saved





from being "blanked" by a solitary claimant, Richard Tilton, who entered land in section 19.

#### EXCLUDED SECTIONS

After 1840, there were few tracts in the township subject to entry and purchase from the Government at the regular price of \$1.25 per acre. Of course, section 16, being school land, was not available for entry, while section 30 and a portion of section 29 were canal lands and also excluded from private ownership at Government prices.

#### ENTRIES IN 1841-54

In the '40s, the years 1847 and 1848 showed the greatest improvement in land purchases. In 1841 Samuel E. Burns entered a claim in section 18, and in 1844, Peter B. Smith filed on a tract in section 4. The following entries were made in the late '40s: In 1845, Samuel E. Burns and William A. Logan, section 18; in 1846, Henry James and Mary E. McKee, section 13; in 1847, Levi Reynolds, Matthew Reynolds and George James, section 6; Loren Cutler, section 13; Abram Snyder, section 14, and Randolph Brearley, section 18; in 1848, Thomas O'Brien, section 18, Daniel Cain, section 19, and William Fincer, Sardis Cutler and Robert Rothrock, section 24. Three entries are recorded for 1850—Ashley Pierce, Mary L. Pierce and Lewis Pierce, all in section 19. In April, 1854, Henry Kahler and Lanty T. Armstrong entered land in the island lying in the Tippecanoe River, section 34, east of Monticello, which closed the record for lands purchased of the Government in Union Township.

#### LAND THE BASIS OF SOLID PROSPERITY

We have gone somewhat extensively into the subject of land entries, as they formed the basis of so much permanent prosperity throughout the township, especially among the old families who have been engaged in farming operations for several generations. In fact, with the exception of Monticello, the activities of that portion of the county are almost entirely rural, as Norway, which once aspired to something metropolitan, is now but a pretty hamlet, with a fertile outlying country.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF GOOD ROADS

Union Township has given much of its time and substance to the improvement of highways within its borders, and has already incurred a bonded indebtedness of \$47,697 in the construction of gravel roads. The expenditure has been divided among the different roads as follows: Ballard road, \$2,400; Spencer, \$5,200; Dobbins, \$400; Kepp, \$4,250; Shook, \$3,000; Mills, \$6,067; Christy, \$3,430; Miller, \$4,950; Roberts, \$12,000; Seroggs, \$6,000. This is in addition to the Breechfel pike leading to Buffalo and several miles of stone and gravel roads not shown in the above statement.



## CHAPTER XIII

### MONON TOWNSHIP

CORNELIUS SUTTON, FIRST SETTLER—EARLY SETTLERS, VOTERS AND OFFICIALS—LAND ENTRIES BEFORE 1840—SWAMP LANDS PURCHASED—GOOD ROADS—LIMESTONE DEPOSITS—THE TIMBERED TRACTS—BIG AND LITTLE MONON CREEKS—FIRST MILLS BUILT—WEST BEDFORD—THE COOPER MILL—LAST GASP OF WEST BEDFORD—NEW BRADFORD AND MONON—FIRST EVENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP—SIMON KENTON'S DAUGHTERS AND GRANDCHILDREN—EARLY POSTOFFICES—OAKDALE, OR LEE.

In response to a petition signed by eleven citizens, the board of commissioners for White County created Monon Township on the 5th of January, 1836. It then embraced all of the county north of the line dividing sections 16 and 21, township 27 north, range 3 west and west of the line dividing ranges 2 and 3, and it did not assume its present area and form until Liberty Township was erected in 1837, Princeton in 1844 and Honey Creek in 1855. The first change in its boundaries was in September, 1836, when it was only about nine months old, at which time its south line was moved one mile to the north.

#### CORNELIUS SUTTON, FIRST SETTLER

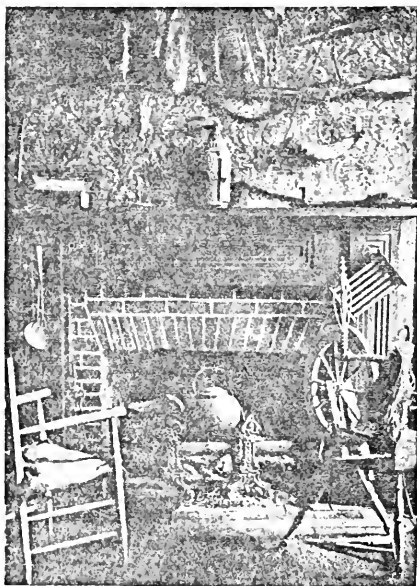
The first settler in Monon Township of whom there is any account—and that is rather unsatisfactory—was Cornelius Sutton, a wandering trapper, who, about 1835, located his shack and himself near the confluence of the Big and Little Monon creeks. He was chosen one of the two overseers of the poor at the first election in the following year; but that is not necessarily placing him in the list of really prominent men, as in order to fill the offices nearly all the residents of the township had to serve in some capacity.

#### EARLY SETTLERS, VOTERS AND OFFICIALS

During the year of the township's organization, 1836, the following became residents within its limits: John Cowger, Amos Cooper, Silas Cowger, Thomas Macklen, John McNary, Joseph J. Reiley, John Parker, Harvey Sellers, Lyeurgus Cooper and John Kepperling; and there were about as many more who had already located when the township was created. That is a safe statement, since at the first election held at the house of Mr. Sutton, on the first Monday (the 4th) of April, 1836, the



following voted: Samuel Gray, David Berkey, Elihu Line, Thomas Wilson, Ira Bacon, James K. Wilson, Cornelius Sutton, John McNary, Elias Lowther, William Wilson, James H. Sutton, Melchi Gray, Silas Cowger and Isaac W. Blake. Melchi Gray and Messrs. Line and Baker acted as judges, and Samuel Gray and Mr. Berkey, as clerks. The officers elected were Silas Cowger for justice of the peace; Isaac W. Black, constable; Elias Lowther, supervisor; Cornelius Sutton and James K. Wilson, overseers of the poor, and Elihu Line, inspector of election. Samuel Gray and Joseph K. Sutton each received seven votes for fence



OLD-FASHIONED FIRE-PLACE

viewer—a very important office in the early times—and the record does not bring down to us the ultimate choice.

The second election, in 1837, was held at the house of Silas Cowger, on the Monon, and the third, at the cabin of John Cowger. The Cowger family became both prominent and permanent, and its members are still factors in the progress of the township.

#### LAND ENTRIES BEFORE 1840

Among those mentioned, as well as others who came to the township previous to 1840, the following entered land in Monon Township, the



earliest tracts taken up being in sections which include the present site of the Village of Monon and adjacent tracts to the east and southeast: In 1832 William Wilson entered claims in section 11; Thomas Wilson, Sr., in section 22; David Berkey, in sections 24 and 25; Ira Bacon, in sections 26 and 27; Thomas Murphy, in sections 25 and 36.

1833—Joseph Wilson, section 11; William Wilson, section 22; Elias Lowther, section 25.

1834—Joseph Wilson, section 22; Daniel Griffith, sections 22 and 28; Frederick Spilkey, section 26.

1835—John Britton, sections 18 and 30; John Sidenbender, section 31; John Pixler, same section; John Cowger, sections 1 and 18; Thomas Wilson, section 14; Thomas King, section 15.

1836—John Renner, section 17; Daniel Murray, section 18; Isaac W. Blake, section 19; Benjamin Ball, sections 21 and 22; Thomas Downey, section 25; Dennis Line, section 1.

1837—Michael Aker, section 8; Samuel Korn, section 17; Jacob Dibra, section 29; Harvey Sellers, section 30; Charles S. Lowe, section 1; Benjamin Ball, section 20.

1838—Ayres Peterson, section 19.

1839—John McNutt, section 18; Abraham Hershe, section 29; Samuel Peterson, section 29.

#### SWAMP LANDS PURCHASED

Although most of the land entered was eventually settled by residents, at a later day much of the so-called "swamp land" was purchased by non-residents. Some was really overflowed; other tracts were on the sand ridges, high and dry.

Three hundred and sixty acres in section 19 was purchased by I. and D. C. Chamberlain, Samuel Duncan and Marion Reed, residents, and Solomon Sturges, non-resident. Two hundred acres in section 30 became the property of John Duncan and James Johnson, residents, and of Mr. Sturges. The greater portions of sections 1, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 were entered as swamp lands, with smaller tracts in sections 2, 3, 33, 34, and 36. In other words, a large portion of Western Monon Township was entered as swamp lands. These entries, with scattering tracts, legally placed more than a quarter of Monon Township under water; that portion is far from the facts, although considerable of its area was low-land.

When the first settlers came to the township, before any effort had been made at drainage, a large area of the township was covered by water the greater part of the year. It was a favorite breeding place for aquatic wild fowl and fur-bearing animals and drew thither many hunters and trappers. Thus the settlement of the country by substantial farmers was slow.

#### GOOD ROADS

Monon Township has not only spent largely of her means in the matter of reclaiming her swamp lands and bringing them under culti-





vation, but is among the foremost of the townships (third in the list) in furthering the good roads movement, through which the farming communities are brought into close touch with the markets, even though miles from the railroad. In the construction of gravel, or macadam roads, which has been pushed with such good results for the past twenty years, Monon Township has cheerfully incurred a bonded indebtedness of \$58,280, divided among the different roads as follows: McDonald, \$19,080; Jacks, \$4,200; Graham, \$4,800; Kentnick, \$11,200; Porter, \$8,000; Hughes, \$5,000; Noland, \$6,000.

#### LIMESTONE DEPOSITS

A solid bed of limestone underlies much of the fertile soil of Monon Township, its most prominent outcroppings being in the vicinity of the Big and Little Monon creeks. The quarrying of this stone, the deposits of which vary in thickness from one to seven feet, and the operation of kilns for the manufacture of lime, were carried on to a considerable extent in the pioneer times; but the limestone has been utilized, for some years past, in the building of highways, not only in many sections of White County, but in neighboring territory. Perhaps the largest crushing plant and lime manufactory in the county is now in operation about a mile south of Monon.

#### THE TIMBERED TRACTS

Originally, the southern half of the township was heavily timbered, and consequently, as in the case of the other townships, was first settled. There were also considerable tracts of timber land in the eastern portion, on both sides of Big Monon Creek, extending as far north as the second tier of sections from the northern line of the township. Most of the first growth has, of course, been removed, although these portions of the township are still the best wooded.

#### BIG AND LITTLE MONON CREEKS

Monon Township is one of the largest in the county, being nearly equal in area to two congressional townships. The spelling of the name of the creeks, from which it is designated, was formerly Monong; the Indians even went further and called the Big Monon, the Metamonong—Meta being "big." These streams are the most beautiful tributaries of the Tippecanoe in White County, and have been a blessing to the township in every way.

#### FIRST MILLS BUILT

As early as 1835 Elias Lowther commenced to build a grist mill on Little Monon Creek, near its mouth, and finished it during the following year. Whether Mr. Lowther made the buhrs himself or Dr. Samuel



Korn, who was then a resident of Tippecanoe County, is not material; the main point is that they were well made and hung true and did the work required of them to the satisfaction of the settlers until 1840. In that year the mill shut down and the buhrs were purchased by Charles S. Lowe, a Miami County farmer and merchant whose homestead had been in section 24, about three miles east of the present Village of Monon, for several years.

Mr. Lowe erected a new mill on Big Monon Creek, near his homestead, using the buhrs of the first mill in his own enterprise; the same stones are said to have done good service afterward in Jasper County, and the old grist mill was subsequently transformed into a sawmill, which was operated by Larkin and Gustavus Lowe, sons of the founder. The Lowe Mill was one of the most widely known landmarks in Monon Township and the Lowe farm and residence were favorite centers of social life.

#### WEST BEDFORD

This brings us to the story of the founding of West Bedford, in the immediate vicinity of the old Lowther mill. The town was platted by David Berkey on the 21st day of April, 1837, on the north side of Little Monon Creek and the west side of the Big Monon, near the confluence of those streams with the Tippecanoe River. The survey was made by Asa Allen, county surveyor. The plat comprised 100 lots and the village flourished for fifteen years, or until it became evident that the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad was going some three miles west of its limits.

#### THE COOPER MILL

In 1845 Amos Cooper and Nathaniel Hull threw a dam across the Big Monon three miles north of West Bedford and erected a large frame grist mill, at a cost of between \$5,000 and \$6,000. They also bought a large stock of general merchandise and opened a store. This combined enterprise was beneficial to the township, but rather detracted from the importance of West Bedford and drew business from such merchants of that town as Martin Judah and "Jack" Heaton. In the early time there were several saloons in the village, and, as the sale of liquors required no license then, the general stores sold whiskey, gin and other strong drinks. In fact, for a number of years West Bedford had, and firmly maintained, a bad reputation for sobriety.

#### LAST GASP OF WEST BEDFORD

The last revival of business at West Bedford was its death gasp, for while the railroad was in process of construction to the westward in 1853 its employees were obliged to depend for some time upon the board, provisions and lodgings, as well as the wet goods, which could be supplied of the merchants, hotel keepers and resident families of the village. But on the 18th of March, 1853, James Brooks, president of the Louisville,



New Albany & Chicago Railroad, platted the Town of New Bradford, and the exodus from West Bedford commenced in earnest. Within a few months, the old town had been virtually deserted for the new.

#### NEW BRADFORD AND MONON

It is certain that President Brooks, of the railroad, meant that his town should be launched with celat. The original plat contained 410 lots on either side of the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago line, and he at once commenced the construction of a large roundhouse. Residences and stores were rapidly built, and within a few months an addition of more than sixty lots was made to the original town.

It was more than forty years before the name New Bradford was legally replaced by that of Monon—designating the village as well as the postoffice. The name Monon was given to the first postoffice established in the township, about 1838, at the house of David Berkey on the farm afterward owned by Samuel Lowe. Mr. Berkey was also postmaster and continued as such until the office was moved to the house of James K. Wilson, just east of the present Village of Monon. The postoffice remained as Monon both under Mr. Wilson's administration and that of his successor, Lewis Chamberlain, who assumed its duties in 1854 as the postmaster at New Bradford. It was not until 1879 that New Bradford was incorporated under the name of Monon, thus making the name of the postoffice and the village uniform. The ambitions of its founder have been fairly realized, as it is the second center of population in the county and an attractive, brisk and substantial town.

#### FIRST EVENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP

The first white child born in the township was John Wilson, son of James K. and Nancy Wilson (nee Clayton), whose birthday was June 1, 1834. During the year 1835 the following were born in the township: Lavinia Lowther, Margaret Bacon, Dennis Blake, Elizabeth Wilson and Clarissa Barkey.

The first death was that of Mrs. Thomas Wilson, in the fall of 1834.

James Harrison and Elizabeth Ivers were the first to be married in Monon Township, about the year 1838. In the following year, Amos Cooper and Mary Edwards were wed, and about the same time, Benjamin Ball and Martha Kenton.

#### SIMON KENTON'S DAUGHTERS AND GRANDCHILDREN

The last named was a granddaughter of Simon Kenton, the famed Indian fighter and frontiersman. Three of his daughters were also early settlers of the township. They married Daniel Murray, Jacob Meyer and James J. Brown, and all died within the limits of the township. Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Meyer were interred in the cemetery at Monon Methodist Episcopal Chapel, about three miles northeast of the village.



Jacob Meyer died at an early date and his widow married Matthias M. Thornton, dying herself without issue.

Mrs. Murray had a large family, and five of her sons served in the Civil war, their records being such as were a credit to the family name. Lewis Murray rose to the rank of lieutenant in the regular army and died in the service at Indianapolis.

The first religious organization in Monon Township was probably the Presbyterian Society established at West Bedford in 1839. Reverend Williamson was its first pastor and the early members were Thomas Downey and wife, William Wilson and wife, and Mrs. Kepperling.

West Bedford also had the first schoolhouse in the township, built in 1840. Salome Bentley was the teacher of this pioneer school and was succeeded by Michael Berkey. The second schoolhouse in the township was erected, about 1852, at Cooper's Mill.

#### EARLY POSTOFFICES

Outside of Monon, a number of postoffices have been established in the township, some of which have been discontinued because of a shifting of population, others moved into other townships and still others absorbed by the rural free delivery.

Catheart postoffice was established about 1846, in the western part of the township, with Robert B. Overton as postmaster. It was situated on the farm afterward occupied by Thomas Jacks and was discontinued in 1863.

Flowerville postoffice was established in 1867, with A. A. Cole as postmaster. It was situated in the eastern part of the township on a tract of land owned by William Lowe and the heirs of John Berkey. In 1869 it was moved into Liberty Township on the east side of the Tippecanoe and later was discontinued but a store is still located there.

#### OAKDALE, OR LEE

The only existing postoffice in Monon Township outside the village is Lee, in the northwest corner, about a mile from the Jasper County line on the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago (Monon) Railroad. It became a postoffice, in 1882, with Calvin Anderson as postmaster, and although it was platted in 1886 as Oakdale it is generally known as Lee in honor of Uncle Sam's sponsorship.

In August of the latter year it was platted by Benjamin A. Linville and Noble J. York, who laid out 120 lots on fractions of sections 3, 10 and 11, township 28 north, range 5 west. It is about five miles northwest of Monon and is the center of a rich district of drained lands, admirably adapted to live stock. Eventually, it will also be surrounded by a productive grain district, numerous large farms having been opened of late years. Aside from artificial ditches, with which the adjacent country is well supplied, the land is drained by Pinkamink Creek, a branch of the Iroquois River flowing westwardly through the neighboring County of





Jasper. Oakdale, or Lee, is an important shipping point for hay. Hundreds of tons are baled at the station every year and shipped abroad, and, with the improvement of the surrounding farming lands, it has become an equally good point for the marketing and shipping of grain.



## CHAPTER XIV

### PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

AS A WHITE COUNTY TOWNSHIP—NATURAL FEATURES—DRAINAGE THROUGH MOOTS AND SPRING CREEKS—PRODUCTS OF THE SOIL—EASTERN TIMBER LANDS FIRST SETTLED—GENEROUS BILL OF FARE—THE PIONEER LANDLORDS OF 1829-34—HARD TIMES RETARD ENTRIES—ROYAL HAZELTON, FIRST PERMANENT SETTLER—SAMUEL ALKIRE—THOMAS KENNEDY—FIRST VOTERS AND OFFICIALS—EDUCATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS BEGINNINGS—J. C. MOORE, PROSPEROUS FARMER AND INVENTOR—OTHER EARLY LANDHOLDERS—LOREN AND RALPH A. CUTLER—FIRST SAWMILLS—BROOKSTON, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTER—VILLAGE OF SPRINGBORO—IMPROVEMENT IN RURAL CONDITIONS—LEADING GOOD ROADS TOWNSHIP.

Prairie Township comprises sixty-six square miles in the southernmost portion of White County, with Carroll County to the east and Tippecanoe to the south. It is in the shape of parallelogram, eleven miles east and west and six, north and south.

The present township is the remnant of one of the largest civil divisions in the State of Indiana. When attached to Carroll County, before the organization of White, Prairie Township had an area of 2,000 square miles, or more than five times the area of the county to which it was attached for judicial and political purposes. Its territory comprised all of White County west of the Tippecanoe River, Jasper and Newton counties as a whole, and a part of Benton and Pulaski counties. That was the very cream of the prairie country in Northwestern Indiana; hence the name which is still attached to the reduced township.

#### AS A WHITE COUNTY TOWNSHIP

At the first meeting of the Board of Commissioners of White County on July 19, 1834, an order was issued creating Congressional Township No. 25, to be known as Prairie. The new division contained 102 square miles, and was bounded on the north by Big Creek Township, on the east and south by Carroll and Tippecanoe counties, respectively, and on the west by Benton County. Thus the boundaries remained until 1854, when West Point Township was taken from Big Creek and constituted the northern boundary of nine out of the seventeen sections then forming its northern tier. In 1858 Round Grove Township was carved from the western portion of Prairie Township, thus reducing its area by thirty-six square miles and forming it as at present.



## NATURAL FEATURES

From the very first, Prairie Township was considered an agricultural star of the first magnitude. The prime reasons for its superiority were that it had not only richness of soil, both in its western prairie sections and its eastern areas of timbered lands, but a splendid natural drainage and a gently undulating land surface, which made it unnecessary to resort to artificial means to realize handsomely from the first fruits of the land.

Probably three-fifths of the entire township is prairie land, its eastern half being comparatively level, with gentle undulations here and there and timber areas and stretches lying adjacent to the streams. The western part is almost barren of timber, save the Round Grove and a stretch of timber reaching into the township by that name; this is called by the settlers Slim Timber, and is one of several similar wooded fingers which protrude into the Grand Prairie from West Point and Princeton townships. The soil of the prairie portions of the township is a rich black loam, with a subsoil of sand and gravel; in the timbered tracts the loam has a clay subsoil. There are no high ridges of sand anywhere, such as are found in the northern townships of the county. Yet, after all has been said as to the appropriateness of the township's name, it must be admitted that it was more to the point before Round Grove was lopped off.

## DRAINAGE THROUGH MOOTS AND SPRING CREEKS

The eastern portion of Prairie Township is timbered chiefly with white oak, though there are other varieties of wood found near the borders of the Tippecanoe and along Moots and Spring creeks, its tributaries which are the natural channels for the drainage of the township. Moots Creek has its source in the extreme northwestern sections, winding in a general southeasterly direction to the southern boundary of the township, about a mile from its eastern line, and thence passing into Tippecanoe County on its way to join the Tippecanoe. Spring Creek rises in the northern part of the township. It also flows southeast and empties into the Tippecanoe River at Springboro, the oldest town in the township, where the first postoffice was established on the stage line from Lafayette to Michigan City. It was five miles east of Brookston, one of those several "paper towns" in White County, crumpled up by the lack of a railroad. Its site, where the creek joins the river, with a series of bluffs rising from the smaller to the larger stream, was picturesque, and still is; but natural beauty could not make Springboro grow.

Spring Creek itself is not as long as Moots, but, by reason of the living springs which feed it so abundantly and unvaryingly along its entire course, its volume of water is probably much greater. Both streams have made the township ideal for stockmen, and in the early times many large tracts of land on their banks were fenced off for the pasturage and raising of cattle.



## PRODUCTS OF THE SOIL

The native grasses have almost disappeared from the township, the area of prairie land having been broken up and cultivated to corn, oats and other grain. Timothy is largely cultivated, yielding two or three tons to the acre, and after the crop is removed the meadow land is utilized for pasture until the stock is housed for the cold months. Red clover is also cultivated to some extent. Corn is the principal grain product of the township, and it can be grown both on prairie and timber soil. The yield from the open lands, however, averages sixty bushels to the acre, while that of the timber tracts is not quite as much. Oats, rye and buckwheat are other cereals which do well, while grapes and other fruits are raised with profit on the hills, which lie chiefly in the southeastern part of the township where the creeks empty into the Tippecanoe.

## EASTERN TIMBER LANDS FIRST SETTLED

In view of the natural features of Prairie Township, it is easy to understand why its eastern sections were quite well settled before the fertile prairies of the west were scarcely scratched. The explanation is so well put by one who wrote from observation that we quote: "The first settlers of Prairie township were mainly from Virginia, Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and it is not a matter for wonder that they preferred the wooded section for a dwelling place. Grubbing and clearing the land of timber was a familiar pastime with them in the states whence they had moved, but ditching and breaking the tough sod of the prairie was work to which they were comparative strangers. They knew how to cut down a tree and make rails from the body to enclose their land, and cord wood from the top for fires in the winter, and to cook their meals at all seasons, but ditching and breaking prairie sod were altogether out of their line of work, and, besides, after the ditches were completed and the land ploughed, the fencing of the fields remained. Why not clear out this timber land at once and leave the prairie for a later but more unfortunate emigrant to subdue? The choice was between labor with which they were familiar and that to which they were unaccustomed, and was quickly and easily decided in favor of the timber section.

## GENEROUS BILL-OF-FARE

"It was of small moment to them what part of their real estate was cultivated, whether timber or prairie. Either would produce more than was sufficient for their wants, and there was no market for the surplus grain and vegetables at home, and the price offered in the distant markets would not repay them for the time, labor and expense required for transportation. The yield from a very small field was sufficient to supply the necessary food for the family and stock, with which latter every farmer was provided. The hogs required little attention, as they roamed at will in the woods, and grew and fattened on the mast, principally white oak





acorns, of which nature afforded an ample supply. The cattle, in summer, fattened on the rich grass of the prairies and required in winter only the same grass made into hay. Horses, too, gained a rich living in summer on the grass of the prairie, and in winter the prairie hay, with oats and corn added, kept them in good condition for the next season's work.

"Not much attention was given by the first settlers to the raising of wheat for bread. It was a long distance to a mill which would make flour, and when procured it was far inferior in quality to that made in the roller mills of today. Corn meal and hominy was an excellent substitute. Hog and hominy was the main food of the family throughout the winter, though a great variety was easily obtained at the will of the settler. Game was abundant; deer, squirrels, wild turkeys, geese, ducks, quail and prairie chickens, were found without hunting, and the settler need not go beyond the limit of his clearing to procure a supply. Wild honey was found in the woods and fish in the stream. The sugar maple furnished the settlers with molasses and sugar for the household, though there were not many children old enough to enjoy the delights of a sugar camp. In the summer, the wild strawberries, blackberries, raspberries and whortleberries, plums, grapes and other small fruits, were added to the larder; and melons of all kinds, pumpkins, squashes, citrons, Irish and sweet potatoes, came in their season—the berries and fruits to be had for the gathering and the vegetables for the planting of the seed, with little attention afterward.

"With this array of luxuries, there was small danger of the settlers suffering anxiety from the distress of any probable famine overtaking them in their new homes."

#### THE PIONEER LANDLORDS OF 1829-34

The first lands entered in Prairie Township, generally with the intention of establishing homes upon them, were in sections 3, 5, 17, 20, 22, 26, 29, 31, 33 and 34. With the exception of the tract entered in section 33, all of the lands filed upon previous to the organization of the township in 1834 were not located west of the present site of Brookston. The following are the names of these pioneer landlords, most of whom became settlers: In 1829—Jesse L. Watson, 80 acres in section 3; William Phillips and Jesse Johnson, each 80 acres in section 26; William Kennedy, 80 acres in section 34; and Robert Barr, 80 acres in section 36.

1830—Bazil Clevenger, 80 acres in section 33; Charles Wright, 80 acres in section 22; Frederick Smith, 146 acres in section 31; Christian Church, 80 acres in section 32; John Graham, 80 acres in section 5; Samuel Alkire, 80 acres in same section.

1831—Robert Harvey, 80 acres in section 31.

1832—Solomon McCollach, 78 acres in section 29; William Gay, 160 acres in section 29; James Gay, 40 acres in section 32; William Gay, 40 acres in section 31; William Gay, Jr., 40 acres in section 31.

1833—John Beecher, 40 acres in section 31.



1834—John Young, 80 acres in section 17; Daniel Brown, 50 acres in section 18; Jacob W. Brooks, 80 acres in section 20; Isaac Thomas, 80 acres in section 29.

#### HARD TIMES RETARD ENTRIES

Land entries and settlements did not commence in the western, or prairie, part of the township, until the late '40s, and little real estate was purchased anywhere from 1837 to 1842, which may be termed the period of hard times and readjustment of values. As payment for Government lands were made in gold and silver during the first period of the township's settlement, and "hard money" was very scarce, the entries languished during the reaction from wild cat methods of finance.

#### ROYAL HAZELTON, FIRST PERMANENT SETTLER

The first settlers in what is now Prairie Township do not appear in its list of land owners. Royal Hazleton is credited with being the leader of the procession of permanent residents in that section, and some claim that Joseph H. Thompson, of Big Creek Township, must yield the honor to him as the pioneer of the entire county. Mr. Hazleton settled upon the southeast quarter of section 22, about a mile southeast of the present site of Brookston, in the early part in 1829, and there erected a round-log shanty, with a roof of clapboards and a floor of puncheons, 16 by 14 feet in dimensions. He was elected a justice of the peace before White County was organized, the returns for which are still on file at Delphi, the county seat of Carroll County. Mr. Hazleton's name appears in the list of voters who cast their ballots at the second election held after White County was organized, in August, 1835; also as the second school-teacher in the township. Which is all that is of record regarding the first housekeeper and permanent settler in Prairie Township.

It is said that about the time of Hazleton's coming, one John Ault built a pole cabin in the northern part of the township, lived with his family therein for about three months, and moved thence to Big Creek Township.

#### SAMUEL ALKIRE

In the list of those who entered land in 1830 has been noted the name of Samuel Alkire, who took up eighty acres in section 5, the extreme northeastern corner of the township adjoining Big Creek Township. He was an Ohio man and brought his family to that locality, where they remained for about a year and then moved to Illinois. But evidently the Prairie State did not satisfy them as well as Prairie Township, for they were all back within twelve months and the father was prospecting near his former entry. He finally entered 600 acres, the line between Prairie and Big Creek townships cutting his domain; but he erected his cabin on the Big Creek portion, so thereafter was a non-resident of Prai-



ric Township. His worthy descendants are still in that part of the county, his son John being six years of age when the family settled in section 5, Prairie Township.

#### THOMAS KENNEDY

Although it is recorded that William Kennedy entered eighty acres of land in section 34, on the 13th of November, 1829, his location being about three miles southeast of the present site of Brookston, he did not settle on his tract until about two years afterward. The parents brought with them an infant son, Thomas, who is now in his eighty-fifth year and a resident of Brookston. As no one living in the township has a better claim to being a connecting link between the old and the present, the editor takes pleasure in presenting the following sketch:

One of the last surviving members of the group of earliest settlers in White County is Thomas Kennedy, now living retired in Brookston. He is past fourscore years of age, and more than eighty years of his lifetime have been spent within the limits of White County. His earliest associations and memories are with conditions and people which have long since passed away. He is now living quietly at Brookston, enjoying the fruits of the labors of earlier years and a freedom from the more active cares of life. No family has lived for a longer time with more usefulness and honor in Prairie Township than the Kennedys.

Thomas Kennedy was born near Circleville, Pickaway County, Ohio, November 22, 1831. In 1833 his parents, William and Marie (Montgomery) Kennedy, with their only son, Thomas, moved by wagon over corduroy roads and trails to Indiana, finally locating about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles southeast of Brookston in Prairie Township. There William Kennedy bought for himself and his brother, Graham Kennedy, 400 acres at public sale. What he paid for this land is unknown, but \$1.25 an acre was the minimum price and it was not more than \$2.00 an acre. He later entered eighty acres from the Government. For temporary purposes he lived in a round-log cabin owned by Robert Barr, and on his own land subsequently built a hewed log cabin with stick and mud chimney, puncheon flooring laid (not nailed) down and an open fireplace. A part of the land he secured was wooded and part prairie. There William Kennedy began to farm, raising wheat and enough corn to feed hogs. On one occasion, in the fall of 1845, he drove his hogs to Lafayette, where he had them slaughtered for the by-product, and then sold the dressed meat at \$2.25 net per hundred weight. On another occasion he sold a bunch of cows for \$8.00 per head.

William Kennedy and wife had two daughters born to them after coming to White County. One died when about eight years of age, and the other married Dr. William H. Ball, by whom she had a family of children, some of whom are still living in this section of Indiana, though she is herself deceased. William Kennedy was born in 1794 and died in 1848, at the age of fifty-four. He was about thirty-nine years of age when he came to White County. He was a man five feet ten inches high,



square built, weighed about 170 pounds and was alert, hard-working and progressive. Both he and his wife were of Irish ancestry. In politics he was a whig, and his death occurred before the dissolution of that party and the rise of the republican organization.

Thomas Kennedy, the only direct issue of his father's marriage now living, is eighty-four years of age and with the exception of two years has spent his entire life in Prairie Township. He grew up at home and helped in the work of the farm and has spent many weary days in the arduous toil of wood and field. He attended his first school in 1839. There was no schoolhouse, and a room at the home of Robert Barr was utilized for that purpose, a Miss Rothrock being the teacher. Later a cabin schoolhouse was built. In 1852 Mr. Kennedy taught a term of school in Tippecanoe County, and in 1857-58 taught in Prairie Township. His examination for a certificate was wholly oral, and covered the subjects of orthography, reading, writing and arithmetic. Thus at an early age he began bearing his part of the responsibilities of community life.

After his father's death he took charge of the home farm. His mother died in 1862. Prior to this time, on November 11, 1858, he married Catherine Bushong. Their six children now living are: John C., a resident of Brookston and owns 240 acres of land in Prairie Township. He married Elizabeth E. Wolever and has no children. They are members of the Presbyterian Church and Mr. Kennedy belongs to the Knights of Pythias and politically is a democrat. Jacob B., who is an active agriculturist, married Nellie Wolever and has two children, Thomas W. and John T. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church and in politics he is a democrat. William S., an agriculturist and stock raiser, is a resident of Kirby, Arkansas. He married a Miss McCauley. Thomas J. is a resident of Oklahoma and a farmer. Mary E., who has resided in Chicago ten years, is a professional nurse, having taken her course of instruction at the Passavant Hospital. She is a member of the Methodist Church and fraternally an Eastern Star. Martha J. is also a professional nurse, having received her training in the Home Hospital at Lafayette, Indiana.

In the spring of 1861, having sold the old homestead, Mr. Kennedy moved to a place about two miles northwest of Brookston, where his wife died in the fall of 1881. November 22, 1891, he married Elizabeth Hay. In January, 1896, Mr. Kennedy moved to Brookston, where he has since lived retired. He still owns 240 acres, which is operated by his son, Jacob B. Mr. Kennedy is a democrat in politics and served as assessor of Prairie Township from 1886 to 1895, inclusive. In 1855 he joined the Masonic fraternity, and has always kept up his membership, being now one of the oldest Masons in this part of Indiana.

#### FIRST VOTERS AND OFFICIALS

At the first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, held July 19, 1834, the civil organization of Prairie Township was furthered by their order that all elections during the first year should be held at the





house of William Woods. Solomon McColloch was at the same time appointed inspector of elections; Samuel Smelcer, supervisor of roads; William Walter, overseer of the poor; and Samuel Alkire and William Phillips, fence viewers.

The first election, as provided for by the board, was held at Mr. Woods' house on the 6th of April, 1835, under the direction of Mr. McColloch. The following men voted and it is safe to say that the list comprised most of the landholders and citizens in the township: Charles Wright and Thomas C. Smith (judges), John Barr and William Gay (clerks), Solomon McColloch, George Brown, William Gay, Jr., Daniel Brown, Ezekiel W. Brown, William Woods, William Watson, William Sill, James Gay and Henry Smelcer. Mr. Woods was elected justice of the peace; Daniel Brown, constable; William Gay, inspector of elections; Solomon McColloch and John Barr received fourteen votes each for supervisor of roads; William Gay and William Phillips, fourteen votes each for overseers of the poor; and William Smelcer and John E. Metcalf, thirteen votes each for fence viewers.

The following cast their ballots at the house of William Woods in August, 1835: Royal Hazelton, John Barr, John Young, John Barr, Jr., Simon Hornbeck, Oliver Hammond, James Barr, Robert Barr, William Woods, Benjamin Newell, John Blair, Elisha Bowles, Joseph Bostick, Solomon McColloch, Willis Pherly, James Gay, John Price, William Gay, James Kent, John Gay, James C. Moore, Simeon Smith, John E. Metcalf, Joseph Sayre, Thomas Sutton and Samuel Smelcer.

#### EDUCATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS BEGINNINGS

The first schools and religious organizations were established in the several log cabina which were built just southeast of what is now Brookston, in the early '30s. One Harrison taught the pioneer school in that locality, and he was closely followed by Royal Hazelton, who had erected the first house on the southeast quarter of section 22.

The religious pioneers of Prairie Township were the Methodists, who held services in the house of J. C. Moore, then a young carpenter and mechanic who had accompanied his parents from Wayne County, Indiana, in 1832. Near the same place, in a hewn-log schoolhouse, also built by him, the first class of Methodists was organized; its members included Philip Davis, John Davis and wife, and Joseph Bostick, wife and son. In 1844 the Methodists also erected a frame church about two miles southwest of Brookston's future site.

#### J. C. MOORE, PROSPEROUS FARMER AND INVENTOR

J. C. Moore, who thus came into early notice, became widely known in the county as a builder, farmer and inventor. He assisted in erecting the second building in Monticello and in constructing the first courthouse, and in his earlier manhood his services as a carpenter and mechanic were in constant demand. Residents for miles around would come



to his home farm and plough, or do other work for him, while he did their repairing or made new implements. He thus followed farming and mechanics for fifteen years; then gave most of his time to his inventions, which included a hay and straw stacker, a machine for loading and unloading cars and vessels, and a steam ditcher and grader. He became prominent and well-to-do, owning 460 acres of land in White County and more than 500 in Missouri.

#### OTHER EARLY LAND HOLDERS

Besides those already mentioned, the following are recorded in the tract book in the county recorder's office as having entered various parcels of land in Prairie Township: Lewis Watson, in 1829; William Ivers, Robert Graham and Barney Davis, in 1830; Joseph Parker, James K. Woods, Robert Barr, Jacob Klepinger and Jesse L. Watson, in 1831; John E. Metcalf and Joseph Bostick, 1832; Adam Best, Samuel Best, Samuel Smelcer and Thomas C. Smith, 1833; R. P. Wilson and George P. McCulloch, 1834; John Davis, James H. Moore, James Kent and Aaron Yarnell, 1835; Benjamin Creamer, Thomas Hazelton, Van McCullough, William H. Watson, Charles M. Watson, John Metts, John Beauchamp, Moses Beauchamp, Risdan Beauchamp, James Beauchamp, Cyrus Barr, Ranson McConahay and Alexander Redding, 1836; Jonathan Birch, 1837; Samuel Ramey, Manly Ramey and H. Alkire, 1841; Jesse W. Robinson, Nelson Hornback, Asa Haff, John Matthews, George Shigley, Jackson Alkire, John Parrish, John Russell, John Ramey, John Thichart and Zadock Russell, Jr., 1846; Jason Alkire, John Price, John Kiouss, Milam A. Kiouss, John Davis, John Mahin, Solomon Hays, Samuel Batchelder, John C. Hutchins, Richard Eastman, Thomas Chilton and Jason Alkire, 1847; John Ramey, James Smith, James Griffith and Henry C. Parker, 1848; Joseph W. Davis, 1849; John P. Carr and Solomon Carr, 1850; Andrew Swearingen, 1851.

#### LOREN AND RALPH A. CUTLER

Ralph A. Cutler, who is now a resident of Brookston in his eighty-sixth year, is the oldest member of a family which has been identified with the progress of various townships in the eastern part of the county for a period of sixty-three years. When a lad of twelve years he was brought by his parents from his native county of Pickaway, Ohio. Loren Cutler, his father, had loaded his family, consisting of wife and five children, into a strong emigrants' wagon, which, in due time, landed the household and all its effects on what was known as the Cochran place, a short distance from Idaville, Jackson Township. After living there for two years as a renter, Mr. Cutler bought eighty acres on Pike Creek, Union Township, paying \$300 for the tract. There he lived until his death in 1882, his family having in the meantime increased by the addition of five children. Although over six feet in height, the deceased was of frail health. Five of his sons are yet living in White County, of



whom the eldest is Ralph A., who has been a resident of Prairie Township since 1852.

Mr. Cutler has spent the greater part of his life as a farmer, his only real venture into side channels being when he hauled all the timber which went into the construction of the Monticello dam. When he located in Prairie Township in 1852 he bought 160 acres of land, which he subsequently sold and purchased 100 acres in Liberty Township. He well remembers when he was a boy of marketing corn which had been raised by himself and brother, at Monticello, for 16 cents per bushel. In 1862, when in his prime as a farmer, he raised 6,000 bushels of corn, for which he received 11, 17 and 22 cents per bushel, in three lots of 2,000 bushels each.

Mr. Cutler is the father of five children (his wife dying in 1912), of whom a son and a married daughter are living.

#### FIRST SAWMILLS

Moots Creek furnished water power for the two early sawmills which supplied the settlers in the eastern part of the township with lumber for their houses and farm buildings. The first industry in that line was established by Robert Barr in 1838. He dammed the creek about a quarter of a mile above where the mill was located, in section 31, and constructed a race which worked well when the water was high enough, usually in the spring months. The saw was one of those up-and-down arrangements and was kept quite busy—when there was power—for about a decade. For many years some of the old timbers remained to mark the spot where the first sawmill of the township was erected.

The second and last sawmill was erected in the Gay settlement, in the southeastern corner of the township, about 1862. It was built by P. M. Kent, who also attached machinery for grinding wheat and corn. The grist mill was discontinued after about a year of well-meant efforts, and the sawmill struggled along for five years, when the entire enterprise was abandoned.

#### BROOKSTON, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTER

Since that time the industries of the township have centered at Brookston, now a village of 1,000 people, situated on the main line of the Monon route and surrounded by a beautiful and productive country of fruits, grains and live stock. It is to the southwestern part of the county what Monon is to the northwestern—the chief trading and banking center for a prosperous country covering a radius of several miles.

Brookston was platted in April, 1853, when the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad was put through that section of the county, and was named in honor of James Brooks, who was then president of the railway company. It has grown steadily, which fact largely accounts for the increase in population of the township as a whole. In 1890 there were 1,885 people in Prairie Township and in 1910, 2,181.



## VILLAGE OF SPRINGBORO

Some time during the prosperous days of the Wabash and Erie Canal, probably just a few years prior to the Civil war, while Pittsburg, over on the Wabash, was an important trading point, there sprung up in the little valley at the mouth of Spring Creek, in the eastern part of Prairie Township, a little village called Springboro. The first house was probably built by a German from the wine producing countries of Southern Europe, who planted an extensive vineyard on the southern slope of the hill on the north side of the valley and engaged extensively in the production of wine. He also kept a general store which was used as a distributing point for the neighborhood mail sent out there from the regular postoffice at Pittsburg. This, with a blacksmith shop, a cooper shop and two or three dwellings, constituted the village in its most prosperous days.

Springboro was located on what was known as the Finch Grove Road, leading from Pittsburg to Brookston, only a short distance from where that road crossed the Tippecanoe River, and first became generally known over the county in December, 1869, when Asa Haff and others filed a petition asking that a bridge be built at that point. As the river here forms the boundary line between the counties of Carroll and White, a joint meeting of the boards of commissioners of the two counties was held "at the house of Lucas Trontle" February 9, 1870, at which it was ordered that a bridge "be built of wood, covered, weatherboarded and painted." On March 8th this order was set aside and another joint meeting called for March 30, 1870, also "at the house of Lucas Trontle." This meeting was held under considerable difficulties. The roads were almost impassable and the White County officials were compelled to go to Brookston by railroad and thence to Springboro in a wagon drawn by six horses, arriving there late in the evening. There were present from Carroll County James W. Glasscock, John A. Troxell and Warren Adams, commissioners; John A. Kane, auditor; John W. Jackson, sheriff; Barney Daily, county attorney; and several other interested parties from Pittsburg and Delphi. From White County there were Christopher Hardy and James C. Gress, commissioners—Theodore J. Davis, the other White County commissioner, not being able to reach the meeting—George Uhl, county auditor; William E. Saunderson, deputy sheriff; and Thomas Bushnell, county attorney. It was then ordered that an iron bridge be built, Carroll County to pay in round numbers seven-elevenths and White County to pay four-elevenths of the cost. A contract was later let and the bridge built at a total cost of \$22,540.98; and Charles Angel, Lucas Trontle, Isaac Wilson, Levi Riley, James Gay, John W. Jackson, John Gay and Cyrus Barr bound themselves to pay the first year's interest on this amount.

This old history is of special interest at this time, as the bridge here mentioned has been condemned after forty-five years of service and a petition for a new structure is now pending, again requiring the joint action of the two counties.





## HISTORY OF WHITE COUNTY

## IMPROVEMENT IN RURAL CONDITIONS

While there has been little, if any, increase in the population of the rural districts in the township, those who have remained to improve their homesteads and raise their grain and live stock have reached a high grade of comfort and contentment; for to the natural fertility of the soil they have added such artificial developers as fertilizers, crop rotations and scientific drainage. What is as much to the point, in the way of bringing comfort and contentment to the farmers of Prairie Township—they can now get their produce to market, even if they are raised miles from the railroad.

## LEADING GOOD ROADS TOWNSHIP

In the early days before the inauguration of the Good Roads Movement, it was almost impossible for the farmers to market their products in the western or prairie districts—in the very sections of the bumper crops. The fall, winter and spring rains, which rarely failed, made passage over the dirt roads with loaded wagons almost an impossibility. It made little difference how much work was done in the way of grading and ditching. As one who has floundered through those muds remarked in disgust, "the higher the grade the deeper the mud." Until the surface of the prairies was frozen over in winter or dried by the summer suns, the farmers were forced to allow their grain to lie in the cribs and bins, awaiting a favorable time to deliver it to market.

The last thirty, especially the past twenty, years have brought a radical change for the better in the construction of roads which enable the farmers to readily get everything they raise to the desired market. Among the townships of the county, Prairie leads in the progress of the Good Roads Movement within her bounds. The bonded indebtedness incurred in the construction of fine macadam or gravel roads which thus accommodate her farmers and residents as a whole, amounts to \$85,570, divided among the different roads as follows: Schneider, \$2,400; Kelley, \$6,400; Dobbins, \$3,600; Carson, \$4,000; Sleeth, \$2,750; Nagle, \$2,850; Vanderbilt, \$5,000; Redding, \$3,780; Holwerda, \$2,650; Anderson, \$4,500; Younger, \$4,500; Brackney, \$13,600; Gay, \$17,640; Krapff, \$5,400; Fewell, \$6,500.



## CHAPTER XV

### JACKSON TOWNSHIP

SOUTH HALF FIRST SETTLED—PIONEER SETTLERS AND LAND OWNERS—THE HANNAS—ENTERED LAND BEFORE TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION—PIONEER OF 1835-38—FIRST RECORDED ELECTION—DANIEL DALE, LEADING POLITICIAN—HANNA REJECTS DEMOCRACY—THE WHEEL OF LIFE—PIONEER SCHOOL MATTERS—BURNETT'S CREEK POSTOFFICE—HIGH STANDARD OF MORALITY—SMITH'S DISTILLERY OF 1840-50—VIOLENT DEATHS—THE MORMON BRANCH OF 1842-45—FARMINGTON MALE AND FEMALE SEMINARY—BURNETTSTVILLE FOUNDED—SHARON AND BURNETTSTVILLE CONSOLIDATED—IDAVILLE FOUNDED—DRAINAGE AND GOOD ROADS.

Jackson was one of the four townships created when White County was set off into civil divisions at the first meeting of the board of commissioners in July, 1834, and included all of its territory east of the Tippecanoe River. It assumed its present area of thirty-six square miles through the creation of Cass and Liberty townships, in 1837, and the subsequent demarkation of the eastern boundary of Union Township.

#### SOUTH HALF FIRST SETTLED

The south half of the township was first settled, as it was comparatively level, well timbered and not subject to overflow, as were the lands in the northern sections. The rich loam, with subsoil of clay, was found to be adapted to the raising of wheat especially, with corn, oats, rye, roots, fruits and vegetables following closely as second choice. As most of the first settlers were thrifty farmers from Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York, with quite a number from Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, who usually came stocked with horses, cows and poultry, and provided with farm implements and enough cash to "pull them through until they got on their feet," they naturally selected the southern portion of the township in preference to the dreary-looking swamp lands, interspersed with high ridges, which stretched away to the north. They could not await the time when that waste would be reclaimed and brought into the market as even more productive than the tracts favored by nature.

#### PIONEER SETTLERS AND LAND OWNERS

The dispute as to priority of settlement in Jackson Township is even more lively than in the majority of such discussions, since several located



in the vicinity of the present Town of Burnettsville, about 1831—Eliab Fobes, John Scott, Joseph James, Thomas Harless and Aaron Hicks. From the records showing the entries of Government lands it seems that Fobes filed a claim on land in section 25, at or very near the present site of Burnettsville, and that the Hicks tract, about an equal distance from that place and Idaville, was not entered until June 18, 1834. Mr. James, also mentioned as one of the pioneers, selected a tract earlier in the month in section 18, on the western border of the present township.

Robert Ginn entered lands in section 10 (the only early landsman to venture into the wet tracts of the north) in May, 1830, and in May, 1836, he filed a claim in section 22. And he later became well known in local affairs.

#### THE HANNAS

Robert Hanna appears to have been the prime mover in the list of those who purchased Government lands in the township and afterward resided therein—they and their children. On June 21, 1831, he entered land in section 35, just north of the Carroll County line. Several of his grandsons, now well along in years, are farmers in that locality. Two of his sons, Andrew and John Hanna, became prominent residents of the township.

Andrew came with his father from Ohio in 1833; was present at the first town meeting and cast the only whig vote. He prospered as a farmer to such an extent that he became the owner of 900 acres of land, served as county commissioner, was an influential churchman, and founded Idaville.

John Hanna, the elder brother, located in Jackson Township in 1834, the year after his father's arrival, and after farming for many years became prominent in the mercantile affairs of both Burnettsville and Idaville. He also was present at the first township election, and was one of the first petit jurors of the county. He assisted in building the first schoolhouse and was considered one of the founders of Burnettsville.

#### ENTERED LAND BEFORE TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

The tract book of the county giving the entries of Government land in Jackson Township indicates that the following also had become land owners previous to the first election for township officers held in November, 1834: Thomas McCormick, in section 33, November 23, 1831; John Scott and Thomas Martindale, in section 24, on February 8 and July 30, 1832, and William James, in section 35, on October 5th of the same year; Joseph Belen, in section 24, March 6, 1833; T. J. James, in the same section, on August 15th, of that year; Daniel Dale in section 25, August 22, 1833; James James, in section 36, January 26, 1833, and in section 11, June 4, 1834, as well as in section 18, on the same date; James Davis, in section 23, July 14, 1834; George Gibson, in section 25, September 22, 1834, and John Vinnedge, in the same section, November 17th of that year; William R. Dale, in section 26, June 18, 1834; John Tedford, on



the same date, in section 31; Christopher Birch, in section 34, May 9, 1834; George Hornback, same section, May 19th, and the following, also in the same section, with dates of 1834 as given: Amos Barnes, May 29th; Allen Barnes, May 29th; Thomas Harless, October 6th; and John McDowell and Solomon Burket, same date; Thomas McLaughlin, in section 36, July 23, 1834.

## PIONEERS OF 1835-38

The years from 1835 to 1838, inclusive, brought many of the residents of the township who joined in her progress of many subsequent years. Those who entered lands during that period fairly cover the list of these pioneers. The tract book gives them as follows: 1835—Jonathan Shull, in section 23, September 25th; Ephraim Miller, in section 24, September 4th; Delancy Marvin, in section 26, October 2d; Andrew Renwick, September 9th; Daniel I. Skinner, October 2d; Joseph D. Beers, December 2d, and Jeremiah Sullivan, December 2d also—all in section 28; James McCain, in section 31, November 12th; Samuel Smith, April 30th, and John Dille, September 1st, both in section 32; Solomon McCully, June 15th; Ephraim Chamberlain, November 7th, and James Hamill, also November 7th—all in section 33; Charles B. Hamilton, January 16th, in section 35; and James Williams, in section 36.

1836—Thomas B. Ward, July 12th, in section 13; Stephen Nutt, September 30th, in section 14; Robert Ginn, May 28th, and Thomas McCormick, October 4th, in section 15; Robert Ginn, May 28th, in section 22; Dennis Springer, November 14th, in section 23; C. J. Hand, January 26th, in section 24; Ezekiah S. Wiley, January 8th, Dennis Springer, November 14th, and William Wiley, December 5th, all in section 26; Seth Irelan, January 13th, and Thomas Beard, April 30th, in section 27; John Parr, July 15th, in sections 30 and 31; James Courtney, January 18th, John Hamill, January 19th, Andrew Hanna, February 4th, and Aaron Hicks, March 30th, in section 33.

1837—John Miller, May 31st, in section 10; James Hicks, September 27th, and A. T. Stanton, September 14th, in section 13; Lewis Shull, January 6th, John York, August 15th, and Robert Gibson, December 19th, in section 14; John Miller, May 31st, in section 15; Samuel M. Cochran, February 15th, in section 21; George B. Garlinghouse, September 29th, in section 22; John A. Billingsley, April 26th, and Andrew Hanna, January 13th, in section 26; William Burns, April 26th, William W. Mitchell, May 22d, Benjamin Durn, June 24th, and Cyrus B. Garlinghouse, September 2d, in section 27; Samuel M. Cochran, February 15th, and Benjamin Deen, April 26th, in section 28.

1838—Jeremiah Dunham, October 15th, in section 13, and William York, February 3d, in section 23.

Quite a number of those who entered lands during this formative period of the township became well known both in township and county affairs. Solomon McCully, who settled in section 33 during 1835, became one of the commissioners, and Thomas McCormick, who came in 1836





and located in section 15, nearly in the center of the township, was appointed an associate judge of the Circuit Court. Aaron Hicks, who took up land in that year in section 33, in the southern part, served as the first sheriff of the county and was its probate judge for some time. Andrew Hanna, who first became interested in lands in section 26, just west of the present site of Burnettsville, afterward became one of the founders of Idaville. Lewis Shull and John York took up tracts further north in section 14, and their families became well known both at Burnettsville and in the farming communities of section 10. The names of others who settled in Jackson Township in the decade previous to 1840 will be drawn into the current of this history as the story progresses.

#### FIRST RECORDED ELECTION

The first recorded election in Jackson Township was held at the house of Daniel Dale, on the present site of Burnettsville, November 7, 1834, and the following cast presidential ballots: Jonathan Shull, Ephraim Million, Lewis Shull, James Courtney, Robert Hanna, Ezekiel S. Wiley, Joseph James, Eliab Fobes, George Gibson, Hugh Courtney, John Gibson, Joseph James, John Morris, Joseph Winegarner, Allen Barnes, George Hornbeck, William Wiley, Aaron Hicks, John Hanna, John Smith, John Lowery, William Gibson, Stephen Nutt, Robert P. Gibson, William Price, John D. Vinnage, William R. Dale and William James. Of these twenty-eight votes, twenty-six were cast for the Van Buren, or democratic electors, and two for the Harrison, or whig ticket. At the time of this election, which is the first recorded as having been held in the township, voters were legally entitled to cast their ballots anywhere in the county of their residence, so that the foregoing list is not a true index of settlers in Jackson Township, although many names are recognized as actual residents.

#### DANIEL DALE, LEADING POLITICIAN

Aaron Hicks was the first justice of the peace elected after the organization of the county and the township, and to Daniel Dale was accorded the privilege of naming it. As he was a staunch Jacksonian democrat, he named it accordingly. It was Mr. Dale's house which was the political center of the township for a number of years and, as per the order of the county commissioners, most of the early elections were held there. In 1837 and 1838 the poll lists show the following new names: Dennis Pringer, Enos H. Stewart, William W. Mitchell, Solomon McCully, Madison Reeves, Lewis J. Dale, Jephtha York, Thomas McLaughlan, Andrew J. Hanna, Silas Gitt, Alexander Hornback, John A. Billingsley, Samuel Smith, John Street and James T. Mitchell.

#### HANNA REJECTS DEMOCRACY

The township continued to be overwhelmingly democratic, and at one of the early elections the whigs were able to marshal only Andrew Hanna



as a supporter of their ticket in Jackson Township. Dale and the other good democrats tried to induce Hanna to make their vote unanimous, but the lone whig was firm and cast his ballot as his conscience dictated, and he enjoyed his brief triumph in 1840, when Harrison was elected President, but died in office after only a few months of service. Old settlers used to smile at the sanctity of the ballot box, as gauged by the accommodations furnished by Brother Dale, which consisted of an old weather-beaten hat over which was spread a handkerchief—sometimes gay, but never any too clean. The Dale house in which these early elections were held stood for many years unmoved and almost unchanged.

### THE WHEEL OF LIFE

Joseph James, whose homestead was in section 18, in the western part of the township, first appeared on the records as a land owner in 1831, which is given as the year of his actual settlement. He had a large family, several of them small children, when several other pioneers took up claims previous to 1834. The inference is that some one of his babies was the first child born in Jackson Township, although the first record of a birth is that of Alexander Barnes, in February, 1835, and George H. Mitchell, deceased, of Idaville always claimed this honor. Two of Mr. James' children also appear to have died previous to December 2, 1835, when Amos Barnes, the father of Alexander, passed away. His was the first death. The family had lived in the township about a year.

In the spring of 1836, John D. Vinnage and Rachel Gibson were married, the first couple to be united in the township. Thus the wheel commenced to revolve of marriages, births and deaths.

### PIONEER SCHOOL MATTERS

In other respects, the year 1836 was an uneventful one. In that year the first schoolhouse in the township was built near what is now the southeast corner of Burnettsville—a log cabin, like all of its kind in those days—and William Dale was selected to teach the children of the neighborhood. It is said that even before this first regular schoolhouse was thrown open, a vacant house in the southeast quarter of section 33, near the Carroll County line, had been occupied with a small class under the instruction of James Renwick. But that arrangement lacked the permanency attached to the schoolhouse of 1836.

The second schoolhouse in the township was built about 1842, and stood on the farm afterward owned by Thomas Barnes. Among the early teachers in that house were William Barnes, Melinda Noah and Henderson Steele.

The third schoolhouse was built about 1847 on Solomon McCully's land, in the same neighborhood, and George Hall was the first teacher, followed by Joseph Thompson, George Barnes, John Bright, Ashbury Shultz, William P. Montgomery and Josephus Tam.



## BURNETT'S CREEK POSTOFFICE

In the eventful year of 1836 a postoffice was established to accommodate the settlers of the township, who had largely concentrated in its southeastern sections in the neighborhood of what is now Burnettsville. It was called Burnett's Creek (named after the stream which waters the eastern half of the township), and William R. Dale was appointed postmaster, thus continuing the importance of the family name. The postoffice was located at Farmington, now Burnett's Creek, and it is still thus designated, although the village is incorporated as Burnettsville.

## HIGH STANDARD OF MORALITY

From very early times the type of the communities in Jackson Township was fixed as one of morality and religious conformity. The pioneer settlers largely belonged to the Seceders' Church and strictly enforced morality among their members and children. The first meetings of the sect, known as the Christian Church, were held at the house of Alexander Scott near Farmington, or Burnettsville. The Methodists commenced to organize classes about 1837 and, at a somewhat later day, the Baptists. In the early '40s, members of the Associate Reformed and kindred churches formed societies at what is now Idaville; so that at a very early date, Jackson Township was noted as a section of the county which was especially moral and religious, if not austere in its type. Drunkenness, carousing, swearing and fighting, which were so prevalent in some other sections, were uncommon in Jackson Township, and the few saloons opened were not supported, and never have been to any extent. In fact, the high standard of conduct fixed so early has been, on the whole, well maintained.

## SMITH'S DISTILLERY OF 1840-50

In the early '40s two events occurred to especially stir the moral sense of the communities of Southern Jackson Township; the first was the establishment of a distillery and the second, the planting of a branch of the Mormon Church. About the year 1840 Samuel Smith set up a small still on his land, about a mile southwest of where Idaville now stands and near enough the Carroll County line to draw custom from its people. He bought or bartered small quantities of corn which he made into whiskey, his orders from the Jackson Township people consisting in great bulk, of stock for vinegar and liniment, bitters to ward off the ague, and the straight liquor for snake bites and general emergencies. Notwithstanding the scandal it produced among the strict disciplinarians of the township, the distillery was operated by Smith until his death in 1850.

## VIOLENT DEATHS

A number of violent deaths have occurred in Jackson Township which have caused much excitement and justly so, as some of them were



in the nature of horrors. In the spring of 1860, Albert Burns, a man somewhat past middle age, who had resided on his farm two miles north of Burnettsville, for several years, shot his wife, from whom he had once been divorced; attempted to kill her youngest child whom he disowned, and then, after having placed two chairs between his wife and the fireplace that his victim might not get into the fire in her death struggles, turned the weapon upon himself. His death was probably instantaneous. The wife and mother lived until the following morning.

In 1877, a bartender at Idaville named Richard M. Herron, was found dead, his face and clothes covered with blood, about two miles east of Monticello. John Kelly, proprietor of the saloon at which he was employed and John Toothman, whom he had displaced as bartender, were arrested on the charges of having murdered Mr. Herron. The victim, after he received his injuries, stopped at the house of John M. Shafer, three miles east of Monticello. At the time he was covered with blood, but proceeded on his way. That was the last seen of him until his body was discovered about two days afterward. A nolle proes was entered as to Toothman, and he became a witness for the state against Kelly, who was convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to the penitentiary for six years. He obtained a new trial, which resulted in a sentence of eighteen years. Mr. Herron was an old soldier and some of his relatives yet live in White County.

About 1855 William Crose shot himself about a mile southwest of Idaville. It is believed he committed suicide while in a state of religious excitement.

In 1854 Silas Tam was killed by lightning just outside of Burnettsville. About 1861 a conductor named Anthony had his leg terribly crushed by a freight train, in consequence of having his foot caught in a frog, and died at the house of Alexander Rodgers, Idaville. In the following year three men were severely injured by the derailing of a train east of that place, one of whom died within a day.

About the summer of 1870, Daniel Leslie was killed by lightning, which struck the postoffice. The bolt also tore the boots from the feet of James C. Hutchinson, so that he had to wear felt slippers for several weeks because of the soreness of his feet.

#### THE MORMON BRANCH OF 1842-45

The Mormon Society, or branch, continued to proselyte from 1842 to 1845, when its members scattered, several of them joining the migration to Nauvoo, Illinois. Their bishop, Alva L. Tibbetts, organized his converts at a private house about three miles north of where Burnettsville is situated, and within the following three years gathered a membership of sixty-five, of whom about two-thirds resided in Jackson Township. Three families whose homes were within its limits joined the migration to Nauvoo; one of them returned to the home neighborhood in Jackson Township, after an experience of two weeks which tended to sober, if not subdue; another crossed the Mississippi into Iowa,





when the Mormons were expelled from Nauvoo in 1846, and the third followed the general exodus to Salt Lake City. During the existence of the branch near Burnettsville, the Mormons established a cemetery two miles north of Idaville in which several interments were made.

#### FARMINGTON MALE AND FEMALE SEMINARY

In 1852, two years before Burnettsville was platted, and while the locality was known as Farmington, the famous Male and Female Seminary was founded by Isaac Mahurin. Aaron Hicks and William York, Joseph Thompson and Elijah Eldridge were its first trustees. The Farmington Male and Female Seminary, as it was called, became quite noted as an educational institution, as has been more fully described in the chapter devoted to such matters.

#### BURNETTSTVILLE FOUNDED

In March, 1854, Franklin J. Herman, a settler of 1839, laid out the Town of Burnettsville on his land, in the northwest quarter of section 25. The original plat comprised thirty-eight lots, and in 1855, Prudence Dale, widow of William Dale, made the first addition to it, a tract of sixteen lots.

Mr. Herman, the founder of Burnettsville, served as justice of the peace for twenty-five years and died in 1861, one of the most respected citizens of the township. He was the father of eleven children and several of his descendants have been identified with Burnettsville and its progress. One of the sons, F. A. Herman, was its postmaster for a number of years.

#### SHARON AND BURNETTSTVILLE CONSOLIDATED

In 1860 Thomas Wiley and James B. Elliott laid out the Town of Sharon near the northern limits of Burnettsville. As it was a station on the new railroad known as the Logansport, Peoria and Burlington (now the Panhandle of the Pennsylvania Company), the new town grew rapidly, the business interests of Burnettsville being soon transferred to it bodily. In 1864 the postoffice of Burnett's Creek was moved from Burnettsville to Sharon, and later the two villages were consolidated under the name of the old town. As stated, it is still Burnettsville town and Burnett's Creek postoffice, but Uncle Sam, through his postal department, may in time correct the incongruity.

#### IDAVILLE FOUNDED

In July, 1860, Andrew Hanna, John B. Townsley and John McCully, all pioneers of the township, also laid out another town on the Panhandle line three miles west of Sharon, or Burnettsville. At first it was called Hanna, but the name was soon changed to Idaville. The original plat



was on the north-west quarter of the southeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 28 and comprised twenty-two lots; the first additions to it were made by Mr. Townsley in 1865. Idaville has never been incorporated as a town. It has suffered, both by storm and fire, the conflagration of 1902 destroying the business portion of the village.

Burnettsville and Idaville are pretty towns, and, as centers of trade and banking, are supported by a prosperous country both to the north and south. Burnettsville has a slight advantage in population and business, and both are pleasant, homelike places.

#### DRAINAGE AND GOOD ROADS

Jackson Township is practically an agricultural section of the county, and contains about one-ninth of its entire population. Its northern sections have been artificially drained through several large systems of ditches which are carried through Liberty and Union townships to the Tippecanoe River; so that at least half of the township, which was originally considered waste land, has been reclaimed and brought under productive cultivation. Its only natural waterway is Burnett's Creek, which drains its central, eastern and southeastern portions into the Wabash River.

In the matter of good roads, although Jackson Township is not foremost in the movement, much progress has been made in the construction of highways of macadam or gravel, so that few farmers are now inconvenienced when they desire to market their produce. The township is bonded for nearly \$35,000 on this account, the indebtedness being apportioned as follows: Personett Road, \$1,920; Brown, \$4,000; Reiff, \$3,800; Mertz, \$4,800; Bryan, \$11,550; Bishop, \$4,140; Harvey, \$4,700.



## CHAPTER XVI

### BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP

PHYSICAL AND AGRICULTURAL FEATURES—FIRST SETTLER, JOSEPH H. THOMPSON—GEORGE A. SPENCER AND BENJAMIN REYNOLDS—SPENCER-REYNOLDS COLONY—THE HISTORIC SPENCER HOUSE—BENJAMIN REYNOLDS' AFTER-CAREER—JOHN BURNS—MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM BURNS—LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF 1830-33—CHILLS AND FEVER—FIRST TOWNSHIP OFFICERS—FIRST SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY—LAND ENTRIES IN 1835-36—ELECTION IN 1836—THE GREAT HUNT OF 1840—THOSE WHO BOUGHT LAND IN 1837-51—B. WILSON SMITH'S PICTURE OF 1846—INCREASE OF REAL SETTLERS—FIRST FRAME SCHOOL HOUSE—MUDGE'S STATION AND CHALMERS—FIRST IRON BRIDGE—SWAMP LANDS RECLAIMED—SMITHSON OR WHEELER—LEADER IN GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT.

Big Creek was one of the four original townships created by the county board of commissioners at its first meeting July 19, 1834. It was designated as Congressional Township No. 26, "with all the territory attached thereto," contained ninety-seven and a half square miles, or 62,200 acres, and comprised substantially a strip of territory six sections from north to south, extending through the county north of Prairie Township. In 1845 fifty-four square miles of its original area was carved away to form West Point Township, and at still later dates both Honey Creek and Union townships abstracted enough sections from its remaining body to reduce it to thirty-two and seven-eighths square miles.

#### PHYSICAL AND AGRICULTURAL FEATURES

The township derives its name from the stream which rises in the southwestern part of West Point Township, about two miles from the western county line, thence flows northeasterly to a point just south of Smithson, or Wheeler, and thence, after a course due east for about a mile, turns abruptly to the south and southeast. Big Creek crosses the line into Prairie Township, cuts off the northeast corner of that township and discharges into the Tippecanoe River a mile south of Oakdale Mills, in Carroll County.

The surface of the township is varied—in the northern part, broad and level stretches of prairie bordered by timber, in the western sections more generally prairie, and in the eastern portions, the heaviest wooded



lands. The best timbered tracts are confined to Big Creek and its branches.

Although both the timber and prairie portions are somewhat broken and rolling, this natural condition has never interfered with the cultivation of the rich, deep loamy soil which predominates throughout the township. The subsoil is chiefly sand and gravel, though clay is found in the lowlands of the northern sections. Grain, grass, vegetables and fruits flourish, especially since the swampy lands have been ditched and drained. It has always been considered one of the best live stock regions in the county, and not a few of the early settlers gave much attention to the breeding, purchase and sale of cattle, horses and hogs. Prominent among these may be mentioned George A. Spenceer, Benjamin Reynolds, John Burns, Thomas Bunnell, Thomas Spencer, John Roberts, Jeremiah Bisher and Philip Wolverton—names that stand for much that was best in the early progress of the township.

#### FIRST SETTLER, JOSEPH H. THOMPSON

Big Creek Township was the first portion of the county to be permanently settled, and the agreement is quite general that Joseph H. Thompson led them all. He followed close on the heels of the Government surveyors, who had been running their section lines for several months in the northwestern part of the state. Although he came early in 1829 and brought his family with him to occupy the rough cabin he had erected in section 25, Thompson did not enter his land until December 19th.

#### GEORGE A. SPENCER AND BENJAMIN REYNOLDS

In the meantime George A. Spenceer and Benjamin Reynolds, two young men from Perry County, Ohio, had arrived on foot and pitched their camp, consisting of a carpet-bag and a blanket, at a spot which might now be described as the borderland between Big Creek and Union townships. The time was in the autumn of 1829. Selecting a site on a hillside in what was then section 13, Big Creek Township, they decided to build a round-log cabin twelve feet square, so as to secure their claim. They commenced at once to cut logs, but after a few had been laid, it was agreed that Spenceer should return to Ohio for the families about to migrate west, while Reynolds was to have the cabin ready when needed. Winter was already well advanced before Spenceer started for Perry County, and it was the middle of the season before he reached home.

#### SPENCER-REYNOLDS COLONY

On the first of the following June, George A. Spenceer and James Spenceer, with their families and supplies, as well as the Reynolds household, were loaded into three two-horse wagons and commenced to move





toward the farther West. After a journey of twenty days they arrived in sight of the Hoosier home, which had been prepared by Mr. Reynolds, and resided therein until late in November. By that time Mr. Reynolds had erected a cabin in section 13 and the two Spencers had completed their houses in section 12. The first shack was then discarded by the fifteen Spencer and Reynolds colonists, being easily thrown to the ground, and the three families divided into separate households.

#### THE HISTORIC SPENCER HOUSE

George A. Spencer's house was the first of the three to be completed. It was built of hewn logs, 16 by 20 feet in size, and in the middle '80s is thus described, with all the old-time associations clinging to it: "This house is still standing and most of the logs, though placed in position fifty-three years ago, are as sound as if it were but yesterday that they were taken from the forest. In 1831 there were two additions attached to the original building, and a few years later the same part was weather-boarded, and this is the reason, no doubt, that it is in such a good state of preservation. Mr. Spencer set out the first orchard in Big Creek township. The first lot of trees was planted in the spring of 1834, two of the trees remaining, either of which is thirty inches in diameter. A ten minutes' ride on horseback from the present residence of Calvin C. Spencer (son of George A.) will bring you to the site of the old historic Spencer house.

"This structure of the long-ago was, in early times, a welcome mansion to many a lone and weary Tippecanoe Indian, a home to all new-comers, and a place of rest and refreshment to all those of whatever color or tongue that needed rest. Though this house was the second in the township, though it was one of freedom and much welcome to whomsoever could ask admittance to its threshold, it has a more extended history, for here it was that the first Circuit Court in White county was held. In this cabin the White Circuit Court was held for two years. The first term of court was commenced on the 13th day of October, 1834. At this bar a number of the most prominent lawyers of those times practiced, and on this bench some of the best jurists of that day sat. Among those who dealt out justice at this bar may be mentioned the names of Rufus Lockwood, John U. Pettit, Albert S. White, Samuel Huff, Ira Ingraham and James Lane. The lawyers all boarded in the cabin Court House, and Mrs. Spencer did the cooking for the 'loose-tongued' gentlemen, while Mr. S. cared for the lawyers' horses and spent the remainder of his time in keeping the 'boys' straight.

"Mr. Spencer was a strict temperance man, and always clung to the fittest of things of life; as a natural consequence, he would not allow swearing in his house. A large oak tree stood about ten rods distant from the house, and it is said that Mr. S. would not allow any swearing between that tree and the cabin. Some time elapsed before the lawyers could prevail upon Mr. Spencer to get them their kind of liquid re-



freshments, but finally the old gentleman brought home a keg of the most approved brand of Kentucky whiskey, and that night the cabin of justice lost all its dignity. Conviviality reigned until far into the night and did not end there, as after the lawyers went to bed they indulged in hilarious pillow-fights, kicked and pulled each other around, and in various other ways spoiled their case with the sober landlord, who never again allowed them to 'whiskey-up' in his house. But Mrs. Spencer, or Aunt Sally, held them to the Spencer House, notwithstanding this check, and what time the lawyers were not engaged in the court room, or playing ball, they were bragging about Aunt Sally and her cooking."

In the general history of the county we have given the main facts of Mr. Spencer's life, including its official, agricultural and social identification with this section for nearly forty years. He was the father of eight children, several of whom, like Calvin C., were also leading citizens. A number of his sons served in the Union army.

#### BENJAMIN REYNOLDS' AFTER-CAREER

When Mr. Reynolds came to Big Creek Township he had suffered reverses which made him almost penniless; he was, however, pluckily "starting over again." He had enjoyed little education in schools, but was practical, honest and hard-working. He had operated a stage line from Vincennes to Toledo for a number of years previous to 1828, when a distemper carried away so many of his horses as to ruin him financially. Mr. Reynolds had made little headway toward recovery when he ventured beyond the Tippecanoe with his friend, George A. Spencer. His stage line had followed the valleys of the Wabash and Maumee rivers and he had become well acquainted with Northwestern Indiana before he located in Big Creek Township. Being a man of more active temperament, both of mind and body, than his good friend Spencer, he soon became the agent for various eastern parties in the location of lands on commission, which enabled him to become the owner of some 15,000 acres in Indiana and Illinois. At a later day he obtained the contract for excavating many miles of the State Ditch, portions of which he sublet. He was largely influential in building the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad, as well as the Pan Handle Line, in both of which he became a large stockholder. He was also interested in the Junction Railroad and had the misfortune, about 1855, of losing \$100,000 through his investments therein. The year before, he had founded the Town of Reynolds. During the Civil war Mr. Reynolds met with his third serious financial reverse, as he was obliged to pay fully \$40,000 in bail debts. But he was vigorous and elastic and had nearly recovered his former standing before his death in his home township, on June 6, 1869. His son, Isaac Reynolds, born in 1831, was the first native white child of the township. Two of his sons (Levi Reynolds and a younger brother) cultivated the home farm after the father's death until the estate was sold under administrator's sale, when it was bought by the widow and divided. Levi Reynolds moved to Monticello



in 1878, but after three years' residence there returned to the old homestead and became quite well known in local affairs, both official and agricultural. Large tracts of land in sections 6, 7 and 13, of what is now Union Township, are still held by the Spencer family.

#### JOHN BURNS

On November 2, 1830, John Burns entered land in section 30, southeastern part of the township, and in the following year settled upon his "eighty," with his young wife. Although then only in his twenty-third year, he had been married since 1826. The young people commenced their married life in White County in a rude log cabin with a dirt floor, but, they prospered in amassing both property and a large family. Before Mr. Burns' death he had become the owner of 1,200 acres of land and was probably the largest land owner in the township. He was widely known as a breeder of cattle, hogs and horses.

#### MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM BURNS

William Burns, the eldest of the six children of John Burns, was born in Big Creek Township April 23, 1831, soon after the family came from Ohio, and is claimed to have been either the first or second white child born in the county. Until he was twenty-three years of age he was employed on his father's farm, by which time he had saved \$700, with which he bought a partially improved farm of 120 acres near the family homestead. In October, 1860, he married Miss Etna McIntyre, an Ohio lady, who for ten years had been housekeeper for her twin brother on the old Burns Farm. As man and wife they lived a peaceful and useful life for more than fifty-two years, not far from where they commenced housekeeping. Like his father, William Burns became well known as a live stock farmer. His wife died March 19, 1913, and he followed her three days later. They were buried side by side in River-view Cemetery, Monticello, and left a son and a daughter—Samuel M. Burns, of Chalmers, and Mary Etta Brown, of Urbana, Ohio.

#### LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF 1830-33

On the same day that John Burns entered his land, November 2, 1830, James Kerr bought 80 acres in section 24; John Miller, in section 19; Mahlon Frazer, in section 9; on the following day Daniel Baum entered 80 acres in section 8 and Robert Newell 80 acres in section 18; John Bostick, 80 acres in section 12, on the 12th of October, same year; Joseph H. Graham, 80 acres in section 8, November 15, 1830; John Stockton, 80 acres in section 7, on November 20th, and Jeremiah Bisher filed his claim on December 20th, also of the year 1830.

About the time that John Burns located, in 1831, Samuel Gray and John Roberts became residents of the township, the latter having entered land late in the preceding fall. Samuel Alkire entered a tract within



the township August 18, 1832, and the following became land owners in 1833: Stephen Bunnell, John Wesley Bunnell, Nathaniel Bunnell, Sr., and Nathaniel Bunnell, Jr., December 10th; Benjamin Reynolds, Christmas Day; John C. Kilgore, June 4th; John Barr, Jr., June 10th; William M. Kenton, November 26th.

The Beazy family also arrived in 1833—Isaac Beazy, wife and six children—but evidently were in no condition to invest in land. They came all the way from Perry County, Ohio, and the different members of the family rode two horses, in shifts. They were old friends of George A. Spencer, who made room for them in his own house until he and Mr. Beazy could erect a separate cabin for the newcomers. Mr. Beazy was employed by Mr. Spencer, and his family lived on the Spencer farm for a number of years.

#### CHILLS AND FEVER

Big Creek Township, in common with other sections of the county which had any considerable portion of lowlands, was scourged with ague, or chills and fever. The trouble would generally commence in July and continue until midwinter; and the shakes of 1833 were long remembered as the most severe and prevalent of any recorded in the history of the township. It is said that only two residents escaped their onslaught—Calvin C. Spencer and a small, tough negro boy. Although boneset and other tried remedies were freely used, chills and fever continued to grip the township for at least a decade, or until the settlers became convinced that stagnant water and their drinking supply were largely the cause of the scourge, and acted accordingly.

#### FIRST TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

At the first meeting of the board of county commissioners, in July, 1834, when Big Creek Township was created, the house of George A. Spencer was designated as the place for holding elections the first year, and James Kerr was appointed inspector. Benjamin N. Spencer was also named as supervisor of roads, George A. Spencer and Armstrong Buchanan, overseers of the poor, and Benjamin Reynolds and Henry Barcus, fence viewers. As the Spencer home was the headquarters of the county government for several years while the official quarters were being prepared at Monticello, Big Creek Township was, if anything, overburdened with circumspection; it had more government than it could well bear.

#### FIRST SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY

The creation of the county was the signal for the inauguration of its educational forces. In 1834 its first school was taught by Clinton Munson in a cabin which stood on George A. Spencer's land—a round-log affair, 12 by 15 feet; as several log houses had been built on his land, it





is impossible to say what one was thus honored. It is stated that the expense of its erection was borne by the resident families of George A. Spencer, Benjamin Reynolds, John Burns, Robert Newell, William M. Kenton, Zebulon Dyer, James Shafer, John Phillips and perhaps a few others. It was the first schoolhouse built within the limits of White County. A log had been omitted from the south wall to admit the light; two puncheons, fastened together with wooden pins and hung on wooden hinges, formed the door, which was securely closed with a wooden latch in a wooden catch; a string passed through the door above the latch and served to raise it from the outside on ordinary occasions—the exceptions being when the bad boys arrived before the schoolmaster, when it would be drawn in, the window barricaded with benches and otherwise placed in a state to withstand a siege. The first teacher of this particular school was Matthias Davis.

#### LAND ENTRIES IN 1835-36

The following entered lands during 1835: Barzilla W. Bunnell, January 9th; James Barnes, December 10th; John Lewis, September 9th; Benjamin Reynolds, December 8th; John Brady, November 23d; William Cornell, October 20th; John Beaver, December 19th; Levi Johnson, November 16th.

In 1836: Thomas Spencer, January 1st; Mahlon Fraser, May 9th; Isaac N. Parker, January 4th; David Fisher, May 9th; William Warden, May 24th; Nimrod Warden, May 24th; Noah Dixon, November 28th; James Barnes, January 21st; Joshua Rinker, January 13th; Mary Thompson, June 15th; Nathan Goff, December 13th; John Brady, same date; and Eliza N. Bunnell, February 23d.

#### ELECTION OF 1836

At the fall election of 1836, held at the house of George A. Spencer, on the first Monday in November, the following voted, most of the names being already familiar: Nathaniel Bunnell, Sr., Joseph H. Thompson, Thomas Donavan, John Luce, Jesse Grooms, William Carr, Benjamin Reynolds, Thomas Bunnell, James Shafer, Joseph Phillips, George A. Spencer, Isaac Davis, Ellis H. Johnson, John W. Bunnell, Daniel Lane, Nathaniel Bunnell, Jr., B. Bunnell and Armstrong Buchanan. Nathaniel Bunnell, Isaac Davis and John Bunnell acted as judges.

#### THE GREAT HUNT OF 1840

But although the township was organized and its citizens were exercising their full American rights, it was still a frontier country, and continued to be so considered for years. A good illustration of that fact is the Great Hunt of 1840. The district in which the chase occurred was bounded north by Monon Creek, east by the Tippecanoe River, south by the Wabash River and west by the line between White and Benton



counties. Men and boys were stationed along these boundaries a quarter of a mile apart, and at 8 o'clock on the morning of the "drive" commenced to "close in" at a rate of advance which would bring them to what is now known as Reynolds' Grove at 2 o'clock P. M. In that grove three scaffolds had been erected on which the marksmen of the day were stationed. No other members of the party were allowed to carry guns. It is said that men attended this chase from a territory twenty-five miles distant, and the spoils of the chase comprised fifty deer and many more wolves. The reward of the marksmen was, as usual, a specially large portion of the whiskey and provisions which had been hauled to headquarters for the consumption of all the participants in the hunt.

#### THOSE WHO BOUGHT LAND IN 1837-51

The entries of land in Big Creek Township continued until the early '50s, although they were quite rare during the hard times of the late '30s and the early '40s. This period, 1837-51, records the following as new land owners, with dates of entry: Jonathan Johnson, February 1, 1837, and Henry Linda, October 20th, of the same year; Joshua H. Scarff and Jacob Hanaway, October 5 and January 25, 1839, respectively; Okey S. Johnson and Catherine E. Davis, both on June 2, 1842; Moses Karr and Joseph Karr, January 24 and May 23, 1843; John Holliday and John R. Jefferson, January 31 and May 28, 1844; Robert Bartholomew, September 20, 1845; Ellis H. Johnson, May 28th of that year; John Burget, July 29th, also 1845; in 1846—Abel T. Smith, May 26th; David W. Parker, August 19th; John W. Johnson, June 29th; John Matthews, April 25th; John Bunnell, July 18th; and Silas Adams, April 13th; in 1847—Bushrod W. Cain, December 18th; John Friend, September 11th; Abraham Lukens, June 21st; Ambrose Mudge, December 14th; John Alkire, March 5th; Ezekiel Matthews, June 26th; Thomas Chenoweth, August 17th; in 1848—William Vanscoy, January 26th; John R. Jefferson, October 5th; Ellis H. Johnson, January 26th; and Abel T. Smith, same date; Joseph D. Moore, June 19, 1849; Ira M. Chenoweth, August 20, 1850; and David Parker, July 28, 1851.

#### INCREASE OF REAL SETTLERS

All of the foregoing entries (and the statement applies to those which have preceded the immediate list) were made by White County settlers, but not all of them were by residents of Big Creek Township. A few of them relinquished their interests and migrated to other parts, but the majority improved their properties, founded homesteads and added to their holdings, either by the purchase of adjoining Government lands or of tracts which had been thrown upon the market by non-residents. Especially was this the case with those who had early begun the raising of live stock. Others became the owners of larger farms than they could profitably cultivate, and were forced to lease portions of their land



to tenants, who would pay them in rental or in a stipulated proportion of the crops.

### B. WILSON SMITH'S PICTURE OF 1846

Although Abel T. Smith entered his first lands, a short distance southwest of Smithson, or Wheeler, in the spring of 1846, he did not start with his family from their old Virginia home until the fall of the year. More than sixty years afterward, one of his sons, B. Wilson Smith (then four-score years of age), was writing as follows:

"We left our home near Bridgeport, Harrison county, Virginia (now West Virginia), October 17, 1846. There my father, mother and six children—the oldest (Mrs. Haymond) nearly 18 years, and youngest a babe less than two months. I write this on the 64th anniversary of our departure. We came overland all the way—saw but one railroad track in all the way—at Springfield, Ohio. We had a three-horse wagon and carriage. I was past 16 years of age. I drove the wagon all the way.

"We reached the county of White in the morning of November 24th. Had stayed at Battle Ground the night before, then called Harrisonville. We passed from Tippecanoe county into White county at a point a little north of Forgy Kious' home and went north, crossing Moots' Creek a little west of the home of Mr. Smelser, then county commissioner. Then on north, along the county road, past John Kious', over Hickory Ridge, and northwest to Kent's Point. Mr. Kent lived there then. My father had known him and bought cattle of him when he lived on Darby Plains, west of Columbus, Ohio. He lived in a cabin near the old graveyard. John Price, his son-in-law, lived a little northeast of him. Our course was then straight on north to the home of John Brady on Big Creek, one-fourth mile west of Tucker schoolhouse, built in 1861. There was no house then where Chalmers is now, nor until we reached Brady's, except the home of Joseph H. Thompson away to the right on the hill, and the Jack Burgett cabin, one-fourth mile to the west. We passed close by their cabin on the east side. We reached Mr. Brady's at nightfall. He and his wife were Virginians—he from the south branch of the Potomac, and she from Clarksburgh. She was a Britton, a very prominent family. She and my mother had been schoolmates. Her sister had married Nathan Goff, a man of money and influence—the Goff whose name so often occurs as former owner of lands in Big Creek and West Point townships.

"We brought in our wagon a large box of clothing and valuables from Mrs. Goff to her sister, Mrs. Brady, and the family. At that time the Mexican War was on, and Mrs. Brady's brother, Major Forbes Britton, was a very prominent officer in General Taylor's family.

"Mr. Brady's house was built of hewed logs and was about 16x18 feet square. His family was seven or eight, ours eight, and the man who came with us from LaFayette, hauling a load of furniture and provisions; and yet we all stayed in that not large house of one room and



ate and slept there. I mention this as a graphic picture of pioneer times in White county. This county had been organized but twelve years at that time.

"The 24th of November had been a pleasant day, a little cool and raw, but gave no indication of a marked change of weather. But before the morning dawned a fierce northwester was in full swing, and snow was falling and ice freezing fast. We had to go two miles west to our cabin, which stood about ninety rods southwest of Smithson station. We had to cut the ice to get across Little Creek and unload our furniture and provisions in the storm, and leave it till the occupant of the cabin could get his family and household effects out, which he kindly did. Father had bought the cabin and squatter right of him the spring previous. The cabin was 14x16 feet, outside measurement, of split logs, making the inside measurement 13x15, one window, one door, no loft to speak of, and yet a family of eight stored themselves, furniture and provisions, in this small cabin for the entire winter and spring, till a new addition and hall and porch could be added. Yea, more, they lived happily—toiled hard, never complained, and saw the fruits of their toil in 120 acres fenced, a good corn and oats crop, and 70 acres of prairie broken and sowed in wheat.

"At the time of our coming to White county there was not a town on the line of the Monon railroad from the Battle Ground to Michigan City. West Bedford, three miles east of Monon, was a small town with a post-office, and New Durham was 2½ miles east of the present town of Westville. Of course there was no railroad, nor till seven years later. Monticello was a small town with no mills or water power. The two princely houses were those of Chas. Kendall and William Sill, who died about that time. Monticello had a postoffice, so also Burnett's Creek and West Bedford. These were all, and they only had weekly mail, carried on horseback from Logansport to White Post. The only mills of any special import were those at Norway. They had French burr stones and made good flour. They also carded wool. The Van Rensselaer had been destroyed, i. e., the dam, by the great floods of 1844. The only church building of any pretension was the New School Presbyterian at Monticello, of which the afterward celebrated Mr. Cheever had charge. I knew him twenty years later when in the full prime of his great career. The Methodists had no church in the county. The charges were not even a circuit, but Monon Mission. The only schoolhouse in Monticello then was the frame building that stood on the lot where Mrs. Israel Nordyke lately lived. No schoolhouse in Big Creek township except an old abandoned one near old Father Nathaniel Bunnell's, built of round logs, with mortar and stick chimney, but in the last month of the year the neighbors joined together and built a hewed log schoolhouse about one-fourth of a mile east of the present Tucker schoolhouse, which was built 15 years later. In this log schoolhouse the first Methodist quarterly meeting that I ever attended was held in March, 1847. Rev. S. C. Cooper, Greencastle, was presiding elder, and Rev. Burns preacher in charge.

"My sister Margaret, afterward Mrs. Dr. Haymond, taught the first





school. Living as we did 90 rods southwest of Smithson station, our nearest neighbors were Mrs. Abigail Johnson and her family, nearly one-fourth mile east, Henry Lindsey one-fourth mile west, then David Parker a fourth mile further on, and then, a half mile further west, the widow Biddle, and one-fourth mile further, John R. Jefferson. There were no neighbors south nor north nor east nearer than two miles, and west (Isaac Beesy) three miles. The country was new, and the people did not crowd each other much. There was no newspaper then or before published in White county. Not much of politics or political excitement. I remember the presidential election of 1848. My father and I left home at the same time, going in opposite directions—he east, I west. When we met again he had voted for Taylor and Fillmore at the voting place of the township, the old seat of county government, Geo. A. Spencer's, and I had secured a school in Princeton township—the Nordyke neighborhood. It was my first school, and the first taught in the township. The 13th day of November just passed was the sixty-second anniversary of its opening. May I say that all of our family (children) were school teachers, and all taught in White county except the youngest—Henry Clay.

"Do you wonder that I have a great love for White county? I never had any enemies there. I have touched shoulders with many of your early citizens in the life struggle. Your noble building, the schoolhouse at Monticello—I laid the cornerstone and delivered the oration in 1869. Every foot of your 504 square miles is destined to be valuable. Your noble river, the classic Tippecanoe, is destined to continue the most beautiful stream in the State, and every hamlet, village and town to grow in wealth and importance through the coming years. The fondest dreams of the early days will more than come true, and the civilized and cultured Anglo-Saxon continue to hold and cultivate lands where once the proud hostile Miami held savage sway."

#### FIRST FRAME SCHOOLHOUSE

As the population increased, especially in the northeastern part of the township toward Monticello, the settlers prepared to give their children better educational conveniences. The county was divided into school districts, No. 1 being embraced in that territory. In 1850 the first frame schoolhouse in the township was erected in section 12, not far from the original log cabin, used for that purpose, on the Spencer farm.

#### MUDGE'S STATION AND CHALMERS

The settlers felt greatly encouraged when the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad was completed through the township in 1853, and Gardner Mudge contributed land in section 34 to be used as the site of a station. The locality was known for years as Mudge's Station, but it did not bud into the Town of Chalmers until 1873, when it was first platted.



## FIRST IRON BRIDGE

In the early '70s several important improvements were made in the township, among others being the building of its first iron bridge across Big Creek, just north of the residence of John Burns. It was completed in 1872 and was 100 feet long; quite a structure for those days and that locality. It has since been replaced by a more substantial structure.

## SWAMP LANDS RECLAIMED

In the '80s the settlers commenced to take up the work of draining the northern swamp lands in earnest, and the result was to reclaim large tracts which had been held unimproved, some of the owners being non-residents. As these lands came into the market as fertile and valuable farm properties, they were purchased by actual settlers and divided into smaller tracts. Thus the northern part of the township received a noticeable accession of population.

## SMITHSON OR WHEELER

One of the results of this movement was the platting of the Town of Wheeler in section 9. It was laid out on the farm of Hiram M. Wheeler, on the main line of the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad. The postoffice at that point was named Smithson, in honor of Lieut. Bernard G. Smith, a veteran of the Civil war and a son of Abel T. Smith, who came to the neighborhood in 1846 and was for years prominent in township affairs. He died in 1875. Although the town was platted as Wheeler, the railroad station is usually known by the name of the postoffice, Smithson.

## LEADER IN GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT

Besides being early in the movement of artificial drainage, the farmers of Big Creek Township, with the solid support of the townsmen of Chalmers, took the initiative in the improvement of the highways of the county, and, in proportion to their population and wealth, are still in the front ranks of the good roads reform. In that regard the bonded indebtedness of the township is the fifth largest among the eleven townships of the county. Its total of \$46,977 is divided among the several roads as follows: Dobbins, \$800; Redding, \$470; Anderson, \$1,500; Younger, \$4,500; J. H. Moore, \$9,334; Friday, \$4,800; Mills, \$1,733; Morrison, \$8,000; Lane, \$12,840.



## CHAPTER XVII

### HONEY CREEK TOWNSHIP

DRAINING AND ROAD BUILDING—HONEY CREEK—JOSHUA RINKER AND WIFE—THE BUNNELL FAMILIES—SMITH, HIORTH'S OLD PARTNER—SETTLERS AND LAND BUYERS OF 1835—ENTERED LANDS IN 1839-53—TWO-THIRDS OWNED BY NON-RESIDENTS—FOUNDING OF REYNOLDS—GUERNSEY—TOWNSHIP CREATED—SCHOOLHOUSE AND TOWN HALL—PIONEER CITIZEN VOTERS—PUBLIC-SPIRITED TOWNSHIP.

As a civil body, Honey Creek Township dates from 1855. Its territory was a part of the original Union Township, created in 1834 as one of the four divisions of the vast White County of that day. Monon Township was lopped off from the parent body in 1836 and Princeton in 1844; then, in 1855, another thirty-six square miles was taken from the western portion of Union to form Honey Creek Township, which also, about 1905, was presented with five square miles from Big Creek Township to the south. Although it would be difficult to find forty-one square miles of better land in the county than lie within the limits of Honey Creek Township, their fertility and productiveness have been fairly earned, as no section has given more freely of its time and means to reclaim them from their primal disadvantages.

#### DRAINING AND ROAD BUILDING

Even for a number of years after the civil organization of the township, its soil was largely water-soaked and most of the land was considered unmarketable, but about 1880 the settlers took up the matter of ditching in an earnest and practical way. By 1882 they had some twenty miles of good public ditches, besides many constructed at private expense, and with the rapid reclaiming of the lands the farmers also did their full share in constructing good gravel and stone roads; so that with the increased yield of their lands they provided the means of getting the produce to market in the most advantageous way. At the present time, there is very little land in Honey Creek Township which is not under a fair state of cultivation and which is not easily accessible to either a substantial macadam road or a line of railroad.

In the construction of its system of macadam or gravel roads, Honey Creek Township has incurred a bonded indebtedness of \$38,886, divided as follows: Weaver Road, \$8,400; Ballard, \$2,400; J. H. Moore, \$1,866; Wheeler, \$4,060; Ward, \$4,050; Miller, \$4,950; byroads, \$12,000; Lane, \$1,160.



## HONEY CREEK

Ditching and road building have been made especially necessary in Honey Creek Township because of the sluggish and widespread waters of the stream which gives it its name. Honey Creek rises in the adjoining townships of West Point and flows in a northeasterly direction through the township and empties into the Tippecanoe River three miles north of Monticello, in Union Township. Speaking of this stream, one of the oldest residents of the county says: "It might with greater propriety be termed a lake, for it had no well-defined channel from its entrance into the township to its passage out, but was one vast sheet of water without perceptible outlet, varying in width from a few hundred feet to a mile or more, until within two miles of its outlet it became a rapid stream, with well-defined channel, flowing through heavily wooded, rugged bluff lands, from thence to the river. It was only after the expenditure of much money and a vast amount of labor that a channel of any kind was made through the township, and by deepening and widening it from year to year the water has been removed to such an extent as to render the larger part of the land susceptible to cultivation. There is not another township in the whole county where so much has been done to improve natural conditions, nor is there one which has equaled Honey Creek in its advance in material wealth and prosperity."

Previous to the building of the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad through the township in 1853-54, and the platting of Reynolds in the latter year, few settlers had ventured into what generally was put down as a water-logged part of the county. Conditions were better in the southern half of the township than in the northern, and the consequence was that, with very few exceptions, the pioneers who located before the railroad came along settled in sections 22, 26, 27, 28, 34 and 35. By reference to any fair map it will be seen that these sections cover the present site of Reynolds and certain portions of the township within two miles of it.

## JOSHUA RINKER AND WIFE

The first settlers of Honey Creek Township were Joshua Rinker and wife—the former of German blood and the latter (Louisa Reece) of Scotch ancestry—both Virginians, who in 1834 located in what was then the newly organized County of White and Union Township. Mr. Rinker threw up a little log cabin somewhere in section 34 and there the sturdy couple established themselves as the first residents in what is now Honey Creek Township. Long afterward it was stated by William H. Rinker, who was the third of their eight children and was born in that locality in May, 1836, that for the first two years of his residence there, Joshua Rinker farmed on shares, and that in 1836 he entered 130 acres of land in Big Creek and Honey Creek townships. At first he erected the rude log cabin noted, but afterward built the first brick house of the township. His wife died in April, 1864, and he followed her in December, 1869.





The son, William H. Rinker, married into the old Bunnell family, and lived for years on his farm not far from the old homestead in section 34.

#### THE BUNNELL FAMILIES

Nathaniel Bunnell, the founder of the family, various members of which have become so well known in Honey Creek Township, was reared and married in Kentucky. When a young man he was engaged in the Ohio River trade and was one of a crew who brought the first load of merchandise from Marysville, Kentucky, to Chillicothe, Ohio. Soon afterward he moved into Ohio, and, after making several changes of location and serving in the War of 1812 within the following thirty years, settled with a large family in what is now Honey Creek Township. The Tract Book shows that he entered his first tract of land in section 34 on the 9th of December, 1833, and he probably did not settle upon it until the following spring or summer, following closely upon the arrival of the Rinkers. The families naturally became neighbors, and, quite as naturally, the young people commenced to intermarry.

In April, 1834, both Nathaniel and Thomas Bunnell entered lands in section 27, and various members of the family, representing several generations, have resided at Reynolds and in neighboring territory. Nathaniel Bunnell died on his farm in section 34 in the year 1850.

#### SMITH, HIORTH'S OLD PARTNER

It is said that Peter B. Smith, the partner of Hans E. Hiorth in the sawmill established in the Norwegian settlement two miles north of Monticello, settled in section 1, northeast corner of what is now Honey Creek Township, as early as 1834. If he did so there is no record of any purchase of lands by him at that time; he may have been simply scouting for timber lands. His first entry in that section was not made until 1846.

#### SETTLERS AND LAND BUYERS OF 1835

In 1835 the settlers included the Coles—Joseph, James and Moses—and about the same time Jesse Grooms and the Johnsons—Frank, Moses and Addison. Within the following two years also came Stephen Miller to section 26, V. McColloch to section 27 and John Wilson to section 22.

Early settlers also report that a bachelor by the name of Day came into the township in the same year and began settlement in section 35.

In 1835 the only people to enter lands, according to the records, were also Bunnells—John Wesley Bunnell, in section 26, and Eliza Ann Bunnell, in section 33, both on December 16th.

In 1836 the Tract Book gives the following: Daniel M. Tilton, in section 1 (the only recorded land owner of the early times to invest in the northern sections of the township), December 12th; Levi Reynolds, May 25th; Benjamin H. Dixon, February 4th, and Harrison Skinner, June 2d—all in section 28; and Thomas Brownfield, in section 34, May 3d.



## ENTERED LANDS IN 1839-53

The Tract Book, which is the only reliable authority by which to determine the entries of lands in the township, records the following as having bought real estate of the Government after 1836, until the township was organized in 1855: Joshua Rinker (as stated) in section 34, August 1, 1839; William M. Kenton, in section 25, November 20, 1843, and in section 24, October 9, 1848; in 1844—Richard Imes, in section 1, April 20th; William Turner, in section 13, November 9th; Ellis H. Johnson, in section 29, February 16th; John R. Jefferson, in section 31, May 2d, and Richard J. Tilton, in section 36, November 9th; James P. Moore, Sr., and James P. Moore, Jr., in section 6, November 25, 1845; in 1846—Peter B. Smith, in section 1, October 17th; Joseph Coble, in section 11, September 6th; William Turner, in section 17, September 28th; Adin and Israel Nordyke (residents of Princeton Township), in section 19, October 5th; David H. Morse, in section 21, July 14th; Thomas Spencer, in section 24, September 26th, and in section 25, October 14th; Nathaniel White, in section 26, September 29th; Isaac Beasy, January 19th; Okey S. Johnson, May 13th, and John B. Lowe, May 21st, all in section 29; and James Shaw, in section 34, February 25th; in 1847—Liberty M. Burns, in section 15, February 7th; David Marshall, in section 22, October 19th; Lewis C. Marshall, in section 23, October 19th; James Witherow, in section 25, June 22d, and James Barnes, in same section, July 6th; David H. Morse, in section 26, August 9th; Aaron Chamberlain, in section 30, April 15th; Isaac Beasey, in same section, May 18th; in 1848—William M. Kenton, in section 24, October 9th; David Marshall, in section 26, same date; Nathaniel Bunnell, in section 34, December 9th, and Jordan Cain, in section 36, March 13th; in 1850—Abraham Smith (a resident of Princeton Township), in section 19, April 12th; John Lawrie (a citizen of West Point Township), in section 29, December 16th, and John Day, in section 34, September 24th; Loreno Morse, James Shaw, James Brooks, John B. Cowan and K. T. and N. Bunnell, section 35, October 8, 1851; John Bunton, in section 31, March 5, 1852, and Levin Tucker, in section 29, October 24, 1853.

## TWO-THIRDS OWNED BY NON-RESIDENTS

At the organization of the township in 1855, it is estimated that fully two-thirds of its area was in the hands of non-residents. The swamp and military warrant lands taken up were as follows:

Sections	Swamp Lands (acres)	Military Lands (acres)
1 .....	80	...
2 .....	440	...
3 .....	600	40



Sections	Swamp Lands (acres)	Military Lands (acres)
4 .....	360	80
5 .....	400	240
6 .....	120	...
7 .....	320	...
8 .....	480	80
9 .....	180	...
10 .....	280	40
11 .....	400	...
12 .....	280	...
13 .....	200	60
14 .....	480	80
15 .....	480	...
17 .....	220	...
18 .....	640	...
19 .....	280	160
20 .....	600	40
21 .....	600	...
22 .....	400	...
23 .....	440	120
24 .....	...	80
25 .....	...	200
26 .....	160	...
27 .....	160	...
28 .....	440	...
29 .....	280	...
30 .....	480	...
31 .....	240	160
32 .....	560	40
33 .....	160	160
34 .....	80	...
36 .....	...	40
Totals.....	10,840	1,620

To the foregoing grand total 12,460 acres of swamp and military lands taken up, with few exceptions by land speculators residing outside the county, are to be added various tracts of canal lands in sections 27, 29 and 34, which were held out of the Government lands subject to free entry at \$1.25 per acre. Two hundred acres of these lands in section 27 were purchased by Joseph Coke, Marshall H. Johnson and Micajah F. Johnson; John Lawrie, of West Point Township, bought forty acres in section 29, and Joseph Day and Benjamin Reynolds entered 200 acres in section 34. Other scattering tracts bought up by speculators, non-resident in Honey Creek Township, would bring the total of "foreign" holdings up to the 14,640 acres, as estimated.



## FOUNDING OF REYNOLDS

This condition undoubtedly interfered with the early settlement of the country, which failed to show much progress until the building of the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad. While the line was in process of construction through the township the Town of Reynolds was laid out by Benjamin Reynolds, George S. Rose, Christian Cassell, William M. Kenton and Joseph H. Thompson. The original plat was recorded August 22, 1853, and shows 155 lots in the northeast quarter of 33. The village was named after Benjamin Reynolds, its acknowledged founder, who erected the first building on its site, the hotel which held its own in the central part of the county for many years thereafter. Thomas Bunnell and William M. Kenton made the first addition to Reynolds in 1855. The town had many energetic and able men who pushed it along, notwithstanding its early setback during the inflated and uncertain times of 1857-58. The Pittsburgh, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad (Pennsylvania) was completed through the township in 1859 and gave another boom to Reynolds, which, during the following decade, especially, was acknowledged to be a rival to Monticello "away off on the eastern borders of the county." Being the junction of the two lines, although it had prosperous and substantial business houses, it was known for many miles around as "a tough railroad town," with all that expression implies. But, although all of its ambitions were not realized, it being incorporated in 1875, it has long been an orderly place, and has progressed steadily as one of the best interior centers in the county. Reynolds is the banking and the trade center of quite a district, especially to the north, and its dealings in grain and live stock are considerable.

## GUERNSEY

The only other center in the township, which is, however, of comparative unimportance, is Guernsey, a station on the Monon route in section 12, northeastern part of the township. The place has never been platted; is only a small hamlet and derives its name from the postoffice established there.

## TOWNSHIP CREATED

Very soon after the Town of Reynolds was platted, Benjamin Reynolds, Leander H. Jewett, Abram Van Voorst and others signed a petition and presented it to the court of county commissioners, praying that congressional township 27 north, range 4 west, should be constituted Honey Creek Township. At its June term, 1855, that body so ordered.

## SCHOOLHOUSE AND TOWN HALL

Not long after the township was created and before any of its officials had been elected the proprietors of the new town of Reynolds made





arrangements to build a schoolhouse on its site. It was one of the first buildings to be erected. Nathaniel Bunnell gave \$25 for the purpose, Benjamin Reynolds donated the ground and other settlers in the neighborhood contributed enough by subscription to complete the building, which was to serve both as a schoolhouse and a town hall.

#### PIONEER CITIZEN VOTERS

The first election in Honey Creek Township was held at the Reynolds schoolhouse on the 7th of April, 1856, and the forty-three who cast their ballots at that time were Abram Van Voorst, D. L. Hamilton, Newton Organ, M. M. Sill, O. S. Dale, J. S. Goddard, Ira Keller, James Cole, Aaron Wood, Joseph Cole, Thomas Glassford, Nathaniel Bunnell, Thornton Williams, Samuel Horen, Washington Burns, Robert W. Sill, Frederick Medorse, Jesse Holtom, Marshall Johnson, Addison Johnson, Joshua Rinker, George Williams, Thomas Cain, John Reffcoots, S. A. Miller, Abraham Irvin, Daniel Coble, A. M. Dickinson, Patrick Horn, R. R. Pettit, John Horen, L. H. Jewett, Isaac Barker, Isaac S. Vinson, John Bates, Lewis Kruger, J. W. Bulger, J. N. Bunnell, Nathaniel White, James Torpy, Isaac M. Cantwell, John Callis and Frederick Helm. The result was to elect Samuel Horen as township trustee, for a term of three years; Abram Van Voorst, for a two years term, and A. M. Dickinson, for one year; Leander H. Jewett and M. M. Sill, justices of the peace for two years; R. R. Pettit and Homer Glassford, constables for one year; Nathaniel Bunnell, township treasurer, one year, and Joshua Rinker, Newton Organ and James Coble, road supervisors, one year. At this election thirty-five votes were received for a road tax. Ira Kells and Aaron Wood acted as judges, and O. S. Dale and M. M. Sill as clerks.

There was even a more complete turn-out at the election on the second Tuesday in October of that year; this was the first state election held in the township and nearly every voter in it reported at the Reynolds schoolhouse. The names follow: James Himes, William White, Aaron Wood, A. M. Dickinson, J. B. Bunnell, Abram Van Voorst, J. H. Thomas, Stephen Miller, L. H. Ambler, Thornton Williams, Marion Hamilton, Samuel Harper, Isaac Ruger, J. S. Reynolds, Samuel Horen, J. W. Brasket, William Harper, R. R. Pettit, Thomas Harper, John Noah, William Headen, Michael Foundry, F. Herper, L. H. Jewett, F. N. Holam, Lewis Shall, F. Kefsis, James S. Miller, George F. Miller, Jacob Henstur, James Dale, M. M. Sill, James Kenton, A. Page, J. S. Goddard, M. Poram, John Candent, E. Lickory, John Boles, Charles Keller, Henry Veslong, M. T. Johnson, John Cole, Anderson Johnson, George Williams, James Cole, Benjamin Clark, Hugh Irvin, Ira Keller, John Lealy, Patrick Henry, D. L. Hamilton, N. W. Bunnell, G. Helar, A. A. Ferryfold, Isaac Kentwell, Joseph Skevtington, John Cox, John Jeffcoots, B. T. Meyers, A. Weise, George Emery, Nathaniel White, C. Perry, Joshua Perry, James Pettit, Jerry Hamilton, Thomas Spencer, Solomon McCulloch, James M. Bragg, John Horn, Nathaniel Bunnell, Adam Morgan,



Joshua Rinker, Adin Nordyke, Patrick Horn, Patrick Poating, James Turpie, Joseph Dale, P. Hartman, W. P. Stark, Joseph DeLong, Abram Irvin and Newton Organ.

#### PUBLIC-SPIRITED TOWNSHIP

After the founding of Reynolds, most of the pioneer institutions and movements of the township originated in that town; consequently, many of the details connected with such early matters are reserved for the special sketch of the village. Even in the encouragement of such enterprises as the construction of roads and ditches, which affect the township at large, the people of Reynolds have always been helpful to the extent of their means. In fact, as a whole, it is a township which enjoys a marked public spirit.



## CHAPTER XVIII

### PRINCETON TOWNSHIP

JOSEPH STEWART, MIGHTY HUNTER—THE PALESTINE SETTLEMENT—THE GODFATHER OF THE TOWNSHIP—THOMAS GILLPATRICK—BLACK OAK SETTLEMENT—TOWNSHIP CREATED AND NAMED—STATE AND TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS—THE NORDYKE SETTLEMENT—THE SCHOOLHOUSE COMPETITION—LAND ENTRIES, 1842-47—SADDLED WITH LAND SPECULATORS—FEVER AND AGUE, OR CHILLS AND FEVER—IS IT ANY WONDER?—RECLAIMED LANDS AND GOOD ROADS—PIONEER SETTLEMENT DETERMINED BY NATURAL CONDITIONS—CATTLE RAISING AND HERDING—LIGHT AHEAD—WOLCOTT AND ITS FOUNDER—SEAFIELD.

Princeton Township is one of the few portions of White County in which pioneer settlement and civil organization were almost coincident. As created in 1855 by the board of county commissioners, it comprised seventy-eight square miles—not only its present area, but the fifteen westernmost sections of Monon Township. Legally and specifically, its bounds were thus described: Commencing at the northeast corner of section 1, township 28 north, range 5 west, and running south on said section line to the north line of Big Creek Township; thence west along said line to the west line of White County; thence north along this line to the corner of White County; thence east along said county line six miles; thence north on said county line five miles; thence east three miles to the place of beginning. Monon Township afterward regained its three western tiers of five sections each, thus reducing Princeton to its present area of sixty-three square miles—nine miles from east to west, and seven from north to south.

#### JOSEPH STEWART, MIGHTY HUNTER.

Joseph Stewart, a young hunter and trapper without family, was the first white man to settle within the limits of Princeton Township. He entered forty acres in section 2, in the northwest corner of the township, on the 10th of December, 1841, but probably in the early spring of that year had built his shack on a sand ridge which ran through his tract. Unincumbered as he was, the young sportsman had little use for a dwelling except as a storehouse for his guns, traps and skins. At that time there was no habitation within ten miles of his hut. A winding path through the brush led to the front from the west, and shortly after his arrival Stewart fenced and cultivated a few acres of land in his backyard. For several years his cabin was a favorite resort of hunters and



travelers in that region. Stewart could narrate marvelous tales of his narrow escape from the horns of wounded bucks, from packs of wolves and individual catamounts, panthers and lynx. The sides of his cabin, well covered with the skins of deer and wolf, bore some evidence as to a portion of these blood-curdling tales, but signs-manual as to his prowess against the wild cats of the forest were lacking.

#### THE PALESTINE SETTLEMENT

After Stewart, the mighty hunter, came such modest tillers of the soil as Henry Pugh, Nathaniel Rogers and John Cain, all of whom located in 1842 on sections 5 and 8 and commenced what was long known as the Palestine settlement. Of this colony the family of Henry Pugh is said to have been the first to arrive, moving from Union Township in January, 1843, and installing themselves in the hewn-log cabin erected by the father and husband during the previous fall in section 8. Pugh was one of the most noted woodsmen in the township and cut the logs for not only his own house but for the cabins erected by his two neighbors, and his services in that line were often called into requisition as other settlers came into the northern part of the township. He was what you might call a handy man to have 'round in those days.

In the spring of 1843 Messrs. Rogers and Cain became residents of the Palestine settlement, building their cabins in section 5, to the north of Pugh's house. The cabins erected by Pugh and Cain were 16 by 20 feet each, while the one built by Nathaniel Rogers was 16 by 22 feet.

The Tract Book shows that John Cain entered land in section 32, north of section 5, in January, 1842, and that Nathaniel S. Rogers purchased a tract in the same section during the following month.

In June, 1842, Daniel and John Nyce entered lands in section 2 and settled on their tracts soon after Rogers and Cain had completed their cabins.

#### THE GODFATHER OF THE TOWNSHIP.

In 1843 Cornelius Vandervolgen came over from England in the good ship "Princeton" and located in section 1, thus becoming a resident of Palestine. As will be seen, the township received its name at his suggestion. Anson Jewett, in section 7, Cornelius Stryker in section 10, and others, also settled in that part of the township, investing quite largely in canal lands.

#### THOMAS GILLPATRICK

In February, 1844, Thomas Gillpatrick entered lands in section 22, southeast of the central part of the township, in what afterward became the Nordyke settlement. He probably located in the following spring, as he was on hand to vote at the fall election of 1845.





## BLACK OAK SETTLEMENT

About this time a settlement to the northwest of Palestine was formed in Princeton Township. James Brown, an Ohio man, was the first to arrive in that locality. His cabin was even smaller than those first erected by the founders of Palestine, being only 14 by 18 feet. He was soon followed by Jacob Myrtle and Messrs. Gooddale and Hemphill, who called their little cluster of cabins Black Oak settlement.

## TOWNSHIP CREATED AND NAMED

By the spring of 1844 there were enough settlers in the western part of Union Township to warrant a separate government, and in March they presented to the Court of County Commissioners a petition looking to that end. At the same time Mr. Vandervolgen suggested that it be called Princeton, in honor of the grand old vessel in which he "came over." As now known, that body accepted the name and announced the boundaries of the new township.

## STATE AND TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS

The first election held in Princeton Township was for state officers, the following voters discharging their duties at the house of Daniel Nyce, in section 2, on the 4th of August, 1845: Nathaniel Rogers, Cornelius Vandervolgen, William Bunnell, John C. Lielfor, Nathaniel B. Volger, Daniel Nyce, John Cain, Mortimer Dyer, Henry Pugh, R. C. Johnson, Joseph Stewart, Isaac Chase, Elias Esra, Adin Nordyke, John C. Morman, Israel Nordyke, Thomas Gillpatrick and Anson Jewett.

At the first election for township officers, held on the first Monday of April (6th), 1846, the following cast their votes: Elias Morman, Israel Nordyke, John Cain, John Birch, John Moran, John Lear, Thomas Gill, Joseph Lear, Anson Wood, Henry Pugh, Daniel Nyce, J. R. Benham, Andrew Morman, Mortimer Dyer, James Street, Adin Nordyke, Benjamin Gillpatrick, Elias Esra, Cornelius Stryker, Anson Jewett, Nathaniel Rogers and Leander H. Jewett. Elias Esra was chosen supervisor of roads, twenty votes being cast for him; Robert Nordyke, inspector of elections, by the same vote; Elias Morman and Anson Wood were tied for the office of fence viewer, two votes being cast for each; James Street, constable, with twenty votes to his credit.

## THE NORDYKE SETTLEMENT

Although the first recorded entry of lands by Adin and Israel Nordyke is given as October 13, 1846, in section 21, it is evident from the foregoing list of voters that various members of the family had already effected a lodgement in the central portion of the township. Within the succeeding few years the well known Nordyke settlement sprung up in that neighborhood, and vied for superiority with the Palestine people, several miles to the northwest.



## THE SCHOOLHOUSE COMPETITION

Perhaps the most earnest contest was over the matter of schoolhouses. The Nordyke institution was opened about 1848, with B. Wilson Smith in charge; was built of hewn logs, and was 16 by 18 feet on the ground. But it had only one window!

The Palestine schoolhouse that stood on Mortimer Dyer's land was of the same dimensions as those of its rival, but had two windows—one on each side—extending the entire length of the building. To modify this advantage over the Nordyke schoolhouse it was only a round-log structure; so that the most unprejudiced judges said that honors were even.

This state of affairs existed until 1854, when the Nordyke settlement erected the first frame schoolhouse in the township, about half a mile north of the first log building, which lost the day to the Palestine settlement.

## LAND ENTRIES, 1842-1847

Among those who entered lands in Princeton Township previous to 1848, not already mentioned, were John Porter, in section 36, northwestern part of the township, August 26, 1842; Comfort Olds, January 11, and William Coon, May 29, 1843, both in section 2, just southeast of the Porter claim; Elizabeth Pugh, in section 8, September 5, 1845; Mortimer Dyer, in section 9, August 10, and in section 36 (range 6), August 18, 1845; Robert C. Johnson, in section 15 (range 5), and Hiram F. Lear, in section 33 (township 28, range 5).

In 1846 settlements in the township became more numerous. The following entered lands in township 27, range 5: Peter Penham, in section 1; Jonathan White, section 15; Adin and Israel Nordyke, in section 21, and Alfred Harrison and Benjamin Harrison, in section 28.

In 1847 Hiram F. Lear purchased land in section 4; Richard J. Tilton in section 7; Anson Jewett in section 8; James McKillip and James Holliday in section 10; John Burch in section 15; Richard J. Tilton and Rebecca J. Tilton in section 17; William W. Wynkoop in section 25; Christopher Burch in section 32; James E. Adams and John Stewart in section 33; David Wright in section 34, and Isaac Beasey in section 36. In section 35, township 28, range 6, Newton Stewart entered lands on October 25, 1847.

There was a period of several years after 1847 when few settlers came into the township, but the influx commenced again in the early '50s, by the latter portion of that decade was quite brisk, and between 1856 and 1860 the population nearly doubled.

## SADDLED WITH LAND SPECULATORS

Princeton Township shared the fate of Honey Creek and most of the other northern townships, in the matter of having its lands monopolized by non-resident speculators in the early period of its development.



First they bought up large tracts of swamp land and canal lands, and later added to their holdings by purchasing all the land warrants they could lay their hands on, and paying ex-Mexican soldiers a song in cash for good Government titles. These large areas they held at prices far in excess of the regular Government price, and as settlers were able to avail themselves of the cheaper rates in neighboring townships or counties, Princeton and all the other speculator-ridden sections were carefully avoided by those who really sought land upon which to found homes. It was not, in fact, until the Government lands, at \$1.25 per acre, had been exhausted in adjacent territory, and there had arisen a general economic and sanitary demand for the drainage of the swamp lands, with a consequent increase of taxes upon the properties, that the speculators were routed in favor of the homeseekers.

When the non-resident landlords found that they could not hold these tracts for a rise without paying something in return for their increase in value, they attempted to unload them on residents. Even as late as 1855 the land held under the military land warrants was offered at less than the Government price. But no purchasers were found, as residents had all the land they wanted, and many of them were deeply in debt for the tracts they had purchased from the trustees of the Wabash & Erie canal. Much of this land had been sold on time, with a small advance payment, the certificate of purchase stipulating that in case of non-payment of the balance, when due, the first payment would be forfeited and the land resold. Thousands of acres of canal lands were thus sold in Princeton and other townships of the county at \$2 per acre, the first payment being sometimes forfeited two or three times on the same tract of land.

#### FEVER AND AGUE, OR CHILLS AND FEVER

But perhaps the chief drawback to the settlement of families in Princeton Township—and until he had a family with him no man was considered a fixed asset of the community—was the unhealthfulness of the region, so much of which was covered by water a large portion of the year. Had it been flowing water, the situation would not have been so bad; but most of it was stagnant, a breeder of disease in the specialty of fever and ague, or chills and fever; it matters little which is named first or last—the combination is equally hideous.

For thirty-five or forty years Princeton Township was known as one of the bad ague districts of the county, and for a number of years after its organization the plague regularly appeared with the cessation of the rainy season and the commencement of summer heat. The worst season of all was that of 1844-45, as it continued to rage for eight or nine months. Copious rains lasted from May 10 to July 4, 1844, and all but the highest ground in the township was virtually under water. One of the pioneers says that it rained so hard and long that for two days and a night the water stood six inches deep on his cabin floor, and he was obliged to get under the dining table to protect himself from the down-pour. All the ground under cultivation had been prepared for corn, but



planting was impossible. The rain slackened a little about the 1st of July, and by the 4th the hot season commenced. The entire country then commenced to be wrapped in heavy, oppressive vapor, and the people, soaked and weakened for the preceding two months, now began to be racked with alternate waves of chills and fever. July and August saw the epidemic at its height, and there were not enough well persons in the township to care for those who were seized with it. The trouble was not considered under control until the midwinter of 1844-45. During this period of suffering and discouragement, as well as during the successive ague seasons, the house of John H. Lear, in section 4, northern part of the township, was known as the quinine depot for the northwestern part of the county. Mr. Lear would purchase the drug in wholesale quantities, and haul it by ox-team to any stricken settlement or locality, and then the neighbors would come and get enough to meet their cases, subject to the approval of the purchaser. He was not a regular practitioner, but was known for miles around as the "ague comforter;" and there is nothing in the records to show that he ever collected for his specific unless the recipient was well able to pay.

#### IS IT ANY WONDER?

It is asserted by those who came to the township at an early day that for ten years after its first settlement there was absolutely no pure water within its limits; and in that regard it was no exception to other swamp districts in the northern part of White County. The wells of the pioneer settlers were holes in the ground at the foot of the ridge on which their residences and outhouses were usually built. These sources of the family drinking supply were sometimes walled with oak plank and covered, but more often unwallled and uncovered. A downpour of rain would fill these holes with surface water and filthy washings to the very top, which abomination was drawn upon for drinking, cooking and all other domestic purposes. Is it any wonder that ague, malarial fevers and all other forms of filth diseases victimized these unfortunates, and that most of them for years were completely unfitted for labor during six months of the twelve?

#### RECLAIMED LANDS AND GOOD ROADS

Better conditions commenced to prevail with the drainage of the swamp lands, and, with the gradual extension of that work and the building of good roads so as to minimize the dangers to health from exposure in the open, the settlers of Princeton Township enjoy all the benefits of modern sanitary precautions. Within the past twenty-five or thirty years Princeton Township has been among the foremost sections of the county in the reclamation of its lowlands and their improvement in respect both to agriculture and residence uses.

In this connection high credit should be given her citizens for their faithful work in the construction of good roads throughout their terri-





tory. In this movement, which has come to be regarded as a test of public spirit in all country districts, Princeton stands second among the townships of the county, being only surpassed by Prairie. The bonded indebtedness incurred by the different roads (macadam or gravel) is as follows: Princeton Township, \$14,680.25; Lear, \$5,250; Diemer, \$5,200; Swygman, \$4,100; Dawson, \$12,800; M. G. Dobbins, \$9,900; Pugh, \$5,400; Chenoweth, \$4,400; Mooy, \$3,800. Total, \$65,530.25.

#### PIONEER SETTLEMENT DETERMINED BY NATURAL CONDITIONS

The first settlements in the township were made chiefly in the northern and eastern sections, or the timber regions. The western and southern portions were generally prairie lands, almost treeless and decidedly monotonous. The pioneer settlement, or Palestine, was made on the border between the timber and prairie country, and nearly all of those who located in that part of the township bought and improved the prairie land immediately adjoining their wooded farms.

A branch of the Little Monon Creek is the only running stream of water in the township and was a large determining factor in early settlement. It rises in Benton County, flows northeasterly across the northwest corner of West Point Township, enters Princeton near the center of its southern line, and continues in the same general direction diagonally through its southern, central and northeastern sections, into Monon Township, and forms a part of what is now the Hoagland ditch which drains most of this section of the county.

This stream was the only natural outlet for the vast body of water which accumulated on the lowlands of the southern, central and northeastern portions of the township, but as much of this low land area was below the bed of the creek the natural drainage was a very slow process and was to a large extent replaced by evaporation. A few who resided close to the stream resorted to artificial drainage, but most land owners preferred to cultivate their sand ridge land, which although less productive, required less care. They even favored the dreary prairie stretches of the southwest and west. In a word this branch of the Little Monon was a determining factor in the early settlement of Princeton Township, in that most of the newcomers avoided it and its overflowing borders.

#### CATTLE RAISING AND HERDING

But the prairie lands, especially those which were high and undulating, increased in favor. They afforded fine pasturage for cattle, of which fact the settlers of the '50s and '60s were not slow to take practical advantage. In the palmy days of the business, when the farmers were not only raising cattle of their own, but herding large numbers for eastern dealers, the country was not unlike the Far West of a later day, albeit on a minor scale.



This interesting and important feature of the early times in Princeton Township, when all its progress seemed to depend on the development of its agricultural wealth, is thus drawn by one who witnessed most of it himself: "The business of herding cattle on the prairie became quite an industry to the settlers, and there were few of them who failed to prepare pounds by fencing from one to ten acres of their land with rails, and stake and double-rider the lot, preparatory to receiving a herd in the pasturing season. The number of cattle taken by the settler depended upon his ability to care for a greater or a less number, ranging from 250 to 500 head; but it was found that not more than 300 head could be advantageously kept in one herd to obtain the best results.

"The price paid by the owners for herding was twelve and a half cents per month for each animal cared for, until competition among the settlers to secure a herd reduced it to ten cents per head. For this sum the settler must furnish the herder, and salt for the cattle at stated periods, and at the end of the season account for every animal short of the number counted in to him in the spring. If one died, the production of the hide and horns, with the owner's brand thereon, was satisfactory; otherwise, the value of the animal was deducted from the amount paid for the herding.

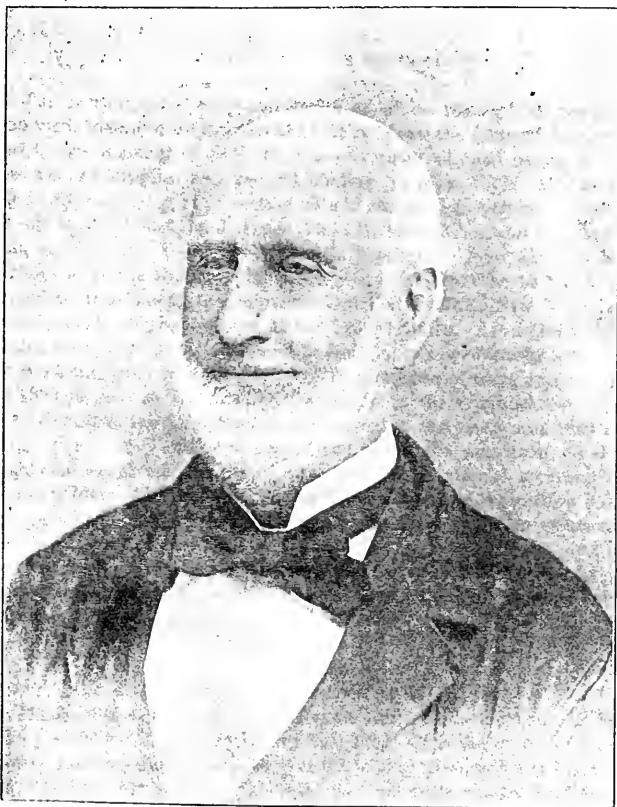
"The furnishing a herder was a matter of small moment to the settler, as all members of the family, boys and girls alike, were trained from infancy to be expert riders, and it was not unusual to see a whole family out on the herding ground, rounding up and guarding three or four hundred head of cattle, until they should become accustomed to their surroundings and learn the route from the pound to the herding ground in the morning and the return route in the evening; after which the herd caused little trouble during the remainder of the season, unless a hailstorm or something unusual should frighten them and cause a stampede, in which case it required good generalship and plenty of nerve on the part of the herder to save the animals from partial, if not total loss.

"A herd of cattle properly cared for during the season would take on from two hundred to two hundred and fifty pounds of flesh per head, and as much as three hundred pounds have been added to the weight of thirty three-year-old cattle in the six months of pasturage. This latter, however, was in exceptional cases and under most favorable conditions, largely dependent on the care and attention of the herder.

"Another fruitful source of revenue to the settlers was the feeding of the herd during the winter, if the owner desired it. In those early days a steer was not considered marketable until after he had passed the fourth year, and as food was plentiful, and practically no market available for it, the owners would often contract with the settlers to keep the herd during the winter at varying prices per month per head, dependent upon the manner and material to be used in the wintering. If the diet was prairie hay and corn fodder, with an occasional change to wheat or oats straw, a very moderate price would be charged, but if the cattle were to be fed grain, in addition to the hay and fodder, addi-



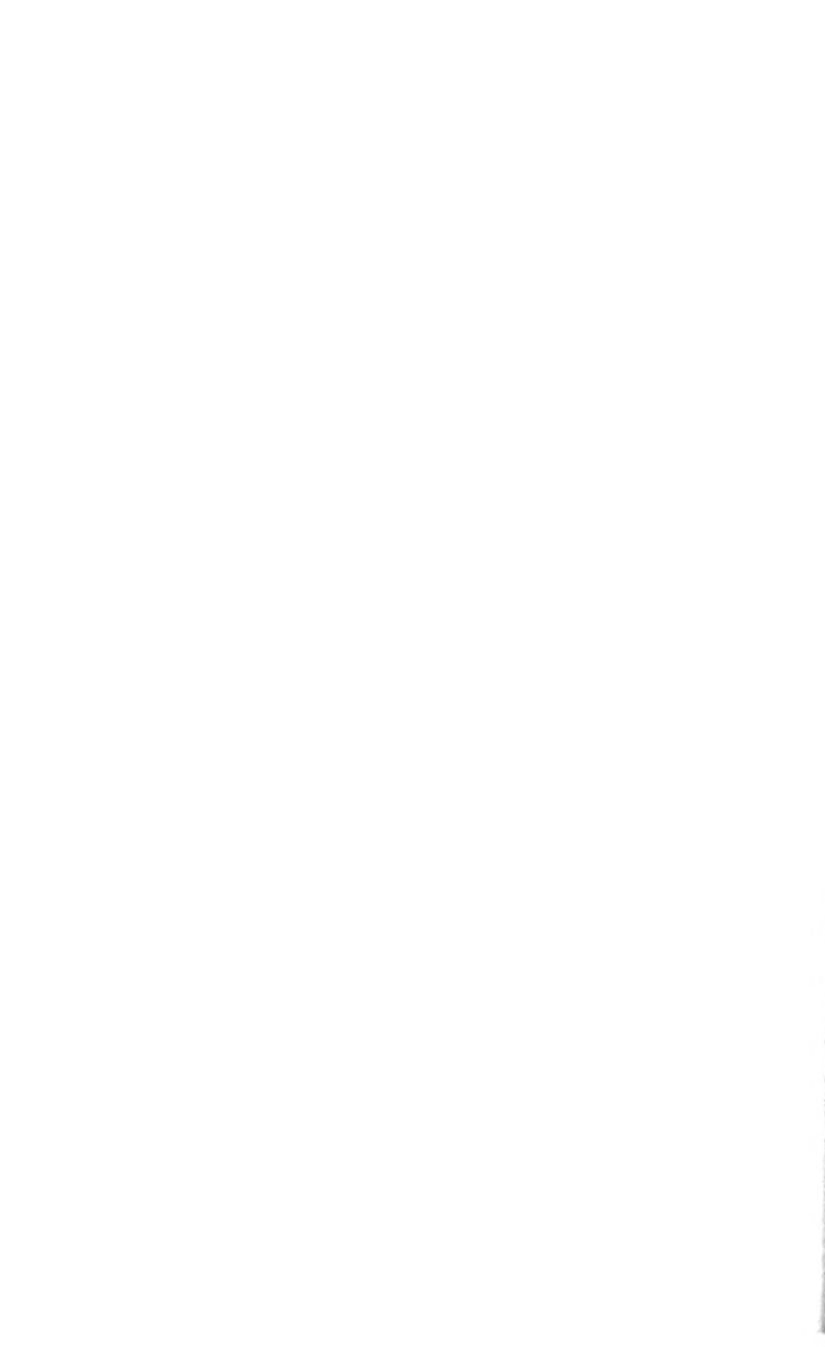
tional compensation was received. The feed lot was located on the highest ground obtainable, usually a sand ridge covered with brush and young timber, through which narrow roadways would be made for the passage of wagons containing the feed for the cattle; and the feed, whether hay,



Courtesy of Wolcott Enterprise

HON. ANSON WOLCOTT

fodder or shock corn, would be unloaded along the roadways so as to give every animal in the lot a chance to get a portion of it. For water, a pond would be enclosed in the lot, and it was no difficult matter to find one sufficient to supply a large herd during the winter months; the only difficulty was to keep it open in freezing weather."



## LIGHT AHEAD

Until the completion of the Pittsburgh, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad through the township on the last day of November, 1859, the farmers were unable to market either their live stock or their produce in any way which could encourage them to expand their operations. In that event and year they saw light ahead.

## WOLCOTT AND ITS FOUNDER

The comfort, prosperity and health of all the residents of the township were advanced by the advent of what is now the Pennsylvania road, and by the platting of Wolcott, a conveniently situated center for the purchase of supplies and general trading, in May, 1861. It was laid out in the eastern part of section 25 and the western portion of section 30, by E. G. Wolcott and Anson Wolcott, his brother and attorney in fact, an able New York lawyer, then in his fortieth year, who had been a resident of the township for three years. In 1847 he had been admitted to practice in the Supreme Court at Buffalo, New York, and in 1852 in the Supreme Court of the United States. After the platting of this town, Mr. Wolcott devoted himself to its improvement, practiced his profession and became interested in questions of state and politics. In 1868 he had so far attained leadership in the republican party as to be elected to the State Senate, and served in the sessions of 1869 and 1871. For many years he was adjudged one of the most able and thoroughly educated men in the county, and was mentioned several times as a candidate for Congress. He died at his home in Wolcott on January 11, 1907. A more detailed biography will be found in connection with the history of the Town of Wolcott.

The Town of Wolcott, notwithstanding its setback occasioned by the fires of recent years, is one of the progressive centers of trade and civic activities in the county.

## SEAFIELD

Three miles east, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, is the Town of Seafield, platted by M. C. Hamlin, in June, 1863. It is the center of a productive farming district, but as Wolcott is only three miles to the west, and Reynolds six miles to the east, there is little chance for its expansion as a village.





## CHAPTER XIX

### LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

TIMBER LANDS AND LOWLANDS—THE INDIAN VILLAGE—CRYSTAL D. W. SCOTT—COMING OF JONATHAN SLUYTER AND MOSES KARR—THE TOWNSHIP CREATED—FIRST ELECTION AND OFFICIALS—CHANGE OF BOUNDARIES—DIVIDED INTO ROAD DISTRICTS—SETTLERS PREVIOUS TO 1840—UNUSUAL PROGRESS IN 1840-50—PIONEERS SELL IMPROVED LANDS—NON-RESIDENT PURCHASERS—KEAN'S CREEK SWAMP LANDS—THE SLUYTER SCHOOLS—RELIGION AT THE SCOTT SETTLEMENT—FIRST MARRIAGE AND FIRST DEATH—BUFFALO POSTOFFICE ESTABLISHED—JOHN C. KARR AND THE TOWN—THOMAS B. MOORE—KARR'S ADDITION TO BUFFALO—THE IRON BRIDGE—SITKA—THE HUGHES AND VANVOORST FAMILIES.

The form taken by the thirty-four and a half sections of land comprising Liberty Township, in the northeastern part of White County, is largely determined by the meanderings of the Tippecanoe River, which shapes about two-thirds of its western boundary, the continuation of that line northward being from a point where the southern line of section 16 crosses the stream; the northern, southern and eastern boundaries were purely land lines. The Tippecanoe passes diagonally through the three upper tiers of sections, the river, as a whole, forming the highway along which were scattered the first settlements of both red men and white.

#### TIMBER LANDS AND LOWLANDS

Along the river valley, and for some distance inland, in the western and southwestern portions of the township, were forests of white oak, sugar maple, poplar, ash, hickory and walnut, with a thick undergrowth of hazel, plum, haw, mulberry and sassafras, but the eastern sections were largely marsh land, interspersed with low ridges of sand. The latter tracts were sprinkled with undergrowths, but showed nothing in the way of large timber. The lowlands were naturally last to come into the market, and were not taken up to any extent until after the passage of the state law, in the early '70s, by which ditching companies were formed and the benefited lands assessed for the drainage improvements. Then the speculators commenced to sell and subdivide their large idle tracts.

#### THE INDIAN VILLAGE

When the first settlers came into the county in 1829-30 they found two Indian villages within its present limits; the smaller one was about



half a mile north of the locality now occupied by Monticello, and the larger Pottawattamie village was on the eastern banks of the Tippecanoe five miles above, near what was afterward known as Holmes' ford, some three miles west of the present hamlet of Sitka. The village embraced nearly 100 wigwams and about 400 Indians, and adjoining it were three or four acres of communal land cultivated to corn, pumpkins, squashes and Irish and sweet potatoes. As the river furnished fish, and the woods opossum, deer and other game, their diet did not lack in variety, although their cooking and seasoning were not to the white man's taste. The Pottawattamies were dirty, hospitable beggars and thieves, and the few settlers of Liberty Township who located in the valley while these red men infested it were pleased indeed when they finally abandoned their village, in 1838, and started for their Kansas reservation.

#### CRYSTAL D. W. SCOTT

Crystal D. W. Scott is claimed to have been the first white settler in what is now Liberty Township. The date of his coming is placed as early as 1835, although he does not appear to have entered lands in sections 1 and 11 (township 28, range 3) until August 13, 1836. On the 24th of that month Greenup Scott purchased a tract in section 11. All these lots were along the river in the northeast corner of the township.

The following entered lands at even earlier dates than the Scotts: Thomas Macklin, in section 3, township 27, range 3, April 15, 1834; Amos Wiley, in same section, December 28th of that year; James Crose, December 16, 1835, in section 33, township 28, range 3; James Sampson, in section 9, November 16, 1835; John Parker, in section 21, township 28, range 3, July 21, 1836; John Cobler, in section 28, February 1st of that year; James W. Hall and Jacob Meyer, in same section, July 21st and July 25th, respectively; Thomas T. Benbridge, in section 33, April 12th of that year; John Bell, in section 34, July 14th, and the following in township 27, range 3, in the year 1836: Nimrod Warden, William Warden and Jacob Slater, in section 4; William Flemming, in section 5; Samuel Benson and Jacob Cornell, in section 9.

The following entered land in township 28, range 3, after Crystal D. W. Scott, in 1836; William Fisher, Samuel Simmons, Joseph Smith, Andrew Beauchamp, William Ross and James W. McIntyre, in section 1; Elihu Harlan, in section 11; Nathaniel Bell, in section 12; William Wilson, in section 13; John W. Berry, in section 14; George I. Baum, Jabez B. Berry, Mercer Brown and John B. Niles, in section 15, and William Greathouse, in section 23, and George Snyder, in section 34.

#### JONATHAN W. SLUYTER AND MOSES KARR

In 1836 Jonathan W. Sluyter left the State of New York and, with his wife and Hiram and Abraham Sluyter, his sons, began settlement on a tract of land which embraced the present site of Buffalo. The account of their trip has come down to us through his living descendants. Obviously



of Dutch ancestry, his immediate ancestors settled in the Empire State while it was yet a portion of England's colonial possessions. His branch of the family took root in Sullivan County, where Mr. Sluyter himself married Elizabeth J. Hall, of English parentage. In the spring of 1836 he started with his family overland for the western prairies of Illinois. They went by way of Philadelphia, and as night overtook them in the city they camped around their wagon in one of its streets. The trip lasted all summer, through roadless forests and swamps, under chilling rains and hot suns, until the weary pilgrims finally reached Logansport, and, several weeks later, the Tippecanoe River.

On account of the high water, the travelers were unable to cross the stream, and, as the season was already well advanced, Mr. Sluyter decided to camp temporarily on the spot. The family moved into a deserted log cabin, and, after spending the winter therein, concluded to locate permanently. The deciding factor in the situation had grown out of the fact that Mr. Sluyter had built a forge and worked up quite a trade with the Pottawattamies of the village below, his specialty being the fabrication of steel arrowheads at one cent each. He had learned to talk their language and established a nice business with his red friends both in barter and cash.

Mr. Sluyter sold his original place to a Mr. Bowen, and then entered 240 acres of unimproved land in and about section 28. In that locality he continued to work at blacksmithing; also cleared and cultivated his land. Later he purchased land in section 15, and when a postoffice was established on his farm in 1857 he had it named Buffalo and was appointed its postmaster. It was at that locality that he passed his last years. His three sons were all born in New York State before he came west; one of them died when he was fourteen years of age, but the other two passed the remainder of their lives in White County, and their descendants are yet living in the localities where Jonathan W. Sluyter first invested in lands.

The year 1836 also brought into Liberty Township such men as 'Squire James W. Hall, William Fisher and George J. Baum, whose land entries have been noted. Mr. Baum cleared ten acres of his land in section 15 and built a cabin, but soon left the township.

Among those who settled in the township shortly before or about the time of its organization were Lewis Elston, in 1836, and Rev. Abram Sneathen, James Hughes, John Parker and Moses Karr, in 1837. Mr. Karr returned to his home in Butler County, Ohio, after entering his land, but brought his family with him in 1839 and became a permanent resident.

#### THE TOWNSHIP CREATED

At the September term of the Board of County Commissioners it was ordered that all that portion of White County lying east of the Tippecanoe River and north of the north line of section 16, township 28 north, range 3 west, constitute a new civil township to be designated Liberty; and it was further ordered that all that portion of Pulaski County lying



immediately north of the new township be attached thereto. Until 1848, what is now known as Cass Township was within the jurisdiction of Liberty Township; consequently Christopher Vandeventer and other pioneers who are claimed by Cass Township, appear among the lists of voters applicable to the period, 1838-48.

#### FIRST ELECTION AND OFFICIALS

The first election held in Liberty Township, at the house of Crystal D. W. Scott, on the first Monday of April, 1838, brought out the following voters: Christopher Vandeventer, Joseph Smith, John McDowell, Greenup Scott, Benjamin Grant, Andrew Beechum, Jonathan W. Sluyter, Crystal D. W. Scott, James W. Hall, Thomas Hamilton, John Parker and James Baum. These gentlemen unanimously cast their ballots for Mr. Hall for justice of the peace; Crystal D. W. Scott, inspector of elections; Mr. Sluyter, constable; Messrs. Smith and Hamilton, overseers of the poor; Mr. Parker, supervisor, and Mr. Beechum and Greenup Scott, fence viewers.

#### CHANGE OF BOUNDARIES

At the May term of the Commissioners' Court, in 1838, a petition was presented signed by Jonathan Sluyter and other citizens of Liberty and Monon townships, asking for a change of boundaries, in accordance with which the board ordered that the east side of Monon Township, with the following bounds, be attached to Liberty: Leaving the Tippecanoe River at the point where the south line of section 16 crosses the river, thence west parallel with the section line to the southwest corner of section 16, township 28, range 3, and thence north parallel with the section line to the north boundary of White County.

In the following August (1838) the following voted: Abram Sneathen, Andrew Beechum, Evan Thomas, Christopher Vandeventer, John Parker, Crystal D. W. Scott, William Davison, James W. Hall, Thomas Hamilton, Elijah Sneathen, Benjamin Grant, V. Sluyter, James G. Brown, Joseph Smith, William Cary and W. W. Curtis.

#### DIVIDED INTO ROAD DISTRICTS

In the early part of 1839 the township was divided into two road districts; all of the territory lying north of section 16 constituted district No. 1, and all south, district No. 2. At the April election for that year John McNary was chosen constable; Crystal D. W. Scott, inspector of elections; John McDonald, supervisor for the First district, and Andrew Beechum, for the Second district; John Morris and Greenup Scott, fence viewers; and Daniel Baum and Elijah Sneathen, overseers of the poor. C. D. W. Scott, Thomas Lansing and John McNary were judges, and S. W. Hall and Christopher Vandeventer, clerks.





## SETTLERS PREVIOUS TO 1840

The following is a list of actual settlers who located in Liberty Township previous to 1840, many of the names having already appeared: Crystal D. W. Scott, Greenup Scott, Jonathan Sluyter, Thomas Mackin, Lewis Elston, Abraham Lowther, Abram Sneathen, James Hughes, John Parker, Moses Karr, William Conwell, Christopher Vandeventer, Joseph Smith, John McDowell, Benjamin Grant, Andrew Beauchamp, James W. Hall, Thomas Hamilton, James Baum, Evan Thomas, William Davison, Elijah Sneathen, James G. Brown, William Carey, John McNary, John McDonald, John Morris, Thomas Lansing, William Fisher, Jacob Funk, Joseph James, George Baum, Robison Grewell, Henry Hanawalt, David Cress, Robert Scott, William Greathouse, John S. Hughes, Thomas Wiley, John Cobler, Samuel Simmons, William Ross, James W. McEntyre, Daniel Baum, Perry A. Bayard, William Fleming, James B. Cahill, James Sampson, Samuel Benson, Jacob Cornell, Jonathan Baker, James Crose, Samuel Funk, John Mikesell, David Bolinger, John Bell, George Snyder, Rodney M. Miller, Jabez B. Berry, Charles Wright, Matthew Hopper, David and Ransom McConnahay and William and James Hickman.

## UNUSUAL PROGRESS IN 1840-50

With the Pottawattamies fairly out of the country and the lifting of the financial clouds which for a number of years had obscured the fair prospects of the Middle West, immigration to Liberty Township took a decided forward move, in common with most of the other sections of the county. In 1840 the population of the county was 1,832; in 1850, 4,771—a larger percentage of increase than has ever occurred during one decade.

## PIONEERS SELL IMPROVED LANDS

Many of those who arrived during that progressive period purchased land which had been partially improved by the pioneers, and as a rule they bought to advantage. With much Government land still accessible at \$1.25 an acre, it was difficult for the pioneer farmers to refuse \$6 or \$8 per acre. True, it had cost them several years of labor in fencing, clearing and building, but with the money received from the later comers they figured that they could still purchase Government lands and have a neat sum in bank. On the other hand, the second generation, or incursion of farmers, were generally family men, with boys and girls of mature and helpful ages, some of them ready to assume their posts in the community as founders of households. In such cases it seemed the wiser part to obtain holdings which were already more or less productive.



## NON-RESIDENT PURCHASERS

When those who sold their farms at the advanced price attempted to purchase at the Government figures they often found that most of the choicest pieces remaining were owned by non-residents, who were holding them for a rise. Thus it was that not a few of the earlier settlers suffered eventually because they chose the immediate profits. But although a considerable body of the Government land passed into the hands of foreigners, as a rule Liberty Township suffered less from the manipulations of speculators than some of the other districts of the county. As much of the land held by non-residents was unfenced, also, the home farmers used it as pasturage for their live stock, and, in view of that fact, an advantage accrued to the actual settlers.

In the '70s, when the drainage of the swamp lands commenced in earnest, the situation was reversed and the stockmen, and even owners of timber farms, often objected that the construction of certain ditches, for which they were assessed, was more to the benefit of the speculators than the resident farmers. The contentions over the building of the Kean's Creek ditch, in the southern part of the township, were of the most acrimonious nature, and caused much fruitless litigation and hard feeling. It happened, too, that nearly all the members of the drainage company had lands along the line of the proposed ditch, which were assessed accordingly.

## KEAN'S CREEK SWAMP LANDS

The headwaters of Kean's Creek were in a pond half a mile in width and from four to six feet deep just beyond the east line of the township and within Cass. Thence the stream flowed westward, in an irregular course, and emptied into the Tippecanoe River in section 9. The work of the Kean's Creek Draining Company, organized under the state act, consisted in widening, deepening and straightening the channel of the creek for a distance of two miles, and thereby a large tract of land was reclaimed. Thus, in the face of much opposition, was inaugurated a movement which has brought into the market for the benefit of resident farmers many valuable tracts of land.

## THE BUILDING OF GOOD ROADS

Liberty Township is not among the wealthiest districts in the county, but in consideration of its means it has accomplished much both in the matters of draining its swamp lands and constructing gravel roads within its limits. In the prosecution of the latter work it has incurred a bonded indebtedness of nearly \$16,000, divided as follows: Bible road, \$3,300; Hoch, \$3,600; J. T. Moore, \$2,400; Holmes, \$2,210; Cranmer, \$4,440. Total, \$15,950.



## THE SLUYTER SCHOOLHOUSES

In the old rough days, when Liberty Township included so much of northeastern White County, the people were just as busy in proportion to their numbers as they are today, in the very human occupations of teaching and learning, preaching and listening, marrying and giving in marriage, being born and dying. In the summer of 1837 Jonathan W. Sluyter, one of the expert axmen of the township, got out the logs for the first schoolhouse built in the township. It stood in the east half of section 15, on his land about three-quarters of a mile south of the Tippecanoe. He did not stop to hew the timber, as half a dozen children were impatiently (?) awaiting its opening. The cabin was 15 feet square, and David McConnahay is said to have thrown it open to the neighborhood, and in came the Funks, Conwells, Halls, Sluyters, Louders, and perhaps some other children whose names have not come down in history.

When George Hall succeeded McConnahay, a little later, the attendance had reached fifteen pupils. In 1838 John C. V. Shields taught a term in the log schoolhouse, and Lester Smith succeeded him.

In 1840 Mr. Sluyter built a second schoolhouse near the first, hewing the logs and otherwise improving upon his former work, and about five years afterward a still better building was erected further south in section 22.

## RELIGION AT THE SCOTT SETTLEMENT

The means for religious instruction came hand-in-hand with those provided for the training of the mind. The first denomination to organize a class in the township was the New Light, which commenced its meetings in the cabin of Crystal D. W. Scott in 1837. Rev. John Scott, a circuit rider, held services there and elsewhere for two years. In 1839 a church was built in the new Scott settlement, northeastern part of the township; it was constructed of round black oak logs and was 25 feet square. Rev. Abram Sneathen, founder of the church, ministered to it spiritually, and the following were among its first members: Crystal D. W. Scott and wife, Greenup Scott and wife, Jonathan W. Sluyter and wife, and Mrs. Gruell and daughter, Sarah. The church was maintained, for a time with increasing attendance, during a period of about ten years.

## FIRST MARRIAGE AND FIRST DEATH

Marriageable girls and women did not have long to wait in those days, the demand far exceeding the supply. The marriage of Mrs. Gruell's daughter, Sarah, to Elijah Sneathen, in the spring of 1839, caused therefore no surprise in the Scott settlement. This was the first wedding in the township. It is not known who performed the ceremony, as James W. Hull, who had been elected justice of the peace the year before, died shortly before the wedding. He would have been the



logical candidate for the honor and the fee. Instead, 'Squire Hall's death was the first in the township, and his remains were buried in what was afterward known as Hughes' burying ground.

#### BUFFALO POSTOFFICE ESTABLISHED

In 1857 the first postoffice in the township was established at the farmhouse of Jonathan Sluyter, with that gentleman as postmaster. As Postmaster Sluyter had a great admiration for Buffalo, in his native state, he had induced the Government authorities to name the postoffice in honor of the New York city. After several years the postoffice was discontinued at that point, and in 1867 one was established across the river, called Flowerville. The latter was maintained until the Town of Buffalo was platted in in 1886, when the postoffice by that name was reestablished.

#### JOHN C. KARR AND THE TOWN

Buffalo, as a town, was laid out on July 24, 1886, by John C. Karr, an Ohio man, who had come with his father (Moses Karr) and settled with other members of the family about two miles west of the present site. In 1849 he had married and located on the farm lying along the east shores of the river, a portion of which was platted as the Town of Buffalo. He died in August, 1899, the father of eleven children. Both the Karr and the Sluyter families still hold valuable farming lands south of Buffalo, in sections 15 and 22.

#### THOMAS B. MOORE

Across the river from Buffalo are also large holdings of land representing the wisely-directed industry and ability of another early settler in this part of the township, Thomas B. Moore. He was a native of the Buckeye State and at the age of twenty-eight, in 1852, commenced to buy property in section 10 and elsewhere adjacent to the western borders of the Tippecanoe. What was long known as Moore's ford, on his farm, was one of the best crossings in the township, but has long ago given place to a fine iron bridge at that locality. Mr. Moore became the heaviest land owner resident in the township, dealt largely in live stock, served for many years as justice of the peace, was a leader in Methodism, and altogether one of the leading citizens of northern White County. His successors do him and the family honor.

#### KARR'S ADDITION TO BUFFALO

Although Buffalo obtained no railroad connections, it was backed by a good country and in 1896 Mr. Karr made an addition to the original plat of thirty-four lots, by which he nearly doubled its site. Until his death he took a deep interest in the locality and passed the last years





of his life there. His wife also died at Buffalo in 1896, her husband joining her three years later.

#### THE IRON BRIDGE

Soon after the bridge at Moore's ford was completed, a county publication had the following description of it: "The new iron bridge across the Tippecanoe river at what is widely known as Moore's ford is one of the best in the county. The bridge is in two parts—one 165 feet long, and the other, 135 feet. It has stone abutments and was erected in 1882 at a cost of about \$14,000. The Columbia Bridge Company at Dayton, Ohio, has the honor of putting up this creditable structure."

#### SITKA

The hamlet of Sitka, in the southern part of the township and northeast corner of section 3, originated in the early settlement of the Hughes, VanVoorst and other families in that part of the township, with the usual demand for postal accommodations. In April, 1880, a postoffice was finally established at the point named, with M. Allison Hughes as postmaster. In connection with the office he conducted a small general store.

#### THE HUGHES AND VANVOORST FAMILIES

John C. Hughes owned the land on the east side of the highway and donated ground for a Baptist Church and the congregation known as the Church of God. Both of these societies erected large frame church buildings; a house built nearby for the postoffice, and stores and residences were put up on the west side of the road, on the land of Mrs. Mary VanVoorst, widow of Sylvanus. William Stitt, an old resident of the township, started a blacksmith shop, and J. A. Read purchased the Hughes business. The residences of Mrs. VanVoorst and Rowland Hughes, son of John C. Hughes and father of M. Allison Hughes, the postmaster, were situated south of the village.

Sitka is six miles northeast of Monticello, and four south of Buffalo. It has no railroad connections, is considerably off the line of travel and is only of sectional importance as being a convenient trading center for a limited territory. Since the expansion of the rural free delivery system even the postoffice at Sitka has been abolished.



## CHAPTER XX

### CASS TOWNSHIP

INACCURATE GOVERNMENT SURVEYS—CHRISTOPHER VANDEVENTER, FIRST SETTLER—LAND ENTRIES IN 1838-48—POLITICAL TOWNSHIP OF CASS—PIONEER SCHOOLS—NUCLEUS OF HEADLEE—LAND ENTRIES IN 1849-52—MRS. JOHN E. TIMMONS AND JACOB D. TIMMONS—NON-RESIDENTS HELD TWO-THIRDS OF TOWNSHIP—EARLY DEARTH OF MARKETS—THE TRIPS TO LOGANSFORD—NORWAY TO THE RESCUE—IMPROVEMENTS—HEADLEE.

Cass is one of the three townships in White County which conforms to the congressional dimensions of thirty-six square miles, or six miles square; Jackson, to the south, and Round Grove, in the southwest corner, are the others: It is all of congressional Township 28 north, Range 2 west, and is bounded on the west by Liberty, on the south by Jackson, on the east by Cass County and on the north by Pulaski County. In the northeastern corner of the county, well out of the valley of the Tippecanoe and away from both canal and railroad communications, it was for years known as the "lone township." To add to the drawbacks which retarded its progress, two-thirds of its area, small though it was, was taken up by land speculators who lived outside the township. The first Government surveys were so imperfect as to throw not a few of the early buyers and actual residents into great confusion and frighten others who were inclined to locate.

#### INACCURATE GOVERNMENT SURVEYS

Milton M. Sill, county surveyor in 1859, thus explains the matter which has created such disturbance in the early land transactions within the township: "On the west boundary line the section corner for Sections 1 and 12, Congressional Township 28, Range 3, was placed twenty-four rods west of the true line, and there was no evidence that the line had been extended from that corner north to the northern boundary of the township. Two or three years afterward the errors were discovered and a resurvey of the township made, but this only created confusion in the minds of the settlers, and the notes of the first survey having been forwarded to the county and duly recorded, county surveyors were presented with a problem difficult of solution, finding two government corners plainly marked at nearly every section and quarter section corner in the township. It was not solved for nearly twenty years after the first survey was made.



"In 1859 the county surveyor was called on to make a survey in the township, and finding, as others had before him, a large surplus of government corners not down in his notes, called on the commissioner of the General Land Office in Washington for explanation, and in reply the notes of the resurvey were forwarded with directions to follow them as the true notes. The change in the western boundary line of the township by the substitution of the field notes of the resurvey had the effect of reducing the population of the township by one family, that of Edward McCloud, who had built his residence near the western boundary line as indicated in the notes of the first survey, and had been exercising his rights as a citizen of Cass township for more than twenty years, when in reality he was a resident of Liberty township."

The first settlements in what is now Cass Township were made in the late '30s, more than a decade before it was set off from the eastern portion of Liberty. They were in its extreme northern sections—3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10.

#### CHRISTOPHER VANDEVENTER, FIRST SETTLER

By common consent, Christopher Vandeventer, of an old Dutch family from New York, is accorded the post of honor as the township's first permanent settler. In the spring of 1837 he threw up a cabin of unhewn logs, 20 by 26 feet in size, in section 7, on the south branch of Indian Creek, and his followers of the succeeding two years in the north tier of sections also chose the heavily timbered lands and the high and dry prairie tracts. White oak prevailed and nothing could be better for substantial building purposes.

#### LAND ENTRIES IN 1838-48

It is claimed that Daniel Yount located in section 12 in 1837, and that Edwin Perry settled on section 27 (in the southern part of the township) in 1838, but the Tract Book indicates only the following entries of land previous to 1840: Christopher Vandeventer, in section 7, December 1, 1838; Samuel Burson, in section 6, on the 3rd of the month, and Joseph Smith, in the same section, on the 17th; Leonard Shoemaker, in section 3, July 30, 1839, and Thomas McMillan, in section 4, on June 21st of that year.

From 1840 to 1848, inclusive—the latter being the year when the township was formed—the following entered lands: In 1840, John Layman, in sections 5 and 6; John Smith, in section 7, and Edward McCloud, in section 10; Daniel Yount, in section 8, September 24, 1842; David VanBlaricum, in section 1, and John W. Williams, in section 24, both in August, 1843. In 1844, Levi Hartmann, in section 2; William McBeth, in section 6; Samuel Fry, in section 24, and Thomas Townsley, in sections 33 and 34. In 1845, Tavner Reams, in section 5; Isaiah Broderick, in section 27, and Ephraim Million, in section 28. In 1846, Wesley Noland, in sections 1 and 2; Isaac W. Hunt and John Harro, in section



11; Albert Bacon, in section 18, and Edwin Perry, in section 28. In 1847, Benjamin Mattix, in section 7; John Cromer and James R. Fowler, in section 32; Benjamin Bare, in section 34, and Robert Aere, in section 35. In 1848, Gideon Irwin and Alexander Bailey, in section 3; Jonathan Reams, in section 5; Gideon Irwin, in section 10; William Poole, in section 22; George Dixon, in section 26; Harrison Dixon and Charles Reed, in section 27; Noah W. Ausman, in section 29; Elias Vanaman, in section 35, and Daniel Vanaman, in section 36.

#### POLITICAL TOWNSHIP OF CASS

On the 7th of June, 1848, it was ordered by the Board of County Commissioners that all that portion of Liberty Township contained in congressional township 28 north, range 2 west, be declared a political township and receive the name of Cass. It is supposed to have been thus designated in honor of Lewis Cass, who is one of the most prolific god-fathers of political bodies identified with American history and geography. It was further ordered by the board that the place of holding elections be at the house of Daniel Yount; and Albert Bacon was appointed inspector of elections for the year 1848.

#### PIONEER SCHOOLS

Soon after the civil organization of the township preparations were made to open a school in a log cabin which stood on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 6, near the Pulaski County line. Its first term was taught by Samuel Gruell in the winter of 1848-49, and Mrs. Anna McBeth taught the summer term of 1849. To that school Christopher Vandeventer sent five pupils; Daniel Germberlinger, two; Tavner Reams, two; William McBeth, two; Peter Prough, two; John Baker, of Pulaski County, two; Daniel Yount, two; Albert Bacon, three, and a man by the name of Horim, four.

The second school was taught by Mrs. McBeth in the log house that stood on the land of William McBeth, on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 6. The term, covering the winter of 1849-50, was attended by about twenty pupils.

As a number of settlers were locating their claims toward the south a schoolhouse was built in 1850 on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 8. It was constructed of hewn logs, 22 by 26 feet, and was a marked improvement over all that had gone before. Among the teachers who held forth therein were William McBeth, Alvin Hall, Milton Dexter, Walter Hopkins and James Potter. What was long known as King's Schoolhouse, on section 6, was built about 1853, and four years later two frame schoolhouses were erected—one on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 7 and the other near the center of section 9.





## NUCLEUS OF HEADLEE

The first settlers of Cass Township had scarcely got the roofs of their log cabins over their heads before Rev. Abram Sneathen, the pioneer circuit rider of Northern White County and Southern Pulaski, began his spiritual visits, but the first regular class was organized at the house of Harvey Headlee in 1851. A sabbath school, the first in the township, was organized about the same time. The first members of the class were Harvey Headlee, Margaret Headlee, Garrison Q. Lister, Joanna Lister, John Wiley, Mary Wiley, Silas Headlee, Jane Reames and John Downs. These religious organizations resulted from quite a settlement in the northern portions of sections 8 and 9, which, over thirty years afterward, found further expression in the platting of the Town of Headlee. A postoffice by that name was established as early as 1870.

## LAND ENTRIES IN 1849-52.

In 1849 the following entries of land are recorded for Cass Township: Elam Yount, in section 9; Jacob Young, in section 7; William Poole, in section 23; William Baker, in section 25; David Younkman, in section 27; William Timmons, in section 33, and Jacob Yanney, in section 36.

## MRS. JOHN E. TIMMONS AND JACOB D. TIMMONS

In the fall of the year named (1849) the widow of John E. Timmons, with a large family of children, moved to Cass Township to join some of her relatives who had already settled there. Her son, Jacob D. Timmons, was then two years of age, his father having died when he was but eight months old. The family came from Pickaway County, Ohio, and upon her arrival in the southern part of the township Mrs. Timmons sold her horse, to which she added \$50 in cash, for eighty acres of unimproved land in the east half of the southeast quarter of section 32. There the neighbors erected for her a round log cabin, and she set pluckily to work to rear and educate her children. As time passed and they increased in years and capabilities, they assisted in the work, but the heavy burden fell on her willing shoulders. She spun the cloth and made their garments, lived economically and worked incessantly and lovingly until her task of years was done. In 1856 the round log cabin gave way to one of hewn timber, to which was added a frame lean-to for a kitchen. This good pioneer mother died in 1889, a member of the Dunkard Church. The son, Jacob D., became the well known banker of Monticello, who located there in 1898 and was afterward president of the State Bank and the Farmers State Bank. Mr. Timmons is yet the owner of about 1,000 acres of White County land, and his holdings include the eighty acres first purchased by his mother, where he was reared and educated as a boy and passed the greater part of his life.

In the year 1850, following that which marked the coming of the Timmons family, the following entries were made: Thomas Wiley, in



section 5; Samuel L. Steele, in section 8; John S. Beaver, in section 9, and Daniel Dilts, in section 15. In 1851 I. Shepard entered land in section 15, and in 1852, Thomas Townsley, in section 21; Noah Davis, in section 29, and Peter Roller in section 35.

#### NON-RESIDENTS HOLD TWO-THIRDS OF TOWNSHIP

Altogether 15,280 acres of swamp, canal and military warrants lands were taken up by purchasers, or only eighty acres short of two-thirds of the entire township, and of that amount a very small portion passed into the hands of actual settlers until many years had elapsed. Now nearly the entire township is occupied by its owners.

The sections most largely covered by such claims were as follows: Section 3—Four hundred and eighty acres taken by military land warrants, forty for swamp and eighty for canal, the last purchased by Frederick Ott, March 11, 1850.

Section 4—Four hundred and eighty acres taken by military land warrants.

Section 5—Four hundred acres covered by military land warrants.

Section 8—Two hundred and forty military and 330 acres swamp lands.

Section 9—Four hundred and eighty acres taken by military land warrants and eighty acres swamp, purchased by Casper Orb, John Wiley, Daniel Dilts, Joseph Fry and William Shepard.

Section 12—Four hundred acres taken by military land warrants and 240 acres swamp.

Section 13—Four hundred and eighty acres military and 160 acres swamp lands.

Section 14—Two hundred and forty acres military and 400 swamp lands.

Section 15—Four hundred and eighty acres military lands.

Section 17—All military lands.

Section 18—Four hundred acres taken for swamp lands.

Section 19—Three hundred and twenty acres military and 160 swamp lands.

Section 20—Two hundred acres swamp, eighty acres canal and 360 acres military lands.

Section 21—Three hundred and twenty acres military and 200 acres swamp lands.

Section 22—Two hundred acres canal, 200 acres swamp and 120 acres military lands.

Section 23—Four hundred acres swamp and 160 acres canal lands.

Section 24—Four hundred and eighty acres military lands.

Section 26—Three hundred and twenty acres military and 210 acres swamp lands.

Section 30—Four hundred and eighty acres military lands and 160 acres swamp.

Section 32—Three hundred and twenty acres military lands, 120



acres canal and forty acres swamp—the last purchased by Sothey K. Timmons, of Jackson Township.

Section 36—Three hundred and sixty acres military lands.

#### EARLY DEARTH OF MARKETS

Those who settled in Cass Township in the late '30s and the '40s were virtually confined to the northern and western sections and had no good market town nearer than Logansport, twenty-five miles distant on the Wabash and Erie Canal. Even that was not so perfect but that some of them went to Michigan City or even Chicago to trade to better advantage. The township was a great huckleberry district and Monticello and nearer points were often supplied, while grain and the less perishable products were reserved for better and more distant markets.

#### THE TRIPS TO LOGANSPORT

The early trips to Logansport were often taken over almost impassable roads, through unbridged streams and roadless bogs, but the slow but patient ox team usually managed to accomplish them in two or three days. Then the produce was sold or traded for groceries and clothes, sometimes in sufficient quantities to cover a year's consumption.

Usually five or six settlers went in company, camping wherever night overtook them, as there were few houses along the route. Every man would clean up his rifle, mould his bullets and fill his powder horn, prepared for the deer, turkeys and other wild game met along the way, and as all of them were expert hunters by both instinct and practice, they seldom reached Logansport without having added several saddles of venison to their loads of produce for sale in the market. Then, again, in case one of the teams got mired, or anything else went wrong, some one was on hand to "help out."

#### NORWAY TO THE RESCUE

These periodical trips to Logansport were continued until the completion of the merchant and custom mill at Norway, eight or ten miles southwest, in Union Township. When it passed from the widow of Hans E. Hiorth to the Monticello Kendalls, in 1848, the new proprietors opened a large and quite complete general store, and the settlers of Cass Township were greatly benefited by both enterprises. They could then go to Norway, return the same day and have their grain ground, or dispose of it in the raw state for as good an assortment of supplies as they could get in Logansport. The roads, too, were in better condition, being for the great part over the high bluffs of the Tippecanoe River instead of through the marshes and over the sand ridges toward the east and Logansport. The burdens of the early farmers of the township were even further lightened when (in 1857) the bridge over the Tippecanoe was built at Norway.



## IMPROVEMENTS

Of course, within the past thirty years, transportation conditions have greatly improved, both through the drainage of the lowlands and the construction of better roads through the township. The work of ditching commenced in the early '80s, the first ditches constructed being the Read, Davis, Leazenby, Huffman, Headlee, Riggle and Robins. By 1884 there were over sixty miles of public drainage in the township and the good work has been continued so at the present time there are comparatively few tracts of waste land within its bounds.

The township is still without a railroad, but the settlers have a daily mail to and from Monticello, by way of Sitka and Buffalo, and north from Headlee (the only village in the township) to Winamac, which, with the extension of the telephone system over that part of the county, affords convenient communication with the outside world.

## HEADLEE

Headlee is a pleasant little hamlet in the northern part of the township. It has never been incorporated, although it was platted in November, 1888. Its proprietors were Harvey Headlee, Hannibal McCloud, Fred Reames, B. E. Dutton, J. E. Dutton and John Fry.





## CHAPTER XXI

### WEST POINT TOWNSHIP

NATURAL FEATURES OF THE TOWNSHIP—NEIGHBORING MARKET TOWNS—ROAD BUILDING—FIRST SETTLERS AND LAND OWNERS—ISAAC S. VINSON AND WIFE—FIRST LAND ENTRY—SICKNESS DROVE AWAY THE PRICES—LAND ENTRIES OF 1835—WOULD RATHER HUNT THAN EAT—THE VAN VOORSTS AND THEIR FRAME HOUSES—DOCTOR HALSTEAD BUYS LAND—WILLIAM JORDAN LOCATES—OTHER ENTRIES IN 1836-45—TOWNSHIP VOTERS—THE VAN VOORST FRAME SCHOOLHOUSES—CHURCHES OF THE TOWNSHIP—ANDERSON IRION AND DAVID DELLINGER—LAND ENTRIES, 1847-51—PARMELEE'S MEADOW LAKE FARM.

The political township of West Point is one of the largest of the civil divisions of White County, comprising a congressional township and a half, or fifty-four square miles. It is in the southwestern part of the county and is bounded north by Princeton (of equal length), east by the southwest section of Honey Creek Township and Big Creek Township, south by the three westernmost sections in the north tier of Prairie and the entire boundary of Round Grove Township, and west by Benton County. Nearly the entire northeast quarter of the township was covered with timber, the remainder being included in the Grand Prairie. A distinct point of wooded land extends westward into the prairie country some distance beyond the general timber line, and that physical feature decided the early settlers to name the township West Point, when it was organized in 1845.

#### NATURAL FEATURES OF THE TOWNSHIP

The wooded lands generally occur massed in the northeastern sections. There are two exceptions to the rule in Long Grove, a small wooded tract in the southern part of the township, and in Jordan's Grove, a larger timbered area in the southwest, which derives its name from William Jordan, who, with other members of the family, entered much land in that locality at an early day.

The natural drainage of West Point Township is chiefly due to Big Creek and the Little Monon; the former rises in the township, and both water its northwestern sections. The timbered, or northeastern portion, was a succession of low sand-ridges, with intervening swamp lands sprinkled with ponds. Now all of it is drained and in a high state of cultivation. The prairie lands of the south are broken by undulations



and small hills, those of the north and west being generally level. The prevailing soil is a black loam, with subsoil of sand, gravel and clay.

#### NEIGHBORING MARKET TOWNS

Although West Point Township has neither railroad nor postoffice, it is more advantageously situated than some districts which have these facilities. Since its rather useless array of non-resident land owners has been largely replaced by settlers prone to make improvements, the wet lands have been reclaimed, and good roads constructed so as to bring the farmers within easy access to such neighboring markets as Wolecott and Reynolds to the north and Chalmers and Brookston to the southeast. West Point Township has had one postoffice—Forney, established in 1881 on the old Lafayette and Wolecott mail route, in the southwestern part of the township—but that was absorbed by the rural free delivery which is of so much general utility.

#### ROAD BUILDING

In the building of the macadam or gravel roads which are of such widespread benefit to the people, the township has incurred a debt of nearly \$30,000. Of that amount the J. H. Moore road is credited with \$11,200; Hewitt, \$2,380; Krapff, \$10,800; Pugh, \$5,400.

#### FIRST SETTLERS AND LAND OWNERS

The first settlements in the township were made in 1835 by Shelby Hudson and Oscar Dyer, who entered lands on Christmas day of 1834 in section 15, northeast of the central part of the township. They did not settle until the following spring, when each built a hewn-log cabin half a mile apart, 16 by 18 feet in size. Each had its clapboard roof, an opening for one window made by the omission of a log section, and the big, invariable fire-place.

#### ISAAC S. VINSON AND WIFE

How long the bachelors Hudson and Dyer remained on the ground is not divulged by any accessible records, but it is known that Isaac S. Vinson, who had brought his wife and two children to Union Township from Ohio, about the time that they built their cabins on the banks of Big Creek, appeared in that locality in the spring of 1838 and bought the Hudson land, with improvement—if the shack could be thus dignified. But it was a family shelter and a protection against wild beasts. The Pottawatamies had an encampment just across Big Creek, but they were friendly and, at times, of actual use.

From all the accounts which filter down, Mrs. Vinson's bartering with the dusky brothers was largely in her favor, such exchanges as the saddles, or hindquarters of a deer, for two cold corn cakes, or a number



of saddles for a loaf of bread, being nothing out of the ordinary. In those days deer and game birds were especially plentiful, and one winter the lady of the house made a trap and caught 101 prairie chickens.

The Vinsons remained on their homestead on Big Creek for a number of years, during which Mr. Vinson bought land in section 12, and in 1855 moved to the new town of Reynolds in Honey Creek Township, where the man of the house established himself in business and as a hotel keeper. Mr. and Mrs. Vinson raised a large family. The father died in August, 1883, at the Indiana Hospital for the Insane, Indianapolis, where he had passed a number of years laboring under religious mania. His remains were brought to Monticello and buried from the residence of one of his sons.

#### FIRST LAND ENTRY

The first entry of land in the township was made by John T. Bunnell, June 18, 1834, his tract being in section 15, as were the lots of Hudson and Dyer. But there is no evidence that Bunnell ever made any improvements on his land, or participated in township affairs.

#### SICKNESS DROVE AWAY THE PRICES

Soon after the arrival of the Vinson family, however, John Price and his wife came into the township, but the latter was taken ill and the couple returned to their Ohio home. Mr. Price appeared on his claim soon afterward alone, but was stricken with inflammatory rheumatism, and for three months lay in almost a helpless condition at the Vinson house. During the following spring he sold his property and left the township permanently.

#### LAND ENTRIES OF 1835

From the Tract Book it appears that in 1835 the following made land entries in West Point Township: Andrew Brown, in section 11; John Lewis, in section 12, and Armstrong Buchanan, in section 14.

#### WOULD RATHER HUNT THAN EAT

The next person to settle in the township after Shelby Hudson and Osear Dyer was Isaac Beezy, a noted hunter, who came in 1837. But he was of the uneasy, erratic kind, and his stay was short. It is said that his desire for hunting was so keen that he would go for days without eating; as many as twenty unskinned deer are known to have been in his smoke-house, frozen stiff, and the gaunt Beezy still hunting more. The hunter never made much improvement on his land, soon left the township and settled in Pulaski County, where he was killed by an ex-convict.



## THE VAN VOORSTS AND THEIR FRAME HOUSES

In 1841, John and Sylvanus Van Voorst came from Ohio and purchased large tracts of canal lands in sections 14 and 22, probably 300 acres. John also bought 160 acres in section 10. They brought their houses with them, procuring the frames in Toledo, which they shipped, with other necessary material, by way of the Wabash and Erie Canal, to Delphi and thence by wagon, twenty-five miles, to West Point Township. The house of John Van Voorst was a large two-story frame and was placed on a high knoll in the prairie near the point of timber which gave the township its name. Its site, as well as its size, made it by far the most imposing house in the township.

Abram Van Voorst, who died at the Monticello home of his son, Henry, in 1899, did not locate in section 12 on the border of Big Creek Township, until 1849. Most of his life in White County was spent as a resident of Reynolds.

## DOCTOR HALSTEAD BUYS LAND

In 1841 and 1845 Dr. John Halstead, the first physician in the township, entered considerable canal land in sections 2 and 4, in the northeastern part, and is said to have actually located for practice and speculation in 1844. He came with his brother, Bartlett Halstead.

## WILLIAM JORDAN LOCATES

About the same time William Jordan, a resident of Tippecanoe County, moved into the township, settling on his entry in section 35, southwestern portion, which he had taken up in 1842. He afterward purchased the bulk of the 480 acres of canal lands in section 36, but fixed his homestead on the tract in section 35, which comprised the large and beautiful grove bearing his name. Within the eighteen square miles comprising the east half of congressional township 26, range 6, and the west third of West Point Township, the Jordan family represented, for many years, its sole residents.

## OTHER ENTRIES IN 1836-45

Besides those already mentioned, the following entered land in the sections designated, previous to and including the year of the formation of the political township in 1845: In 1836—Thomas H. Brown, in section 1, township 26 north, range 5 west, and in section 12 of the same; Andrew Brown, in sections 12 and 13, and Thomas Price, in section 15; in 1839—Joshua H. Searff, in section 1, and George McGaughey, in section 11; in 1841—Jesse T. Vinson and Jacob Nyce, in section 1; John Halstead, in section 21, and William J. Gafford, in section 13; Mary Halstead, in 1844, and John Halstead, in 1845, both in section 4.





## TOWNSHIP VOTERS

At the June term of the Commissioners' Court, in 1845, it was ordered by that body that all of congressional township 26 north, range 5 west, and all west of that to the county line, should comprise the political township of West Point. In the preceding year a log schoolhouse had been built, 18 by 24 feet, and this was designated as the place for holding elections. At the first election, held in the following August, the fourteen citizens of the township who turned out to exercise their rights of the elective franchise were Ira Emery, Sylvanus Van Voorst, Alexander Page, Jesse Tinnison, William Vodyce, Isaac Beezy, William Jordan, John Halstead, Barney Spencer, Gideon Breecount and Isaac S. Vinson, several of whom will be recognized as acquaintances.

## THE VAN VOORST FRAME SCHOOLHOUSES

Several years after the building of the old West Point schoolhouse, Abram Van Voorst erected two frame buildings for educational purposes, one on section 7 and the other on section 15. As there were no sawmills in the township, he hauled the material for their construction from Delphi. Each of these frame schoolhouses was 20 by 24 feet, cost \$500 and was considered quite a demonstration of township enterprise. All the Van Voorsts were promoters of frame buildings, and induced quite a number of the early settlers to enter the ranks of progress in that regard.

## CHURCHES OF THE TOWNSHIP

The religious needs of the pioneers were met almost immediately by such old and faithful circuit riders as Rev. Mr. Lee, of the Methodist Church, who preached quite often at the old Vinson house and other cabins before the organization of a regular class in 1844. In that year a little log church was erected on section 2, range 5. Later the United Brethren held services in Schoolhouse No. 2, and the Presbyterians and other denominations have organized societies with varying success.

## ANDERSON IRION AND DAVID DELLINGER

In 1853 Capt. Anderson Irion and David Dellinger became settlers of the township. The former, who had received his title because he had organized a company for the Mexican war while residing in Fayette county, Ohio, located in West Point Township about seven miles southwest of Wolcott, and became quite prominent in county affairs, serving as commissioner and in other public capacities. Several of Captain Irion's sons also became prosperous farmers and leading citizens.

David Dellinger also came from Ohio and bought a large farm in the northern part of the township, seven miles southwest of Reynolds. Both he and Captain Irion made a specialty of raising live stock.



## LAND ENTRIES, 1847-51

Probably at the time (1853) these two well known residents settled in West Point Township its entire fifty-four square miles could not show twenty-five families. Many of those who came during the period previous to the early '50s were single young men, some of them speculating and others prospecting for future homes. Those who entered lands from 1845 to 1852 were as follows: In 1847—John Nyce, Sarah Adams, Samuel P. Edmonson, Sarah J. Halstead and Walter McFarland, in section 4, and Isaac S. Vinson, in section 12; in 1848—Isaac M. Cantwell, in section 9, and Nicholas Van Pelt and Samuel McFeer, in section 10; in 1849—John Herron, in section 2; Drury Wood, in section 5; Grant Wynkoop and James Wynkoop, in sections 6 and 7; Peter B. Kennedy, in section 7; Henry Britton, in section 12, and Marquia Higson, in section 22; Eli Meyers, in section 12, in 1850; in 1851—James Stroud, in section 6, and Daniel Davis, in section 23.

## PARMELEE'S MEADOW LAKE FARM

It is estimated that of the fifty-four square miles comprising the area of the township fully forty were purchased by non-residents, mostly as military, canal and swamp lands. That fact usually was a great drawback to actual settlement and improvements, although there was one noteworthy exception to the rule. As late as 1879 Frank Parmelee, the widely known 'bus man and storage-house proprietor of Chicago, purchased what was known as the Meadow Lake Farm, a fine stretch of 1,700 acres in the northern part of the township,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Wolcott. Within the following two years he erected a handsome residence and magnificent farm buildings, and founded one of the finest live stock farms in the state. His specialty was Hereford cattle. But the Parmelee case was, as stated, a grand exception.

With the drainage of the swamp lands, the fair assessment of the benefited properties, the subdivisions of large tracts held for purely speculative purposes and the construction of adequate highways, the residents of West Point Township have long been comfortable and contented citizens.



## CHAPTER XXII

### ROUND GROVE TOWNSHIP

SLIM TIMBER AND ROUND GROVE—FIRST SETTLER, TRUMAN ROLLINS—  
EARLY LAND ENTRIES—THE STOCKTON PURCHASES—BECAME LAND  
OWNERS IN 1850-53—CARVED OUT OF OLD PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP—ELEC-  
TIONS AND VOTERS—VARIOUS PIONEER MATTERS—FORMER POSTOFFICES  
—PROGRESS IN THE TOWNSHIP.

Round Grove Township comprises the thirty-six square miles in the southwest corner of White County, and is described by the surveyors as the west half of congressional township 25 north, range 5 west, and the east half of congressional township 25 north, range 6 west.

#### SLIM TIMBER AND ROUND GROVE

Round Grove was the western part of the original Prairie Township, created in 1834, and remained attached to it until it assumed a separate political body in 1858. It is in the eastern borders of the Great Prairie and has only two pronounced tracts of timber within its limits; the narrow strip near the north line is appropriately called Slim Timber, and the considerable wooded area known as Round Grove (from which the township is named) lies in the southeastern portion, mostly in section 29.

The first settlements were made in the northwestern and the southeastern sections of the township, and most of the logs for the pioneer cabins in those localities came from Round Grove, which covered an area of some fifty acres. Although it is a matter of record that Charles L. Stockton entered the land in section 29, which virtually embraces the famous grove, in 1833, he did not take up his residence in the township until years afterward.

#### FIRST SETTLER, TRUMAN ROLLINS

Truman Rollins, pronounced to be the first who came to reside permanently, was a farmer of Tippecanoe County and did not arrive on the wild prairie of section 11, in what is now the northwestern portion of the township, until the spring of 1850. It did not take Rollins long to cut enough logs from Round Grove for his cabin of 16 by 18 feet. As it stood in the open prairie, it was the only building in what is now Round Grove Township, and there was none other for miles around. Besides the tract upon which he built, Mr. Rollins had entered lands in section



10, during 1846, and in section 15, 1848, and he subsequently bought various pieces of swamp land in section 14. He was, therefore, the leading land owner in the northwestern sections.

Jeremiah Stanly, a son-in-law of Rollins, also ventured into the township, in the spring of 1850, and for a short time shared the solitary cabin. A little later he erected a house of his own, within calling distance of his father-in-law. Before the end of the year Thomas Rollins also appeared on the scene and shared the pioneer cabin with its builder.

#### EARLY LAND ENTRIES

The first entry recorded for what is the present Round Grove Township is that of John White, who filed his claim on certain lands in section 22, township 25, range 6, near the western county line, in February, 1835. The second is that already briefly noted, of Charles L. Stockton, in section 29, township 25, range 5. Then, in April, 1846, comes the Rollins entry in section 10. In 1847 the following entered lands in township 25, range 5: John Rowland, in section 19; Newberry Stockton, in section 20; James S. Chilton, in section 29.

The following purchases of Government land were made in township 25, range 6: In 1848—Patrick H. Weaver, in sections 10 and 11; Truman Rollins, in section 15, and E. C. Buskirk, in section 22; in 1849—James Carson, in section 10, and Martin Bishop, in sections 10 and 11. These tracts were in the western and northwestern sections of the township.

#### THE STOCKTON PURCHASES

In 1850, about the time that Truman Rollins was actually making settlement and taking up lands in the northwestern portion of the township, both Charles L. and Newberry Stockton were about to enter extensive tracts of land in sections 30, 31 and 32, south and west of Round Grove. In section 30 alone they purchased 160 acres of canal lands. Their descendants still own large farming tracts in that portion of the township.

#### BECAME LAND OWNERS IN 1850-53

Other entries in 1850 were by Cornelius Morris, in section 19, township 25, range 5, and Patrick H. Weaver, in section 14; Jacob Weaver, in section 15, and Daniel Brawley, in section 22, township 25, range 6.

The following entered lands in 1851, in township 25, range 5: John Carroll, in section 7; Charles White, in section 8, and Jasper Vidito, in section 19. In township 25, range 6, these entries were made: Truman Rollins, in section 11; John Carroll, in section 12, and Austin Ward, in section 13.

In 1852 the following entered lands in township 25, range 5: All of section 4 purchased by Phineas M. Kent, and certain lots by Newberry





Stockton in section 19. Martin Bishop purchased lands in section 14, and Michael Carroll, in section 12, township 25, range 6—also in 1852.

In 1853 Stewart Rariden and Samuel H. Buskirk became owners of land in section 18, township 25, range 5, and Austin Ward in section 13, township 25, range 6.

#### CARVED OUT OF OLD PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

The board of county commissioners received a petition from a majority of the voters in the territory of White County west of the middle of range 5, congressional township 25, praying that they erect a new political township therefrom, and the prayer was granted soon after it was offered, in December, 1858. Austin Ward suggested that it be called Round Grove Township, and it was thus carved out of old Prairie Township; thereafter the voters in that part of the county were not obliged to go to Brookston when they wished to exercise their rights.

#### ELECTIONS AND VOTERS

The final touches to the new township were made on the 31st of December, when the board ordered that an election should be held at the Round Grove, or Stanly schoolhouse, which had been built near the center of the township during the previous year. It was a frame building, 16 by 18 feet, and well worthy of such an honor. Austin Ward, the godfather of the township, was appointed inspector of elections, and he was on hand at the schoolhouse to see fair play at the appointed time—the first Monday in April, 1859.

At this first election in Round Grove Township, Stewart Rariden and John Rollins acted as judges of election and Samuel Ballintyne as clerk, and the following fifteen cast their ballots: John Larrabee, Robert McQueen, Roger Baker, John Apes, Stephen E. Baker, James Carrol, Thomas Rountenc, Michael T. Buskirk, Granville Ward, Jeremiah Stanly, Stewart Rariden, John Rollins, Austin Ward, Samuel Ballintyne and Milton W. Weaver. The township officers elected were: Samuel Ballintyne, justice of the peace; Stewart Rariden, constable; Milton Weaver, trustee, and Joseph Harris, supervisor.

At the state election, held at the Round Grove schoolhouse on the second Tuesday in October, 1860, the number of voters was increased by ten, as will be proven by the list: William Beck, Thomas Rollins, Granville Ward, Isaiah Bice, Samuel Ballintyne, Stephen E. Baker, James Carrol, John Apes, Edward Steely, Robert N. Brink, James Martin, L. B. Stockton, William H. Martin, Patrick Conner, Stewart Rariden, Jeremiah Stanly, John Demso, Nimrod Leister, M. W. Weaver, Robert McQueen, Austin Ward, Michael Buskirk, Samuel D. Barnes and L. W. Wolgammuth.



## VARIOUS PIONEER MATTERS

The first white child born in the township is supposed to have been Samuel Rariden, son of Stewart and Mary Jane Rariden; Nancy Buskirk was born at about the same time.

The first person who died in Round Grove Township was Truman Rollins, whose remains were interred in a private burial ground in Tippecanoe County. It will be remembered that he was also the first settler.

The first persons married were Francis M. Mullendore and Jane Ward, who afterward became residents of Monticello.

Elizabeth Ballintyne was the first teacher, and she taught in the Stanly schoolhouse, or District School No. 1.

A Methodist class was organized about 1870, and among its members were Isaac Smith, Robert Smith, John Russell, George Mitchner and Thomas Guntrip, with their wives.

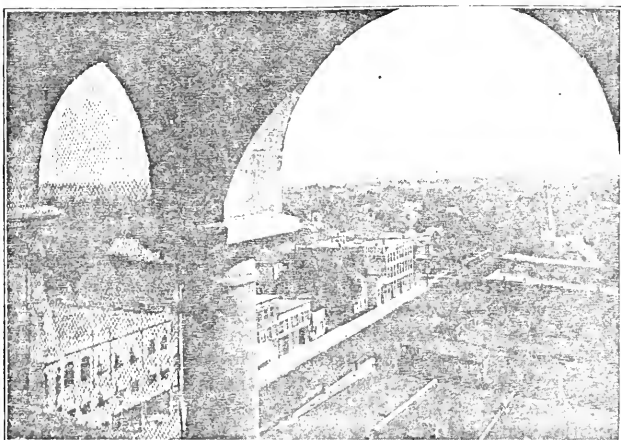
## FORMER POSTOFFICES

There has been two postoffices in Round Grove Township—one at Round Grove, established in 1879, and the other at Dern, established in 1881. The first postmaster at the latter was Dr. A. Jackson Dern, the only physician of the township for some time.

## PROGRESS IN THE TOWNSHIP

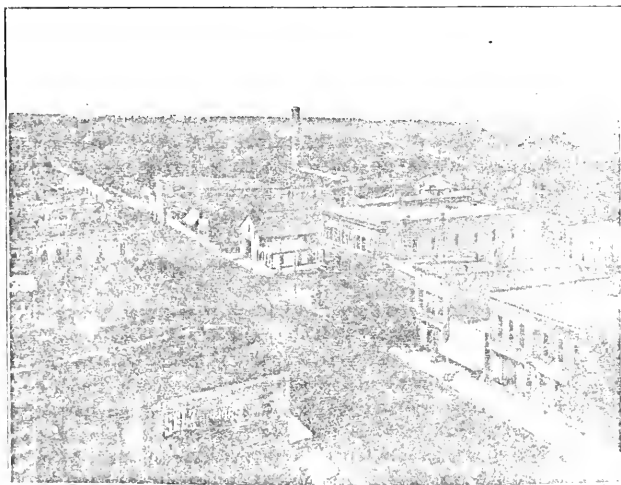
These postoffices have been absorbed for some years by the rural free delivery, which is such a convenience, not to call it a blessing to such farming communities as compose the population and assure the prosperity of Round Grove Township. It has now little undrained land, and as the soil is rich and well cultivated the district stands well as a constant producer of good crops of corn, oats and hay. Its citizens have also been faithful, to the extent of their means, in the construction of substantial gravel roads. In the prosecution of that work the various highways have incurred the following debts: Hewitt, \$2,380; Parks, \$7,200; Demerle, \$5,920; Eller, \$6,560; Krapff, \$5,400. Total, \$27,460.





Courtesy of Monticello Herald

FROM COURTHOUSE TOWER LOOKING SOUTH



Courtesy of Monticello Herald

FROM COURTHOUSE TOWER LOOKING NORTH



## CHAPTER XXIII

### FOUNDING OF MONTICELLO

ENTRIES COVERING ORIGINAL TOWN—FIRST BUILDINGS AND PIONEER MERCHANT—CIRCUIT RIDER ON THE RAW GROUND—CARRYING THE GOSPEL UNDER DIFFICULTIES—BAPTISTS AND METHODISTS ORGANIZE—THE BUSY YEAR, 1836—YOUNG TOWN CONSIDERABLY SOAKED—BUSINESS DIRECTORY FOR 1836—FERRY ESTABLISHED—SMITH, HORTH AND THE KENDALLS—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOCAL PRESS—FIRST WATER POWER AND MILLS—WOOL CENTER AND WOOLEN MANUFACTURES—THE TIPPECANOE HYDRAULIC COMPANY—N. B. LOUGHRY AND SONS—BECOMES A RAILROAD TOWN—MONTICELLO IN 1852—VILLAGE GOVERNMENT ABANDONED—WALKER, JENNER AND REYNOLDS' ADDITION—BARR'S ADDITION—BOOM NOT IN EVIDENCE—THIRD ADDITION—CIVIL WAR OVERSHADOWS ALL—FOURTH AND FIFTH ADDITIONS—GEORGE W. EWING A SITE OWNER—SECOND AND MORE STABLE CORPORATION.

A general picture of the founding of Monticello must have been formed in the reader's mind if he has perused the chapters devoted to the county government and the history of Union Township. The purpose of the chapters which follow is to develop the details in connection with the establishment and progress of the urban centers of population throughout the county, which are led by its substantial and beautiful official seat and metropolis, Monticello.

#### ENTRIES COVERING ORIGINAL TOWN

When the county seat was laid out by John Barr, county agent, on the third of November, 1834, its site embraced the following entries of land at Crawfordsville and LaPorte: Eighty acres by Peter Price, being the west half of the southwest quarter, section 33, township 27 north, range 3 west, on the 13th of June; George Bartley, same date, east half of the southwest quarter, and on June 7, 1833, 78.68 acres, the south fraction of the southeast quarter; Robert Rothrock (in behalf of John Barr, Hans E. Horth and John Rothrock), 59.17 acres, being the south half of the northeast quarter, and 51.05 acres, being the north half of the southeast quarter, on September 6, 1834, and Zebulon Sheetz, 36.36 acres, being the east fraction of the section (33) east of the river, on the 1st of November, 1834.





## FIRST BUILDINGS AND PIONEER MERCHANT

In the following spring the county office was erected on the courthouse square. It was a little wooden building for the clerk, auditor and recorder, all combined in the person of William Sill. About the same time Henry Orwig, late of Delphi, who had bought a lot at the sale of the preceding November, completed his house and store under one small roof at the southwest corner of Broadway and Bluff streets, and in May, 1835, commenced to sell from his \$500 stock of miscellanies. Public and private business started simultaneously. Orwig might have been arrested, as he had no license to sell, but the people winked at the legal irregularity, as they were only too glad to be accommodated even to the extent of his small ability. After several months of experiment, however, Monticello's first merchant made up his mind to stay and he therefore obtained his license in the fall of 1835. Samuel Heckendorn opened the first furniture shop in Monticello. Jonathan Harbolt was the first undertaker. He would be called a funeral director.

## CIRCUIT RIDER ON THE RAW GROUND

Robert Rothrock was authority for the statement that the first sermon preached in Monticello was about the time the town was laid out, in the fall of 1834, and that a circuit rider named Stalker was the worthy man who thus inaugurated religious training at the county seat. Thereafter, he appeared at the settlement monthly until February, 1836, when a small class was formally organized. Its members were Zebulon Sheetz, wife, mother and son; John Reese, wife, mother and two sisters; Okey S. Johnson, wife and sister; Lewis Dawson; Bethsheba Cowan and her three daughters; Jonathan Harbolt and wife, and Asa Allen and wife. The class met quite regularly at the cabin of John Wilson just west of town, that gentleman having joined soon after its formation.

Soon afterward, the church-goers commenced to split up into denominational societies, the completion of the schoolhouse furnishing them with a regular meeting place.

## CARRYING THE GOSPEL UNDER DIFFICULTIES

Milton M. Sill claims that the first resident minister of an organized church in White County was Alexander Williamson, of the Presbyterian faith. He located in Monticello and delivered sermons in all parts of the county, at the homesteads of members of his flock who lived too far away from town to attend the regular morning services and would perhaps be compelled to deny themselves this comfort unless the preacher should go to their homes. Thus it happened that the minister, after delivering his morning discourse at Monticello, would travel ten or fifteen miles in the afternoon and deliver a second one at night. In pleasant weather this was not a severe hardship, but with the coming of storms and almost impassable roads, the preacher was placed in the



same class as the country doctor. But Mr. Williamson was very diligent and faithful in his work, and never disappointed his country parishioners if it was possible to carry the gospel to them. His outside meetings were generally held at the house of Zebulon Sheetz, on the east side of the river, until the completion of the schoolhouse at Monticello in 1836.

#### BAPTISTS AND METHODISTS ORGANIZE

Elders Reese, Miner and Corbin organized the Baptist society soon after the Presbyterians formed a society. Elder Miner, of Lafayette, had charge of the society, but in his absence Elder Reese officiated, the Monticello meetings usually being held at the house of the latter.

In the winter of 1836-37 a protracted meeting was held in the school-house, which resulted in the formation of a Methodist class and the calling of Hachaliah Vreedenburg to the mission. The combined school and meeting-house was a frame building, 20 by 30 feet, with iron latches and hinges, as well as real glass for the windows. It was far above the average of such structures and remained both a temple of learning and a temple of worship for a full decade.

#### THE BUSY YEAR, 1836

In the meantime the material interests of Monticello were also growing apace. The year 1836 was especially busy. Carpenters, blacksmiths, doctors, merchants, ministers, lawyers, speculators and mechanics of every descriptions began to appear, and the building of houses and shops was rapidly lining out the principal streets of the town.

#### YOUNG TOWN CONSIDERABLY SOAKED

In May, 1836, Rowland Hughes opened his tavern, having paid \$5 for the license, and about the same time Parcel and Nicholson, and Ford, Walker and Company, were licensed as general storekeepers, each firm paying \$10 for the privilege of selling their goods. Landlord Hughes bought the privilege of selling liquor at his hotel, and Patrick Sullivan opened a regular saloon soon afterward. Such attractions were not resisted by the Indians just above Monticello and several miles further north in what is now Liberty Township. The squaws came from the villages with their bead work and other fancy articles and the braves brought skins or venison, which were as often exchanged for bad whiskey as for good food. Sullivan was indicted several times for selling whiskey to the Pottawattamies, but Hughes was more careful to confine his traffic in strong drink to the white villagers. For a number of years, especially while the Indians lingered, Monticello had rather a bad name as a whiskey-soaked town.

#### BUSINESS DIRECTORY FOR 1836

In this busy year of 1836 William Sill also opened a general store, as did Reynolds and Cassel. Aside from those mentioned, the following





Courtesy of Monticello Herald

VIEW OF THE TIPPECANOE, WITH TIOGA BRIDGES IN THE DISTANCE



were factors in the Monticello expansion: Peter Martin, merchant; James Parker, sheriff; Dr. Samuel Rifenberriek, general merchandise; Mr. Percees, grocer; Jonathan Harbolt, James McKinley, T. R. Dawson, Christian Dasher, Robert Spencer, Salmon Sherwood and John Hanawalt, carpenters; G. R. Bartley, Nathaniel White and John Ream, farmers; Joseph Skidmore and Thompson Crose, blacksmiths; Rev. Joshua Lindsey, minister, justice of the peace and postmaster; Jacob Meyers, tailor; Daniel M. Tilton, tailor and deputy postmaster; Jacob Thomas, shoemaker; Asa Allen, surveyor; Widows Bott and Reese; Jacob Franklin, cabinet maker; William Brock, plasterer and cabinet maker; Oliver Hammon, small store, and Abraham Snyder, tanner.

At that time the town had the frame schoolhouse and the little frame courthouse. Not long after the courthouse was blown down by a heavy wind; Robert Spencer, its builder, was placed under a cloud as to his efficiency, and Jonathan Harbolt had the satisfaction of re-erecting it. Monticello had then a population of about 100 men, women and children.

#### FERRY ESTABLISHED

In May, 1837, Peter Martin was licensed to conduct a ferry across the river at Monticello, and was required to keep a boat large enough to carry teams and a smaller boat for persons.

#### SMITH, HIORTH AND THE KENDALLS

In the following spring Peter B. Smith, who had been associated with Hans E. Hiorth in the Norway water power and mills, opened a general store at Monticello, whither he appears to have transferred most of his interests. Hiorth afterward purchased a share in the business, which he probably held until his death in 1844. The Kendall brothers were the next important business men to enter the Monticello field with large stocks of general merchandise, and were leading merchants during the decade previous to 1848, when they took over the Hiorth properties at Norway, but two of them afterward returned to the county seat and re-entered business.

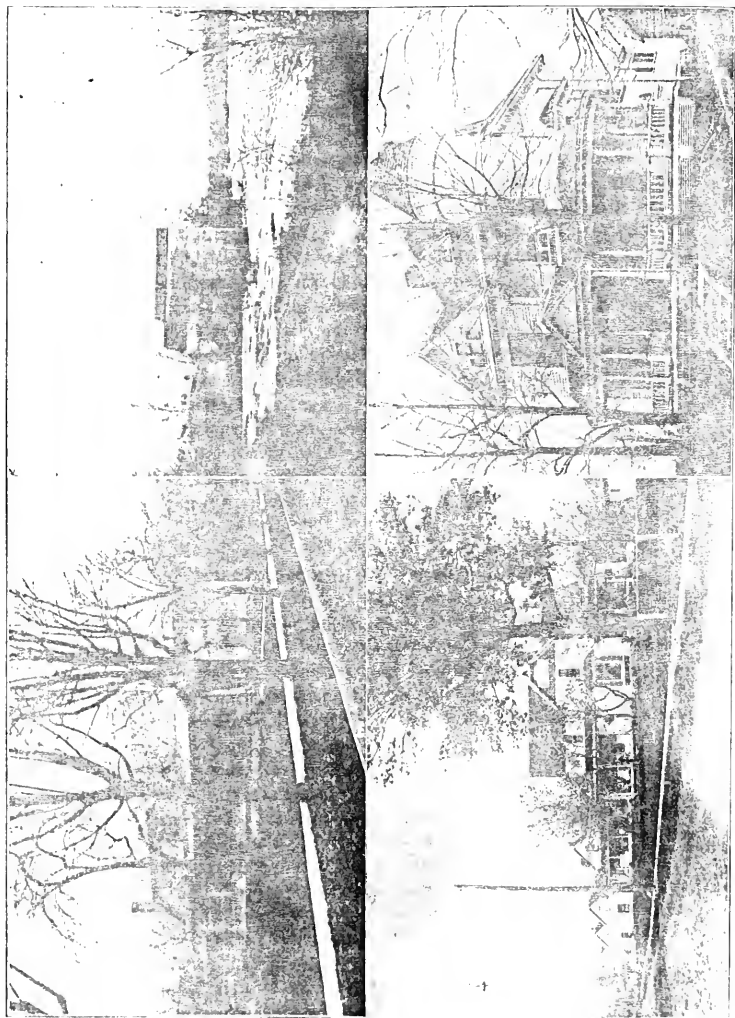
Jacob Beck and John Brady came as rivals of Rowland Hughes in the hotel line, about 1840, and Merriam and Company opened another store in 1844. In 1846 Messrs. Reynolds and Merriam became partners, besides whom there were engaged in mercantile affairs, William Sill, Rowland Hughes, Charles W. Kendall, Rifenberriek and Brearley, Andrew Sproule and William Sheetz and Company.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOCAL PRESS

The late '40s were rather full of events which had a bearing on the progress of Monticello; the leading ones were the establishment of the *Prairie Chieftain*, the first newspaper of the county, and the practical development of the water power under the management of the







RIVERSIDE MILL AND MONTICELLO RESIDENCES



Monticello Hydraulic Company. The Chieftain met with a fair patronage during the five years of its existence, and various newspapers have since succeeded one another, with more or less close connection, up to the present; the Chieftain, which issued its first number July 3, 1849, demonstrated that Monticello and the county would support a good, earnest newspaper, and its founding was therefore an important event for both.

#### FIRST WATER POWER AND MILLS

The Monticello Hydraulic Company inaugurated a long line of industries which accomplished much toward the early growth of the place. The act by which it was constituted was passed by the Legislature in February, 1848, and named as its incorporators Phillip Wolverton, John Burns, Ashley L. Pierce, Henry Ensmiger, Randolph Brearley, John C. Merriam, Zachariah VanBuskirk, Isaac Reynolds and Zebulon Sheetz. In 1849 the company bought small tracts of land from Mr. Sheetz and Rowland Hughes and a dam was thrown across the river. A site was then leased to Messrs. Reynolds and Brearley, who erected a large frame grist mill for merchant work, and Hoagland and Conklin built a woolen factory at about the same time. Mr. Sheetz next built a sawmill and a second establishment of that kind was established by Hoagland and Conklin, the latter being subsequently transformed into a furniture factory. Reynolds and Brearley added to their interests by erecting a large frame warehouse, which Professor Bowman leased for his school in 1859.

#### WOOL CENTER AND WOOLEN MANUFACTURES

The leases of the water power at Monticello controlled by the old Hydraulic Company were for ten years and carried with them small pieces of land adjacent to the dam. For many years the grist, saw and woolen mills were in profitable operation and were the means of drawing and holding many useful citizens to the town. As a wool center it became well known.

In the early years Northwestern Indiana was noted as a productive sheep country, and White County shared in its good name in that regard. Probably Peter Price became the largest, if not the first of the wool dealers at Monticello, and for a number of years before the factory was built collected large quantities of the raw material and hauled it in wagons to Delphi, LaFayette and other places on the Wabash and Erie Canal, and even as far as Michigan City. He also kept at his house west of town woolen cloths, which were either sold for cash or traded for wool.

During the Civil war the manufacture of woolen goods was a brisk industry everywhere that it could be conducted. At Monticello the prospects were so good that Kingsbury and Lynch renewed the lease of the water power necessary to run their factory for another ten years.



The other establishments on the dam did the same, and all through the war that locality hummed with business. In 1866 Markle and Cowdin erected the woolen factory on the east side of the river. The Dales, Keefer and Roberts and perhaps others were afterward identified with it, but about 1880 the building was outfitted as a merchant grist mill and later was destroyed by fire.

#### THE TIPPECANOE HYDRAULIC COMPANY

In April, 1872, the Tippecanoe Hydraulic Company had been organized as an indirect successor to the old Monticello Company. Its object was the development of the water power at or near the county seat, and its first trustees were Albert Reynolds, W. S. Ayres, Robert M. Strait, J. C. Blake and William Braden. The Monticello Lumbering and Barrel Heading Manufacturing Company was formed at about the same time, its projectors being mostly members of the Hydraulic Company.

#### NELSON B. LOUGHRY AND SONS

Among the first to take advantage of the improved conditions brought about by the reorganization of local hydraulic and manufacturing interests was Nelson B. Loughry, a Pennsylvanian by birth, who had migrated to Lafayette with his family when forty years of age. At the time of his departure for the West he had become somewhat prominent both as a merchant and a public man. In 1858 he moved with his wife and family to Monon Township, where for about fourteen years he was engaged in milling and agriculture, in which pursuits his three sons received a thorough training. It was in 1872, the year of the organization of the Tippecanoe Hydraulic Company, that Mr. Loughry purchased the mill which had been erected in 1850 and promptly set to work to improve it. Both in this work and in the subsequent operation of the plant Mr. Loughry had the efficient assistance of his sons, Joseph E., Albert W. and Cloyd. Joseph E. had had active charge of the milling interests since 1869 and in 1872 the firm of Loughry Brothers was formed. The father died in 1890. It is needless to say, except for the benefit of strangers in that part of the state, that under the management of the three Loughry brothers it has become one of the best equipped mills in Northern Indiana. In the early period of their industrial and business career, the Loughrys also operated a furniture factory opposite their mill. They also promoted other lines of manufacture, became interested in the financial matters of Monticello and for a number of years were considered perhaps the leading men of affairs in White County, and, after all these years, they are still leaders.

#### BECOMES A RAILROAD TOWN

The early '50s were charged with great expectations and resulted in not a few actualities. Although the people were disappointed over the



fact that the New Albany and Salem Railway did not materialize in Monticello, the Logansport, Peoria & Burlington was actually completed and Monticello made a station. - The village was also incorporated in 1853, the streets were drained and graded and sidewalks built and improved. The county seat was made a little uneasy by the founding of Reynolds in 1854, and its rise for a number of years, but considered that its advantages over its ambitious sister to the west were made permanently superior when what is now known as the Pittsburgh, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad was completed through the township in 1859, thus giving the village a western outlet. Trains did not commence to pass over the Tippecanoe River to the eastward until January, 1860, which marked the completion of the Logansport, Peoria and Burlington line.

#### MONTICELLO IN 1852

During the period of the early '50s the churches of Monticello had obtained a foothold and no class of its citizens had a better opportunity to observe people and conditions than the ministers. One of the Methodist clergy, Rev. L. Nebeker, thus draws his picture: "My personal recollections of this place began in the fall of 1852, when appointed by Bishop Baker at the first session of the Northwest Indiana Conference, held at Terre Haute that year. On my arrival I was directed to Dr. Riftenberck's for a temporary home. We were cordially received by the Doctor and his good wife, the latter still living in Greencastle as the widow of the late Rev. Daniel De Mott.

"The church was new, having been built and dedicated under the administration of the Rev. John Leach, one year intervening between his and my term, filled by Rev. R. H. Calvert. This was a year of turmoil. Mr. Calvert got into difficulty with a local preacher by the name of John Kistler and produced partisan feeling throughout the entire circuit, which reached as far west as Palestine, fifteen miles. One half of the year passed before a reconciliation could be effected.

"There were at that time in the medical profession in Monticello, Drs. Riftenberck, Spencer (father of Dr. William Spencer), Gray, Haymond and Brearley, the last not practicing.

"In the law my recollection takes in only 'Bob' Sill and David Turpie, now of Indianapolis. Rowland Hughes, Jonathan P. Ritchey, Daniel Tilton and 'Cub' Reynolds were the merchants, all selling groceries, boots, shoes and notions. Isaac Reynolds and Dr. Brearley owned and managed the mill at the west end of the dam. Crose & McElhroe were partners running a blacksmith shop. A Mr. Kiefhaber also ran one. There were two Presbyterian churches, Old and New schools, presided over respectively by Rev. John Wampler and Rev. George D. Miller. These, with the Methodist, constituted the religious organizations of the place at that time.

"Here I found D. F. Barnes, now of the Michigan conference, an honored member, having a number of times been sent by that body and now leads the delegation in the next general conference. The family





were in moderate circumstances and in some way connected with the woolen mill here. Young Barnes, then in his teens, had attended the winter school and at the close took part in the closing literary exercises. Noticing the lad was gifted with a fine oratorical voice and exhibited good taste and modest demeanor, I suggested the propriety of attending college.

"Daniel Dale was a character in those days. Though he lived at 'Git-away' (Burnettsville) he was frequently in Monticello. I have a very vivid recollection of my first interview with the old gentleman. He was a loud talker, rather dogmatic in manner, and spoke with a great deal of positiveness. The question of securing a railroad to this place was the topic. An east and west road going out from Logansport was under contemplation.

" 'How much will it require to secure the road through Monticello?' I inquired. He named the amount. I said it would be hard to raise so large an amount of money, would it not?

" 'Oh, no,' said he, 'if you can get the people together and pump an acre and a half of thunder and lightning into them, the money can be raised easily.'

"There was another son of the old gentleman, Levi, living then at Delphi, long since dead. He was an attorney and frequently visited Monticello; a kind of Lincoln style physique, and somewhat in his fondness for repartee—quite a plain man. On one occasion, meeting him here, I was surprised to see a reckless display of jewelry. Among other things a very large metal watch chain hung about his neck and down to his watch in the vest pocket.

"I said, 'Brother Dale, you seem to be coming out.'

" 'Yes, I have determined to be rich if it costs me all I am worth.'

"Since then I have seen a great many who seemed to have come to the same determination.

"There were, some eight or ten miles west, in the neighborhood of Ashbury Chapel, some Virginians who had entered land and were making farms. If they were not the titled F. F. V.'s they certainly were worthy of it. Abel T. Smith and William Vanscoy, with their families, will be remembered and honored by those who knew them, and their impress on society will be felt for generations by those who did not know them. \* \* \*

"I shall never forget my first visit to Palestine, the western extremity of the circuit. After leaving Brother Thompson's, a little southeast of where Reynolds now stands, there was a wild stretch of six or seven miles without a human habitation. Having passed this and found a man building fence, I inquired of him for Palestine.

" 'Do you see that schoolhouse up on the ridge yonder?' pointing to a round-log building with clapboard roof weighted down with heavy poles, about a quarter of a mile away, but in plain view on an oak ridge.

" 'Yes,' I said.

" 'Well, that is Palestine.'



"I hardly need say my dreams of a land of milk and honey with grapes of Eschol vanished quicker than it takes to tell you."

During the pastorate of Brother Leach he made an appointment to preach at the Monon schoolhouse on a week night. It was the fall of the year, the evenings were getting long, and at the time of which we speak the air was crisp and cool, when the preacher, accompanied by Brother Will Bott, and, by the way, incidents and anecdotes will be incomplete without Brother Bott's name, together with many others figuring in it. The preacher and Will, late in the afternoon, took up their journey for the evening appointment, giving themselves just time to reach the place by the time the people were there. Arriving, they found the people on hand, and had kindled a fire in the box stove that occupied the middle of the floor, and from the opening at the hearth proceeded all the light they had. On the arrival of the preacher and his traveling companion, all conversation ceased, which up to that time had embraced all the range of crops, coon hunts, corn huskings and general neighborhood gossip, and everything was quiet, subdued and dark.

"As Brother Leach sat warming himself and musing on the situation, the spirit of song took possession of him, and, though I can't afford to give you much music in this lecture, at the price I get for it, I will give you this as sung by the preacher that night while warming by the stove:

"Plunged in a gulf of dark despair,  
We wretched sinners lay,  
Without one cheering beam of hope  
Or spark of glimmering day."

"While the hymn was being sung some parties slipped out to the nearest neighbors and returned with candles to light up the house."

#### VILLAGE GOVERNMENT ABANDONED

The incorporation of the Village of Monticello was soon followed by the election of the following officers: Jacob Hanaway, Ferdinand Keifhaber, William S. Haymond, A. V. Reed and John Wilson, trustees; John R. Willey, marshal, clerk, treasurer and assessor. The village form of government, as inaugurated in 1853, only endured for a year, and was then abandoned by mutual consent.

#### WALKER'S, JENNERS' AND REYNOLDS' ADDITION

Up to this time two additions had been made to the original plat, both of them within three years after the town was laid out. The particulars of these accessions to its area are thus presented by the late Milton M. Sill: "Little opportunity was given to non-resident land speculators to obtain land in the immediate vicinity of the county seat, as it was all taken by the resident settlers very soon after the county seat was located. Messrs. Jacob Walker and William M. Jenners, of Lafayette, and Benjamin Reynolds, of Big Creek township, succeeded,



however, in purchasing land of George R. Bartley adjoining the original plat of the town on the south and west, and laid out the first addition to the town on the twenty-seventh day of October, 1836. It was named Walker's, Jenners' and Reynolds' addition to Monticello, and still retains the name. It consisted of one hundred and thirty-four lots, with streets and alleys, the streets varying in width from Railroad street one hundred feet to Water street thirty feet, and the streets and alleys in the original were extended through their addition of the same width as in the original plat. The venture did not prove to be a financial success, as town lots were not ready sale at the prices asked by the proprietors, and Mr. Reynolds parted with his interest in the addition soon after it was laid out.

#### BARR'S ADDITION

"The Board of County Commissioners directed the county agent (Mr. Barr) by an order, entered of record, to lay out and plat the remaining land donated for the county seat, and accordingly, on the 27th day of April, 1837, one hundred and five lots were added to the original plat, and called Barr's addition, to designate it from the town first platted. Two additional streets were platted in Mr. Barr's addition, one on the north marking the northern limit of the land donated, and named North street, running east and west parallel with the streets in the original plat and sixty-six feet in width, and one on the river bank, one hundred feet in width, connecting Main Cross street on the south with North street and used by the traveling public to gain access to the ferry landing located about midway between Washington street and Main Cross street: but after the removal of the ferry landing to the foot of Marion street, the southern part of River street was abandoned, and that portion of it south of Washington street was never afterward used as a public thoroughfare.

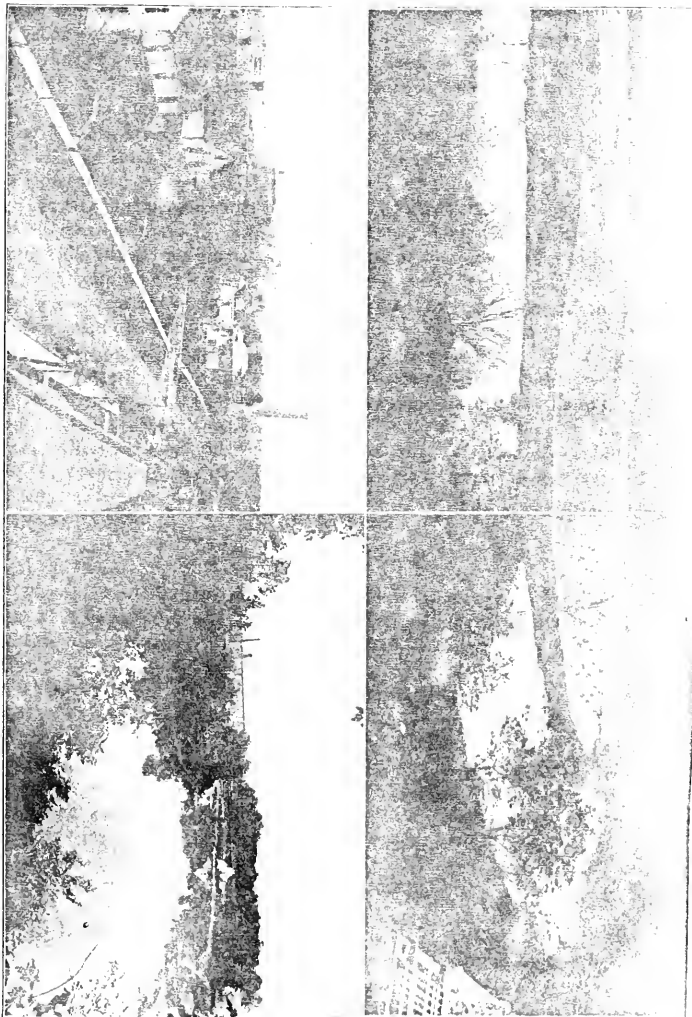
"With the addition of Mr. Barr's and Walker's, Jenners' and Reynolds' to the original plat, Monticello assumed the proportions of a town on paper, but was in fact only a respectable village. A few lots in the new addition were sold, mainly those on the east side of Tippecanoe street, between Main Cross and Marion streets, they being much larger than those in the original plat, and more than twice the size of the largest lot in the Walker addition, but the sales were made chiefly to residents who already owned vacant and unimproved lots in the original plat, and if improvement was made on their new purchase it was only a stable or fence enclosing their lot for the purpose of utilizing it for a calf pasture.

"The supply of lots far exceeded the demand, and though the prices asked were ridiculously low, but few were disposed of for several years after the Barr addition was made to the town.

#### BOOM NOT IN EVIDENCE

"Those who had purchased town lots at the first sale, expecting a boom in prices by reason of the selection of Monticello as the county





Courtesy of C. L. Foster

IN AND ABOUT MONTICELLO: (A, B) TIPPECANOE RIVER, EAST OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY;  
 (C) TIPPECANOE STREET, NORTH FROM PUBLIC LIBRARY; (D) A PLEASANT RIVER SCENE





seat were grievously disappointed. No boom was realized. Grass grew in the streets and dog fennel and other noxious weeds covered the vacant lots on the west and south of the original plat, and cattle, horses, sheep and hogs roamed at will through the town. Invidious remarks were made that the town was finished and only needed fencing to make a suitable pasture field for the stock. Some wicked boys and young men, acting on this suggestion, one summer night, whilst their parents were peacefully slumbering in bed and perhaps dreaming of the future profits to be realized from the sale of their vacant lots, actually did build a rail fence across the two principal streets (Main and Main Cross), taking the rails from the neighboring fields adjoining the town. The fence was well constructed and duly staked and double ridged, and completely spanned the two streets on the south and east of the court house square. The perpetrators of this indignity were never discovered, and but little effort was made to find them. The fence was removed in the morning by the owners of the rails, who were the only parties whose equanimity was seriously disturbed by the boys' foolish prank.

"After the organization of the Hydraulic Company and the improvement of the water power, the town improved somewhat and lots increased in value, eligible sites for business houses and residences on the principal streets selling for one hundred dollars, and in a few instances more. This was a great advance over former prices, and property owners began to assume a more cheerful demeanor.

### THIRD TOWN ADDITION

"The third addition to the town was made by James C. Reynolds on the 16th day of December, 1854. It consisted of fourteen lots on the west side and fronting Illinois street, between Washington and North streets.

"There was no crying demand for additional town lots at that time. There were vacant, unimproved lots fronting on every street of the town to the number of one hundred or more, in the aggregate, awaiting purchasers at prices ranging all the way from ten to one hundred and fifty dollars, so that the supply already far exceeded the demand, but he succeeded in disposing of a few lots between Washington and Marion streets, and frame buildings were built on them by the purchasers.

### CIVIL WAR OVERSHADOWS ALL

"The Logansport, Peoria and Burlington Railroad, now a part of the Pennsylvania system known as the Panhandle, after a long delay from its beginning, was completed in 1860, the first train passing through Monticello on the first day of January of that year. With a railroad the hope that the county seat question was finally settled was entertained by the real estate property owners of Monticello, and their hope was realized to a greater or less extent, probably more on account of the War of the Rebellion, beginning early in the year 1861, than the



possession of railway facilities. The war question was the vital one overtopping all others in which the citizens, not alone in Monticello and Reynolds, but the whole country, were deeply interested, and until it was finally determined, county seat and other minor questions were relegated to the rear and almost, if not entirely, forgotten for the time being.

#### FOURTH AND FIFTH ADDITIONS

"The fourth addition to Monticello was made April 13, 1860, when George Snyder, one of the first settlers, who owned a farm adjoining the town on the north, made his addition of eight lots on the north side of the railroad and fronting on the right of way.

"The fifth addition was made by Sylvanus VanVoorst and called by him the West addition. It consisted of two tiers of lots lying between the extension of Main Cross street on the south and North street on the north. There were thirty-six lots in this addition, with street sixty feet in width between, running the entire length of the addition. This street was named Julia Ann street at the suggestion of Professor George Bowman, who had before purchased a small tract of ground fronting on Main Cross street and on the west side of the new street, where he lived when the addition was made. The name has since been changed to Dewey street, in honor of Admiral Dewey, the hero of Manila."

#### GEORGE W. EWING A SITE OWNER

Among the land owners of what has become a portion of the site of Monticello and which was acquired before the first incorporation of the town in 1853, none was so widely known as George W. Ewing, of Fort Wayne. He laid the foundation of a large fortune in trade with the Indians of the Northwest, and, in the course of his negotiations and travels, invested his profits in real estate at St. Louis, Chicago (when it was a frontier town), Fort Wayne and many other sections in Indiana. Mr. Ewing acquired title to large tracts in White County, embracing land covering what is now known as the Dreifus and Haugh addition. He was a man of courtly carriage and conveyed the impression, which was fully borne out by acquaintance, of great breadth and strength of character. He had the sagacity, energy and patience not only to establish an immense and widely extended trade with the Indians in their native homes, but to follow them to the reservations allotted by the Government, and, with the perfected business machinery and tried personality of his establishments, continue the dealings with them commenced in a former generation. This policy made it necessary for him to spend much of his time in Washington, giving personal attention to his claims and treaty interests. Another portion of the year he spent in journeys of inspection among his western trading posts, and the third, in visits to his old friends at Fort Wayne and in other portions of Indiana, including Monticello. He was an especial friend of David Turpie, who largely looked after his real estate interests at the county seat. Mr. Ewing had



much public influence and in his earlier years was somewhat active in state politics. But his mental and physical energy was too great to be confined even to Indiana.

#### SECOND AND MORE STABLE CORPORATION

Notwithstanding the drains of the Civil war, Monticello continued to increase in population and business, the "boom period" of stimulated industries and inflated prices affecting it, as elsewhere in the country secure from the actual ravages of the armed conflict. In 1862 the town incorporation was effected under which the local government was conducted for over half a century. That important step was taken mainly through the persistent efforts of Alfred R. Orton, son of a prominent lawyer and public man of Perry County, Ohio, and himself a prominent merchant of Monticello at the time it became an incorporated town. He afterward became county surveyor. He is yet an honored resident of Monticello.

In response to a petition numerously signed and presented to the Board of County Commissioners, that body ordered an election to be held at the courthouse, in April, 1862, for the first town officials, and it resulted as follows: A. Hanawalt, Z. VanBuskirk, James Wallace, John Saunders and D. K. Ream, trustees; W. H. Pareels, treasurer and marshal, and Milton M. Sill, clerk and assessor. Richard Brown was the first school trustee.

The subsequent history of Monticello, after its more permanent incorporation as a town, is given in the chapter which follows, which also embraces sketches of religious, social and benevolent organizations the record of which, in some cases, antedates the life of the 1862 town by many years.



## CHAPTER XXIV

### TOWN AND CITY

TOWN BACKS A NEW SCHOOL—THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL—PIONEERS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM—LEGAL COMPLICATIONS—HOW THE SNARL WAS UNTANGLED—SUPERINTENDENT J. W. HAMILTON—BETTER TOWN SCHOOLS—PRESENT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING—STATISTICS OF THE PRESENT—SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHERS—THE GRADES BUILDINGS—SYSTEM AS A WHOLE—MONTICELLO PUBLIC LIBRARY—GOOD WATER AND A GOOD SYSTEM—THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE—RIVERVIEW PARK—THE REYNOLDS ADDITIONS—TURNER'S ADDITION—CLEVELAND STREET CREATED—HUGHES' ADDITION—COCHELL'S AND FRASER'S ADDITION—MCCUAIG'S ADDITION—DREIFUS AND HAUGH'S ADDITION—MCLEAN AND BREARLEY'S ADDITION—LATER ADDITIONS TO THE TOWNSITE—CITIZENS' ADDITION—ADDITIONS TO THE CITY—CITY HALL—IMPROVEMENTS OF WATER POWER—PRESENT-DAY INDUSTRIES—FOUR BANKS—STATE BANK OF MONTICELLO—MONTICELLO NATIONAL BANK—WHITE COUNTY LOAN, TRUST AND SAVINGS COMPANY—FARMERS' STATE BANK.

For several years after the permanent incorporation of the Town of Monticello its population increased quite rapidly, and there was progress all along the line. Such members of the Board of Trustees as Samuel Heckendorn, David McCuaig, W. S. Haymond and John Saunders; William Reese, the treasurer and marshal; D. D. Dab A. W. Reynolds and Robert Gregory, clerks, and other town officials, did what they could to regulate the health and morals of the new town, and in March, 1869, the Town Board approved articles of association which brought into being the Monticello Hook and Ladder Company. The fire fighters were, of course, all volunteers and relied upon buckets and the Tippecanoe River, with such wells as private citizens had at their disposal. But it was a start in the direction of protection against fire—the department, and the ordinances in force of a precautionary nature.

### TOWN BACKS A NEW SCHOOL

The educational system of the town had been mainly advanced through the private labors of such citizens as Prof. George Bowman and Rev. William Irelan, but in the year 1869 the school trustees bestirred themselves as an official body and presented a petition to the Town Board praying that a specified amount of corporate bonds should be issued to defray the expense of constructing a new school building;









whereupon, on motion of W. S. Haymond, the following ordinance was passed:

"Section 1—It is ordained by the Trustees of the Incorporated Town of Monticello, White County, Indiana, That for the purpose of advancing educational interests in the town and county aforesaid, the Board of Trustees hereby order issued to the School Trustees of Monticello twenty thousand dollars worth of coupon bonds of the denomination of one hundred dollars each, with interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum from date; and the interest on said bonds is to be paid by the Treasurer of said corporation, at his office in said town; and said bonds are made redeemable at the pleasure of said corporation after two years and within ten years after the issue thereof.

"Section 2—It is declared that an emergency exists for the immediate taking effect of this ordinance; therefore it shall be in force from and after its passage."

#### THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL

The bonds were issued and sold and with the proceeds the old high school building on West Broadway was erected. At that time it was one of the finest brick schoolhouses in Northwestern Indiana. The first term in the new building began in September, 1870, the school trustees then being Harrison P. Anderson, William S. Haymond and Charles W. Kendall. I. M. Gross was principal, and his assistants were Albert S. Nordyke, James M. McBeth, Annie Henderson and Lodie Reed.

#### PIONEERS OF THE PUBLIC SYSTEM

During the first twenty years of corporate existence, the school trustees of the town included Richard Brown, H. P. Anderson, J. A. Wood, A. Hanawalt, Ira Kingsbury, W. S. Davis, Lucius Pierce, M. A. Kerr, W. J. Gridley, William Davis, C. W. Kendall, A. W. Reynolds, J. S. Hurtt, Thomas Bushnell, F. M. Mullendore, Robert J. Clark, M. M. Sill, S. B. Bushnell, J. H. McCollum, Samuel Heckendorn, W. S. Bushnell and J. B. Smith. Besides I. M. Gross, the principals of the school during that period were J. A. VanLandingham, J. R. Owens and J. G. Royer, who, with the school trustees named, placed the public school system of education on a fair basis.

#### LEGAL COMPLICATIONS

The efforts of the school authorities were considerably retarded, even disorganized, by the financial complication growing out of the \$20,000 bond issue through which the handsome new building was completed. Under the ordinance authorizing their issue the interest was fixed at 10 per cent, and the time limit at ten years. As the limitation approached, the citizens became less and less inclined to pay that high rate of in



terest, and in 1878 measures were taken to refund the bonds at 7 per cent. New paper to the amount of \$21,000 was issued and placed in the hands of Joseph C. Wilson, a leading director of the First National Bank of Monticello. He sold the bonds, but the non-appearance of the funds caused the citizens to voice their uneasiness through the columns of the local press. Through the united efforts of people and press Mr. Wilson was placed under bonds, a precaution which had not before been taken. Notwithstanding which, the First National closed its doors, Mr. Wilson departed for Canada, and the Town of Monticello was left with a bonded school debt of about \$40,000, of which \$21,000 was drawing 7 per cent interest and the balance 10 per cent.

Then ensued a tangle of legal complications. Suit was first instituted against Wilson's bondsmen and then against M. L. Bundy, receiver of the First National Bank, to recover \$10,000 alleged to have been deposited by Wilson as a portion of the proceeds realized from the bond sales. About \$7,000 was recovered by the latter suit, but nothing from the former.

#### HOW THE SNARL WAS UNTANGLED

The town next decided to resist the payment of both interest and principal of the refunded bonds, and suit was therefore brought against the corporation by A. L. Merrill, representing the bond holders, to collect the full amount guaranteed on the face of those securities. The court decided that the new refunded bonds were invalid, upon the following ground: "Municipal corporations have no power to issue or make commercial paper. That power must come from the Legislature. The town had no authority at the time to refund its debt."

This was the decision of the United States Supreme Court in an action on the bonds, and not in an action for money had and received, regardless of the validity of the bonds. The court held that there being no express statutory authorization of the bond issue they were void as being issued *ultra vires*. *Merrill vs. Monticello*, 138 U. S. 673. This is known as a ruling case on this proposition of law decided in 1891. After this decision holding these bonds void Merrill, for himself and other bond holders, on November 4, 1892, commenced a new suit in the United States District Court at Indianapolis, seeking to recover the amount of the bonds in another form of action, known as a bill in equity, to require the Town of Monticello to pay over the proceeds of the bonds, to charge the town, as trustee, with the sum of \$6,988.43 recovered by it, and also to compel the town to assign the bond given by Wilson to account for the money realized by him from the sale of bonds.

The town defended on this grounds, to-wit: Want of equity, six-year statute of limitations, and general laches, which defense was sustained, and Merrill appealed to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh District at Chicago, when in 1896 this decision of the United States District Court was sustained.



SUPERINTENDENT J. W. HAMILTON

Thus, after years of litigation, matters were finally adjusted in the courts, and the schools progressed through it all. To no one person were the improvements more indebted than to John W. Hamilton, who became superintendent in 1889 and continued as such for more than twenty years. Under his administration the high school courses were expanded to modern breadth, and the South Side School was erected on South Main Street. To meet the demands of the growing town the old high school building had been doubled in capacity, and, with its destruction by fire on August 25, 1905, had been replaced by the massive structure still occupied.

## FIRST BIG SCHOOL IN A FEED STABLE

In its historical edition of December 8, 1910, the Herald has the following interesting paper on the Monticello schools:

"In nothing does Monticello show a greater contrast between past and present than in her schools. It is within the memory of citizens still living when the 'select school' was our only dependence—when a subscription paper was circulated to hire a teacher, and if there were not enough signers there was no school. Up to 1859 schools were held wherever a temporary room could be found. One of the first, if not the first, was held in a building on the bluff long since torn down. It was on the site of the present Nordlyke property, and its existence is now almost a tradition. Other schools were taught in the 'old court house' (now Cowger's feed store), in upper rooms of the Commercial Block, in the old Kendall building on the site now occupied by the Baker-Uhl building, and at private residences.

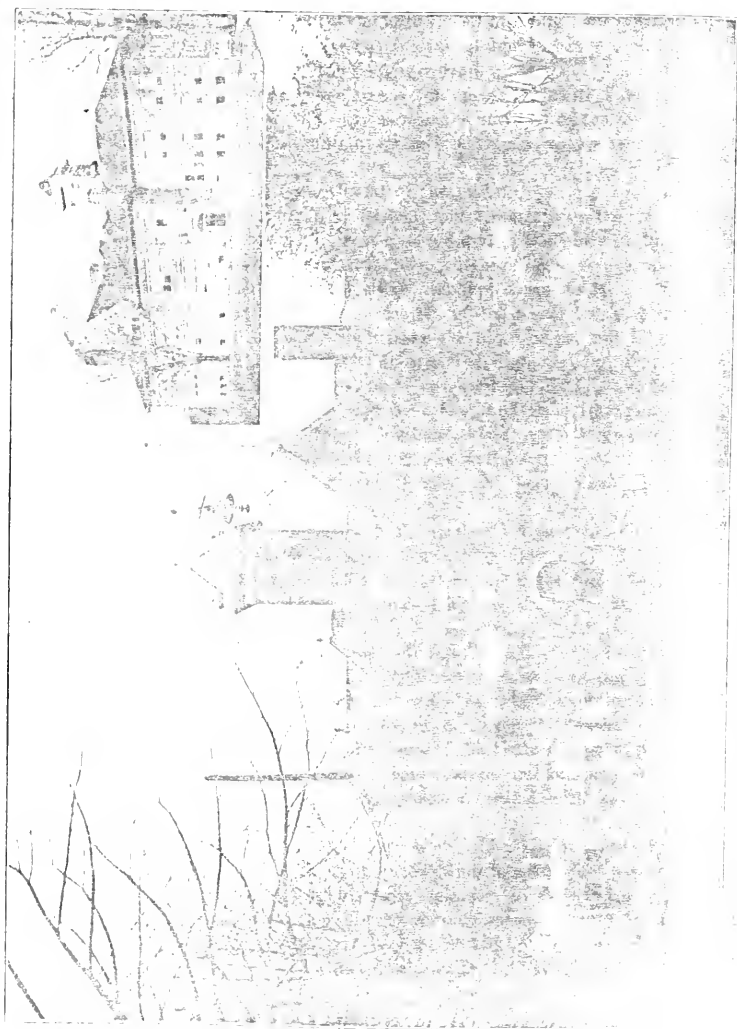
"About 1859 the township trustees, then three in number, leased the old building still standing in the rear of the Hotel Forbis and occupied by Job Wickersham as a feed stable. Previous to that time it had been used as a warehouse for the storage of grain. When plastered and partitioned off, with two rooms below and one above, and equipped with home-made desks and a bell, which surmounted the comb of the roof without belfry or other protection, it was regarded as a palatial institute of learning and served its purpose well for about ten years. Here George Bowman conducted the first graded school in Monticello, and here many of the present residents of Monticello, now from 50 to 70 years old, got most of their education.

## BETTER TOWN SCHOOLS

"In 1869 a more pretentious building was erected on the site of the present high school building. Years later it was enlarged by an addition on the east to meet the demands of the growing school population. In 1891 an additional building was erected on South Main street, which still accommodates the lower grades of that part of the city.









## PRESENT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

"In August, 1905, fire destroyed the high school building, and it was restored by the erection of the present imposing structure. The first floor of this building is set apart for the lower grades. It contains seven commodious and well lighted grade rooms—three on the south side of the corridor, two on the north side, and two in the east end of the building, each with a cloak room adjoining and each equipped with a cabinet for supplies.

"On the second floor at the east end of the building is an assembly room with a floor dimension of 55 by 60 feet, and a rostrum on the west side. Adjoining this room on the west and occupying the place of the old office is a library room. Next is a suite of three office rooms approached through one vestibule. The superintendent's room is 16 by 25 feet in size. Perhaps the most striking feature of the whole building is the reception room on this floor, which takes the place of the old dark corridor. Here is a hall 16 by 60 feet in size, well lighted from above and flanked on the south side by a cloak room extending its full length and separated from the main room only by a low wall, from which columns rise at intervals to the ceiling. South of this are two large recitation rooms and one grade room. The latter is in the southwest corner of the building and is used by the eighth grade. On the north side are three recitation rooms.

"On the third floor are the physical, chemical and biological laboratories, three large rooms with the necessary laboratory equipment, plumbing, etc. These rooms connect with a lecture room on the same floor, which is lighted with a skylight and furnished with raised seats, making a delightful little amphitheater.

"All the rooms in the building are well lighted and well arranged, and nobody can view the work of the architects without realizing that they understood all the modern requirements in school architecture. Every sanitary precaution has been observed, and even the blackboards are provided with closed troughs which receive the chalk dust and prevent it from circulating in the rooms. Toilet rooms are on every floor and also in the basement. Each floor is also supplied with sanitary drinking fountains.

"The basement contains the heating plant. The air is heated by steam coils and forced to every part of the building by a ten-foot revolving fan. This is supplemented by steam radiators in different parts of the building. Every room is supplied with an automatic heat regulator, by which the temperature may be kept at any degree desired by simply turning a button. The whole building is lighted with electric lights.

"In the basement, besides the space used for the heating plant and toilet rooms, there are several large rooms that are utilized for play rooms in bad weather and for luncheon rooms. One room in the northwest corner is especially well lighted and will be used hereafter for work in the manual training department."



## STATISTICS OF THE PRESENT

The schools of Monticello are now under the superintendency of James M. Leffel, who succeeded Mr. C. F. Jackman in 1914. The system is maintained at the high standard required by the educator of today, and the following figures indicate its present status: Enrollment, 600; average attendance, 498; number of pupils in the high school, 170; number in the fifth to eighth grammar grades, inclusive, 189; number in the first to fourth primary grades, inclusive, 241. The average attendance at the high school building on West Broadway is: High school, 151; grades, 271; and at the South Side School, 76.

## SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHERS

Superintendents since 1883: J. G. Royer, — Sinclair, B. F. Moore, J. W. Hamilton (1890-1912), C. F. Jackman, and James M. Leffel.

Present high school faculty: J. M. Leffel, superintendent, physics; H. E. Elder, principal and teacher of science; Miss Grace Lowe, domestic science; J. H. Bachtenkircher, penmanship; Miss Louise Miller, music and art, and Perry Patmore, manual training and agriculture, also supervisors for grades and high school; A. R. Staggs, history and physiology; Miss Ethel Roberts, Latin and English; G. W. Gray, public speaking; Miss Emma Shealy, English, and C. T. Steward, mathematics.

West building teachers: Grade 1, Miss Ora Orton, 38 pupils; grade 2, Miss Blanche Cullem, 40 pupils; grade 3, Miss Margaret Roach; grade 4, Miss Lida Wigmore; grade 5, Miss Mary Laurie; grade 6, Miss Flossie Thompson; grade 7, Miss Isabel O'Dowd; grade 8, J. F. Duncan.

South building teachers: Grade 1, Miss Jennie Burns; grade 2, Miss Martha Watts.

Possibly the most important departure of the school policy is the establishment of vocational training as a part of the high school curriculum. In September, 1915, a course in vocational agriculture was offered to all students who care to prepare themselves for scientific farming. Students will be allowed to enter this department who do not care to take work in any other branches offered in the high school. Students taking the regular high school course will be allowed to take work in the agricultural department. Mr. O. E. Ackerson, who is employed for the calendar year, will spend his time on the farms or truck gardens in the city, working with the agricultural students during the summer months while school is not in session. School authorities are very anxious that great benefit may come to the whole county from this new project.

## THE GRADES BUILDINGS

The west building was originally erected in July, 1869. It was burned in August, 1905, and immediately rebuilt at an approximate cost of \$50,000.

The south building was completed in February, 1892, at a cost of \$10,000.



## SYSTEM AS A WHOLE

The Monticello public schools are equipped with commodious buildings; which comply with all the requirements of the state laws regarding school structures. The school has thorough equipment throughout the grades and high school.

Since 1914 the school has been a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The association maintains high standards of scholarship for instructors, requires thorough equipment of laboratories, limits sizes of classes, requires a broad curriculum and a wholesome school spirit in all schools belonging to the association. All graduates of high schools in the association are admitted to colleges in the West and many in the East without entrance examinations.

## THE MONTICELLO PUBLIC LIBRARY

In the early part of the year of 1903 some little agitation was started with reference to a public library. J. W. Hamille, superintendent of the public schools, contributed occasional articles to the newspapers, setting forth its need and urging that some action be taken in the matter. Assisted by the ministers of the churches, particularly the Rev. H. G. Rice, of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Hamille succeeded in interesting the business men. As a result, a subscription paper was started, and fifty-two men, each subscribing \$8.00, made the \$416 required by law for the organizing of a public library.

Under the law of March 4, 1904, the following persons were appointed to serve as a board of trustees: W. H. Hamille and Mrs. T. F. Palmer, appointed by the town council; J. W. Hamilton and Mrs. M. T. Didlake, by the school board, and Dr. J. D. McCann, Mrs. E. R. Brown and Miss Anne Magee by the judge of the Circuit Court.

These persons met in the county clerk's office and were duly qualified on the evening of April 6, 1903. An organization was formed by electing W. H. Hamille, president; Mrs. M. T. Didlake, vice president; Mrs. T. F. Palmer, secretary, and Miss Anne Magee, treasurer. Miss Magee was appointed to collect the subscription, and she proved a successful collector.

The county commissioners, represented by Messrs. Inskeep and Ball, tendered the use of the two northwest rooms on the ground floor of the courthouse for the library until permanent quarters were obtained. One of the first steps taken by the board was to have these rooms put in proper condition for library purposes. Miss Mercia Hogland, who was then state organizer of the Public Library Commission, made some suggestions in regard to the furnishing.

The floors of both rooms were covered with plain brown linoleum, and the first room to be used as a stack and circulating room was papered in a soft shade of tan. Shelves were placed on three side walls, and a kitchen table was bought of E. R. Brown to serve for a charging desk. The record room, to be used for a reading room, was papered in plain

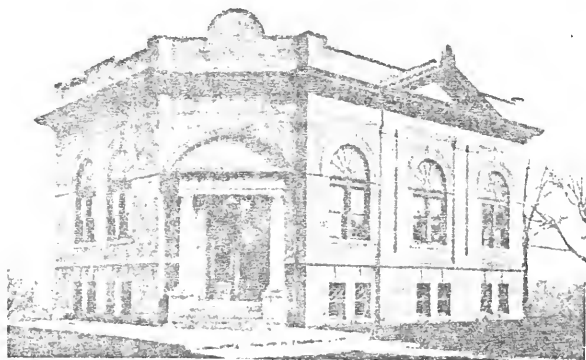




dark green. The furniture consisted of a magazine case made by George Coen, a leather top library table, and a half dozen chairs.

On April 28, 1906, Miss Hogland was invited to meet with and advise the board as to the proper course to pursue. She advised the adoption of the Dewey decimal system of classification, named the qualifications to be considered in electing a librarian, and discussed the question of books. W. H. Hamelle presented a list of seventy books, from which fifty were to be selected by the board as a gift from his private library.

It was decided to canvass the town for like donations, and a circular letter, which read as follows, was sent to each citizen: "The members of the library board wish to assure you that no effort is being spared to put the Monticello Public Library upon a substantial and permanent footing. The people are manifesting a lively interest in the enterprise,



PUBLIC LIBRARY, MONTICELLO

and they are exceedingly anxious to see the library opened to the public at the earliest possible day.

"Under the operation of the law the public funds will not be available for a year or more. The money subscribed will suffice only for the equipment of the rooms and the partial remuneration of a librarian, and the purchase of a limited number of books. In view of these facts, the library board has decided to have a 'book shower' Saturday, June 6, 1906. They have also decided to make a personal appeal to the citizens of Monticello to contribute to the library as many books as they feel able to give.

"Only standard books will be accepted. Paper-back books are not wanted. Every book donated will be labeled showing the donor's name. The library rooms will be open Tuesday and Thursday of next week from 1 to 8 p. m., at which time books will be received. The great 'shower' will occur Saturday, June 6.



"In closing, may we not ask you to assist in starting this library at once by contributing such books as you can give and such as you think desirable?"

Very respectfully,

"THE PUBLIC LIBRARY."

Over 800 books were received as a result of the canvass. The greatest number of books received from any one person was received from E. B. Sellers, the number being 173. Many of the books given by Mr. Sellers were recent books of fiction, and they were of great service in creating an interest in reading.

Judge T. F. Palmer gave the American Encyclopedia, which proved to be one of the most useful gifts to the library.

Among others who gave many good books were W. S. Bushnell, Charles C. Spencer, W. S. Pierce, E. R. Brown, Mrs. Carrie Hartman, and Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Rice.

A letter was sent to Mrs. Bowman, then residing in Canada with her daughter, asking for a donation from the library of her husband, Capt. George Bowman. She responded to the request the following winter by having her daughter, Mrs. Anna Hoffman, of Bloomington, Indiana, make a selection from the books stored in the Bowman home on South Main Street. Many of the books are in fine print, some in Greek, Latin and middle English, but they are valuable as representing the library of a man whose name stands for education in the history of White County.

Mr. Hamelle made the first purchase of books for the library. The board authorized him to expend \$35 for such books as deemed necessary.

Miss Anne Magee, Mrs. E. R. Brown and J. W. Hamilton were appointed as a committee to pass upon all books received. J. W. Hamilton, Mrs. M. T. Dillake and Mrs. E. R. Brown were appointed a committee on constitution and by-laws.

It was through the suggestion of Reverend and Mrs. Dodd, of the Christian Church, that Nora Gardner was elected librarian. They were personal friends of Miss Gardner's, and knowing her appreciation of books, suggested her name to Mrs. Dillake and prevailed upon her to apply for the position. She was elected and has done fine and faithful service. Miss Gardner spent a few weeks in a library studying cataloging, and Miss Katharine Fisher, of the Attica Public Library, spent three weeks in Monticello instructing Miss Gardner and helping her catalog the books which had been presented and purchased.

The two had many interesting experiences in going over the books which had been given. One day, after looking over a basketful that had been brought in, Miss Fisher remarked: "Are the people of this town as religious as their books? I never saw so many 200's."

On the afternoon of September 1, 1903, the Monticello Public Library was opened to the public. That morning the women of the board met in the library rooms, mopped the floors, washed the windows, dusted the furniture and added to the attractiveness of the rooms by placing a few potted plants in the windows. With 1,025 newly labeled books, it seemed like a hopeful enterprise.



Among the books which had been given, or purchased there was no Bible. Someone suggested that they could not open a public library without the King James translation, so Doctor McCann and Mr. Hamelle went to the McConnell drug store and purchased a handsome Bible, which they gave to the library. A number of persons visited the library that day, and twenty-one books were lent. The undertaking was a greater one than either the library board or the librarian dreamed of on that sunny afternoon. But Atlas could never have carried the world if he had known the size of it.

At the end of the first year there were 1,455 volumes in the library, 452 reader's cards had been issued, and the circulation had been 6,667. The second year there was a decrease in the circulation of 161 volumes, although the interest seemed as good. The librarian frequently had a "story hour" for the children. The stories were usually taken from the classics; sometimes they were told, but more often they were read.

During the three years that the home of the library was in the courthouse the hours were from 1 to 5 every afternoon of the week, with the additional hours of from 9 to 12 on Saturday morning.

The Winona Club and the University Club held their meetings in the library rooms.

In April, 1905, J. W. Hamilton was elected president of the board to succeed Mr. Hamelle, and Dr. J. D. McCann, vice president, to succeed Mrs. Didlake.

The question of a donation from Andrew Carnegie began to be agitated, and on December 12, 1905, the president of the board was instructed to write to Mr. Carnegie and ascertain what steps should be taken. On January 20, 1906, an offer of \$10,000 for a building was made by Mr. Carnegie, provided the board would ensure a building site and \$1,000 yearly for its support. After the town council had passed on the appropriation of \$1,000 yearly for library purposes, the question of a site for a building aroused much interest.

Larkin Lowe offered a lot north of his residence on North Main Street; A. A. Anheir and I. Dreifus one on West Broadway. The lot north of the Presbyterian Church was considered, but the price seemed beyond reach. The most favored lot, that at the end of East Broadway, because of its central and attractive location, was purchased in 1906 of Adam Bennett, a resident of Long Beach, California.

Mr. Carnegie's gift for a building was then accepted. Charles E. Kendrick, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was employed as architect, and the contract for building was let to Mr. Levindouski, of Lafayette. J. W. Hamilton, Dr. J. D. McCann and W. H. Hamelle constituted the building committee.

While the building was in progress, the librarian succeeded in organizing all of the clubs of the town into a Local Union for the purpose of furnishing the new library. The story of how this organization made over \$500 is both interesting and amusing. To mention "A Fate of Pleasure" to any of its members brings forth a smile, but the women who carried out the enterprise deserve the highest praise, and they have



left a monument of their work which will last for years to come. They presented the library with three reading tables, twenty-eight chairs, a charging desk, a newspaper rack, a magazine case, an umbrella rack, a grate for the fireplace, three dozen mission folding chairs for the lecture room, and \$11 for a book fund. Later the Nickel Plate Club presented the handsome clock, and the University Extension Club the picture "The Capture of Andromache." When the building was completed the University Extension Club was given the use of it for a three days' art exhibit.

In August the library was moved from the courthouse to its new home. There was no formal opening, but when all was in order the doors were thrown open to the public, and thus began the real life of the Monticello Public Library.

In 1908 Mr. Hamelle was succeeded on the board by J. P. Simons. In 1909 Mr. Simons was elected president of the board; Dr. J. D. McCann, vice president, and Mrs. Didlake, secretary.

In 1910 the library board offered to open the public library to Union Township, if it cared to take advantage of township extension. A petition to that effect from the township to the advisory board failed to pass. It was repeated in 1913 with the same result. Persons living outside of the city limits have always been granted the privileges of the library for a small sum.

Mrs. Brown and Mr. Hamilton were always interested in the library. There were very few days that Mr. Hamilton did not visit the library to see how the work was progressing. He endeavored to make his teachers realize what it might do for them. In 1913 Doctor McCann was elected president of the board, and Mr. Simons, vice president, the librarian to act as secretary.

The lecture room has been used for many interesting occasions. Among them was an exhibit of the paintings and drawings of Pansy Hartman, of Toledo, Ohio. The organizations holding regular meetings there are the Winona Club, Men's Bible League, University Extension Club, Camp Fire Girls, White County Historical Society, and a Lutheran service held once a month.

There are now 3,369 books catalogued and in use, 119 bound volumes of magazines, over 1,100 unbound magazines and pamphlets, and three daily newspapers, one weekly paper and twenty-one current magazines. The circulation for 1913 was 8,789 books and 619 magazines.

The library hours have been from 1 to 2 P. M. on week days, and from 10 A. M. to 9 P. M. on Saturday, and during the winter months from 2 to 5 P. M. on Saturday.

There have been both sunny days and cloudy days in the building up of the library. The moving picture show, the automobile, and the revival of hand-made embroidery and lace have to some extent thwarted the influence of books.

The first decade of the Monticello Public Library has passed. Just what the influence has been cannot be estimated. Approaching the coming decade, we see a readjustment and a building up along new lines,





for a library is not only a storehouse of the records of the past but one of new ideas for immediate and future use.

### GOOD WATER AND A GOOD SYSTEM

Monticello has been very fortunate in the construction of her water-works and the building of the entire system, which have brought to the doors of the most modest citizen an unfailing supply of pure water. The town has been not only fortunate in the discovery of such a supply, but in obtaining the services of competent and careful engineers and business men from the very first. The builders, the town management and the water itself have all contributed to the health, comfort and good name of Monticello.

The system was installed in 1895 under the direction of the town



WATER WORKS, MONTICELLO

board, which was then composed of Sanford Johnsonbaugh, Frank P. Berkey, Henry C. Crouch, Thad E. Hanway and Michael Howard, with Charles C. Spencer as attorney. At the foot of the river bluff on the north side of Washington Street they struck a gushing spring, the supply of which still seems inexhaustible. At least it flows as vigorously as when first tapped, and the analysis of the state chemist, who labels it "This is good water," shows the following composition: Albuminoid ammonia, .001 per cent; free ammonia, .027; iron, .18; chlorine, .7; total solids, 1.2; fixed solids, 32.2. There are no traces of nitrates, lead or colon bacilli, the last-named announcement by the state chemist being evidence that the water contains nothing which could cause disorders of digestion or fevers which originate in infection through the digestive tract.

Complete, the total cost of the plant was \$28,000, and the town never made a better investment. Later expenses made necessary a bond issue



of \$35,000 to meet the indebtedness. The plans were furnished by Consulting Engineer W. S. Shields, of Chicago, and the system installed by Webster P. Bushnell, local engineer. The original plan provided for about four miles of mains, but it has been much expanded to meet the wants of a growing community.

The brick well, or reservoir, which encloses the spring, is 12 feet in diameter, and the town consumes an average of 225,000 gallons daily, although the capacity of the works is much more. The pumping station, at the foot of the bluff on Washington Street, is a neat brick building with a 70 foot smoke stack, and is equipped with two Worthington engines.

Pressure is supplied by a standpipe 110 feet high and of 126,000



Courtesy of Monticello Herald

#### ELECTRIC PLANT AND DAM

gallons capacity, located at the highest point on the bluff. Direct pressure is added in case of fire, and on a test a stream has been thrown over the courthouse tower, about 140 feet in height.

In the summer of 1915 eleven 3-inch wells were driven from 10 to 20 feet in depth in the bottom of the well, and these were connected with the pumps, when it was found they would supply an inexhaustible supply of pure water which at the well had a temperature of about 42° Fahr.

Thus the water service is not only the strongest protection the city has against fire, but is its chief conservator of the public health - meaning the health of the men, women and children of Monticello.



## THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

There are other agencies under private control and promotion which have so large an influence on the well-being of the people that they justly come under the classification of public institutions. Among them none are more worthy of commendation than the telephone system, which is already a power for efficiency, convenience and comfort, and acknowledged by all progressive communities to almost fall under the head of necessities. In 1911 the Monticello telephone exchange erected a handsome two-story stone building on the north side of the public square for the accommodation of its operatives and the public. Its cable system comprised 25,000 feet of underground and aerial wires, and was installed by the Dean Electric Company, of Elyria, Ohio. The switchboard has an ultimate capacity of 2,000 local lines.

## RIVERVIEW PARK

What is known as Riverview Park, and for many earlier years as Edgewater, is managed by an association of citizens. It has a clubhouse and has been more or less improved. It is naturally a beautiful stretch of ground, opposite the center of the city on the eastern shores of the Tippecanoe, and must eventually become recreation grounds of such general resort as to reach the plane of a "public institution." The park is located in what is known as East Monticello, which was laid out in 1867 by Sheldon Whitman, one of the early settlers of the county, who is now a respected citizen of Monticello.

## THE REYNOLDS' ADDITIONS

In the early part of the same year that East Monticello was platted (January, 1867) James C. Reynolds made his second addition of twenty-eight lots to the town. This addition was immediately west of and adjoining his first addition and filling the space between his first addition and the west addition. The street on the north was named Foster Street in honor of William Foster, superintendent of the Logansport, Peoria & Burlington Railroad, and was a continuation of North Street from Illinois Street west through the first and second additions, as well as the west addition to its western line. Railroad Street was also extended north through the addition to Foster Street.

Prior to the laying out and platting of this second addition, Messrs. Zachariah VanBuskirk, Dr. William S. Haymond, Thomas Bushnell and Cassius M. Fisk, all residents of the town, purchased the interests of William M. Jenners and the heirs of Jacob Walker, in all the lots remaining unsold in Walker, Jenners and Reynolds' addition, and offered them for sale at an advance over former prices.

On the 21th of March, 1874, Mr. Reynolds made his third addition, comprising all but two acres, before donated by him to the school trustees of the town and on which the school building was erected, of a forty-



acre tract of land adjoining the town on the west, and south of Main Cross Street. Mr. Reynolds had purchased a block of lots in Walker, Jenners and Reynolds' addition north of the railroad and secured their vacation, which he remumbered and included the lots so numbered in his third addition.

On the 24th day of October, 1874, he made a fourth addition to the town, beginning on the north line of the corporation and running south on the center of the highway intersecting Main Street, to the north line of section 33, thence east to the river, thence north with the meanderings of the river to the corporation line, and thence west to the place of beginning, containing 100 acres, and being much larger than any addition ever made to the town.



Courtesy of Monticello Herald

#### VIEW FROM THE MONTICELLO STAND PIPE

On the 6th day of October, 1883, John W. Christy, administrator of his father's estate, made an addition of sixty lots to the town on the east side of Main Street and adjoining the addition of Walker, Jenners and Reynolds on the north.

#### TURNER'S ADDITION

On the 5th day of May, 1886, John M. Turner, a son of William Turner, one of the first settlers, who is now a resident of the township and an active and prosperous farmer though more than eighty years of age, and Anna E. Turner, his wife, a daughter of Dr. Harrison P. Anderson, also an old settler, but now deceased, made an addition of ten lots to the town on land lying between the highway intersecting Main Street and the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad (Monon Route), and west of and opposite the northern part of James C. Reynolds' fourth addition.





## CLEVELAND STREET CREATED

On the 2nd day of June, 1887, Henry P. Bennett, an old settler, long a resident of the town, made an addition of eighty lots in the extreme southern part of the town east of the extension of Main Street to the corporation line on the south, which is the southern boundary of the addition. Two additional streets were opened through the addition, from east to west, intersecting Main Street. The street south, and near the center of the addition, was named Cleveland Street, in honor of Mr. Cleveland, who was then President of the United States, and the other, on the north line of the addition, was named North Street. Tippecanoe and Water streets were extended south through the addition to the corporation line.

## HUGHES' ADDITION

The addition succeeding the Bennett addition was made on the 27th day of August, 1889, by the heirs and legatees of Rowland Hughes, deceased: Mary Failing and husband, Peter R. Failing, Sarah C. Crouch and husband, Jephthah Crouch, Clara A. Purecupile and husband, John J. Purecupile, and Cornelia Crouch and husband, Henry C. Crouch. It consisted of forty-eight lots on the west side of Main Street and east of the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railway, and immediately north of a part of Walker, Jenners and Reynolds' addition, and a part of James C. Reynolds' third addition.

## COCHELL'S AND FRASER'S ADDITIONS

On the 18th day of November, 1889, Abner Cochell, a son of John Cochell, one of the first settlers, made an addition of sixteen lots to the town. Mr. Cochell's addition is located between Mr. Bennett's addition on the south and Mr. Christy's addition on the north, and extends from Main Street on the west to Water Street on the east. Tippecanoe Street is extended south through the addition of the same width as in the original plat.

On the 28th day of May, 1891, Lincoln M. Fraser, a son of William Fraser, and grandson of Mahlon Fraser and John Roberts, who were among the very first settlers in the township, made an addition of nine lots to the town. Mr. Fraser's addition consists of three tiers of lots on the west side of Main Street immediately opposite the south end of that part of Christy's addition fronting west on Main Street.

On the 4th day of June, 1889, Rev. George W. Washburn, long a resident of the town, and pastor of the Baptist congregation at Monticello, made an addition of five lots to the town. His addition is located immediately north of and adjoining the east part of Christy's addition fronting north on Ohio Street, which is extended through his addition to its east line, its west line being Water Street extended north to the intersection of Ohio Street.



## McCUAIG'S ADDITION

On the 1st day of November, 1890, David McCuaig, an old and highly respected resident of the town, lately deceased, made an addition of twenty lots. Mr. McCuaig's addition is immediately south of the largest part of James C. Reynolds' third addition, adjoining the Walker, Jenners and Reynolds addition on the east, and extends west to the corporation line.

## DREIFUS AND HAUGH'S ADDITION

On the 13th day of September, 1894, Messrs. Dreifus and Haugh, two citizens of Delphi, made an addition of 120 lots to the town. This addition is located on the north side of Main Cross Street and west of and adjoining the west addition, running thence to the corporation line.

## MCLEAN AND BREARLEY'S ADDITION

On the 27th day of October, 1895, William E. McLean and Jones Brearley, trustees for the Tippecanoe Canning Company, made an addition of ten lots to the town. This addition is located on the west side of Main Street, opposite the north end of Bennett's addition, and extends west to the east line of Illinois Street if extended south. A street 60 feet wide, named by the trustees South Street, is opened to the public on the north side of the addition, and an alley running north and south passes midway between the lots.

## LATER ADDITIONS TO THE TOWNSITE

Alva J. Martin's addition was made August 15, 1899. It comprises lots 1 to 9, inclusive, in the north end of the town between Railroad and Illinois streets.

Martin's second addition, on the east side of Illinois Street, lots 1 to 7, was made September 12, 1902.

On December 16, 1912, was made William Innes' addition to the south end of the town, embracing lots 1 to 24.

Thomas W. O'Connor's addition to the southeast end of the site, which covered lots 1 to 36, and A, B and C lots, was made on the 17th of March, 1903.

Two additions to the south end, lots 1 to 11 and 12 to 30, were made November 21, 1905, by Charles A. and Sarah J. Holladay, and in the same locality Mary Failing added twelve lots to the town.

## CITIZENS' ADDITION

On June 13, 1907, a large addition, known as the Citizens', was made north of the Pennsylvania and west of the Monon tracks. Bernard A. Vogel was trustee of the association which platted it, and the tract covered lots 1 to 152.



## ADDITIONS TO THE CITY

The Industrial addition to the northwestern part of the city was made August 17, 1909, and consisted of lots 1 to 97.

On the 15th of February, 1910, was made the Citizens' second addition to northwest Monticello, with Charles W. Davis, trustee, which comprised lots 153 to 164.

J. M. Richey's addition in the south end was platted May 24, 1910, and consists of lots 1 to 7.

The original site of Monticello and the additions thereto cover an area of 1,000 acres, or over one and a half square miles.

## CITY HALL

The city is well paved, well built, and clean, and, as we have seen, is supplied with pure water through a modern system of distribution. It has also a carefully conducted health department.

Monticello has had two good mayors—Thomas W. O'Connor and Benjamin F. Carr.

The city hall, which stands on the north side of Washington Street and half a block west of Main, is a handsome and convenient brick structure erected in 1904, at a cost of about \$12,000. It is the handiwork, both as to plans and construction, of Samuel Young, a local architect, and, as its corner-stone testifies, was erected while John H. Miller, Alvin Witz, Charles Roth, F. B. Robison and the late J. H. Henderson were members of the board of trustees. The marshal's office and jail, as well as quarters for the fire apparatus, are on the ground floor, the second story being given up to the council chamber and offices for the local departments.

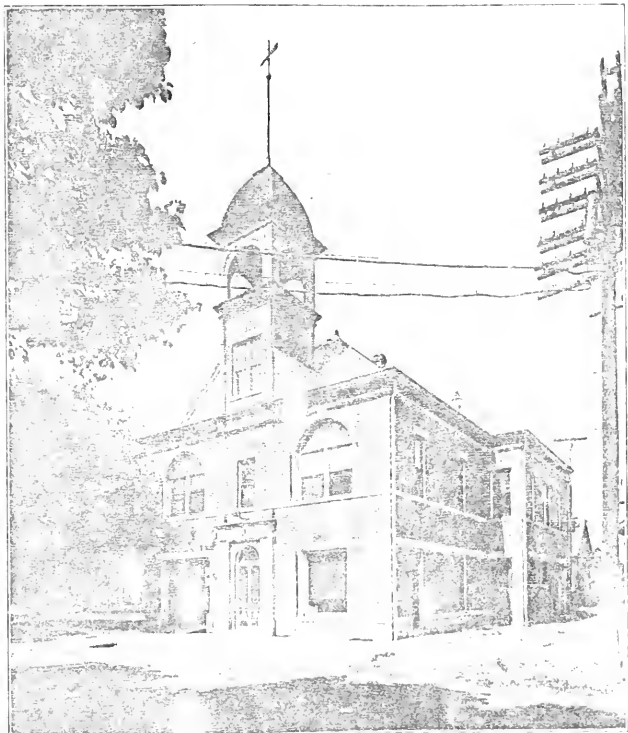
## IMPROVEMENTS OF WATER POWER

In 1906 a new corporation, the Tippecanoe Electric and Power Company, began to improve the dam and the water power at the county seat. At the east end of the new and improved dam three flood gates were constructed to regulate the supply of water. Their foundation was gradually undermined by the strong current, and on the night of August 14, 1910, they were washed away. Instead of replacing the flood gates, the dam was extended the full width of the river, another fifty feet. The part of the dam thus extended was three feet lower than the other portion, and the flow of water was regulated by flashboards set on the crest of the dam. These, with the old race on the east side, which was then utilized as a spillway, assured better control of the water supply than under the old plan of flood gates. The apron of the entire dam was covered with concrete at that time, and the channel of the river deepened on the west side. The latter improvement had the effect of carrying the water away from the wheels and increasing the water head.



## PRESENT-DAY INDUSTRIES

All these improvements, with the continuous upkeep of the enterprise, have constituted an unfailing assurance of electrical power and light for not only the present, but the future of many years. Among the chief manufactories which have taken advantage of such extended facilities for supplying industrial power are the Tippecanoe Thread



Courtesy of Monticello Herald

CITY HALL, MONTICELLO

Mills, owned by the Marshall Field estate, of Chicago, and managed by George T. Stevenson. T. H. Reynolds is president, and H. D. James, vice president of the Thread Mills Company, which owns the plant. The industry, which was established in February, 1910, consists of the manufacture of sewing and embroidery threads. An addition to the original plant was made in 1911, and the mills now employ 125 hands and put out \$200,000 worth of threads annually.







VIEW OF THE RIVER FROM THE MONON BRIDGE, TOGA



Besides the Thread Works and the Loughry Mills, the other industries of most importance at Monticello are, perhaps, the Cement Tile Works, the ice cream manufactory, and the Farmers' Elevator, the latter being operated by a co-operative company. The largest and oldest lumber and coal yard is owned and operated by George Biederwolf.

#### FOUR BANKS

The finances of the business and industrial establishments of the city are maintained through four strong institutions, given in the order of their establishment, viz.: The State Bank of Monticello, the Monticello National Bank, the White County Loan, Trust and Savings Company, and the Farmers' State Bank.

#### STATE BANK OF MONTICELLO

In 1890 the Bank of Monticello was organized as a private institution, with a capital of \$5,000 paid in. Robert Parker was first president, Henry Van Voorst, vice president, and Bert Van Voorst, cashier. On October 30, 1895, was organized the State Bank of Monticello, which took over the business of the Bank of Monticello. The capital was increased to \$25,000, and first officers were: Gustavus Lowe, president; John F. Johnson, vice president; Henry Van Voorst, cashier, and Bert Van Voorst, assistant cashier. In November, 1896, Mr. Lowe disposed of his interest in the bank and was succeeded as president by John F. Johnson, and W. M. Elliott, vice president. In 1897 the State Bank purchased the Citizens' Bank, a private banking concern of Monticello, and at that time moved to their present quarters, which was the old Citizens' Bank home, and they have ever since continued there. In 1897 John F. Johnson, the president, who was also at the head of a bank in Logansport, disposed of his holdings in the local bank to a number of citizens and he was succeeded as president by H. A. B. Moorhous. In 1904 Mr. Moorhous was succeeded by J. D. Timmons. In October, 1905, the capital was increased to \$50,000, the officers remaining the same until January, 1910, when Samuel A. Carson succeeded Mr. Timmons as president and has continued as such ever since. In May, 1910, Bert Van Voorst became cashier, succeeding his father, Henry Van Voorst, who had died in the previous month. In January, 1911, the board of directors was increased to seven, and with one exception (in 1912, when Mr. Timmons was succeeded by Mr. Jones Brearley) the directorate has remained unchanged. The financial statement of the bank on March 4, 1915, shows resources of \$309,965.23. Its liabilities include: Capital stock, \$50,000 surplus, \$25,000; discount and exchange, \$14,993.52; deposits, \$312,971.71.

#### MONTICELLO NATIONAL BANK

The Monticello National Bank (the only institution of the kind in White County) was organized April 2, 1902, with Thomas W. O'Connor



(afterward the city's first mayor) as president and William K. O'Connell as vice president and cashier. With the exception that H. D. Shenk has been succeeded by D. D. McCuaig as assistant cashier, there has been no change in management or executive offices. The capital is still \$50,000, and the surplus and profits have increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000; the deposits have reached \$200,000.

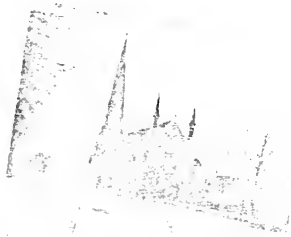
#### WHITE COUNTY LOAN, TRUST AND SAVINGS COMPANY

The White County Loan, Trust and Savings Company was organized August 26, 1905. It lost its first home by fire in February, 1908, and in the following year completed the stone building now occupied opposite the Courthouse Square on Main Street. The company has increased its capital from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and its deposits now average \$200,000; surplus, \$15,000. Present officers: President, George W. Van Alstine; vice president, George M. Biederwolf; secretary-treasurer, John M. Turner. The original officers were as follows: Capt. B. F. Price, president; John M. Turner, secretary-treasurer; A. K. Sills, first vice president, and J. L. Ackerman, second vice president.

#### FARMERS STATE BANK

Farmers State Bank, No. 360, of Monticello, was organized February 2, 1911, and began business April 1, 1911, with \$25,000 capital, on West Broadway. The management bought the present location of Senator Turpie's heir, built thereon a two-story stone building which has been occupied since September 1, 1914. The first and present officers are: President, Jacob D. Timmons; vice president, F. J. White; cashier, B. B. Baker, and assistant cashier, J. A. Anheier.





A GROUP OF WHITE COUNTY CHURCHES





## CHAPTER XXV

### RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND LITERARY

JOHN ROTHROCK, PIONEER DUNKARD—THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—THE OLD AND THE NEW SCHOOLS—SECOND, OR NEW SCHOOL CHURCH—PUBLIC HALL AS WELL AS CHURCH—UNION OF CHURCHES—BUILDING OF THE PRESENT CHURCH—THE METHODIST CHURCH FOUNDED—HOUSES OF WORSHIP—METHODIST PASTORS—THE DUNKARDS—HOW THEY SUPPORTED THE UNION—THE NEW DUNKARDS—THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH—FOUNDED IN MONTICELLO—CHURCH REORGANIZED—PASTORS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH—DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AND THE NEW CHURCH—THE ORPHANS' HOME—SOCIETIES—THE ODD FELLOWS—THE MASONS—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—GRAND ARMY POST—OTHER SOCIETIES—WOMEN'S CLUBS.

If he has followed the course of this history, the reader has noted that the pioneer settlers on the site of the present City of Monticello commenced to arrange for their religious needs before all their physical necessities had been met. It speaks well for the human nature of those times, also, that such longings were relieved by unselfish souls as soon as manifested; two or three had only to gather in His name and some faithful circuit rider, or local elder, would be promptly on hand to expound the gospel to the best of his ability. The field was small, it is true, but the workers were full of zeal, and Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Dunkards, Christians, New Lights and other denominations sought earnestly and patiently for their little bands of worshippers. First they met in private houses, then in schoolhouses—often occupying the same building at different Sundays, or week days, or different hours of the same day; and, as their enterprises prospered or dragged, they would erect separate church buildings, or withdraw from the field awaiting more propitious seasons of harvest.

#### JOHN ROTHROCK, PIONEER DUNKARD

John Rothrock, one of the donors of the land on which the city stands, was a leader and a minister in the Dutch Reform, or Dunkard Church, and was very active in its affairs until his death in 1860. Although his followers made no special effort to increase the formal membership of the society, its annual meetings, or out-of-door revivals, were largely attended, even by many Dunkards from a distance. As Mr. Rothrock was comparatively wealthy and the local members of the church were



industrious and fore-handed, the society maintained for some years a strong and good influence on the community.

The Baptists and Presbyterians organized classes not long after the Dunkards took the field under Elder Rothrock, and in 1836, as has already been noted, the Methodists founded a society. The Presbyterians and the Methodists have maintained their organizations to the present time.

#### THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church was the first of the religious bodies to obtain such a firm standing as warranted the calling of a resident pastor. Rev. Alexander Williamson, but an even more important event in the history of local Presbyterianism was the coming to town of the eloquent evangelist, Rev. Samuel N. Steele. As an advocate of New School Presbyterianism he inaugurated a series of revivals in January, 1843, and within two months had gathered a society of nearly a hundred members from all the other societies which had formed classes—Baptists, Old School Presbyterians and Dunkards.

#### THE OLD AND THE NEW SCHOOLS

The Old and the New School Presbyterians commenced building churches about the same time in 1843; but the history of the periods of disunion and subsequent union has been so well written by A. R. Orton that the writer is pleased to condense from one of his articles.

In the spring of 1836 the Presbytery of Logansport was petitioned by a number of members of the Presbyterian Church residing in White County that a church be organized in Monticello. The names of the petitioners were Zebulon Sheetz, Margaret Sheetz, Ann B. Sheetz, Austin C. Sheetz, Margaret Rees, Elizabeth Rees, Beersheba Cowan, Rhoda Cowan, Beersheba E. Cowan, Okey S. Johnson, Rebecca Johnson, Harriet Cowan, John Rees, Maria Wilson, Catherine Johnson, Martha Rees, Mary Ann Parker, Mary Ann Allen, Asa Allen and Lewis Dawson.

On May 7, 1836, at the house of John Wilson, who lived about a mile west of Monticello in a log cabin on the farm now known as the Moore Farm, the Presbyterian Church of Monticello was organized by the Rev. John Stocker, then of Delphi, Indiana, assisted by Rev. Michael Hummer, of Lafayette; Zebulon Sheetz, a ruling elder in Bloomery Church, Winchester Presbytery, Virginia, was chosen elder. On the day of the organization, John Wilson and Jonathan Harbolt were received as members upon profession of faith, and were elected and ordained ruling elders, and on the same day Isaac Reynolds and Joseph Scott, who had been elders in their eastern churches, were chosen to serve in the same capacity in the Monticello organization.

#### SECOND, OR NEW SCHOOL, CHURCH

On January 21, 1843, thirteen members from the First, or Old School Presbyterian Church, organized the Second, or New School Church under



Rev. Samuel N. Steele, as noted. These original members were Thomas Downey, Catherine Downey, John Wilson, Maria Wilson, Okey S. Johnson, Rebecca Johnson, Ellis H. Johnson, Catherine Rothrock, Mrs. Mary Reynolds, Mary Jane Reynolds, Miss Catherine Johnson, Mrs. Elizabeth Burns and Sarah Kepperling. From January until October Mr. Steele so added to the membership of the church that he had about a hundred, and although the Old School Church started a house of worship about the same time that the Second Church got one underway, the latter was the first to be completed—the pioneer structure of the kind in White County.

#### PUBLIC HALL AS WELL AS CHURCH

The old house of worship stood on the site of the church now occupied, and served its special, as well as not a few general purposes, until January 18, 1874. At the time it was built, and for some time after, it was considered not only a great convenience for worshipers, but for public meetings of many kinds; it was sometimes used as a court room, and in that day was considered a valuable public improvement.

The First Church did not complete its building until 1846. It stood upon the site of what was afterward occupied by McCuiag's livery stable. After the union of the First and Second churches in 1867, it was sold to the Baptists, who moved the building to the east side of Bluff street south of Jefferson Street, but some years ago it was torn down.

Following Rev. John Stocker, who organized the original church, came Rev. A. T. Rankin and Rev. Alexander Williamson—the latter, in 1839, as the first resident pastor. Mr. Williamson occupied the pulpit when the division occurred, and was succeeded in the Old School Church by such pastors as Rev. Jesse Edwards, son-in-law of Zebulon Sheetz, Rev. J. M. Wampler, Rev. Robert Irwin, Rev. W. P. Kouts and Rev. S. R. Seawright.

Rev. William M. Cheever came to the Second Church as its first regular pastor in the fall of 1843, following the Steele revivals, and his successor, Rev. G. D. Miller, held the pastorate for nine years. Rev. B. F. Neal served about a year, and Rev. H. C. McBride a full decade. Rev. Edwin Black, Rev. William Wilmer, Rev. Amos Jones were in charge before the union.

#### UNION OF CHURCHES

Rev. S. R. Seawright took charge of the Old School Church in May, 1867, and a few months afterward the pulpit of the New School, or Second Church, having become vacant, it was proposed that the two bodies become one in fact as they had in spirit. Although they began to worship together in the New School church building, no organic union was effected until April, 1870, at that time the Second Church received permission from the New School Presbytery to be transferred to the Old School. The transfer was made a few months in advance of the completed union of the two General Assemblies at Pittsburgh, and in



May, 1870, Mr. Seawright was installed as pastor of the united local church, since which time six pastors have had charge of the work, and in the following order, Revs. John B. Smith, Sol C. Dickey, George L. Knox, H. G. Rice, Charles J. Armentrout and Fred W. Backemeyer.

#### BUILDING OF THE PRESENT CHURCH

In the meantime another church building had been commenced. Its construction was begun at the northwest corner of West Broadway and Illinois, in the spring of 1873, under the supervision of the building committee, Rev. S. R. Seawright, J. C. Reynolds and George Uhl. It was occupied for regular services in January, 1874, but the tower and entire exterior was not completed until 1878, and the auditorium was not considered fully prepared for dedication until December, 1886. The church, a large and handsome brick edifice of Gothic design, cost about \$17,000, and its dedication also marked the semi-centennial of the founding of the original society.

Since then, or for nearly thirty years, the Presbyterian Church of Monticello has steadily progressed. It has a membership of 300 and is now under the pastorate of Rev. Fred W. Backemeyer, who succeeded Rev. C. J. Armentrout in December, 1913.

#### THE METHODIST CHURCH FOUNDED

*Ch. church, Monticello*  
The origin of Methodism in Monticello dates back to the year 1836, when a class of seven was formed at the store and tavern of a Mr. Orwig, on the site now occupied by Thomas W. O'Connor's residence, opposite the Public Library on Bluff Street. The members of this first Methodist society were Richard Worthington and wife Mary, Silas Cowger and wife Ruth, Rebecca and Sarah A. Cowger, and Rev. Hachaliah Vreedenburg held services for them. Mr. Worthington was the class leader. At that time Monticello was a Methodist mission and was thus supplied until 1850; then as a circuit appointment until about 1860, when it became a station of the Northwest Indiana Conference. As a mission it was in the Crawfordsville, Logansport and Lafayette districts; as a circuit in the Lafayette and Delphi districts, and as a station has been at different times in the Lafayette, Battle Ground, Monticello, Valparaiso and South Bend districts. It is at present in the Lafayette District of the Northwest Indiana Conference.

#### HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Religious services were at first held at private houses in Monticello but after several years the attendance and membership became too large to be thus accommodated, and the schoolhouse was then made the place of assembling, in common with other religious denominations of the village. In 1850 the society secured a church home by the erection of a frame building on the northwest corner of Main and Marion streets.





just north of the Reynolds Block. It was sold to the Christian Church in 1887, and the edifice now occupied at the southwest corner of Main and Harrison streets was dedicated on August 26th of that year.

#### METHODIST PASTORS

From 1836 until 1850, inclusive, or while the Monticello society was a mission, it was served by Hachaliah Vreedenburg, John H. Bruce, Enoch Wood, J. J. Cooper, Jacob Coleclazer, Benjamin T. Griffith, John Edwards, Allen D. Beasley, Nathan S. Worden, J. W. Burns, S. N. Campbell, Matthew Fennimore and John Leach; while as a circuit, 1851-59, by R. H. Calvert, Lucas Nebeker, Jacob Cozad, N. L. Green, Harvey S. Shaw, Thomas E. Webb and Andrew J. Sheridan; and since it became a station, in 1860, by B. Wilson Smith, Charles B. Mock, Ferris Pierce, Samuel M. Hayes, John H. Cissel, John L. Boyd, Enoch Holdstock, John B. DeMotte, John E. Newhouse, David Holmes (D. D.), J. A. Clearwaters, Henry C. Neal, Oliver C. Haskell, W. G. Vessels, Conrad S. Burgner, Thomas Mason, James Johnson, W. P. McKinsey, W. B. Slutz, Charles A. Brooke (D. D.), Isaac Dale, A. T. Briggs, A. H. DeLong, S. P. Colvin (D. D.), J. M. Brown, J. B. Rutter and H. L. Kindig (D. D.). Doctor Kindig has been pastor of the church since 1911. It has a membership of about 400 and is a strong and broad influence for good.

#### THE DUNKARDS

The Dunkards have now no regular church organization in Monticello. At the death of Elder Rothrock, in 1860, Rev. David Fisher and Rev. John Snowberger assumed charge of the congregation. Mr. Fisher purchased a farm on Pike Creek, erected a large building near his residence as a meeting place for members of the church and founded quite a strong society.

#### HOW THEY SUPPORTED THE UNION

The Civil war had an especially retarding influence on the progress of the Dunkards as religionists, for, although they were very patriotic and abhorred slavery, like the Quakers, the tenets of their religion forbade them to resort to force of arms. "The only way they could help the Union cause," says a local historian, "was by the contribution of money, of which nearly all of them were well supplied, and thus it came about that an assessment was made upon them and the amount fixed at three hundred dollars per man for each and every man selected from the congregation, liable for military duty, to be determined by lot. A great many persons now living will remember the Dunkard draft which occurred in 1862. The mode of procedure may not be remembered so well except by those immediately interested, if any of them are yet living, and is worthy of record here.

"The enrolling officer of each county in the State was directed to enroll all the men in his county between eighteen and forty-five years of age, and note opposite the name of all those who were opposed to military



service, on account of religious belief, that fact. After completing the enrollment a list of those who were conscientiously opposed to military service was made out and apportionment made of the enrollment of able-bodied militia enrolled, and it was found that nine men would be required to pay commutation money, three hundred dollars each, to exempt them from service in the army. These were selected by lot under the supervision of a commissioner appointed by the Governor. On a day appointed by the Commissioner the names of all those of proper age and not exempt by reason of bodily disabilities, were written on slips of paper and placed in a box and the first nine names drawn therefrom by the Commissioner were to be subjected to the payment of three hundred dollars each in lieu of military service. The draft took place in public at the Court House in Monticello, and the men drafted were all members of Elder Fisher's congregation. Mr. Fisher attended the draft meeting in person and paid the whole amount, twenty-seven hundred dollars, to the party authorized to receive it, and thus relieved his congregation from military service."

#### THE NEW DUNKARDS

In 1857 George Patton organized a class of what have been popularly called New Dunkards; the original body in White County was placed in charge of Rev. Uriah Patton. Elder Patton, its founder, built a meeting-house for the fast-increasing congregation near his residence in Jackson Township, and another was erected at Sitka, Liberty Township. These two societies were the predecessors of the flourishing Church of God at Idaville, which was founded in the early '70s.

#### THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Unlike the Dunkards, the members of the Christian Church first obtained a foothold outside of the county seat before founding an organization at Monticello. In 1849-50 Rev. R. C. Johnson organized a Christian Church at the Palestine Settlement, Princeton Township, which was the first religious body in that part of the county, and Rev. James Thomas founded a society in West Point Township, to the south. The ministers named were the owners of large farms, were not dependent upon their parishioners for their livelihood, and spent all their spare time, night and day, in the work of mustering converts to their faith. The first meetings of the new societies were well attended and several Christian ministers were present from abroad, a united and enthusiastic revival continuing for a month or more; and Reverends Johnson and Thomas did not confine their efforts to their home congregations, but traveled into adjoining counties and preached to the end of their lives. Rev. L. Goodacre is the present minister of the Palestine Christian Church.

#### FOUNDED IN MONTICELLO

In the spring and summer of 1854 Rev. Dr. Roberts, one of these Christian missionaries, who had become so well known in the outlying



districts, held a series of meetings at Monticello, and, although a large number joined the church, a house of worship was not then provided. A Christian Church had been organized near what afterward became Sitka and a building erected about a mile northwest of that locality, in the neighborhood of the old Cullen and Conwell Settlement. Not a few faithful members from Monticello and vicinity attended the services in that locality for years.

#### CHURCH REORGANIZED

In March, 1887, the trustees of the Methodist Church in Monticello offered for sale their property on the corner of North Main and Marion streets; this consisted of a lot, a frame church building and a parsonage, and the few members of the faith who were then living at and near the county seat gladly availed themselves of the opportunity of providing a home for the revived organization at a reasonable cost. Dr. M. T. Didlake thereupon went to Indianapolis and presented the facts to the state board of the Indiana Christian Missionary Association, at its meeting April 9, 1887. The board promised him that if the property were secured the state Christian missionary evangelist, J. H. O. Smith, should come to Monticello hold a meeting and organize a Christian church. A. M. Atkinson, of Wabash, Indiana, a member of the Indiana Christian Missionary Association, afterward examined the property and agreed to advance one third of the purchase money for one year without interest. At the expiration of that time, if a Christian Church should be established and trustees elected, he should be reimbursed and the property transferred to the trustees. On April 19th the property was purchased and deeded to A. M. Atkinson, M. T. Didlake and W. B. Keefer. All the terms of payment having been complied with, formal possession was given to Doctor Didlake, in behalf of the church, October 1, 1887.

Rev. J. H. O. Smith then began a series of meetings which resulted, on November 2d, in a partial organization of twenty-six members, or disciples of Christ. These original members of the church were Dr. M. T. Didlake and wife, R. Land, Sarah A. Mowrer, S. K. McClintie and wife, P. M. Benjamin and wife, Cordelia A. Chandler, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Rothrock, Mrs. Kate V. Cowger, Mrs. Ella Armstrong, Mrs. Mary C. Gow, W. B. Keefer and wife, W. P. Van Winkle, G. G. Wood and wife, J. Y. Stephenson, Mrs. Mary A. Casad, Lula Wood, May Benjamin, Joseph Mowrer and wife, Rachael Mowrer, Mrs. S. R. Temple and Miss Anna Johnston.

The initial meetings continued until December 18, 1887, and resulted in a total membership of 131. The day before they closed the membership assembled in the church and effected a permanent organization by electing M. T. Didlake, R. Land, P. M. Benjamin and S. K. McClintie, elders; J. Y. Stephenson, John Cowger, H. P. Rothrock and C. E. Bailey, deacons; Mrs. M. T. Didlake, clerk; Mrs. S. R. Temple, organist, and J. Y. Stephenson, treasurer. In the following month R. Land, W. B. Keefer, H. P.



Rothrock, John R. Cowger and M. T. Dillake were elected trustees, and the organization was thus completed.

#### PASTORS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. E. B. Cross, of Valparaiso, preached during January and February, but as he could not secure release from previous engagements Rev. A. F. Armstrong succeeded him, still temporarily. Rev. E. A. Pardee was chosen at the conclusion of a series of meetings which materially added to the membership of the church, and continued as pastor until January, 1890. In the meantime a Ladies' Aid Society and other church auxiliaries were organized, an organ purchased and other improvements made.

Rev. J. H. Bristol succeeded Mr. Pardee, resigning on account of ill health, in April, 1892. The succeeding pastors of the church have been Revs. P. M. Fishburn, William Kenney, J. C. Anderson, M. V. Grisso, J. H. Dodd, A. W. Jackman, J. A. Parker, A. L. Martin and T. R. Spray.

#### DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AND NEW CHURCH

On May 5, 1901, during Mr. Dodd's pastorate, the note and mortgage held against the church property were publicly burned at the close of the morning services, indicating the release of the debt; but the rejoicing of the church members was of short duration, for on the 27th of the following August the house of worship and the parsonage were burned to the ground.

While a new church was rebuilding on the river bank at northeast corner of Bluff and Broadway, services were held in the Opera House and the Circuit Court room. The beautiful brick structure which has since been the home of the Christian Church was completed and dedicated March 17, 1903, and, together with its site, cost about \$16,000. In February, 1904, occurred the death of R. Land, senior elder of the church, and one of its most active workers. Rev. T. R. Spray, the present pastor, has been in charge since September, 1913. The church has reached a membership of about 250.

#### THE ORPHANS' HOME

*By Mary Henke*

There are probably a great many people in the city who do not know that at one time an orphans' home was instituted here by a number of women interested in charitable work and was conducted under their direction for about thirty years.

Mrs. Tirza Scott, of Royal Center, who has been visiting friends here for several weeks, was the first matron of the home. At that time Mrs. B. O. Spencer, who came here from Logansport, where she was interested in the care of children of the poor, found an eager audience in the women of this city, and it was not long before a home was established here for the care of children who were bereft of their parents or were in need of





help. The first children to be entered were the four children of Andrew Arrick, whose mother, when dying, had asked Mrs. Scott to care for them. Consequently, when the home was founded, they were placed under the motherly care of the matron. At that time it was not necessary for the parents to surrender complete possession of their children when they were placed in the home. Often little ones whose mothers died were placed there that they might be cared for properly, and whenever it was desired to remove them there was no restraint to such action. Poor or orphaned children were also given homes there. The home was established in the property belonging to Mrs. Cornelia Logan on the corner of South Bluff and Market streets, which is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Mack Spoon and by Miss Lora Allen. After Mrs. Scott had successfully filled her duties as matron for several years she was succeeded by Mrs. S. R. Temple of Monticello, who was also a member of the society that established the home.

Among the women who have been interested in the home at various times and who are members of the Orphans' Home Association, are Mrs. Frank Britton, who is now president, Mrs. Benjamin, Mrs. Elmira Richey, Mrs. Ellen Van Voorst, Mrs. S. R. Temple, Mrs. Engle, Mrs. Charles Gardner, Mrs. Isaac Davis, Mrs. Sarah Thompson, Mrs. Mary Davisson, Mrs. B. F. Ross, Mrs. Martha Rothrock, Mrs. Will Sargent and Mrs. McCollum. Only a few of these women were members of the association when the home was established, but they have all shown an intense interest in the work and have given a great deal of time and money towards the aid of needy children.

For a number of years after the institution was established, there were no funds in the county treasury and the women of the organization themselves paid the tuition and yearly support of the children, who some times reached as high as fifteen in number. They were entitled to the building but it was a number of years before outside help was received.

The death blow was given the institution about ten or fifteen years ago when a law was passed governing the care for charity children. By this act parents were required to relinquish all claim to the children placed in a charitable institution of this kind. As few of the parents would consent to such a sacrifice, the home here did not have enough occupants to warrant its continuance and from that time children needing homes were sent to Indianapolis or some other city. The women regard the law governing children in charity homes as cruel to both parents and children and consider the manner in which the home was conducted here as much more humane and just.

While the society now is not an active organization, it still continues its interest in poor and needy children and does a great many acts of charity. A fund which is in the hands of the treasurer, Mrs. Van Voorst, is used for that purpose.

#### SOCIETIES

Monticello is well provided with societies benevolent, social and literary - and they largely account for its reputation as a desirable



residence for all classes of intelligent people who realize the necessity of mingling with their fellows—all combining in a proper spirit of recreation and uplift.

#### THE ODD FELLOWS

The oldest secret and benevolent society was organized by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows on the 30th of January, 1852. A dispensation for their lodge was granted on the 23d of the month upon the petition of M. R. Sheetz, J. T. Richey, W. R. Davis, J. R. Lovejoy, Samuel Barnes, R. C. Kirk and D. T. Spears. At the organization, a week later, the following officers were elected: William Davis, N. G.; D. T. Spears, V. G.; J. R. Lovejoy, Secretary, and J. T. Richey, Treasurer. Among the prominent men who early became members of the order were Jonathan Harbolt, Isaac Reynolds, Calvin Reynolds, the late Dr. William Spencer, David and Daniel McCuaig, Rufus L. Harvey, Dr. Samuel B. Bushnell, Judge Alfred Reed, Capt. John C. Brown, Judge A. W. Reynolds, Robert C. Kendall, Thomas Bushnell, Joseph D. Cowden, John Wilson and James Burns. The last survivor of the charter members was Daniel P. Spears, a resident of Morrison, Illinois. At the time of his death Capt. John C. Brown was the oldest Odd Fellow in the county, having united with the order at Hagerstown, Maryland, many years before the lodge at Monticello was instituted.

The order has prospered both in the increase of membership and financially in Monticello, and in 1902 erected a building at the southeast corner of Main and Washington streets, setting aside convenient quarters for the different bodies. The lodge itself (Monticello No. 107) has a present membership of 250, with the following officers: Thomas Spoon, N. G.; Richard Hinshaw, V. G.; John W. Nelson, Secretary, and J. M. Turner, Treasurer.

The Rebekah degree (Endora No. 201) was organized in December, 1879, and Stewart Encampment, No. 159, in December, 1882. The present encampment has a membership of nearly 120, with officers as follows: William Lowe, C. P.; F. C. Gardner, H. P.; Ivan Shell, J. W.; John Bretzinger, S. W.; John W. Nelson, Secretary, and S. T. Whitman, Treasurer.

#### THE MASONS

The first Masonic body to organize in Monticello was Libanus Lodge No. 154, which was granted a dispensation by the State Grand Lodge on petition of Francis G. Kendall, James W. Bulger, William Russell, William B. Gray, Alexander Yount, Robert W. Sill, Charles W. Kendall and William C. May. The Grand Master appointed Francis G. Kendall, Worshipful Master; James W. Bulger, Senior Warden, and William Russell, Junior Warden. Upon receipt of the dispensation, which was granted April 1, 1853, a meeting of the lodge was called by the Worshipful Master and the following minor officials elected: C. W. Kendall, Secretary; Alexander Yount, Treasurer; William B. Gray, Senior Deacon; Robert W. Sill, Junior Deacon, and William C. May, Tyler. Other early members



to join the lodge were John Ream, David K. Ream, Rowland Hughes, David Turpie, John H. Lear, John B. Bunnell, Thomas Bunnell, Joseph Shafer, Samuel Shafer, Adin Nordyke, Cornelius Stryker, Thomas Beard, Thomas Wickersham, Job Wickersham, R. B. Wickersham, Israel Nordyke, John Large, James Richey, Orlando McConahay, Marshal Murray, Harrison P. Anderson, Peter R. Failing, William S. Davis, John Keever, Isaac M. Davis, James Parcells, William A. Parry, John Leach, William P. Kuntz, Ansel M. Dickinson, Thomas Bushnell and Alfred Reed. At the present the lodge has a membership of 105. George F. Marvin is Worthy Master; George W. Gilbert, Senior Warden, and Frank L. Hodshire, Junior Warden.

Monticello Chapter No. 103, R. A. M., was organized under dispensation granted October 28, 1887, and by appointment of Madison T. Didlake, High Priest; Marion Parrish, King, and Cloyd Loughry, Scribe. The chapter worked under dispensation until November 22, 1888, when it was constituted a regular body, with Madison T. Didlake as first High Priest; Cyrus A. G. Rayhouser, first King, and Reuben M. Wright, first Scribe. The chapter has now a membership of 100, with the following officers: William N. Loughry, H. P.; Frank R. Phillips, E. K., and Joseph D. McCann, E. S.

Monticello Council No. 70, R. and S. M., was organized under dispensation on April 26, 1893, on petition of Madison T. Didlake, Joseph D. McCann, George H. Cullen, Julius W. Paul, William S. Bushnell, James P. Simons, James P. Brown, Hiram A. B. Moorhous and William H. Hamelle. It worked under dispensation until October 18th of that year, when it was organized under charter and present name, with Madison T. Didlake as Illustrious Master; James P. Simons, Deputy; Joseph D. McCann, P. C. W.; Lewis E. Wheeler, C. G.; Hiram A. B. Moorhous, Treasurer; Samuel A. Carson, Recorder, and William S. Bushnell, Sentinel. At present there are 100 members identified with the council, with the following officers: William H. Hamelle, T. I. M.; Samuel A. Carson, I. D. M., and Joseph D. McCann, P. C. W.

There is also a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, which was organized under dispensation on January 15, 1895, and under charter, as Crystal Chapter No. 165 on May 22d of that year.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Both the Knights of Pythias and the Pythian Sisters have organizations. The former, known as Monticello Lodge No. 73, was organized October 29, 1877, its charter members being John H. Wallace, Emory B. Sellers, Henry P. Owens, James V. Vinson, Irvin Greer, Henry Snyder, John C. Hughes, Elsie Bisher, Taylot Bennett, John T. Roach, Washington Kuntz, George Baxter, Frank Roberts, Thomas J. Woltz, William R. Harvey, William Spencer, James E. Howard, Josiah Purcell, John T. Ford, John H. Peet, Albert W. Loughry, John H. Burns, T. Fayette Palmer and Samuel Fenters. The first officers were as follows: T. F. Palmer, P. C. (still active); J. H. Wallace, C. C.; J. T. Ford, V. C.;



John H. Burns, M. A.; Prelate, Josiah Purcell; M. of E., William Spencer, and M. of F., James V. Vinson (active). The membership of the lodge is over 150, and its present officers are as follows: Arthur Halstead, C. C.; L. A. Young, V. C.; R. A. Layton, Prelate; Jacob H. Hibner, M. of W.; H. J. Reed, K. of R. and S.; Claude Ireland, M. of F.; W. F. Bunnell, M. of E.

#### GRAND ARMY POST

Tippecanoe Post No. 51, G. A. R., was organized March 31, 1882, by Judge John H. Gould, of Delphi, and John C. Brown was its first commander. As the old Civil war soldiers drop away from year to year the organization becomes more and more reduced, but the few remaining veterans still cling to their post with old-time affection.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES

The foregoing by no means complete the list of the fraternal societies which have their headquarters in Monticello. The Modern Woodmen of America, the Maccabees (both Knights and Ladies), the Loyal Order of Moose, the Red Men and other orders have all their local representatives, some of them growing organizations.

#### WOMEN'S CLUBS

There are also a number of women's clubs in Monticello worthy of note. Among the oldest of these are the Nickel Plate Club, organized for both social and charitable purposes, which has done much good work toward civic betterment; the Coterie Club, social, organized in 1893; the Wednesday Reading Club, organized in 1892 for the purpose of "studying standard English literature and general history in a social club;" the University Extension Club, founded in 1895 in connection with the Chicago University; the Chautauqua Home Study Club, a member of the great chautauqua system, and established in 1898, and the Equal Franchise League, organized in 1913 for the purpose of educating women on the suffrage question.

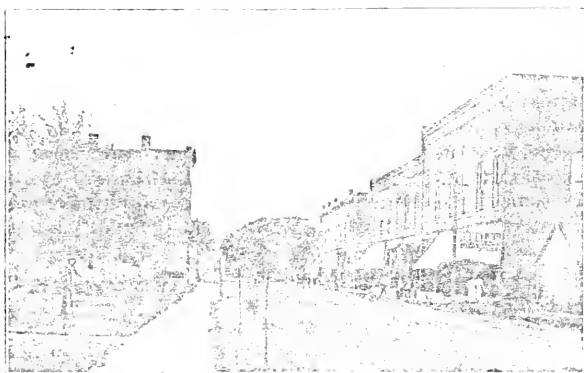
The first President of the University Extension Club was Prof. L. S. Isham, with Miss Pearl Jones, Secretary. Miss Eva Cosad has been President for about ten years; Miss Nora Gardner is now secretary.

Mrs. Byram was the original president of the Coterie Club, and Mrs. Ida Jost, Secretary. Present officers: Mrs. C. D. Mecker, President, and Mrs. Myram Spencer, Secretary.

Mrs. Mecker is also President of the Wednesday Reading Club, its first president having been Mrs. James H. McCullum.







STREET VIEWS AT MONOX



## CHAPTER XXVI

### TOWN OF MONON

INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN—ADDITIONS TO ORIGINAL SITE—HENRY M. BAUGHMAN—INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES—CLAY AND STONE INDUSTRIES—THE MONON BANK—STATE BANK OF MONON—THE TOWN COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL—MONON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH—THE BAPTIST CHURCH—SOCIETIES.

Situated at the juncture of the two Monon lines, in the northwestern part of White County, Monon is a clean and substantially built town of 1,200 people. As the center of a large area of productive country, in grain, stone and clay, its natural advantages drew the attention of business men to the locality at an early day, and finally the precise location of the permanent town was determined by the construction of the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago Railroad and the platting of New Bradford, which displaced the old town of West Bedford.

#### INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN

The history of Monon as a town commences with the year 1879, when an incorporation was effected under the name of the old postoffice established in 1838; both the postoffice and the Town of Monon were then made uniform, and from that time dates a marked and substantial growth.

#### ADDITIONS TO ORIGINAL SITE

Only one addition was made to the Town of Monon previous to its incorporation, and that was platted only about a year after the laying out of the original town. On the 7th of August, 1851, James K. Wilson made an addition of sixty-three lots, lying north of the original plat, and on the 29th of September of the same year Benjamin Ball made a second addition of ninety-four lots in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 21. These sufficed to meet the expansion of the place for thirty years.

Benjamin F. Linville platted twenty-two lots as an addition to the town site, on April 15, 1884, and in January, 1885, Horace C. Lyman increased it by fifty-six lots. On August 1, 1889, William H. Hinckle made his addition of fifty-five lots, and he was followed, in December, 1895, by Emma J. Turpie, who platted her addition of 115 lots.



## HENRY M. BAUGHMAN

Emma J. Turpie, who made the addition heretofore noted, was the daughter of Henry M. Baughman, a pioneer of Noble County, Indiana, who settled near Reynolds in 1867 and was afterward engaged in business in the Town of Monon. He also owned and operated a large farm in Monon Township not far from the town.

## INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES

In the winter of 1879 and the spring of 1880, soon after the town incorporation, William Scott and Company built an elevator in the east part of town with facilities for shelling corn and storing and cleaning



MONON TOWN COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL

grain. There had been several small elevators before, but the Scott plant had a storage capacity of 10,000 bushels and a cleaning capacity of 2,000 bushels daily, and was a manifest evidence of the growing importance of Monon as a grain center.

Both with the growth of its railroad facilities and the improvement of the surrounding country, Monon has continuously added to its standing in that regard and also became an advantageous point for the buying and shipping of live stock. There are two elevators and a mill in operation, and the railroad provides convenient yards for handling cattle, hogs and other live stock.

## CLAY AND STONE INDUSTRIES

In the early '80s E. G. Egbert and Company, proprietors of a local hardware store, commenced to develop the clay deposits at Monon, in the line of brick and tile manufactures, and the industry has been continued.



intermittently, for thirty years or more. Plants are now in operation for the manufacture both of tiles and building blocks, and a mile south of town B. H. Dickson has a large stone crushing establishment which supplies the bulk of the material used in the building of the gravel roads of the county. Many of the farmers of the region also used the pulverized products of the mills as fertilizers.

#### THE MONON BANK

The substantial business and industrial life of Monon is also illustrated by the fact that it sustains two good banks. The oldest of these establishments is the Monon Bank, established in June, 1892, by C. M. Horner, who has continued as its president. He commenced business as a general merchant in 1865, has continued as an active factor in the progress of the town and has a wide scope of interests. He is owner of the oldest elevator, proprietor of a large garage and largely interested in real estate. He has increased the capital of the Monon Bank from \$10,000 to \$25,000, and its deposits have reached \$200,000. Its first cashier, George Baxter, was succeeded by W. C. Horner, son of the president.

#### STATE BANK OF MONON

This institution was organized July 2, 1906, with a capitalization of \$25,000. There were about sixty-two stockholders in and around Monon and because of this the bank had an auspicious beginning. The first officers were: W. S. Baugh, president; Fred Thomas, vice president, and F. C. Cassell, cashier. The capital of the bank has remained the same as in the beginning. In 1909 T. A. Hollingsworth succeeded Mr. Cassell as cashier, and in 1910 Dr. John Stuart succeeded Mr. Thomas as vice president. In 1911 Carl Middlestadt succeeded Mr. Hollingsworth as cashier, and with the exceptions named the bank's official roster has remained unchanged. It owns its own modern bank building, which was erected in 1913.

#### THE TOWN COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL

The first schools of the township originated in the vicinity and on the site of old West Bedford and they flourished, in their way, during the '40s and '50s. Then New Bradford displaced West Bedford, and school accommodations were transferred accordingly. Fair schools were followed by better and better, by almost best, the culmination being the present Town Commissioned High School, under the superintendency of George F. Lewis. The principal of the high school department is M. R. Holtzman. Besides the superintendent and principal there are eight teachers. The building, which is in the north end of town, was dedicated in 1902. It is a handsome two story and basement structure of brick with stone trimmings, and contains fifteen rooms. Its dimensions on the ground are 103 by 101 feet. The heating, lighting and sanitary arrangements





ments, as well as working conveniences and appliances, are modern. The curriculum embraces the usual courses, including manual training and sewing—the latter branches being confined to the high school and the three upper grades of the grammar department. The average attendance is as follows: First grade, 46; second, 42; third, 32; fourth, 35; fifth, 32; sixth, 36; seventh, 33; eighth, 24; high school, 85. Total, 365.

#### MONON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Public Library at Monon is also an educator of broad usefulness. It has a tasteful building of recent construction and houses 2,500 volumes for reference and circulation, and its patrons are drawn from all parts



MONON PUBLIC LIBRARY

of the township. The library was the outgrowth of the efforts of the Current Literature Club, the members of which collected its first 500 volumes. Mrs. Laura E. Winkley, wife of an old and respected citizen and who had taken much interest in the first steps taken toward the establishment of the library, was elected first librarian, and was followed in January, 1915, by Miss Emma A. Pogue, the present incumbent. The management of the Public Library comprises the following officers: A. D. Hornback, president; J. H. Cunningham, vice president; Maude Barrroughs, secretary, and Margaret Hay, treasurer.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The churches of Monon are represented by the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian denominations—the last named being the oldest. The Presbyterian Church was organized at West Bedford about 1829, and its first pastor was Rev. Alexander Williamson, who had already preached



at Monticello as the pioneer settled minister of that place. Among the early members of the church were Thomas Downey and wife, William Wilson and wife and Mrs. Kepperling. The present pastor is Rev. M. L. Rice, a man of seemingly boundless energy, who has interested himself in various industrial and business enterprises as well as in church-welfare.

#### FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Monon Methodism in organized form is more than half century old, but there were individual Methodists here at even an earlier period. The first society in Monon had its beginning in 1861, with Rev. J. L. Boyd as pastor in charge, and William H. Gibson and wife, John D. Moore and wife, Mrs. Theresa Duvall, Mrs. Susan Hebner, and William Shackelford and wife and others, whose names are unknown as members. William Shackelford was class leader and the class numbered fifteen. The place of worship was on South Arch Street, where M. O'Mara resides. This was also the place of Presbyterian and Baptist meetings and it is said the services were attended by all regardless of denomination.

The same building represented Monon's first schoolhouse, where the faculty embraced two teachers and two rooms were occupied by the pupils.

In the spring of 1870, the first Baptist Church was built, and this was used by the Methodists until 1882, when their first church home was erected at a cost of \$1,500 on its present site. The parsonage, which had been purchased in 1868, was a one-story building adjacent to the church. The building was afterward enlarged by the addition of two wings to meet the needs of the congregation. But as the years went on, these additions were insufficient, and in the spring of 1908 ground for a new church was purchased at the northwest corner of Market and Fifth streets. One of the two dwelling houses on the site was remodeled for a parsonage in 1909, and in the spring of 1912 work was begun on the church superstructure of the elegant church now occupied. The site and building cost over \$16,000 and on May 4, 1913, when the property had been cleared of all indebtedness, the church was dedicated with appropriate and impressive services. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Dr. H. A. Gobin, vice president of DePauw University, and other notables of the church were on the rostrum.

Rev. W. B. Morgan, the present pastor, assumed his duties in the fall of 1911, and ministers to the needs of about 320 members of what is officially known as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Monon. Preceding Mr. Morgan were John L. Boyd, the first pastor; Joseph Budd, Cole Brown, George Guild, Henry Fraley, George Mellender, William F. Jones, H. H. Middleton, J. B. Smith, H. B. Ball, W. Campbell, John E. Newhouse, R. H. Calvert, Whitfield Hall, Jasper L. McCoy, W. N. Dunham, G. A. Bond, Whitfield Hall (second incumbency), J. N. Harmon, J. T. Stafford, C. H. Jesse, J. T. Reeder, A. M. Virden, A. L. Clark, W. H. Broomfield, D. A. Rodgers, A. C. Northrop and A. A. Dunlavy.



## THE BAPTIST CHURCH

As early as 1859 Rev. Lewis McCreary commenced holding occasional Baptist services in the schoolhouse at New Bradford. The interest thus aroused led, in January, 1865, to the regular organization of a church. The charter members of this pioneer Baptist society, who organized on the 14th of that month, were John W. Miller, Sarah Gazeway, John W. Cox, Theodore Hildebrand, Jerusha Hildebrand, Elizabeth Ann Hildebrand, Esther May King, Margaret Dunlap, Anna E. Cox, Elder J. H. Dunlap, Julia Miller, Josephine Amanda Miller, Mary E. Sparrow and Margaret A. Chamberlain.

The little band of workers had a steady growth. In 1869 they began to build a house of worship, which they completed in October of that year. Its dedication—at which Rev. Mr. Stone officiated—marked the occupancy of the first church structure in Monon Township, and for several years it was shared by the Baptists with other denominations. The Sunday school was also a union establishment. In 1908 the church building was reconstructed, and at the rededication Dr. E. W. Lounsbury, then of Chicago, preached from the appropriate text: "The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former." The church has a membership of about 200.

As to the pastors, Lewis McCreary occupied the pulpit at the organization of the church and again in 1880. J. H. Dunlap, D. S. French, B. B. Craig and D. J. Huston followed, the last two serving two pastorates each. B. A. Nelson succeeded Mr. Huston, whose second pastorate was from 1878 to 1884; C. A. Rice assumed the charge in 1885; J. M. Kendall, 1886; J. T. Green, 1888; W. H. Van Cleave, 1890; L. F. Galey, 1892; L. O. Stiening, 1894; E. B. Morgan, 1896; J. A. Haynes, 1899; C. J. Bunnell, 1903; G. H. O'Donnell, 1905; A. J. Unthank, 1906; E. B. DeVault, 1908; R. B. Wright, 1912, and C. F. Dame, 1914.

## SOCIETIES

Monon, as an intelligent and progressive town, has a number of well-patronized societies, both benevolent and industrial. Being quite a railroad center, the trainmen and other employees have several strong organizations, while the standard benevolent and secret orders, such as the Odd Fellows, Masons, the Pythian order, Maccabees and Independent Order of Red Men have lodges, some of which are supported by members of both sexes. Perhaps the strongest and the oldest is Monon Lodge No. 524, I. O. O. F., which was instituted in February, 1876.



## CHAPTER XXVII

### TOWN OF WOLCOTT

MUNICIPAL WATERWORKS—FOUNDING OF THE TOWN—COMING OF ANSON WOLCOTT—TOWN PLATTED—COMPETITORS—THE WOLCOTT INTERESTS—FIRST ADDITION—DEATH OF THE FOUNDER—EBEN H. WOLCOTT—THE DIBELL FAMILY—VARIOUS ADDITIONS—THE TOWN COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL—STATE BANK OF WOLCOTT—CITIZENS STATE BANK—CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES—THE METHODIST CHURCH—CHRISTIAN CHURCH—BAPTIST CHURCH—THE MASONS—I. O. O. F. BODIES—OTHER LODGES.

The Town of Wolcott is the only place of any considerable size and commercial importance in the western part of the county. It is nine miles west of Reynolds, and there is nothing worthy to be called a settlement, either north or south of it within the limits of White County. As the surrounding districts are also productive and settled by a substantial class of farmers, while the townsmen themselves are energetic and enterprising, Wolcott has naturally grown and is growing. It has three elevators, operated by the Rich Brothers, the Wolcott Grain Company and the Farmers Co-operative Company; two good banks, several large and well-stocked stores, and quite an extensive plant, embracing metal works, sales depot for agricultural implements, barbed wire and other farmers' accessories and hardware supplies.

#### MUNICIPAL WATERWORKS

Further, Wolcott has three church organizations, several flourishing societies, a town commissioned high school of substantial standing, and a pneumatic water system, owned by the municipality. The power house is about half a mile west of town, the supply of water being first filtered through a gravel pit and then through an artificial filter attached to the pressure tank. Water was turned into the mains in April, 1915, and the people feel justly proud of their new waterworks, which furnishes them good water and provides them with adequate fire protection. The latter has seemed the most pressing need of the community since the recent destructive fire.

#### FOUNDING OF THE TOWN

Princeton Township never increased so rapidly in population as from 1856 to 1860, it having become virtually an assured fact that the Logans-





port, Peoria and Burlington Railroad would pass through its territory from east to west. As the farmers and settlers had long rebelled at the hardship and inconvenience of hauling their products to Reynolds and buying their provisions there, it was also a foregone conclusion that some station would be established on the line easier of access than that place, which, over the abominable and winding roads of those days, often meant tiresome journeys of from ten to fifteen miles.

#### COMING OF ANSON WOLCOTT

In 1858 the savior of the situation appeared in the southern part of the township in the person of Anson Wolcott. He was then in his fortieth year. A native of Oneida County, New York, he was educated and taught in the Empire State, and when twenty-one years of age went to Louisiana and studied law in the office of Judge Petts, in Claiborne Parish. He remained in the South about a year and a half, when he returned to New York, continued his law studies and in 1847 was admitted to the State Supreme Court at Buffalo, and in 1852 to the United States Supreme Court.

#### TOWN PLATTED

After practicing his profession for six years, Mr. Wolcott started for the Wabash country of Indiana, as he had purchased a large body of land on the line of the Pan Handle Road which had been surveyed through Princeton Township. Some place his purchases as high as 2,000 acres. He commenced at once to improve his land and also to buy grain of neighboring farmers for shipment to eastern markets. When the railroad was completed in the fall of 1860 he prepared to plat a town and arrange for a station under his own name. On the 15th of May, 1861, Mr. Wolcott platted his town on land described as follows: The commencing point of the survey is at the southeast corner of lot 8, block F, and is 180 feet distant at right angles from the center line of the Pittsburgh, Chicago and St. Louis Railway, and thirty feet west of the range line which runs north and south in the center of Range Street north, eighty degrees west, and the town is laid out parallel and at right angles to the railroad. Another description of the original town site is the eastern part of section 25 and the western part of section 30. The plat consisted of ninety-six lots, and the streets were laid out sixty feet wide. The east and west streets were named North, Jackson, Market, Scott, Anderson and South; those running north and south, Range, Second, Third and Fourth.

#### COMPETITORS

About the time that Wolcott was platted, two towns were laid out on the line of the railroad to the east—Clermont, a mile and a half away, and Seafield, double that distance. At one time Clermont was the leader of the trio, but subsided quite; while Seafield, at least, retired from active rivalry.



## THE WOLCOTT INTERESTS

From first to last, for nearly forty-six years, Mr. Wolcott was the inspiration of the place. Soon after the town was platted he built sheds along the railroad track and commenced to buy and ship corn in large quantities. Later he erected a large grain elevator and promoted other enterprises, directly by investment and indirectly by encouragement. The corn crib which he erected was said to be the largest in the world, having a capacity of 45,000 bushels of ear-corn. Eben H. Wolcott, his son, had also come to the front in business, and his hay warehouse was one of the largest in the state. He operated two presses, each of which had a capacity of 36,000 bales for the season.

## FIRST ADDITION

In 1865 Anson Wolcott made the first addition to the original town, consisting of forty-seven lots. Although he was highly and broadly educated, the founder of Wolcott confined his activities largely to business, but his few deviations from that path indicated mental resources of a high order. In 1868 he was elected on the republican ticket to the State Senate, where he did valuable service as chairman of the finance committee during the sessions of 1869 and 1871. He was afterward prominently mentioned as a candidate for Congress. Later, questions arose upon which he could not agree with his party and for years he was a leader in the national or greenback party, at one time being their candidate for governor.

## DEATH OF THE FOUNDER

Mr. Wolcott died at his home in the town he had founded on January 10, 1907, and his deep conscientiousness and broad ability, his public spirit and courtesy, his friendship and abiding affection, will ever be remembered by those who were influenced for so many years by those traits of his sterling manhood.

## EBEN H. WOLCOTT

During the later portion of his life, which stretched into his eighty-eighth year, the deceased had transferred many of his business cares to the strong shoulders of his son, Eben H. Wolcott. The latter has succeeded to the good graces so long entertained toward his father, but has attained much prominence in public affairs. He is a member of the state board of tax commissioners, has been a state senator and has been mentioned for secretary of state and for governor.

## THE DIBELL FAMILY

After the Wolcott Addition of 1865, the area of the town site was not increased until January 2, 1893, when Messrs. Fox and Dibell added



fifty-five lots. The Dibell family has been identified with the agricultural, business and public affairs of the township and the town since 1875, when E. L. Dibell, a prosperous Ohio farmer, came from Kendall County, Illinois, and bought a quarter section in Princeton Township. He developed a magnificent farm and one of his sons, Edwin J., has become one of the leading business men of Wolcott, a township trustee and otherwise prominent in local affairs. Elihu B., the eldest son, was largely identified with banking matters until his death about 1912.

#### VARIOUS ADDITIONS

Less than two weeks after the Fox and Dibell Addition was made, Eben H. Wolcott platted an addition of twenty-seven lots; in November, also of 1893, Fox and Dibell added twenty-two lots; on April 6, 1895, Anson Wolcott, twelve lots, and on the 28th of October, of that year, J. B. Pierce made an addition to the town of twenty-seven lots. Other small tracts have since been added, so that Wolcott is not cramped in its growth. Its expansion has taken place mainly within the past twenty-five years—since 1890, when its population was only 256. For two years, from May, 1873, Wolcott was an incorporated village but was not then in a position to sustain such a form of government.

#### THE TOWN COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL

Wolcott has a thoroughly organized union school, classified as a town commissioned high school, of which Lewis E. Wheeler is superintendent and Earl Burget, principal. The force under the superintendent consists of ten teachers. The high school proper comprises more than eighty pupils and the attendance in the grammar and primary grades averages 220. The building is comparatively new, having been completed in 1901, and is equipped with the modern conveniences and educational appliances to carry out its curriculum and the requirements of a progressive community.

#### STATE BANK OF WOLCOTT

The business and industries of the town is financed through two substantial banks. The State Bank of Wolcott was established as a private institution in 1886, with Robert Parker as president and Elihu B. Dibell as cashier. It continued as such until 1904, when it was incorporated as a state bank with Mr. Dibell as president, W. F. Brucker as vice president and Louis Hinchman as cashier. In 1912 E. B. Dibell was succeeded by W. E. Fox as president, Frank G. Garvin became vice president and Mr. Hinchman remained as cashier. The present capital of the bank is \$25,000; surplus, \$12,500; average deposits, \$160,000.

#### CITIZENS STATE BANK

The Citizens State Bank of Wolcott was established in 1911, its officers, then elected, James Blake, president, who was succeeded by



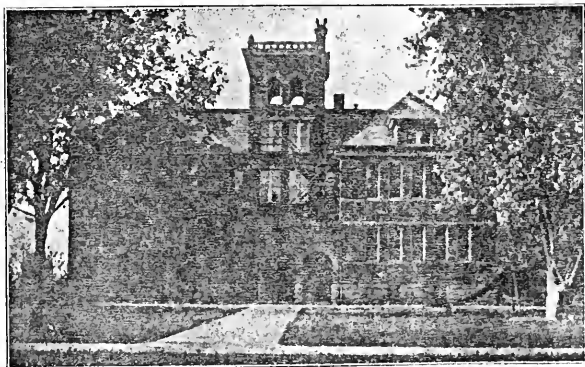
James C. Jones, who is still serving; David J. Pettit, vice president, who was succeeded by James Blake, still serving, and Charles H. Kleist, cashier. Its capital stock is \$25,000; surplus, \$2,000; deposits, \$85,000.

#### CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES

Both churches and societies are in an active state at Wolcott, and indicate that its people fully realize the necessity of promoting the social, intellectual and moral interests of the place, as well as its material life.

#### THE METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church, the oldest religious body, was organized at Stasfield soon after that town was platted, in 1861, but the class soon



WOLCOTT TOWN COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL

commenced to meet at Wolcott, as Mrs. Anson Wolcott donated ground for a building and it became evident that the latter town was destined to have a substantial growth. The Methodists completed their house of worship at Wolcott in 1873, and it was the second church built in the township—a neat frame, 36 by 40 feet. Rev. T. J. Reder is the present pastor of the growing society.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian Church of Wolcott completed its building in 1873, soon after the Methodists had occupied their meeting-house. It was also a frame structure, somewhat larger and more costly than that erected by their fellow-religionists. The first trustees of the Christian society were J. B. Buinell, Noble Nordyke, A. W. Dyke, Dr. M. T. Didlake (afterward of Monticello) and J. M. Brown. Rev. William Irelan, the widely known

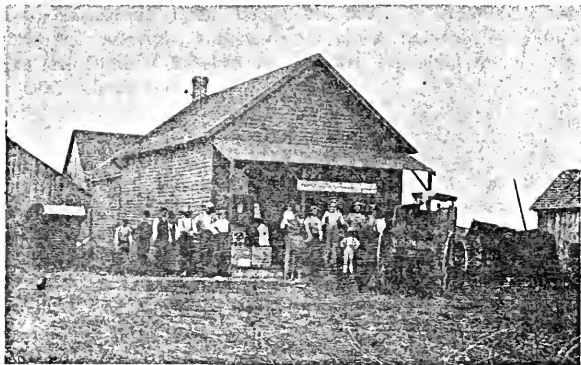




educator, was pastor of the church for some time in the '80s. A new and modern church was built in 1896, and the present society is in charge of Rev. Harry Huber.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist Church of Wolcott, of which Rev. G. W. Livingstone is pastor, was organized in July, 1889, by about twenty members who met at the Methodist meeting-house. In the following year Mrs. Solomon Rader gave the society two building lots and a substantial house of worship was completed in the fall of 1891. A parsonage was built in 1894. Rev. W. H. VanCleve was the first pastor of the church and the following were its first officers: Richard Pugh, Sr., and Solomon Rader, deacons; J. W. McDuffie, clerk, and J. L. Pitts, treasurer.



STATE BANK OF WOLCOTT, 1886

Following Mr. Van Cleve as pastor were I. W. Bailey, W. R. Puckett, J. A. Haynes, C. S. Davisson, C. L. Merriam, J. M. Cauldwell, R. W. Thorne, J. I. Slater, C. M. Pattee, L. O. Egnew; R. W. Thorne and C. L. Merriam (second pastorates) and G. W. Livingstone.

#### THE MASONS

Of the secret and benevolent societies, the Masonic fraternity has the longest record in Wolcott. The local body, which is known as Wolcott Lodge, No. 180, F. & A. M., was chartered May 30, 1866. Among the original members were John B. Bunnell, John B. Hemphill, William H. Rader and James O. Johnson. Mr. Johnson is the only living charter member. The first officers were J. B. Bunnell, W. W. M.; J. B. Hemphill, J. W.; William H. Rader, S. W. The present officers of the lodge, which numbers about seventy members, are: Frank G. Garvin,



W. M.; A. J. Reames, S. W.; R. T. Holley, J. W.; George D. Dye, Treasurer; William H. Gerberich, Secretary. Mr. Gerberich has held the secretaryship since 1895, and so far as his fellow Masons are concerned it is a life office for him. The order owns the temple in which its members meet, the building having been erected in 1894.

Wolcott Chapter, No. 171, O. E. S., which also meets in the Temple, was organized April 25, 1895, with Maude Dye as Worthy Matron, and Elihu B. Dibell as Worthy Patron. Its present Matron is Maude Holldridge, and its Patron, E. W. Irwin.

#### I. O. O. F. BODIES

The Odd Fellows have a strong lodge (Orion, No. 598), its membership being about 130. Its officers are as follows: Julius Evans, N. G.; Stanley Cramer, V. G.; Charles Gilbert, R. S.; A. J. Reams, F. S.; Eldon Ford, Treasurer. Orion Lodge, No. 598, was organized January 24, 1883, and, after the Masons, is the oldest fraternal body in Wolcott. The Daughters of Rebekah are also well organized and meet regularly in Odd Fellows Hall.

#### OTHER LODGES

The Modern Woodmen of America organized Wolcott Camp, No. 4675, in April, 1897, with R. C. Thompson as Venerable Consul; Guy Clary holds that office at the present time.

Besides these bodies are the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 409, and Tribe No. 463, Improved Order of Red Men, each with about ninety members. The foregoing list fully bears out the statement that Wolcott is an active lodge town.



## CHAPTER XXVIII

### TOWN OF BROOKSTON

THE TOWN PLATTED—EXTENSION OF THE SITE—FIRST STORES AND INDUSTRIES—MOMENTOUS YEARS, 1866-67—INCORPORATION OF TOWN—MARKED STEPS IN PROGRESS—INDUSTRIES OF THE PRESENT—BANK OF BROOKSTON—TOWN COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL—PRAIRIE TELEPHONE COMPANY—THE METHODIST CHURCH—THE BAPTIST CHURCH—THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—SECRET AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES—PROBABLY THE OLDEST MASON IN THE UNITED STATES.

Brookston, which is among the largest of the incorporated towns of the county, is on the Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville (Monon) main line, and is the commercial and banking center of a large and productive area which extends into adjacent counties to the east and south. It is beautifully located near the center of Prairie Township, in the edge of the timber bordering on Grand Prairie, and Moots Creek, a pretty tributary of the Tippecanoe, flows along its southern and western borders, adding to the natural attractiveness of its position and affording ample facilities for drainage and sewerage. With a fine grain, fruit and stock-raising country all around it, the town has provided elevators, canning factories and other industries, as well as good shipping facilities, for the benefit of the agriculturists and citizens who co-operate in the progress of their section of the county.

#### THE TOWN PLATTED

Brookston was named in honor of James Brooks, who was president of the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad at the time it was constructed through the county and the place laid out. It was platted by Benjamin Gonzales, Isaac Reynolds and Dr. Joel B. McFarland, on the 26th of April, 1853. Mr. Gonzales was the chief engineer of the railroad company, Mr. Reynolds the honored citizen of Monticello, and Doctor McFarland a leading physician of Lafayette; so, in a way, the projectors of Brookston were "foreigners," but very honorable and enterprising ones.

#### EXTENSION OF THE SITE

Originally all of Brookston was included in section 22, and the bulk of its site is still thus confined. Subsequent additions have so extended its area that the site now not only covers about a half of the western



and northern portion of that section, but smaller tracts in the southwest quarter of section 15 to the north, and in the northeast quarter of section 21 to the west."

As laid out in the original plat, the north and south streets were Prairie (bounding the town on the west); Railroad, South and Wood (eastern boundary). Railroad Street was 130 feet wide, and other thoroughfares 70 feet each. The east and west streets were numbered from First to Seventh, inclusive, fixing the northern and southern limits of the plat.

The main additions made, by which the town has spread over so large a portion of section 22 and into sections 15 and 21, have been as follows: By Solomon Hayes, December 29, 1853; James C. Moore, January 28, 1857; J. W. Robinson, August 26, 1868; Obed Barnard and Edward H. Brown, August 10, 1868; William T. Alkire, December 25, 1897; Mrs. Emeline M. Russell, April 10, 1899.

#### FIRST STORES AND INDUSTRIES

Eli Meyers built the first house erected within the town plat, and a man named Kane opened the pioneer store, before Brookston was laid out; but they both knew the town was on the way, hence their forehandedness. But Kane was too sanguine, and suspended about the time the town went on paper. Soon after John Bross opened another store, and John Best built a blacksmith shop. Other merchants and mechanics followed, and in 1860-61 the Farmers' Warehouse was built by a joint stock company. The latter was a building 40 by 80 feet and was in use for many years. It was used for the storage of grain and other agricultural products and was a great convenience to the farmers and merchants of the town and neighborhood. In 1864 another enterprise was established which added to the good standing of Brookston; that is, a grist mill with three runs of burrs; John Allen operated the mill for five years and it was subsequently run by Parish & Godman. The old Farmers' Warehouse was bought by T. G. Chilton and Adam Vincell in 1868, who had purchased the interests of the late Edward Mendenhall and Alexander Patterson. The later proprietors were John Allen, John Parrish and Richard Godman.

The years 1866-67 were really momentous to not a few important interests of the town. Both religious and educational matters took an upward turn. The Methodists erected a church building, and the new Baptist organization arranged to meet therein in the advancement of its own cause. That was also the period when the Brookston Academy was built and the labors of that able and good citizen, Dr. John Medaris, commenced to bear fruit. Such various establishments as have been mentioned made Brookston quite a marked center of commerce, trade and learning, and its increase in population and general standing induced its citizens to adopt a village form of government.



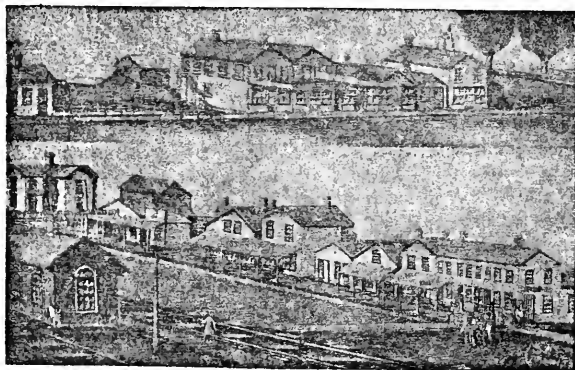


## INCORPORATION OF TOWN

The first election for corporation officers in the Town of Brookston was held at the schoolhouse March 23, 1867, and resulted in the choice of the following: Trustees, A. L. Patterson, first district (president of the board); S. H. Powell, second district; C. D. Staton, third district; Mosés L. French, fourth district, and D. U. Rice, fifth district. Mr. French was chosen clerk and treasurer, and Mr. Staton marshal and assessor.

## MARKED STEPS IN PROGRESS

Since the incorporation of the town, especially, Brookston has made substantial advances. Within six years the local newspaper field was invaded, and by the early '80s a tile factory and two elevators were in



BROOKSTON IN 1880

operation. The latter were owned and operated by T. S. Hayes and Parish & Godman, proprietors of the mill. The Christian Church was also added to the other good influences. To a somewhat later period belongs the founding of the canning industry and the establishment of the local banks; and, in line with the railroad, the construction of substantial roads and the extension of mail facilities, was the organization of a telephone company, with Brookston as its headquarters, which has brought the town into advantageous connections with every section of the country.

## INDUSTRIES OF THE PRESENT

At the present time the two elevators which demonstrate Brookston's claim as a growing grain center are operated by Halsted Brothers and Bell & House; also in the line of industries are the novelty works of Thomas Bostick and the canning factories, owned by E. P. Mason and



Dr. D. M. Kelley and by James F. French and the widow of the late William French. The former plant is known as the Brookston Canning Factory, and the latter as the Eagle Canning Works.

The Eagle Canning Company was organized in 1889 to place tomatoes and corn upon the market. The business went into the hands of a receiver in 1904, and was bought by James F. and William French, brothers, who devoted their plant to the canning of corn. William French was accidentally killed in 1911, and the ownership has since been divided between the surviving brother and the widow. The business is conducted in connection with the farming interests owned by the firm, which cover 1,400 acres of land. All the corn which is canned at the factory is raised on the company farms, the combined enterprise also embracing a silo industry.

#### BANK OF BROOKSTON

The Bank of Brookston was organized as a private institution April 14, 1894, by John C. Vanatta. In January, 1896, it became a state bank under the foregoing name, with a capital of \$25,000, and the following officers: William E. Morris, president; William T. Wagner, vice president, and John C. Vanatta, cashier. In July, 1904, the capital of the bank was increased to \$35,000, with the same officers and the addition of John J. Nagle as a second vice president. Mr. Norris resigned as president January 1, 1910, and was succeeded by Mr. Nagle. There has been no change in the officers since. The statement of the bank, issued March 4, 1915, showed the following financial condition: Deposits, \$206,666.98; loans, \$187,688.46; cash on hand, \$60,823.90; assets above liabilities, \$45,300.

#### THE FARMERS BANK

Brookston has another financial institution—the Farmers Bank, whose president, Joseph H. Kious, is of an old family. His grandfather, Adam Kious, was of Pennsylvania nativity and came West to Dayton, in 1843. In the following year he settled in White County and held several public offices.

#### TOWN COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL

The old Brookston Academy, built in 1866, in a remodeled and modern form, and the property of the township since 1873, is now occupied by the Town Commissioned High School, of which W. F. Neel is superintendent, and Lida Moody, principal. Ten teachers altogether comprise the force. Manual training for the boys and sewing for the girls are included in the curriculum, which embraces all the branches usually taught as related parts of the public school system. The high school has an average attendance of seventy-seven and the other departments of 180. Outside of the Town Commissioned High School, there



are nine schools in the township, all of which send their representatives to the central institution at Brookston.

#### PRAIRIE TELEPHONE COMPANY

The Prairie Telephone Company was organized as a corporation in August, 1898, by D. E. Ross, as president, Ira Bordner, as secretary, and John H. Kneale, treasurer and superintendent. There has been no change of management or ownership, although there has been a great expansion of the system. The exchange was opened for business, with the initial line from Brookston to Round Grove Township, in January, 1899, thirty-five subscribers patronizing the line. At first the people were skeptical as to the success of the enterprise, but their confidence gradually was secured and now nothing could shake it. The operations of the Prairie Telephone Company cover 425 subscribers, with toll lines not only into the western sections but to Lafayette, Monticello, Delphi and Chalmers. In other words, Brookston is in close telephonic connection with all out-of-doors.

#### THE METHODIST CHURCH

Methodists, Baptists, Christians, Universalists and Presbyterians have churches. The honor of being the religious pioneers of the place is accorded to the Methodists, who held their first services at the house of J. C. Moore, the farmer and inventor, probably about 1840. The meeting house was near the residence which he built later, after Brookston was platted. Near his cabin, in a hewn-log schoolhouse, which he also built, was organized the first class in the township. In 1844 the Methodists erected their first church building. It was a little frame building, 36 by 42 feet, and was located about two miles southwest of Brookston, near the Tippecanoe county line. The Reverend Mr. Stallard was the first minister to hold services in it. With the founding and growth of the Town of Brookston it became evident that the center of the Methodist activities should be there, and the church of 1866 was therefore erected at that place. The organization has been maintained since, Rev. E. O. Chivington being the pastor both of the Methodist Church at Brookston and that at Chalmers.

#### THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptists organized a church in 1866, and for nearly a year thereafter held services in the new Methodist building. In the following year they leased the old schoolhouse at Brookston, and in 1870 bought the property for \$600, the town school having been moved to the Brookston Academy. The building was remodeled to meet its new requirements, and the house of worship, which replaced the old one, was erected on the original site of the schoolhouse. Among the original members of the Brookston Baptist Church were Mr. and Mrs. William



Ripley, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. William Stewart, David French, Joseph French, and William Lawrence, and the following may be mentioned as pastors of an early day: B. C. Craig and David S. French, its first and second; Joseph Porter, J. G. Tedford, J. M. Kendall, I. W. Bailey, T. J. Morgan and C. J. Bunnell. S. H. Powell was the first deacon, and both he and C. C. French, the editor of the Brookston Reporter, were connected with church and Sunday school work for many years. The present organization is in charge of Rev. C. C. Curtis, who is also pastor of the Badger Grove Church.

#### BROOKSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

There being a number of Presbyterians living in Brookston and vicinity, it had long been their desire to have a church of their own faith and order. Occasional sermons had been preached in the town by Presbyterian ministers during previous years, but it was not until in the summer of 1888 that steps were taken looking toward an organization.

During that summer and fall Rev. S. C. Dickey of Monticello, Indiana, now of Winona Lake, visited the field several times, and it was largely through his influence that the little band was encouraged to go forward. Sermons were also preached by his father Rev. N. S. Dickey, and Rev. E. S. Scott, then of Logansport, and these combined efforts resulted in definite action in the direction of an organization, and a committee was appointed by the friends of the movement, and early in December sufficient money was raised to purchase the building formerly used as a church by the Baptist denomination. It was moved to a lot donated by Dr. John Medaris, and remodeled.

The Home Mission Committee of Logansport Presbytery was asked to organize a Presbyterian Church in Brookston. They sent Rev. H. H. Wells, D. D., a Presbyterian evangelist, to conduct a series of meetings to prepare the way more fully for the proposed organization. Doctor Wells began his work December 30, 1888, preaching morning and evening on that day and continuing each night excepting Saturday for two weeks.

On Wednesday evening, January 2, 1889, a commission of Logansport Presbytery was present, consisting of Rev. E. S. Scott, chairman, and Rev. S. C. Dickey. The way appearing to be clear, after a sermon by Doctor Wells, they proceeded to the organization of a Presbyterian Church. Upon the call of the chairman the following persons presented themselves as candidates for charter membership, coming by letter from other churches: Prof. J. H. Gildersleeve, Mrs. Flora N. Gildersleeve, Mr. Henry F. Hagerty, Mrs. Sarah E. Hagerty, Mr. James Wallace, Miss Elizabeth Hay, Miss E. Anna Hay, Miss Margaret Hay, and Mrs. Jennie Kent. The following persons presented themselves for admission on confession of faith: Mrs. Elizabeth Medaris, Miss Alta M. Medaris, Mr. Kilburn J. Mills, Mrs. Susanna Ross, and Clara E. Hagerty. After prayer by Rev. W. S. Peter of Remington, these fourteen persons entered into a covenant and, with their baptized children, were constituted the Brookston Presbyterian Church.





The following persons were elected ruling elders: Professor Gildersleeve and Henry F. Hagerty. They were immediately ordained and installed. J. H. Gildersleeve was the first clerk of the Session, and its first meeting was held in the church at the close of the service January 3, 1889.

The following ministers have served the church: Rev. N. S. Dickey from January 3, 1889, to January, 1892; Rev. C. L. Bevington, April, 1892, to October, 1892; Rev. W. S. Peter, November, 1892, to October, 1896; student supply from McCormick Seminary to September, 1897; Rev. A. G. Work, September, 1897, to April, 1901; Rev. J. W. Findley, April, 1901, to July, 1903; Rev. James Omelvena, September, 1903, to July, 1906; Rev. D. C. Truesdale, May, 1907, to September, 1910; Rev. John E. Wolever, September, 1910, to April, 1911; Rev. A. J. Marbet, April, 1911, to March, 1912, and Rev. J. T. Mordy, April, 1913, to November, 1914. The present pastor, Rev. J. D. Murphy, began his work in June, 1915.

In 1901 the congregation bought the lots on the corner of Second and Wood streets and built the present handsome brick, stone-trimmed structure, which they dedicated, free of debt, in May, 1902.

#### THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

This body was organized April 10, 1881, and among its ministers have been Ira B. Grandy, J. B. Fosher, James Houghton, W. W. Slaughter and Maurice Linton. The Universalist Church has a present membership of about 100.

#### SECRET AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES

Brookston has several firmly organized lodges, representing the secret and benevolent work of the Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows, Masons and Modern Woodmen of America. The oldest body is Brookston Lodge, No. 66, F. & A. M., which was first organized at Pittsburg, Carroll County, in 1848, and was moved to Brookston in 1857.

Among the leading members of the Masonic Lodge was Spencer Hart, who came from Ohio in 1863 and settled on a farm of 250 acres near Brookston, where he lived for nearly half a century, engaged during his active life in agricultural and livestock pursuits. At attaining his majority in Ohio, he had joined the Masonic fraternity and continued to be identified with it until his death at Monticello, April 23, 1915. About four years previous to his decease, he had moved from the old homestead to the county seat, where one of his married daughters resided. At the time of his death Mr. Hart was in his ninety-sixth year and was said to have been the oldest Mason in the United States, having been carried on its rolls as a member in good standing for sixty-five years. His remains were taken to the Battleground cemetery, where the burial was conducted under Masonic rites.



## CHAPTER XXIX

### CHALMERS AND IDAVILLE

CHALMERS, ORIGINALLY MUDGE'S STATION—JACOB RAUB, FOUNDER OF CHALMERS—J. & W. W. RAUB—ADDITIONS TO THE TOWN—GROWTH SINCE INCORPORATION—THE BANK OF CHALMERS—THE CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES—EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES—IDAVILLE—FIRST MERCHANT AND POSTMASTER—ANDREW HANNA—JOHN B. TOWNSLEY—CAPT. JOSEPH HENDERSON—CAPT. PATRICK HAYS—PROGRESS DESPITE FIRE—BANK OF IDAVILLE—TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL—THE CHURCH OF GOD (NEW DUNKARDS)—GEORGE PATTON—URIAH PATTON—ROBERT F. MILLION—THE CHURCH OF GOD (INCORPORATED)—UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—THE M. E. CHURCH—SOCIETIES.

Chalmers, a town of about 600 people, is the grain, banking and trading center for Big Creek Township and for a considerable surrounding district, especially toward the west. Situated on the Monon line (Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville) about three and a half miles north of Brookston and five miles south of Reynolds, it is far enough from any village to have a distinct territory for support, and is the natural market town for West Point Township and country nearer in that direction.

#### ORIGINALLY MUDGE'S STATION

The town is located on a beautiful slope of ground on the east side of the railroad. Its site was originally owned by Gardner Mudge, who donated a piece of land to the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Company when its line was being built through the township and county in 1854. Upon that tract the railroad company erected a little depot which stood for Mudge's Station.

Mr. Mudge and his brother-in-law, William S. Shaw, also put up a building and stocked it with the general merchandise required by the neighboring farmers. Shaw & Mudge, as the firm was called, are said to have lived in their store, which was therefore dwelling and business house combined.

Clark Johnston also opened a store—some say before Shaw & Mudge—while the railroad was yet building. R. P. Blizzard followed closely as the first blacksmith of the place; and then there was a cessation of the incoming tide for some time. In fact, a carpenter shop and a few dwellings were about all the structural additions to Mudge's Station for nearly twenty years.



## JACOB RAUB, FOUNDER OF CHALMERS

The hamlet did not seem to have the promise of a village until July 24, 1878, when Jacob Raub, who for over twenty years had been largely engaged in the grain business and farming, both in Tippecanoe County and at Mudge's Station, platted the Town of Chalmers on a part of the old Ross farm, which he had purchased in 1872.

The original town was in the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 34, town 26 north, range 4 west. It consisted of 103 lots and the following streets: Main, 70 feet wide; Earl, 66 feet; First, Second and Third, each 66 feet; Chestnut, 56, and Walnut, 50 feet wide.

Mr. Raub's father had been a wealthy farmer of Tippecanoe County, was a public-spirited man and took an active part in the promotion and final construction of the Crawfordsville & Lafayette Railroad, which afterward became a section of the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago. Two years after his father's death, Jacob Raub began the grain business at South Raub, Tippecanoe County, in partnership with his brothers, the firm shipping the first carload of grain over the New Albany line between Crawfordsville and Lafayette. In connection with their business the brothers also extensively engaged in farming, but in 1864 the firm was dissolved and its lands divided. It happened that the tract which fell to Jacob Raub was in Big Creek Township near Mudge's Station, and, after improving it for farming and livestock purposes, he turned his attention to his former business in grain. After being thus engaged for about five years, during which he had been elected president of the White County Agricultural Society, he bought the Ross farm and, as noted, laid out the Town of Chalmers. Jacob Raub's wife, whom he married in 1871, was a daughter of Benjamin Reynolds, founder of the town by that name.

## J. &amp; W. W. RAUB

During the year 1872 Mr. Raub commenced business with his youngest brother, William W., and the firm of J. & W. W. Raub for years conducted an extensive business in the handling of grain, livestock and coal. At one time their annual shipments of grain reached a total of more than 150,000 bushels annually, and their dealings in livestock were in proportion. In the conduct of these interests they built large cribs and warehouses, equipped with a big corn sheller and steam engine. In 1879 they erected a steam elevator and were the mainstays of the town during a long after-period.

Among the works which they accomplished and which had a strong influence on the founding and stability of Chalmers was the creation of a practical public sentiment which resulted in building one of the first gravel roads ever constructed in White County. It passed through the town and enabled the farmers for miles around to get their produce to Chalmers easily and safely.



## ADDITIONS TO THE TOWN

In January, 1887, the founder of the town platted its first addition, as Jacob and Sarah C. Raub's addition to the Town of Chalmers, and in 1891 William W. Raub laid out his first addition; his third in September, 1895, and his fourth in December of that year. In February, 1896, Jacob Raub and wife made their second addition to the townsite, and in March, 1897, Levi Reynolds, his brother-in-law, platted another addition, and several small tracts have been added since.

## GROWTH SINCE INCORPORATION

In 1900 Chalmers contained a population of 462, which represents its first separate enumeration from the township by reason of its incorporation as a town. Since then its improvements have been more substantial than formerly and its population has increased about 100. Its streets are broad and well kept, its business houses creditable and its residences neat and homelike. Its streets and buildings are lighted by electricity supplied from Monticello.

As to the institutions which give Chalmers a good standing among the town incorporations of White County a few are mentioned hereafter.

## THE BANK OF CHALMERS

In 1891 Jacob Raub established a private bank, of which he was president, and Albert Goslee (now of Lafayette) cashier. The present officers are the founder, Jacob Raub, president, and Charles J. Raub, his son, cashier. The institution became a state bank under the name The Bank of Chalmers (Incorporated) in 1904. It has a capital stock of \$25,000; deposits, \$120,000; surplus, \$6,250.

## INDUSTRIES

There are two substantial elevators at Chalmers, owned and conducted, respectively, by Ross & Barr and the Chalmers Grain Company (co-operative; C. O. Hawkins, manager). The Chalmers Lumber Company also has a large yard for dealings in lumber, lime, brick and sewer tile, and tile works are in operation.

## THE CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES

The town maintains three religious organizations. Soon after the town was platted the Methodists commenced to hold services in various houses, and in 1881 erected a small frame church. They have since maintained an organization, and in 1900 built a modern house of worship. Rev. E. O. Chivington, the pastor, has also the charge at Brookston.





In October, 1897, the Baptist Church of Chalmers was organized, with Rev. I. W. Bailey as pastor. Following him, in succession, were Revs. Charles Bunnell, A. H. Kay, W. A. Kleckner, A. J. Unthank, R. W. Thorne, C. L. Merriman and C. B. Stephens. Mr. Stephens assumed the pastorate in October, 1913, and the present membership of his church is about 130.

The Presbyterians also have an organization about eighty strong, but have no settled pastor.

The secret and benevolent orders are represented by the Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Improved Order of Red Men and Modern Woodmen of America.

#### EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The Commissioned High School for Big Creek Township is at Chalmers. There are also three district schools outside of town, all under the superintendency of John C. Downey. Daisy M. Downey is principal of the high school, the pupils of which come from every part of the township. Including the district schools, there is an enrollment of 270 in the township, of which the greater number are residents of Chalmers. The total value of school property is in excess of \$1,280,000.

#### IDAVILLE

Six years after the Town of Burnettsville was platted, on July 27, 1860, Andrew Hanna, John B. Townsley and John McCully laid out the Town of Hanna, now called Idaville, three miles west of the former village. It was platted on the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 28, township 27 north, range 2 west.

#### FIRST MERCHANT AND POSTMASTER

The first building on the site of the town was erected in the summer of 1859, before it was platted, and Alexander Rodgers, the builder, opened a store therein in November of that year. When Idaville was laid out, however, it was found that the store stood on portions of two lots, and it was subsequently moved to another site and used as a dwelling. Mr. Rodgers sold goods in this first building from November, 1859, to November, 1860, when he erected another and larger store and continued in business for a quarter of a century. As Idaville's first postmaster he served from 1860 to 1865.

The third building erected in Idaville was a dwelling put up by S. D. McCully on lot 1 of the original plat. Andrew Hanna then built a warehouse and in it John T. Barnes and John McCully opened a second store in town. It is needless to say that both the stores carried



a miscellaneous stock of goods—were what were known as general stores, tiny types of the modern department stores.

#### ANDREW HANNA

Mr. Hanna had come to what is now Jackson Township with his parents in 1833, the year before the county and the township were organized. He was present at the first town meeting, where he cast the first whig vote. In 1841 he settled in the locality of the town, of which he was the chief proprietor and business man, and eventually became the owner of some 900 acres of valuable farming lands in the township. He served as county commissioner, but was too independent in his expressed views and his actions to be a successful politician. He was also deeply religious, and in 1875 founded a society of Reformed Presbyterians, erecting a church edifice for them out of his own funds and contributing chiefly to its support for many years.

#### JOHN B. TOWNSLEY

John B. Townsley, another proprietor of the town, was a carpenter, builder and sawmill proprietor in Carroll County, before coming to the township in 1855 and investing in land adjoining Idaville and covering a portion of its site. In 1865 he laid out two additions to the original town, known as Townsley's west and south additions, the two comprising twenty lots. In the same year Robert Criswell platted an addition of six lots.

#### CAPT. JOSEPH HENDERSON

Among the pioneer settlers of Idaville were George H. Mitchell, who at his death in November, 1914, was the oldest resident in the county, and Capt. Joseph Henderson, the latter dying about eight years ago. Captain Henderson lived with Andrew Hanna when the Civil war broke out, enlisted in the Forty-sixth Indiana, and was promoted through the successive grades to a captaincy. He afterward served one term as sheriff of White County, and later engaged in the lumber business in Idaville.

#### CAPT. PATRICK HAYS

Capt. Patrick Hays, another Civil war veteran, is living at Idaville. He enlisted as a resident of Medarysville, in the Twenty-ninth Indiana, but had been advanced to a captaincy when in December, 1865, he was honorably discharged from the Union service and settled at Idaville, then an infant of five years. As shoemaker, merchant and public official, farmer and good citizen, Captain Hays has earned the enduring respect of the community.



## PROGRESS DESPITE FIRE

Idaville became quite a shipping point for lumber and wood, especially of fence posts. W. E. Myers set up a portable steam sawmill in Idaville in 1882, and there was a permanent plant three miles south.

Idaville is not incorporated, but it has an elevator, a creamery, some good stores and a bank, a substantial new school, several churches, and presents other evidences of a growing little town. This is surely creditable, in view of the fire of April, 1902, which wiped out the business portion of the place. Among the additions to the original site, besides those mentioned as having been made by John B. Townsley and Robert Criswell, are the following: By Perry Gates, in December, 1872; William Corder and Irvin Greer, June, 1873; Samuel A. McCully and



IDAVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

others, September, 1875; James M. Townsley, August, 1896, and Perry Patton, March, 1897.

## BANK OF IDAVILLE

The Bank of Idaville was organized in 1898, with Robert Parker as president, and J. M. Townsley, cashier. The present management—John B. Wright, president, and Milton Timmons, cashier—has been in charge of its transactions since the fall of 1909. Its financial status is indicated by the following items: Capital, \$10,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$6,000; deposits, \$100,000.

## TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL

The first schools in the township were established nearer Burnettsville than Idaville, but a few years after the former was platted Andrew Hanna and others started a subscription school within the town limits.



The Township Commissioned High School is at Idaville, and a fine building costing \$25,000 was erected in 1914, its dedication occurring in November of that year. It replaced a handsome building destroyed by fire in November, 1912. About 235 pupils are enrolled, of which number thirty-five are in the high school department, under the instruction of Fred Francis, superintendent, and six teachers. The curriculum includes manual training, domestic science and an agricultural course.

#### THE FIRST CHURCH OF GOD (NEW DUNKARDS)

The Dunkards are very strong at Idaville, both as religious denominations and industrious, progressive, upright citizens. Without going into the differences of their belief, they have divided into the Church of God (New Dunkards) and the Church of God (Incorporated).

#### GEORGE PATTON

George Patton, the founder of the Church of God, commonly called New Dunkards, was born in Fredrick County, Maryland, in 1812; in early childhood moved with his parents to Ohio, and later to Henry County, Indiana. After his marriage in 1836 he settled in Carroll County and became identified with the German Baptist Church. In 1848, with Peter Iman and others, he withdrew from that denomination, in which he had been advanced to the ministry, and formed the Church of God. Mr. Patton was the leading elder of the new brotherhood. He died in Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1892.

#### URIAH PATTON

Rev. Uriah Patton, brother of the founder, settled in Carroll County, from which the organization spread northward into White County in 1835, and in 1847 moved to a farm five and a half miles northwest of Idaville. He moved to the village in 1898 and died there in 1903, having preached the gospel in the Church of God for forty-three years.

#### ROBERT F. MILLION

Another elder of the church, Rev. Robert F. Million, was a native of White County. He died at Burnettsville in 1912, at an advanced age, having preached for many years.

The present pastor, Rev. Marion A. Hughes, is a native of Liberty Township, and united with the church at Sitka in 1886.

The New Dunkards became so strong in 1872 that they built a large house of worship at Idaville on land donated by William F. and Rebecca J. Timmons. George Patton preached the dedicatory sermon. The trustees were Hezekiah Patton, Perry Gates and Aaron Price. The present officers of the church are: John W. Shull, elder; Jonathan Irelan and





John W. Davis, deacons; A. L. Read, Albert Godlove and William H. Bryan, trustees; Edna Bunger, secretary; Mrs. Kate Stober, treasurer.

#### THE CHURCH OF GOD (INCORPORATED)

The Church of God (Incorporated) has a flourishing society at Idaville. On December 27, 1907, its attractive house of worship was dedicated, the chief address being delivered by Dr. C. I. Brown, president of Findlay (Ohio) College. The building, which cost over \$9,000, is of white brick. The members of the construction board were Elder Love, D. W. Heiney, J. H. Hanna, N. C. Gibson, J. W. Shafer and Emery Godlove, and their adviser was Perry Godlove. Rev. Matthew W. Johnson is the present pastor.

#### UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The United Presbyterian Church of Idaville dates from 1858, when the union of the Associate and Associate Reform churches took place throughout the country. The original society was formed at Burnett's Creek in 1843, at the house of Andrew Hanna. Soon after the union, the Burnett's Creek Church was reorganized as the United Presbyterian Church of Idaville, its elders being Thomas Barnes, Andrew Hanna, Stephen Nutt and Thomas Ginn. In the fall of 1858 Rev. Thomas Callahan became the settled pastor. He has been followed by Revs. J. B. Reasoner, Gilbert Small, Milford Tidball, A. K. Strane, A. S. Baily, George A. Rosenburg, A. G. Hastings and J. A. Harper. The first church building was erected about 1849, while the organization was a Burnett's Creek institution, and an addition was built ten years later. In 1871 a new and larger structure was completed, west and beyond the road leading south from Idaville, and in 1905 the brick structure now occupied was dedicated.

#### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Methodist Church was organized in 1875, with Rev. Thomas H. McKee as minister and James Armstrong as class leader. In 1876 a building was purchased in Pike Creek neighborhood and moved to Idaville, to be used for religious services. It was afterward remodeled and entirely rebuilt in 1910. Until 1900 Idaville was in the Burnettsville charge, but withdrew that year. The pastor now in charge of the Idaville church is Rev. J. S. Godwin.

The Seventh-Day Adventists have also a small society, organized in 1882.

#### SOCIETIES

The leading lodge at Idaville is that of the Odd Fellows (No. 556), which has about 100 members. Their hall was erected in 1882. The Modern Woodmen of America are represented by Lodge No. 7274.



## CHAPTER XXX

### BURNETTSVILLE AND REYNOLDS

BURNETTSVILLE PLATTED—BEFORE THE TOWN WAS LAID OUT—FRANKLIN, J. HERMAN—SHARON ABSORBED—ELEVATOR AND POULTRY PACKING HOUSE—TOWN COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL—THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH—THE METHODISTS—THE BAPTIST CHURCH—THE OLD DUNKARDS—TOWN OF REYNOLDS PLATTED—PIONEER HOTEL AND SAWMILL—THE SILL ENTERPRISES—EARLY PROGRESS—FIRST RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS—MICHAEL VOGEL—ADOPTS TOWN GOVERNMENT—THE TOWN OF TODAY—BANK OF REYNOLDS—THE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL—ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH—THE METHODIST CHURCH—LUTHERANS AND CHRISTIANS.

Burnettsville, the town, and Burnett's Creek, the postoffice, in Jackson Township, represent the oldest centers of population in the eastern part of White County. The postoffice was originally located at the pioneer settlement of Farmington. In 1854 the old Town of Burnettsville was platted, and in 1860 Sharon, about half a mile north, was laid out. Then in 1864 the postoffice of Burnett's Creek was moved to Sharon, and when the latter was absorbed by Burnettsville the postoffice went with it.

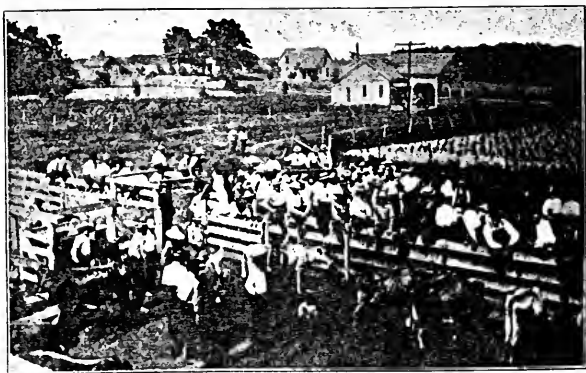
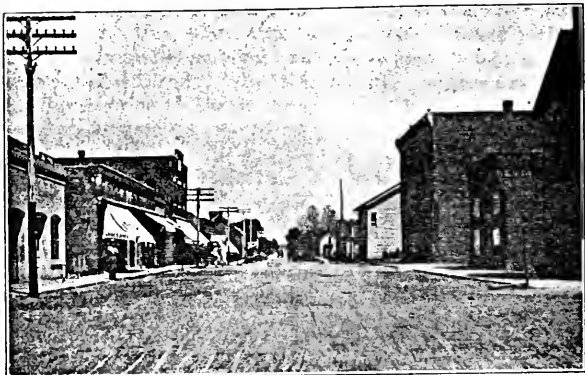
#### BURNETTSVILLE PLATTED

Franklin J. Herman platted Burnettsville on the 23rd of March, 1854, the townsite comprising 100 lots in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 25. Mrs. Prudence Dale, widow of William Dale, one of the first settlers in the township, made an addition of sixteen lots in September, 1855.

#### BEFORE THE TOWN WAS LAID OUT

Before Burnettsville was platted quite a settlement had gathered on its site. About 1846 Thomas Riley built a log cabin within its limits, and about three years afterward David Stephens opened a saddler's shop, also on the future townsite. Later in that year William S. Davis put up the first frame structure, which he occupied both as a dwelling and a store. Thomas Wiley had a blacksmithy, and John W. Bolinger bought William Dobbins' wagon shop, built an addition to it and transformed all into a tavern, with cabinet shop attached.





SCENES AT REYNOLDS



## FRANKLIN J. HERMAN

Franklin J. Herman opened the second store on the site of Sharon in 1852, and, as stated, platted the Town of Burnettsville just south of it in 1854. He continued in business, with different partners, for many years thereafter, and was evidently prepared to take advantage of the growth of either place. In 1864, when the postoffice was transferred from Burnettsville to Sharon, he succeeded William S. Davis as postmaster.

## SHARON ABSORBED

On the 7th of December, 1880, William Irelan made an addition of sixteen lots to the Town of Sharon, and in October, 1897, James D. Brown added twenty lots to the site. Afterward Sharon was absorbed by Burnettsville, townsite, postoffice and all, and a regular incorporation was effected.

## PRESENT VILLAGE

The present village is supported by a prosperous agricultural country, the residents of which, as well as the townsmen, have banking accommodations through the State Bank of Burnettsville.

## STATE BANK OF BURNETTSVILLE

In August, 1902, that institution was started as a private bank by W. C. Thomas and J. C. Duffy, with a capital of \$10,000. Mr. Duffy was the cashier. In July, 1907, the private organization was succeeded by the State Bank of Burnettsville, with a paid-up capital of \$25,000, which was increased to \$30,000 in 1912.

The first set of officers were: W. C. Thomas, president, E. B. Thomas, vice president, J. C. Duffy, cashier, and F. A. Duffy, assistant cashier. In July, 1913, J. C. Duffy was made president, F. A. Duffy became cashier, and W. C. Thomas vice president, while E. B. Thomas retired from the latter office, although still remaining a stockholder. At the present time the State Bank of Burnettsville has a surplus of \$8,500, and its deposits average \$150,000.

## ELEVATOR AND POULTRY PACKING HOUSE

Much of the grain of the surrounding country is handled by the Burnettsville Elevator Company, which was incorporated in June, 1911, with a capital of \$14,000. Milt K. Reiff is president, Cloyd Loughry of Monticello, vice president, and James D. Brown, secretary and treasurer.

Another institution of Burnettsville worthy of mention among its business houses is the poultry packing plant of H. Beshoar, father of the editor of the News.





## TOWN COMMISSIONED HIGH SCHOOL

Being incorporated, Burnettsville has a Town Commissioned High School, with eight teachers. Fred R. Gorman is the superintendent. The handsome building now occupied was completed in 1903 at a cost of \$10,000. About 250 pupils are enrolled, of whom seventy-five attend the high school department.

## THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The first church organized at Burnettsville was the Christian, thirteen members of the Disciples of Christ meeting for that purpose in the fall of 1834, at the house of Alexander Scott, about a mile east of the present village. Mr. Scott and Reuben Wilson were chosen elders, the latter being in charge; William Hicks, deacon. The first church building was erected in 1853, and the one now occupied by the society in 1909. Rev. C. E. Wells is the pastor in charge.

## THE METHODISTS

The Methodists effected a regular organization at Farmington, or the old Town of Burnettsville, about 1843, under Rev. G. W. Stafford, with the following twenty-five members: John Herman and wife, Stephen McPherson and wife, Caleb Mahuren and wife, Larkin Herman and wife, John Shaw and wife, William Shaw, Eli Shaw, Catherine Davis, Isaac Mahuren, John E. Dale, Joshua Tam, Mitchell Tam, Catherine Dodge, Prudence Dale, Maria Davis, Mary Shaw, Martha Million, Margaret Dale, William Stewart and Sarah Stewart. The successive pastors have been, after Mr. Stafford: B. Webster, G. W. Warner, J. Hatfield, B. Williams, J. M. Rodgers, J. B. Ball, W. J. Coptner, D. Dunham, William Reeder, P. J. Beswick, W. Hancock, F. Cox, J. B. Mershan, W. Beckner, J. B. Adell, J. S. Budd, J. L. Boyd, C. W. Farr, H. C. Fraley, G. W. Warner, J. S. Budd, C. L. Smith, J. W. Pierce, L. T. Armstrong, W. H. Wood, S. Barcus, B. F. Nadell, F. Mason, J. E. Steel, J. W. Jackson, Jephtha Boicourt, R. H. Calvert, C. R. Ball, W. Hall, Z. Lambert, Jephtha Boicourt (second pastorate), William Davis, A. L. Miller, Jacob Rohm, R. W. Burton, J. N. Thompson, A. M. Bowen, C. C. Harold, J. H. Kenrich, C. H. Hickman, W. I. Boyd and C. O. Smock. Mr. Smock has also charge of the Lake Sicott (Cass County) Church. The two have a membership of over 220. In 1901, while Rev. J. N. Thompson was pastor, the church erected a new house of worship, which was remodeled in 1906.

## THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Burnettsville Baptist Church was organized April 4, 1843, and Rev. Elijah Barnes, who was also pastor of the Logansport and Crooked Creek organizations, assumed charge of the new society. Revs. J. E.



Thomas and Waters assumed the pastorates previous to 1849, when Rev. M. A. Kerr, the first settled minister, came to the charge. Since then the pulpit has been served by I. N. Clark, William Hanawalt, George K. Busing, John Dunham, M. A. Kerr (second pastorate); J. G. Kerr (brother of the foregoing), who died in service; A. H. Dooley (whose pastorate extended from 1872 to 1880), P. Odell, A. H. Dooley (second pastorate), Ira Tedford, I. W. Bailey, C. J. Bunnell, T. F. Pierce, J. H. Pierce, I. C. Oberman, J. G. Brengle and Ohlie E. Miller. The edifice now occupied was dedicated in May, 1904. Mr. Miller has also in his charge what is known as Great Eastern Chapel, Carroll County, altogether 240 members.

#### THE OLD DUNKARDS

The Old Dunkards have a church at Burnettsville, under the pastorate of Rev. G. B. Heeter. Reverend Mr. Heeter has been engaged in this charge for several years and has built up a society whose influence for good has been felt throughout the entire community.

#### TOWN OF REYNOLDS PLATTED

Perhaps more than any other town in White County, Reynolds is the creation of the railroads which meet there, almost in the geographical center of the county—the old Louisville, Albany & Chicago, the north and south line, completed in 1854, and the Pittsburgh, Chicago & St. Louis, the east and west route, finished in 1859. The original plat was dated January 10, 1854, and was named in honor of Benjamin Reynolds, its acknowledged founder. The other proprietors were George S. Rose, Christian Cassell and William M. Kenton. The town was laid out on the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 34, township 27 north, range 4 west. Main, Sill, Kenton and Boone, north and south thoroughfares, are 66 feet wide, and First, Second, Third and Fourth, crossing them at right angles, are 60 feet in width.

#### PIONEER HOTEL AND SAWMILL

At the time Reynolds was laid out, two buildings had been erected on its site, both in 1852—a hotel by Benjamin Reynolds, and a dwelling by Abraham Timmons. In the year of its platting Messrs. Johnson and Cole built a steam sawmill, the first in the township, which was continued for a time, but it was before its time and reverses and the sheriff overtook the enterprise. The Reynolds Hotel, however, in extended form, endured for many years before it was revamped into a clubhouse.

#### THE SILL ENTERPRISES

M. M. Sill completed a store in the spring of 1855 and stocked it with \$4,000 worth of groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, etc. His was



the most pretentious business enterprise yet launched, and it was turned over to David K. Ream in 1857. M. M. and R. W. Sill afterward built a warehouse, which became the first grist mill in the township, the machinery being run by steam. This also was a permanent industry.

#### EARLY PROGRESS

In 1855, the year after Reynolds was created, Honey Creek Township was formed. The first election for township officers was held in the new town on the 7th of April, 1856. About this time a subscription schoolhouse was built, Benjamin Reynolds donating the ground and Nathaniel Bunnell giving \$25 in cash toward its construction.

Altogether the prospects looked so bright that in January, 1855, Thomas Bunnell and William M. Kenton laid out the North addition to the original plat. It consisted of 141 lots, nearly as large as the first plat.

Soon after the railroad made Reynolds a station it built a large yard for the accommodation of shippers of stock, and for several years Reynolds was the principal point in the county for the shipment of horses, cattle, hogs and sheep. Attention of outsiders was drawn to the business and commercial activity of the town, a fair-sized grain warehouse was erected, and although the hard times of 1857 gave the place a temporary setback, it revived, especially when a second railroad furnished additional transportation in 1859. It is little wonder that it aspired to win the county seat from Monticello.

#### FIRST RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

In response to the wishes of the citizens, the Masons formed a lodge at Reynolds in 1859, but about fifteen years later its charter was arrested. Although circuit preachers of Methodism had held occasional services at the home of Nathaniel Bunnell and at the Spencer house, and little churches were built near what is now known as Smithson, two miles south of Reynolds, it was not until 1868 that a substantial society was formed at the latter place.

#### MICHAEL VOGEL

As early as 1856 the Catholics had commenced to celebrate mass at the house of Michael Vogel, a German shoemaker who had settled at Reynolds the year before. Mr. Vogel passed the remainder of his nearly four-score years in the town of his adoption, where he died in 1913. He was a kind, substantial citizen, and left a widow to continue the good influences of the family in his home town, as well as a son, Bernard A. Vogel, a well known citizen of Monticello. The latter has served four years as county recorder, eight years as deputy clerk, six years as deputy auditor, and is now deputy state treasurer.

The second addition to the original town was made on the 4th of May, 1866, by Mrs. S. A. Vail, the so-called Vail's addition consisting of eighteen lots west of the North addition.



## ADOPTS TOWN GOVERNMENT

At the September term of the Commissioners' Court in 1875, Robert M. Delzell presented a petition signed by himself and fifty-three other residents of Reynolds, praying that body to issue an order authorizing its incorporation as a town. The board ordered an election to determine the question, on the 2nd of October, 1875, and a majority of the voters decided in favor of incorporation. At the first election the following officers were chosen: Trustees, Jacob Pfister, William Schweinle and Abram Van Voorst; marshal, Joshua Bunnell; assessor, Frederick Witenburg.

The incorporation was the signal for activity on the part of the real estate men, and three additions were laid out in 1876, by Abraham and Benjamin Reynolds, Abel J. Holtam and Joseph Holtam, respectively, and in 1877 Amanda and Abraham Van Voorst laid out Van Voorst's west addition.



AFTER THE REYNOLDS FIRE, AUGUST 21, 1907

## THE TOWN OF TODAY

Although Reynolds has not realized its largest ambitions, it is a thriving little place, backed by a productive country and good people. It is a banking center, has a substantial elevator; a well-stocked lumber yard, which also carries tile and coal; a cement block plant, and a number of solid business houses. As to meeting the higher wants of the community, it may be added that its school, churches and societies are firmly established for that purpose.

## BANK OF REYNOLDS

The Bank of Reynolds was organized April 27, 1897, as a private institution by John C. Vanatta, William D. Wagner and Fred Dahling. That management continued until its reorganization as a state bank in June, 1914. At that time John C. Vanatta became president, William D. Wagner, vice president, and Fred Dahling, cashier. Its capital was then increased to \$25,000, and since it became a state bank its deposits have increased from \$115,000 to \$125,000.





## THE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

The Honey Creek Township School at Reynolds is one of the finest buildings outside of Monticello. It was completed in October, 1914, at an approximate cost of \$24,000, by the combined support of town and township. C. F. Heimlich and Levi Reynolds were the trustees during the period of its construction. The superintendent is F. E. Young, principal of the high school, J. J. Lavin, and the course of instruction embraces manual training, domestic science and agriculture. A good gymnasium is a strong feature of the school's appliances. Besides the superintendent and the principal there are five teachers to look after the mental and physical welfare of the 195 pupils who are enrolled. Of that number, forty-five are high school scholars.

## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The commencement of the religious history of Reynolds dates from the celebration of mass by the Catholics of the town and the neighborhood at the house of Michael Vogel; as noted. Rev. Joseph Stephan had charge of the little flock, from which has grown St. Joseph's Church, the only Catholic organization in White County. In 1866 a frame house of worship was erected with a seating capacity of 150, under the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Winter. In 1876 the growth of the charge made it necessary to erect a large brick structure with a seating capacity of 475, at a cost of \$6,000. The brick parsonage was built in 1899, while Rev. John Kubacki was in charge, and in 1909 the school addition was made to the church. In 1912 St. Joseph's Church opened a new cemetery about two miles from town. The present membership of the parish under Rev. F. J. Koch numbers 370 souls. Following Rev. J. A. Winter, until June, 1908, when Father Koch was sent to the charge, Revs. John McMahon (first resident priest), Burns, A. King, A. Messmann, D. Meier, I. M. Wilkens, J. B. Schroeder, A. Beyer, P. Welling, F. Schaefer, M. Zumbuelte, J. Berg, George Schramm, J. Blum, J. Kubacki, George Horstmann and J. A. Scimetz were in charge of St. Joseph's Church.

## THE METHODIST CHURCH

In May, 1868, the Methodists purchased a lot from Joseph and Sarah Holtam, and the building which they still occupy was erected the same year, under the direction of Rev. Henry C. Fraley. Previous to 1893 and during the pastorate of Reverend Mr. Greenway, Reynolds was attached to the Wolcott circuit. Shortly after this, Reverend Mr. Wareing took charge of both Seafeld and Reynolds for a short time. In 1896 the Reynolds circuit was organized and churches were built at Seafeld and Honey Creek, the Reynolds church repaired, and a library purchased. In 1897 the (Union) church at West Point was repaired, but has since been destroyed by fire. About six years ago it was rebuilt and is now served by Rev. T. J. Reder, the Wolcott pastor. Services at Honey



Creek were soon abandoned, and in 1912 the building was wrecked and the lumber used in the new parsonage at Reynolds, which was erected under Rev. J. S. Godwin. The church trustees constituted a building committee, as follows: A. E. Josserand, E. A. Bush, J. W. Gardner, J. E. Jameson, William F. Snyder and J. N. Bunnell.

The following pastors have served the charge since 1900: James T. Stafford was appointed in 1901, Israel Hatton in 1903, Etienne Kuonen in 1905, W. Scott Simonson in 1906, James A. Koontz in 1907, William George Pulliam in 1910, J. S. Godwin in 1911, and A. T. Mosier assumed charge in the autumn of 1913, with preaching places at Shafer, Reynolds and Seafield. The present membership of his charge is 140.

#### THE LUTHERANS AND CHRISTIANS

The Lutherans and Christians (Disciples of Christ) have also churches at Reynolds. The Christian meeting house was erected in 1897, and, besides a church, the Lutherans have a neat parochial school-house, completed in 1910.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. James Church was organized on the third day of June, 1861. For a number of years the services were held in the homes of different members and later in the public schoolhouse. In the year 1866 the congregation erected its first house of worship. In 1879 the present church was built. In 1895 the building was thoroughly renovated. Two years later (1897), a pipe organ was installed. The congregation also maintains a parochial school. Professor Munzel has been the teacher since 1906. In the fall of 1910 the present modern school building was dedicated. Seventy pupils are enrolled at the present time.

The following pastors have served the congregation: Reverends Koenig and Schoeneberg from Lafayette and Reverend Jox from Logansport until 1866; Reverend Meissner, 1866-1874; Rev. H. Schlesselmann, 1875-1880; Rev. J. H. Bethke, 1880-1896; and Rev. J. H. Lindhorst, since 1896. The congregation at the present time numbers ninety-five voting members, that is male members of twenty-one years and mostly heads of families; communicant members over fourteen years number 275.



## CHAPTER XXXI

### TEMPERANCE STRUGGLE IN WHITE COUNTY

#### FIGHT COVERED PERIOD OF SEVENTY YEARS—SALOONS FINALLY BANISHED

Those who have read that rare little classic, "Queen of the Woods," written by Simon Pokagon, last chief of the Pottawattomies, will recall the pathetic story of the destruction of his family by "ish-kot-e-wa-be" (fire water) supplied the Indians by the more advanced (?) civilization which drove his people from their forest homes. Chief Pokagon, then in the vigor of his young manhood, had received a classical education, and, strange to say, had escaped the clutches of this curse of his race. His family consisted of his wife, Lonidaw, and two children, Olondaw and Hazeleye.

When the boy, Olondaw, was twelve years old the parents consented to send him away to the white man's school at the expense of a priest, to be educated. The mother gave her consent with great reluctance, after she had exacted a solemn promise from the priest that the boy should be carefully guarded against the Indian's deadly enemy. Pokagon then relates the following:

"The night before Olondaw left Lonidaw dreamed she was near the wigwam of her childhood days, and that in a familiar bush by the trail-side she found two young robins in their nest. She touched one gently with her hand. It leaped from out the nest chirping a wild alarm, and fell fluttering to the ground. The parent birds, distracted, came flying all about uttering mourning notes of deepest sorrow. She sought the young bird to place it back into its nest again; but to her astonishment she saw it moving as by measured tread on tiptoe hop, with drooping wings, toward a monstrous 'gin-e-big' (snake) with open mouth, that was drawing the young bird by some unseen charm into the jaws of death. In haste she grasped a club to beat the reptile off, but as she struck with all her might it seized the bird; when, lo! to her surprise the snake within its jaws held fast, not the bird, but the living skeleton of her son, struggling to escape. The boy in terror cried: 'My mother! Oh, my mother. Save your boy!' Screaming, she awoke and told her dream and said: 'I never have believed in dreams, but this one seems so real I do believe with all my heart it has been sent of heaven as a warning not to send our boy to the school of the white man.'"

After a few years the boy returned to his home, and with his first kiss on his mother's lips disclosed to her that her horrid dream was being fulfilled. Smelling the white man's liquor on his breath she fell writhing at his feet; but despite the most solemn promises that he would



never touch it again, he soon became a drunken wreck and passed into an early grave. A short time later, while their daughter, Hazeleye, was out on the small lake near their home, two drunken fishermen, white men, ran into her bark canoe, broke it in two and the girl was drowned. Rendered unconscious by her desperate efforts to save the child the young mother was resuscitated with difficulty, only to die a few weeks later from a broken heart. After giving an account of her burial the broken-hearted chief continues:

"I reached my lonely home. No crane was hung upon the latch-string of the door. No friends had gathered there to cheer the mourning heart on its return. \* \* \* Alone in my wigwam with the old, faithful dog at my side, I knelt and poured out my soul in prayer and tears to the Great Spirit. I told Him how my dear Lonidaw, whom He gave me, became broken-hearted over the downfall and loss of our dear boy, and how she fell a victim to despair and died because of the sudden death of our dear Hazeleye, leaving me wretched and alone. I told Him not only of my own family and kin, but how my band and tribe were falling before the intoxicating cup like leaves before the autumn blast; and that bad white men, who appeared to love money more than their own souls, had pressed to our lips the alluring beverage of hell, and after having ruined many of our young men and our old men, had most wickedly published to the world that the red man would barter all he possessed for 'ish-kot-e-wa-be.'"

Then followed one of the most scathing arraignments of the drink evil; and as Pokagon was born in 1825, and as a portion of his tribe about this time and for several years later had a populous village on the west side of the Tippecanoe River, just north of the dam at Monticello, it brings his sad story very close home to us. He died at his home near St. Joseph, Michigan, in 1899, while the manuscript for his book was yet in the hands of the printers. Throughout his long life the old chief never faltered in his relentless fight against "the white man's burden," and the curse of his race; but with an eloquence and pathos born of personal wrongs and suffering he continued to warn his people to shun the accursed habit if they would escape the wrath of the Great Spirit and reach the happy hunting grounds of their fathers.

Thus it seems that Indians and rattlesnakes, gophers and green head flies, mosquitoes and malaria were not the only evils the early settler had to combat. With the advent of the white man came the white man's "fire water," with all its attendant evils and misery, and the seemingly never-ending conflict between drunkenness and sobriety, law and lawlessness, unscrupulous greed and the golden rule; and in this conflict neighbor has been pitted against neighbor, husband against wife, brother against brother and son against father; and this warfare against saloons and the liquor evil in White County began very early in the county's history—at least as early as 1837. The Monticello Herald of June 28, 1883, says:

"An old book was found in the vault of the county recorder's office last week which contains the record of the first temperance society in White County.





"The minutes of the first meeting are dated May 21, 1837, and are signed by Joshua Lindsey, president, and Levi S. Dale, secretary. The meeting was held at the courthouse pursuant to previous notice, and was addressed by Rev. Mr. Holladay and Rev. Mr. Hummer, after which a committee consisting of Geo. A. Spencer, Zebulon Sheetz, the Rev. Hummer, I. Reynolds, John Wilson, J. Harbolt, James Spencer, George R. Bartley, Dr. R. Brearley and Levi S. Dale was appointed to draft a constitution for the society.

"After a few minutes retirement this voluminous committee reported a no less voluminous constitution, which had evidently been 'cut and dried' beforehand, and it was adopted and signed by persons present. The full number enrolled, as shown by the record, was 135. Of these names we only recognize seven who are still living: D. M. Tilton, Isaac S. Vinson, Asenath Price, Ellis H. Johnson, Van McCulloch and Mary Reynolds. The rest are all numbered with 'the silent majority.'

"The society was known as 'The White County Temperance Society,' and its members were pledged to 'abstain from the use of and traffic in all intoxicating liquors as a drink.' The constitution provided that an executive committee should be elected annually, whose duty it should be 'to procure the delivery of suitable addresses at the regular meetings of the society when practicable and to procure and circulate as far as possible every temperance publication which they might deem of good tendency.'

"An evidence of the slow moving age in which our ancestors lived is the fact that the regular meetings of this primeval organization were held only once in three months—in the words of the constitution, 'on the 4th of July and every quarter thereafter'—a striking contrast to the weekly and nightly meetings of the blue ribbon period.

"On the 4th of July, 1837, at 12 o'clock, the society was addressed by Levi S. Dale, and so favorably was the address received that a committee consisting of Joshua Lindsey and Isaac Parker was appointed to secure a copy of it for publication. The result recorded in the minutes shows that Mr. Dale belonged to a species of the genus homo now extinct. After acknowledging the receipt of the committee's request, he said:

"I heartily thank the Society for their good opinion of my humble effort in the cause of humanity, but however flattering it would be to my vanity to see the address published, for the reason that I do not entertain so exalted an opinion of it, and for other reasons, I respectfully decline complying with your request. Your obt. serv't,

'L. S. DALE.'

"The last meeting of which this old book shows any record was held January 1, 1839, and was addressed by Rev. McLeash. The minutes are signed by T. M. Thompson, secretary. Jonathan Harbolt was president at this time but neglected to sign the minutes.

"This old record is an interesting relic and should be placed in the archives of the Old Settlers' Association."

It is probable that the struggle continued with varying degrees of



success, though not much is known of local conditions during the next twenty years. However, the temperance question cut a large figure in the state at large, as well as in several other states of the Union. In 1853 the Indiana Legislature enacted a local option law, which was repealed by the law of 1855, which was known as the Maine prohibitory law, prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. However, liquor was permitted to be sold for medicinal purposes, and as it was considered a sovereign remedy for malaria and a specific for snake bite, it was said that those who were not shaking with the "ager," the common designation for malarial chills, spent much of their time in looking for snakes—or at least in reporting snake bites to their family physician. This was especially true of those who had heretofore been addicted to the use of whisky; and it was indeed surprising how easily a prairie rattler could find one of these old toppers.

About this time the temperance tide was again rising high in White County. Lodges of the Sons and Daughters of Temperance, Good Templars and the Temple of Honor were organized, not only in Monticello but also in several of the smaller towns, and meetings of one or the other were held almost nightly. The law of 1853 having been repealed by the law of 1855, and the latter having been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1858, this left the liquor business in a very chaotic state, the conditions in different localities depending altogether on public sentiment. The agitation in Monticello had been so strong and the sentiment against the liquor business so pronounced that at the beginning of 1859 there remained only one place, that of Parry & Dale, where liquor could be procured without a physician's certificate. There are now in the hands of the White County Historical Society some old papers which throw further light on conditions at this interesting period. One dated February 15, 1859, says: "At a meeting of the citizens of Monticello and neighborhood, held in the First Presbyterian Church for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of intemperance in the community, on motion of Rev. H. S. Shaw a committee consisting of Shaw, Scott and Hanawalt was appointed to draft and report resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. This committee reported the following:

"Resolved, That a committee of three persons be appointed by the meeting to expostulate with the sellers of liquors in Monticello, and the said committee affectionately request them to cease selling until Legislature now in session throws some guards around the traffic. And that the committee receive some satisfactory assurance that they stop now; which shall assure the ladies that they will fulfill their promise."

The minutes do not state who was appointed the "committee of three persons," but the committee evidently went at their duties vigorously; for at an adjourned meeting held on the afternoon of February 19th they reported the following:

"A bill of liquors belonging to Parry & Dale, to be delivered to Joseph Rothrock, Agent:

One keg containing 41½ gal. common brandy, 1.25 per gal.



One keg containing  $3\frac{1}{4}$  gal. good brandy, 4.00 per. gal.

One keg containing 2 gal. Holland Gin, 2.00 per gal.

One keg containing 7 gal. more or less, cherry bounce, 1.50 per gal.

One half bbl. containing 13 gal. Rye whisky, .75 per gal.

"Measured by Parry, Van Buskirk and Bushnell this 18th day of February, 1859. The kegs containing the liquors estimated to be worth 5 dollars, \$48.87.

"Know all men by these presents that we, J. Rothrock, M. A. Berkey, A. Hanawalt, F. H. Kiefhaber, H. B. Logan and T. M. Thompson, of the County of White, in the State of Indiana, are held and firmly bound unto Messrs. Dale and Parry of Monticello in the sum of forty-eight  $87/100$  dollars, to the payment whereof we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators firmly by these presents. Signed and dated this 18th day of Feb., 1859.

"The consideration of the above obligation is such that if Joseph Rothrock shall take the liquors of which the above is a bill, and sell them, or return them to the said Parry and Dale; and if sold that he will pay the proceeds arising from the said sale to the said Parry and Dale, then this obligation is to be void; else to remain in full force."

The action of the committee was received as a happy solution of the liquor evil in Monticello and the committee was given a vote of thanks. On motion a vote of thanks was also extended to the liquor dealers "for the gentlemanly manner in which they complied with the requisitions of the committee, and that they be entitled to fair patronage in their legitimate business."

It will be remembered that in those days liquors were usually sold in connection with other lines of merchandise, and this resolution was to prevent what in later years has become known as the boycott. A vote of thanks was also extended to the ladies "for their energy and fidelity." Mr. Rothrock accepted the trust; the liquors were turned over to him and the committee discharged. No further record has been discovered as to the disposition of the liquors, but tradition states that the amount necessary to pay for them was subscribed by the temperance people and the liquors were emptied into the gutter.

Of course the temperance people and those favoring law and order were much elated over finally ridding the town of the last and only place where liquor was sold as a beverage; but their joy was of short duration. Subsequent events are graphically told by Mr. M. M. Sill, one of the participants, in his uncompleted history of White County. Mr. Sill says:

"In about one month a stranger, hailing from Logansport, made his appearance and announced his intention of starting a cigar and tobacco store, provided he could find a suitable room in the town. Of course he could be accommodated. There was not a place in the town at that time devoted exclusively to the sale of tobacco and cigars.

"The man finally made a selection of a building on the east side of Main Street between Washington and Marion, and disappeared, saying his goods would be along in a few days. The stock came. It consisted



of two small caddies of plug tobacco, a barrel of smoking tobacco, a box of clay pipes, a half dozen boxes of cigars, five barrels of whisky and ten kegs of variously branded gin, rum, wine and brandy. To say that the people of Monticello were shocked is putting it mildly. They were taken off their feet. The temperance people were justly indignant. They had worked for a year or more to rid the town of the traffic, and all for naught." A committee was again appointed to negotiate with the liquor dealer with a view to the purchase of his stock on condition that he leave the town. The stock was not for sale. The committee were ordered from the place, with threats of personal violence should they return—a loaded revolver and other weapons being pointed out, kept in a convenient place for any one who should have the temerity to "interfere with his business." All this the committee duly reported, and further operations were for a time suspended. Mr. Sill continues his account as follows:

"The cigar and tobacco store opened and did a rushing business, but its patrons all provided themselves with a jug before entering the store to make their purchases. \* \* \* There were about one hundred men at work leveling the grade and placing the ties preparatory to laying the rails on the track of the State Line and Logansport division of the Pennsylvania railroad through the town, and these men were the chief customers of the cigar store. Every night two or three score of them would visit the store, and the proprietor, after locking the door, would attend to their wants as long as they had a dime to spend, and then pass them out at the back door in a condition ill calculated to preserve the peace of the town for the remainder of the night. Fifty or sixty drunken men nightly parading the streets of our before quiet and orderly village, whooping and yelling like madmen and using vile and insulting language toward every one they met, was a condition not to be borne with equanimity by those of our citizens who favored the temperance movement and another effort was made to purchase the stock. The committee found the proprietor more insolent and insulting in his refusal to sell than he had been at the first interview. Remonstrance, persuasion and argument were all tried in vain, and as a last resort some of the citizens concluded to use forcible measures to rid the town of the nuisance."

"They were not all temperance workers who joined in this movement," says Mr. Sill, and as it was later disclosed that he was among the number, the following account of the proceedings is probably pretty accurate. He continues:

"They were terribly in earnest in their effort to stop this reign of disorder, and they acted promptly. The greatest difficulty was to gain entrance to the place at night with breaking the door, which was always locked at night and none but those who had the mystic password could gain admittance. It so happened that the late Samuel Cooper (a mulatto barber well known in Monticello for many years) the only colored gentleman then living in the county, had been in the employ of the cigar man and had learned the word but refused to divulge it to





any one. He was finally persuaded by the gift of a dollar and a gallon jug to get the door opened on a certain night; and armed with these requisites he went to the place closely followed by seven men, much blacker than himself, each armed with a bright new hatchet; and when the proprietor opened the door a rush was made by the seven and entrance gained despite the stout resistance of the proprietor, who, in the melee received a blow on the head from one of the hatchets which rendered him 'hors de combat,' and with a cry of murder, he broke open the door of a dwelling house adjoining his place of business and crept under the bed.

"With an artificial negro at each door to guard against intrusion the five remaining proceeded to the work of destruction, which was completed before any one arrived to molest them. Five barrels of whisky, with all the kegs containing any liquid, were opened and the contents emptied on the floor, after which the mob passed out at the back door and quietly disappeared." The next day the outraged proprietor appeared before a justice of the peace and procured a warrant for the arrest of F. H. Keifhaber, known to him as "the big blacksmith." Mr. Keifhaber was always a prominent and aggressive temperance worker, but he easily established an alibi and satisfied the court that he was not among the raiders. James Lynch, one of the real culprits, was also arrested, but the evidence against him was deemed insufficient and he was freed.

The proprietor of the joint gathered up his small stock of tobacco and cigars, pocketed the revolver with which he had threatened such dire calamity to all who should dare interfere with his business, and departed without more ado; and peace and quiet once more reigned in this little village on the banks of the Tippecanoe.

The proprietor of the cigar store threatened to return with a new stock, and for several days and nights the river crossings were closely guarded by vigilantes; but so far as known he was never afterward seen in Monticello. Even his name is forgotten. The seven participants in the raid on his joint were Milton M. Sill, John Price, James Lynch, Watt Brown, Samuel Ayers, James Staley and another whose name is not remembered. Of these, James Staley, Watt Brown and John Price soon after enlisted in the army and Staley and Brown were killed in battle. All are now dead, and of the spectators who witnessed the raid Capt. Benjamin F. Price is the only known survivor.

The war coming on soon after the above events, the temperance question was for a time overshadowed by larger things; and when next we hear of it saloons were again established in Monticello.

In the early part of 1877 there spread over Northern Indiana a temperance movement known as the "Red Ribbon" movement, which had quite a vogue for a while, but White County seemed a little out of its line of march. However, in July of that year there arrived in Monticello a man named F. O. Smith, a nephew and an earnest disciple of Francis Murphy, the noted temperance evangelist, who started a temperance crusade known as the "Blue Ribbon" movement. His first



meeting, held in the Presbyterian Church, resulted in seventy signers to the pledge. The newspaper account thus continues:

"On Saturday evening he addressed a similar meeting at the Methodist Church and obtained some seventy signers. On Sunday night a thoroughly interested audience greeted the lecturer, when he at last arrived post haste from a very encouraging meeting at Idaville, and one hundred signers rewarded his efforts. On Monday evening there were speeches by Mr. Smith, Dr. Bushnell, Captain Brown and others and a committee of five was appointed to nominate officers for the Temperance Union to be organized in this place. Then fifty signers were easily obtained and the meeting adjourned until Tuesday night when the committee on nomination will report. This is what is known as the 'Murphy Movement,' the tidal wave has struck us and the spirit of reform is pouring down upon us like a flood."

In Logansport the same movement gathered in over 5,000, among them being many who had been strong drinkers. However, the Idaville correspondent to the Monticello Herald in its issue of August 2d, says: "The temperance excitement did not rise very high here—perhaps for the reason that we have very little material that the Murphy movement can affect. We are fortunate in not being able to sustain a saloon in Idaville, and in consequence it is a rare thing to see a man under the influence of liquor."

The meetings in Monticello continued nightly for several weeks, and not only in Monticello but also in all the smaller towns of the county and in many school districts. The noted temperance orator, Luthur Benson, was secured for two or three lectures and his fervid oratory, based on his personal experiences as almost a lifelong slave to the drink habit, made a deep impression. The interest was such as had never before been seen in Monticello. Nearly everybody signed the pledge, among them many who had been notorious drinkers for many years. To aid these latter there was organized in Monticello a secret order calling themselves "The Sovereigns of the Red Star," which was "joined" by a number of both former drinkers and non-drinkers. A constitution and corporate seal were adopted, a lodge room rented and furnished and for some three or four years regular meetings were held. The prime mover in the "Red Star" movement was County Recorder R. L. Harvey, who, though not himself addicted to the use of liquor, had much influence with those who were.

In the course of years, however, the temperance wave receded and the saloons came into their own again. This meant that they soon controlled local politics in a large measure, dictated nominations in both parties so far as they cared to do so, and helped elect to office those that were the least objectionable to their business; and these conditions continued with scarcely a check for more than twenty years. Some of those engaged in running saloons conducted the business on a little higher plane than others, but very few of them made any pretense of living up to the strict letter of the law, the excuse being "the others do it, so I am compelled to." The consequence was that by 1905 or



1906 Monticello saloons had become numerous and notorious; and not only in Monticello, where there were nine, but every other town in the county numbered these schools for lawbreakers in like proportion, except Idaville, and even there an occasional quart shop would break out and run a brief career.

These were the conditions prevailing early in 1906, when talk of again putting on the lid began to attract general notice. Miss Shontz, of Chicago, came to Monticello on February 22, 1906, and gave a forcible temperance talk; soon followed by other meetings by men sent out by the Anti-Saloon League. An effort was made to file a remonstrance under the Nicholson law in time to prevent the granting of four saloon licenses in Monticello at the March term 1906 of Commissioners' Court, but it was found impossible to secure the signatures of a majority of the voters in the township. People in the country signed it quite readily, but in town many of the business men refused to sign, fearing that it would injure their business. Commenting on this the Democrat of March 9, 1906, said:

"The Democrat has but little patience with people of this kind. The man who makes loud professions of morality and, on the final test, refuses to do what he believes to be right, not only proclaims himself a hypocrite but advertises the fact that he can be bribed to do that which he believes to be wrong. The fight, however, is not yet over. The time for open and flagrant violations of law in Monticello is past. The saloons have gained an extension of their life tenure, but its length probably depends upon an absolutely strict and honest observance of the laws governing their business."

Instead of profiting from this tip and reefing sail in preparation for the impending storm the saloon element apparently grew more arrogant, and drove many to line up against them by their vicious and sweeping abuse of the temperance forces. Anti-saloon meetings continued and more remonstrance cards were signed until at the May, 1906, meeting of the board of commissioners a "blanket" remonstrance against all saloons in Union Township was filed, containing 536 names, being 44 more than a majority of the voters.

The anti-saloon people were, of course, much elated. They had a clear majority and had no fear of the outcome. However, they were yet to learn a thing or two. The saloon element were engaged in a life or death struggle and they all stood together, prepared to go the length and "show these temperance cranks where to head in." And they made their boast good. The hearing was held before the board at an adjourned session at which all signers of the remonstrance cards were summoned to attend and verify their signatures. Many were objected to because they were not legal voters, others because it was alleged that their signatures had been bought, and others—with foreign sounding names—because it could not be proven that they had ever been "naturalized." Among the latter was Barney Fretz, whose name sounded so "Dutchy" that he was cast into the discard despite the fact that he was born in Indiana, had been in Monticello two years and had voted



there at two elections. Barney was a printer employed in the Evening Journal office, and what that paper said in way of criticism of the board was a plenty. However, when the board and the saloonkeepers' attorneys got through with the remonstrance it was a "tie" and the remonstrators had lost.

The manifest unfairness of this outcome and the intemperate abuse heaped upon the anti-saloon workers by the saloonkeepers and their sympathizers soon began to react, and many who had hitherto stood aloof now became active workers in the ranks of those who were striving to oust the saloons—many of them not because they were opposed to drinking per se, or even opposed to saloons if properly conducted, but because they were tired of arrogant saloon domination, with all its attendant, law-defying evils. Their efforts culminated in the filing of a new remonstrance which came before the commissioners at their September term, 1906. This remonstrance contained 523 names. As half the legal voters at the last election was 492, this gave them thirty-one names to the good on the face of their paper; and so carefully had they culled out the doubtfuls that they again felt confident of success.

The saloonkeepers again marshaled a formidable array of legal talent, including the attorney for the State Brewers' Association at Indianapolis; but this was met by an equally strong showing on the other side, including Judge R. P. Davidson, of Lafayette, Attorney Menton of Martinsville, and Attorneys George E. Marvin, R. J. Million, W. S. Bushnell, L. D. Carey, J. T. Graves and George W. Kassabaum, of the local bar. The remonstrance was held good, but the saloon interests took an appeal to the White Circuit Court, where the case was dismissed at the March term, 1907. In the meantime, before the dismissal of the appeal and to guard against a possible defeat in the case above mentioned, the remonstrators filed another remonstrance containing a majority of sixty-nine names. This was filed on March 1, 1907, and thereafter Union Township and Monticello were guarded against saloons by two legal remonstrances, which would effectually bar saloons for a period of two years.

However, three of the saloonkeepers who had been put out of business conceived the idea of a social club, which they proceeded to organize and incorporate under the name of "The Monticello Club." Their articles of incorporation stated that "The objects of the corporation shall be for the social enjoyment and pleasure of its members in social games, tests of skill, music, reading, refreshments and harmless amusements." These articles were drawn up September 28, 1906, but in spite of the suggestiveness of this declaration of principles—or possibly because of it—the membership failed to assume alarming proportions, and after a brief career the "club rooms" were vacated and the incorporators removed to greener pastures.

On March 4, 1907, two saloons run by John H. Randall and John Vaughn closed their doors; on March 5th the Forbis Hotel bar, conducted by Elmer E. Malone, closed down; and eleven days later, March 16, 1907, the saloon conducted by Stuart Fox in the old Fox &





Karp building east of the courthouse, closed its doors after being used for saloon purposes continuously for a little more than thirty years, and for practically the first time in the town's history Monticello was without a saloon.

While Monticello had been thus struggling with the saloon question other towns in the county had not been idle, and in a short time saloons had been remonstrated out of every town in the county. Blanket remonstrances against saloons held good for only two years, however, and at the end of that time, if no new remonstrance had been filed in the county auditor's office an applicant could again be granted liquor license. This kept both elements constantly on the watch seeking advantage, necessitated canvassing for new remonstrances every two years, and thus kept up the bitter feeling between the supporters and the opponents of saloons in every community. Because of these unpleasant features, in a measure, Mr. J. P. Simons, then editor of the White County Democrat, wrote a resolution which he presented to the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association at its midwinter meeting in Indianapolis, February 7, 1908, which read as follows:

"With a firm belief in the righteousness of the democratic principle of the rule of the majority as expressed in a free and untrammelled ballot, we would add to the present laws regulating the liquor traffic a local option law giving to the people of each community an opportunity to express their sentiments regarding the sale of liquor in their midst, freed from the turmoil, annoyances and business disturbances in many instances attending the operations of the present remonstrance law."

This was probably the first resolution favoring a local option law on the liquor question ever presented in Indiana. It was adopted by the Democratic Editorial Association just as written by the Monticello editor, and the substance of it was incorporated in the democratic state platform a few weeks later in a declaration for local option with the township as the voting unit; and later it was incorporated in the republican state platform, with the county as the voting unit. This led to the calling of a special session of the Indiana Legislature in September and the passage of a county option law, whereby a majority of the legal voters of a county could exclude saloons from all the towns and townships of the county.

Under this law there was filed with the commissioners in April, 1909, a petition signed by 2,006 names, a little over 40 per cent of the total voting population of the county, asking for a county election on the question of saloons or no saloons in White County. The election was ordered to be held April 26. The saloon forces instituted proceedings to enjoin the holding of the election and secured a temporary restraining order, but on a hearing before Circuit Judge James P. Wason, three days before the day set for the election, the injunction was refused and the restraining order dissolved.

At this time there were but two saloons in the county. These had but recently opened up at Wolcott, not because the people wanted them but because of a defect discovered in the remonstrance on file from



that place. At the election, held on Monday, April 26, 1909, the "drya" won by a majority of 1,435, the vote being 1,137 "wet" and 2,572 "dry." Every precinct in the county gave a dry majority except precinct No. 1 in Honey Creek, which gave a "wet" majority of nine. The result was an emphatic expression of the people on the saloon question and was a great surprise to the saloon forces. This was especially true in Union Township, where, in the face of the report that the people of Monticello were dissatisfied with conditions and were anxious for the return of the "business bringers," the dry majority was 244. Commenting on this the Democrat said:

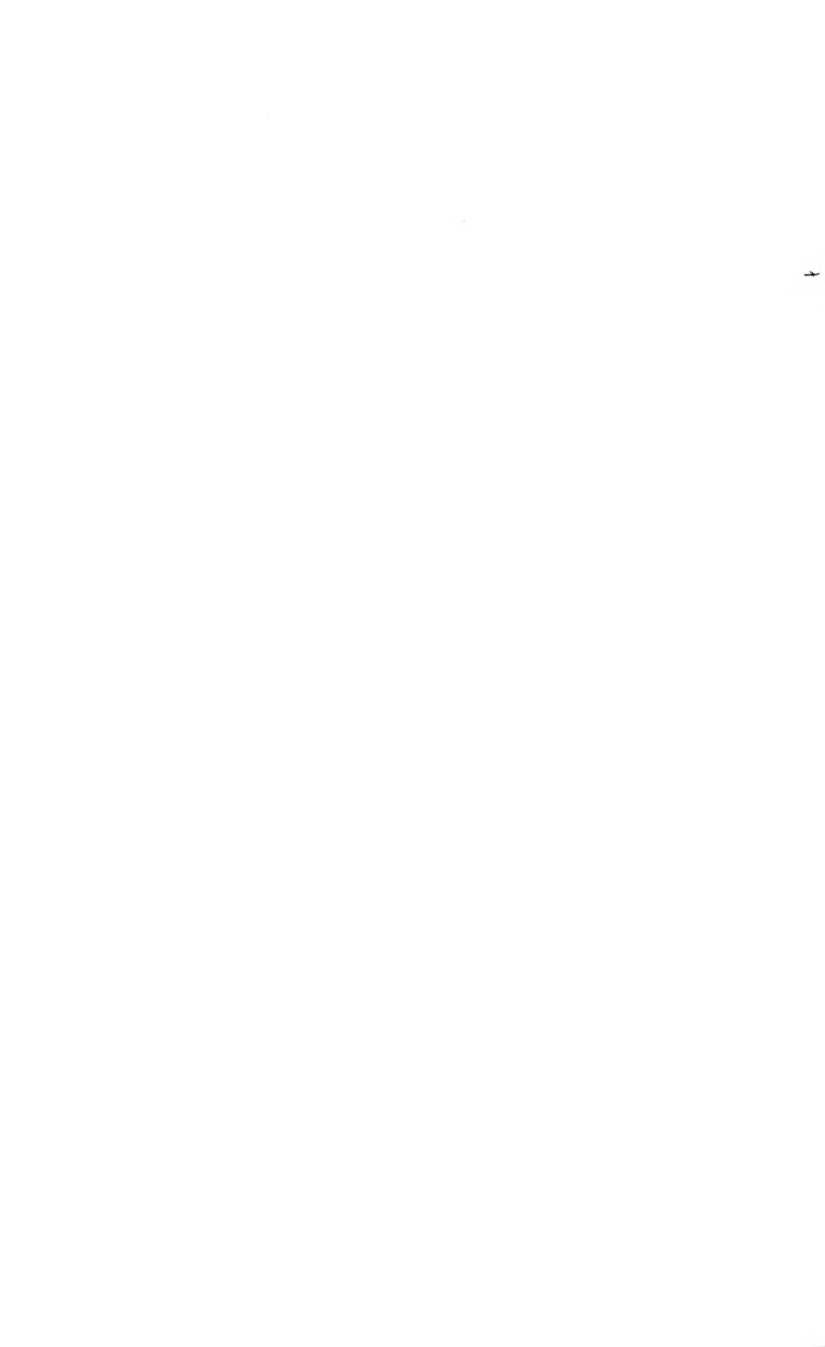
"That Monticello's prosperity does not depend upon the saloon is now patent to all. There are no vacant business rooms in the town, no residences to be had for love or money and there is an urgent call for the construction of a number of new houses for rent within the next year. The notion that saloons and booze are necessary adjuncts to a live, prosperous town or city is utterly fallacious." Let's talk of something else."

The Herald said: "White County proved true to her name, and every precinct in the county but one recorded a verdict against the licensed saloon. In one respect White County differs from all others where elections have been held. Instead of the county seat township being the citadel of the 'wets' it gave the banner 'dry' majority of all the townships in the county."

The Legislature of 1911 repealed the county unit option law and enacted in its stead a law called the Proctor Law, making the city and the township the option unit. It also provided that all places voted "dry" under the county option law should become open to the return of saloons at the end of two years from the time the county option election was held. Thus, in order to prevent the return of saloons, it became necessary to hold elections under the Proctor law in the several units in White County prior to the meeting of the commissioners in May, 1911.

A conference was held at Reynolds on March 17, 1911, attended by representatives from all the townships where it was feared the saloons might undertake to again open up. At this conference it was decided to hold option elections in the townships of Princeton, Monon, Honey Creek, Big Creek and Prairie, and in the City of Monticello. Petitions were accordingly prepared and presented to the commissioners on April 3rd, and the elections all fixed for the same day—April 27th.

Again the battle was on, and the saloon and anti-saloon forces lined up for what they hoped would be the final struggle. All the papers of the county were again arrayed on the "dry" side; the two party papers in Monticello being especially aggressive. As in the previous fights, party lines were disregarded entirely, leading members of all parties being found on both sides. It was noticeable, however, that the republicans, who were opposed to saloons, while in nowise compromising with the saloon element, were somewhat inclined to let the "dry" democrats assume the burden of the campaign work. This was perhaps but



natural, as these new option elections were made necessary because the democratic Legislature of 1911 had substituted the Proctor law for the county option law passed by a republican Legislature in 1908, and in doing so had undone all that had been accomplished under the county option law.

This attitude of the republicans was rather forcibly indicated in a mass meeting held in the Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening before the election. Of this meeting the Herald gave the following report:

"The Presbyterian church was packed to the doors Sunday night at a union meeting of all the churches held for the purpose of quickening the anti-saloon sentiment preparatory to Thursday's option election. It was not a ministerial meeting, for all the speakers were laymen; it was not a church meeting, for some of the speakers were not members of any church; it was not a republican meeting, for all the speakers were democrats, the republicans being content to listen and join in the applause. It was a citizens meeting composed of members of all churches and no church, both sexes and all parties. The speakers were George Marvin, Wesley Taylor, Dr. McCann, Chas. C. Spencer and E. B. Sellers. All the speakers expressed their preference for a 'dry' Monticello and declared their purpose to help keep it so. Each presented the subject from his own viewpoint and in a manner that called forth generous applause."

All eyes were focused on Monticello, which had assumed a city government since the election of two years before and was now an option unit within itself. Mr. J. P. Simons, editor of the Democrat, was selected as chairman of the "dry" forces and an active organization was soon effected. In his issue of April 14 Editor Simons said:

"It is pretty generally known that the Democrat is opposed to saloons and to saloon influence, and this paper will hardly be accused of being afraid to express itself clearly and positively on this point; yet notwithstanding these positive views as to the evil influence of saloons and saloon surroundings in a community, the editor of this paper is not a 'temperance crank,' is not a prohibitionist and does not even belong to the Anti-saloon League.

"We have no desire to interfere with any man's personal privilege to eat what he pleases or to drink what he pleases so long as he doesn't injure or annoy anyone else. Our own notion about drinking, based upon some years of personal experience, is that every man is better off not to use liquors as a beverage; and that any man can do his best work and attend to his business best when he hasn't a drop in him—when his head is perfectly clear. Every man who has ever drank knows this to be true. Therefore our advice to everyone would be don't drink. You feel better and are better off without it. Especially don't acquire the habit so that it requires a constant struggle to keep from drinking too much. The man who keeps his thinking apparatus free from the effects of booze has the battle of life half won.

"Then why should any man vote to return the saloon to Monticello,



and make it easy for young men to acquire the habit or for older men to cultivate the habit already acquired? Based upon some thirty years' more or less intimate acquaintance with saloons and their fruits, both inside and out, the Democrat asserts, what every man and every woman who knows anything about them knows to be true—that the great majority of saloons are schools for vice and crime; and that from cellar to garret, inside and outside, they are law defiers and lawbreakers twenty-four hours out of the day, seven days in the week; and their influence on those who frequent them and on the community in which they are located is wholly bad."

That the farmers of the surrounding country were deeply interested in the outcome was shown by the following petition:

"To the Voters of the City of Monticello generally, and to the Trades people especially:—

"We, the undersigned citizens of Union township outside the city limits of Monticello, and in the country tributary thereto, not being permitted by law to vote in the coming local option election, but being deeply interested in the outcome thereof, having in mind and earnestly wishing for the best interests of our home city, the place where we do our trading, do most respectfully and earnestly petition you to continue the present policy of prohibiting the licensed saloon with all its attendant evils."

This was signed by eighty-eight of the prominent farmers around Monticello and was published with all the names attached in the Herald of April 20th, and in the Democrat of April 21st.

The election on April 27th in the units voting resulted as follows:

Monticello, dry, 336; wet, 238.

Big Creek Township, dry, 160; wet, 55.

Cass Township, dry, 98; wet, 31.

Honey Creek Township, dry, 133; wet, 153.

Monon Township, dry, 299; wet, 130.

Prairie Township, dry, 336; wet, 238.

Princeton Township, dry, 245; wet, 180.

As Honey Creek Township was the only unit to vote "wet," the people of Reynolds and vicinity concluded that they did not care to be the source of irrigation for such a wide stretch of dry territory, and met the emergency by a remonstrance, signed by a majority of the voters. This settled the saloon question in White County until October, 1915, when, on petition of 150 residents of Monon representing the "wet" element, another election was ordered in that township. The election was held October 29, 1915, and resulted in an overwhelming defeat of the saloon side, the vote being 151 "wet" and 435 "dry;" the votes of the saloon side being seven less than the number signing the petition for the election. In precinct No. 4 only three "wet" votes were cast. It does not now seem probable that saloons will ever again be permitted in White County.

The last public destruction of liquor in Monticello took place in the spring of 1909, when Sheriff Ben Price, Jr., carried out into the street





and destroyed a large stock of liquors which had been captured by Sheriff H. E. McCully in a raid on an alleged illegal establishment in Monon, conducted by Sam A. Rose, one of Monticello's former saloon-keepers. The sheriff was assisted in the destruction by several persons, among them being Postmaster William F. Bunnell, Rev. C. J. Armentrout, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, and others. The occasion caused various facetious comments from the crowd assembled, and Monticello's local bard, Attorney Will S. Bushnell, immortalized the event in his inimitable manner, as follows:

Lo, in the crowd on yonder corner  
There is a smiling, prohi scorner,  
For every Bacchanalian mourner  
To witness the last obsequies.

For Sheriff Price at last will fully  
Pour out and drain into the gully  
The liquors seized by Ham McCully  
At Monon once upon a time.

That is to say, he will preside  
With easy grace and modest pride,  
And keenly watch lest someone hide  
A flask or two unlawfully.

The while our jolly P. M. Bunnell  
Will ply the hammer, corkscrew, funnel,  
And send the stuff off down the runnell  
To mingle with the sewerage.

See Trig and Goodwin, Armentrout,  
Babb, Bushnell, Lear, all crowd about,  
With lots of others; hear them shout,  
"Oh, what a shame!" in harmony.

And what a fragrance fills our noses;  
Oh, how estatic! Holy Moses!  
Small wonder! for the stuff is Rose's,  
The gay and festive Samuel's.



## CHAPTER XXXII

### "MOVING PICTURES"

This chapter is composed of a series of miscellaneous articles, including reminiscences, incidents and a variety of subjects difficult to classify. But it often happens, as in this instance, that matters which do not materially fall under any distinct class are therefore the more unique and readable. The editor submits this chapter with pleasure, because he believes it will be much enjoyed by both old, young and the middle-aged, as there is something in it to suit all palates.

#### THE MONTICELLO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following verses by Miss Nora G. Gardner are self-explanatory:

Where the early settler lingered,  
Sometimes pitched his tent and stayed,  
Now the bluff is domed and steepled  
With the city he has made.

But the white man, in his wisdom,  
Has left much to nature's care;  
Fair has Mother Nature made it,  
So we built our temple there.

From the tiny porch, high swinging,  
View the temple's hall of art,  
Whose wild beauty and whose grandeur  
Fill with rapture every heart.

And the work within the temple,  
It is simple, it is clear;  
All have caught the donor's meaning,  
How it should his name endear.

#### GREAT RAILROAD DISASTER, JULY 17, 1878

At the noon hour of the above date the west span of the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge at Monticello fell with a crash that could be heard for miles, carrying with the wreck twenty-five cars. All of the cars were wrecked except the caboose, and the engine and tender were included in the debris. It took 100 men nearly a week to clear away the wreckage. The engineer was killed and the fireman had one of the most remarkable escapes recorded in railroad history.

The story of the casualty is told by the Monticello Herald in its issue



of Thursday, July 25, 1878, the following items, taken from its files, covering the substantial points: "The number of cars that went down was 25, 18 of which were loaded with grain, one with furniture and the remainder with empty flats.

"The engineer's body was recovered only Thursday morning, after an all night's search. The marks on it indicated that the unfortunate man must have been killed in the fall, though the disfiguration was not near as great as in the case of the watchman. After the coroner's inquest the corpse was taken to Logansport, where deceased resided, and thence to Chicago, where it was interred. It was Beam's intention to quit the road and go onto a farm and he was making his last trip for that purpose. He left a wife and two children.

"It required the force of 100 men and two engines to remove the debris so that the bridge builders could commence operations, and it took them three days to do it.

"The watch of Louis Beam, the engineer killed in the accident, was found in the wreck hanging on its accustomed nail in the cab. The watch was not only ticking, but indicated the correct time of day and was entirely uninjured.

"The little daughter of conductor Riddell had been promised a ride on the engine after the train reached Monticello, but fortunately she forgot all about it and remained in the caboose.

"The escape of Ed Laing of this place, the fireman on the ill-fated engine, is almost unparalleled in the history of railroad accidents. Standing on the same engine with Beam and Durfee, who were both killed, he went down in the crash a distance of 75 feet, with no opportunity to jump, and was found alive and but slightly injured beneath the wreck. He frankly says he doesn't know how he was saved.

"At the coroner's inquest Thursday several railroad experts were examined as to the cause of its giving way.

"The first witness called was J. Zecker, road master and superintendent of bridges on west half of third division, who testified as follows: 'Have been superintendent for ten months, west span has been built six years. The bridge is the Howe truss, built of pine, three brest rods, and considered the safest and best length from 65 to 68 feet high. \* \* \* My opinion is that the car went off the track by some cause, either by rail spreading or brake beam coming down. If a car is loaded it is liable to brake at any span. There are marks on the ties to show that a car or cars were off the track. There was no safety track on the inside, but a guard rail on the outside. Safety tracks on inside are not considered any better. Last examined the bridge on the 8th or 9th of July, 1878. Local going west on 17th inst. stopped on west end of span that went down. Gave orders for trains to go slowly over the bridge on the 17th and prior to that date.'

"C. Riddell, conductor train No. 13, received orders from J. V. Vinson, agent, on 17th to run all trains slow.

"J. Becker of Pittsburgh, Pa., civil and chief engineer of the P. C. & St. L. Bg. Co., said: 'I wrote the specifications and made the contract



for the building of the three western spans of the bridge over the Tippecanoe river and superintended its construction and its erection. The contract was made July, 1871, and the bridge was constructed immediately afterwards, the western span being the last one erected. The bridge was built by J. K. Miller & Co. of Steubenville, Ohio, of Allegheny white pine, with oaken keys and clamps, and of a superior quality of iron, furnished by a Pittsburg firm whose material we have frequently tested and always found of a very superior character. The timber for the bridge, like the timber of every other bridge that I ever built, and I have built several hundreds of them, was rather green, at least it was what might be called not seasoned.

"It was framed at Steubenville, O., and shipped from that place to this for erection. The railroad is to use green timber in their bridges. No doubt perfectly seasoned timber would be preferable and if properly protected is undoubtedly more durable, but it would be almost impossible to procure seasoned timber for bridges. The bridge was painted shortly after its erection, which was probably from four to five months after the timber was sawed and planed. I think that the complete painting of green timber without permitting it to dry out, would hasten the decay, leaving the spaces between the different chord pieces and the entire lower surface of both chords unpainted for the purpose of drying out the entire moisture.

"I never made a report to the P. C. & St. L. R. R. Co. relative to the condition of the bridge since its erection in 1871, my duties being simply that of engineer of new construction work, the mending and repairs of all structures after their completion being placed in charge of the division superintendent. I have looked at the bridge and can not conceive any cause for its destruction unless it was done by the sudden concussion of some vital parts or by a derailed car or misplaced rails.

"The dimensions of the structure, I consider ample for all requirements and the age of the bridge could not yet have impaired its efficiency. Heat may have caused it."

"We, the coroner's jury, sworn to enquire into and ascertain the cause of the death of Louis Beam and Jerome Durfee, after viewing the bodies and having heard evidence and made inquiry do find that on the 17th of July, 1878, while local freight train No. 13 going east with engine, tender and twenty loaded cars were passing over the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Saint Louis Railroad bridge across the Tippecanoe river at Monticello, White County, Indiana, said engine, tender and cars by reason of west span of said bridge breaking were precipitated into the Tippecanoe river causing death of said Louis Beam and Jerome Durfee.

"Wm. Spencer, Foreman; Robert Clark, Henry Snyder, James H. McCollum, James A. McConahay and F. M. Mullendore."

#### THE GREAT MURDER TRIAL

The Cantwell-Dayton murder trial is and always will be an interesting incident in White County history. Alfred L. Cantwell and Spencer J. Dayton, two laborers, and brothers-in-law, were given a life sentence

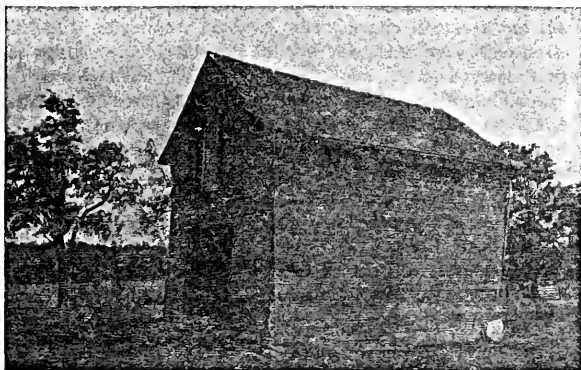




for the murder of David Jones, who was shot in the breast and instantly killed. The shooting took place in Tippecanoe County, November 11, 1849, but the body was found in a pond within the border of White County. The defendants were indicted April 24, 1850, Joseph Phillips being foreman of the grand jury. The trial took place in the fall and on October 28, 1850, the following verdict was returned:

"We, the jury, find the defendants Alfred L. Cantwell and Spencer J. Dayton, guilty of murder in the first degree as charged in the indictment and affix their punishment in the State's prison at hard labor, during their natural lives.

JOSHUA LINDSAY, Foreman.



OLD GEORGE A. SPENCER HOME

The oldest and most historic building in White County, five miles southwest of Monticello. Built of hewn logs about 1830, now boarded up. The large opening shown is where the fireplace and chimney stood, remains of fireplace shown in front of opening. Building 16 by 20 feet. In this building White County was organized September 5, 1834, and courts were held here for almost two years. Now owned by Elwood G. Wilson, Esq., of Logansport, Indiana, and used as a storage room.

"The jury in submitting the above verdict deem it fit to say that they are not opposed to the infliction of capital punishment on principle but believe the ends of government generally demand it for murder in the first degree. In this opinion all the members of the jury except two concur, but in consideration of the wrongs done Cantwell, and the youth of Dayton, they have preferred the mode of punishment put down in the above verdict."

The wrong done Cantwell to which the jury referred was this: The evidence showed that Jones, who was killed, had arranged to elope with Cantwell's wife, and the latter, learning of this, had met Jones while he was waiting for Mrs. Cantwell, and at this meeting the shooting took place. Prior to the trial the prisoners, with Mrs. Cantwell, were for a



short time confined in the jail at Delphi, but when the trial began all were brought to Monticello and placed in the old log jail which stood on the east side of Illinois Street just north of Marion Street. One morning during the progress of the trial, and after the prisoners had been taken to the courtroom, this old jail was found to be in flames, having doubtless been set on fire by the prisoners. It was but a small loss to the county.

Of the twenty-seven witnesses subpoenaed by the state in this case not one survives. So much from the record. Many traditions are narrated as to Dayton, but it is likely he died in prison of tuberculosis. As to Alfred L. Cantwell, he was pardoned by the governor about 1861, enlisted in Company F, Twenty-seventh Indiana Volunteers, and in the battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862, was mortally wounded, but the date of his death is not known. In this company were Enoch G. Boicourt, Joshua Bunnell, Robert Gregory, John Ream, Samuel Reed Vinson, Henry Van Voorst and other formerly well-known White County soldiers. It was the first noted trial of such a character in White County. Isaac Naylor was the presiding judge; William Potter, prosecuting attorney; Ranson McConahay, clerk; and Pratt & Reyburn, attorneys for the defendants. The members of the grand jury that returned the indictment were William Turner, Newton Tedford, Joseph Bostick, Walker Graham, Alexander Briggs, Charles W. Kendall, Joseph Phillips, Thomas Sleeth, Jacob Graves, James K. Woods, Jonathan Oats, John C. Hughes, Thomas Wickham, William W. Mitchell and Jasel Fisher. They were under the charge of Loren Cutler, a sworn bailiff.

The jury that heard the case and returned the verdict was composed of the following members: Okey S. Johnson, Joshua Lindsay, Amos Cooper, Alexander Miller, Isaac Davis, Peter Bishop, Christopher Itskin, Thomas W. Redding, Moses S. Barr, Asa Huff, Adam Hornback and Zebulon Sheetz.

These names call to mind many of our oldest and most respected families. All have passed away, Mr. Turner, father of John M. Turner, of Monticello, who died a few years ago, being the last to go.

#### MRS. MIRANDA J. REYNOLDS' REMINISCENCES

From a paper read by Mrs. Miranda J. Reynolds, at the old settlers' meeting at Monticello, August 26, 1893, as published in the Herald of August 31, 1893, we extract the following:

"Wm. Sill located in what is now Monticello, erecting the first house in the town on lot No. 1 (s. w. cor. Marion and Bluff streets), which is near Martin Witz's present house. It was a cabin which we moved into, without doors or windows and a puncheon floor. In those days the latch-string was always out. Our house was the stopping place for all the settlers in the county. The Indians were all around us and often slept on the floor before the fire. Peter Price was our nearest neighbor. In 1834 or 1835 there were several families moved here. One was Mrs. Reese, a widow lady with several daughters and sons.

"We were without religious organizations of any kind, but Mrs. Reese



said we must have a Sunday school. She and Mr. Sherwood invited all the children to meet them on Sunday in a new house that was being built and bring their books. We all went and took our Webster spelling book. Of course we had a Bible and Watt's hymns, but no books for children. About this time there were several families moved here from Virginia—Father Sheetz and family, the Johnsons and a large family of Reeses. They were all Presbyterians. In 1836 a church was organized consisting of Zebulon Sheetz and wife, mother and son, John Reese and wife, mother and sister, and Jonathan Harbolt. Mr. Sheetz and John Wilson was the first elders. Father Williamson was the first minister. We had Baptist and Methodist preaching also. The services were all held in the school house and we frequently had a sermon from local preachers who were 'homemade' men. On one occasion one of these was preaching for us and after he had preached two hours a crusty old bachelor thought he would roast him out, but he took off his coat and preached two hours longer.

"Abraham Sneathen, another preacher, deserves more than a passing notice. He lived in Liberty Township, but we often went to hear him preach. I attended a revival service conducted by him. He wore a blue calico shirt and was barefooted. After talking awhile he rolled up his pants and started for the river singing, 'Am I a Soldier of the Cross?' the congregation following, where he baptized several converts by immersion. Grandfather Tilton used to amuse us young folks very much by asking the Lord to 'rim-rack and center shake' the sinners when he prayed at camp-meetings. \* \* \*

"I must say a word for the dear mothers of our town, Mothers Sheetz, Price, Barkley, Tilton, Hull, Sill and a host of others ever ready in sickness with their healing salves and sweating herbs, spending whole nights caring for their neighbors. Often have Mothers Sheetz and Sill ridden miles on horseback to carry some tried remedies to suffering ones, called by physicians of our day 'old women's remedies,' but how welcome to the suffering homesick frontier women. These have all passed away, but their work so nobly commenced is being carried on by the sons and daughters, which is proven by the fine farms, splendid church buildings, the schoolhouses in every township, the manufactures of all kinds, the gravel roads, ditches and all the improvements. This is marvellous to one who has lived here sixty years and seen the progress.

"Our first physician was Doctor Rifenbarriek. He was a rough specimen as he traveled miles and miles on horseback. His medicine case was a pair of old fashioned saddlebags. He would walk up to the bed and look at his patient, then go over to the table, put out a spoonful of calomel and jalap and apply a fly blister. This was his prescription for all diseases. Such heroic treatment would not be appreciated in these days.

"The three first general stores were situated as follows: Mr. Orwig of Delphi had a store where A. R. Bennett now lives (southwest corner Bluff and East Broadway). Wm. Sill had one where the Lear Hotel is (east side Main Street, opposite courthouse), and Isaac Reynolds one, near where S. A. Carson now lives (east side of Main Street south of



Harrison). These stores contained all the general supplies for which the Indians used to exchange venison and game of all kinds, cranberries, maple sugar, etc.

"Our first school was taught in a small frame house on the lot where A. R. Bennett now lives, the house that was built by Mr. Orwig for his store. It was taught by Mr. Gillam of Carroll County. Our books were Webster's Speller and the old English reader. The furnishing of the schoolroom is beyond description.

"Our amusements consisted of sleighriding in bobsleds, horseback riding, picnics, etc. One merry huckleberry picnic I remember distinctly. Our conveyance was a log sled drawn by oxen."

Mrs. Reynolds was a daughter of William Sill and has since gone to her reward, but the above graphic picture of early days in Monticello is well drawn and deserves to be remembered. It is an authentic account of her early girlhood and no one is now living who can recall those scenes.

#### INTERVIEW WITH MRS. HARRIET BAUM

From an interview with Mrs. Harriet Baum, published in the Monticello Herald of November 28, 1895, she gives a brief statement of her experiences in Monticello in 1832, and subsequent years. She recalls the time when the land now occupied by Monticello did not contain a single house. Mrs. Baum and her husband came here directly after their marriage and located in what was then known as Walnut Grove, a few miles southwest of town. Uncle John Roberts was the nearest neighbor and the other settlers in the country were Peter Price, Benjamin Spencer, John Rothrock, Mahlon Fraser, Sr., Benjamin Reynolds, Judge Barnes and Jerry Bisher. Wm. Miller Kenton, son of Simon Kenton, of Indian fighting fame, came soon afterward, and located on a farm adjoining the Roberts farm. Mr. Baum had worked for Mr. Roberts before he married and the year before his marriage occurred the "Black Hawk Indian scare," which is one of the earliest traditions of White County. The Indians were reported to be on the warpath headed for the new settlement, and several families made tracks for civilization, some to the Barr Settlement near Battle Ground and others to Delphi. Mr. Baum then being a single man, "would not run but stood his ground and cocked his gun." But the Indian raid proved to be a false alarm and the settlers soon returned to their homes.

The first thing the Baums did after their marriage was to build a home. It was a cabin of round logs 16 by 18 feet, with one room and a chimney of sticks and clay. The aristocratic settler like Mr. Roberts was able to build a home of hewed logs and it was not many years until the Baums were able to revel in the same luxury and they moved into their new home of a hewed log house of two rooms.

John Roberts about 1842 built the brick house now occupied by his grandson, Robert E. Roberts, on the new stone road. It was one of the first, if not the very first, brick houses built in the county. Mrs. Baum well remembered the first house built in Monticello. It was built by Wil-





liam Sill on lot 1 (the southwest corner of Bluff and Marion streets). Other houses soon appeared, among the first being a log tavern of two rooms built by Rowland Hughes. One of Mrs. Baum's earliest recollections is seeing the Indians pass by her house on their way to Winamac to get the money for their lands. They traveled in single file with ponies, squaws and papooses, but on their return they scattered in squads. They had stopped in Monticello to imbibe firewater and had forgotten their habits.

Mrs. Baum's husband died and she later became the wife of Abram Hanawalt; both are now dead and the twenty years since this interview was held have sufficed to remove from our midst the last of the first settlers.

#### SEVENTEEN-YEAR LOCUSTS

Probably the most peculiar and interesting insect of the cicada family is the seventeen-year locust, so-called because of its periodic visits every seventeen years. Individually it gives out a peculiar rasping sound which the vivid imagination of the bearer easily converts into a long-drawn-out Pha-ra-oh, which when once heard is never forgotten. Millions of them united produce a continuous droning easily heard for a distance of a half mile.

The writer's first recollection of the brood which infests White and Carroll counties, and a portion of Cass and Clinton, was in 1868, when they came up from the ground by the millions, covering the shrubbery and small twigs of the lower branches of trees almost as closely as a swarm of bees. They appeared again in diminished numbers in 1885; and again in 1902, still fewer in number. This brood is due again in 1919; and again, if not extinct, in 1936. Watch for them in the timber along the Tippecanoe.

#### MONTICELLO'S EARLY BANDS

An old subscription paper on which was subscribed the money to buy the instruments for the first brass band organized in Monticello, was placed in the archives of the Old Settlers Association in December, 1879. It bears no date but it was doubtless about the year 1848. The amounts subscribed total \$48.50, most of which is marked "paid," and opposite the amounts paid is shown the kind of currency in which it was paid, for instance, "Chas. Dodge, \$2.00, Paid, State Bank of Ohio." On the back of this paper appears the names of the members of this band, as follows: R. A. Spencer, R. W. Sill, Chas. Dodge, John R. Willey, Wm. Braught, M. A. Berkey, W. Rifenberriek, Zachariah Van Buskirk and Orlando McConahay. All these are now dead and our first band is forgotten.

Another band was organized in Monticello in 1852, the horns being the old-fashioned brass instruments. Dr. Robert Spencer was the leader, his instrument being a clarionet. Other members were the Doctor's two



sons, William and James, the former playing a cornet and James an alto. Alfred Reed, afterward a colonel in the Civil war and judge of the county court, also played a cornet; Zachariah Van Buskirk, second clarinet; John R. Willy, James K. Lynch and Thompson Crose, alto horns; David K. Ream, bass drum, and William H. Parcells, tenor drum. The leader of the band copied all the different parts of the music with a quill pen. This primitive band was succeeded later by the Monticello Silver Cornet Band, composed of Drs. Robert and William Spencer, Daniel D. and Oliver Dale, James G. Staley, Watson Brown, and others, many of whom enlisted as a regimental band at the beginning of the war.

#### BIG ICE GORGE

The highest flood and heaviest ice gorge ever seen in the Tippecanoe at Monticello occurred February 29, 1904. The long, cold winter had frozen the ice to an unusual thickness. This heavy ice was broken up by a flood in January, but most of it lodged on the river bed and on the banks between Monticello and the river's mouth. The weather again turned cold and the slush ice ran thickly and was wedged and packed in the river for several miles above, to be frozen solid by a low temperature lasting well into February. Heavy rain began falling Sunday night, February 28th, and by Monday evening the ice formed a gorge near Norway, destroying the Norway bridge and carrying the west span away bodily. About eight o'clock this portion of the ice mass reached Monticello, threatening the destruction of the large iron bridge spanning the river at this point. The formation of a second gorge at the islands below the city checked the onflow, the ice rose to within three feet of the bridge floor and the threatening bridge span from Norway came to a halt some two hundred feet above the Monticello bridge, where it remained until the subsidence of the waters dropped it to the river bed, where most of it still remains. The scene next morning was one never to be forgotten. The waterworks plant and the Barnes electric light plant north of it were flooded as high as the windows, while from bluff to bluff the entire bottom lands were covered. Only the tops of two houses on the flat under the railroad bridge showed above the surrounding ice.

#### MITCHELL POWDER EXPLOSION

In 1904 a man named James C. Mitchell obtained a patent on a smokeless powder, and a local company was formed for its manufacture. Nothing, however, ever came of it except the serious maiming of the inventor. December 14, 1904, while grinding some of the powder in his laboratory in Reynolds an explosion occurred. Mitchell's left hand and arm were blown off, his right mangled so that only two fingers were saved; the great toe on one foot blown off, the flesh on his leg badly torn, one bone in his right arm broken and both eyes destroyed. Altogether



he was about the most complete wreck of a man that ever lived through an accident. He got well and, though totally blind, afterward made two trips to Scotland in the interest of his invention.

#### JUMP FROM COURTHOUSE TOWER

The star attraction at a "corn festival," or street fair, held in Monticello the week of October 3 to 8, 1904, was a high dive from the courthouse tower into a net, by a young man named Archie Robbins. The "dive" was made from one of the upper windows on the east side of the tower into a net stretched over the cement walk nearly one hundred feet below. He shot down like a rocket, struck the net squarely in the center, going through it as if it were tissue paper. The foolhardy leap was witnessed by a large crowd of people. Instant death was averted by a pile of loose straw which the management had placed under the net as a precaution. His spine was fractured and his lower limbs paralyzed. He was removed to the house of his father in Hartford City, Indiana, where he died some weeks later.

#### A PIONEER LETTER

✓ In the White County Democrat of February 9, 1900, was published a letter written by Martha Rees, dated "Monticello, White County, Indiana, Dec. 20, 1835," addressed to her aunt, Susan Rees, Sheets' Mill, Virginia. The Reeses had arrived in White County on November 17, 1835, and Martha was writing the old home folks her first impressions of the new home. She says:

"We bought a lot in town and expect to get a house built against spring. We have got our logs hauled for the house. We live in about two miles of town. Our town improves very fast. Last spring there was only one house in the place, and that was built for a stable. Now there are six dwelling houses, and against this time next year it is supposed there will be upwards of twelve dwelling houses. I heard the first sermon preached in town that ever was preached there a few days ago. There will be regular preaching there now. We heard a Methodist preach about a week ago.

"Houses are generally very indifferent here, but it is hoped that the inhabitants of this country will take more pains in making their houses comfortable. It is a chance house that is large enough for to have preaching in. You said that you wanted to know what kind of a house we lived in. We live in a cabin. We have not as much elbow room as we should like to have, but we have to put up with it. Our house is as good as the houses are in general. We can put up with our houses better than if our land was as your Virginia lands are. It is delightful to look over the prairie. We can sit in our house and see a house five miles off. We live on a ridge called 'Sandy Ridge.' Jonathan Johnson lives about a quarter of a mile off. He lives with Oky. Uncle



James Parker lives in less than a quarter of a mile of us. Uncle Joshua Renker lives about two miles from us."

The lot she speaks of buying and having the logs hauled out for building a house was Lot 53 on the west side of North Main Street, where the Kiefhaber residence and blacksmith shop stood for many years afterward, and now occupied by the fourth, fifth and sixth business rooms in the brick block north of Washington Street. The one lone house mentioned was the residence of William Sill on Lot No. 1, southwest corner of Bluff and Marion streets. The "Sandy Ridge" mentioned was northwest of Monticello.

#### "SPECTATOR" ITEMS, 1859-61

On November 10, 1859, it was announced that James Spencer, owner of the Monticello Spectator, by invitation of M. McKachin, conductor, and Mr. John, engineer, rode over the Pan Handle bridge on a carload of iron and pronounced it good (the bridge).

The first train over the T. L. and B. Railroad from Monticello to Middleport was noted on December 26, 1859.

Under date of January 11, 1860, the Spectator announces that "trains are now running regularly" and adds the astounding fact that "we have four trains passing this place daily, *both ways*."

From the Spectator of March 15, 1861: "Merchant Rowland Hughes of this place has established a horse-power corn sheller in his warehouse, which shakes the cobs out of two hundred bushels of corn per day in a manner interesting to behold."

#### THE FIRST JUDGMENT OF THE WHITE CIRCUIT COURT

The first term of the White Circuit Court was held at the home of George A. Spencer, in Big Creek Township, about five miles southwest of Monticello, on Friday, October 17, 1834. Present James Barnes and Thomas Wilson, associate judges. Both judges presented their commissions signed by Noah Noble, governor, dated July 7, 1834, and William Sill presented his commission as clerk, which was also signed by the governor and dated July 7, 1834. These commissions were each for a term of seven years. Mr. Sill took the oath of office before Aaron Hicks, sheriff, and thus originated the White Circuit Court. A grand jury was convened and, having heard witnesses, returned one indictment charging Jeremiah Bishir with malicious mischief. It seems that his neighbor, John Roberts, owned a certain horse which had broken into the Bishir fields. Mr. Bishir had caught the horse and tied to its tail a full-sized clapboard, the which the said horse had kicked until both tail and clapboard were almost worn out. At the April term, 1835, to wit on Friday, April 17, 1835, the case came on for hearing when Mr. Bishir entered a plea of guilty and the court fined him \$5 with the costs and ordered "that the said defendant do stand committed in the custody of the sheriff of said county for the space of one minute." This first





judgment violates the laws of syntax for which it seems there was no penalty, but tradition informs us that the bystanders gathered in a circle around the prisoner and for the full space of one minute he was "it." At that time there was no jail in the county or Mr. Bishir would have had the honor of being our first jail bird.

#### ENLARGEMENT OF PUBLIC SQUARE IN MONTICELLO

Doubtless few people are now living who can recall the time when the public square, on which is located the courthouse, comprised only the east half of what is now occupied for that purpose. When the town was platted a street from north to south and forty feet wide extended from Broadway to what is now Court Street, passing under the west end of the present courthouse. This left the Square about 140 by 175 feet, but Court Street did not extend to Illinois Street. The county commissioners were asked to buy lots 82, 83 and 84, lying west of the courthouse, and add them to the Square. They appropriated \$500 for that purpose and the Monticello Herald of July 1, 1865, printed a list of subscribers who had subscribed and paid \$1,027 towards the purchase of these lots making the fund \$1,527. Of this amount the owners of these lots were paid as follows:

John W. Morgan .....	\$ 600
M. Fraser .....	800
Liberty M. Burns .....	125
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$1,525
Paid for deed and stamps.....	2
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$1,527

The subscription paper contains the names of thirty-nine subscribers, only four of whom are yet living, namely, Jephtha Crouch, J. H. McCollum, Alfred R. Orton and Capt. G. B. Ward. Lot 84 was opened to make the west end of Court Street and lots 82 and 83 are occupied by the sheriff's residence and jail. It seems strange to us that, when this land cost but \$1.25 per acre, no larger space should have been dedicated for a seat of justice, but at the time it was doubtless considered ample for all time.

#### ONLY WAR MOTHER IN WHITE COUNTY

A woman to whom all old soldiers pay especial honor is Mrs. Mary A. Carr, of West Point Township, the only living mother of a Union soldier in White County, who on August 7, 1915, celebrated her ninety-first birthday. She gave two sons to the Union army, Walter Carr, of West Point Township, with whom she lives, who was a soldier in the Forty-fourth Ohio Infantry and S. B. Carr, of Colburn, Indiana, a



member of the Eighth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. Both served for four years and left enviable records as soldiers. Mrs. Carr is well preserved, her mind is active and she is greatly interested in the G. A. R., the members of which are indebted to her for many acts of kindness.

### SPIRITUALISM

During the summer of 1859 the Democrat and Spectator engaged in a heated controversy on the subject of "Spiritualism." The Spectator had been accused by a republican, in a letter to the Democrat, of advocating that cult and at it they went. From the files of both these papers we learn that a Miss Whoolet had given a lecture in the old court room on "Revelations and Manifestations of the Spirit World," which had been attended by some female from Burnettsville, who wrote a letter to the Democrat, July 10, 1859, in which she attacked the editor of the Spectator for his part in the programme. This called for a reply by the Spectator, seemingly in denial, and the game was on and it was a great game in which argument gave way to abuse and all had a good time.

### WERE YOU THERE?

On Wednesday evening, August 3, 1859, at the courthouse, the ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Church Sewing Society gave a grand festival. The hand bills announcing the fact were from the Democrat press, the proceeds were to be used in improving the church, arrangements were to be made to please the most fastidious taste, all the luxuries of the season were to be served and the admission fee was 10 cents. The bill reads just like a modern one. There has been little change in church festivals in the last half century.

### CARRIER'S ADDRESS

In the early days of Monticello journalism the papers were delivered by youthful carriers, such as Jay B. Van Buskirk, Bowman and Samuel A. Rothrock and many other nice little boys. Their pay was not very liberal and they were allowed, at New Year time, to distribute to their patrons a hand bill on which was printed a calendar for the coming year and with it an alleged poem in which about everybody in town was given a puff or a roast. These so called poems make almost a complete directory of the business men of the town and were often amusing. The oldest one in the archives of the White County Historical Society is the one issued for 1857, by the Political Frame, in which everybody and everything is given a genuine hearty fling. It closes with the following beautiful sentiment:

"Thus on we go—but I propose  
To bring this message to a close.  
A happy New Year! For his rhyme,  
Pray give the Carrier Boy a dime."



## REMOVAL OF THE COUNTY SEAT

✓ Shortly after the close of the Civil war a movement was launched, in the western part of White County, to remove the seat of justice from Monticello to Reynolds. The idea had its origin prior to the war but during that struggle the subject was permitted to occupy a rear seat. After the war the removal was freely agitated, its sponsors urging the change for the reason that Reynolds was situated very near the geographical center of the county. This suggestion was met with the statement that if the change was made the people of the county would be taxed to raise at least \$250,000 to pay the lot owners of Monticello for their lots, the title to which would fail should Monticello cease to be the permanent seat of justice of the county. This argument was based upon the terms of the grant by which the county acquired title to the lands on which Monticello was located. As stated, at the close of the war the subject was again agitated, meetings were held pro and con, the newspapers discussed the proposed change and handbills were printed and circulated all over the county and for a dozen years the question was acute. On June 29, 1867, a large handbill was published and circulated, showing why the removal should not be made, and carefully stating the reasons against such removal. This was signed by Isaac Reynolds, Randolph Brearley, Jonathan Harbolt, Rowland Hughes, Charles W. Kendall and John Roberts. This was not the end of the controversy but at last the movement died, peace was declared and the subject forgotten.

## OLD TIME JOURNALISM IN WHITE COUNTY

✓ An examination of the files of the White County newspapers prior to 1885 discloses some strange features in local journalism. In the olden time if two or more individuals became involved in political, or other, controversies they would rush into print and tell the truth about each other in a most shocking manner. After the first article no argument was ever used, the question at issue was dropped, the words "thief," "liar" and many even worse epithets were freely printed and the war went merrily on until both sides had exhausted their vocabularies and the matter was dropped; but only for a short time. In a few months another war would be declared, perhaps with a different alignment, the vials of wrath would be opened, innocent bystanders would be involved, the reputations of many of our best citizens would be attacked and the casual observer would naturally expect to see bloodshed or even murder before it was ended. But none of this. When they grew tired they would rest for a time, then at it again. These wars were confined to no class or profession but most of them were waged by local lawyers or candidates for office. To read them now is to be amused, but perhaps in fifty years the reader may get as much enjoyment in reading of our way of doing things.

Another feature of these old papers is worthy of note. If a man died, no matter how prominent he was, he was lucky to get three lines in



a local paper, but if he belonged to some society, he was good for a half column of formal resolutions which gave no account of his life, his work or his family. Does the reader ask what these papers contained? They would be given over to news from Washington, speeches in Congress and even whole pages from the Congressional Record. In what has been written no reflections are intended on these pioneer newspapers. They were well printed, neat in appearance and published what the people wanted to read, but since about 1885, a great change is noted.

The last thirty years has been remarkable in journalistic development. It would really repay any one to read the local papers published during that time just to recall the wild schemes that have been set afloat. Traction lines from no place to no where have been located by wily promoters, life, accident, and fire insurance companies launched by irresponsible solicitors from far away cities, worthless mining stocks have been sold by the wholesale and the work still goes on its way. The public enjoys such things and is willing to pay for it.

Another change is apparent. The old time local paper had no army of correspondents. If Betsey Short visited Bud Means Sunday, if old Jack Means helped Bull catch a coon, or Squire Hawkins assisted the hero of Lundy's Lane to kill a hog, the public remained in blissful ignorance of such events. Betsey's courtship was ignored, Bull gained no publicity and the poor hog met his death, "unwept, unhonored and unsung." But time has changed all this. What will the next generation think of us?

#### MEXICAN WAR

So far as known the following is a list of all the old Mexican soldiers who ever permanently lived in White County: Roy D. Davidson, Michael Austin, a man by the name of Conkling (a cousin of Senator Conkling's), Thomas Cooper, John Wright, a Mr. Penny, Andrew Robinson and William F. Ford. These have all passed away but the descendants of some of them still live in the county. Three men only enlisted from the county, William F. Ford, N. H. Steel and Beveridge McCormick, and all went from Jackson Township and these, too, have since died. Mr. McCormick died in the service from the loss of an arm.

#### DISTILLERY IN WHITE COUNTY

Between 1840 and 1850, an individual by the name of Smith, living about two miles southwest of the present town of Idaville, procured a "worm" and engaged in the manufacture of "Mountain dew." Shades of the past! All this in Jackson Township. All of its patrons have passed beyond and Smith has gone to his reward. His was doubtless the first (but not the last) blind tiger in White County. Peace to his memory.

#### BURNS MURDER

In the early spring of 1860, one Burns, who came from Ohio, and settled about two miles north of Burnettsville, became jealous of his





spouse and after killing her committed suicide. He also attempted to kill his child which he declared to be illegitimate. She was interred in the Winegarner Cemetery but he was denied Christian burial and his grave is still preserved on the old farm but in a sadly dilapidated condition.

#### SUICIDE OF WILLIAM CROSE

A few of the older citizens of Jackson Township remember the suicide of Mr. Crose. He was a quiet, reserved man whose mind became unsettled on the subject of religion and about 1855 killed himself by shooting about two miles southwest of the present town of Idaville. The affair was a sad one and for many years the neighbors with bated breath discussed his unnatural act.

#### BRUMMER MURDER AT REYNOLDS

On July 2, 1866, a man by the name of Brummer who had been married about a year and whose wife had left him about a month prior to the above date, met her near Reynolds, fired two shots at her and then turned the revolver on himself. This was Sunday about 10 o'clock and he died about 2 P. M., while she passed away at 4.30 P. M. of the same day.

#### MURDER OF RICHARD M. HERRON

On Sunday January 23, 1876, the body of Richard M. Herron, a veteran of the Civil war, was found frozen in the woods pasture about two miles east of Monticello on the south of the railroad. He had left Idaville Friday afternoon, January 14th, where he had been tending bar for John (Jack) Kelly and started, as was supposed, to Brookston, where his father lived. Search had been made for him for more than a week but without success until after he had been dead for some ten days. His body was brought to Monticello, placed in the courthouse and an inquest held by the coroner, Doctor Henry. The inquest occupied a portion of three days, the jury of twelve men returned a verdict that deceased had come to his death at the hands of John, alias, Jack Kelly. A warrant was issued for his arrest and he was committed to jail without bond. Subsequently he was tried in the White Circuit Court where a jury found him guilty and fixed his punishment at six years in the penitentiary; being dissatisfied at this he applied for and was granted a new trial, but in this trial the jury found him guilty and gave him eighteen years and failing to get another trial, he was taken to prison. Kelly was a blacksmith by trade and when not drinking was an industrious, peaceable man, but liquor made him a demon and when in his cups was a terror to the village. He had quit his trade and was keeping a saloon in the same house in which he lived with his two little girls, aged ten and thirteen years, and Herron for about a month had been a member of the family. The principal witness for the state was



one, John Toothman, who had succeeded Herron as bartender for Kelly and it was largely on his testimony that Kelly was convicted.

#### DROWNING OF MRS. LUCINDA HUGHES

On May 31, 1863, Mrs. Lucinda Hughes, wife of John C. Hughes, who lived just east of what is now Sitka, was drowned at the Hughes Ford, on the Tippecanoe River, where now stands the Lowe bridge. With her husband and two grandchildren they had been visiting on the west side of the river and were returning to their homes. Mrs. Hughes feared to cross with her husband in his buggy and was with the grandchildren in a spring wagon when it struck a rock and was turned over. The children, by holding to the wagon, were carried down stream and rescued. Mr. Hughes, who had crossed safely, returned at once but the body of Mrs. Hughes was carried down the river and was found the following day two miles below the ford. She was sixty years old at her death and held in great esteem by all who knew her. Her husband, John C. Hughes, was a brother of Rowland (Pap) Hughes and died in 1872, at the age of seventy-two and both are buried in the old cemetery at Monticello. Near their graves are buried his parents. Ellis Hughes, born December 17, 1776, died January 6, 1850, and Sarah, his wife, born January 25, 1777, died March 18, 1857, in her eighty-first year. These dates carry us back to the Revolution. Near these graves lie the remains of Mary Imes, mother-in-law of "Pap" Hughes and the late Senator Turpie. She died February 15, 1868, at the age of eighty-two.

#### CROW BOUNTY

By an act in force March 4, 1911, the Legislature of Indiana authorized counties to pay a bounty of 10 cents for each crow and 5 cents for each crow's egg killed or found in the county and the party filing his claim was obliged to make affidavit to the facts before the county auditor and produce the crow's heads and eggs. An appropriation was made for this purpose by the county council early in 1911, but at its meeting on April 6, 1912, the fund had been overdrawn \$116. At this meeting a further appropriation of \$300 was made for the purpose but the council suggested that the commissioners reduce the bounty to 7 cents per crow and 3 cents per egg. The auditor was obliged to cremate the birds heads and eggs and one enterprising individual brought in at one time 167 crow heads, yet the crow continues to flourish.

#### LIVERY STABLE BURNED

On the night of October 22, 1873, a large livery stable at the southwest corner of Washington and Illinois streets, in Monticello, owned by Beeson Brothers, was destroyed by fire. Everything in the barn, including nine head of horses, six buggies, grain and a large quantity of hay was consumed. But one horse was saved and it was in a bad condition,



having been almost burned to death. The fire originated in a defective flue and the loss was in excess of \$6,000, with insurance for half that amount.

#### SOUTHWEST CORNER MAIN AND MARION STREETS, MONTICELLO

On this corner stands one of the land marks of Monticello, the three story brick building, 45 by 70 feet, known as the Reynolds Block. The White County Democrat of July 20, 1865, notes that it was being built by the Messrs. Reynolds and that the cellar is excavated and the walls begun. It also adds, "the front will be supported by iron columns." This building is yet one of the principal business blocks of Monticello and bids fair to stand another half century.

#### WHITE COUNTY IN 1847-48

In an article contributed to the White County Democrat of December 16, 1898, James Spencer, who now lives in Liberty Township gives some interesting history of White County as it was in 1847-48, when Mr. Speneer came to this locality with his parents. At that time Monticello contained less than three dozen houses, both public and private. He remembers the old two-story frame courthouse, said to have been built by his father some years earlier; without a yard of plaster, it had been ceiled with wide poplar boards. This seat of justice stood on the east side of Main Street, not far from the present M. E. Church. (This building was later removed to the northwest corner of Main and Harrison streets and used for a wagon shop. It is now the office and grain room of the Southside feed barn.) On the present site of the M. E. Church stood the leading hotel of the town, run by Jacob Beck and shortly afterwards by Joseph Rothrock. (This building was later the home of the late Squire Henry P. Bennett, but when the church was built it was moved to the east side of Main Street half a block south of the South Side School building, where it now stands.) The only other hotel in the town was operated by Rowland Hughes on the east side of Main Street in a one and a half story log house. The only dry goods store in the town had just been started by Rowland Hughes, who converted his 10 by 12 barroom into the limited, yet ample, quarters for the mercantile traffic of that day. Isaac Reynolds and J. C. Merriam, of Logansport, soon afterward opened a competing store in the same locality. Daniel M. Tilton had a meager stock of groceries in the one story frame building which stood at the northwest corner of Main and Washington streets and James C. Reynolds kept the postoffice in the front room of his little harness shop which stood where the State Bank is now located.

There was but one church in the town, the New School Presbyterian, which stood on the ground now occupied by the Presbyterian Church. This old church was later moved to the north side of Court Street and was used as a barn until the fall of 1914, when it was torn down and a



garage erected on its site. Rev. G. D. Miller was the only resident pastor, the Methodist Episcopal people having only a small class with occasional preaching appointments. The writer of that article calls to mind William M. Bott, Joseph and Mahlon Fraser, as the first earnest advocates of Bible Wesleyanism and their earnest zeal and consistent daily walk and conversation, which had a great influence in placing that church squarely on its feet in the community.

This writer's father, and Dr. Samuel Rifenberrick, were the only practicing physicians in the town as Dr. Randolph Brearley had just withdrawn from the practice. Thompson Crose and Amer S. McElhoes were the only blacksmiths, but Jesse Grim soon made the sparks fly on his own forge. Johnson Rifenberrick was the merchant tailor, John Maguire the dandy shoemaker with old man Day & Sons as super-cobblers. There were no drug stores in the whole county, no newspapers, no railroad dreamed of, but one weekly mail via LaFayette, and in fact no towns in the county except Monticello and Norway. At that time there were no mills of any kind except Hillman's sawmill. Just above what is now Tioga, Sheetz' gristmill, now Oakdale, and the Norway mills. Norway was the best trading point, the Kendall brothers at that place had a fine trade both in their store and mill. Jonathan Harbolt was the only undertaker in Monticello and his six and eight dollar stained poplar coffins were good enough for our old pioneers. Charles Dodge conducted the only wagon shop in the rear end of lot 1, on Marion Street between Main and Bluff streets, and across the street to the east J. R. Willey, did some work of the same character. Joseph and Abram Hanawalt were the plasterers and Uncle Samuel Heckendorn had the only furniture shop in the village. Benjamin Linville, Samuel Logan and Sampson Hartman were the active carpenters of the time and the old log jail stood near what is now the Pennsylvania depot.

The first school attended by Mr. Spencer was on the east side of Bluff Street, just north of Washington. It was taught by Prof. George Bowman, in an old one story frame building that long since has been torn down.

David Turpie was the only resident attorney and Horace P. Biddle, of Logansport, was judge of the court whose sessions were brief and far between.

In 1847, there were no bridges across the Tippecanoe River and not even a ferry boat, until 1850, when one was started at the foot of Marion Street. The part of the town east of Main Street and north of the present railroad was called, "Ponetown," and was devoid of human habitations. Such in brief is a showing of Monticello prior to 1850. Few can recall these scenes and these few will soon have passed away.

#### SOLDIERS MONUMENT

It may seem strange that White County has erected no memorial to the soldiers and sailors she has furnished in our three wars since the organization of the county, but our people have been taxed so heavily





for drainage and roads that it has not as yet been thought expedient to levy a tax for this purpose. That a fine one will some day be erected no one doubts. The subject has not been frequently agitated of late years, but so long ago as the close of the Civil war meetings were held for the purpose of interesting the public in such a project. The first meeting of which we can find an account was held at the courthouse in Monticello on Saturday, 2 P. M., May 21, 1864. At this meeting, on motion of Thomas Bushnell, David Turpie was chosen president, and James W. McEwen and Richard Brown, secretaries.

Thomas Bushnell, Orlando McConahay and Dr. J. A. Blackwell, were appointed a committee to prepare a subscription paper for circulation and agents to circulate this paper were appointed for each township. Of all the people named in connection with this work James W. McEwen is the only one now living. This monument was to be erected in the public square at Monticello; at the close of the meeting nearly \$150 was subscribed. Some years later Congress provided for the erection, over all graves of deceased soldiers, of the little plain headstone so familiar to us all and, like the little bronze button, this soon became popular with the old veterans. Many counties of the state have erected memorials to their soldier dead and it is not likely White County will much longer delay some action in this matter.

#### OLD TANNERY AT NORWAY

About 1855, Rev. Abraham Snyder, father of Captain Snyder, now living in Monticello, built a tannery at Norway and for some fifteen years he did a thriving business. He purchased the hides from the farmers and butchers and tanned them with tanbark, taken from the surrounding forests which method produced a splendid quality of leather known as, "Snyder's Jerk." It was used largely by local shoe and harness makers and gave the best of satisfaction. John C. Bartholomew, who married Mr. Snyder's daughter, was a saddler and harness maker and had his factory in the tannery which was located just south of Norway across the road from the fine spring, which is passed on the highway. The water from this spring which is, "sweet unto this day," was used in tanning the hides and the Snyder family lived above the factory.

#### FIRST MARRIAGE IN WHITE COUNTY

The first marriage in White County, as shown by the records in the clerk's office was that of John Luce to Sally Hazelton, solemnized October 26, 1834. The second was the marriage of George R. Bartley to Katharine McColloch, on November 24, 1834, and the third Nathaniel Bunnell to Nancy Bunnell, on March 10, 1835. These licenses were all issued by William Sill, who was the first clerk of White County and in each case the knot was tied by George A. Spencer, justice of the peace.



## DEATH OF GYPSY KING AT NORWAY

During the month of July, 1913, a large band of Gypsies were encamped for several days on the east side of the river opposite Norway and while there their king, Thomas Nicholas, seventy-seven years old, died of dropsy. He was a man of wealth and the entire tribe was well supplied with money which was freely spent on the old king's funeral. His remains were taken by auto to Danville, Illinois, and there buried in regal style. His people would not allow the old king to be embalmed, the weather was quite warm and the trip was a memorable one for those unaccustomed to such funerals.

## NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD CELEBRATION

On August 14, 1878, was celebrated at Monticello the opening of the second division of the I. D. & C. R. R. (now Monon and Standard Gauge). The Delphi and Monticello brass bands furnished the music. Rowland Hughes presided, speeches were made and all were hopeful that the road would soon be extended to Indianapolis and Chicago. This seems to have marked the completion of the road between Rensselaer and Monticello, for at the close of this meeting the watchword was, "On to Delphi." All were enthusiastic in praise of narrow gauge systems and it was openly expressed that the old standard gauge roads would soon be abandoned.

## THE CALLAHAN FAMILY—NAME OF IDAVILLE

During the Civil war the Rev. Thomas Callahan, at that time pastor of the United Presbyterian Church at Idaville was a well known character. In politics he was a democrat of the old school but an intense union man. He has long since gone to his reward and in the spring of 1912 his widow died, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ida M. Baxter, in Valparaiso, Indiana, being eighty-nine years old. The town of Idaville was named after this daughter, who was handsome and a general favorite with the early settlers. After being given the name of Hanna it was discovered that there already was a Hanna in Indiana, hence the change.

## DROWNING OF J. G. McCULLY

From the Register of July 5, 1854, we glean an account of the death by drowning in the Tippecanoe River of J. G. McCully, son of Solomon McCully, of Jackson Township, which occurred at the celebration on July 4, at Monticello. He, with several others, was bathing near the foot of Broadway and getting into deep water became frightened and sunk. His body, after about an hour, was recovered by Dr. Wm. Spencer and Benjamin Brusie.



## GRAVE OF THE OLDEST EARLY SETTLER

On the east bank of the Tippecanoe River, on a high bluff north of the dam, and just outside the city limits, is a little graveyard of much local interest, but very seldom seen by anyone save by the honest farmer who tends his crops in the adjacent field. Many of the graves are unmarked, but among the marble stones are those erected to the memory of Sarah S., wife of Moses S. Sheetz, who died January 14, 1853, in her thirty-second year; Margaret, wife of Zebulon Sheetz, who died December 2, 1861, in her sixty-ninth year; Mary A., wife of T. M. Thompson, who died October 24, 1867, in her forty-second year; Zebulon Sheetz, who died November 9, 1868, in his seventy-first year; Thomas M. Thompson, who died August 24, 1881, in his seventy-second year, and Eva, wife of Jonathan Oates, who died January 1, 1845, in her thirty-fourth year. But at the southwest corner stands an old fashioned marble tombstone upon which is engraved this remarkable epitaph:

"To the Memory of  
Ann Barbara Sheetz  
Who was born in York  
Co. Pa. July 1750.  
Died in White Co. Ind.,  
July 25, 1839."

No white person is buried in White County who was born prior to her birth. It is not known to whom she was related. The Sheetz, Oates and Thompson families were very early settlers, but neither record nor tradition gives any account of this woman who had lived a quarter of a century when the Revolutionary war was begun. She certainly came to White County after she had passed her fourscore years and we can only conjecture her reasons for coming, at that age, to a country occupied by the Indians. Her grave certainly contains the remains of our most aged early settler.

FIRST DITCH CASE TRIED IN WHITE COUNTY AS RECALLED BY JACK  
GRIDLEY

In 1863 and prior thereto the greater portion of Liberty and Cass townships consisted of ponds, sloughs and wet lands. Some time in 1862 or 1863 a meeting of farmers was held to consider the proposition of draining the wet land, and under the statute a company was organized known as the Keen's Creek Draining Company. The route of the proposed drain commenced near the head of Keen's Creek in Cass Township and followed practically the meanderings of the creek until it reached the



Tippecanoe River. The company elected as directors Benjamin Watkins, Fred Burgett, Uriah Patton, Richard Cornell and others whose names I have forgotten. They proceeded to let a contract for the construction of the drain, having completed the preliminary survey and estimate of cost. Upon the completion of the drain they assessed the benefits against each tract of land benefited. Among the lands assessed were the lands of John C. Hughes and John Large, each of whom refused to pay his assessment. The company in 1865 employed Hon. David Turpie to bring suit against Hughes and Large for the collection of their respective assessments. He brought suit in the Common Pleas Court before Hon. David P. Vinton, judge.

At the September term the case of John C. Hughes was put at issue and set for trial on the 16th day of May, 1866. Turpie being confined to his bed by sickness and unable to try the case, he sent for me and employed me to represent him in the trial. I was at that time young and had not as yet established a reputation as a lawyer, and of course, with the formidable array of counsel employed by the defense, the members of the drainage company were frightened, as they had depended upon Turpie's experience and ability to win the case for them. However, Turpie told them that I was competent and had the essential brass to manage the case properly, and on his assurance that he would be responsible for any mistakes in the trial, the company reluctantly accepted my services. The defense was represented by Ellis Hughes as local counsel and Judge Samuel A. Huff and Hon. John Pettit of the LaFayette bar.

At the outset the Court sustained a demurrer to the complaint, filed by Judge Turpie. I took leave to amend and spent the entire night in my office preparing an amended complaint. I set out the entire drainage act, and the amended complaint was held good by the court.

The case was at issue, and on the 16th of May, 1866, a jury was empaneled composed of John Dunlop, Abram Snyder, Wm. P. Montgomery, Ira Chenoweth, Valentine Bates, James E. Montgomery, John H. Carr, James Barnes, John Matthews, Wm. J. Bishop and Daniel Dale, Sr. After hearing the testimony of a great number of witnesses and a lengthy argument of counsel the jury retired to arrive at a verdict. As this was the first suit brought in White County to collect a drainage assessment, the people were excited and interested. It was considered a test of the drainage laws, and the courtroom was filled with spectators during the entire trial. Uncle Peter Preece, who was scarcely ever seen in the courtroom, was present throughout. He was greatly interested, being an enthusiastic ditch man, and exhibited as much joy over the verdict as if he had been one of the plaintiffs, when on the 19th of May, 1866, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the drainage company for the amount of the assessment.

The case against Large was tried with the same result. It was appealed to the Supreme Court and reversed upon a technical error, when Large compromised with the company and paid his assessment and part of the costs.





It is a surprising fact that the judge, D. P. Vinton, the attorneys, Samuel A. Huff, John Pettit, Ellis Hughes and David Turpie, every member of the jury, the defendants, and all the plaintiffs that I remember, are all dead, and that I am the only surviving participant in that somewhat memorable trial.

#### ✓ FORGOTTEN TOWNS WHICH ONCE DOTTED THE WHITE COUNTY MAP

Were any adult citizen of White County asked to give the names of the towns platted and located within the boundaries of the county he would name over the towns with which he is familiar and say "that is all." His credulity would be overtaxed if told there was not a person living who could from memory give the names or location of all the towns that exist or have existed in this county. The modern "boomer" has his prototype in our first settler who laid out towns which he confidently expected to immortalize his name and enrich his purse.

As appropriate to this history we subjoin a list of a few of these town plats with a brief account of their histories.

**New Hartford**—The oldest of these towns is New Hartford, which was laid out in due form by Abel Line on January 20, 1837, about two and one-half miles east of Monon. This was quite a pretentious village, for in addition to its seventy lots it had a public square, which was forever dedicated to the public. This was doubtless intended to answer the purpose of the Roman Forum, but of this we have not so much as a tradition.

**Wyoming** is next in chronological order and was laid out on the west bank of the Tippecanoe River one-half mile south of the Pulaski County line, on February 24, 1837, by Crystal D. W. Scott, a New Light minister, many of whose descendants still reside in White County. It contained sixty-four lots and was described as "handsomely situated on the bank of the Tippecanoe river, where the Rochester and Monticello road crosses said river." It was further said to be surrounded by a rich agricultural country and was no doubt a good place in which to live. But one lot in this town was ever sold by Mr. Scott.

**New Lancaster**—On October 13, 1837, David Lambert laid out a town called New Lancaster, about a half mile south of Lowe's bridge, on the west bank of the Tippecanoe River. It is now and doubtless was at that time a beautiful location. The town consisted of eight blocks divided into sixty-two lots, but it was stillborn. Mr. Lambert's location availed him nothing, for not a single lot in New Lancaster was ever transferred by its founder.

**Montgomery**—Three days later, on October 16, 1837, the Town of Montgomery was laid out on the east bank of the Tippecanoe River (no more definite description is given) by Joseph Smith, Benjamin Grant and William G. Sheley. This was doubtless a rival of New Lancaster, which was born and died three days prior, but its sixty-four lots and a public square 276 feet on each side shared the fate of its older rival, and Montgomery does not live even in memory.



Castleton—On February 28, 1838, one Cyrus B. Garlinghouse became firmly convinced that a sand dune about a mile east of the present Town of Idaville would some day become a great city. Possessed with this idea he laid out a town of forty-eight lots and called it Castleton. This was twenty-two years before the railroad was built, and all of the above named towns were laid out before the Indians were taken to the far west.

Fayette—On March 18, 1856, Harris Shaw laid out a town about midway between Wolcott and Seafield and gave it the name of Fayette. Four years later the railroad passed through this embryo metropolis, and tradition has it that one day a flat car stopped, loaded the town and removed it to Wolcott, leaving its sixty-four lots without an inhabitant.

Clermont—Princeton Township was well represented in the "town boom" business, and on April 2, 1860, about four months after the opening of the railroad, Clermont was laid out by Christopher Hardy about one-half mile east of Wolcott and on the north side of the railroad. Mr. Hardy was quite modest and platted but twenty-four lots, but his little town of Clermont was swallowed up by the Town of Wolcott.

Kiousville—On the 25th day of November, 1856, John Kious platted the town of Kiousville located about one mile north of Brookston. It included a part of four sections and comprised about 200 lots, being the largest number of lots contained in any town at its birth. But its size did not avail, and it went the way of all the earth. *Hic jacet.*

These are not deserted villages. They simply failed to materialize, and the hopes of their founders were blasted from causes over which they had no control. It is interesting to notice that the earliest of these towns were all laid out on a natural water course, for at that time it was not expected the railroads would so soon penetrate so far to the westward. Of the expectations of their founders we know nothing but can readily surmise that they had in view the development of the water power on the advent of the railroad but not one of these towns was benefited by either.

The above list includes only towns actually platted and appearing of record. Besides these were a number of postoffices, some of which were abandoned far back in the past and others only since the advent of free rural delivery. Among them were Flowerville, Badger, Dern, Forney, Rankin and others.

#### LOG CABINS

The following article from the Idaville Observer of December 5, 1913, is a reminder of life fifty years ago:

In the country north of Idaville you will still find a few reminders of the pioneer life of a three-quarter of a century ago scattered among the comfortable homes with which the country is being fast filled.

Just a few miles north of town stands an old log house with a huge brick fire place and chimney arising at the end of the building. The house is built of hewn logs, laid up cob house style and is in a good state



of preservation. It is a mute reminder of the days when building material, other than logs, was well nigh impossible to get. The building of a home in those days was a simple affair compared with the erection of even the most common of the houses of today. The man with an ax and a grove of timber could soon put up a shelter to protect himself from the cold and storm and wild animals. The trees were cut down with the ax, cut the proper length, the sides slabbed and notched at the ends, all ready for the walls. When the walls were up the same ax was used to split puncheons for the floors and doors, and shakes for the roof. With a mud fire place and a stick chimney the settler was ready to face all the vicissitudes of the seasons.

Just a short distance further on stands another log cabin that has passed its days of usefulness as a shelter for man and is now used to house stock. There is yet a third cabin in this neighborhood whose roof has decayed and fallen in, leaving only the walls, built of sturdy logs, standing. In its day this last cabin was the center of the life of the community.

When these cabins were built the surrounding country was practically a vast wilderness teeming with the wild life of that day, for the settlers were few and far between. The lands that are now yielding so richly of grain were swampy sloughs with no outlet. In winter and spring they were veritable lakes which dried up under the summer sun. The groves of today were but scrubby bushes, which with the rank wild grasses made admirable hiding places for the deer, prairie wolves, foxes and timid wild fowl. Night after night the wolves would gather around the scattered homes and make the darkness hideous with their howling. Roads were few and far between. What few there were wound their way around on the high places to avoid the sloughs. Fences there were none, save around the fields of grain.

Fifty years of toil and work have changed all of that. Great open ditches with mile after mile of tile have drained the swamps and where the water-fowl once nested and reared their young there are great fields of corn. Drove of cattle graze where the wild deer fed and hogs are fattened where the prairie wolves howled their requiem over the passing of the wild.

Gone are the sturdy men and women of those pioneer days. Stout hearted, strong willed, they faced the rough life of those days, and laid the foundation of the better life of today. Forgotten by nearly all they builded better than they knew. The seeds of civilization they planted have multiplied more than a hundred fold.

But not all the hard work is done as yet,—for there is room for as great a development in the future as in the past.

#### A LADY'S RECOLLECTIONS OF WHITE COUNTY'S EARLY OFFICIARY

Mrs. Georgiana Reynolds, who with her son William M. Reynolds, lives on a farm east of Monticello, is the oldest native resident of Union Township now living (August, 1915). She first saw the light January



1, 1837, in a little temporary abode on lot 10 in the original plat of the Town of Monticello, where five years later her father, William Sill, built the two-story residence which still stands on that site. It is on the west side of Bluff Street three doors north of Broadway and is one of the oldest landmarks in the city.

Mr. Sill was White County's first clerk, first auditor and first recorder, all of which offices he held at the same time. His son, Robert W. Sill, was sheriff at the time of the Dayton-Cantwell murder trial in 1850 and made the arrest of the indicted men. The old jail having been burned, they were kept in shackles for a time in one of the upper rooms of the house here mentioned. This old house at 110 North Bluff Street, besides being the domicile of White County's officary, often sheltered temporarily the judges of the court, non-resident members of the bar, and even more distinguished guests from the state capital and elsewhere.



THE OLD SILL HOMESTEAD, 110 NORTH BLUFF STREET  
(The porch is a recent addition)

Among them Mrs. Reynolds especially remembers Hons. Henry S. Lane and Schuyler Colfax, who found shelter under that hospitable roof during some of their political campaigns. Her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Sill, thus acquired a wide celebrity as hostess of White County's quasi-executive mansion.

Mrs. Reynolds is the last survivor of William Sill's family of two sons and three daughters. Her sisters were Mrs. Miranda J. Reynolds, wife of James C. Reynolds; and Mrs. Sarah Van Voorst, wife of Sylvanus Van Voorst. Her brothers were Robert W. Sill and Milton M. Sill.

Being a daughter of the first clerk, auditor and recorder, and a sister of one of the early sheriffs, she has some vivid recollections of White County's early officialdom. Among them is an incident that happened at the old jail on Illinois Street near Marion Street, then "out on the commons." She was commissioned by her brother, the sheriff, as cup bearer to the prisoners in the jail, and when he carried their meals





to them she went along to carry the coffee. One morning when Sheriff Bob opened the jail to give two prisoners their breakfast they knocked him down, and rushing out past the little coffee carrier, escaped across the meadows. Her brother, who had only been temporarily stunned, rose up and gave chase, and being very lithe of limb and fleet of foot, he overtook the fugitives and lone-handed led them back to jail.

Another exploit which gave this young sheriff considerable renown in his day was the capture of a notorious horsethief known as "Riz" Beauchamp. He was regarded as a dangerous man and had sent word to Sheriff Sill that he would kill him if he ever attempted to arrest him. Bob learned that Beauchamp was up in Jasper County prowling around in the vicinity of a camp-meeting then in progress near Rensselaer. He provided himself with a lasso and went on his trail. He found him in a group of men on the outskirts of the camp ground, and taking some local officers with him, he slipped up behind him, threw the noose over him and jerked him down on his back. Giving the rope to one of his helpers, he completed his conquest by closing in on his man and putting him in handcuffs. During this process, however, "Riz" fired a bullet at him which barely missed his knee and gave Bob a trophy of the encounter in the shape of a bullet-riddled trousers leg.

Indians were still numerous here in Mrs. Reynolds' childhood. Though they were not much feared by the settlers of that day, she was always panic-stricken at the sight of their dogs, which she says were "the ugliest beasts that ever walked." Mr. Sill was a merchant as well as a county official, and his store was located a few doors south of the present State Bank of Monticello. He had a brisk trade with the Indians, accepting their coonskins and other furry pelts in exchange for goods and shipping them to Philadelphia. The Indians were very friendly and often invited him to visit their wigwams, which dotted the river banks between here and Norway. Their hospitality could not be refused, but their cuisine was not exactly the kind that prevailed at the Sill mansion on Bluff Street, and his visits were therefore confined mostly to the hours between meals. His wariness was born of the following experience: One day, with his son Milton, he accepted an invitation to dinner at an Indian camp near town, beguiled by the appetizing stories he had heard of corn pone. With an expectant appetite he watched the preparations for dinner, and when he saw the squaw chef wash her hands carefully before proceeding to prepare the pone he inwardly remarked upon the cleanliness of these aboriginal daughters of the forest. But when he saw her mix the dough in the same water in which she had washed her hands his romantic thoughts came down to earth again and he lost his appetite for corn pone.

The husband of Mrs. Reynolds, to whom she was married October 29, 1854, was Mr. Calvin Reynolds, and he came from Somerset, Ohio. He died in the year 1872 during an epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis which ravaged this locality during that year. He was taken sick while watching at the bedside of a neighbor and died the next day, so rapid was the work of that memorable scourge. All the children of this union,



six in number, are still living: Ebenezer, William M., Levi and Embree Reynolds, Mrs. Minnie Detwiler and Mrs. Mary Gladden.

The only bearer of the family name of William Sill now living in this county is Mr. Charles Sill, mail carrier on Rural Route 5, Monticello, Indiana. His wife, Mrs. Jessie Mullendore-Sill, is also a descendant from sterling old settler stock, being a daughter of Mr. Francis M. Mullendore, who was at one time deputy sheriff of White County and who enjoyed the respect and confidence of his generation.

#### JOSHUA GRIM'S JOKE

Joshua Grim, notwithstanding his name, was a man who loved a joke. He was a butcher by trade and lived here when Monticello was young. He was a brother-in-law of Rowland Hughes, Monticello's pioneer merchant prince (commonly known as "Pap" Hughes), but for some reason he imagined that "Pap" did not consider him a very valuable addition to the family and that he was a little "uppish" in his bearing toward him. For this reason Grim was always pleased when anything occurred to ruffle his brother-in-law's dignity and was ready at all times to contribute his mite to the ruffling process. He was inwardly tickled when he heard that "Pap" had been swiped of \$100 by investing in a worthless patent right, and it was music to his ear to hear him "cuss" traveling patent right vendors and tell what he would do to the next one that darkened his door. "Pap" had a great command of expletives, and when in full eruption it was an education to stand around and listen to him.

One day Grim had a visit from a stranger who wanted to sell him the county right for a patent farm gate. Grim declined to invest and was about to allow the fellow to depart, when a diabolical thought struck him.

"There's a man named Hughes over there," said he, "who might want it. He buys about everything that comes around." The stranger thanked him and started for the Hughes store.

"Hold on a bit," called Grim. "Now Mr. Hughes is very peculiar. He'll refuse you at first and may pretend to get mad and even order you out of his store, but that's all bluff. If you stand your ground and spunk up to him he'll take a fancy to you and maybe buy two or three counties before you get through with him."

The stranger accepted the pointer thankfully and started off again. Grim watched him till he entered the store and then made a bee line for the scene himself, taking up a position on the sidewalk just outside the door, where he could enjoy the entertainment. He heard the stranger following his directions to the letter, and he heard his predictions fulfilled on "Pap's" part also, except that he failed to mellow down. The sound of voices inside grew from a murmur to a roar, and finally the stranger emerged unceremoniously from the door, pursued by "Pap" with flashing eyes and an uplifted chair. As the patent right man



passed Grim he cast a reproachful glance at him but did not take time to stop.

#### A JAIL BREAKER WITH CHURCH-GOING TENDENCIES

Capt. B. F. Price, whose father was the first actual settler in Union Township, recalls an incident connected with White County's first jail, the humor of which "touched the funny bone" of his boyhood nature and has stuck in his memory ever since.

The jail was located on North Illinois Street near Marion Street, and as there were no houses around it nearer than the New School Presbyterian Church the view from behind the bars commanded quite a large scope of commons. A man named Smallwood Thompson was incarcerated in the jail for stealing five coonskins from Rowland Hughes. One Sunday morning just as the church bell was ringing Thompson was caught in the act of breaking jail. When his plans were foiled he seemed easily reconciled to his fate and was disposed to think it a good joke that he had come so near regaining his liberty in broad daylight.

"Why Smallwood," somebody remarked, "if you'd only waited till night you'd have got out."

"Yes," he answered, "but I saw the people going to church and thought I'd get out in time to go too."

#### MONTICELLO'S FIRST MEAT MARKET

There are few of Monticello's pioneer buildings still standing, but some of her oldest buildings have incidents connected with their history which make them interesting.

One structure which is much older than it looks is the little shoe shop which stands on Broadway between the O'Connor Block and the Law Building. It has occupied many sites. It was built in 1851 by Liberty M. Burns and Amer S. McElhoes and was the home of Monticello's first meat market. The members of the firm of Burns & McElhoes were fresh from Pennsylvania and full of thrift, though limited in means. They recognized the value of a central location for the meat business, but having no ground of their own on the public square they adopted the bold expedient of building their meat shop in the courthouse yard. A new brick courthouse had just been erected, and in the minds of these enterprising meat vendors the smell of blood and beefsteaks was all that was needed to complete the sanctity of the judicial plaza. At that time the sessions of the Commissioners' Court were few and far between, and the young squatters, selecting a time when the board had just adjourned, planted their meat shop in the southeast corner of the courthouse grounds and were selling steaks there before the county fathers were aware of their bold pre-emption of the public domain. The house was small and easily moved, but it remained there long enough to build up a trade which followed the firm when they finally had to seek another site.



## APPRAISEMENT OF WHITE COUNTY FOR 1915

The following is an abstract of the assessment of the property in White County for the year 1915:

Prairie Township .....	\$ 1,878,790
Big Creek Township .....	964,020
Union Township .....	1,142,140
Monon Township .....	1,215,210
Liberty Township .....	759,490
Jackson Township .....	914,660
Princeton Township .....	1,340,000
West Point Township .....	1,353,770
Cass Township .....	576,060
Honey Creek Township .....	728,610
Round Grove Township .....	946,780
Monicello Corporation .....	1,382,430
Brookston Corporation .....	363,870
Reynolds Corporation .....	163,460
Burnettsville Corporation .....	186,420
Monon Corporation .....	425,330
Wolcott Corporation .....	357,910
Chalmers Corporation .....	264,670
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$14,963,620
To which add for corporations about.....	1,600,000
<hr/>	
Making a grand total of.....	\$16,563,620

This is for purposes of taxation. The true value of taxables in the county will approximate \$40,000,000, less the amount claimed by mortgage exemptions.

## THE HARDSHIPS OF A SHERIFF'S LIFE IN THE MUSKRAT DAYS

Elisha Warden, the veteran house mover, was one of the early residents of Norway, having come there with his parents in 1836, when less than a year old. In his boyhood days Norway gave promise of great commercial importance, being for years the center of industrial activity for a large scope of territory on account of its water power. It was here that the Tippecanoe was first harnessed, and though its dam has been swept away its site for power purposes is still one of the finest on the river.

One of the earliest industries of Norway was conducted by Mr. Warden's father, Elisha Warden, Sr. He manufactured peck and half-bushel measures made of bent wood, and his products supplied the market almost exclusively in White and adjoining counties. A Norwegian named Helver, who had a turning lathe, manufactured wooden bowls and other kitchen utensils. Mr. Warden ran a huckster wagon, which was the





vehicle of distribution both for his own products and Mr. Helver's wood-ware, and on his return home from a trip his wagon was usually loaded with farm and garden truck taken in exchange for their handiwork.

Elisha Warden, Sr., was elected sheriff of White County, in the early '40s, and his son relates an incident of his official career which illustrates the stress of a sheriff's life and incidentally recalls the early topography of our now beautiful county.

Sheriff Warden had a warrant for a man named Dirth, who was wanted for some misdemeanor and was said to be in hiding in the country not far from Monticello. He mounted his horse and went in pursuit of him. The soft and marshy nature of this region in those days made it easy to trace a fugitive by his footprints, and he soon struck a trail which promised to lead him to the object of his search. Toward evening he discovered his man, but in a most tantalizing position. He was perched on a muskrat house far out in a marsh. How he got there was a puzzle then, and ever afterward to Sheriff Warden, but he reasoned that where one man could go another could follow, and he plunged his horse into the marsh in a bee line for the muskrat house. He was soon hopelessly mired and stuck fast in the swamp. The man on the muskrat house apparently was not armed. Neither did he seem to be alarmed, and in fact did not need to be. He was evidently in no danger of arrest, and he simply sat and grinned at the sheriff's plight. He even began to toss pleasantries at him across the water and to give him sarcastic advice about how to run a sheriff's office. At last he called out:

"Say, Sheriff, I'll help you out if you'll give me my ground!" meaning exemption from arrest for the present.

It was getting dark, and the sheriff's condition being desperate, he accepted the proposition. Dirth got down off his perch and by skillful maneuvering and hard work pried horse and rider out of the mire and got them back to land.

Sheriff Warden played "honor bright" with him by letting him go his way at that time but arrested him a few days later, after their "gentlemen's agreement" had expired.

With the disappearance of the marshes the muskrat has also vanished from White County, except along the watercourses, and present-day fugitives from justice would have to travel much farther than Mr. Dirth did to find such a refuge as a muskrat house.

#### GEORGE A. SPENCER'S DOCKET AS J. P.

One of the most interesting records in White County is now in the possession of Miran B. Spencer, Esq., of Monticello. It is the old docket, bound in deer skin, which his grandfather, George A. Spencer, used when he was a justice of the peace in Big Creek Township from September 16, 1834, to June 23, 1836.

The record of many suits are found in this little book, the first case being that of Merkle, Orwig & Co. vs. Milton Doan, in which judgment



was given plaintiffs on September 16, 1834, for \$32.65. On this judgment the constable levied on about twenty acres of corn valued at \$184, one horse valued at \$8 and one lot of hogs valued at \$8.

The second case was that of Ashford Parker against our old friend, Jeremiah Bishir, filed the same day, and on November 15, 1834, judgment was rendered against defendant for \$10.90, which was later paid.

One of the most amusing cases was filed January 15, 1835, entitled, "Samuel Shanahan vs. Robert Newell," in which plaintiff swears, "that on January 15, 1835, in the county aforesaid, Robert Newell, of sd. county, a certain assault and battery, was perpetrated by sd. Newell coming to my house, clenching me & striking me two or three times, twice on the head & once in the side. This was on the body of Samuel Shanahan & that he verily believes that Robert Newell of said county is guilty of sd. offense & further saith not." A warrant issued, Mr. Newell was arrested, pleaded guilty and was fined \$3 and costs. Cornelius Clark entered replevin bail and on April 4, 1835, the judgment was paid. But this did not close the matter, for two days later, on January 17, 1835, Newell sued Shanahan and recovered judgment for \$10, on which Andrew Ferguson became replevin bail. On April 25 the costs were paid and \$2.25 paid on the judgment, but the remaining \$7.75 is still due.

On January 30, 1836, one Samuel Beever recovered judgment against Jeremiah Bishir for \$9.75 and costs, which included fees for several witnesses who had been subpoenaed in the case. The Beever family name figures prominently in this record, and on February 23, 1836, one W. M. Beever was arrested for an offense which is not stated. He pleaded not guilty, was tried, acquitted, but placed under bond to keep the peace, and the record concludes: "Said defendant fined for swearing \$1.00." Mr. Spencer was a good churchman and would have no swearing in his court.

One of the most important cases was that of Joshua Rinker vs. Jeremiah Bishir, in which, on May 30, 1836, judgment was awarded plaintiff for \$75, and upon which Simon Kenton became replevin bail. The record shows that \$10 is yet due on this judgment.

The last case tried was on June 23, 1836, in which Jeremiah Bishir recovered judgment against W. M. Beever for \$5.18 $\frac{3}{4}$ , upon which judgment Philip Davis became replevin bail, but this judgment is not yet satisfied of record.

On August 9, 1837, this docket was turned over to Joseph Phillips, justice of the peace, who states that it was one year after the commission of George A. Spencer had expired.

#### FIRST TELEGRAPH LINE.

It will doubtless surprise many of the younger generation to learn that an attempt was made to construct a telegraph line through White County prior to the advent of our first railroad. Some time prior to 1850 poles were set through the entire length of Main Street, as far



north as Norway and on part of the projected line to LaFayette. This line was intended to connect the latter place with White Post, a post-office in Pulaski County, but no wire was ever strung, the poles rotted in the ground and the project was abandoned. But the prospect gave Monticello one of its periodic "booms," town lots were in demand, prices soared and Monticello was expected to become a mighty city when the wire was opened for business. Peter Price, father of Capt. B. F. Price, caught the fever and paid \$100 for the lot at the southwest corner of West Broadway and Railroad streets. After holding it for twenty-three years he was glad to accept \$50 for it and this is but a single illustration of the effects of one of our first booms. The electric telegraph was in its infancy and it is no wonder the people were excited over the proposition to bring it to their doors.

### COURTHOUSE BELL

For two generations the people of White County and vicinity have heard and admired the rich musical tones of our grand old courthouse bell. It is one of the finest bells in the state and has a history unknown to most of our people, for but a few have ever seen it.

It bears the following inscription cast on its outer side, "From Meneely's foundry, West Troy, N. Y., 1852." This company is still in business and is the oldest bell foundry in America, having been established by Andrew Meneely in 1826. West Troy is on the west bank of the Hudson River, about six miles north of Albany, and when east this bell was consigned to Dr. Samuel Rifenberrieh, at Lockport, Indiana, coming down the Hudson to Albany, thence by Erie Canal to Buffalo, thence by Lake Erie to Toledo, thence by Wabash and Erie Canal to Lockport, Indiana, from which place it was hauled by wagon to Monticello and placed in the tower of the old courthouse. In 1894-95, when the present courthouse was built, it was placed in its present home. When placed in this new home the hammer of the courthouse clock was attached and during the last twenty years, by day and night, it has faithfully proclaimed the hours and suffered no less than 1,139,424 strokes.

### ROSTER OF COUNTY OFFICERS

The following is a list of officers of White County since its organization, with the dates of their election or appointment.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.—Ira Bacon, Daniel McComb and Robert Newell, 1834. McComb resigned in November, 1834, and Daniel Dale was appointed to succeed him. Ira Bacon resigned and in May, 1836, James Gay was appointed his successor. James K. Wilson, 1836; William W. Mitchell, 1837; William Wood, 1838; John Young, 1839; James H. Hiett, 1840; Ranson McConahay, 1841; Hiett resigned and in November, 1841, Allen Barnes was appointed in his place; Chrystal D. W. Scott, 1842; James Kerr, appointed September, 1842; Allen Barnes,



1843; James Shafer, 1844; J. H. Wilson, 1845; Solomon McCully, 1846; Samuel Smeleer, 1847; James P. Moore, 1848; Jefferson Courtney, 1849, he moved out of his district and in 1850 Solomon McCully took his place; James K. Wilson, 1851; Christopher Vandeventer, 1852; Andrew Hanna, 1853; J. K. Wilson, 1854; Sothey K. Timmons, 1855; Thomas Downey, 1856; William H. King, appointed 1857; George Cullen, 1858; Anderson Irions, 1859; Ansel M. Dickinson, 1860; George Cullen, 1861; James Hays, 1862; Ansel M. Dickinson, 1863; James Renwick, 1864; Samuel Smeleer, 1865; Christopher Hardy, 1866; John G. Timmons, 1867; Theodore J. Davis, 1868; James C. Gress, 1869; Thomas Downey, 1870; John Parrish, 1871; Ansel M. Dickinson, 1872; John Parrish, 1873; Martin R. Cartmell, 1874; David L. Fisher, 1875; Jacob Pfister, 1876; Nelson Hornbeck, 1877; Jacob Pfister, 1878; John T. Barnes, 1879; John A. Beam, 1880; John T. Barnes, 1881; Eli W. Cowger, 1882; Alfred C. Tam, 1882; Joseph Taylor, 1884; Alfred C. Tam, 1884; Eleazer H. Scott, 1886; Judson Paul, 1886; James Hewitt, 1888; George Huffman, 1888; James W. Dye, 1890; Perry Spencer, 1890; John M. Russell, 1892; James W. Dye, 1892; John M. Russell, 1891; Robert D. Roberts, 1894; Daniel O. Rader, 1896; Perry Spencer, 1896; Oscar K. Rainier, 1898; Daniel O. Rader, 1898; Joseph Taylor, 1900; George T. Inskeep, 1900; John Ball, 1902; Henry Duncan, 1902; Joseph Taylor, 1904; George L. Schlademan, 1904; Charles A. Gay, 1906; Alfred A. Renwick, 1906; Jacob D. Moore, 1908; Patrick Hays, 1908; Andrew F. Nagel, 1910; Charles Hufty, 1910; Andrew F. Nagel, 1912; Marshall S. Personett, 1912; Martin L. Rinker, 1914; Marshall S. Personett, 1914.

**TREASURERS.**—George A. Spencer, 1834; Asa Allen, 1838; Peter Price, 1841; Isaac Reynolds, 1841; Randolph Brearley, 1844; Jonathan Harbolt, 1845; James C. Reynolds, 1848; Robert W. Sill, 1850; Jonathan P. Ritchey, 1852; William Russell, 1854; Michael A. Berkey, 1856; John E. Dale, 1858; W. E. Samuelson, appointed July, 1861; Albert Kingsbury, 1862; Joseph Rothrock, 1862; Capt. Granville B. Ward, 1866; Joseph Rothrock, 1868; Israel Nordyke, 1872; John Paris, 1876; Madison T. Didlake, 1880; Robert R. Breckenridge, 1884; Hiram A. B. Moorhous, 1888; Julius W. Paul, 1892; James C. Jones, 1894; James C. Stockton, 1898; William F. Brueker, 1902; Miran B. Spencer, 1904; William P. Cooper, 1908; Otto C. Middlestadt, 1912.

**SHERIFFS.**—Aaron Hicks, 1834; John Wilson, 1834; James Parker, 1836; he resigned and Daniel M. Tilton was appointed to succeed him in 1839; James C. Reynolds, 1842; Elisha Warden, 1844; Robert W. Sill, 1848; Michael A. Berkey, 1852; Henry C. Kirk, 1854; William Wright, 1858; Matthew Henderson, 1860; Milton M. Sill, 1864; Matthew Henderson, 1868; William E. Saunderson, 1870; he died in office and the coroner, Enoch J. Dunham, succeeded him; Irvin Greer, 1874; James Hay, 1878; Joseph W. Stewart, 1882; Joseph Henderson, 1886; James P. Gwin, 1888; Robert F. Dobbins, 1892; Simon N. Dobbins, 1894; John W. Warner, 1898; George Stevens, 1902; Hamilton E. McCully, 1906; Ben Price, Jr., 1908; Thomas F. Downey, 1912; Joseph C. Williams, 1914.





AUDITORS.—William Sill, 1834; Thomas M. Thompson, 1846; Joseph D. Cowdin, 1853; William Russell, 1855; he died in office and was succeeded by Joseph D. Cowdin in 1856; Thomas Bushnell, 1861; George Uhl, 1869; Henry Van Voorst, 1876; David M. Carson, 1884; Morris J. Holtzman, 1892; Jasper L. Ackerman, 1900; Albert G. Fisher, 1908.

CLERKS.—William Sill, 1834; Ranson McConahay, 1848; Orlando McConahay, 1858; Daniel D. Dale, 1866; George W. Lawrence, 1874; Samuel P. Cowger, 1878; Jones Brearley, 1886; Frank B. Humston, 1894; Addison K. Sills (six months by appointment); Samuel L. Callaway, 1898; Wallace Atkins, 1906; Charles S. Preston, 1910.

RECORDERS.—William Sill, 1834; Thomas M. Thompson, 1846; Hugh B. Logan, 1856; John S. Hurtt, 1862; William W. McColloch, 1866; Rufus L. Harvey, 1874; James P. Simons, 1882; Bernard A. Vogel, 1890; Burdell B. Baker, 1894; Fred C. Obenchain (by appointment six months); Charles H. Kleist, 1902; Morton Coonrod, 1910.

The judges of the Probate Court in White County were: Robert Newell, 1834, who died in office, and Aaron Hicks, 1846. The associate judges were James Barnes and Thomas Wilson, 1834; Thomas McCormick, 1841, and James Barnes, 1841. This court was abolished in 1853 and its business transferred to the Common Pleas Court, which, in 1873, was merged in the Circuit Court. A brief account of the judges of the two last named courts will be found in another part of the work.



AUDITORS.—William Sill, 1834; Thomas M. Thompson, 1846; Joseph D. Cowdin, 1853; William Russell, 1855; he died in office and was succeeded by Joseph D. Cowdin in 1856; Thomas Bushnell, 1861; George Uhl, 1869; Henry Van Voorst, 1876; David M. Carson, 1884; Morris J. Holtzman, 1892; Jasper L. Ackerman, 1900; Albert G. Fisher, 1908.

CLERKS.—William Sill, 1834; Ranson McConahay, 1848; Orlando McConahay, 1858; Daniel D. Dale, 1866; George W. Lawrence, 1874; Samuel P. Cowger, 1878; Jones Brearley, 1886; Frank B. Hunston, 1894; Addison K. Sills (six months by appointment); Samuel L. Callaway, 1898; Wallace Atkins, 1906; Charles S. Preston, 1910.

RECORDERS.—William Sill, 1834; Thomas M. Thompson, 1846; Hugh B. Logan, 1856; John S. Hurtt, 1862; William W. McColloch, 1866; Rufus L. Harvey, 1874; James P. Simons, 1882; Bernard A. Vogel, 1890; Burdell B. Baker, 1894; Fred C. Obenchain (by appointment six months); Charles H. Kleist, 1902; Morton Coonrod, 1910.

The judges of the Probate Court in White County were: Robert Newell, 1834, who died in office, and Aaron Hicks, 1846. The associate judges were James Barnes and Thomas Wilson, 1834; Thomas McCormick, 1841, and James Barnes, 1841. This court was abolished in 1853 and its business transferred to the Common Pleas Court, which, in 1873, was merged in the Circuit Court. A brief account of the judges of the two last named courts will be found in another part of the work.



## CHAPTER XXXIII

### BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

There are not a few interesting personalities identified with various phases of White County history, some of whom have already been introduced in the course of this narrative and others, perhaps of more modest activities, whose records have not appeared. To supply what otherwise would be a deficiency, this chapter is offered, and although toward the conclusion of the history, is, in many ways, as valuable to the home people as any section of the work.

#### HARRISON P. ANDERSON

Harrison P. Anderson was born in Ohio, May 20, 1824, where he was married August 23, 1849. Soon after he removed to Indiana and in 1851 settled in Monticello where he engaged in the practice of medicine in which he acquired a high rank. He was a public spirited man, interested in all things pertaining to the welfare of the community and when the new brick school building, which is still standing, was erected in 1869, he was a faithful member of the school board. He died at Monticello, May 21, 1877, leaving a widow, Mary J. Anderson, who died April 3, 1885, and a daughter, Mrs. Annie Turner, who is still living in Monticello, the wife of John M. Turner, cashier of the White County Loan, Trust & Savings Company. He was also the father of one son, Frank, who lost his life in a railroad accident west of Reynolds, September 1, 1873, in his twenty-fourth year.

#### JAMES ARMSTRONG

James Armstrong, son of John and Mary Ann Armstrong, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 23, 1832, and died February 16, 1914. At the age of ten years he went with his parents to Green County, Ohio, where both his parents died. In 1860 he married Elizabeth Langley and when the war came on served his country for three years and was mustered out in Cincinnati, Ohio, about the first of March, 1864. In 1869 he came to Idaville, where he followed his trade as carpenter until 1897, when, having lost his wife by death, he came to Monticello and lived with his daughter, Mrs. Samuel L. Callaway, until her removal to Indianapolis in March, 1911, when he went with her to that city, where he died. He was a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a devoted member of the Odd Fellows. At his death he left two sons, Albert O., of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and Robert E., now of Monticello, and one daughter, Mrs. Samuel L. Callaway, now living in Indianapolis.



## JOHN ARRICK

John Arrick was born in Belmont County, Ohio, June 17, 1812, and died near Monticello, April 12, 1877. In 1837 he was married to Isabelle McMurray, by whom he had eight children. After her death he married Mrs. Sarah Henderson, in 1854, who, with four sons, survived him. In 1857 he came to White County, where he soon became interested in church work and for eighteen years was a ruling elder in the O. S. Presbyterian Church. He was a man of strong convictions and interested in all matters tending to the welfare of the county.

## JOHN ARRICK, SR.

John Arrick, Sr., died at the residence of his son in Big Creek Township in October, 1865, aged ninety-six years. He served in the War of 1812, under Harrison against Proctor. He was a patriot of sterling integrity and opposed the enemies of his country in every way that he was able. When the Civil war broke out he urged all who enlisted to do their duty and faithfully stand by the old flag. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Monticello. Many of his descendants still live in the vicinity of Monticello, but after the lapse of fifty years the old pioneer is almost forgotten.

## GEORGE W. ASHLEY

George W. Ashley was born in Georgia, March 4, 1845, and died at his home in Reynolds, January 31, 1908. He was a member of Company D, Thirteenth Kentucky Cavalry, and after the war located in White County. November 30, 1870, he was married to Margaret L. Cowger. For a number of years he resided in the neighborhood of Guernsey and later northeast of Monticello, near Pike Creek. His wife died June 7, 1887, and October 22, 1903, he was married to Mrs. Jennie Bulger, formerly Miss Jennie Casad, of Monticello, and who is still living there. Besides his widow he left two daughters of his first marriage, Mrs. B. C. Jones, of Warren, Indiana, and Mrs. Charles H. Kleist, wife of ex-Recorder Kleist, now residing in Wolecott.

## BENJAMIN F. BAER

Benjamin F. Baer, who passed his life at and near Monticello from boyhood, was a respected and popular miller, soldier and farmer, his death occurring at his country home north of Monticello, August 6, 1913, in his seventy-second year. He was born near Akron, Ohio, on the 6th of March, 1842, and was taken to Erie County, New York, by his widowed mother. In 1855, having sold her home there, the family came to White County and located on what is known as the Jacob Fross place, about six miles north of Monticello. Benjamin F. learned the milling trade under his brother David at Lockport, Indiana, and later





worked with Henry Shafer, who was then operating the grist mill at Norway for the widows of Benjamin and Peter Fisher. Later he entered the canal boat service between Toledo and Vincennes and often, in after years, seemed to enjoy recounting the interesting incidents of this period in his life. After serving six months in the Union army during the last year of the war he returned to the home farm and later engaged in milling at Reynolds and other points in the county.

In 1876 Mr. Baer married Phoebe M. Carney and three sons were born to their union—Jasper A., Frank M. and Bernard M., all of whom are living. After his marriage he settled on a farm north of Norway, which he improved into a beautiful homestead, adding to his landed possessions until he owned 200 acres. About a year before his death he purchased and improved the Forbis place, where he passed his last days. The deceased was a German Lutheran and a good, genial, industrious citizen.

#### DAVID BAER

David Baer was born December 6, 1827, in Erie County, New York. For many years he served as a sailor, but located in White County prior to the Civil war. He died at his home northeast of Monticello, February 18, 1898.

#### ALLEN BARNES

Among the early settlers of White County few have been more prominent than Allen Barnes, who was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 13, 1797, and died near Idaville on March 15, 1880, in his eighty-third year. In 1834 he moved to the new County of White, where he resided until his death. At the age of twenty-five he married Elizabeth McIntire and soon after joined the Associate Church of Clark's Run, then in charge of Rev. James Adams. In 1836 his wife died and the following year he married Mrs. Jane Dixon, who died in 1870. He had four children by his first wife and five by the latter. In 1858 he united with the United Presbyterian Church and retained his membership therein until his death.

#### JUDGE JAMES BARNES

Judge James Barnes, one of the old associate judges of White County, died September 21, 1873, aged ninety-four years. He was born in Virginia, came to White County at an early day and was one of our most prominent citizens until, by extreme age, he was compelled to quit his active life. He had been married four times and was the stepfather of Mrs. Amanda McCuaig, now living in Monticello. In his death the community lost a valued citizen and his family an ever kind and indulgent husband and father.

#### THOMAS M. BARNES

Thomas M. Barnes, an honored citizen of Jackson Township, was born June 27, 1814, in Xenia, Ohio. He was of Scotch-Irish descent and



came when an infant with his parent to the Territory of Indiana and was a participant in all the trials incident to pioneer life and lived for forty-one years on the farm near Idaville on which he died. He was married February 19, 1840, to Miss Cynthia Ginn, by whom he had nine children. He died February 4, 1890. He was for many years a prominent member of the United Presbyterian Church at Idaville and enjoyed the respect of all who knew him.

#### JOHN C. BARTHOLOMEW

John C. Bartholomew, whose remains were buried in the old cemetery of Monticello, was wounded in the leg in the battle before Richmond, taken to the Army Square Hospital in Washington, D. C., and there died from loss of blood. He was a saddler by trade and followed his vocation in Norway, but enlisted in the Twentieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, and became a lieutenant. He was married July 16, 1860, to Christenia Snyder, a sister to Capt. Henry Snyder, and she now lives with the captain in Monticello.

#### CATHERINE BARTLEY

Catherine Bartley was born in Logan County, Ohio, in 1810, came to White County prior to its organization and located on the Tippecanoe River at what is now Springboro. After her marriage to George R. Bartley she made her home in Monticello, where she died January 8, 1881. She was a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church and one of those early settlers to whom we owe so much for having opened a wilderness and caused it to blossom as the rose. Her funeral was held at her residence, conducted by Rev. John B. Smith, of the Monticello Presbyterian Church, and her remains were interred in the family cemetery south of Monticello.

#### HON. JAMES B. BELFORD

About 1858 there arrived in Monticello a young man seeking his fortune in the West and one of his first acts after his arrival was to hang out his "shingle" at the northeast room upstairs of the old Commercial Block bearing the legend, "James B. Belford, Attorney at Law." This gentleman was born in Pennsylvania in 1837. In 1864 he was a Lincoln presidential elector and in 1866-68 was a member of the Legislature of Indiana. Later he removed to Laporte, Indiana, and resumed the practice of the law and also served as school examiner. From Laporte he went to Colorado, from which state he served in Congress from 1877 to 1885. After his retirement from Congress he served as one of the justices of the Supreme Court of Colorado and died in Denver, January 7, 1910. Mr. Belford was a brother-in-law of James W. McEwen of Rensselaer and is well remembered by most of the older citizens of White County. While in Congress his readiness in debate



and quickness in repartee gained for him the cognomen of "the red-headed rooster of the Rockies." Mr. McEwen, while differing from him in politics, always had a high regard for him personally and frequently narrated a circumstance which occurred in the trial of the famous Star Route cases. Mr. Belford was a witness in this trial and in an altercation with the attorney for the Government used the short and ugly word, for which the judge at once assessed a fine of \$100 and stopped the trial until this fine was paid. The late Col. Robert G. Ingersoll was counsel for the defendant and was so well pleased that he at once produced a hundred-dollar bill, paid the fine himself, and the trial proceeded.

#### ESAU BENNETT

Esau Bennett, an old-time grocer of Monticello, was born in Pendleton County, West Virginia, November 6, 1822, and in 1866 came to Monticello and engaged in the grocery business in which he was quite successful. He was married April 1, 1844, to Rachel Hudkins, and to this union was born eight sons and two daughters. His wife died March 15, 1872, and on April 3, 1873, he was married to Eliza E. Long, of Jeffersonville, Indiana. He died at his home in Monticello, June 9, 1885.

#### FRANK P. BERKEY

In the sudden and unexpected death of Frank P. Berkey in the early morning of Tuesday, April 21, 1914, Monticello lost one of its best and most highly esteemed citizens. He was the son of Michael and Margaret Berkey, and was born in Monticello, September 24, 1852. When nineteen years old he entered the employ of Loughry Brothers, or rather of their father, in the milling business and continued with them almost continuously to the time of his death. So close were his relations that he was regarded more as a member of the firm than as an employee. For many years prior to his death he was general superintendent of their large milling interests at Monticello. June 26, 1884, he was married to Mrs. Florine (Failing) Morony, daughter of the late Peter R. Failing, who survived him. He also left one brother, Howard Berkey, of Lincoln, Nebraska, and one half sister, Mrs. India Fleming. Another sister, Mrs. James B. Roach, of Monticello, died April 23, 1909. He was an early member of Monticello Lodge No. 73, Knights of Pythias, and about fifteen years before his death he joined the Masonic fraternity, becoming an active member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Council. He served five successive years as Master of his lodge and at the time of his death was serving his fifth term as High Priest of Monticello Chapter No. 103, Royal Arch Masons. At his death the Chapter adopted a most touching memorial, reading in part as follows:

"Since our last convocation this Chapter has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of our Most Excellent High Priest, Frank P. Berkey. He was a Companion tried and true, whose advice was always timely and whose work was always good; and when on April 13th he conferred



the Most Excellent Master's degree upon these Companions who have to-night been exalted—declared the Key Stone placed and the Temple completed—little thought we that these words proclaimed the end of his own labors among us, and that never again would we see his face amid these familiar scenes, or hear his voice giving encouraging admonition to the workmen.

"He has presented his work to the Master Overseer, and we have every confidence that it has been accepted. The Key Stone has been placed; the Temple finished; and we trust that, armed with the Signet of Zerubbabel, he has been admitted within the veil and is now pursuing his labors under the direction of the Grand Council of the Universe—not delving in the ruins, but enjoying the ineffable splendors of the Temple completed."

JOHN A. BLACKWELL, M. D.

This name will be recognized only by the older residents of White County. He was engaged in the practice of his profession at Monticello when the Civil war broke out, and enlisted in the Twelfth Indiana Volunteers, where he became first lieutenant of Company D. Later he was surgeon of the One Hundred and Fifteenth Indiana Volunteers. The files of the papers of Monticello show that he was among the first of our people to urge enlistments, took an active part in all war meetings and freely gave his services to his country. He died at Wellsville, Missouri, January 28, 1914, where he had lived since 1881. His wife died March 7, 1909.

JAMES BLAKE, SR.

The western part of White County was the last to be occupied by the white man and its early pioneers came some time after the other parts of the county were opened for the new homes. The subject of this sketch settled near Wolcott in 1867, having removed from Kankakee County, Illinois. He was born in England and came to America in 1850 and died at his home near Wolcott on April 13, 1883, in his seventy-fifth year. For some years prior to his death he was a leading member of the Presbyterian Church of Meadow Lake and his descendants still live in Wolcott and Princeton townships.

ABSALOM BOICOURT

Absalom Boicourt was born March 3, 1808, near Louisville, Kentucky, and in 1812 came with his parents to Indiana and settled in Clark County, later he removed to Decatur County and here on February 11, 1833, he married Miss Rebecca Holmes by whom he had seven children. In 1857 he came to Princeton Township, White County, where he lived until his death, November 6, 1889. He lived in Indiana seventy-seven years, could call to mind when Indianapolis was a wilderness and was an eye-witness to the development of the entire state. He was a member





of the United Brethren Church and a republican in politics though he never held any office. He cast his first vote in 1832.

#### AUGUSTUS S. BORDNER

Augustus S. Bordner, one of the prominent business men of Brookston, has been a resident of that town since 1868. He was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, the son of Augustus and Harriet Bordner. In his younger years Mr. Bordner was a teacher in the public schools and in 1870 he engaged in the lumber business in Brookston, in which he has continued for more than forty years. Soon after locating in Brookston he was elected trustee of Prairie Township and was twice re-elected, serving three terms in that office. He is a man of the strictest probity, is held in high esteem by all who know him and has long been one of the substantial men of his town.

#### WILLIAM MCCOY BOTT

William McCoy Bott was born in Virginia February 16, 1821, and at the age of fifteen came to White County, Indiana, where the remaining forty years of his life were passed. He died in Monticello, January 28, 1877. He shared in all the hardships incident to pioneer life, was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he became a member at the age of eighteen, and at his death it was said of him by one who had known him for many years, "He was an honest and good man; he always did the best he could."

#### CAPT. GEORGE BOWMAN

Capt. George Bowman, a veteran soldier, teacher and student, has left an impress on White County which it would be difficult to measure. Many of our oldest citizens were his pupils, and all cherish his memory and hold it in highest honor. He was born on a farm near Martinsburg, Berkley County, Virginia, on February 28, 1818, and died at his home in Monticello, November 29, 1894. His parents also were of Virginia, and his father was a teacher during his entire life. The subject of this article was the fourth child in a family of seven children, and his parents died while he was yet a child, leaving him in the care of a guardian, in whose store he worked until he was twenty years old, and at the same time fitted himself to enter college by private study.

He then came to Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana, to join his brothers, who had located there some years previous. Here he taught school for several years and attended Wabash College, intending to graduate in 1848, but was prevented from doing so by a severe illness but graduated five years later in 1853. In September, 1848, he married Ruth Angel, of Delphi, who died two years later, and by this marriage was born one daughter, Ruth Angel Bowman, who was married in 1873 to Rev. Edwin Black and who died in the spring of 1915.



On April 15, 1858, he married Mary Dill Piper, of Piper's Run, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, who survives him and now lives near Chippewa, Ontario, Canada. By this union they were given seven children: Phebe, Anna, Rebecca, Georgia, Caleb Mills, Mary M. and Carrie.

At the close of his school in 1862 he enlisted in the Union army and became captain of Company D, Twelfth Regiment, Indiana Volunteers. He was warmly attached to his company, most of its members being his



CAPTAIN GEORGE BOWMAN, FOUNDER OF MONTICELLO'S FIRST HIGH SCHOOL

"He was a scholar, and a ripe and good one;  
Exceeding wise, fair-spoken and persuading;

\* \* \*

And, to add greater honors to his age  
Than man could give him, he died fearing God."

—Shakespeare's King Henry VIII.



former pupils, and saw active service for more than a year. In November, 1863, he was severely wounded in the battle of Mission Ridge and was carried off the field by Dr. John Schultz, David Laing, Clem Kingsbury, Mr. Sandifer and Mr. McMannis, who supposed him to be dead. He later revived and on Thanksgiving day was brought to his home in Monticello, where he later recovered from his wound but was never able to rejoin his company.

Almost all of his life was spent in school work in White and Carroll counties. He was at different times at the head of the schools in each of these counties, as well as the schools in Monticello and Delphi. He often said he hoped to die in school work, and this wish was gratified, for he taught school until within four weeks of his death. He often told that when quite young he had taught a slave to read, for which the owner of the slave had given him a dollar, which he had invested in an algebra. His love for learning was the predominant characteristic of his life.

In 1847 he united with the Presbyterian Church at Crawfordsville, Indiana, while making his home with Prof. Caleb Mills, president of Wabash College, after whom one of his children was named, and who was largely responsible for the founding of the school system of Indiana. In 1891 he represented his church in the general assembly, the highest court in the church. For many years his was a familiar form in the church. At his funeral was no brass band nor parade of any lodges in regalia, but seldom has there been a larger assemblage here on any funeral occasion. It showed in no uncertain way the heartfelt and universal respect in which the good man was held.

#### RANDOLPH BREARLEY, M. D.

In the autumn of 1836, there came to Monticello a man who for more than forty-one years was an active business man of the town and whose influence for good was always felt. Doctor Brearley was born in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, August 15, 1807; was educated at Princeton College, New Jersey, and Rush Medical College, Philadelphia. On June 13, 1843, he married Miss Ophelia Hughes, of Zanesville, Ohio, but after her death he married Mrs. Martha Dale. He engaged in the practice of medicine for many years, but at the same time he was connected with many other business interests. He united with the Presbyterian Church at Monticello, March 26, 1843, and remained a member until his death, which occurred April 12, 1878. Two of his children, Mrs. Annie Roach and Jones Brearley, are yet living in Monticello.

#### ROBERT R. BRECKENRIDGE

Robert R. Breckenridge was known by almost every resident of White County and held many positions of trust and honor. He was born in Washington County, Ohio, November 21, 1814, being one of a family of ten children. Only two, a brother, George, of Montana, and a sister, Mrs. Martha Ayres, of Monticello, survived him. When an infant his parents



removed to Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and about 1854 the family came to White County, where he lived until his death on June 16, 1911. On December 18, 1873, he married Jane Reynolds, and to this union was born five children, four of which survived him. The wife and mother died in Oklahoma, April 22, 1901. He had served four or five terms as trustee of Union Township and in 1884 was elected treasurer of White County, and was re-elected in 1886. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and for many years was a leading worker in the Sunday schools of the county.

#### LEANDER BRINGHAM

Leander Bringham was born on the present site of Purdue University, September 9, 1826, and died February 20, 1899. On February 27, 1851, he married Louisa Chamberlain and shortly afterward moved to Jasper County, Indiana, then in 1854 moved to Monon, where he lived until April, 1867, when he removed to Brookston, which was his home until his death. He had born to him seven children, five of whom survived him and four were present at his death. Mr. Bringham was a man much respected by all who knew him.

#### JOHN C. BROWN

John C. Brown was born in Logan County, Ohio, November 22, 1818; died at Monticello, Indiana, on his eightieth birthday, November 22, 1898. He was married at Hagerstown, Maryland, on July 9, 1840, to Miss Ann M. Schleigh, and the same year located in Monticello. He was a prominent Mason and Odd Fellow, and in July, 1861, he enlisted as a member of Company K, Twentieth Indiana. He was then past forty-two years old and was made first sergeant. His promotions were rapid and he became captain of his company on December 20, 1862, serving in that position until seriously wounded at North Ann River, Virginia, late in 1864, when he received a musket ball through the head. This wound gave him much trouble throughout the remainder of his life. As a soldier Captain Brown was among the bravest of the brave, and throughout his long years of suffering always carried himself with an erect and soldierly bearing, quick spoken and incisive, but withal courteous—a gentleman of the old school. One daughter, Mrs. Rose Marshall, is still a resident of Monticello.

#### JOHN BRUCKER

For many years one of the best known residents of Reynolds, John Brucker killed himself on Sunday morning, July 13, 1902, by firing a bullet into his head. The rash deed was committed in his drug store and while he was alone. No known cause was disclosed. He was a son of Jacob F. and Caroline Brucker and was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, November 23, 1850. He was a wagon maker and blacksmith by trade,





but for some years had been engaged in the drug business. In 1873 he was married to Rebecca Ridgeway, who died some years later, leaving him three children: Lula, now Mrs. Clint Casto; Alta, and John.

#### JAMES W. BULGER

James W. Bulger was born September 22, 1814, in Frederick County, Virginia. On May 10, 1835, he married Miss Minerva James, with whom he lived until his death on March 8, 1879. He was a charter member of Libanus Lodge No. 154, F. & A. M., which was organized in 1854, and of which he was the first senior warden. He was buried by the lodge of which he had so long been a member.

#### BARZILLA BUNNELL

Barzilla Bunnell, who came to White County in 1834, where he lived the remainder of his days, was born in Ross County, Ohio, April 9, 1807. He was one of the first ten members who organized the first Methodist Episcopal Church in White County, and his great life work was in behalf of the church which he never forsook in its darkest hours. His habits of thrift and frugality enabled him to acquire a competence, which he was free to share in the assistance of all who stood in need. While sitting in his chair, December 29, 1891, he closed his eyes in the final sleep.

#### JOHN BARTON BUNNELL

John Barton Bunnell was born in White County, February 2, 1839. He was a son of Thomas and Nancy Bunnell, who settled three miles southwest of the present site of Monticello, in 1832. From his birth till 1890 he lived on almost the identical spot where he was born. In the latter year he removed to Sheldon, Illinois, where he died June 24, 1896.

#### NATHANIEL BUNNELL

Nathaniel Bunnell came to White County in 1833. He was born in Ross County, Ohio, December 27, 1805, and on December 29, 1831, was married to Susanna Runyan, of Clark County, Ohio, and to them was born ten children. His wife died in 1873 and on August 25, 1875, he was married to Mrs. Mary A. McNealey, of Kentucky. His life was spent in White County in which he proved himself a good citizen. He accumulated quite a fortune, was an ardent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and in all relations of life proved himself a man. He died in Reynolds, September 4, 1891.

#### STEPHEN BUNNELL

In the spring of 1834, prior to the organization of White County, Stephen Bunnell removed to what is now Big Creek Township and set-



tled on a farm where he continued to reside until his death on April 25, 1880. He was born in Ross County, Ohio, March 9, 1803, and in 1826 he married Miss Nancy Roberts by whom he had five children. In 1849 he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and remained a consistent member of that church until his death. He was one of the most respected of our early settlers.

#### FRANCIS MARION BURNS

Francis Marion Burns, only son of Washington Burns, for many years one of the best known residents, died at his home in Union Township, near Guernsey, March 14, 1902, aged a little more than forty-eight years, having been born there October 18, 1853. He was married to Emma L. Moore, October 29, 1879, and left surviving him his widow and two children, Washington A. and Margaret O., and an only sister, Mrs. James V. Vinson.

#### JAMES BURNS

James Burns, one of the early settlers of White County, was a son of Hugh Burns and was born near Lewistown, Pennsylvania, November 10, 1825. Died at his home south of Monticello, September 1, 1905, at the advanced age of nearly eighty years. His father moved to Montgomery County, Ohio, in 1835, and some three years later, September, 1838, started with his family to move to Springfield, Illinois. On leaving Lafayette they missed their way and drove northward to Monticello. They were so pleased with the country that they located about two miles south of town on what they called "Edge Hill" farm, their log house standing on the hill on the west side of the road, a short distance south of the McKain stone barn. Here his father died in 1842 and his mother in 1852. In 1865 he was married to Miss Mary Jane Burns, daughter of John Burns. She died in August, 1877, leaving three sons, Samuel, Edward and Bert. In 1880 he was married to Miss Susan Ferry, who with four children, Mae, Pearl, Earl and Sadie, are still living.

#### LIBERTY M. BURNS

Maj. Liberty M. Burns came to White County in 1839. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, June 5, 1810, and died in Monticello, March 27, 1879. In 1849 he crossed the plains to California in the search for gold. In 1843 he united with the Presbyterian Church at Monticello and retained his membership therein until his death. In November, 1837, he was joined in marriage with Miss Amanda Griggs of Preble County, Ohio, and to this union was born two children, a son and a daughter.



## JANE BURNS

Jane Burns was the widow of John Burns, a large land owner and well known resident of Big Creek Township. Her maiden name was Jane Virden, she being a sister of Silas, Samuel and David Virden, all well known residents and all of whom died within the three years preceding her death. She also had two brothers who died in California during the gold craze of 1849. She was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, October 17, 1825. Died November 23, 1897.

## JOHN BURNS

John Burns, one of the most successful of our early farmers, was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, January 4, 1809, and came to what is now White County in 1830 and resided on his farm in what is now Big Creek Township until his death, which occurred on December 26, 1884. Beginning life in a log cabin, by industry and frugality he amassed a fortune and what is far better he left this life with the respect of his neighbors, who knew him as one of our best and most honored citizens.

## WASHINGTON BURNS

Washington Burns was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, March 25, 1820, and at the age of seventeen came with his parents to Montgomery County, Ohio, and in 1847 was married to Martha J. DeLong. In 1848 he came to White County, where he lived until his death on March 12, 1895. He was a soldier in the Civil war, but was not a member of any church, though in 1892 at his request he was baptized in the Methodist Protestant Church. He was a kind and indulgent father and one who never complained in any of his sufferings.

## WILLIAM BURNS

This name will be recognized by the oldest resident of Monticello. It carries us back to about 1846. He was born in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, January 22, 1802, but became a resident of White County about sixty-five years ago. He will be remembered as the keeper of the old toll bridge across the Tippecanoe River and later as mail carrier, for several years serving faithfully in both capacities. He died after a brief illness, September 5, 1895. He came to White County in 1846, which was ever after his home. In 1858 he became a member of the United Presbyterian Church at Idaville and remained to the last a consistent member. In 1871 he removed to Idaville and spent much of his time in reading the Scriptures, in which he was well versed. His wife died about 1863, but one daughter, Mrs. Mary Horine, is yet living in Idaville.



## JOHN P. CARR

Suddenly, without warning and without a struggle and with no word of farewell to his family or his many friends, John P. Carr died on Sunday evening, January 12, 1896, while sitting in his chair at his splendid farm home just south of Chalmers, at the age of nearly seventy years. Mr. Carr was born in Ohio in June, 1826, and came to White County in 1848, locating at Chalmers. He first herded cattle for Ohio parties, but later worked for John Price, whose daughter he later married. In 1876 he was elected a representative in the Indiana Legislature, and again in 1880. He was a strong man physically and mentally, and his force of character gave him a leading position among the state's lawmakers. He left to his heirs one of the largest and best farms in White County.

## LYDIA A. CARSON

Lydia A. Carson was born in Reading, Ohio, April 8, 1824, and was married to James Carson, December 14, 1840. To this union was born nine children, seven of whom survived her. She was the mother of Capt. F. D. Carson, of Monon. She came to White County in 1839 and for nearly seventy years her home was in the western part of the county. Her maiden name was Brecount and her husband died in 1875. Her death occurred at Monon, Saturday, December 30, 1911.

## GEORGE W. CHAMBERLAIN

George W. Chamberlain, who died in October, 1913, at his home west of Chalmers, had long been one of the largest land owners and business men in that section of the county. He was born in Carroll County in 1836 and came to White County in 1845, locating in West Point Township. He was a leading member of the Universalist Church.

## JAMES CLARY

For nearly half a century the subject of this sketch lived in White County. He was born in Greene County, Tennessee, October 24, 1824, and in December, 1845, came to Prairie Township, and six years later removed to Princeton Township, where he resided until his death on July 23, 1895. November 9, 1848, he married Susannah Smecker by whom he had eight children, all of whom died before his death, except one, Joseph H., who is still a resident of White County. His wife died October 25, 1871, and on March 13, 1880, he married Eunice Wortman. About twenty-eight years before his death he united with the Christian Church at Palestine. His one son, Joseph H. Clary, is a respected citizen of the county.

## GEORGE V. COEN

George V. Coen, a veteran of the Civil war, was born near Findlay, Ohio, January 12, 1836, came to Monticello in 1873, and at the date of





his death at his son's home in Bowling Green, Ohio, had been a continuous resident of Monticello for over forty years. He enlisted in 1862 in the Eleventh Kansas Cavalry and in 1865 was honorably discharged after a service of more than three years. On December 27, 1866, he married Miss Jennie McDonald. He left four sons, all of whom were present at his burial in Monticello. He served as treasurer of Monticello three terms and for more than a quarter of a century had been a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church at Monticello. He was a true soldier both in the hour of his country's peril and in the more constant battle of daily life.

#### JAMES W. CORNELL

James W. Cornell died at his home in Idaville on August 28, 1911, of tubercular trouble. He was born June 29, 1849, near Elkhart, Indiana, and five years later came with his parents to White County, where he spent the greater part of his life. On November 30, 1871, he married Jerusha Patton, who, with a son, Orren, survived him. He also left two grandchildren, Opal and Robert, and one brother, Richard Cornell, now living in Idaville. Mr. Cornell in 1868 joined the Church of God and retained his membership therein until his death.

#### JACOB COWGER

Jacob Cowger, a native of Pennelton County, Pennsylvania, where he was born January 2, 1814, died at his home in Monticello, May 18, 1877. He was married August 21, 1834, and a month later came to White County, where he passed the remainder of his life. For twenty-six years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and died in the hope of a glorious immortality. He was one of our first, as well as most honored, citizens.

#### WILLIAM H. COWGER

William H. Cowger, son of Eli and Ann Cowger, was born January 9, 1860, in the house on Pike Creek in which he was living at the time of his death, October 11, 1906. He was injured from a cave-in in a gravel pit near the Pike Creek church, dying in less than two hours afterward. He was married to Blanche Mowrer, March 26, 1890. Besides his widow, he left five children, Forence, Joseph, Vera, Frank and Walter.

#### TACY JANE CROSE

Tacy Jane Crose, whose maiden name was Smith, was born in Ohio in 1833, and when but three weeks old her parents came to White County and located on a farm east of Brookston, a part of which is now Spring Creek Cemetery. On March 14, 1850, she was married to Solomon Crose, who died November 24, 1892. To this marriage was born nine children, six of whom survived her and were present at her funeral. The



other three died in infancy. In 1869 she united with the Christian Church, in which she retained her membership until her death, which occurred on December 22, 1912, which was the birthday of her oldest child.

#### MRS. CORNELIA (HUGHES) CROUCH

Mrs. Crouch was the daughter of Rowland Hughes and was born in Monticello, April 25, 1856. She was married to Henry C. Crouch in 1876. In connection with her mother, Mrs. Nancy Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Crouch continued their residence in the old Hughes homestead and conducted the store connected therewith until the failing health of all compelled them to give it up. Her husband died in February, 1900, at Phoenix, Arizona, where he was temporarily sojourning for the benefit of his health. At her death she left two children, Bernice and Henry. The former afterward married Mark Nicholson. Both have since died, leaving no children. All are buried in the Hughes plot in the Monticello cemetery.

#### HENRY C. CROUCH

Henry C. Crouch, for many years a well-known business man of Monticello, died at Phoenix, Arizona, February 24, 1900, where he had gone to recover his failing health, and his remains were brought to Monticello for burial. He was born in Jefferson County, Indiana, August 11, 1850, came to Monticello in 1872, and took a position as clerk in the store of Rowland Hughes, whose daughter Cornelia he married in May, 1876. To them were born three children. One died in infancy and two, Henry C., Jr., and Bernice, with the mother, survived him, but within less than six years from his death the entire family were taken. Bernice married Mark G. Nicholson, of Tipton, Indiana, and died in a short time thereafter. Henry C., Jr., died six weeks prior to her death, and her infant child died at its birth. The mother died prior to this time, and the visitor to the old cemetery in Monticello will be shown a row of five graves which contain the entire Crouch family.

#### CLARA (SIMONS) CULLEN

For many years Grandmother Cullen was one of the best known women of Liberty Township. She was the daughter of George and Barbara Simons, and was born in Virginia, March 3, 1809. Died at her home on Cullen Creek May 24, 1899, being past ninety years of age. January 13, 1829, she married Isaac Dasher in Virginia. He died in June, 1838, and November 1, 1842, she was married to Leonard D. Bonnett. Soon after this marriage they moved to White County, locating about six miles south of Monticello. Mr. Bonnett died June 7, 1853, and October 18, 1859; she was again married to George Cullen, a prominent citizen of Liberty Township, who died September 7, 1886. Her daughter, Ann Bonnett, married George Cullen, Jr., son of her last husband. Both of these died some years ago, leaving three children, Joseph D. Cullen, of



Monticello, and James P. Cullen and Mrs. Logan Hughes, of Liberty Township.

GEORGE H. CULLEN

George H. Cullen, a native of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, where he was born April 23, 1833, died at his home in Liberty Township, January 22, 1913. He was a son of George and Susan Allen Cullen, one of a family of nine children, and was one of the oldest residents of the township, having come there with his parents in 1852. January 16, 1862, he married Anna Bonnet, who died December 30, 1870, and to them were born three children, Joseph D., James P. and Jennie E. Cullen Hughes, wife of Logan Hughes, all of whom were present at his funeral. On January 4, 1864, Mr. Cullen enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was discharged April 10, 1866. He was a prominent and devoted member of the Masonic fraternity and under the auspices of that institution he was buried.

GEORGE CULLEN, SR.

George Cullen, Sr., a native of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, where he was born May 28, 1804, died at his home in Liberty Township, September 18, 1886, after an illness of only two days. He was a cooper by trade, but in 1830 turned his attention to farming, in which he was quite successful. On November 8, 1825, he married Susan Allen and to them were born nine children, six of whom survived him. His wife died in 1844 and on May 24, 1854, he married Caroline Kingsbury, who died in 1859. His third marriage was to Clara Bonnet, October 18, 1859, who survived him. In 1852 he located in Liberty Township, where he lived and prospered until his death. For more than half a century he was a member of the Presbyterian Church, served four years as township trustee, six years as county commissioner and was generally respected. His widow died May 26, 1899, at the advanced age of ninety-one years.

DANIEL D. DALE

Daniel D. Dale was a native of White County, having been born near Burnettsville on May 13, 1836. His father, Wm. R. Dale, was the first candidate for the office of clerk on the democratic ticket, but was defeated by William Sill, a whig. To this same office Daniel D. Dale was elected in 1867, having defeated Milton M. Sill, son of the father who had defeated his father in the earlier years. July 22, 1861, Mr. Dale entered the army as a private in Company K, Twentieth Indiana Volunteers, but was elected second lieutenant when the company was organized. He served until August, 1862, when he resigned on account of injuries received in the seven days' fight before Richmond. He was county clerk eight years, secretary of the state senate in 1879, and was a leading member of the democratic party in White County. Mr. Dale was married in June, 1864, to Miss Ophelia, daughter of Isaac Reynolds,



by whom he had four children. For a number of years prior to his death he was a leading member of the White County bar and no man has occupied a more prominent part in the local history of the county. His death occurred at Monticello on March 13, 1886.

#### OLIVER S. DALE

Oliver S. Dale, the first telegrapher stationed in Monticello and later prominent in local history, was born in Butler County, Ohio, July 6, 1833, and came with his parents to White County about 1849. He served as a musician in the Ninth Indiana Infantry and in 1867 and 1868 was marshal and treasurer of Monticello. Later he was a guard in the northern prison at Michigan City and for the four years following 1885 was postmaster at Monticello and then accepted a position in the Government printing office in Washington, District of Columbia, which he held until his hearing became so difficult as to disqualify him for such work, when he retired to the State Soldiers' Home at Lafayette, where he died August 11, 1911. His first wife was Kate Brown, daughter of the late Capt. John C. Brown, and at her death he married her sister Alice. He left two daughters, Mrs. Fannie Trexler of Chicago and Mrs. Mae Woods of Washington, District of Columbia, and a son, Glen, of Bloomington, Illinois. In July, 1909, Mr. Dale, while at Monticello, related the story of the first telegram received at Monticello. It was addressed to Mr. James H. McCollum and read: "Forrest opens tomorrow night. William Turner." Mr. Turner was the owner of the Dayton, Ohio, opera house, which was opened by the great tragedian. Mr. Dale also received the telegram announcing the death of President Lincoln and in his excitement left the key open, for which he was "called on the carpet."

#### THEODORE J. DAVIS

Theodore J. Davis, a pioneer of Jackson Township, and known to everyone in that locality, died March 19, 1912, after an illness of several weeks. Some time during the early '50s he located on a farm six miles north of Idaville and when the railroad was being built through the town he walked back and forth each day and put in a full day's work on the road. He was twice elected county commissioner on the democratic ticket and left a record as a faithful, honest official. He was born January 20, 1829, in Hamilton County, Ohio. In 1848 he was married to Patty Jay, who lived but a few years, and after her death he married Sallie Smith, and to them were born eight children. He was a kindly, genial and charitably disposed man, who filled his station in life to the best of his ability and left, at his death, an honorable name.

#### AMASIAH DAVISSON

For many years Amasiah Davisson was a farmer and extensive land owner in Big Creek Township. Later he moved to Monticello and





erected a commodious residence on the northeast corner of Main and Ohio streets. He was born in Preble County, Ohio, May 22, 1832. In 1852 he was married to Sarah A. House and located in White County in 1854. He died suddenly from apoplexy, May 22, 1901, on the sixty-ninth anniversary of his birth, leaving a widow and four children: Anderson, Simeon and Charles, and Mrs. Thomas Dellinger.

#### SARAH DEBRA

Sarah Debra was the oldest person who ever lived in White County. She was born in Newberry County, South Carolina, January 28, 1811, and was one of a family of ten children. When eight years old she removed with her parents to Columbus, Tennessee, and in 1830 to Miami County, Ohio. In 1832 she married Jacob Debra and to them was born one daughter, Elizabeth, and two sons, Samuel and David. In 1840 they came to White County and the husband entered 200 acres of land near the Lowe Bridge, and here they lived in a log hut while building a more substantial log house. This was her home until the death of her husband in 1861. Her son David died in the army in 1861 and the other son died at Oxford, Indiana.

After the death of her husband in 1861, Mrs. Debra bought the farm in Liberty Township upon which her grandson, Ezra Sluyter, now resides. She made her home with Mrs. Hiram Sluyter, her daughter, until the latter's death in 1902. Subsequently, until her death at the home of her grandson, Marion Sluyter, on February 14, 1912, she resided with her various grandchildren. At the time of her decease, Mrs. Debra's age was 101 years and 17 days. Her remains were interred in what is known as the Clark Cemetery.

#### DAVID DELLINGER

One of the strong characters of White County for near a half century was David Dellinger, of West Point Township, where he located in March, 1855. He was a successful farmer and stock raiser, warm and hearty in his friendships and dispensed the proverbial hospitality of the pioneer to rich and poor alike. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 1, 1814. Married January 1, 1840, to Barbara A. Warner, who died in June, 1872. He died January 20, 1902, at the home of his son-in-law, John Davisson, in Wolcott, in his eighty-eighth year. He left surviving five children, Mrs. Daniel Irons, Mrs. John Davisson, Lewis, Thomas and David Dellinger.

#### DR. ROBERT M. DELZELL

Few persons ever attain to a warmer place in the hearts of the entire community than was attained by Doctor Delzell in his thirty-five years' practice of his profession in Reynolds. He was accidentally killed, May 28, 1905, during a severe wind storm. He was an active G. A. R.



man, and with a young man named Clyde Keller he had gone to the Bunnell Cemetery to place markers on the soldiers' graves preparatory to the observance of Decoration day. On their return, about 5 o'clock in the evening, they were caught in a severe storm, a limb of a tree was blown down on their buggy, striking the physician across his shoulders and breaking his neck. Death was instantaneous. Robert M. Delzell was born in Blount County, Tennessee, November 8, 1843. He came to Indiana in the early '60s, and in 1864 enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Forty-second Indiana Volunteers, and was mustered out at Indianapolis, July 14, 1865. In 1866 he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. William S. Haymond, in Monticello, and in 1869 began the practice in Reynolds. December 30, 1869, he was married to Mary E. Bristow, and to them were born two daughters, Anna L. Delzell, who resides in California, and Mary E., now Mrs. Robert Smith, residing in Chicago. Mrs. Delzell died in August, 1897, and on May 11, 1899, he was again married to Miss Gertrude B. Carr, who survived him.

#### WILLIAM DELZELL

William Delzell, one of Idaville's most respected residents, was born near Greencastle, Indiana, January 29, 1832, and died at his home in Idaville, Sunday night, August 8, 1915. At a very early age he came with his parents, James and Elizabeth Delzell, and settled on Rattlesnake Creek about four miles southeast of Monticello, in Carroll County. In 1854 he was united in marriage to Miss Rosannah Carson and to them were born eight children, three of whom with the mother preceded him in death. At an early age he joined the Seceder Church, but in 1866 he united with the United Presbyterian Church of Idaville, and in 1873 was elected elder. He served as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Forty-second Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, in the Civil war and was a man of high ideals, a good neighbor and a true Christian. His wife died August 2, 1900. Mr. Delzell was survived by one daughter, Mrs. Melissa Million, of Burnettsville, and four sons, Charles, James Hamilton and Frank, of Idaville, and William, of Iowa, also four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

#### LEVI C. DEVELIN

Levi C. Develin, born in Cambridge City, Indiana, August 6, 1835, died at his home in Burnettsville, February 6, 1906. He early engaged in railroading, and on May 8, 1864, lost both feet in the Panhandle yards at Logansport. He then learned telegraphy and in 1865 was appointed agent at Burnettsville, which position he held until 1905, forty years, when he was placed on the pension retired list.

#### ELIHU B. DIBELL

Elihu B. Dibell, who died at his home in Wolcott in March, 1912, was at the time of his decease the oldest banker in point of continuous



service in White County. He had been prominent in the business affairs of that place since 1885. He was a leading member of the Christian Church and was buried in Meadow Lake Cemetery.

#### THOMAS E. DONNELLY

Thomas E. Donnelly, who died one mile east of Reynolds on Tuesday, April 14, 1914, in his seventy-second year, was a veteran of the Civil war, in which he served in the same regiment with his father. On his being discharged from the army he entered the employ of the Champion Reaper Company as traveling agent and later served as deputy warden of the Northern Indiana State Prison, at Michigan City, under wardens French and Murdock. After this service he bought a large farm east of Norway, but later moved to Monticello, then to Idaville, thence to his home, where he died. He was a member of the G. A. R. and under the auspices of that organization he was interred in the old cemetery in Monticello.

#### DAVID S. DROKE

David S. Droke, who for more than sixty years had resided near Idaville, died September 26, 1912, in San Jose, California, and his remains were brought to Idaville for interment. He came to Jackson Township in 1849 from Tennessee and two years before his death went to California on account of his health. He had passed his eighty-third birthday and was a consistent member of the United Presbyterian Church at Idaville, in which body he was elected an elder in 1892. He was twice married, but left no surviving children.

#### JEREMIAH DUNHAM

Jeremiah Dunham, born in Logansport, January 16, 1840, located in Reynolds in 1865. He had taught school a few years prior to that time and then took up the study of law in the office of Robert W. Sill; was admitted to the bar in 1868; taught the Reynolds School for three years succeeding 1869. About this time he began the publication of a paper in Reynolds called the Banner. This suspended in 1872, and during the remainder of his life he conducted a small store, repair shop and notary office. On September 4, 1879, he was married to Mrs. Mary B. Arriek, who with three daughters, survived him. For many years prior to his death he had been in poor health, and being a hopeless cripple, he finally concluded to end the struggle, which he did, March 8, 1906, by shooting himself through the head with a target rifle, dying a few minutes later.

#### GEORGE W. DYER

George W. Dyer was born in Virginia, July 14, 1831. His father, Zebulon Dyer, came to Indiana in an early day and located on the hill



overlooking the river at Sheetz's Mill, an important point in pioneer days. This neighborhood is now more popularly known as "Oakdale," and the house which the elder Dyer built in the early days is still standing. Here the subject of this sketch lived until he bought a farm about three miles east of Brookston, where he died August 15, 1906. In 1866 he was married to Miss Elnora VanScoy, who, with five children, survived him. These were Grant G., of Tippecanoe County; Eliza, now Mrs. Edward Conway; Robert, of Prairie Township, and Grace.

#### JAMES EVANS

At one time—during and in the years succeeding the war—James Evans, a well known hotelkeeper and auctioneer, resided in Reynolds and afterward in Monticello. Later, after the death of his wife, he made his home with his sister, near Bement, Illinois. Here he devoted his later years to a close study of the Bible, under the strain of which his mind gave way, and he died in the State Hospital for the Insane at Kankakee, Illinois, January 22, 1898, age seventy-three years.

#### MRS. MARY FAILING

Mrs. Mary Failing, daughter of Rowland and Nancy Hughes, was at the time of her death probably the oldest continuous resident of Monticello. She was born in Green County, Pennsylvania, February 5, 1834, and came with her parents the next year. February 22, 1854, she was married to Peter R. Failing. To them were born five children, three of whom, Florine, Jennie and Nellie, are still living, the first being Mrs. Frank P. Berkey of Monticello. Besides these she left surviving two sisters, Mrs. Jephtha Crouch of Lafayette and Mrs. John I. Purcupile. She died December 29, 1907.

#### PETER R. FAILING

For many years Peter R. Failing was one of the best known men in Monticello. Being a son-in-law of Rowland Hughes, some years of his early life were spent in the latter's store. Prior to that time he had been a track master on the New York Central Road and later on other roads. He came to White County in 1853 and superintended the grading of the railroad between Logansport and Reynolds. On February 24, 1854, he was married to Mary Hughes. To them were born three daughters, Florine, Jennie and Nellie, all of whom are yet living. He was born November 19, 1820, in Wayne County, New York; died in Monticello, December 15, 1899, from paralysis.

#### DAVID L. FISHER

David L. Fisher was born in Carroll County, Indiana, on the 14th day of October, 1839. Both his parents were of old English descent and





married in Ohio in 1824 and soon after removed to Carroll County, where the subject of this sketch was reared on a farm and learned the miller's trade. His father was a German Baptist preacher and died February 5, 1871, at the age of sixty-seven. For a few years prior to 1861 he conducted an old-fashioned grist mill near Camden in Carroll County. From there he moved to Cass County and in 1862 came to White County, where he lived for two years, when he returned to Cass County, but not being satisfied with this change, in 1866 he returned to White County and purchased a home about a mile west of Burnettsville. Later he engaged in the farm implement business with the late James M. Love. He was married June 12, 1859, to Miss Nancy Murray, and to this union was born five children. Mr. Fisher served for a time as county commissioner, in which office he left an enviable record. He was a republican in politics and an active member of the German Baptist Church. He died at his home about two miles west of Burnettsville, July 11, 1902.

#### ROBISON FLEEGER

An old and well known resident of Princeton Township, White County, Robison Fleeger was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, December 7, 1829. He was married to Isabella Logue, a native of Canada, October 14, 1851. They located in Princeton Township in 1854, where they resided until 1881, when they removed to Reynolds, where he died November 21, 1906. He left a widow and three children—two sons and one daughter, the latter being now Mrs. John S. Grissmer, of Honey Creek Township.

#### WILLIAM N. FORBIS

Though not an early settler, William N. Forbis was for nearly twenty years closely identified with Monticello and her material growth. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 14, 1839, and came to Monticello March 1, 1889, purchasing the farm on the Norway hill north of Monticello, where he made his home, and where his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rinker, still reside. Some years later he built the Forbis Hotel on the northeast corner of Main and Harrison streets in Monticello, and though he did not run it himself he took much interest in its success under other management. He died March 7, 1908, leaving a widow, two sons and three daughters.

#### WILLIAM F. FORD

For many years prior to his death in Monon on March 5, 1893, few men in White County were better known than "Uncle Billy" Ford. He was born in England, but the date of his birth is not known. On June 6, 1846, he enlisted from Jackson Township and served with honor in the war with Mexico. He was a natural-born soldier and seems to have enjoyed a really good fight. In the battle of Cerro Gordo he received



a saber cut in his left thigh, a lance thrust through one wrist, a pistol ball through the other wrist, a bayonet wound under the chin and his right leg was cut off by a cannon ball. For several days he had but little care, but finally pulled through and lived to receive a veteran's bronze medal, which he highly prized. By trade he was a tailor, but for many years prior to his death he was bailiff in the White Circuit Court, where his familiar figure was well known. He left at his death a widow, six sons and one daughter.

#### PETER FOX

A history of Monticello for the thirty years succeeding the war would not be complete without mention of Peter Fox, for many years senior member of the well known firm of Fox & Karp. They were retail liquor dealers in the days when that business was not regarded as it is now in Monticello, and their contributions to the material growth of the town testify that they were much above the average of those engaged in that line of business. Mr. Fox was born in Bavaria, Germany, August 10, 1841, and came to America when a boy, locating in Pennsylvania. Here he joined the Second Artillery, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and soon after the war located in Monticello, where he worked at his trade of carpenter and contractor, but soon after engaged in the saloon business, in which he continued until his death, January 4, 1898.

#### MAHLON FRASER

Mahlon Fraser was one of the first white children born in White County. He was born a short distance below the present site of Monticello, May 14, 1833. With the exception of four years, spent in Kansas, he was a resident of Monticello and vicinity all his life. Died at his home on West Washington Street, September 2, 1899. He was married to Etta G. Davis in 1858. To them were born eight children, all of whom preceded him in death, except one son, Morton Fraser, who still lives in Monticello.

#### MAXIMILLA FRASER

Maximilla Fraser lived in Monticello over sixty years. She was born in Champaign County, Ohio, February 1, 1821, and when she was but a child her parents brought her to White County, making the journey with an ox team. She united with the Methodist Episcopal Church about 1864, in which communion she lived until her death. She spent the last fifteen years of her life a cripple and died at the home of her son, Mahlon Fraser, in Monticello, on February 11, 1894. Many of her relatives and descendants yet live in White County.

#### GEORGE W. FRIDAY

George W. Friday, a former well known business man of Idaville, was born at Canton, Ohio, February 22, 1841, where he acquired a



good business education. For many years he was the principal grain dealer at Idaville, giving this business over to his son, Fred, in 1906. He was for many years an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and lived a devoted Christian life. On April 3, 1866, he was married to Margaret Woods, who, with four children, survived him. His death occurred at Idaville, May 25, 1909.

#### GEORGE M. GAY

George M. Gay was born in Miami County, Ohio, March 4, 1835, and when twelve years old came with his parents to Indiana and enlisted in the army in 1861, in which he served until the close of the war. He died at his home east of Monon, April 29, 1912, leaving surviving a sister, a nephew and a large circle of friends to mourn his departure. He was buried in the Chapel Cemetery.

#### ROBERT P. GIBSON

One of the earliest settlers in White County, Robert P. Gibson, died at his home in Burnettsville, March 27, 1905, at the age of ninety-three years. He located in Jackson Township while yet a boy and was probably the oldest citizen of the county at the time of his death, having seen it grow from a wilderness inhabited by Indians to its present advanced state. He was a man of more than ordinary attainments, was held in the highest esteem and retained his mental vigor to the last. His life having been so closely identified with the county's history from the beginning, he was full of reminiscences of early days, and an hour spent with him was indeed a treat. It is to be regretted that a more complete account of his life can not be given here. He left two sons, Nathan C. and William, and five daughters, Mrs. Marian Gates, of Zion City, Illinois, Mrs. John Gorman, of near Burnettsville, Mrs. Maurice Boehnie and Mrs. R. Hill, of Lake Cicott, and Mrs. Belle Jump, of Burnettsville.

#### ROBERT GINN

Robert Ginn, one of the early settlers of Jackson Township, was born in Kentucky in February, 1811, and when three years old his parents removed to the vicinity of Xenia, Ohio. Here on March 6, 1834, he married Elizabeth R. McClellan to whom were born twelve children. In 1848 he brought his family to White County and settled on a farm two miles northeast of Idaville, where he lived until a short time prior to his death, when, having lost his wife, he went to Idaville, where he resided with his son, John, until his death on September 12, 1894. He was a charter member of the United Presbyterian Church at Idaville, in which church he held the office of elder for many years. His name and that of the Ginn family is one of the most honored in the history of White County.



## ROBERT N. GINN

Robert N. Ginn was born in Union County, Ohio, December 19, 1844, and died at his home near Sitka, on his birthday, December 19, 1893, aged forty-nine years. At the age of four years he came with his parents to White County and located on a farm in Jackson Township, two miles northeast of Idaville, where he lived the greater part of his life. On December 16, 1875, he married Miss Clara V. Warden. In November, 1886, he became a member of the Church of God at Sitka in which belief he died. He died as he lived, a quiet, honest, Christian man.

## LEWIS A. GOODRICH

Lewis A. Goodrich came to Wolcott soon after the close of the Civil war, having served therein from his native county of Montgomery, New York. In partnership with his brother he started a wagon shop, having learned the trade of wagon-making in boyhood. His death occurred at Wolcott in July, 1912, in his seventieth year. He married Sarah E. Johnson in January, 1868, who survived him, with eight children.

## THE GRAVES FAMILY

Lewis Graves, born in Coshocton County, Ohio, May 24, 1837, son of James and Christena (Potter) Graves, came to Indiana in 1838, located in Tippecanoe County, remained one year and then removed to White County, where he resided the rest of his life. He grew up and received his schooling in Monon Township, was a Presbyterian in religion, a democrat in politics; was married to Martha C. Downey on October 23, 1860, moved to the homestead farm just north of Monon, where he resided till his death on March 18, 1915, at the age of seventy-seven years, nine months and twenty-four days. He was strong, athletic and rugged, weighing about 225 pounds, and was six feet one inch in height. He retained the best of health till the close of life, and was sick but two days with a stroke of apoplexy.

Martha C. Graves was also born in Ohio, Perry County, January 5, 1835, came to Indiana with her parents in 1836, received her schooling in Monon Township, was a Presbyterian, a member of the Bedford and Monon churches, till her death, which was on April 23, 1910, aged seventy-five years, three months and eighteen days. The other members of the family, brothers and sister of Lewis Graves, are John Graves, of Monon, Indiana; James M. Graves, of Nebraska; Catharine Culp, the widow of George Culp.

There was born to Lewis and Martha C. Graves: James T. Graves, an attorney of Monticello, Indiana; Samuel Graves, a contractor of Alexandria, Ohio; Catharine M. Graves, a dressmaker, now near Monon, Indiana; Effie Grace Leavell, married to Edward E. Leavell, of Fulton, Indiana; Fannie Belle Troxel, wife of Daniel J. Troxel, of Mulberry,





Indiana; and William C. Graves, who died at the age of twenty-one, leaving no descendants.

This family has had its part in the making of White County, in its development from a wild waste of swamp and brush, inhabited by deer, prairie wolves and Indians, to the splendid improvements now to be seen, fine schools, churches, a highly civilized and Christian people, fit citizens for any government.

#### BENJAMIN GREENFIELD

Benjamin Greenfield, born in Hawkin County, Ohio, May 2, 1834, died at his home in Monticello, April 29, 1903, from pneumonia. Mr. Greenfield was brought by his mother to Indiana in 1835 and was reared as a member of the family of John Burns, in Big Creek Township. He was married February 2, 1859, to Martha Hornbeck and located on a farm near the mouth of Big Creek, where they resided until they moved to Monticello, a short time before his death. The widow has since died, but they are survived by two children, Dr. Charles Greenfield, of Chicago, and Mrs. Allie Ward.

#### ROBERT A. HAMELLE

Robert A. Hamelle was born in Blount County, Tennessee, May 5, 1812, and in the spring of 1833 came on horseback to Indiana, where, two years later, he settled on a farm in Carroll County, about four miles southeast of Monticello, where he lived until 1872, when he removed to Monticello, from which place, in 1874, he moved to Idaville, at which place he died January 2, 1885. On November 11, 1840, he married Margaret G. Montgomery, who died at Idaville, January 25, 1888. To this union was born eight children, four of whom survive and are living in White County. He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church, a man of strong religious convictions and a good citizen.

#### ABRAM HANAWALT

Abram Hanawalt, a pioneer and one of the best known citizens of White County, was born in Lewistown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, February 21, 1829, and died December 9, 1909, at the home of his son, Prof. Frank W. Hanawalt, Tacoma, Washington. He was one of twelve children born to his parents and in 1846 came to White County, locating near Burnettsville, but in 1851 he came to Monticello and engaged with his brother, Joseph, in the plastering business, one of their first contracts being the old Methodist Episcopal Church, which stood at the northwest corner of Main and Marion streets. On Christmas eve, 1854, he was married to Barbara Hartman, who died and exactly forty years from his first marriage, on Christmas eve, 1894, he married Mrs. Mary Baum, who died on Christmas eve, 1908, on the eve of their wedding anniversary. To the first marriage eight children were born, one of whom, Alva, now lives in Monticello, and Frank W., another son, is professor of mathe-



matics in the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington. Mr. Hanawalt was a model of industry and integrity and by a close application to his business had amassed considerable of this world's goods. He died universally respected by all who knew him.

#### JOSEPH HANAWALT

Joseph Hanawalt, a member of an old and honored family, will long be remembered by the early citizens of White County. He was born October 10, 1823, in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, and died in Burnettsville, February 8, 1909. He came to Indiana in 1846 and on August 18th of that year was married to Catharine M. Grassmyer. To this union were born three children, William, Mary, and a son who died in early infancy. The daughter Mary died in 1872 and the mother followed in 1893. Two years after the death of his first wife he married Nancy Bennett, who died October 19, 1910. Mr. Hanawalt was a brother of Abram Hanawalt, deceased. In 1849, with his wife, he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which he ever afterward gave his earnest support and was one of the active members who assisted in the erection of the first Methodist Church built in Monticello, about 1850. Twenty-eight years prior to his death he organized a Sunday school at the White Oak church in Cass Township and for many years was its superintendent. Father Hanawalt left his influence for good in every locality where he was known and his loss was deeply felt in the circle in which he moved.

#### MARY HANAWALT

All the trials incident to pioneer life were not undergone by the stronger sex—woman has often proven herself to be as true a soldier as man. Mrs. Mary Hanawalt was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, on January 1, 1801. She was the daughter of Rev. Joseph Rothrock and about 1820 joined the German Baptist Church and in 1846 came to White County and settled near Burnettsville. "Aunt Mary," as she was generally known, died May 23, 1885, at the residence of her son, Isaac Hanawalt, about five miles northeast of Monticello, universally respected.

#### JERRY HANCOCK

Jerry Hancock, who has lived the quiet life in Norway for over half a century is well known to most of the people in Monticello and vicinity. He is an old veteran of the Civil war and is entitled to a pension of \$30 per month, having served in the army for more than three years and being almost eighty years old. He came to Norway in 1860, from Southern Indiana, when that village had a flour mill, a woolen mill, three sawmills, a tan yard, three blacksmith shops and several stores, all doing good business. Uncle Jerry has outlived them all and bids fair to be with us for many years.



## MRS. BELLE HANNUM

Mrs. Belle Hannum, daughter of Joseph and Eliza Rothrock and sister of Bowman and Samuel Rothrock and Mrs. James S. Wignore. She was born in Monticello, where she spent her girlhood. She was married to George E. Hannum, December 31, 1868. In those early years there lived with them a younger sister of Mr. Hannum's, Miss Melissa Hannum, who, in her younger days, displayed considerable literary talent, writing several poems of local interest. Among these the most pretentious was "The Legend of the Tippecanoe," a lengthy production purporting to give the origin of the name of this beautiful river. This was printed in the local papers at the time, and a number of years later—July 26, 1901—was reproduced in the White County Democrat. Mrs. Hannum removed to Denver, Colorado, in the '70s, where she died November 18, 1907, leaving three daughters, Mrs. Marion Lord, Mrs. Julia Strong and Mrs. Maude Karstul, of Colorado, and one son, Joseph Hannum, residing in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## THADDEUS HANWAY

Born November 14, 1830, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; died March 30, 1897. On December 23, 1856, he was married to Elizabeth Baker at Hanover, Pennsylvania. Located in Monticello in 1862, where he enlisted in Company G, Sixty-third Indiana Volunteers. He was stricken with paralysis in 1891 and continued an invalid until his death. He left two sons, George H. and Thaddeus E., the latter being at present (1915) the well known manager of the Monticello Telephone Company.

## JONATHAN HARBOLT

Jonathan Harbolt, who died at Monticello, August 12, 1872, in his sixty-seventh year, was a man who was an honor to White County. He was a native of Culpeper County, Virginia, and when a youth crossed the mountains on horseback, located in Monticello about 1835, and followed his trade of cabinet-maker and undertaker. The old cemetery north of town is filled with his old-fashioned coffins. He was for many years a justice of the peace and his probity has passed into a proverb: "As honest as the old Squire." He was a Presbyterian of the old school, a democrat and a man of unfeigned honesty of purpose. In the convention of 1850, that formed the present constitution of our state, he was chosen a delegate from the counties of Benton, Jasper, Pulaski and White, was present at its opening session and took an intelligent part in all its proceedings. He favored the election of one senator for each 3,000 voters, and a representative for each 1,000 voters, which would have made both bodies too large. He was instrumental in having a clause inserted in article 2, section 9, providing that in counties casting less than 1,000 polls the office of clerk, auditor and recorder, or any two of them, may be held by one person. His wife died December 25,



1872. Two young children are buried by their parents, one son, John, went west and died, one lost his life in the Civil war and one other son, the unfortunate "Billy," is the sole survivor of the family.

#### THOMAS A. HARDY

Juniata County, Pennsylvania, sent forth many of her sons to people our county and one of the older ones was Thomas A. Hardy, who was born in Mifflin, Pennsylvania, on December 19, 1832. On January 22, 1857, he married Miss Mary Sulaff, of Mifflin, who died December 28, 1878. In 1864 he enlisted in the army and at his death was a member G. A. R. Post No. 101 of Monon. He came to Wolcott in 1865, to Monticello in 1866, then to Monon in 1872. He united with the Presbyterian Church at Mifflin, Pennsylvania, when a mere youth, brought his letter to Monticello in 1866 and then to Monon in 1889 and was one of the original members of the latter church at its organization. He died at his home west of Monon, November 12, 1895. He had nine children, five sons and four daughters, but was survived by only two sons, David and Alexander, and one daughter, Mrs. George McDonald. His life was that of a consistent Christian.

#### SPENCER C. HART

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, October 6, 1819, Spencer C. Hart died at his home in East Monticello, Indiana, April 17, 1915, in his ninety-sixth year. He removed to Dayton, Ohio, when a young man, coming on to Indiana in 1863, locating at Battleground. He came to White County in 1864 and located in Prairie Township, near Brookston. About four years prior to his death he moved to Monticello. November 30, 1853, he was married to Miss Catharine Stine, who died January 2, 1886. They leave four children surviving. These are Lee S. Hart of Brookston, Mrs. Charles Alkire of West Lafayette, Mrs. James L. Stanford of Brockton, and Miss Nettie Hart, who kept house for her father in his closing years. Mr. Hart was one of the oldest Masons in the state, having been a member of the order sixty-five years. He was buried at Battleground under the auspices of the Masonic lodge at Brookston, of which he was a member.

#### MRS. CARRIE HARTMAN

Mrs. Carrie Hartman, the mother of Hon. Charles S. Hartman, and for half a century one of the beloved women of Monticello, died at the old Heckendorn home, where she had been her father's housekeeper so many years after the death of her husband, on the 15th of December, 1911. She was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, on the 12th of December, 1835, a daughter of Samuel and Ann C. Heckendorn. Her parents located in Monticello in 1838, where she resided until her marriage to Sampson Hartman on May 12, 1856. Shortly after their marriage the young couple moved to Hudson, Wisconsin, where Walter S.





Hartman was born February 22, 1857, and Alpheus D. Hartman on March 6, 1859. Soon afterwards the family moved to Hannibal, Missouri, but owing to the ill health of Mr. Hartman they returned to Monticello in the fall of 1860. The illness of her husband terminated in his death on January 26, 1861, and on the following first of March, Charles S. Hartman was born. The widow bravely assumed the care of her three young children and, at the same time, was her father's housekeeper for nearly twenty years preceding his death in 1886.

#### RUFUS L. HARVEY

One of the most highly respected men who ever lived in Monticello was Rufus L. Harvey, who served as deputy clerk of the county, deputy auditor, and eight years as county recorder, being elected to that office in 1874 and again in 1878. He was again his party's candidate for recorder in 1886, being defeated by a narrow margin. After the death of his wife in 1897, failing health compelled him to cease work, and he went to the National Soldiers' Home at Marion, where he died September 10, 1901. He was a dependable, working member of the Odd Fellows and K. of P. organizations, and also of Tippecanoe Post No. 51, G. A. R., and under the auspices of these organizations his body was brought back to Monticello for burial. He was born in Orange County, Vermont, December 14, 1824, and came to Monticello in 1860. He enlisted in Company K, Twentieth Indiana Volunteers, in 1861, but was discharged on account of failing health in December, 1862. April 13, 1863, he enlisted in Company G, Sixty-third Indiana Volunteers, and served mostly on detached duty until May 15, 1865. He left surviving two children, William R. Harvey and Mrs. Victoria Winchell, both some place in the West.

#### JAMES HAY

James Hay, sheriff of White County two terms, from 1878 to 1882, died at his home in Brookston, February 4, 1902. He was a genial, warm-hearted man, well liked and highly esteemed by all who knew him.

#### TRUXTON HEAD

Truxton Head, long an active business man of Brookston, died at his home in Indianapolis on December 1, 1913. After conducting a general store at that place for a number of years, he located at Lafayette, where he engaged in the manufacture of brick. About 1903, with his wife and a portion of his family, he went to South McAlester, Oklahoma, and thence to Indianapolis. Mrs. Head, who had died in the preceding January, was born at Battle Ground, where her remains were interred. Seven sons and daughters, married and scattered from Indiana to California, survive the parents.



## CHARLES HEADLEE

Charles Headlee was born in New Jersey March 15, 1794, and came to White County, Indiana, in 1856, where he died on March 3, 1877, aged eighty years. He was one of the early settlers of Cass Township and did his full share to redeem that locality from its wilds. He was a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and lived an upright Christian life.

## SILAS HEADLEE

Silas Headlee, son of Charles and Mary Headlee, was born in Green County, Pennsylvania, March 2, 1832. On September 7, 1854, he married Margaret Emmons, who died on March 17, 1857. On December 20, 1857, he married Angeline W. Crowder, who died August 2, 1908. To his first marriage was born one son, Charles J., who survived the father, and to the second marriage was born one son and five daughters. He was a devoted husband, a kind and loving father. In the great civil conflict he gave four years of his life in support of his country—for three years in Company G, Sixty-third Indiana Volunteers, and one year in Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Indiana Volunteers, in which he served until the close of the war. In early life he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and lived an unselfish, devoted Christian life. He died February 18, 1909.

## SAMUEL HECKENDORN

Samuel Heckendorn was one of the oldest and best known of all the early settlers of White County. He was born in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, March 26, 1809, where he lived until 1838, locating July 4th of that year in Monticello. On October 23, 1832, he married Miss Ann C. McDonald. To this union was born three children, all of whom are dead. His first wife died March 1, 1857, and he was again married March 28, 1858, to Elizabeth M. Thayer, who died December 20, 1860. To this union was born one daughter, Ellen, who died at the age of sixteen. About 1833 he united with the German Reformed Presbyterian Church, but on coming to Monticello he joined by letter the Presbyterian Church, where he remained a consistent member until his death, which occurred at Monticello on June 10, 1886. It may safely be said that no citizen of this county was ever more universally loved than Father Heckendorn.

## JOHN BIBLE HEMPHILL

John Bible Hemphill, who died in Wolcott, Sunday, November 9, 1913, was born in Fountain County, Indiana, June 3, 1830, and was the oldest son in a family of ten children. December 3, 1854, he married Sarah Dobbins of White County, who died, and in 1866 he married Mary E. Pugh, and to each of these marriages were born four children. In his early manhood he united with the Christian Church and was an active



Christian worker until his death. He was one of the fourteen charter members of Wolcott Lodge No. 180, F. & A. M., which was chartered May 30, 1866, and James O. Johnson is the only one of this fourteen who is yet living. He was the Master of this lodge for several years and was greatly attached to the institution of Masonry.

#### MATTHEW HENDERSON

Matthew Henderson, one time sheriff of White County, was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, March 6, 1828, and came to Burnettsville in 1850. Ten years later he removed to Monticello, where he resided until his death, May 30, 1890. He was married three times, the last time to Margaret Ross on April 5, 1864. He was twice elected sheriff of White County and at his death was a justice of the peace in Monticello. He was a prominent Mason and Odd Fellow and his funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Monticello.

#### CAPT. JAMES HESS

Capt. James Hess, son of John and Elizabeth D. Hess, was born in Findlay, Ohio, February 10, 1839. He was of Welsh-English descent and came with his parents in 1856 to Big Creek Township, where he learned the mason's trade, and in April, 1861, enlisted in Company K, Tenth Indiana Volunteers, and served for three months. In October, 1861, he enlisted in Company G, Forty-sixth Indiana Infantry, and served until December, 1864, when he was mustered out of the service at Lexington, Kentucky, having been promoted to the captaincy on September 12, 1863. He was in many hard fought battles and he it was who planted the first Federal flag on the ramparts of Fort Pillow. In 1874 he settled on a farm in Honey Creek Township and after a residence of a few years there he came to Monticello, where he died October 5, 1909. He was married February 21, 1866, to Lottie E. Lawson, a native of Sweden, who bore him three children, Lena (deceased), Mary D. McCuaig of Monticello and Clara W. Warden of Coffeyville, Kansas.

#### WILLIAM HINCHMAN

William Hinchman was one of the oldest and best known citizens of Princeton Township, where he located October 13, 1854. He was born in Cabell County, in what is now West Virginia, August 1, 1830, and died at his home July 26, 1912. On December 18, 1856, he married Miss Rhoda Nordyke, who survived him. He was a carpenter by trade, but devoted most of his time to his farming interests. He served one term as township trustee and during his long life was noted for his absolute integrity.

#### ROBERT BATY HOOVER

Robert Baty Hoover came to Monticello in 1865 and entered the medical profession, but after a short time removed to Burnettsville and



continued the practice in his chosen profession until his death on May 3, 1880. He was born February 22, 1825, near Lewistown, Pennsylvania, and in May, 1849, married Miss Sarah J. Roberts, with whom he afterwards joined in uniting with the Baptist Church. In our Civil war he became captain of Company B, Two Hundredth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, in which capacity he served for three years. In May, 1866, he lost his wife, and in February, 1867, was married to Miss R. A. Wickersham, by whom he had one child. He was the father of Will B. Hoover, deceased, who at his death was owner of the Monticello Democrat. Doctor Hoover was a democrat in politics and always took a deep interest in the success of his party.

#### WILL B. HOOVER

Will B. Hoover, one time editor of the Monticello Democrat, was born in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, in December, 1851, and removed with his father to White County in 1865, locating first in Monticello, but after a brief residence in that place his family removed to Burnettsville, where his father continued the practice of medicine. After serving for a short time as solicitor and reporter on the Logansport Journal he came to Monticello in 1877 and took charge of the Monticello Democrat, which he conducted until his death in September, 1879. Will B. Hoover always took great interest in all things connected with his chosen profession and possessed the true spirit of journalistic enterprise.

#### NELSON HORNBECK

Nelson Hornbeck was one of the old settlers of White County, a man of sterling qualities and one whose death was a great loss to our people. He was born in Piqua County, Ohio, March 7, 1824, and died in White County, January 22, 1885. He came to White County with his parents in 1837 and for three years served as a county commissioner during which time he proved himself a faithful and prudent public servant. He was a republican in politics and was a member of the New Light Church, which he joined in 1845.

#### JOHN C. HUGHES

John C. Hughes was born in Pennsylvania in April, 1828, and came to White County at an early date. For a number of years he operated a sawmill at Norway. Later he moved to a farm on the east side of the river, just above that village, where he lived until he removed to Monticello, where he died September 1, 1903. He was a member of the Odd Fellows and K. of P. orders, being a charter member of Tippecanoe Lodge No. 73, K. of P.

#### MRS. NANCY HUGHES

Mrs. Nancy Hughes died May 31, 1899, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. Her maiden name was Nancy Imes. Born in Green County,





Pennsylvania, December 15, 1816, where she was married to Rowland Hughes, April 25, 1833. Soon thereafter they located in Monticello, where her husband became the leading merchant of the town, continuing in business until his death in 1883. She was a woman of strong character, positive in her views, and though for many years in feeble health she retained a controlling hand in her personal affairs.

#### ROWLAND HUGHES

Rowland Hughes was born in Green County, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1836; died February 9, 1899. He located in Monticello in 1846, and after one year removed to a farm in Liberty Township, where he resided till death. April 10, 1851, he was married to Laura McConahay, who died May 9, 1874. One son of this union, Rev. M. Allison Hughes, is now (1915) a resident of Monticello. He was married a second time to Margaret J. Bowen on October 21, 1875, who with four children survived him. He was a member of Company G, One Hundred and Fifty-first Indiana Infantry.

#### RICHARD IMES

Among the pioneers of White County, Richard Imes must not be forgotten. Born in Pennsylvania in 1821, he, with his parents, moved to Tippecanoe County, Indiana, where he married Mary Ann Orr, and to them were born eight children, only two of whom, Mrs. John Brannan and Mrs. Rolandus Smoker, survived him. He died September 17, 1895, after a long illness from a complication of diseases. He was an earnest worker in the Presbyterian Church and Sunday school, and at his funeral in the Bedford Cemetery each of the Sunday school children dropped a bunch of flowers upon his casket after it was lowered into the grave, to show their love and respect.

#### REUBEN IMLER

Reuben Imler was born in Marion County, Ohio, July 22, 1841, and died at his home in Liberty Township, White County, October 31, 1905. He located in White County in 1852 and enlisted in Company F, 128th Indiana Volunteers, in January, 1864, serving as corporal until April 10, 1866. He was married to Mary Baily, September 11, 1867. He left a widow and five children, Emma, Sylvester, Estella, Cassius and Ellen.

#### CAPT. ANDERSON IRION

Capt. Anderson Irion, one of the county's oldest citizens, was born in Fleming County, Kentucky, February 7, 1807. At an early age he removed to Ohio and thence in 1853 to West Point Township, where he lived until his death, which took place at the home of his son-in-law, James Lawrie, February 23, 1894. During the Mexican war he organ-



ized a company which, however, was not called into service. He was married in 1833 to Sophia Dragoo and to this union were born ten children, seven of whom survived him. He was at one time a county commissioner and filled the office acceptably.

#### MRS. ELIZA JANE IRVINE

"Mrs. Eliza Jane Irvine, whose home at Reynolds is with her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Gardner," says the Monon News of September 6, 1912, "has lived in White County eighty-three years and holds the record in point of continuous residence. She passed her 83d anniversary June 27th and was but three months old when she came to this county. Her birthplace was in Ohio, but her parents, Joseph and Mary Thompson, came from Virginia. Mr. Thompson was the first white man to locate on White county soil and entered about 400 acres of land in Big Creek township, the site of his home being where George Wolverton's residence now stands. All the trading at that time within the borders of the county was done with Indians, who were friendly but had no regard for property rights. A fine walnut grove was on the tract entered by Mr. Thompson and was an inducement in choosing his location. Here was born the first white male child in the county in the person of John Thompson, who died at Reynolds, Indiana, recently, never having married, and was buried in the Bunnell Cemetery. Lafayette was the trading point then and Indian trails were the highways. Other white settlers soon followed Mr. Thompson, who hailed with satisfaction the opening of the first store in Monticello by Peter B. Smith. The Reynolds, Spencers, Peter Price, Rowland Hughes and others who names are familiar as pioneers, came within two years after Mr. Thompson had blazed the way."

#### ELLIS H. JOHNSON

Ellis H. Johnson, commonly known as "Uncle Haines," was born in Frederick County, Virginia, April 28, 1814. He came to White County with his father, Jonathan Johnson, in 1835, locating near the range line west of Monticello, on the farm now owned by George T. Inskeep. Later he located on a farm near what is now Wheeler's Station, where he was married to Ellen Rease, January 6, 1843. She died in 1846, and their only son, Hampton Dodridge, later became a member of Company D, Twelfth Indiana, and died at Grand Junction, Tennessee, in 1863. In 1851 he married Chloe Ann Clark. He died at his home in Monticello, December 20, 1898, leaving a widow and two children, Harry C. and Fannie Alice, the former of whom still resides in Monticello.

#### EMILY J. JOHNSON

One of the human links connecting Monticello almost with the days of the Revolution was broken in the death of Mrs. Johnson, which occurred July 17, 1915, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. P. Simons,



in Monticello. Her father, Drewry Wood, was born in North Carolina, September 27, 1785, and her mother, Rhoda (Shaw) Wood, was born March 1, 1792. They were married August 21, 1814, and came to White County, locating south of Wolcott in 1846. Here her father, Drewry Wood, died in 1856, but the mother lived till 1878. Emily J. Wood was born in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, June 13, 1832. She was married to Jeremiah B. Johnson, September 16, 1854. He was wounded at the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, July 10, 1863, and died July 19. She remained a "war widow" the remainder of her life. Her only son, Edgar A. Johnson, died in 1904. She left surviving two daughters, Mrs. Rhoda DeForest, of Chicago, and Mrs. Sallie E. Simons, of Monticello.

#### THOMAS D. JONES

Thomas D. Jones was born in Brooklyn, New York, December 10, 1830, and on August 4, 1854, was married to Sarah Parker, and to this marriage was born six daughters and two sons, all of whom were present at his death except a daughter, Mrs. Grace Newberry, who died in 1893. His wife died September 1, 1908. Mr. Jones came to Monon in 1859 and lived there until his death in May, 1912. He taught school for a time, was an old soldier in the Civil war, was a member of the G. A. R. and for fifty years was a member of the Baptist Church. His remains were buried in the Bedford Cemetery.

#### WILLIAM JORDAN

William Jordan was born in Cable County, Virginia, December 17, 1803, and died at White County, Indiana, May 5, 1876. He was married to Miss Catharine Sexton on March 19, 1826, with whom he lived for more than fifty years. In 1827 he moved to Indiana and began farming about six miles northwest of Lafayette, and on June 7, 1844, he moved to White County, which was his home until his death. By industry, frugality and honesty he amassed a competence and enjoyed the respect of all with whom he came in contact.

#### JOHN M. JOST

John M. Jost, one of the pioneers of the county, died at the home of his married daughter, Mrs. Richard Hinshaw, of Monticello, in September, 1913, his age being eighty-nine years, four months and thirteen days. By trade he was a tailor, but at various times had been engaged in business at Francesville, Cooper's Mill and Monticello. The deceased had been married three times. He was an old Mason and an upright citizen.

#### JOHN WILLIAM JOST

John William Jost died April 3, 1903. For a number of years Mr. Jost had been a well known and successful grocer in White County, first



at Cooper's Mill, later at Norway, and finally in Monticello, where for a number of years he was connected in business with Walter R. Spencer. During this partnership they built the splendid two-story brick business building at the northwest corner of Main and Washington streets. Later Mr. Jost joined with M. Goodman & Son in the corporation known as "The Big Store," which joined in the building of the Odd Fellows Block on the southeast corner of Main and Washington streets. He had charge of the grocery department of the company in this building at the time of his death. Mr. Jost was the son of John M. Jost and was born in New York City, February 8, 1855. He was never married. His father was born in Staffenburg, Birken Province, Germany, May 3, 1824, and came to America in 1851. His mother was a native of Sheffield, England, and died in White County, May 20, 1878, at the age of fifty-one years. His father has since died—about 1913. Three brothers, Charles, Henry and Albert, are still living; also two sisters, Mrs. Lizzie Booth of Rochester, New York, and Mrs. Rosina Hinshaw of Monticello.

#### AUGUST KARP

August Karp was born January 28, 1842, in Hesse, Germany, and came to Monticello from Danville, Illinois, in 1875, and two years later married Miss Maggie Manders, to whom were born five children, four of whom are still living, the widow and one son having died at the same time, about 1913. He was for many years a partner of the late Peter Fox in the retail liquor business in Monticello. No man was more attached to his family or more dearly beloved by wife and children. He was successful in business and identified with many of the improvements of the town during his life. He died at Monticello, May 3, 1895.

#### JOHN C. KARR

John C. Karr, an old and well known resident of Liberty Township, was born in Middletown, Ohio, September 25, 1824. Came with his parents to White County in 1839. In 1849 he was married to Rachel M. Moore and bought the farm on which he lived the remainder of his life. This farm included the present site of the village of Buffalo, which was laid out by him. His wife died in 1890, and in 1893 he married Mrs. Emily Yount, who died three years later. He was a man of strong character and held in high esteem. He left nine children surviving him.

#### WILLIAM B. KEEFER

"Only a few residents of Monticello could claim a longer residence here than William B. Keefer, and few could show a cleaner record." Such was the eulogy of a friend on the death of Mr. Keefer. He was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, December 9, 1829, and moved to Ohio in early life, where he married Sarah A. Mowbray in 1850, and in 1853 came to White County and established himself in the tailoring





business, in which he was quite successful. In 1879 his wife died and later he married Miss Sarah Briggs. By his first marriage he had seven children, of whom four survived him. He was an earnest member of the Christian Church, an honest man, and beloved by all who knew him. He died at Monticello, February 8, 1891.

#### ROBERT KEEVER

After being confined to his home for some two years Robert Keever died at his farm home, four miles northeast of Monticello, September 16, 1897. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, in 1818 and came to White County in 1850. Like so many of the county's early settlers who came from that part of Pennsylvania, he was a sturdy, successful farmer and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

#### FRANCIS G. KENDALL

Francis G. Kendall was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, January 2, 1823, and came to White County in 1833 where he continued to reside until 1865 when he removed to Burlington, Iowa. He died at Tipton, Iowa, October 30, 1890, and was buried in Burlington, Iowa, on November 2d of the same year. During his residence in White County he was one of our most prominent business men and was one of the leading members of the Presbyterian Church. He was the first W. M. of Libanus Lodge No. 154, F. & A. M. at Monticello, at its organization in 1854.

#### MRS. MARY ELIZA KENDALL

Mrs. Mary Eliza Kendall was the third daughter and last surviving member of the family of George Armstrong Spencer. She was born in Perry County, Ohio, in 1825 and came to White County with her parents in 1830. She was married to Charles W. Kendall in 1845. She died at her home on North Illinois Street May 22, 1901, at the age of seventy-six years, leaving four children: Howard C., Mrs. Sallie Loughry, wife of A. W. Loughry of Monticello, Mrs. May E. McDowell of New Jersey, and Charles W. Kendall of Duluth, Minnesota. Two other children, Walter R. Kendall and Mrs. Maria Hull, wife of Philip A. Hull, had died some years previous.

#### LLEWELLYN G. KENTON

Llewellyn G. Kenton, a son of William Miller Kenton and grandson of Simon Kenton, the famous Indian fighter, was born on his father's farm three miles west of Monticello, March 9, 1839, and died at the Soldiers' Home, Marion, Indiana, October 1, 1911. He enlisted November 5, 1861, in the Forty-sixth Indiana Infantry and served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged. On December 6, 1866, he was married to Miss Mary M. Hull, who, with four daughters



and one son, survive him. He was buried with military honors in the old cemetery at Monticello.

#### WILLIAM MILLER KENTON

William Miller Kenton, a son of Simon Kenton of Indian fighting fame, died at his home about four miles southwest of Monticello, April 30, 1869, in his sixty-third year. His remains were buried in the old Kenton graveyard about five miles southwest of town, but about 1885 were removed to the old cemetery in Monticello. At the age of sixteen he received a commission in the navy, but after a brief service he resigned, was appointed a cadet in the military academy at West Point, where he excelled in athletic sports, but was averse to the strict discipline enforced by that institution and was at last honorably relieved from any further attendance. He then went home, was married, and having some means of his own, came to what was then Carroll County, but later White County, bought large tracts of land from the Government (about 3,000 acres) and was one of the first settlers of Grand Prairie. He was largely engaged in farming and cattle raising, dispensed a profuse hospitality to both white and Indian, and was popular with all classes. He had some claims for lands in Kentucky which he had inherited from his father's estate and frequently visited that state on this business. On one of these trips he went on board a steamer at Madison, Indiana, named Simon Kenton, and when the captain discovered he was a son of the man after whom his boat was named he refused to accept any fare, but treated him throughout the trip as a guest of honor. In politics he was an ardent whig, a personal friend and adherent of Henry Clay, who had also known and befriended his father in the olden days. He served for several terms in the legislature, was a close personal friend of Albert S. White and had the honor of placing that gentleman's name in nomination for United States senator when he was elected to that office. Near the close of his life he became involved in some financial difficulties which caused him much annoyance, but by this statement no charge is placed against his honesty. He saved much of his property out of the wreck and closed his life in peace. Many of his descendants are living in White County and are reckoned among our most respected people.

#### ARTEMUS P. KERR

Artemus P. Kerr was born in Rossville, Indiana, February 15, 1851. His father, a Baptist minister, had learned the saddlers' trade with Joseph E. McDonald, afterward United States senator. Located in Monticello in 1862, where he learned the printer's trade and was later connected with James W. McEwen in the publication of the Constitutionalist. In 1880 he moved to Indianapolis and for some years was connected with the Indiana Newspaper Union. He wrote some very creditable poems, among which was one entitled "The Old Tippecanoe," which was published with an account of his death, which occurred



August 20, 1901. His remains were brought to Monticello and buried in the old cemetery at the north edge of town.

#### CLEMENT S. KINGSBURY

Clement S. Kingsbury was born in St. Lawrence County, New York, March 14, 1843, died at his home in Monticello April 15, 1906. He was a member of Company D, Twelfth Indiana Volunteers. In 1867 he was married to Harriet C. Ross, who died only a few months prior to his decease. He was elected trustee of Union Township, serving one term and for a number of years was engaged in the grocery business. He left four children.

#### IRA S. KINGSBURY

Ira S. Kingsbury, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Day, at Olivet, Michigan, on December 21, 1913, aged eighty-seven years, had spent almost his entire life in Monticello, where he worked at his trade of bricklayer. Only a few months prior to his death he compiled a history of the Kingsbury family in America for the White County Historical Society. It is a finely-bound, typewritten book of thirty-seven pages and exhibits much care in its compilation. His family came from England in 1628 and is now scattered throughout the entire country. He came from good old Puritan stock, was for many years an elder in the Presbyterian Church and was always found on the right side of all moral and religious subjects. He was born August 21, 1826, and was twice married, both wives having preceded him to the unknown. His remains were brought to Monticello and interred in the old cemetery.

#### MRS. MARY KINGSBURY

Mrs. Mary Kingsbury, daughter of Robert and Sarah Buchanan, was born in Big Creek Township November 19, 1832. She died at her home in Monticello, December 15, 1904, leaving a half-brother, James E. Barnes, of Galena, Kansas. February 24, 1853, she was married to Thomas Roberts, and in 1857 they moved to Northwestern Iowa, building their home on the present site of Sioux City. Here, in July, 1861, Mr. Roberts and a companion were killed by Indians while at work in a field some distance from the house. Soon after she returned with her three small boys to Monticello, where, December 11, 1864, she was married to Ira Kingsbury. Her only surviving son, Fred Roberts, is still a resident of Monticello, where he is secretary and manager of the Farmers Elevator.

#### REV. WILLIAM P. KOUTZ

Rev. William P. Koutz, remembered by our oldest citizens, died at Cutler, Indiana, July 18, 1900, in his seventy-eighth year. He was stricken with paralysis about a year before his death and on July 7 came



a second stroke, from which he died. When a young man he taught school in Logansport and later was elected recorder of Cass County and served one term. He had also been admitted to the bar, but for more than fifty years he had labored as a minister in the Presbyterian Church. In 1864, after a pastorate of five years in Monticello, he resigned and entered the service as chaplain of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, and served until near the close of the war. His remains were brought to Monticello and buried in the old cemetery.

#### ABRAM C. LANE

Abram C. Lane, an honored citizen of White County, passed away at his home, four miles southwest of Reynolds, August 8, 1908, in his ninety-first year, and was interred in the Lane Cemetery near his old home. He was born March 28, 1818, near Cincinnati, Ohio, and, after learning the trade of wagonmaker, he married in May, 1839, at Springdale, Ohio, Miss Eliza R. Wooley, who died at Stockwell, Indiana, February 15, 1858. Three children were born to them, one of whom, Mrs. Bernard G. Smith, now lives in Monticello.

On January 27, 1859, he married Miss Barbara Darland, of Clinton County, Indiana, who died at the old home place in September, 1868, leaving two children, Eliza, wife of Thomas Baker, and a son, John. His third marriage, and to which no children were born, was to Mrs. Mary A. Baker, mother of Thomas Baker. This marriage occurred in November, 1869, and she died at their home June 1, 1877.

In the spring of 1852 Mr. Lane moved to what is now known as Stockwell, Indiana, where he lived until 1864 when he came to White County and purchased the farm on which he died.

When yet a young man he became a member of the Christian Church through the preaching of a noted divine, Rev. George Campbell, and remained a faithful attendant and liberal supporter of that organization during the remainder of his life. He was a man of strong character, with well-grounded convictions on all subjects. In politics he was identified with the old abolition party, but when the republican party was organized he transferred his allegiance to it and remained true to its principles the rest of his life.

Mr. Lane lived through many great epochs of our national history. He saw and felt the effects of three great wars. Saw all our great western territories admitted as states of the Union. Saw slavery abolished and the telegraph, telephone and railroad network constructed, and all the up-to-date improvements in all of which he took great interest and felt a just pride.

#### MRS. SARAH LARGE

Mrs. Sarah Large, widow of John Large, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, January 17, 1820. Her maiden name was Burnett, and she was married to John Large in 1837, and came with him to White County in





1865, locating in Big Creek Township. She was the mother of Frank and Charles Large, formerly of Monticello, Mrs. U. M. Ballenger, who removed to Michigan City, and Mrs. Bonam Fox, of Athens, Tennessee. She died at her home in Monticello, March 24, 1896.

#### CHARLES AUGUSTUS LAWSON

Charles Augustus Lawson was born in Sweden, January 20, 1846, and died at his home near Reynolds, October 5, 1914. Since his fourth year he had been a resident of White County and was a veteran of the Civil war and a member of Tippecanoe Post No. 51, G. A. R., Monticello, Indiana. On November 24, 1870, he married Miss Virginia John, and to them were born two sons and two daughters, who, with the mother, survived him. He was a member of the Christian Church.

#### HIRAM F. LEAR

A resident of White County for sixty-seven years, Hiram F. Lear was born in Culpeper County, Virginia, January 21, 1821, and died at his home in Wolcott, May 16, 1905. His grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war and his father in the War of 1812. His father's family came to White County in 1838, locating in Big Creek Township. Here he was married to Miss Margaret Ann Burns, daughter of Uncle John Burns, and soon after located in Princeton Township. He left thirteen living children.

#### SARAH LINE

Sarah Line, daughter of Elihu and Nancy Line, was born in Butler County, Ohio, January 30, 1814, and died near Monon, August 21, 1897. In 1832 she married Smith Jessup, two years later he died, and in 1835 she came to White County, being one of the first settlers of the county. She was the last survivor of her family and her sole heir was her nephew, Dennis Line, who yet lives in Monon. She was a woman of deep religious convictions, always interested in the old settlers' annual meetings, which she was careful to attend, and a peculiarity was revealed by her when she bid all adieu before dying and asked to be buried in a shroud made by her thirteen years previous. She was buried at the Chapel Cemetery three miles east of Monon.

#### WILLIAM LISK

William Lisk, the pioneer merchant of Wolcott, was born near Morristown, New Jersey, June 10, 1819, but in his youth his father moved to Franklin County, Ohio, and in 1844 to Ross County, Ohio, and here two years later the subject of this sketch was married to Sarah A. Edmonds, daughter of Robert and Margaret Edmonds, and to this marriage seven children were born. In 1847 Mr. Lisk moved to Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Seven years later he migrated to Wapello County,



Iowa, returning in 1860 to Tippecanoe County, and eight years later to Princeton Township, White County, where he died February 9, 1899. He was a son of Peter and Abigail (Moore) Lisk and of Dutch and Scotch descent. William Lisk was for many years a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, interested in all that pertained to the welfare of the community and a member of the republican party.

#### NELSON B. LOUGHRY

Nelson B. Loughry, one of the most prominent citizens in White County, was born in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, February 13, 1815. Was married to Rachel Wright November 13, 1834, at Mifflintown, Pennsylvania, with whom he lived for more than half a century. In 1855 he came to Indiana and after four years spent in Lafayette, he moved to White County where he lived until his death on August 24, 1890. Several years prior to his death he retired from active business, that of milling, and turned his affairs over to his sons, who are yet in business in Monticello. His was a life well spent. He let his influence for good be felt in the Presbyterian Church of which he was an earnest member and in the community in which he lived. His three sons, Joseph E., Albert W. and Cloyd, have for several years conducted one of the largest milling and grain trades in the state.

#### LARKIN LOWE

One of the wealthiest and best known men in White County, and for many years one of the well known Lowe brothers, "Lark and Stave," Larkin Lowe was born in Miami County, Indiana, June 26, 1836, and died in Monticello, November 1, 1907. His parents were Charles and Elizabeth Lowe. In 1840 they came to White County, locating in Monon Township. Early in life he and his brother, Gustavus, formed the partnership above mentioned and continued in the stock business until 1888, when he moved to Monticello. In 1890 he purchased the Monticello elevator, which he conducted for several years under the firm name of Lowe & Son. In February, 1862, he was married to Celnira Phillips, who, with two sons, John and Bert (Larkin B.), is still living.

#### THE MAGEE FAMILY

With the old-time residents of White County must be numbered the Magee family. Empire A. Magee, the founder of the family in this county, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, January 30, 1797, where he spent his boyhood and learned the millwright trade. On August 22, 1822, he married Jane Noble, of Ohio, who died in the State of Missouri in 1837, leaving five children to be cared for by relatives in Ohio, one of which, Miss Anna Magee, now lives in Monticello. His second wife, Emily Gay, was born in East Randolph, Vermont, February 12, 1812, her mother dying when she was quite young. She was taken



by her oldest brother, Doctor Gay, to Fort Dearborn, now Chicago, where she was married to Empire A. Magee in 1840. Some time after this the family moved to Logansport, where Mr. Magee followed his trade for a time, when he removed to Lockport, in Carroll County, where he continued to reside until April 10, 1849, when he located in Monticello, built the dam and flouring mill for Reynolds & Brearley and a few years later built the woolen mill, just north of it, for Hoagland Brothers, of Lafayette. The old flour mill stood for over sixty years and was destroyed by fire Sunday evening, May 20, 1911, and the woolen mill was abandoned and taken away many years ago. The Magee home was for many years on the lots now occupied by the Loughry Brothers Milling and Grain Company. There the family lived for more than a quarter of a century until the death of both parents in 1875, when the family home was abandoned. Both Mr. and Mrs. Magee were members of the Presbyterian Church at Monticello and one of the windows in the south side of this church is set aside as a memorial to these worthy people.

#### JACOB MARKLE

Among the early settlers of White County was Jacob Markle, who was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1803 and died at Monticello in November, 1880. After spending most of his life in Tippecanoe and Jasper counties, Indiana, he removed to White County about the close of the Civil war and built the woolen factory which formerly stood on the east side of the river opposite Monticello, but this enterprise was beyond his means, the result was financial ruin, his friends forsook him and his life was closed in comparative poverty.

#### WILLIAM P. MARSHALL

William P. Marshall died suddenly in Monticello, Monday evening, April 5, 1914. He was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, November 2, 1834, and on August 17, 1865, was married to Florence Rose Brown of Monticello, who is still living. A son, Charles Marshall, of Indianapolis, was born to their union. He left a good soldier record, being a member of the One Hundredth Pennsylvania and the Ninth Indiana regiments. He was a skilled painter and decorator by trade, but for the last years of his life was a justice of the peace in Monticello.

#### EDWARD MCCLOUD

Edward McCloud, an old time resident of Cass Township, died at the home of his son Sidney, Tuesday, July 17, 1900. He was born in Franklin County, Ohio, February 4, 1829, came to Indiana in 1850, and on August 21, 1851, married Emeline Wiley, by whom he had nine children, six of whom survived him. On January 3, 1864, he enlisted in the Sixty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers and at the close of the war returned home. He was intensely religious, a good citizen and a brave



soldier. His funeral services were held at the White Oak Church and his remains were interred in the Buffalo Cemetery.

#### MARITTA McCLOUD-PARCELS

Maritta McCloud-Parcels was born in LaRue, Marion County, Ohio, November 9, 1826, and died at Monticello, June 9, 1912. She was a sister of Edward McCloud and grew to womanhood in the place of her birth. On February 25, 1847, she was married to William H. Parcels, who died in Monticello, May 19, 1886. In 1850 they moved to Pulaski County, Indiana, and six years later came to Monticello and located on the premises where both died. In early life she joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and continued faithful until her death. She was also the last surviving charter member of the Rebekah Lodge of Monticello. Rev. J. E. McCloud, her nephew, assisted Rev. H. L. Kindig in the funeral services and her body was laid to rest in the Monticello Cemetery.

#### SOLOMON MCCOLLOCH

Solomon McColloch, the pioneer of Prairie Township, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Clara Lilly, at Pleasant Ridge, Ohio, in April, 1912, aged ninety-four years and four days. He was born near Bellefontaine, Ohio, March 29, 1818, both his parents being Scotch. He had two brothers and three sisters. His father, Solomon McColloch, Sr., moved from Ohio to White County with a family of five children in 1832, being one of the earliest settlers of Prairie Township and the first election inspector appointed after the organization of the township. Solomon McColloch, Jr., was married three times and of the twelve children born to him by these unions three only survive. For many years Mr. McColloch farmed the Bartley place on the southeast border of Monticello, and it was here that his older children reached manhood and womanhood. The deceased was buried at Pleasant Ridge, Ohio.

#### WILLIAM W. MCCOLLOCH

William W. McColloch, a soldier who lost a leg in the service of his country, was county recorder eight years and postmaster at Monticello at the time of his death. For almost forty years Mr. McColloch was one of the most familiar figures on the streets of Monticello, with a wide acquaintance all over the county. He was a son of Solomon and Elizabeth McColloch and was born on a farm near Brookston, September 14, 1842. He enlisted in Company K, Twentieth Indiana Infantry, July 22, 1861; was wounded in the seven days' fight before Richmond June 25, 1862, taken prisoner and had his left leg amputated by rebel surgeons. Was confined for a time in Libby Prison. While attending school at the Battleground Academy he was elected county recorder in 1866 and entered upon his official duties in July, 1867, serving eight years. He then became a member of the abstracting firm of McColloch & Bushnell





and was appointed postmaster in Monticello in January, 1898, re-appointed in 1892, having served a little more than five years at the time of his death, March 8, 1903. October 5, 1871, he was married to Martha M. Huff, daughter of Judge Samuel Huff, who survived him a little more than five years, dying April 20, 1908. They had no children.

#### THOMAS MCCOLLUM

Thomas McCollum was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1803, and was married February 28, 1823. In 1836 he moved to Coshocton County, Ohio, where he lived until 1872, when he located on a farm four miles northwest of Monticello. In the spring of 1878 his wife died, and on August 13, 1880, he, too, passed away. He was the father of fourteen children, most of whom are dead. One son, Mr. James H. McCollum, a retired business man of Monticello, and now past eighty years old, is living in Monticello, which has been his home since 1854.

#### DAVID MCCONAHAY

David McConahay, of Jackson Township, who always enjoyed the name of "Buckwheat Dave," from his singing the old-fashioned notes, was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, January 5, 1817, and came with his parents to White County in the fall of 1833, but after a short stay moved to Rush County, where he lived for two years and came back, locating in Big Creek Township. He taught the first school held in what later became Liberty Township. On October 15, 1840, he married Miss Sarah Crose, who was born in Indiana, August 15, 1825, and this union was blessed with seven children. In 1848 he located in Jackson Township. He was ordained a preacher in the Christian Church in 1853, and for many years followed that calling. A democrat in politics, he served as county assessor in 1849-50, and for two terms served as township trustee, in all of which offices he left an unblemished record. His wife died in March, 1900, and he passed away at Idaville, December 30, 1890.

#### RANSON MCCONAHAY

In Bourbon County, Kentucky, was born, November 30, 1803, to David and Jane (Ranson) McConahay, a son, who, with his family, was destined to play an active part in the early history of White County. Ranson McConahay received a good practical education, later he taught school, learned the blacksmith and shoemaker's trade, and for a time engaged in farming. On March 26, 1829, he married Mary Thompson, in Campbell County, Kentucky, and in the same year located in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, where he farmed for three years, when he came to what is now White County, locating about twelve miles south of what is now Monticello. For twelve years he farmed and taught school, when he moved to Liberty Township, and upon the death, on January 7, 1846, of William Sill, he was appointed to the office of clerk,



auditor and recorder of White County, the office held by Mr. Sill at his death. He was the second incumbent of this office, and at the expiration of his term by appointment he was elected clerk and served two terms, the last term closing in 1858, when he was succeeded by his son, Orlando. He then engaged in mercantile business in Monticello, Burnettsville, Norway and also Pulaski County. About the year 1867 he quit the active life, and on April 22, 1868, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Haworth, in Pulaski County. His remains are buried in the Star City Cemetery. His first wife died in Monticello, September 19, 1849. She was the mother of Orlando, deceased, and James A., yet living in Kansas. On December 17, 1850, he married his second wife, Mrs. Elizabeth (Haworth) Sturgeon, by whom he had two children, Ranson C. and John W. His son, Orlando McConahay, served for two terms as clerk of White County, being the third person to hold that office, quitting it in 1867. From this brief sketch the reader will readily see that Ranson McConahay filled a prominent part in our early history. For twenty years he, with his son Orlando, filled the responsible position of clerk of the county, and filled it well.

#### DAVID McCUAIG

Locating in Monticello at a comparatively early date and engaging in the hotel business Mr. McCuaig was closely identified with the town's material and social advancement throughout a long and busy life. He was possessed of a well balanced mind and natural force of character which made his counsel and advice valuable both in public and private matters. He was born in Greenock, Scotland, September 17, 1836, and came with his parents to America in 1846, stopping first in Washington County, Ohio. He came to Monticello in 1856, and on November 20, 1860, was married to Jane Clingen, who is still living. In June, 1866, they began the hotel business in a little one-story building on lot 42, at the southeast corner of Main and Washington streets. To this they added as the years went by until it grew to a large and commodious hostelry, known as "The McCuaig House," for many years the town's leading hotel. In 1901 they sold the lot and the site of the old hotel is now occupied by the splendid Odd Fellows' Block erected the same year. Mr. McCuaig died March 11, 1902.

#### AMOR S. McELHOE

Amor S. McElhoe was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, December 5, 1817, died at his home north of Monticello October 12, 1905, aged nearly eighty-eight years. He was a son of Samuel McElhoe, a revolutionary soldier, who served under Washington and who told of losing his shoes on the night the troops crossed the Delaware to surprise the Hessians. His grandsons, Robert and William McElhoe, still living near Monticello, remember well how their father and mother used to have to aid this revolutionary grandfather in dressing himself. Thus are



those remote times of that stirring period linked directly with the present. Amor S. McElhoe's family located in Monticello in 1848, coming from Pennsylvania overland and by the Wabash and Erie Canal. He was a blacksmith and claimed to have made the first steel mouldboard plow in White County. He was married in 1842 to Mary D. Burns, who died in December, 1896. He left surviving four children, Mrs. Joseph Adams, of Rensselaer, Mrs. George Henderson, of Wolcott, and Robert and William McElhoe, north of Monticello.

#### ROBERT MCWILLIAMS

Robert McWilliams, son of David and Martha Hamilton McWilliams, was born in Knox County, Ohio, October 1, 1819, and died on his farm near Idaville in 1892. In 1840 he came on a canal boat from Dayton, Ohio, to Logansport to visit Robert Ginn, on which occasion he bought a farm northeast of Idaville, but returned to Ohio and pursued his trade of wagonmaker for fourteen years, when he came back to Jackson Township, lived for a year on the Stringtown Road, and in 1855 located on the farm which he owned until his death. He was married three times, first to Emily Jones on July 1, 1847, who died June 4, 1848. They had one son which died in infancy. On December 26, 1850, he married Mary Jane Jacoby, and to this union was born seven children, Emily, wife of Daniel S. McCall; John, who died at the age of twelve; Martha, who married David Hess; Peter, who died in his youth; David, a farmer in Illinois; Henry and Robert, Jr., of California. His second wife died January 17, 1870, and on September 5, 1871, he married Elizabeth McCall, who died childless, about 1898. Mr. McWilliams was a republican, but no office-seeker. In 1874 he was the republican candidate for trustee of Jackson Township, being defeated by one vote in that democratic stronghold. About the year 1868 he united with the United Presbyterian Church at Idaville, of which he was an active member until his death. He was a man of deep and positive religious convictions and active in upholding all that was for the good of the community in which he lived.

#### DR. JOHN W. MEDARIS

Dr. John W. Medaris, who died in Brookston, September 21, 1911, wanting one month of being ninety-seven years old, was one of the most honored of our old settlers. At his death he was doubtless the oldest Mason in the State of Indiana, having been a member of that institution since 1846. He was born in Clearmont, Ohio, October 22, 1814, was educated in Ohio and married Miss Martha Perry in Cincinnati, Ohio, who died in 1856, and in 1858 he married Elizabeth S. Pate, of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, who, with two children, Wilbur and Alta, survived him. His only child by his first marriage, Mrs. W. B. Cochran, of Danville, Illinois, died in October, 1911. In 1859 Doctor Medaris located in Brookston, and thereafter was intimately identified with the welfare of its people.



## FRANCIS M. MILLION

Francis M. Million, son of Ephraim Million, was born in Jackson Township, June 19, 1841, and died in Burnettsville, November 29, 1911. His father was killed by a runaway team in 1847. On October 4, 1860, Mr. Million was married to Katie E. Hoagland, who survived him with their three children. His entire life was spent in and around Burnettsville, where he was well known and respected.

## RANDOLPH J. MILLION

A well-known member of the White County bar, and son of Francis M. and Kate E. Million, was born in Jackson Township, September 7, 1867, and died at his home in Monticello, September 8, 1911. He graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan in 1889 and the following year was admitted to practice at the White County bar. On August 29, 1891, he married Miss Zulu Hanna, of Burnettsville, and to them were born eight children, six of whom, with the mother, were left to mourn their loss. Soon after coming to Monticello he united with the Christian Church, in which he held a membership at the time of his death. He was buried in Riverview Cemetery.

## REV. ROBERT M. MILLION

Rev. Robert M. Million, who served for many years as an active minister of the Church of God (New Dunkards) at Burnettsville, died at his home in that place in May, 1912. He was a native of the county, born January 22, 1839, and spent his entire life in the vicinity of Idaville and Burnettsville. In June, 1862, he was married to Marie J. Alkire and in October, 1868, they both united with the Church of God, in which two years later he was ordained to the ministry. Besides his wife, the deceased left two sons and a daughter.

## GEORGE H. MITCHELL

The late George H. Mitchell, who claimed to be the first native white child in Jackson Township, was born December 5, 1835, and a few years afterwards the family settled on the first farm north of the present Town of Idaville. His father, William W. Mitchell, was a Kentuckian who moved to Madison County, Ohio, where he married Miss Maria Phoebe. After the birth of a son in 1828 the family located in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, ten miles north of Lafayette, and two daughters were born in that locality before the family settled in Jackson Township during 1834. Most of Mr. Mitchell's life was spent on the old farm, except the Civil war period, which he spent in active service, but in 1890 he moved to Idaville, where he died in 1913.

## ISAAC B. MOORE

Isaac B. Moore was born in Morgan County, Ohio, January 30, 1827; came to White County in 1845; was married to Miss Margaret A.





VanNice September, 1858; died at his home just west of Monticello, June 9, 1901. He was a graduate of Hanover College and of McCormick Theological Seminary. A number of years of his life were devoted to the ministry in the Presbyterian Church, but failing health caused him to drop this work and engage in farming.

#### THOMAS B. MOORE

Liberty Township has had few more honored citizens than Thomas B. Moore, who was born in Morgan County, Ohio, August 9, 1824, and at the age of twenty-eight moved to the farm in Liberty Township, where he spent the rest of his life. He was married September 20, 1849, to Louisa W. Paul, who died in July, 1892. He was afterward married to Mrs. Sarah Tucker. He was the father of Mrs. Lilly Renwick and Prof. Benjamin F. Moore, one of the leading educators of the state and at present superintendent of the city schools of Muncie, Indiana. His life was one of industry and sacrifice and he became one of the county's most prosperous farmers. At the age of fifteen he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and remained steadfast in his faith during life. His death occurred at his home near Buffalo, October 8, 1895.

#### JOHN W. NETHERCUTT

John W. Nethercutt, a pioneer of Jackson Township, died in Burnettsville, Thursday, December 18, 1913. He was born in Eaton, Darke County, Ohio, November 29, 1830, and came to Indiana with his parents when he was but a mere infant, locating on a farm southeast of Burnettsville. He spent his entire life in that locality, being outside the state but once, making a visit to Chenoa, Illinois, when what is now the Pan Handle Railroad, was completed. On April 30, 1857, he married Lydia C. Smith and to them was born ten children, six of whom and also the wife preceded him to the unknown. Those children who survived him were Alfred H., William E., Clifford H., and Arch O. At the time of his death he was Burnettsville's oldest business man and for many years had been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

#### NOBLE NORDYKE

Noble Nordyke, who came to White County in 1846, was born in North Carolina, February 11, 1832, and died at Wolcott, August 15, 1912. He was reared a Friend but his latter days were spent as a member of the Advent Church. In 1852, he married Mary E. Vinson and they lived together forty-six years, until her death April 12, 1898. In December, 1898, he was married to Mrs. Eliza Carpenter of North Liberty, Indiana, who, with three children by his first marriage survived him.



## WILLIAM ORR

William Orr was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, May 25, 1814, where in early life he learned the printer's trade. In 1835 he located in Indianapolis, Indiana, and the following year moved to Lafayette, where he worked at his trade until 1847 when he located on a farm about three miles northwest of Monticello, where he lived until his death on August 20, 1891. A man of strong personality and generous to a fault he was beloved by all who knew him and his untimely death (by being struck by a railroad train) brought sorrow to a wide circle of friends.

## ALFRED R. ORTON

Alfred R. Orton, for the last seventy years a resident of Monticello, was born in Perry County, Ohio, November 5, 1833, and at the age of twelve came to Monticello with his mother, his father having died in 1844. Mr. Orton's parents were of English stock, his father, John B. Orton, being a native of Vermont, where he was born early in the last century. His mother was a native of Pennsylvania and died in the Orton home at Monticello in the summer of 1879. Mr. Orton, after a course in Wabash College, did some surveying in the West, then for over twenty years was in the mercantile business in Monticello and in 1882 was elected surveyor of the county, being the only candidate elected on the republican ticket. On December 27, 1859, at Bedford, Indiana, he married Miss Addie C. Parker, who is yet living, and to them have been born three children: a daughter Ora, who for almost twenty years has been a teacher in the public schools of Monticello; a son, Julius Orton, a minister in the Presbyterian Church, and a daughter Emma, deceased. Mr. Orton is one of the most prominent members of the Presbyterian Church in White County and, with his family, is highly respected in Monticello.

## JULIUS W. PAUL

Julius W. Paul, ex-treasurer of White County and at the time of his death cashier in the Farmers Bank in Monticello. He was born on his father's farm near Guernsey in White County, December 8, 1862. His father died November 20, 1873, and five years later his mother removed to Monticello. He taught school for four years, then served four years as deputy under his uncle, County Treasurer Robert R. Breckenridge, and also four years as deputy under County Treasurer H. A. B. Moorhous. He was elected treasurer in 1892, but was defeated for re-election in 1894. He died November 20, 1898, leaving a widow and one son.

## MRS. MARY PAUL

Mrs. Mary Paul was a native of White County and one of the oldest continuous residents. She was the daughter of John Reynolds and was born on the George A. Spencer farm, southwest of Monticello, May 18,



1838, being one of the first white children born in Big Creek Township. She died at her home in Monticello, April 16, 1915. She was married to Benjamin D. Paul, September 8, 1859. He died November 20, 1873, and soon thereafter she removed to Monticello, where she lived the remainder of her life. Three children born to them, Julius W., Mary B., afterwards Mrs. Bert Kingsbury, and Louis B., all preceded her in death. She is survived by two grandsons, Paul Kingsbury of Bloomington and Benjamin Paul of Hammond, Indiana.

#### BENJAMIN D. PETTIT

Benjamin D. Pettit was born in Miami County, Ohio, June 30, 1822, and on November 29, 1849, was married to Miss Patsy Morris, and in 1853 removed to Marion County, Ohio, where he lived for thirteen years, after which he migrated to White County, where he resided until his death, which occurred on April 28, 1879, on his farm near Brookston. Of him it was said that he was "a good citizen, a noble man, a kind husband and father and a patron of suffering humanity."

#### NATHAN C. PETTIT

Nathan C. Pettit, a pioneer merchant of Monticello, was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in October, 1831, and on October 16, 1851, was married to Martha Scott, who survived him for about ten years. He was one of the oldest members of the local lodge of Odd Fellows and in 1888 united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he retained his membership until his death, which took place in Monticello on May 28, 1895. Mr. Pettit was the father of five children, only two of whom are living. He was one of Monticello's prosperous business men and at his death was planning to enlarge his business.

#### REUBEN R. PETTIT

Mr. Pettit was at one time one of the best known men in White County. He was born in Burlington County, New Jersey, November 18, 1826, and was married there on April 2, 1848, and came to White County in 1849, locating at Burnettsville. He later resided at Reynolds for a number of years, where he became prominent in local Masonic circles, subsequently transferring his membership to Wolcott and then to Remington. He died at the latter place October 30, 1897.

#### MRS. MATILDA PIERCE

Mrs. Matilda Pierce died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. H. Shultz, in Logansport, January 12, 1901, at the age of seventy-three years. She was the widow of Lucius Pierce and for many years resided with her husband and family at the old Pierce home on the sand ridge on what is now North Dewey Street; the little old brick house being still



occupied as a residence. She was a daughter of George Armstrong Spencer, one of White County's earliest settlers.

#### JOSEPH POGUE

Joseph Pogue, eldest son of William and Sarah Pogue, was born in Shelby County, Ohio, November 20, 1829, and died at the home of Ertie J. Rogers, in Monticello, on March 27, 1914. He came from his Ohio home to Indiana, on horseback, in 1854 and on January 1, 1856, married Rachel Layman, who died in 1865, and later two of their four children were taken by death. On May 5, 1867, he married Leah Jamison who died June 15, 1888, and on December 3, 1890, he was married to Ellen M. Thompson and to this marriage was born one child. When forty years old he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church of which he remained a consistent member until his death. He had resided in White County for more than fifty years.

#### JOHN PRICE

John Price, fourth son of Peter and Asenath Price, born at the Price home just west of Monticello, February 14, 1836, died at the same place January 2, 1896. He was married in 1867 to Miss Nancy Ellis, who, with their only child, died 1874 and both were buried in the same grave. He was successively sergeant, second and first lieutenant of Company K, Twentieth Indiana Infantry. His merit as a soldier was attested in a fitting tribute prepared by his captain, John C. Brown.

#### JOSEPH PRICE

Joseph Price died at his home in Carroll County, just southeast of Monticello, September 8, 1898. He was a son of Peter Price, one of the first settlers in the vicinity of Monticello, where he grew to manhood. His widow, Mrs. Maria Price, and three children, Ben Price, Jr., Mrs. George Biederwolf and Mrs. Charles W. Davis, are now residents of Monticello. At the time of his death, Mr. Price was in his sixty-ninth year.

#### WILLIAM L. RAMEY

One of the prominent farmers of the eastern part of Prairie Township, William L. Ramey was born in Jefferson County, Kentucky, January 19, 1834. Located in White County in 1846. He was married to Clarinda Smith, April 2, 1857. He died December 26, 1907, leaving a widow and eight children—five boys and three girls—all of adult age.

#### DAVID RATHFON

At his death on August 26, 1895, David Rathfon was the oldest resident of White County, wanting but a few weeks of being ninety.





eight years old. He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, November 6, 1797, and moved to Wayne County, Indiana, in 1838. In 1855 he came to White County, where he spent the rest of his life. In 1822 he married Nancy Warfel and to them were born five sons and three daughters. He was a consistent member of the Dunkard Church and the record of his long life leaves no reproach upon his memory.

#### WILLIAM W. RAUB

William W. Raub, for many years a well known and prominent business man of Chalmers, a member of the firm of J. & W. W. Raub, grain buyers, and later extensively engaged in the real estate business for himself, was born in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, December 26, 1845; located at Chalmers in 1872. December 18, 1877, he was married to Mary Allen, daughter of a commission merchant at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago. He left one son, William Webster Raub.

#### DR. CYRUS A. G. RAYHOUSER

Dr. Cyrus A. G. Rayhouser, one of the best known citizens of White County, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, October 29, 1825, and after completing his education at the Vermilion Institute, then one of the most noted schools of Ohio, he was principal of the Fort Wayne, Indiana, schools, and for four years was school examiner of LaPorte County, Indiana. In 1856 he was married to Miss Caroline Ferguson of Lafayette, and then began the study of medicine, at the same time following the profession of teaching. In 1860 he began the practice of medicine at Rockfield, Carroll County, and in 1863 enlisted in the Twenty-second Indiana Battery. He was later appointed assistant surgeon and was detailed to Knoxville, Tennessee, where he remained until the close of the war. In 1868 he located at Wolcott, where he opened a drug store, and two years later was appointed postmaster at that place. In 1893 he removed to Chalmers, but in 1898 retired to his farm on Pike Creek, and five years later removed to Monticello, where he died March 16, 1910. While at Wolcott his wife died and his nephew, Bert Thompson, became his companion and proved a loyal friend in his declining years. Few men ever lived in White County who were more favorably known than Doctor Rayhouser.

#### JUDGE ALFRED F. REED

Judge Alfred F. Reed, who was the last judge of the old Common Pleas Court, was born in Clark County, Ohio, February 3, 1824, and died at his home just east of Monticello, October 23, 1873. His parents came to Indiana in his early childhood but a few years later returned to Ohio and on April 8, 1845, he was married to Louisa J. Downs and to them were born eight children, only two of whom survived the father. In November, 1852, he came to White County, where his wife and five



children died and on December 31, 1857, he married Elizabeth Haver by whom he had five children and of these four survived him. Judge Reed was admitted to the bar in Ohio and on his coming to White County at once entered into the practice. On August 1, 1861, he entered the Civil war as captain of Company K, Twentieth Regiment Indiana Volunteers in which he served until the fall of 1862 when, upon being elected to the State Senate he resigned to take that office. He served during one session of the Senate and on March 1, 1864, was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the Twelfth Indiana Cavalry in which capacity he served until the close of the war when he returned to Monticello and engaged in the practice of his profession. On March 22, 1867, he was appointed judge of the Common Pleas Court for the district composed of the counties of Benton, Carroll and White. He was elected to succeed himself in 1869 and again in 1872, but the legislature abolished the office and he again entered the practice of the law which he followed until his death. Judge Reed left an enviable record as soldier, lawyer and official. His was a life of ceaseless activity but in every position he held he measured up to the full standard of a man.

#### BENJAMIN REYNOLDS

Benjamin Reynolds was one of the pioneers of White County, closely and prominently identified with its early settlement, a man of great energy and natural resources. He was born in Pennsylvania, May 3, 1799, and died at his home in Big Creek Township, June 6, 1869. When quite a young man he operated a stage line from Vincennes, Indiana, to Toledo, Ohio, but in 1828 a distemper broke out among his horses which left him almost a bankrupt. Two years later he came to what is now White County, began life anew and became the owner of large tracts of White County lands. Later, he was largely instrumental in the construction of both the Monon and Pennsylvania railroads and was financially interested in the old Junction Railroad in which he lost about \$100,000. Mr. Reynolds was twice married. His first wife was Julia Ann Collier, who was born January 10, 1801, and died October 17, 1837. On April 2, 1840, he married Lydia J. Gardner at her home in Vincennes, Indiana. She was born in North Carolina, February 21, 1820, and died at her White County home, January 27, 1902, in her eighty-third year. Benjamin Reynolds platted and laid out the Town of Reynolds, which was named for him by Governor Willard. His descendants are still numbered among our most respected citizens.

#### ISAAC REYNOLDS

Isaac Reynolds was one of the most honored and well known men who aided in the development of White County and many of his descendants are yet with us. This pioneer was born July 23, 1811, in Perry County, Ohio. In March, 1837, he married Miss Mary J. Hughes. About 1835 he came to Monticello and entered the mercantile business



in which he was engaged most of his life until 1871, when he was stricken with paralysis, which soon deprived him of his reason. He became a member of the Presbyterian Church in 1843 during a revival service conducted by Rev. S. N. Steele and for many years was a trustee of the church. He was also a charter member of the I. O. O. F. fraternity of Monticello and a man highly esteemed in the community in which he lived. He died at Monticello, June 30, 1877.

#### JAMES CULBERTSON REYNOLDS

James Culbertson Reynolds was born in Perry County, Ohio, October 14, 1816, and in 1837 came to Monticello, where he lived for nearly forty years. On January 21, 1843, at the organization of the New School Presbyterian Church, he became an active member and for the rest of his life he never wavered in his devotion to the church in which he served as a ruling elder for twenty-three years and was also active in Sunday school work. On March 15, 1849, he married a daughter of William Sill, deceased, who survived him at his death, which occurred at Monticello, March 25, 1877.

#### JOHN G. REYNOLDS

Son of Isaac Reynolds, and born at the Reynolds homestead north of Chalmers, December, 1842. Died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Jacob Raub, in Chalmers, July 13, 1899. He was a member of Company K, Twentieth Indiana, and was wounded in the arm at Spottsylvania. He married Hattie E. Callow, at Battleground, June 6, 1867. He left two sons, Joseph and Earle, the latter later being the well known roller skater, who made several tours of the world with his wife, also a champion skater, under the name of Reynolds & Donnegan.

#### LEVI REYNOLDS

While engaged in threshing on his farm about five miles north of Monticello on August 17, 1897, Mr. Reynolds was standing in his barn talking to a neighbor when he suddenly sank to the floor and expired without a struggle. He was born in Perry County, Ohio, August 20, 1831, and came with his parents to White County in 1836. He was married to Margaret McCuaig in 1858. At his death he left two daughters, Mrs. S. C. Orr and Miss Lottie Reynolds, both still residents of Monticello.

#### MAJ. LEVI REYNOLDS

Maj. Levi Reynolds was born May 13, 1795, and died at Monticello, February 1, 1871. He was of English parentage and served a term in the Northwestern Army in the War of 1812 while yet a mere boy. But little can be learned of his life except that he was a prominent figure in all the celebrations and social gatherings in Monticello and at his



death was buried in the old cemetery in Monticello. His funeral was conducted from the residence of Isaac Reynolds, in Monticello, at 2 P. M. of February 2, 1871, with the following named pallbearers: Dr. Randolph Brearley, Joseph Rothrock, William S. Hoagland, James H. McCollum, Jephtha Crouch and Orlando McConahay. Of these gentlemen only Messrs. McCollum and Crouch are now living.

#### MRS. LYDIA J. REYNOLDS

Mrs. Lydia J. Reynolds, widow of Benjamin Reynolds, of Big Creek Township, and mother of John, Benjamin and Levi Reynolds, Nancy J., now Mrs. George Wolverton, and Sallie C., now Mrs. Jacob Raub. She was the daughter of Maj. John Gardner, former register and receiver of the land office at Winamac and later auditor of Jasper County. She was married to Benjamin Reynolds, April 2, 1840, at her home in Vincennes, Indiana, and immediately came to White County. She died at her home in Chalmers, January 27, 1902, in her eighty-third year, having been born in North Carolina, February 21, 1820. Her parents located in White County in 1830 and were said to be the second oldest family in the county.

#### MIRANDA J. REYNOLDS

Miranda J. Reynolds, daughter of William Sill, was born in Washington County, Indiana, February 10, 1829, came with her parents to Monticello in 1832, and was married to James C. Reynolds in 1849. In 1848 she united with the Presbyterian Church at Monticello and in this church she retained her church relation for fifty years until her death in Monticello in January, 1898. She was a woman deeply interested in church work, knew the early history of Monticello and White County as few others knew it and was deeply interested in all that pertained to the welfare of the community in which she lived. Her father, William Sill, held the offices of clerk, auditor and recorder for the first twelve years of our county's history and Mrs. Reynolds was a perfect cyclopedia of its early annals. She was a real pioneer and delighted to dwell on the memories of her girlhood when the town was in embryo. About six years previous to her death she prepared and read at a meeting of the Old Settlers of White County, a paper on our early history that was a most interesting addition to our local history. She was a sister of the late Milton M. Sill, the well known lawyer of Monticello.

#### BOYD F. RITCHEY

Boyd F. Ritchey, a son of Rev. John Ritchey, a Methodist minister, was born in Dubois County, Indiana, October 10, 1827, and when fourteen years old came to White County, where he lived until his death, Sunday night, August 23, 1896. He was married January 24, 1847, to Elizabeth Korn and to them was born four children. His wife died in 1872 and on May 27, 1875, he married Mrs. Alvira Cullen, widowed.





daughter of Joseph Conkling, and she is still living in Monticello. At the age of sixteen he joined the Methodist Church and during the remainder of his life he was an active and enthusiastic worker in the local church of Monticello. Boyd F. Ritchey was a man in all that word implies and those who knew him will ever remember his generous, kindly manner and his hopeful words and advice. His only living child, George Ritchey, is married and lives in Los Angeles, California.

#### BERNARD K. ROACH

For many years Mr. Roach was one of the most highly esteemed men in White County. He was born in Alleghany County, Pennsylvania, May 16, 1810. In 1862 he removed to White County, locating near what is now known as Guernsey. For several years prior to his death he lived with his son, James B. Roach, the well known merchant in Monticello, at whose home he died August 13, 1896.

#### DAVID G. ROACH

David G. Roach was the youngest son of Bernard K. Roach, and brother of James B. and John T. Roach. He was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, September 4, 1848, and came with his parents to White County in 1862. June 13, 1877, he was married to Miss Jane McCuaig. He resided in Monticello and vicinity nearly all his life. He removed with his family to Chicago only a short time before his death, which occurred in that city June 15, 1908. He left a wife, one daughter, Mary, and two sons, James B. and Charles. His remains were brought to Monticello and buried in Riverview Cemetery, interment being under the auspices of Monticello Lodge, I. O. O. F.

#### JAMES B. ROACH

The oldest continuous business man in Monticello is James B. Roach, who conducts a dry goods store on the south side of the public square. He is a son of Bernard K. and Eliza J. (Thompson) Roach and was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, October 17, 1842, coming to White County in November, 1861, where he engaged a short time in school teaching. August 9, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, Sixty-third Indiana Volunteers, and was made corporal. After serving on detached duty in the Provost Marshal's office at Indianapolis for almost a year he joined his regiment at Camp Nelson and with it saw active service until his discharge at David's Island Hospital, June 29, 1865.

For thirteen years after his return home he clerked in the dry goods store of Mr. James H. McCollum, later moving to his farm near Guernsey. Some years later he formed a partnership with his brothers John and David G., and again engaged in business in the corner room north of the courthouse. Here he continued after the death of his brothers until the remodeling of the room for the Farmers State Bank necessitated



his removal to his present location. December 18, 1872, he was married to Miss Mary S. Berkey, who died April 23, 1909, leaving him with two children, Miss Margaret B., for many years a teacher in the Monticello public schools; and Frank B., a civil engineer, now residing in New York. Mr. Roach is an active member of the Presbyterian Church and of Tippecanoe Post G. A. R., and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

#### JOHN T. ROACH

John T. Roach, son of Bernard K. Roach, was for many years a well known business man in Monticello. At the time of his death he was associated with his brothers, James B. and David G., in the dry goods store, north of the public square, under the firm name of Roach Bros. He was born in New Lisbon, Ohio, June 19, 1846. Came to White County with the Roach family in 1862. Some years later he took employment with Dr. William Spencer in his drug store and in the late seventies was cashier of the National Bank. July 3, 1877, he was married to Miss Anna M. Brearley, daughter of Doctor Brearley, one of the pioneers of Monticello. Their only child died in infancy. He died February 26, 1905. His widow is still living in Monticello.

#### MRS. MARTHA ROBERTS

One of White County's early settlers, widow of John Roberts and mother of William D. and Robert D. Roberts, Mrs. Maria L. Fraser and Mrs. Perry Spencer. She was born in Ohio, October, 1810; her maiden name being Martha Dyer. Married to John Roberts in 1827, located in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, in 1828 and in White County a short distance southwest of the site of Monticello in 1831. They removed to Monticello in 1866, where her husband died in 1872. For many years she lived alone in her large brick residence on South Main Street. Died at the home of her son, County Commissioner Robert D. Roberts, January 14, 1896.

#### ROBERT D. ROBERTS

Robert D. Roberts, for many years prominent in the agricultural progress of Union Township and the industrial life of Monticello, died April 28, 1912, as the result of an injury received at his farm southwest of Monticello. He had been engaged in blasting rock on his land and had loaded it upon a boat for transportation, when a large stone fell upon him and injured him internally. The deceased was born in White County, January 21, 1837, being one of the eight children of John and Martha Roberts. His parents had located on a tract of 160 acres of Government land in 1831, occupying an Indian shack as their first home. In that locality they lived until 1866, when they gave up farm life and moved to their new home on South Main Street, Monticello, where the father died in 1872. In 1861 Robert D. Roberts married



Susan Seowden and for several years devoted himself to farming and stock raising; but in 1876, with William B. Keefer, under the firm name of Roberts and Keefer, he purchased the woolen factory which stood at the foot of the mill race on the east side of the river and converted it into a flour mill, giving it the name of the Crystal Mills. Some time later he purchased Mr. Keefer's interest and later took his nephew, Fred Roberts, as a partner; and they conducted the mill successfully until it was burned in 1889. Later he served a term as township trustee and as county commissioner. He continued to reside at his home on the hill east of the river dam, but devoted most of his time and attention to his large tract of land south of town. Mrs. Roberts died in December, 1910, the mother of five children. Though seventy-five years of age at the time of his death, Mr. Roberts was active physically and clear mentally, so that, despite his years, his death seemed premature.

#### THE THOMAS ROBERTS FAMILY

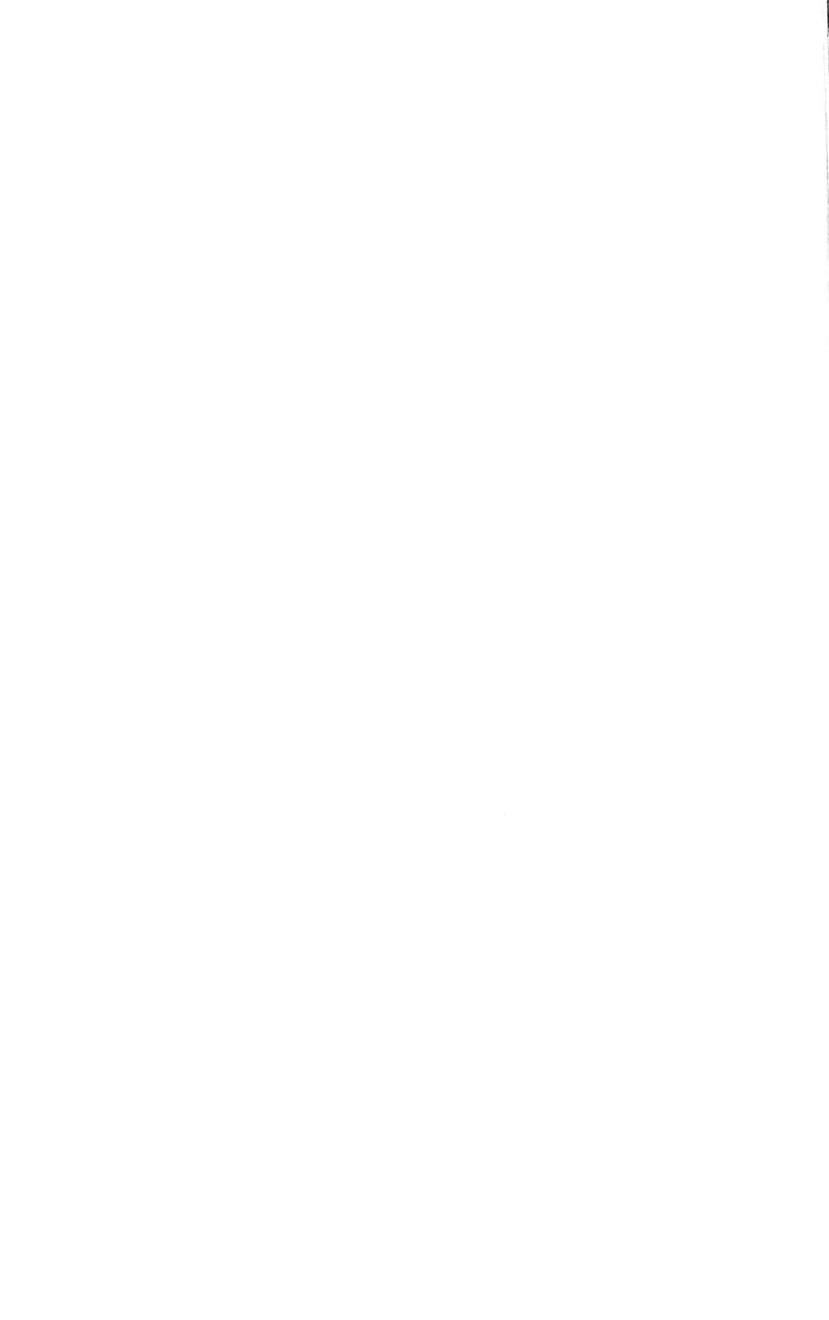
Thomas Roberts, the son of John and Martha Roberts, was born December 19, 1829, about one and one-half miles southwest of Monticello, Indiana, on the farm now in the possession of Robert E. Roberts. During his early years he formed a friendship with Margery, the daughter of Armstrong and Mary Buchanan who lived on a farm about four and one-half miles southwest of Monticello. In 1851 they were united in marriage and for three years lived on what is now the Charles C. Spenceer farm.

In 1854, with their son Frank, they moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where they were among the first settlers. Here Mr. Roberts entered 160 acres of land, at the same time engaging in the mercantile business. In July, 1861, while he and Mr. Cordaway were working on their land, a party of Sioux Indians slipped up behind them, shot and killed both men and took their horses.

In October, 1861, Mrs. Roberts returned to Monticello with her two children, Frank and Fred, Will and George having died in infancy. In 1864, she was united in marriage to Ira S. Kingsbury. Her eldest son, Frank, died in 1878, leaving Fred as the only remaining child. She continued to reside in Monticello till her death in 1904.

#### THOMAS A. ROBISON

Thomas A. Robison, who had resided in Indiana since 1844, was born in Piqua, Ohio, May 13, 1829, and came to Camden, Carroll County; thence in 1858 to Burnettsville; thence to Idaville, and in 1881 to Monticello, where he lived at the home of his brother, Dr. F. B. Robison, but while visiting relatives in Des Moines, Iowa, in November, 1909, he died and his remains were brought to Monticello for burial. In 1850 he was married to Nancy J. McClurg, who died July 3, 1897. In 1863 he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Burnettsville, but later transferred his membership to the church in Monticello. During the war



he was a member of the Twelfth Indiana Cavalry and was given an honorable discharge in November, 1865. He was an honored member of Tippecanoe Post, G. A. R., of Monticello. Of his five children, three only are living, Edward S. of Oakland, California; Harry B. of Rose Lake, Idaho, and Mrs. Blanche Darrow of Des Moines, Iowa, at whose home he died.

#### MRS. MARY VIRGINIA ROSS

Mrs. Ross was the daughter of Henry P. Bennett, for many years a well known grocer and justice of the peace in Monticello, a man of sturdy character and held in high esteem. She was born in Harrison County, West Virginia, March 17, 1848. She came with her parents to Monticello about 1868. About twelve years of her life were spent as a teacher in the public schools. She was married to Benjamin F. Ross in 1872. She died April 27, 1901, leaving her husband and two sons, Charles V. and Frank B., the latter later becoming a well known attorney in Indianapolis and judge of the Probate Court of Marion County.

#### CHARLES ROTH

For many years a well known carpenter, contractor and builder in Monticello, many of the best buildings in that city being constructed by him and his brother Frank, Charles Roth was born in Koerperick, Prussia, and came to America in 1856. He located in Monticello a few years later. He left surviving five children: Amer, Eugene, Thomas and Felix Roth and Mrs. Daisy Ireland, wife of Melville Ireland. All, except Amer, still reside in Monticello.

#### FRANCIS WILLIAM ROTH

For many years Francis W. Roth was engaged with his brother, Charles, as contracting builder, under the firm name of Roth Bros., and what was said of the latter as to honesty and reliability can as truthfully be said of him. He was born in Prussia, January 6, 1832, and came to America in 1856, locating in White County in 1866. He was married July 4, 1861, to Mary Jane Ruble, who died only a short time ago. He left two sons, Charles M. Roth and William F. Roth, both still residents of Monticello.

#### ELIZA (BURNS) ROTHROCK

At the time of her death Mrs. Rothrock was Monticello's oldest continuous resident. Her maiden name was Eliza Burns; born in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1815, died in Monticello, January 19, 1904, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. Her father, Hugh Burns, came to White County in September, 1838, locating on what they called "Edge Hill" farm, two and one-half miles south of Monticello, and where her brother, James Burns, lived for many years after. She was married to Joseph Rothrock September 25, 1839. Four children, Mrs. James S.





Wigmore, J. Bowman Rothrock, Samuel A. Rothrock, of Monticello, and Mrs. Belle Hannum, of Denver, Colorado, survived her, but all have since died, except her son Bowman, still a resident of Monticello. For a long series of years she lived in a commodious frame house on lot 35, just south of the present O'Connor Building.

#### ELIZABETH J. ROTHROCK

Elizabeth J. Rothrock, widow of William Rothrock, was one of the pioneer women of White County. She was a daughter of John and Mary Cochell and was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, May 7, 1830. Died at her home south of Monticello, July 5, 1906. With her parents she came to White County in 1846, locating in the little Village of Monticello. November 11, 1848, she was married to William Rothrock and they at once began life in a log house about a mile south of town, where later they erected the commodious brick residence in which they lived the remainder of their lives. She was the mother of eleven children, only four of whom are now living. These are: Anna, now Mrs. David Lilly; Martha, now Mrs. David M. Rothrock; Eliza, now Mrs. Frank Britton, and Belle, now Mrs. Rufus Ross.

#### JACOB ROTHROCK

Jacob Rothrock, a respected member of the Rothrock family of White County, was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, January 10, 1824, and died at his Monticello home January 29, 1913. In 1846, he married Henrietta Stroup. To this marriage was born three sons and three daughters, two daughters, Mary and Aramina, of Iowa, and two sons, Luther, of Nebraska and David Milton, of Monticello, are still living. The wife and mother died in 1893 and in 1895 he married Mrs. Mary Myers and then located in Monticello and engaged in the mercantile business. He was in early life a member of the Lutheran Church but later united with the Baptists and remained a consistent member of that organization until his death. He was simple in his tastes, kind in the family and a good citizen.

#### JOSEPH ROTHROCK

Joseph Rothrock was born in Mifflintown, Pennsylvania, August 3, 1812; was married in 1839 and died at Monticello May 7, 1880. He was a pioneer of White County and was well known for his charity and benevolence. The people three times gave him the very important office of treasurer of this county.

#### ROBERT ROTHROCK

The Rothrock family was one of the very earliest to locate in White County, the subject of this sketch having lived here from 1831 to the



time of his death, February 17, 1882. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, February 19, 1807, and first came to Indiana in 1829, but it was not until two years later that he located at what was later to be Monticello. He was prominently identified with our local history and entered from the Government the lands on which our county seat is located. He was a prominent member of the Christian Church and his influence for good wrought results which we of today so fully enjoy.

#### WILLIAM ROTHROCK

William Rothrock came to White County with his father in 1831 when he was but ten years old. This was seven years before the Indians were taken West and three years prior to the organization of the county. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, August 23, 1821, and all of his life, after passing his tenth year, was spent in White County. He endured all the hardships incident to pioneer life, his first home in White County being in a tent which the family occupied until a log cabin could be built. On November 11, 1848, he married Elizabeth Cochell, who also came from Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, who, with five daughters, survived him. He was the youngest of eight children. His daughters, who survived at his death, were: Mrs. Samuel Hornbeck, Mrs. David Lilly, Mrs. Frank Britton, Mrs. Rufus H. Ross and Martha Rothrock, now the wife of Milton Rothrock, of Monticello. He was a life-long member of the Brethren Church, a man of strict honesty, who by his industry achieved success, and what is far better than riches, left a good name.

#### ZACHARIAH ROTHROCK

Zachariah Rothrock was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, October 8, 1814, and first came to White County in 1835, but in 1837 returned to Pennsylvania where he lived until 1846, when he came back to Indiana and engaged in building boats on the old Wabash and Erie Canal. In 1850 he was married to Catharine Opp, by whom he had three children, one of whom, John A., was for some years prior to his death the owner of the White County Democrat and county superintendent of schools. The two daughters still live in White County. In 1853 he removed to his farm about four miles northeast of Monticello, where he lived until his death, which occurred March 11, 1886. In 1871 his wife died and in 1873 he married Mrs. S. M. Heaton. Mr. Rothrock was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

#### JAMES C. RUFING

Probably one of the best known men in Monticello during twenty years prior to 1897 was James C. Rufing, painter and decorator and leader of the Monticello band. In this latter capacity he had a reputation extending all over Northern Indiana; and his enthusiasm and geniality, coupled with a tireless energy, for many years gave Monticello a splendid musical



organization. He was twice married, his last wife, who survived him, being Mrs. Lillie Owens, widow of the late Harry P. Owens, and daughter of John Switzer, one of Monticello's early residents. He died April 30, 1897, leaving six children by his first marriage, viz.: James and William, Bernice, Ota, Hazel and Elizabeth, all since married and removed from Monticello.

#### DR. WILLIAM H. SAMPSON

Dr. William H. Sampson, an old physician of Brookston, died at his home in that town April 5, 1913. He was a Hoosier, born in Janesville, December 8, 1839, and became a soldier of the Sixty-sixth Indiana Infantry during the year of his marriage, 1861. After serving throughout the Civil war, he located at Springsboro and there practiced medicine until 1876, after which he continued his professional career at Brookston until his death. He was the father of six children. As a leading Mason and a member of the Baptist Church, his funeral services were conducted under the forms both of religion and fraternity.

#### JOHN SAUNDERS

John Saunders, an old-time resident of Monticello, whither he came as a young man in 1854, died in his later home at Lake Cicott, Cass County, on the 25th of October, 1912, at the age of nearly seventy-nine years. His remains were brought to Monticello and interred under the joint auspices of the Methodist Church and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, to both of which bodies he owed a long allegiance. The deceased was an Ohio man, born at Lancaster, Fairfield County, December 11, 1833. He was one of eight children born to William and Matilda Saunders, who had migrated from England during the previous year. In 1854, as stated, John Saunders located at Monticello, where he resided continuously until 1905, when he moved to Lake Cicott. In February, 1857, he married Miss Sarah Imes, a sister of Richard Imes. The three sons and one daughter of that union survive, their mother dying December 22, 1879. By his second marriage to Mrs. Margaret L. Neas he had no children. His widow lives at Lake Cicott.

#### WILLIAM E. SAUNDERSON

William E. Saunderson, who died at Monticello, May 15, 1874, in his thirty-eighth year was serving his second term as sheriff of White County. His wife died in October, 1873, and after her death Mr. Saunderson's health began to decline and his death came after a long and painful illness. He was quite popular, a good sheriff and a worthy citizen. His brother, Judge James E. Saunderson, now lives in Fowler, Indiana.



## CALEB SCOTT

A medical practitioner of sixty years' activity in White County, Dr. Caleb Scott finally succumbed to the demands of ninety years and on October 2, 1911, died at the home of his married daughter, Mrs. Hattie L. Wilkerson, in Idaville. His remains were interred at the Warden Cemetery near Sitka. The deceased was born in Wayne County, Indiana, and in 1827, when Caleb was about six years old, the family moved to Cass County, near Burnettsville. He early showed an inclination and a talent in treating the sick and, having studied under several local physicians, he moved to Burnettsville in 1847, and the succeeding sixty years he devoted to the practice of his profession, mostly in Eastern White County, with the exception of one year which he spent in Illinois. In 1868 he located on his farm in Liberty Township, upon which he resided until 1906 when he went to reside with his daughter, Mrs. Wilkerson, at whose home he died. Doctor Scott was thrice married and left as descendants, eight children, thirty grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

## JACOB H. SEXTON

Jacob H. Sexton was born in Cabell County, West Virginia, November 28, 1819; died January 24, 1896. He came to White County in 1852 and located on what was known as the Jordon Grove farm, where he resided to the time of his death, a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose home was noted for its genial hospitality.

## ALEXANDER R. SHAFER

Alexander R. Shafer, a native of White County, a son of Samuel Shafer, was born on December 25, 1838. On July 3, 1887, he married Miss Alberta Osman, by whom he had one child, a daughter, now living in Illinois. He died the latter part of March, 1895, at his home south of Monticello, having spent his entire life in White County. A life of fifty-six years spent in one locality is a good test of a man's wearing qualities and Mr. Shafer stood the test. His brother, John P. Shafer, still lives about five miles south of Monticello.

## JOHN M. SHAFER

John M. Shafer was perhaps as well known in and about Monticello as any one who lived here the latter half of the last century. He was the son of Andrew and Sarah Shafer, was born in Delaware County, Indiana, September 30, 1845, and ten years later came with his father's family to White County, where his life was spent. When a lad of eighteen he enlisted in the service of his country, but was rejected on account of his age, but he made a second attempt, was accepted and went as a private in Company B, One Hundred and Forty-second Indiana Volunteers, under command of Captain Thomas, and was honorably discharged





in July, 1865. On February 17, 1869, he married Miss Isabella Clingan and to this union were born four children, three of whom, George A., of Peru, Lulu S. Bernfeldt, of Logansport, and Mary E. Springer, of Columbus, Ohio, are yet living.

He was an ardent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and, "his word is as good as his bond," was the words of confidence on the lips of men with whom he did business. He died at his home in Monticello, July 20, 1911.

#### LINAS H. SHANK

Linus H. Shank, a well known citizen of Chalmers, died of heart disease in the streets of Chalmers, in July, 1912. He was a local republican leader and an esthusiastic Knight of Pythias.

#### SAMUEL SHENK

Samuel Shenk, an old resident of White County, was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1829, being one of the six children of Abraham and Magdalena (Overholser) Shenk, both of Pennsylvania. His father died at the old home when Samuel was but ten years old, but for eight years he worked and attended school, then for six years he labored on a farm and in the spring of 1856 he came to White County, locating on the farm of 160 acres, which he has owned for almost sixty years, and which is now one of the best farms in White County. On October 26, 1852, he married Catharine M. Behm, of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. To them was born one son, Henry D., and a daughter, Clara B., both now living in Monticello. Mr. Shenk retired from the farm and in the spring of 1902 moved to Monticello where his wife died May 8, 1914.

#### ELIZABETH SILL

Elizabeth Sill, widow of William Sill, died at her home in Monticello, September 6, 1882, in her eightieth year. She was a perfect type of the grand heroic wives and mothers who laid the foundations upon which the superstructure of our society rests today. Her husband was commissioned by Gov. Noah Noble, on July 18, 1834, clerk of the White Circuit Court, which for two years held its sessions at the home of George A. Spencer in Big Creek Township and she could recall reminiscences of Judge John R. Porter, the first circuit judge, whose circuit included all the territory north of Putnam County, to Lake Michigan; of Andrew Ingram, the first, and Joseph A. Wright, afterwards governor, the second prosecuting attorney of the White Circuit Court. All these men, in their day, sat at the hospitable board presided over by Mrs. Sill, as did Albert S. White, John Pettit, Tighlman A. Howard, Edward A. Hannegan, Henry S. Lane and many others whose lives form an important part of the history of the State of Indiana. In fact Mrs. Sill in her life linked together the past and present of our history for more than half a century. She nobly filled the duties of wife, mother and



friend. She was the mother of three daughters, Miranda J. Reynolds, deceased, who married James C. Reynolds; Sarah, who married Sylvanus Van Voorst, and who died many years ago; and Georgiana, widow of the late Calvin Reynolds, who now lives with her son, William M. Reynolds, about a mile east of Monticello. She was also the mother of Robert W. Sill and Milton M. Sill, both deceased, and through each of these sons and daughters she has left descendants who are now living among us active and useful lives. Of all the pioneer women of White County none filled a larger space in our local history than Mrs. Sill. She was a Christian woman and well and worthily did she illustrate in her life the virtues and graces of her chosen faith.

#### MILTON M. SILL

Milton M. Sill, son of William Sill, who erected the first house in Monticello, was born in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, May 20, 1833, came with his parents to Monticello in the fall of 1834, and died here at the home of his son, Charles W. Sill, June 22, 1903, after a continuous residence of nearly sixty-nine years. During this long period his activities were closely interwoven with the town's social, professional and business life. He had been a teacher in the public schools, editor of the Monticello Herald, an employee in the paymaster general's office at Washington, filled the position of provost marshal and the offices of county surveyor and county sheriff; also justice of the peace. At the time of his death he was engaged in writing a history of White County, which was printed serially in the White County Democrat during 1901, 1902 and the first half of 1903, but which he did not live to complete. December 3, 1859, he was married to Mary McConahay, who died October 10, 1873, leaving him with five small children, William, Charles, Bertha, Nina and Edward, all of whom reached adult age and were living at the time of his death. He never remarried. His funeral was under the auspices of Libanus Lodge No. 154, F. & A. M., of which he was long an active member.

#### WILLIAM SILL

William Sill was one of the very first settlers in Monticello, having come here in 1834, when he erected the first house built in Monticello on lot No. 1, being at the southwest corner of Marion and Bluff streets. He was born in Shelby County, Kentucky, August 9, 1801, and on November 22, 1822, was married to Elizabeth Martin, who died in Monticello, September 4, 1882. His father, Adam Sill, was a native of England and came to the United States about the close of the Revolutionary war and after a brief residence in New York removed to Kentucky. In 1830 William Sill removed to Tippecanoe County and in the autumn of that year removed to near the present location of Brookston, where he taught a school and in 1834 came to Monticello. In 1834 he was elected to the offices of clerk, auditor and recorder; which offices he held until his death on January 7, 1846. He was the father of the late Capt.



Robert W. Sill, one time sheriff of White County, Miranda J. Reynolds, Milton M. Sill and Mrs. Georgiana Reynolds, all of whom, except the last named, are dead. William Sill was a pioneer of White County. For twelve years after its organization he wrote all the records of its three principal offices and filled all these positions with honor to himself and credit to the family name.

#### JAMES P. SIMONS

James P. Simons, recorder of White County for eight years, and for almost twenty years editor of the White County Democrat, has been a resident of Monticello and its immediate vicinity nearly all his life. He was born in Prairie Township, southeast of Brookston, November 9, 1856, and was the oldest of nine children born to George H. and Mary (Welch) Simons. His ancestors were residents of the mountainous region now composing the eastern part of the present state of West Virginia, and, as the name indicates, were of Semitic origin. His great-great-grandfather, Christian Simon, as the name was then spelled, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He left three sons, Jacob, George and Abraham; the last two being only half brothers of the first. A son of Jacob Simon, also named Jacob, married his half cousin, Priscilla Simon, daughter of the above named George, and to them on August 29, 1837, was born George H. Simons, who came with his father's family to White County in 1848, locating a few miles south of Monticello, where his father died May 16, 1853. January 23, 1856, George H. Simons was married to Mary Welch. George H. died at his home south of Monticello May 19, 1913, and his wife, Mary, died in March, 1914. Both are buried in Riverview Cemetery, east of Monticello.

At the age of eighteen James P. Simons began teaching in the public schools of White County, his first school being at Badger Grove, in Prairie Township, in the winter of 1874-5. His last term was at the Smith schoolhouse, south of Reynolds, in the winter of 1882-3. In November, 1882, he was elected recorder of White County and moved to Monticello in 1883. He was re-elected in November, 1886, serving until July 7, 1891. In December, 1894, he formed a partnership with Mr. A. B. Clarke and purchased the White County Democrat from John A. Rothrock, and continued as editor of that paper until May, 1914, when he sold his interest to the Democrat-Journal-Observer Company, the present publishers.

September 21, 1881, he was married to Miss Sarah E. Johnson, of Reynolds, whose father, Jeremiah B. Johnson, was a member of Company G, Forty-sixth Indiana Volunteers, and was killed at the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, in July, 1863. Her mother, Emily J. Johnson, never re-married and died at her daughter's home in Monticello, July 17, 1915, at the age of eighty-three. To James P. and Sarah E. Simons have been born seven children, Walter A., Frank L., Maudie, Howard J., George B., Hazel and Esther, all of whom are still at the parental home except Frank, who resides in Fresno, California, and Howard, who



was married to Miss Faye Hanawalt, June 27, 1915, and resides at Fowler, Indiana.

#### HIRAM SLUYTER

Born in Ulster County, New York, January 16, 1829, Hiram Sluyter came with his parents to White County in probably 1837 or 1838, locating in Liberty Township, just south of the present village of Buffalo, where he resided until his death, December 7, 1900, at the age of nearly seventy-two years. Mr. Sluyter was one of the successful farmers of the county and was held in high esteem. He served twelve years as justice of the peace. September 29, 1850, he was married to Elizabeth J. Dibra, and to them were born three sons, of whom Francis M. and Samuel D. are still living, and the latter being a well known physician, formerly of Chalmers and now practicing his profession in Wolcott.

#### REV. GILBERT SMALL

Rev. Gilbert Small was born in Argyle, New York, February 7, 1828. He was a graduate of Argyle Academy and Union College and later studied in the Associate Theological Seminary at Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania. He became pastor of the United Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, where he remained some years, until 1867, when he located at Idaville. He severed his relations with the United Presbyterian Church in 1877 and united with the Presbyterian Church, filling vacancies in the Logansport Presbytery for several years. About 1890 he quit the active ministry and devoted himself to his books and to writing for various periodicals. He founded the Idaville Observer for his two sons in 1886. In 1896, at the age of sixty-eight years, he united with the Masonic fraternity, receiving the blue lodge, chapter and council degrees at Monticello, and for some four years prior to his death he was an able contributor to Masonic literature, his contributions to the Masonic Advocate being copied in Masonic publications all over the world. He died July 20, 1904, at the age of seventy-six, leaving two sons, twins, William R. and Albert G., now residents of Indianapolis; a daughter, Mrs. McArthur of Troy, New York, and a son, Dr. Harry E. Small.

#### JACOB CLAY SMITH

Jacob Clay Smith was born in Lafayette, Indiana, January 28, 1845, died in Monticello, August 4, 1905. He joined the Tenth Indiana as drummer boy at the beginning of the Civil war, and later became a private in Company C, Sixty-ninth Indiana. He located in Monticello in 1869, where he was employed in the Herald office for a time and later in the Constitutionalist office. In 1878 he founded the Nationalist, a populist paper, which he continued to publish intermittently until a short time before his death. He was married in 1873 to Miss Euphemia Black, who is still living with their only daughter, Mrs. Stella Black, in Indianapolis.





## MAHLON F. SMITH

Mahlon F. Smith, a veteran of the Civil war, who as a mere boy served, under Capt. John C. Brown, in the Twentieth Indiana Infantry, was born in White County in 1842 and died at his White County home, March 20, 1891, leaving a widow and one son, Bernard. The widow died some years ago and the son married and is now living in Fowler, Indiana. Captain Brown was a great admirer of Mr. Smith, who assisted in carrying the captain to the rear in an engagement wherein the captain was seriously wounded, and at his death wrote a beautiful tribute to the memory of Mr. Smith in which he said he was absolutely devoid of fear and was a soldier in the truest sense of the word. His wife, whom he married in 1868, was a Miss Mary Kenton, a granddaughter of Simon Kenton of Indian fighting fame.

## MRS. MARY A. SMITH

Mrs. Mary A. Smith was a daughter of William M. Kenton, and granddaughter of Simon Kenton, the noted pioneer and Indian fighter. She was born in Big Creek Township, southwest of Monticello, March 10, 1841; was married to Mahlon F. Smith, who died some years prior to her death, leaving her one child, Berney K. Smith, now a resident of Kokomo.

## HENRY SNYDER

Henry Snyder, who claims to be the oldest continuous resident of White County, was born at the northwest corner of Main and Jefferson streets in Monticello, on March 31, 1837, when there were less than half a dozen buildings in the town. He is a son of Rev. Abraham and Margaret Falk Snyder, and with his father, assisted by numerous yokes of oxen, boasts of having broken up more acres of new land than any other man in the county. He also assisted, about the year 1850, in digging the first or old race on the east side of the river opposite Monticello.

In 1861 he enlisted in the three months' service, his term expiring on July 4th of that year, but as on that date he was fighting the battle of Rich Mountain, Virginia, he was not discharged until several days later. On October 13, 1861, he re-enlisted in Company E of the Forty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry and was commissioned second lieutenant. On June 12, 1862, he was promoted to captain of his company. Meanwhile on December 8, 1861, he was married to Miss Charlotte Downs and the day after his marriage left to join his company in Logansport and was with his command for three years and one day. Captain Snyder participated in the battles of Champion Hill, sieges of Vicksburg and Jackson, as well as many other union engagements and was also in the famous expedition of General Banks up Red River in which for 200 days he was in hearing of guns of the enemy.

At Sabine Cross Roads he commanded his regiment where he lost over



100 men and on the retreat was shot in the right leg by a sharpshooter and carries the ball yet in his leg. This put him out of active duty.

Captain Snyder holds a cane given him by the Old Settlers' Association of White County at its annual meeting in 1913 for being the oldest continuous resident of the county.

He is one of the four living charter members of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 73 in Monticello. A member of Tippecanoe Post No. 51, G. A. R. A member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and an ardent republican. His wife, to whom was born no children, died February 24, 1913, since which time he has lived in the old home awaiting only the time when he, too, can be "mustered out."

#### JOHN SNYDER

John Snyder, one of the early settlers of White County, purchased 275 acres of land near the present site of Guernsey in 1848. This he sold in 1876 and purchased a farm in Liberty Township but removed to Monticello several years later. He was born in Millin County, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1821, and in early life followed the trade of tanner. He was twice married, first to Nancy Way in 1841, who died in 1852, leaving three children. In 1854 he was again married to Nancy J. Bratton, who, with four children, survived him. Among the earliest recollections of the writer, reaching way back to early childhood at the beginning of the Civil war, is Uncle Johnny Snyder as a neighbor when neighbors were scarce and a friend when friends were most needed. His visits were always welcome and visits to his hospitable home were always a treat.

#### PHILIP SNYDER

Philip Snyder, an old veteran dropped out of the ranks at his home in Norway, September 4, 1909. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, July 4, 1833, he married Sarah J. Hauaway, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1854, and for several years lived on what afterward became the great battlefield. He gave his services to his country in the great conflict between the states and at its close came back to White County, where he farmed for several years and then engaged in the woolen factory and dry goods business in Monticello. He was buried with military honors by Tippecanoe Post, G. A. R.

#### DANIEL P. SPEARS

Daniel P. Spears, born in Erie County, Ohio, December 29, 1822, died at his home in Morrison, Illinois, March 27, 1906. He was one of the early business men of Monticello, being in partnership here with W. R. Davis from 1851 to 1858. In the latter year he located in business in Morrison, Illinois, and was one of the successful merchants of that city. December 6, 1858, he was married to Miss Mary Shafer, daughter of Mrs. Susan Shafer, who resided about five miles south of Monticello, and sister



of John P. Shafer, who still resides there. The widow, three sons and one daughter are still living.

#### JAMES S. SPENCER

James S. Spencer, one of the pioneer newspaper men of White County, still lives in Liberty Township. He was born in Adelphi, Ross County, Ohio, March 18, 1838, and came to Monticello with his father's family in 1848, in and near where he has resided for more than two-thirds of a century. He was married December 25, 1860, to Emma L. Skinner, of Valparaiso, Indiana, to whom were born seven children: Schuyler C., DeFoe, Bessie L., James H., Kizzie and Pearl, twins, and Emily S., the latter three dying in infancy. DeFoe died April 4, 1894, aged twenty-eight years, leaving a wife, Mrs. Anna B. and one son, DeFoe. In 1859 Mr. Spencer founded the Spectator, now the Herald. He is a Civil war veteran and for eight years was engaged in the drug business in Remington. His oldest son, Schuyler C., is the leading lawyer of Seattle, Washington. James H. is a contractor in Los Angeles, California, and his daughter, Bessie, is the wife of I. W. McOwen, connected with the Joliet, Illinois, Daily News. Mr. Spencer is a man of positive character, a member of the Presbyterian Church and ardent in his support of the temperance cause.

#### WILLIAM SPENCER

At Zanesville, Ohio, on November 5, 1833, was born to Dr. Robert and Eleanor Spencer, a son who later was christened William and became one of the prominent pioneers of White County. His father was a successful physician and after several years of general practice he was elected professor of anatomy in Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1855, and held that position for seven years when he was appointed surgeon of the Seventy-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and died in the service in 1863. A few years later his widow died of a disease of the heart and both are buried in the old cemetery north of Monticello. Dr. William Spencer studied medicine with his father for a time and in 1855 graduated from the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. For six years he engaged in the practice with his father at Monticello when he entered the military service and was commissioned captain of Company E, Forty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, but after seven months' service he resigned to accept a position with his father in the Seventy-third Indiana Regiment. He was captured by the Confederates in Morgan county, Alabama, on April 30, 1863, and was held a prisoner until November 22d of the same year when his exchange was effected. On April 16, 1864, he accepted a commission as surgeon of the Tenth Tennessee Cavalry but later was transferred and served for a time on the staff of General Jackson and on August 5, 1865, was discharged when he returned to Monticello, opened a drug store and engaged in the practice of medicine. Doctor Spencer was married on



New Year's Day, 1856, to Miss Harriet V. Kistler, who died in 1888, and this union was blessed by three children, Charles (deceased); Gertrude, now the wife of Curtis D. Meeker; and May, the wife of Samuel A. Carson, president of the State Bank of Monticello. Doctor Spencer was successful in all of his business ventures and at his death, which occurred at Monticello, October 26, 1901, left a large estate. He was a Presbyterian and quite prominent in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

This sketch should not be closed without a reference to his military career which was most unusual. For seven months he was held in Libby Prison under sentence of death, as hostage for a Doctor Green, a rebel surgeon, but by intervention of Governor Morton his life was spared and he was exchanged and came back north.

#### CAPT. JAMES G. STALEY

Capt. James G. Staley, of Company F, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was killed in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864, and his remains were brought to Monticello for burial in the old cemetery. He was a true patriot and in the beginning of the war served for two years in the Ninth Indiana Volunteers. He received his commission as captain in January, 1864, and in March left to join in the Atlanta campaign. In the battle of Franklin he was commanding his company when a minnie ball struck him in the forehead, killing him instantly. His funeral at the Methodist Church in Monticello was largely attended. The Rev. H. Cissel preached the sermon and an account written for the Herald stated that when the casket was lowered many shed bitter tears. His grave is one of the many landmarks in the old cemetery.

#### GEORGE STEPHAN

For many years one of the most prosperous and highly esteemed farmers of Big Creek Township, was George Stephan, born in Germany, March 7, 1831. His father brought his family to Massillon, Ohio, in 1846. Here he was married to Miss Louise Werts, April 2, 1855, and in 1858 they came to White County, purchasing a fine body of land a short distance northeast of Chalmers. Here they lived until a few years before his death, when they removed to Monticello. He died at his home there, March 4, 1905, leaving a widow, one daughter and two sons.

#### JOHN S. STEVENSON

John S. Stevenson, born in Sussex County, England, December 3, 1830, died at his home in Monticello, March 22, 1905. He was one of nineteen children born to Richard and Mary Stevenson. He came to America about 1850 and soon after located near Monticello. Later he





moved to Kansas, but returned to Monticello in 1879. He was a member of the Twentieth Indiana Volunteers and was wounded at Gettysburg.

#### HARRISON S. STINE

Harrison S. Stine was born in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, on April 17, 1836. He came to Wabash County, Indiana, in 1850, and nine years later removed to Burnettsville and began teaching school. In 1866 he was married to Miss Isabel Hanna. He died January 29, 1890, after an illness of one year, of heart failure. His son, Albert B. Stine, former postmaster at Burnetts Creek, is still living. Mr. Stine was an old line democrat and took a deep interest in the success of his party, though he never sought any office.

#### MRS. HANNAH STOUT

Mrs. Hannah Stout (Grandmother Stout) was an Ohio woman, born near Dayton, and died December 3, 1912, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James Wilcox. Had she lived until the succeeding 6th of March she would have been ninety-four years old. Mrs. Stout came to Indiana in 1845, settling first in Tippecanoe County; thence, with her husband and children, she moved to White County in 1853, residing for a time on the Kenton farm and later, for a long time on the Spencer farm, south of Monticello. Her husband, Reuben Stout, died in 1877, and thereafter she lived with her daughters. Mrs. Stout was almost a life-long member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She left three daughters and a son.

#### DAVID C. TEDFORD

David C. Tedford was born in Blount County, Tennessee, about 1820 and came with his parents to Carroll County, Indiana, in 1833 and the family settled on the county line about four miles southeast of Monticello. He spent the remainder of his life in White County, where he died May 20, 1889. He was twice married, but left no children, his only child, a son, Oscar N., having died in Monticello on April 19, 1875, while he was a student at Wabash College. He was a member of the Reformed Presbyterian Church and a good man and citizen.

#### ROBERT NEWTON TEDFORD

Robert Newton Tedford, fifty years of whose life was spent in White County, was born in Monroe County, Tennessee, April 9, 1822, and settled in Carroll County, Indiana, with his parents in 1832. In 1847 he married Margaret A. Delgell and settled on a farm about four miles east of Monticello, in White County. After a married life of fifty-three years, his wife died and he never re-married. During the Civil war he gave his services to his country and was honorably discharged at the close of war.



In early life he joined the Associate Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Run, in Carroll County, but later became a member of the Baptist Church, to which he belonged at the time of his death. He was the father of eight children, of whom John M., Eva and Angie are dead, and three sons, all now in the Baptist ministry, to-wit: Rev. J. G., of Logansport; Rev. Willard P., of Frankfort, and Rev. I. C., of Hutsonville, Illinois; also Newton A., a son who now lives near Burnettsville and Miss India Tedford, of Monticello. He died at Logansport, Indiana, at the home of his son, October 9, 1909. In all relations of life Mr. Tedford measured up to the full stature of a man and left a record which his children delight to honor.

#### DANIEL M. TILTON

For nearly sixty years Daniel M. Tilton was a resident of Monticello and saw White County develop its civilization. Born near Zanesville, Ohio, September 6, 1809, he came to Monticello in 1836 and lived in White County until his death, at the home of his son, D. J. Tilton, in Monticello, on August 4, 1894. Soon after locating here he was elected sheriff of the county and at one time ran for the Legislature against David Turpie, by whom he was defeated. He was twice door-keeper of the Legislature of Indiana and had a wide acquaintance with the public men of the state. He was among the first to enlist when President Lincoln called for troops in 1861 and after three months' service was honorably discharged. He was afterwards appointed captain of the capitol police at Washington, D. C., and at the close of this service he returned to Monticello, where he resided until his death. In 1836 he joined the Baptist Church to which he remained a firm adherent during the rest of his life. His wife died in 1867 and he never re-married. Of his four children, Thomas J. died in infancy, Zebulon S. at the age of twenty-three died in the service of his country, Mrs. Grace Wirt died about 1895 and Daniel J. Tilton died in the spring of 1915.

#### DANIEL JOSEPHUS TILTON

Daniel Josephus Tilton, who passed away at his home in Monticello, May 28, 1915, was born at Monticello, November 20, 1838. He was a son of Daniel M. Tilton, an old time resident of White County, and was married April 17, 1861, to Sarah Belle Wilson. To this union was born seven children, six of whom, John A., of Springfield, Ohio; Mrs. Clara G. Tallman, and Anabel Spencer, of Monticello; Mrs. Milton Davis, of Rockford, Illinois; Miss Lillian and Beryl Tilton, of Spokane, Washington, survive. The youngest daughter, Verne, died in 1892, and his widow is living in Monticello. Mr. Tilton was the second oldest resident of Monticello, where, with the exceptions of a few years spent in Chicago and Rockford, Illinois, he passed his entire life. He was buried in Riverview Cemetery.



## BENTON THOMPSON

In the death of Benton Thompson at Brookston on August 18, 1895, that community lost one who was regarded as its best liked citizen, and undoubtedly one of the best known men of his time in Southern White County. He was for many years a merchant, and possessed the sterling character and those genial personal qualities which give a man great wealth irrespective of his material acquisitions.

Benton Thompson was born May 1, 1851, in Hancock County, Illinois, being the fifth among eight children born to Dr. Almon and Isabella Thompson. His youth was spent on a farm and his education came from public schools. His first important experience was as a school teacher, and in 1874, in early manhood, he removed to Brookston, Indiana, and was first located with and came to be known to the people of that community as clerk in the drug store of his brother-in-law, George Patton. In 1875 he formed a partnership with Mr. Patton and in July, 1881, became sole proprietor. Thereafter for fourteen years he was the principal druggist of the village.

Mr. Thompson was a democrat, and served as township trustee and in other ways became a factor in public affairs. He was social in disposition, and was well known both among individuals and among fraternal organizations. He was a Knight Templar Mason and also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

On October 13, 1887, Mr. Thompson married Miss Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of William and Mary (Martin) Holmes. The two sons of the union are Bernard W. and Benton H., both of whom graduated from Purdue University with the degrees Bachelor of Science and Ph. C. The sons now operate a drug store at Brookston, where they and their mother reside.

## WILLIAM TURNER

William Turner was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, April 17, 1820, and died at Monticello, March 30, 1912. He came to White County in 1840, and settled on the old Rothbrock farm about a mile south of Monticello. In the autumn of 1844 he entered the land on which the old poorhouse lately stood, about six miles northwest of town. He assisted in building the first dam across the river at Monticello and the old flouring mill that burned on May 20, 1911, and was familiar with all the old landmarks. On September 14, 1843, he married Susannah Imes and in 1853 he removed to Ohio, and there on May 5, 1878, his wife died, leaving five grown children besides two who had died. On December 29, 1881, he was married to Katherine Couley and to this union was born four children, two of whom, with his widow, survive. He came back to White County in April, 1888, and resided here until his death. He was the last surviving member of the grand jury that indicted Cantwell and Dayton in the famous murder trial of 1850, and his memory of



past events was always to be trusted for he retained his faculties to the end.

#### ABRAM VAN VOORST

Abram Van Voorst died at the home of his son, Henry Van Voorst, Friday evening, March 24, 1899. He was born in New York State, May 24, 1812, and afterwards removed to Lucas County, Ohio, where he lived until the death of his first wife in 1849, when he located in West Point Township, in White County. Later he moved to Reynolds and in 1897 came to Monticello. He was married three times, and left surviving him his last wife and four sons, Henry, who died in 1910, being by his first marriage, and the other three, George, John and Earl, by his last.

#### ISAAC S. VINSON

Isaac S. Vinson was born in Scioto County, Ohio, March 21, 1812. On August 12, 1832, he was married to Miss Rebecca Johnson and in the fall of 1835 he settled on a farm between Monticello and Reynolds and died on August 27, 1883, in his seventy-second year. As a factor in the early settlement of White County, Mr. Vinson deserves a place in the memory of this and coming generations. He was the father of James V. Vinson, now living near Monticello.

#### SAMUEL VIRDEN

Samuel Virden, one of the most respected men who ever lived in White County, was born near Circleville in Pickaway County, Ohio, January 23, 1815, being the second son in a family of nine children, of which he outlived all except a sister, Mrs. Jane Burns, and a brother, David Virden. When nineteen years old he came West with his widowed mother in 1833 and settled on a farm in Big Creek Township, but after living here five years the family moved to Tippecanoe County and here on January 25, 1853, he was married to Mary Welch, by whom he had but one child, Turner, who died about 1898. From 1857 to 1862 he conducted a flouring mill at Loda, Illinois, but coming back to Indiana he finally settled, in 1873, on the farm in Honey Creek Township, where he died July 11, 1894, universally respected by a wide circle of friends.

#### SILAS M. VIRDEN

Silas M. Virden was one of the first settlers to locate in White County. Born in Pickaway County, Ohio, on February 19, 1819, he came with his parents in 1833 and settled in Big Creek Township. Five years later they removed to Tippecanoe County and in 1856, during the mining excitement, he went to Pike's Peak, Colorado, where he lived two years, and for many years prior to his death, which occurred February 12, 1894, he made his home with different members of the family, having never mar-





ried. He was a member of the Virden family and a respected citizen of this county.

#### MICHAEL VOGEL

Michael Vogel, a veteran of the Civil war and a resident of Reynolds for over fifty years, was born in Kapsweyer, Germany, August 10, 1830, and landed in New York August 24, 1852. He at once set to work to earn sufficient money to send back to his old home for his old sweetheart and schoolmate, Elizabeth Hinnewinkel, and they were married in New York October 14, 1855, and the next year came to Reynolds, where he lived until his death on May 7, 1910. He was a shoemaker by trade and was engaged in that work until 1890, after which he gave his entire time to his farm in Big Creek Township. He served during the Civil war in Company H, Thirty-fifth Indiana Volunteers, and was honorably discharged at its close. He helped to establish St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Reynolds and was one of its main supporters. His widow is still living in Reynolds and his son, Bernard A. Vogel, is deputy state treasurer at Indianapolis. At his death he left four sons, one daughter, fifteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Always jovial and kind-hearted, frugal and industrious he made a success of life in his adopted country and left to his family the memory of a well spent life.

#### GRANVILLE B. WARD

Granville B. Ward, who for more than half a century has been intimately connected with the history of White County, was born in Monroe County, Indiana, May 7, 1834. His father, Austin Ward, was a native of Virginia, moved to White County in 1850, entered 200 acres of land in Round Grove Township and on this land he lived until 1873, when he moved to Brookston. After having received a common school education, Granville B. Ward in the autumn of 1860 entered the State University, but in the following spring responded to the call of his country and enlisted as a noncommissioned officer in Company K, Fourteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and in the spring of 1862 was made captain. He was wounded at Antietam and Fredericksburg, was with his regiment in all its battles until the battle of Chancellorsville, where his left leg was shot off above the knee, when he was compelled to leave the service. He returned to White County and in 1864 was elected county treasurer and was re-elected in 1866. He was also postmaster at Monticello from 1889 to 1893. In May, 1864, he married Miss Catharine C. Rawlins of Monroe County, Indiana, and to them have been born seven children, five of whom are still living. Captain Ward's regiment was the first regiment from Indiana mustered into the three years' or during-the-war service. His military service is one of which he feels a just pride. He now has passed his eighty-first milestone and with his family lives in Monticello.



## PHILIP J. WARD

Philip J. Ward was born in Kent County, Maryland, May 28, 1833. His father, Henry Ward, was a farmer and in the spring of 1837 came to Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and purchased a small tract of land on what is now a part of the City of Lafayette; later he traded this for 255 acres in Big Creek Township, on which he lived until 1865 when he moved to Reynolds where he died in 1867. Philip J. Ward lived on the home farm for several years and then worked for several years in Tippecanoe County but in 1862 came back to White County and on the death of his father purchased the interests of the other heirs and soon found himself the owner of 255 acres of as good land as is to be found in White County. On September 10, 1860, he was married to Catharine G. Brady and to this union has been born three children—one died in infancy and two still live. His son, Paul Ward, is now serving his second term as surveyor of White County and his sister, Mrs. Emma Ward Ryder, lives in Ohio. His wife died in 1896 and two years later he married Mrs. Florence J. Pierce, who with one daughter, Katharine, now lives on the old farm. At his death Mr. Ward owned 320 acres of splendid farm land. He died April 20, 1913, and was buried in the Lane Cemetery.

## SAMUEL MILLER WARD

Samuel Miller Ward came into this world at Middletown, Ohio, on April 26, 1825, and the last forty years of his life was spent at and near Monon, dying at the latter place August 10, 1895. His wife died in 1894 but he was survived by six children. He was a farmer on an extensive scale and was a large buyer and shipper of all kinds of live stock, especially of cattle, and at his death had amassed quite a fortune. He was a prominent Odd Fellow and his funeral was held under the auspices of that order at the Bedford Church.

## BUCKLIN WARDEN

Bucklin Warden died at his home in Monticello, July 19, 1915, at the advanced age of almost eighty-eight years. He was born in Illinois in 1827 and came with his parents to White County, locating at Norway, in 1836. His father, Elisha Warden, Sr., was one of the early sheriffs of the county, serving from 1844 to 1848. Bucklin was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade, working with "Squire" Harbolt in his younger days and serving as boss builder and repairman for the Monticello Pulp and Paper Mills in the days of their prosperity. All his life he was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him. It might also be mentioned that in the days when harvesting wheat and oats with a cradle was in vogue he was reckoned one of the best cradlers in the county. He was twice married, his first wife being Elizabeth Wickham and his last wife, Mrs. Sarah E. Wilson, formerly Welch, who with two children survives.



## ABRAM WARFEL

Abram Warfel was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, February 9, 1816. In 1834 he married Nancy Henry, after whose death he married Mary Patton on June 9, 1836. He was an active member of the Church of God for fifty years. By his second wife he was the father of six children, two of whom, Mrs. William H. Daugherty and Miss Nancy Warfel, both of Monticello, survive. For many years he was a leading citizen of White County and many of his descendants are yet with us. He died July 14, 1894, aged seventy-eight years.

## GEORGE D. WASHBURN

George D. Washburn, born in Brown County, Ohio, about 1809, died at the home of his daughter in Royal Center, September 27, 1902, at the advanced age of ninety-three. For many years he was a resident of Monticello and later resided near Guernsey. He was a minister in the Baptist Church and was held in high esteem. He left five children surviving. These were: Lewis Washburn and Mrs. Melissa Lyle, of Royal Center; Mrs. Eliza Bernetha, of Rochester; Mrs. Tirzah Scott Alexander, also of Royal Center, and Dr. George W. Washburn, now of the village of Buffalo.

## JESSE L. WATSON

One of the very first settlers of White County was Jesse L. Watson, who was born in Virginia in 1805 and came to what is now White County in 1830, which was his home until his death, which occurred at Monon, December 24, 1884. Most of his business life was spent in mercantile pursuits, in which by his integrity and attention to detail he had amassed a competence.

## JOHN WELCH

John Welch, for many years a well known citizen of Burnettsville and vicinity, removing thence to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1881. He was born in Ohio, January 22, 1836, coming to White County with his parents when a boy. He was a member of Capt. William Spencer's Company E, Forty-sixth Indiana, serving a little over four years. Was captured at Sabine Cross Roads and spent nine months in the rebel prison at Tyler, Texas. He was a brother of Mrs. George H. Simons, who for many years lived south of Monticello, and of Mrs. Bucklen Warden, who still resides here. His father, Wisby Welch, was one of the early settlers of White County and died at his home south of Monticello about 1873 or 1874.

## ELIZA WICKERSHAM

Eliza Wickersham, born in Logan County, Ohio, April 11, 1821, died at the home of her daughter, at Lima, Ohio, March 19, 1902. Most of



her life was spent in White County, where her husband, Job Wickersham, died March 29, 1874. She was the mother of ten children, five of these surviving her. Perhaps the best known of these were Job, for many years a well known resident in and near Monticello, and Chester, a resident of Cass Township.

#### JAMES STUART WIGMORE

James Stuart Wigmore, son of Arthur Wigmore and Rebecca Oliffe Wigmore, was born at Wesley Place, Youghal, Ireland, October 3, 1833. (He was one of the Fielding family who trace their lineage to Pharamond, king of West Franks in Germany, 430 A. D.) His father and mother came to Toronto, Canada, in 1847, where they conducted a musical and art studio. In this city Mr. Wigmore learned the watchmaker's trade. After the death of his mother in 1850 he, with his father, went to Louisville, Kentucky, to make his home. His father died in 1860, and Mr. Wigmore came to Lafayette, Indiana, where he formed a partnership with C. C. Tuttle in the jewelry business. On August 1, 1862, he enlisted in the army at Salem Crossing and served until wounded at the battle of Perrysville, Kentucky. When wounded he was captured by a rebel living near the battlefield. This man, upon recognizing him as a brother Mason, showed him every courtesy and was the means of restoring him to his own army. Mr. Wigmore was a charter member of Libanus Lodge No. 154, of Monticello, Indiana, bringing his demit from Capital City Lodge of Indianapolis. He was reared an Episcopalian, but after his marriage he united with the Presbyterian church. He was a jeweler until the time of his death, March 5, 1912. August 3, 1864, he was married to Martha Jane Rothrock, daughter of Joseph and Eliza Rothrock, pioneers of Monticello. She was born August 1, 1845. Their home was an inn where the present Methodist Episcopal Church stands. Here she grew to young womanhood, receiving her education under the guidance of Prof. George Bowman. Mrs. Wigmore was a member of the Presbyterian Church from early childhood. She died March 5, 1913. To Mr. and Mrs. Wigmore were born five children: Emma, wife of M. J. Holtzman, of Brookston, Indiana; Charles F., deceased; George A. and Lida, of Monticello, and Estelle H. of Indianapolis.

#### THORNTON WILLIAMS

Thornton Williams, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 11, 1815, located in Honey Creek Township, White County, Indiana, in 1848 and in 1849 was married to Mary E. Rinker, who died in 1872, after which he continued to keep house with his children until all reached adult age. One son, William H. Williams, is still a resident of Reynolds. Two daughters, Mrs. Jessie Dern and Mrs. Ida Isley, reside at Kingman, Kansas. He died at the home of William H. Williams, in Reynolds, August 19, 1901.





## JAMES K. WILSON

An old and highly esteemed citizen of Monon, James K. Wilson was accidentally killed by a train at Monon, February 18, 1907. Mr. Wilson had been a resident of Monon and vicinity all his life and was sixty two years old at the time of his death. He was administrator of the Hugh Lowe estate, one of the largest estates ever administered on in White County up to that time, and on the day of the accident had been in Monticello making final settlement of his trust. After returning home he started about seven o'clock to go up town, and in crossing the Monon track, a short distance west of the station, was run down and horribly mangled by a southbound train, known as the "milk train." He left a widow and two daughters, Mrs. John Kent and Mrs. William Hancock.

## WILLIAM D. WILSON

On July 19, 1894, the Town of Chalmers and Big Creek Township was shocked by the news that William D. Wilson had been killed by a stroke of lightning while at work in the meadow of Thomas J. Hoshour. He was found to have been instantly killed by the electric current. He was born July 1, 1834, and on February 24, 1856, he married Rebecca E. Burk. To this union was born nine children, five of whom survive him. On March 25, 1883, he was married to Rachel Gallaher, who with one child, were living at his death. For many years Mr. Wilson was a justice of the peace and in 1890 was the candidate for sheriff of White County on the prohibition ticket, in which party he was an active member.

## JOHN W. WIMER

No history of White County would be complete without a notice of John W. Wimer. Born in New York, February 7, 1829. When young John was twelve years old the family came to Carroll County, Indiana, where he attended school and having attained his majority he clerked in a store in Georgetown for eight years, when he was appointed postmaster at Lockport, which position he held for three years, when he moved to Delphi; he later came to Burnettsville and engaged in general merchandising until 1882 when he quit business and removed to Logansport, but later returned to Burnettsville where he died November 13, 1901. Mr. Wimer was an active republican. From 1864 to 1870 he served as postmaster at Burnettsville. In 1870 he was elected representative from the counties of Benton and White, in 1876 he was a republican presidential elector and in 1880 was a delegate to the National Republican Convention held in Chicago in which he voted for James A. Garfield. He was a militant member of the Methodist Church.

## DR. ALVIN H. WIRT

For many years during and after the war, Dr. A. H. Wirt was the leading dentist in Monticello and for a time he was the only one engaged



in that profession. He was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, March 27, 1828. He came to Monticello about 1858, and in 1859 was married to Mary Grace Tilton, daughter of Daniel M. Tilton, then a prominent citizen of Monticello. Doctor Wirt died suddenly while sitting on the porch at the home of his son, William D. Wirt, July 2, 1898.

#### WILL D. WIRT

Will D. Wirt, son of Doctor Wirt, Monticello's pioneer dentist, was a native of White County, having been born north of Monticello, July 20, 1860. At the time of his death, October 28, 1906, he was surveyor of White County and a candidate on his party ticket for re-election. December 24, 1890, he was married to Miss Nellie Ginn, at Sorento, Illinois. She, and one son, Carl, are still living, being residents of West Lafayette. A monument to his public-spiritedness can be seen by people of Monticello and of White County every day. This is the large box-alder tree near the southwest corner of the courthouse. This was planted there by him in the spring of 1906, some six months before his death.

#### MARTIN WITZ

One of the substantial citizens of Monticello, Martin Witz was for many years here engaged in the ice and meat business. He was born in Hilsen Heim, France, December 13, 1831; came to America with his parents in 1838, locating in Allen County. In 1858 he was married to Melissa Shuey in Fort Wayne and moved to Lafayette in 1859. In 1861 he enlisted in the Fifth Kentucky Regiment, from which he was discharged because of a wound received at Shiloh. He re-enlisted in the Eleventh Indiana Cavalry and served to the end of the war. Soon thereafter he located in Monticello, where he resided until his death, August 29, 1901. His widow and two children, Alvin Witz and Mrs. Daisy Willems, reside in Monticello. Another son, William Witz, lives in Cass Township. He was a Mason and a member of Tippecanoe Post No. 51, G. A. R.

#### SAMUEL WOLFE

Samuel Wolfe, one of the best known citizens of White County, died at his home in Liberty Township, April 13, 1913. He was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, May 29, 1824, and fourteen years later moved to Greene County, Pennsylvania, where on September 5, 1848, he married Eliza Winget and they at once left for Athens County, Ohio, where he lived for six years. In 1854, with his wife and four children, he came to White County where he lived until his death. On February 22, 1882, his wife died and on April 26, 1886, he married Mrs. Elizabeth Gruell, who survived him but one week and died on April 20, 1913. In November, 1864, Mr. Wolfe enlisted in the Forty-second Indiana Volunteer Infantry and was mustered out in July, 1865. He was an honored member of the Missionary Baptist Church in which he



served as deacon for several years. He was a loyal soldier and a member of the G. A. R. Mr. Wolfe was noted for his benevolence and his kindly regard and care for the unfortunate.

#### JAMES R. WOOD

An old settler of White County, James R. Wood was born in North Carolina, July 3, 1829. His father located in West Point Township in 1846. In 1856 Mr. Wood purchased and located on a farm just south of Wolcott, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was married on April 14, 1857, to Esther Thomas. To them were born three children, only one of whom, Erasmus M., is now living. His widow and one grandson, Garey, are also still living, all residents of Wolcott. Mr. Wood was a member of Company K, Twelfth Indiana Cavalry. He was next to the youngest of ten children. His youngest sister and the only surviving member of the family is Mrs. Emily J. Johnson, whose husband, Jeremiah J. Johnson, was killed at Jackson, Mississippi, and she is now in the hospital at the State Soldiers' Home at Lafayette. He died November 14, 1902.

#### JOHN WORTHINGTON

John Worthington was a son of Richard Worthington, who came to Pennsylvania from England in 1822. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1822, and when but eleven years old came with his parents to White County, the family living for many years on a farm about a mile west of Monticello. Of the family of eleven children he was the last survivor except his sister, Mrs. Victoria Bishop, of Marion, who was able to be present at his funeral. He was married April 10, 1853, to Lydia Vauseoy and to them were born eight children; his wife and three daughters survived him. In early life Mr. Worthington became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in which communion he lived his entire life. He died at his home in East Monticello, September 7, 1914.

#### JOHN E. WORTHINGTON

On account of his size and weight, Mr. Worthington was for many years a conspicuous figure about Monticello. He was born in Monon Township, June 9, 1855, but most of his life was spent on his father's farm just west of Monticello. About ten years before his death his extreme weight compelled him to leave the farm and seek other employment. Three times he was elected justice of the peace for Union Township. He died December 14, 1896, before entering upon his third term.

#### WILLIAM WYNEKOOP

William Wynekoop was born at Kirklin, Indiana, May 21, 1835, the sixth child of a family of twelve children, of which he was the last



survivor. In 1857 he located on a farm two miles south of Wolcott, where he lived until 1904, when he left to end his days with his son, Dr. Charles L. Wynekoop, of Chicago, where he died December 31, 1913. He was twice married, the first time to Ellen Matthews, to whom was born one child, Lewis Matthews, who survived him. His second wife was Helen Haynes, to whom he was married in 1865, and to them was born ten children, three of whom had preceded him to the grave. His remains were interred in Rose Hill Cemetery, Chicago.



















