The Society of Indiana Pioneers

"To Honor the Memory and the Work of the Pioneers of Indiana"

Pioneer Founders of Indiana 2013

The Society of Indiana Pioneers is seeking to identify Indiana Pioneers to recognize and honor their efforts in building early Indiana foundations. Each year, 15-20 counties are to be selected for honoring pioneers at each annual meeting. The task of covering all 92 counties will be completed by 2016, the year we celebrate the centennial of the founding of the Society of Indiana Pioneers.

For 2013, the Indiana counties include the following:

  Blackford, Brown, Clay, Davies, DeKalb, Dubois, Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Greene, Jackson, Kosciusko, Madison, Newton, Porter, Randolph, Vanderburgh, and White

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(317) 233-6588 www.indianapioneers.com societyofindianapioneers@yahoo.com
The Pioneer Founders of Indiana Program 2013

This is the fourth year that a compilation of Pioneer Founder nominations has been published, and with this 2013 publication, nearly 350 wonderful stories about the early pioneers from 74 of Indiana’s 92 counties have been shared. We look forward to receiving submissions from the remaining 18 counties in 2014 to complete the work in time for the Society’s centennial celebration in 2016.

What better way to honor our pioneer ancestors than to tell their stories for all to share? In this day when too few of us have the opportunity to have our children sit on a grandparent’s knee and hear family legends and stories of the “good old days”, they must be shared in other ways. Please take the time to tell your family’s story and honor your pioneer ancestors by submitting a Pioneer Founder nomination for inclusion in the 2014 booklet.

One of this year’s contributors says it very well:

“The Tanner's Creek pioneers did not found empires and enslave nations; they did not command armies and kill thousands or devastate provinces in the name of glory, but they did right well the work their hands found to do; they brought up their children to fear God and love their fellow men; and they set an example of honesty, industry, piety and loyalty which will influence the world for good in all time to come. And today we do ourselves honor, as we do each season when the years roll around in meeting to revere their memory.” *

President Benjamin Harrison, the only president elected from the State of Indiana, once said:” Great lives never go out; they go on.” While that is certainly true, I think the President stopped short of the whole story. While they were not all “great”, the lives of hard-working pioneer men and women who endured the hardships of pioneer life to provide for their young families and create a great state in a great nation out of the wilderness will likewise go on. Sharing the stories of these brave people makes it so.

Thank you to the contributors for your stories; we are all enriched by them.

Bob Everitt, Secretary
The Society of Indiana Pioneers

*See Lt. Jacob Blasdell Dearborn County 2011, 2013 Publication
Hymn to Honour of Our Ancestors

Let us now sing the praises of famous men, our ancestors in their generations. Some of them have left behind a name, so that others declare their praise. But of others there is no memory; they have perished as though they had never existed; they have become as though they had never been born, they and their children after them. But these also were godly men, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten. Their offspring will continue forever, and their glory will never be blotted out. Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name lives on generation after generation.

IN REMEMBRANCE

When you pass by old Bethlehem*, Look high upon the hill And see the flags awaving there For those remembered still. They served their country proud and brave. They’re now asleep, but we remain. With hand on heart, we won’t forget. Their sacrifice was not in vain. That flag that waves is a symbol Of a nation great and free. Because of heroes resting there That nation came to be. Old Bethlehem, so sweet and dear, You guard them lying there. We bow today with humble hearts And pray a thankful prayer.

---Jeanne Mercer Weaver, 2009

*Ivan notes: Bethlehem Church and Cemetery is a short distance East of Morgantown, Morgan Co., Indiana on the Old Morgantown Road.

Contributor--Ivan Lancaster
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
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Additional 2010-2011-2012 Nominations

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<td>Josiah Lamb</td>
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*Nominees are listed in the order they appear in the booklet.*
## The Society of Indiana Pioneers

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John Saxon

Date and Place of Birth: 17 Nov 1761--New York City, New York
Date and Place of Death: 24 Sep 1862--Blackford County, Indiana

John Saxon came to Blackford County in 1839 with other families from New York State. He enlisted in the Revolutionary War at Westchester County, New York and served as a private and a drummer boy in Capt. Richard Sachet's Company of Col. Albert Rawling's Reg. of the New York Militia at Amewalk, West Chester Co, New York. About 1783, he married Elizabeth Evans at Amewalk, West Chester Co., New York. She was born 30 March 1770 in New York and died 25 April 1852 in Blackford County. John Saxon was a farmer in Licking Township of Blackford Co. John Saxon lived to be 100 years and 10 months old. He is buried in the Hartford City Cemetery.

The children of John and Elizabeth Saxon were Mary, the wife of Gilbert Townsend, Hepsibeth, James, Malinda, Fannie, and Lydia.

Contributor--Allen W. Moore

Gilbert Townsend, Sr.

Date and Place of Birth: 1780--Sussex County, New Jersey
Date and Place of Death: 8 Oct 1861--Blackford County, Indiana

Gilbert Townsend, Sr. came to Blackford County in 1839 with other families from New York State. His wife was Mary Saxon, daughter of John Saxon. She died 20 January 1872. Their children were Charles, John, Gilbert, Jr., Lucy Ann, Sarah, James S., Alvah, Elizabeth, and Mary. Most of the Townsends of Blackford and Grant counties are descendants. Among them are the late Clifford Townsend, Governor of Indiana from 1937 to 1941, Wayne Townsend, former State Senator and Representative and candidate for Governor, and Harry L. Pearson, Blackford County Commissioner.

Contributor--Allen W. Moore
Brown County

Joseph Fricker (Fraker)

Date and Place Birth: 22 Aug 1795--Unteralphen, Baden, Germany
Date and Place of Death: 4 Jul 1874--Morgan Co., Indiana

I would like to nominate this Indiana pioneer because, in spite of the fact that he did not lead an important life, he did lead a very active and somewhat interesting life.

Joseph Fricker¹ (22 August 1795² - 4 July 1874) was born at the village of Unteralphen in the Grand Duchy of Baden in southwest Germany. He was the son of another Joseph Fricker (1740-1812) and Anna Dellerin³ (1760- ). The older Joseph, a native of the village of Oberhof in the Aargau of Switzerland, was working in Oberalphen as a "Herrschaffer Mayer", a term that I have not been able to translate adequately. I assume that he held some sort of administrative position. The older Joseph retired some time before 1803 and moved his family to his traditional home in Oberhof. While living there he and his wife had another son. Fidel (also known as Felix) was born on the 3rd of April, 1803. Papa Joseph then died on 1 January 1812 leaving his widow and children to live off the municipal dole until they left Oberhof for America in May of 1817.

The Fricker family joined an emigration party led by Marx Reymann of Wölfhswil (a village very near Oberhof) with the intention to travel down the Rhine to Amsterdam and thence to Philadelphia. The move was caused by events half way around the world in the Dutch East Indies. On April 10th and 11th, 1815, the volcano Tambora⁴ erupted, killing 88,000 people living in the area. The result of the explosion for the rest of the world was two years of disrupted weather patterns and, in Europe, reduced agricultural production resulting in famine. The result for the Fricker family was that, after the 1816 famine in Switzerland, they were on the move to America the next spring.

Upon arriving at Amsterdam they boarded the soon to be notorious Dutch ship April under the command of Captain DeGroot.⁵ The ship left Amsterdam with 233 passengers on board, but the owners of the April ordered the captain to take on emigrants from three other ships bringing the total to 1,200. Before the ship could leave the Netherlands, it was placed in quarantine at Texel because of typhus. On leaving port at Texel, the April had 720 passengers, of which 125 died during the passage to America. They arrived in America, at the port of Newcastle, Delaware,⁶ on 1 January 1818, after making a harrowing seven and half month trip from Switzerland to America, surrounded most of the time by the deaths of their fellow travelers.

The Frickers traveled as "Redemptioners", that is to say, people who would be sold at indenture to recoup the cost of their passage for the owners of the ship. Thus they started their lives in America in a milder form of slavery.
In the 1820 Federal Census, Joseph appears living in Wilmington, Delaware. By 5 May 1822, Joseph's condition had improved to the extent that he could take a wife. He and Francina Corso were married in the Cathedral of St. Peter (RC) at Wilmington, Delaware, by the Rev. Patrick Kenny. Their children were all born in Wilmington and baptized in the same church. Francina died in October of 1837 and Joseph was, apparently, prepared to leave Delaware after living there for sixteen years.

It is rumored that the widower and his children lived for a short time in or near Cincinnati, Ohio, but I have no documentation to prove or disprove that assertion. In any event Joseph and his children, Anna Marie, Joseph, Mary Jane, and Ambrose arrived in Hamblen Township, Brown County, Indiana, by 3 February 1840 and he had purchased forty acres in Section 2 of Township 10 Range 3sect. 8 This small farm was on Salt Creek just north of Gold Point on what is now called "Green Road." Apparently Joseph's second oldest surviving son, William Carrel (1831-1889), was living with Joseph's sister Rosa and her husband in Kentucky at the time. William C. came to Indiana at a later, unspecified date.

During his time in Indiana Joseph supported his family by farming. Sometime before 1860 Joseph married, for the second time, a lady, perhaps a widow, named Sara Miller. She was born in 1795 in the same area of Switzerland as Joseph.

Our pioneer had two more moves left in him. In 1860 he and Sara were living in Washington Township, Morgan County, in the household of one Peter Miller (perhaps Sara's son?). By the 1870 Federal Census, they were living back in Hamblen Township, Brown County, Indiana.

Joseph died on 4 July 1874, probably in Brown or Morgan County. He is buried in Little Ireland (RC) Cemetery in Morgan County near Martinsville. Even though his children changed the spelling of the family name, he continued to use "Fricker" throughout his life and that spelling was used on his tombstone.

The four children that accompanied Joseph to Brown County, Indiana, are also qualified to be called Indiana Pioneers.

Joseph's oldest child was Anna Marie who was born in Wilmington, Delaware, on 23 July 1825. She lived her entire life in Hamblen Township, Brown County, and Hensley Township, Johnson County. On 28 January 1848, she married, in Brown County, John Wilson Paskins (1823-1872), a Johnson County blacksmith and farmer, who had just returned from the Mexican War. The union was blessed with eight children. In late 1871, John Paskins went to England to collect an inheritance and, while there, was murdered in early 1872. But that is a story for another day.

Anna Marie then entered a forty-four year widowhood, dying in Trafalgar, Indiana, on 25 July 1917.

The second pioneer child was Joseph. He was born in Wilmington, Delaware, 1 February 1830. He lived in Hamblen Township, Brown County, and was a blacksmith. He married twice. His first wife was Mary Anne Gillaspy (1832-1854), and they were married on 9 September 1852 in Brown County. They had one son. Mary Anne and the child both died within about a week of the child's birth. The second spouse was Minerva Duncan (1836-1926). She married Joseph on 21 February 1855. They had two sons and two daughters. Joseph served and died in the Civil War. He started his military career in October 1862 as a sergeant in Company H of the Eighty-Second Indiana Infantry Regiment. On 1 September 1864, he was discharged and mustered into the same company as a First Lieutenant. He died in camp at White Hall, Georgia, on 30 September 1864. He was later posthumously promoted to the rank of Captain.

The third pioneer child was Mary Jane. She was born in Wilmington, Delaware, on 4 March 1833. She married Peter H. Dine (1833-1906) on 9 February 1853. They had one daughter and three sons. She died on 30 October 1902.

The last pioneer child was the author's ancestor, Ambrose Fraker. Ambrose was born in Wilmington, Delaware, on 23 March 1836, thus he moved to Indiana when he was three years old. Most of his life he was a farmer and on 5 February 1853, at the relatively young age of 16, he was married to fifteen year old Margaret Ann Dine (1837-1912). They had nine children. During the Civil War, Ambrose was drafted and served as a private from September 1864 until June 1865. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic for the rest of his life. In 1883 he was appointed Superintendent of the Brown County Asylum (a.k.a. "The Poor Farm"). By 1912 Ambrose and his wife were living in Samaria in Johnson County. That is where Margaret Ann was struck by a train (locally known as "Old Jerk") and killed. Ambrose then moved to the home of his son John in Franklin where he died on 28 January 1915.
Thus the Fraker family's Pioneer Experience covered nearly one hundred years from 1817 to 1915 and almost seventy-five years of that century were spent in Indiana. I guess we'll stay.

1 When the family came from Europe the name was spelled "Fricker." The spelling of the name was changed to "Fraker" during the decade 1850-1860. Joseph used the "Fricker" spelling all of his life but his children, having been born "Frickers", died "Frakers."
2 Date of Joseph's birth is proven by a Geburts Schein consisting of a letter from Franz Xaver Bornhauser of the Unteralphen, Baden, (RC) parish attesting to the marriage of Joseph Fricker to Anna Dellerin and the legitimacy of their children born in Unteralphen, Joseph, Rosa, and Anton.
3 Sometimes spelled Deller, or Teller or, Tellerin.
5 Ibid. p. 20.
6 The intended destination was Philadelphia but the Delaware River was frozen so solidly that the ship had to stop at Newcastle.
7 Francina is recorded on her Marriage Certificate as "Corso" but her real name was "Gass r." She was born in 1797 in Switzerland and died in October 1837 in Wilmington.
8 John W. Hamblen, Ph.D. and Sandy Seitz, Federal Land Entries for Brown County, Indiana p. 31.
9 Charles Blanchard, Editor, Counties of Morgan, Monroe, & Brown, Indiana: Historical and Biographical, p. 691.

Contributor--Douglas C. Fraker
James Crafton

Date and Place of Birth: 1796--Kentucky
Date and Place of Death: 31 Aug 1873--Clay County, Indiana

Among the very first settlers of Clay County, was James Crafton, in 1821, settling near the village of Poland.

He was born during 1796, the year his father, Joseph Crafton and mother, Patsey Stembridge Crafton moved to Kentucky from Lunenburg County, Virginia. It is written, James appeared to be an easy going, lazy, good-natured sort of a character, with no particularly bad traits.

James married Sarah Cromwell, daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth Cromwell, in 1828, theirs being the first marriage of Clay County. Eight children were born to this couple, Martha, Joseph, Minerva, Horace, Sarah, Thomas, Mary, and Jasper. In 1841, James, along with John B. Nees, John Chance, and Issac Anderson, owners of the lands cornering at the crossing of the roads, contributed to the plat and founded the site of Poland, six miles north of Bowling Green. It is situated in the midst of an industrious, prosperous farming community, in which the population is largely German.

James Crafton was a farmer with a generous consideration, caring for his family and neighbors. He was living in the home of his widowed daughter, Martha Jane Crafton Gilbrech, at the time of his death, on 31 August 1873. He was buried in the Killion Cemetery, Clay County, Indiana, near Centerpoint.

Sources:
"County of Clay Indiana, Historical and Biographical", by Charles Blanchard "History of Clay County, Indiana", by William Travis

Nathaniel Hardesty Modesitt

Date and Place of Birth: 10 Sep 1829--Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 20 Apr 1873--Clay County, Indiana

Even if your name isn't Modesitt you are probably related to an early pioneer of Clay County. I have said this to
several people who then claimed they had no Modesitts on their family tree. Let’s learn a little bit more about this pioneer, anyway.

Nathaniel Hardesty Modesitt was born 9 March, 1809 in Virginia, the third child of Uriiah and Johanna Cole Modesitt. Hardesty was the maiden name of his maternal grandmother. On 10 September 1829 in West Virginia he married Mariah Lake and the couple moved to Indiana shortly after that and settled in Perry Township. Nathaniel built a log home in Section Four. He worked hard and met with much success. Later he bought land across the line in Posey Township. At the time of his death he held the title to 328 acres of land, most of it improved. After Mariah died, Nathaniel married Hila McCullough Akre, the widow of James Akre.

Twelve children were born to Nathaniel and Mariah. He and Hila had another four. Of all these children only three either died early or never married. Their marriages brought these branches to the family tree: Whallon, Bayless, Evans, Donham, Diel, Chambers, Mace, Wools, Thompson, Corbin, Tribble, Veach, Butts, and McVey. The grandchildren and great grandchildren brought many, many more names into the family.

Nathaniel lived in Perry and Posey Townships. What else do we know about him? Most of my information comes from The History of Clay County by William Travis and a pamphlet about the Modesitt family by the late Virginia Reklis of Havre de Grace, MD.

Formed on 7 September 1853 a band of men from Clay and Vigo counties pledged to protect property and persons from the alarming growth of crime and the inability of the law officers to curtail it. (To this author it sounds much like an early neighborhood watch or even vigilantes.) They called themselves The Clay County ‘Regulators’ Association. Ninety-one men signed the resolution. The group was to remain active for 10 years or until it was disbanded by general consent of the membership, which happened 8 March 1856. This interesting incident was documented. After a group of bandits had been particularly active, the Regulators went to the home of the culprits with the intention of dragging them out of bed and punishing them. The bandits escaped but the next day some of them rode out on horseback through Cloverdale shouting that they were going to the Deckers, Modesitts, and Cobans to hang them. When they reached the Decker home about 8:00 the next morning they were surprised to find about 25 men waiting for them. The bandits claimed that they wanted to buy hogs. Nathaniel Modesitt, a man of too much “grit” to quietly accept this excuse stated that he would lick any of the party in a fair fight, saying, “You came here for trouble and not for hogs”. His challenge was not accepted. The Regulators did not want bloodshed and this incident ended without it.

Nathaniel had a rather strange request. When he died he wanted his passing announced with the ringing of their large dinner bell for one half hour. Then when leaving the house to take him to his burial place in Rule Cemetery he wanted the bell rung until all of the funeral procession passed off of the homestead. He died 20 April 1873 and his requests were completely fulfilled.

The likelihood of any person living in Clay County being descended from Nathaniel Modesitt is great. If you really are no relation to him you might live on land that was either owned or defended by this early pioneer of Clay County.

Contributor—Alice Ann Courtney

Esau “Esaw” Presnell

Date and Place of Birth: 17 Jul 1812—North Carolina
Date and Place of Death: 29 Oct 1888—Clay County, Indiana

Esau Presnell was born on July 15, 1812, in his native state of North Carolina. He lived with his parents until he joined a group of emigrants that came to Indiana where they settled in Clay County on July 10, 1833. This part of Indiana was mainly a wilderness. When Esau arrived he had $25.00 in silver which he loaned to his uncle, John Sturdevant.

Soon after Esau came to Clay County, he found employment shoveling dirt on the construction of the National Road in the locality of Williamstown. He earned 62 ½ cents a day and he invested his earnings in land. He joined his uncle in buying and acquiring more land from the government.

On March 19, 1835, Esau married Nancy Green, in a ceremony performed by Esquire Pierce Jones. The improvement
of his land and the making of a farm engaged all his attention and energies. Esau noticed that there were no stores nearby so he constructed a small log building in his yard and engaged in merchandising. In 1850, in the building of the Terre Haute & Indianapolis Railroad, he sub-contracted one mile of grading and accepted forty per cent of the contract price in bonds in the road. He continued to acquire additional bonds and when the transfer of the road to the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton occurred, Esau held as much as $25,000.00 interest in the road.

In 1855, Esau sold his farm to Henry Dial and in 1856 he embarked in merchandising at Center Point which began as a town that year. He continued in business up to the time of his permanent retirement in 1871.

Previous to the burning of the court house, under the old constitution, Esau served a term, perhaps two terms as county commissioner. In 1861, he was again elected commissioner, serving one term as president of the board.

During his fifty-five years as a resident of Clay County, he made three trips back to his native state. On the third trip he was able to travel by railroad and not by horseback. On this trip he returned with his mother. All through his life, Esau adhered tenaciously to never engage the services of a physician. He held to this resolution until a short time before his death. Esau was one of the largest landowners in the county. He was known for his integrity and unbounded confidence in the native integrity of the poor man. Though wealthy, Esau was known for never denying his fellow man credit or oppressing him. At the time of his retirement, few people knew the volume of obligations owed to him. When questioned about the loans, Esau would reply, "They'll all pay at some time. It is true that many of these claims could not be collected by process of law, but by being indulgent, giving them their own time, practically all of them, from their sense of appreciation and the right, will come up and redeem their paper."

Esau was a simple, frugal citizen whose qualities endeared him to a large circle of friends. He died at his residence at Center Point on October 29, 1888.

Contributor--Committee Member
Charmer “Charner” Hawkins

Date and Place of Birth: 29 Mar 1831--Washington Twp., Daviess Co., Indiana
Date and Place of Death: 4 Aug 1918--Washington Twp., Daviess Co., Indiana

CHARMER HAWKINS, African American, was born near Washington, Daviess Co., Indiana, March 29, 1831, and was the fourth of a family of eleven children born to Jacob and Ellen (Embrey) Hawkins, who were natives of Charleston, S. C., where they were slaves. They came with their owners to Indiana when it was a territory, and at its admittance into the Union as a state, they obtained their freedom. The father was at this time sixteen years of age, and by his own energy and perseverance became the owner of over 1,000 acres of excellent farming land. His master's name was Hawkins, and he accordingly took that name after securing his freedom. He and wife were for some time members of the Presbyterian Church, and afterward of the African Methodist Church. The father died in 1864, and the mother in 1870.

Charmer was reared on a farm, and received very limited educational advantages. He remained with his parents to the age of twenty-two years, when he married and settled on his own farm. Charmer was very prosperous in his undertakings, and became the owner of 260 acres of land in one tract, and thirty acres near Washington. His farm was well improved, and he maintained a fine two-story residence which was well furnished.

In 1853, he married Malinda Grier. They had two children: Sylvester and Sarah E. Malinda died January 17, 1873, and on September 15, 1875, he married Millie Blakey, with whom he fathered four children: Dora, Clergain, Helen, and Charmer.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins were members of the African Methodist Church, and he was a member of the I. O. O. F., and politically a very zealous Republican. Charmer was one of the prominent men of the county, and was recognized as a highly honorable and upright citizen. His father was the first African American in the county, and in his younger days often made trips to Vincennes, protected from the Indians by a number of armed men, to get barrels of salt for the neighbors.
DeKalb County

David Brookens Knight

Date and Place of Birth: 17 May 1904--Fairfield, Ohio
Date and Place of Death: 21 Feb 1878--Elkhart, Indiana

David Knight was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, in the area that would become Knox County (1808) to William and Mary Knight. David purchased land and moved to Canaan Township, Marion County, Ohio, where he married Mary Ann Boyle, December 5, 1829. Their first three children were born there -- Cynthia, William, and Nancy Jane.

In 1836 David, his family, and his brother, Michael moved to Indiana and settled on their land near what would become the small settlement of Concord, Indiana. David obtained a land patent dated 1August 1837 at Fort Wayne for forty acres located in NW ¼ NE ¼ Sec 17 T 33N (Concord Township). In 1837, his brother-in-law, Jonathan Boyle, his mother Mary Knight, along with the Brown and Herrod family members stopped by the cabins of Michael and David Knight before settling on their own lands.

In 1838 David and others petitioned the County Commissioners to create a road to run from the Ohio - Indiana state line to St. Joe. He also served on the petit jury. In 1839, he purchased another 39 acres of land from relatives.

David was the second superintendent of the first Sunday school in DeKalb County later located in the Concord Methodist Protestant church. His wife, Mary, was a teacher. It was originally organized at nearby Monroe schoolhouse in 1845. When the Concord Church building was completed they moved to that facility. David and Mary had ten children-Cynthia, William, Nancy Jane, Rhoda, John B, Cyrus, Dennis, James Scott, Michael, and Calvin.

Mary died 27 March 1852 and was buried in the Concord cemetery. His children left were without a mother so David remarried, October 7, 1852, to Mahala Reed. The farm land was sold in 1856 and David purchased farmland in Section 28, York Township on May 1856. It was located near the river in Elkhart County. They moved there with the youngest of his children. His older married children stayed in DeKalb County. David's brother, Michael, had moved to Elkhart several years earlier.

The family lived south of the town of Vistula and was active in the local church there. Mahala died in Elkhart County in 1871. David married again to Susan Cook, on October 5, 1876. David died on February 21, 1878 and was buried at Vistula Cemetery, York Township, Elkhart County next to two of his young sons, James Scott and Calvin.

Contributor--Lina M. Zerkle
James Hadsell

Date and Place of Birth: 28 Feb 1813--Broome, New York
Date and Place of Death: 06 Mar 1876--DeKalb, Indiana

James Hadsell was born on 28 February 1813 in Broome County, New York to John and Abigail (Bray) Hadsell. When a young boy his family moved to Trumbull County, Ohio where he was raised on the family farm, helped in his father's mill, attended the district school, and studied on his own. He later taught school for about ten dollars a month.

James married Mary Ann Abel (born 21 August 1813) daughter of Daniel and Sally (Root) Abel, on 12 March 1835 in Trumbull County by Lewis Abel, J.P. James and his pregnant wife moved to the wilderness of De Kalb County in 1836 and proceeded to build a cabin and clear his land.

On August 1, 1836, James purchased 80 acres in Sec. 26, in what was to become Concord Township in De Kalb County. His brother-in-law, Jonathan Abel (wife Electa Hadsell, sister of James), also moved at that time to Indiana with others from Trumbull County. He helped lay out one of the first roads in the county. He and his family were counted in the 1840 census.

James was licensed to preach in the Disciples Church. He became the second bishop of Colburn Corners church near St. Joe, Indiana, organized on 17 February 1837 by James and ten others.

Although he and his wife proceeded to establish and work their farm, his first love was preaching the gospel. He traveled by foot and horseback thirty, forty, fifty miles or farther around the area to hold protracted revival meetings and to help establish churches. He became the minister for Christian churches in Newville (1851), Cedar Lake (1868), Kendallville (1864-1871), La Porte (1871), Butler (1872) and Waterloo (1872) as well as others in Ohio and Southern Michigan. While James was traveling around the area, his wife, Mary, and her children stayed on the farm, assuming all of the responsibility of that. James and Mary lived on the farm for thirty years.

James and Mary had eight children, all of whom lived to adulthood and were active in their communities. Byron, born 18 November 1836, was the first-born and may have been the first white boy born in the county. The oldest daughter, Orlina, was born in 1838.

James was active in all aspects of his community. He served on the county's first petit jury in 1837 and as a "collector" for the treasurer, and trustee. He represented De Kalb and Steuben Counties in the state legislature 1853-56. James was a member of the Fusion, an anti-slave party. He and other residents established Vienna (Newville) Academy in 1855, and he was one of the initial stockholders. James believed in quality education. James and Mary moved to Kendallville in Noble County in 1864 to establish a church there. After a lifetime of preaching, James and Mary moved from Kendallville and settled in Waterloo about 1871, where he helped with his last church. He died at his home on 6 March 1876 and was buried near his old farm in the Alton Cemetery where many of his relatives and family members were interred. His funeral was officiated by L. L. Carpenter, a well-known evangelist of the time.

Mary lived with several of her children until her death on 16 February 1908 in Hicksville, Ohio at the home of her son, Camillus. She was buried with her beloved husband at Alton Cemetery, Concord Township, De Kalb County.

Contributor--Lina M. Zerkle

Daniel Altenberg (Altenburg)

Date and Place of Birth: 19 July, 1809 – Montgomery Co., New York
Date and Place of Death: 19 Jan 1888 --Auburn, Indiana

1914 DeKalb Co. History Book, pages 133-134 says, "Mr. Altenburg and Walsworth were among the early settlers in the vicinity of Auburn. They moved in together and left Steubenville, in Steuben County, on the morning of the fourth of November, 1838, in the midst of a very heavy fall of snow, which continued all day. Having a narrow, blind, crooked track to follow, without a house for nine miles, the snowflakes falling so fast as to bewilder the traveler, and, at some times, weighing down the bushes across the track, it became necessary for one of the men to walk before the teams, to find the way, and remove the bushes overhanging it. They also had some stock to drive, and their help being rather scarce, the women were under the necessity of walking, and assisting to drive them. The snow being soft, and
hanging on the bushes, those on foot became completely wet. On and on the slow ox teams passed, through snow and mud, along the crooked, narrow path, until night came on, and still all around was a bleak, snow-clad forest. They began to think of lying in their wagons for the night, but having no way of making a fire, and nothing for their teams and the wagon got entirely out of the way, and so entangled among the trees and logs that the latter had to be left. Hitching both teams to one wagon, they drove on until they began to think they must be near to the only dwelling between Steubenville and Auburn, Isaac B. Smith's. Stopping the teams, Mr. Altenburg proposed that all should unite in one desperate yell in order to find whether any human being was near. Loud and shrill arose that cry on the midnight air, but the loud howl of a pack of wolves, who name appeared to be legion, was the only reply. After holding their breath in silence for awhile, Mr. Altenburg proposed that they tune their throats anew, and pitch their voices a note or two higher, and even pinch the baby (Henry Altenburg); that he might join his voice with theirs. This effort was successful, and Mr. Smith came to their rescue with a light, and welcomed them to the hospitality of his little cabin, for although about full already, he had room for two families. The next morning, bringing up the wagon left in the rear, they started on, and succeeded in driving all of three miles through mud and snow before dark, reaching a little board shanty put up by Wesley Park for two men to lodge in, who were building a bridge over Cedar creek, where Uniontown now is. During the day, they caught a coon, and on it they feasted the following morning, the two families and the two bridge builders having somehow contrived to stow themselves away for the night in the little shanty. In the morning the question was how to get down the steep bank of the creek with the loaded wagons. This feat was accomplished by running poles under the body of the wagon and between the spokes of each wheel, so as to lock them all, and then hitching a yoke of oxen to the tongue to hold back, and another yoke to the hind part of the wagon to pull back, the oxen hitched behind, making of course, a desperate effort to prevent being dragged down.

In an obituary it reads, "DANIEL AL TEN BER G Daniel was born in Montgomery Co., NY, July 19, 1809 and died at his home in Auburn January 19, 1888 aged 78 years, 6 mos. He was married to Miss Sarah Latson March 14, 1833. To this union were born nine children all of whom are living. Mrs. Altenberg departed this life in 1863 and he was again married this time to Miss Susan Gilbert who survives him. He came to IN in 1838 when there were but few homes in Auburn and settled 2 1/2 miles east of the village where he remained until (1873 or 1875) when he sold his farm and came to Auburn. He met with a serious accident from a falling tree which necessitated the amputation of his left arm, Feb. 10, 1848. The operation was not successfully performed and in consequence he has been a constant sufferer ever since, some of the time the pain has been terrible and his strong frame has wrought in awful agony. In hopes of obtaining relief he suffered a 2nd operation in Feb. 1848 but found no relief and was compelled to suffer on until death released him. Mr. Altenberg was an earnest Christian and bore his sufferings with Christian fortitude. He was converted and joined the M.E. Church 1826, he served his church in various official positions with great acceptability. While the family feels keenly the fact that they shall see his face no more, still they cannot help being grateful that at last after 40 year of constant suffering, he is permitted to rest. Surely a good man has gone to his reward."

In an obituary found in the Clara Hanes McCague and family scrapbook . . "REST COMES AT LAST The Pioneers are Falling One by One Before the Reaper of Death AL TEN BER G -- THE PIONEER. On last Sunday, citizens of Auburn, old neighbors from the country and many sympathizing friends, attended the funeral of Daniel Altenburg. This old man whose later years have been marked by constant pain belonged to a heroic race, now rapidly becoming extinct. He was a pioneer to DeKalb County when its present fine farms, fenceless, and houseless, save at long distances, formed part of a seemingly unbroken forest tenanted by howling wolves and herds of deer. His first night on his farm was marked by fall of snow, dismal howling of wolves, and hardships of winter. Only the pioneer himself knows what labors were required to clear a piece of ground of its heavy timber, what sense of loneliness, so far away from the old home, and so far even from neighbors. Mr. Altenburg is deserving of especial remembrance for his courage and perseverance in leading and preparing the way for the present comfort and wealth of DeKalb County citizens. It was a singular circumstance that on the day his arm was broken by the falling of a tree, two others were injured by like cause. Newspapers in the forties were rare in Northeastern Indiana but of such as were published, Altenburg was a subscriber and from their columns kept himself well informed on current events and perhaps partly owing to this fact and partly as a recognition of his claims as a pioneer, he was chosen Justice of Peace. Altenburg is dead, his pain racked body rests peacefully in our cemetery but his memory should live as long as futurity cherishes gratitude for the pioneers of civilization."
In the Courthouse history it says, "In September, 1864, the old building was sold to Daniel Altenburg for the sum of twenty-five dollars. He partially dismantled it and removed everything of value. This was near the end of the Civil War, and when news reached Auburn that Richmond, the capital of the waning Confederacy, had been captured by the Union Army, a huge crowd of local citizens congregated around the Square for a public celebration. It was suggested that a bonfire would be appropriate, to which Mr. Altenburg replied, "If you want to make a bonfire, you may burn the old courthouse." He was soon taken at his word, and the old building, for years the scene of local justice, found a glorious end in the blazing flames of a national celebration."

Contributor--Roselyn Wells

John Thompson

Date and Place of Birth: about 1800--Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 1880--Newyago Co., Michigan

John Thompson was born in January, 1800 most likely in Pennsylvania. The first record of John and his wife Anna is from the “History of DeKalb County” (1914) listing them as founding pioneers in the Newville County, Indiana in 1836. We have no record of either John or Anna's exact birth place or marriage, though John is listed as being born in Pennsylvania and Anna in Ohio. We also do not know if Anna was John's only wife.

Their son Elijah Moses was born around 1829 and likely his brother John E. around 1835. The Thompson’s moved to DeKalb county around 1836 and likely joined up with another family, Daniel Strong, in Ohio before heading west. The Strong's left Ohio and arrived at Newville Indiana on June 4, 1836. It is evident they all lived near Newville for some years, as the Strong and Thompson lands were in quite close proximity. John Thompson is listed as constable and Daniel Strong and his son Ephraim are listed as Trustees in the Newville County records. Daniel Strong set up their son Ephraim nearby with his own farm in 1841. In 1845 and 1847 John Thompson's farm expanded with additional land purchases. John Thompson was listed as buying land in Newville in 1845, Elijah would have been 16 yrs. (land is listed under Elijah's notes). John's farm grew further and in 1850 they bought an additional 10 acres. Two years later they would cash in by selling off land in 1851 that was purchased 5 years earlier.

Michigan 1880 census records show John living in Barton Twp, Newaygo County with Elijah and his family. Death certificate shows he was a carpenter by trade and died on June 7, 1880 age 80yrs, 6 mos.

Contributor--Lorne Thompson
David G. Abell

Date and Place of Birth: 10 Dec 1829--Crawford Co., Indiana
Date and Place of Death: 28 Apr 1881--Jackson Twp., Dubois Co., Indiana

David G. Abell was a native of Crawford, Indiana, born December 10, 1829. He was one of thirteen children born to Francis and Elizabeth Abell. When he was six years old, his father died. David came with his mother to Dubois County and they located near Ferdinand where they lived about eight years. After living in Ferdinand, they moved to Jackson Township and bought the farm upon which he resided until his death.

David was a very successful farmer and at his death he owned 220 acres of land. His son, Jasper, managed the farm after David’s death.

In 1851 David married Jane Dameron, who died two years later. After her death, he chose for his second wife a native of Germany, Katherine Bretz. They were married in October of 1855 and to this union were born ten children. The children were Jasper N; Maggie, Mary E, David, Anna, William, Sarah, Jacob, George E, and Peter S.

Mrs. Abell was a member of the Christian Church and the family was respected and esteemed in Dubois County. David Abell died on 28 April 1881.

Contributor--Committee Member
Stephen Hall and Nancy (Liggett) Sprong

Date and Place of Birth: 06 Jan 1804--Hamilton Co., Ohio
Date and Place of Death: 18 Mar 1857--Bentonville, Fayette Co., Indiana

Stephen was the son of David and Lois (Finney) Sprong. Nancy was born in NY to unknown parents. They came to Fayette Co., IN in 1839.

Children: James, William, Emiline, Milton, Sarah Jane, Catherine, David, John H., Samuel Rayburg, and Mary Josephine.

Contributor--Ann Orbaugh Brewer

Anderson and Millitha (Atkinson) Lynch

Date and Place of Birth: unknown
Date and Place of Death: unknown

Anderson and Millitha (Atkinson) Lynch came to Indiana in 1833 or prior. Their son, Ira, was born 1833 in Indiana. Ira married Katherine Isenhour. Ira served in the Civil War.

Ira went out to chop wood one day and never returned. His wife thought he was killed in the Civil War; however, when she later tried to obtain his war pension, she learned that he was drawing it himself in Wisconsin. I believe he may have married again in Wisconsin and had more children.

Contributor--Ann Orbaugh Brewer

Samuel and Susanna (Hackleman) Williams

Date and Place of Birth: 1758--Charles Co., Maryland
Date and Place of Death: 20 Mar 1839--Warren Co., Indiana

Samuel Williams (b. ca. 1788, Charles Co., Maryland) was the eldest son of Jeremiah Williams (b. 1760s? Charles Co.,
Maryland; d. 31 May 1812, Franklin Co., Indiana). They moved from Scott County, Kentucky (1800 Census) into Franklin Co., Indiana (where Jeremiah died in 1812). Samuel Williams was married about 1809 to Susanna Hackleman (b. 1787, South Carolina), daughter of Johann Jacob Hackleman (who has already been nominated as an Indiana Pioneer). Samuel appears in Harrison Township, Fayette County, Indiana, during the 1820 and 1830 Census. On 08 June 1833, he bought 200 acres of land in Warren Co., Indiana, and another 38 acres in 1837. He died in Warren Co., Indiana, on 20 March 1839. His widow, Susanna (usually called Susan) appears in the Warren Co., Indiana, Census of 1840 and 1850, and then she moved across the border to Iroquois Co., Illinois (where she is buried).

Contributor—Kenneth E. Kinman

John Conner
[See also Franklin County]

Date and Place of Birth: 27 Aug 1775--Schoenbrunn, Ohio
Date and Place of Death: 19 Apr 1826--Indianapolis, Indiana

The City of Connersville was founded in 1813 by Indian trader and frontiersman, John Conner. He was born August 27, 1775 in the village of Schoenbrunn in the state of Ohio.

John Conner was about six years old when his family, along with the Moravians and the Christian Indians, were forced to move to northern Ohio and then to the Detroit area by warring tribes of Indians who had allied with British forces during the American War for Independence. The Conner family became very familiar with Indian culture and their languages. The war had ended long before John and his brother, William, had grown to be young men. They left their family and settled among the Delaware Indians along the West Fork of the White River in what is now Indiana. Here they began their occupation of trading with the Indians, and each took a Delaware Indian woman as his bride.

In 1802 John made a trip to Washington, D.C., with some Indian chiefs for whom he acted as an interpreter. This journey opened his eyes to a new and more refined way of living. Upon his return to the Indiana Territory, John decided to leave the primitive life he had known but continued in the fur trading business by establishing a trading post in southeastern Indiana, just outside of the Indiana boundary near present day Cedar Grove in Franklin County.

Conner’s Delaware wife and a small band of Indians accompanied him there. By this time a trickle of settlers were coming into the area. John Conner’s store became a landmark for both Indians and settlers. Two Frenchmen, Michael Peltier and Charles Telier, had a store above the present site of Brookville. Since Conner had to be gone for extended periods of time, acting as an interpreter, Peltier managed Conner’s store. Gradually, it became known as the French store or the Conner and Peltier store.

The Grouseland Treaty of 1805 opened more land in southern and southeastern Indiana Territory, and settlers began coming in large numbers, encroaching onto the hunting grounds used by the Indians. In order to keep in closer contact with his source of furs, Conner moved his trading post in 1808 about 20 miles north along the West Fork of the Whitewater River to the present site of Connersville.

At the request of William Henry Harrison, Governor of the Indiana Territory, John Conner acted as an interpreter assisting with both the Grouseland Treaty and the Twelve Mile Purchase, which was completed in 1809. The Purchase opened even more land for settlement including most of Fayette County and the area where Connersville is located.

Conner’s life was undergoing significant changes during this time. The Delaware Indians were leaving Indiana as treaties took away more of their lands. John realized that he could not rely on trade with the Indians for income so he changed his focus to land development and sales and services to settlers. His Indian wife had died after several years of marriage that had borne them two sons. John remarried, this time to Lavina Winship from Cedar Grove, and on March 4, 1813, the village, to be known as Connersville, was platted with 62 lots. Prior to filing the village plat, he had started a gristmill and a sawmill. He also established a store and a distillery. The influx of settlers brought growth and prosperity to the community. As Indiana moved from territory status to statehood, John Conner helped provide leadership by serving in the newly formed State Legislature. In 1816, the year Indiana entered the Union, he was a member of the first session of the State Senate at the state capital in Corydon. He was the first senator elected from Franklin County. In 1819, Fayette County was formed and Connersville was selected as the county seat. John Conner was appointed the first sheriff of the county. The next year Conner was chosen to be one of the commissioners who selected the site for the city of Indianapolis to be the new state capital. Conner was elected to a second term in the Indiana Senate in 1821, representing Fayette and Union counties, but still meeting at Corydon.
As his responsibilities grew, John decided to move to the Noblesville area where he was nearer his brother, William. He continued his business interests, both in Connersville and in his new location, and he was also elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. As a member of this body, Conner was part of the first legislative session to meet in Indianapolis. John Conner died on April 19, 1826, and was buried at Greenlawn Cemetery near the White River in Indianapolis. Eventually the river began to destroy part of the cemetery, so graves were moved to Crown Hill Cemetery.

John Conner was born into the humblest of circumstances, but he became noteworthy as a trusted Indian interpreter, as the founding father of the city of Connersville, and as one of the early leaders and statesmen in the new state of Indiana.

Contributor--Pat Summan, Fayette County Historian  Source--Richard Stanley

Judge Samuel W. Parker

Date and Place of Birth:  7 Sep 1805--Watertown, New York
Date and Place of Death: 1 Feb 1859--Connersville, Indiana

Samuel Parker moved to Connersville in 1828 shortly after he graduated from Miami University. He opened a private subscription school and later became principal of the county seminary when it opened. Parker worked for various newspapers in Connersville. He began to “read Law” in the office of Oliver H. Smith and was admitted to the bar in 1831. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1840, first to the House, then to the Senate. In 1845 he was elected to Congress, serving two terms as a member of the Whig Party. In 1855 he returned to Connersville and resumed his legal practice. He purchased Old Elm Farm south of town on what is now Indiana 121 and served as president of the Junction Railroad and Whitewater Canal Company. He died February 1, 1859.

Contributor--Pat Summan, Fayette County Historian

Oliver Hampton Smith

Date and Place of Birth:  23 Oct 1794--Near Trenton, New Jersey
Date and Place of Death:  19 Mar 1859--Indianapolis, Indiana

Oliver H. Smith came to Indiana from Trenton, NJ in 1817 settling first at Rising Sun and then Lawrenceburg. He was admitted to the bar in Dearborn County and received his license to practice. He moved to Versailles where he started his practice then moved on to Connersville in May of 1820. He began a law practice and was elected to the Legislature serving from 1822 to 1823. Smith was made chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. In 1824 he was appointed Prosecuting Attorney of the Third Judicial Circuit by the Governor. He served two years. He was elected to Congress in 1826 and served until 1828. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1836. He moved to Indianapolis in 1838 and practiced law until his death March 19, 1859. He had been offered a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court but declined.

He was active in civic affairs while in Connersville and even platted an addition to the town. Smith lived at what was then called Old Elm Farm south of town and built the original part of what is now known as Elmhurst.

Contributor--Pat Summan, Fayette County Historian

Caleb Blood Smith

Date and Place of Birth:  16 Apr 1808--Boston, Massachusetts
Date and Place of Death: 17 Jan 1864--Indianapolis, Indiana

After graduating from Miami University in 1827, Caleb Blood Smith moved to Connersville and began to study law in the office of Oliver H. Smith. In 1828 he was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Connersville. He served five terms in the Indiana General Assembly and was speaker in 1836. Caleb Smith served three terms in the United States House of Representatives where he acted as leader of the Indiana delegation. By 1859 he was practicing law in Indianapolis and was active in the newly-born Republican Party. He played a major role in the election of Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln appointed him Secretary of the Interior. Caleb Smith served in that position until
December 1862 when he resigned to accept appointment as a judge of the United States Court for the District of Indiana.

No matter what Caleb Blood Smith did during his lifetime, he is best known for the mystery that surrounds his burial place. He had stated that he wanted to be buried in Connersville. His widow placed him in a mausoleum at Crown Hill in Indianapolis, then later removed his remains to Connersville. She feared that Southern sympathizers would desecrate his grave, so she kept the location a secret. At one time there was a sign at City Cemetery stating Caleb Blood Smith was buried there but an excavation several years ago did not find his body.

Contributor--Pat Summan, Fayette County Historian

John McCrory

Date and Place of Birth: 1778--Scotland, United Kingdom
Date and Place of Death: 30 Jul 1868--Fairview Twp., Fayette Co., Indiana

As an early pioneer in Fayette County, Indiana, John McCrory's actions exemplified the desire to live in the freedom offered in America and early Indiana. The pioneer spirit, fortitude, stamina and initiative of John McCrory and other members of his family helped lay the foundation for those of us who follow as proud and resourceful Hoosiers.

As an early pioneer in Fayette County, Indiana, John McCrory's actions exemplified the desire to live in the freedom offered in America and early Indiana. The primary source for the following narrative concerning John McCrory was a letter written in 1962 by one of McCrory's great grandsons, Arthur Gillespie Saxon.

John McCrory was born about 1778 in Scotland and emigrated to County Antrim, Ireland where he met and married Lillie Aken. In 1811 John, his wife, and four children set sail from Belfast, Ireland for America. During their voyage they were ship wrecked and rescued. In addition, the British boarded their ship three times searching for British subjects to impress into military service during the War of 1812. Since 13 year old son Robert McCrory was with them this was particularly stressful to the McCrorys. Some six months later the McCrorys reached America when they landed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After seven years in Pennsylvania they traveled down the Ohio River on a flatboat to Cincinnati, Ohio. From there they made their way by wagon to Fayette County, Indiana. John McCrory and his family settled on land west of Connersville in 1820. They took possession in cold weather with heavy snow on the ground, scraping the snow from a large walnut tree that had fallen and making a lean to of poles, brush, and bark for a home during the winter of 1820-1821. That spring McCrory built a cabin for their home. Great grandson Arthur Gillespie Saxon recalled a story about John noting that "...at log rollings, those pioneer events that combined business and pleasure, one of the pleasures was boxing. His neighbors didn't know that the quiet McCrory, a tailor in his native land, had also been trained in the science of boxing. He resisted urgings to get in on the fun, knowing how easily he could handle any of them, but they finally made it so hot for him he had to wade in, and in nothing flat had taken care of all comers." John's sixty-six year old wife Lillie died on October 23, 1843 after she fell into the fireplace where she was doing the family cooking. He buried her beside a daughter, who had died at the age of three years, on the spot where their first cabin was built on that land entered by John McCrory in 1820. Ninety year old John died July 30, 1868 in Fairview Township, Fayette County, Indiana at the home of his daughter Margaret McCrory Saxon and was buried in Glenwood Union cemetery, Glenwood, Rush County, Indiana.

The pioneer spirit, fortitude, stamina and initiative of John McCrory and other members of his family helped lay the foundation for those of us who follow as proud and resourceful Hoosiers.

Contributor--Kenneth E. Saxon

Alexander Saxon

Date and Place of Birth: 11 Sep 1767--Georgia
Date and Place of Death: 2 Dec 1844--Fayette Co., Indiana

Prior to Indiana's statehood in 1816 Alexander Saxon and his wife Mary Baldwin Saxon arrived in the southeastern Indiana territory in 1811 in what would later become Connersville inI813 and Fayette County inI818. Alexander Saxon was one of the earliest pioneers in Indiana and his actions serve as a source of pride not only for his family but for all those who appreciate the hard work and dedication he and other pioneers displayed while making Indiana the
Prior to Indiana's statehood in 1816 Alexander Saxon and his wife Mary Baldwin Saxon arrived in the southeastern Indiana territory in 1811 in what would later become Connersville in 1813 and Fayette County in 1818. By tracing history through written records and verified stories from the family's oral historians, especially Alexander's great grandson Arthur Gillespie Saxon, one can learn and appreciate the triumphs and tragedies of this Hoosier pioneer.

After living in North Carolina, the Pendleton District of South Carolina and Franklin County, Georgia, Alexander and Mary Baldwin Saxon joined a wagon train with their ox drawn Virginia scoop bed wagon and headed north. After staying in Warren County, Ohio for approximately one to two years, the Saxons emigrated to the John Conner Trading Post in the Whitewater Valley, arriving in October, 1811. With the onset of the winter of 1811-1812, the Saxons stayed with soldiers stationed at the Block House located on the high ground north of 4th Street between Eastern Avenue and Water Street. Land that included most of what is now Fayette County became available for settlement after the 1809 Fort Wayne Treaty that is commonly called "The Twelve Mile Purchase." On December 8, 1811 the Saxons bought 160 acres in the area that is now south Connersville and included land that became known as the Elmhurst property. In 1812 they built a cabin on the property across the river from where the Uhl-Snider mill was later built. Since the Whitewater River ran through their property, the Saxons ferried people back and forth across the river. The call to move remained strong and in 1813 the Saxons purchased land west of Connersville near Williams Creek and Bunker Hill and moved there. Responding to a need for buildings in Connersville in 1818 Alexander's sixteen year old son Alexander Gillespie Saxon was hired to help make bricks for John Conner's tavern. In 1836 during the celebration of the passage of the Internal Improvements Act that later brought the Whitewater Canal to Connersville, tragedy struck the Saxon family when one of Alexander's grandsons, also named Alexander, was killed during a premature cannon blast. Alexander and Mary Baldwin Saxon lived near Williams Creek until 1844 when they moved to Fairview Township in Fayette County. Alexander's death was the result of a broken hip, caused after an accident when his wagon was struck by a stage coach. Seventy-seven year old Alexander Saxon was buried in section 20 in the old school Baptist Church burying ground. His wife, a son who died at twenty-four years of age, and a one year old grandson are buried near him. Alexander's tombstone was probably made of soft limestone and is thought to still be intact, buried beneath the ground. In October of 2011 a new headstone was set at the grave of Fayette County pioneer Alexander Saxon, 1767-1844.

Alexander Saxon was one of the earliest pioneers in Indiana and his actions serve as a source of pride not only for his family but for all those who appreciate the hard work and dedication he and other pioneers displayed while making Indiana the great state that it is today.

Contributor--Kenneth E. Saxon
Jeremiah Williams

Date and Place of Birth: 1760s--Charles Co., Maryland
Date and Place of Death: 31 May 1812--Franklin Co., Indiana

Samuel Williams (b. ca. 1788, Charles Co., Maryland) was the eldest son of Jeremiah Williams (b. 1760s? Charles Co., Maryland; d. 31 May 1812, Franklin Co., Indiana). They moved from Scott County, Kentucky (1800 Census) into Franklin Co., Indiana (where Jeremiah died in 1812). Samuel Williams was married about 1809 to Susanna Hackleman (b. 1787, South Carolina), daughter of Johann Jacob Hackleman (who has already been nominated as an Indiana Pioneer). Samuel appears in Harrison Township, Fayette County, Indiana, during the 1820 and 1830 Census. On 08 June 1833, he bought 200 acres of land in Warren Co., Indiana, and another 38 acres in 1837. He died in Warren Co., Indiana, on 20 March 1839. His widow, Susanna (usually called Susan) appears in the Warren Co., Indiana, Census of 1840 and 1850, and then she moved across the border in Iroquois Co., Illinois (where she is buried).

Contributor--Kenneth E. Kinman

Conrad Sailors

Date and Place of Birth: 1776--Lincoln County, North Carolina
Date and Place of Death: 25 Jan 1846--America, Liberty Twp., Wabash County, Indiana

Conrad Sailors was a pioneer leader in Franklin County in the fields of military, religion, and public service.

He arrived in the county in 1806 and settled in the area around Little Cedar Grove Creek, about three miles south of Brookville. He was a charter member of the Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church and is credited with service in the War of 1812 for the building of a block house, about one mile east of the church for protection from potential Indian attacks. He was elected in March 1817 as a Justice of the Peace for Brookville Township and served in the Indiana House, 1819-1820. He was commissioned a major in the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Militia in 1817.

In February 1821, he, along with a number of other Little Cedar Grove Creek settlers, migrated to Rush County, upon opening of this section of the state to settlement. In addition to farming he opened a dry goods and grocery store. The Rush County Commissioners directed Sailors, as county agent, to contract for the lying out and clearing land for the county seat, Rushville.
He married Katherine Hackleman and had eleven children. In 1845 he moved to America in Wabash County, to live with his son-in-law, Elijah Quick and died at the home of Jesse D. Scott.

Sources:
* Sketch of Conrad Sailors, reprinted from the Rushville Republican in the Franklin Democrat, Brookville, IN, volume 46 no. 11, Thursday, April 2, 1884, page 1, columns 2-3.

Contributor—John J. Newman

Coker Fifield Clarkson

Date and Place of Birth: 21 Jan 1811--Frankfort, Penobscot County, Maine
Date and Place of Death: 7 May 1890--Des Moines, Iowa

Coker F. Clarkson is nominated for his contribution to Franklin County, as well as to Indiana, in the areas of journalism and agriculture.

He settled in Springfield Township, Franklin County, Indiana, with his family in 1820 and at the age of eighteen apprenticed in the newspaper office of Milton Gregg, at the Western Statesman, Lawrenceburg, Indiana. On July 12, 1833 he purchased the Brookville Inquirer and changed its name to the Indiana American, serving as its editor until he sold the paper in 1853, to Rev. Thomas A. Goodwin. The American circulated widely throughout Indiana and his views were frequently quoted by numerous Indiana newspapers for his Whig views. Upon retirement from the press, he served as general agent for promoting a railroad in Indiana. On May 1, 1855 [See note below] he moved to Grundy County, Iowa, purchasing a farm he named “Melrose.” With two sons he purchased the Iowa State Register (now the Des Moines Register) where he served as its agricultural editor. When in Brookville, he organized the Franklin County Agricultural Society February 7, 1852 and served as its first president. He used the pages of the American to print numerous articles on farming and its improvement in crops and livestock. He introduced the Osage Orange to Franklin County as a natural fence row. Even after his removed to Iowa he continued to write extensively for the Brookville papers on political, social and agricultural topics. His weekly essay, “Farm, Garden and Orchard,” was widely read by Iowa farmers. He last visited Brookville in 1889, shortly before his death.

Note: His obituary gives this date as when he moved to Iowa. There is an auction sale of his Brookville property in the Franklin Democrat, Brookville, Indiana, XXIV # 13, Friday, March 14, 1856, page 2, column 5, in which he advertises his sale of town lots, including an orchard of 40 apple trees, since “I shall leave for Iowa in a few weeks.” It appears that the May 1856 date would be more accurate.

Sources:
* The Brookville American*, Brookville, IN LVIII-21, Thursday, May 15, 1890, page 2 column 4, which printed his memorial appearing in the Iowa State Register, followed by a concise obituary.

He served in the Iowa General Assembly, and the State Historical Society of Iowa has a biographical sketch on line.
* History of Iowa From the Earliest Times to the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*, Benjamin F. Gue, NYC 1903, Volume 4 (biographies) pages 52, plus sketches of his two sons.

Find A Grave.com, under “Clarkson,” Franklin County, Indiana, gives history of his parents, wife and his buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Des Moines, Iowa.

Contributor—John J. Newman

Dr. David Oliver

Date and Place of Birth: 18 May 1792--Fort Hamar/Marietta, Ohio
Date and Place of Death: 15 Jun 1869--Oxford, Butler County, Ohio

Dr. David Oliver was a pioneer physician and political leader in Franklin County.
He spent sixteen years in Franklin County, from about 1816 – 1832. He was a leading doctor early in the history of the County and his ability was highly respected by those he served, to the point that there were many males with given names of “David Oliver.” He served in the Indiana House and Senate, 1824 – 1828, and was a delegate to the state convention for John Q. Adams. He served as vice-president of the Indiana State Medical Society, 1826. He moved to Oxford, Ohio in 1832 but continued to serve patients in the eastern part of Franklin County.

Sources:
A Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1980, volume 1, page 298. His birth date here is listed as Marietta, Ohio.
Burial Card, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati. Ohio (available on line). His birth place here is listed as Fort Harmar, Ohio.
Obituary, The Indiana American, Brookville, Indiana, volume 8 number 26, June 25, 1869, page 2 column 3.

Contributor--John J. Newman

Dr. George Berry, M. D.

Date and Place of Birth: 17 Feb 1811--Rockingham County, Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 19 Mar 1892--Brookville, Franklin County, Indiana

Dr. Berry served Franklin County and the state as physician, County Auditor, Brookville Town clerk and Postmaster, and in politics.

He was perhaps the leading physician during his career and served as a surgeon in the 16th Regiment, U. S. Infantry during the Mexican War. His sixty year career as a physician and surgeon saw service in Franklin, Fayette, Union, Dearborn, and Ripley Counties, Indiana, as well as in Butler County, Ohio. He served in Indiana Senate from 1843 - 1847 and represented Franklin County at the Constitutional Convention, 1850 - 1851.

Berry was a member of the Franklin, Indiana, and American Medical Associations.

Sources:
Obituary, Franklin Democrat, Brookville, Indiana, volume 54, number 11, Thursday, March 24, 1892, page 2, columns 2 and 4-5.

Contributor--John J. Newman

Enoch McCarty

Date and Place of Birth: 5 Jan 1783--Culpepper County, Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 12 Dec 1857--Brookville Township, Franklin County, Indiana

Enoch McCarty deserves nomination because of his public service to Franklin County and to the state. Enoch McCarty was a brother to Abner, Benjamin, and Jonathan McCarty, all political leaders in the early history of Indiana. The McCarty family arrived in what became Franklin County in 1803 and when Franklin County was organized January 1, 1811, Enoch was elected its first clerk, a position he held through 1814, and again from 1817 to 1831. He also was County Recorder, 1811 – 1817 and served as a Circuit Court Associate Judge, 1838 – 1845. In addition, he was a trustee and president of the board of the Franklin County Seminary and a trustee of the Franklin County Agricultural Society, 1834.

He was a member of the Constitutional Convention which drew up Indiana’s 1816 Constitution and served in the Indiana Senate, 1831 -1835 and House 1835-1837.

John M. Johnson, in notes written about 1870, noted “He was a man of good information, had read Blackstone, understood the general principles of the law, and was well versed in the statutes. The people, consequently, called on
him for advice.”

Sources:  
*A Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly*, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1980, volume 1, pages 244-5.  

Contributor--John J. Newman

**Henry Berry, Sr.**

Date and Place of Birth: 20 Jun 1783--Rockingham County, Virginia  
Date and Place of Death: 21 Sep 1864--Brookville Twp., Franklin County, Indiana

Henry Berry was a public servant for Franklin County.  
He arrived in the county November 7, 1816, from Butler County, Ohio and settled on a farm three miles east of Brookville where he farmed and did work as a blacksmith. He served as Franklin County Probate Judge, from February 23, 1831 until the court closed September 30, 1852. One did not have to be an attorney to serve as this judge; men were elected for their common sense and ability to administer the probate code in settling estates. Berry subscribed to many newspapers and he had an extensive library, both for his use, and for his children’s education.  
Source:  

Contributor--John J. Newman

**James Noble**

Date and Place of Birth: 16 Dec 1785--near Berryville, Clarke County, Virginia  
Date and Place of Death: 26 Feb 1831--Washington, D. C.

James Noble was a political leader in both the territorial and pioneer periods of Indiana History.  
The experience and interchange of ideas gained in Franklin County structured his political philosophy and savvy throughout his career. He settled in Franklin County about 1808 and served the territory as clerk of the territorial Legislative Council, 1809, and clerk of the House of Representatives in 1810 and 1813. He was a member of that Council, 1813-1814 and was a member of the Constitutional Convention from Franklin County. He served the county as prosecuting attorney in 1810 and as the judge of the Third Circuit in 1815. He was elected to the House in 1816 but resigned following his election to the United States Senate in 1817.  
He practiced law in Franklin County and surviving court case files show his legal ability among a number of other pioneer leading attorneys who also practiced in Franklin County. His ability to argue, obfuscate, negotiate, and compromise acquired in Franklin County was used to great benefit throughout his career.

Sources:  
As a member of Congress and as a national figure, there are many sources regarding his career. Many of these are listed in his biographical sketch in *A Biographical Directory of Members of the Indiana General Assembly*, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1980, volume 1, pages 293-294.  
Little explored by the historical community are the Franklin County Circuit Court Order Books and Deed Records that trace his career in Franklin County and which can assist the historian to review, and perhaps reinterpret, his political career.

Contributor--John J. Newman
Jane Templeton McCarty

Date and Place of Birth: 5 Dec 1802--Near New Haven, Harrison Twp., Hamilton County, Ohio
Date and Place of Death: 4 Jul 1894--Brookville, Franklin County, Indiana

Jane Templeton McCarty was the epitome of a pioneer wife and mother.

She was the daughter of John Templeton, a leading political leader in the Whitewater Valley in Indiana’s territorial times and was the wife of Abner McCarty, son of Benjamin (the first land patent-holder in Franklin County, 1803). The Templeton family, with others, blazed the “Carolina Trace” from near Harrison, Ohio up the East Fork of the Whitewater River in 1803. Jane grew up in what is now Union County and on May 17, 1821 married Abner McCarty. The newlyweds located in Brookville where Abner was a leading citizen. Later they had a farm three miles north of Brookville. In 1851 they purchased the home of John A. Matson in Brookville, where she died. She raised ten children and played an important role as the wife of a prominent leader in Brookville.

Source:
Obituary, Brookville Democrat, Brookville, IN Thursday, July 12, 1894, page 1, columns 1-5. Her obituary gives a history of her career and those with whom she knew, running four and one-half columns.

Contributor--John J. Newman

Lewis Deweese

Date and Place of Birth: ca 1750--Hanover, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 23 Aug 1834--Franklin County, Indiana

Lewis Deweese was a pioneer Baptist preacher, primarily connected with the Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Franklin County, Indiana. He was an influential church leader in Franklin County.

He was a charter member of the Bullittsburg Baptist Church, Petersburg, Boone County, Kentucky in June 1794 and was ordained October 15, 1797. He and his wife received letters of dismissal October 6, 1810 and on January 5, 1811 “The Church [Little Cedar Grove] has invited Brother Deweese to take part of the work with the other ministerial brethren.” He preached widely in Franklin and Dearborn County. The History of Dearborn and Ohio Counties, Indiana, 1885, noted “Lewis Deweese was an eloquent preacher, delivered short discourses, and quit when done. He, likewise, married nearly everyone in his vicinity.” Allen Wiley, writing on Methodism in the Whitewater Valley, 1845, noted: “Mr. Deweese was a most estimable man. His preaching was short, and full of good manly sense. Although he was firmly established in the doctrines of his Church, yet there was no little of sectarian bigotry in his preaching, that all denominations were fond of hearing him. Perhaps no man ever lived in Franklin County, who maintained a more unblemished character than Lewis Deweese.” Respect for him is noted in the number of children with the first and middle names of “Lewis Deweese.”

Sources
The History of Baptism, by Robert Robinson, edited by David Benedict, Boston, 1817 (p 566, Lewis Deweese subscribed to this history).
History of Dearborn and Ohio Counties, Indiana, Chicago, 1885, (page 529).
Minutes of the Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Franklin County, Indiana, page 17.
Indiana American, Brookville, Indiana, XIII-37, Friday, September 9, 1845, page 1 column 2.

Contributor--John J. Newman

Mother Teresa Hackelmeier

Date and Place of Birth: About 1826--Vienna, Austria
Date and Place of Death: 9 Sep 1860--Oldenburg, Franklin County, Indiana

NOTE: Although her arrival was eleven years after the closure date for consideration, her significant contribution to the religious development in Franklin County, in Indiana, and worldwide through the establishment of the Oldenburg
community merits her exception to the rule.

Teresa Hackelmeier volunteered to come to Oldenburg Indiana at the request of Farther Joseph Rudolf, to conduct school for his parish. She left Vienna by ship to New York City, then via the Erie Canal and the Ohio River, where she disembarked at Lawrenceburg. She arrived at Oldenburg January 6, 1851 and immediately began a convent and solicited ladies to join the order. She established a boarding school in 1851 with twelve students and this has grown to the Oldenburg Academy. During her lifetime she established parochial schools throughout southeastern Indiana and set the tone where today, in addition to Marian University, Indianapolis, the Sisters of St. Frances Oldenburg teach schools throughout the United States and world-wide.

Source:  

Contributor--John J. Newman

Noah Noble

Date and Place of Birth: 15 Jan 1794--Berryville, Clarke County, Virginia  
Date and Place of Death: 8 Feb 1844--Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana

Noah Noble was a political leader in both the territorial and pioneer periods of Indiana History.

He was active in the political, military, and economic life of Franklin County. He farmed, operated the Brookville Hotel, was a director of the Brookville branch of the State Bank of Indiana, operated a fulling* mill, as well as being a leading attorney. He held officer positions in the 7th Regiment, Indiana Militia.

His business and legal experience gained in Brookville helped structure his political philosophy as governor, 1831 – 1837. As an attorney in Franklin County, his legal acumen is reflected in surviving court case files. Little explored by the historical community are the Franklin County Circuit Court Order Books and Deed Records that trace his career in Franklin County and which can assist the historian to review, and perhaps reinterpret, his political career. John M. Johnston, in notes written about 1870, stated that Noble “was personally one of the best electioneers in the county. Indeed, it was a common saying that whenever he shook hands with a man he had him.” Evidently he was a man of all trades. In addition to practicing law, one finds this entry in the Circuit Court Order Book (September 29, 1824): “Ordered that Noah Noble be allowed four dollars & fifty cents for firewood and keeping the Court house in order the present term.”

Sources

A comprehensive study of his life is found in *Messages and Papers Relating to the Administration of Noah Noble, Governor of Indiana 1831-1837* Edited by Dorothy Riker and Gayle Thornbrough, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1958 introduction, pages 3-51.

Additional sources are listed in his biographical sketch in *A Biographical Directory of Members of the Indiana General Assembly*, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1980, volume 1, pages 293-294.


*Fulling: Process that increases the thickness and compactness of woven or knitted wool by subjecting it to moisture, heat, friction, and pressure until shrinkage of 10–25% is achieved. Shrinkage occurs in both the warp and weft, producing a smooth, tightly finished fabric that is light, warm, and relatively weather proof.*

Contributor--John J. Newman

David Mount

Date and Place of Birth: 2 Feb 1778--Hightstown, Mercer County, New Jersey  
Date and Place of Death: 18 May 1850--Metamora Twp., Franklin County, Indiana

David Mount is recognized in Franklin County for his public service and for his business acumen.

Mount moved to Franklin County in 1811 and was a member of the territorial House of Representatives and
represented the county in the Indiana House, 1816-1817 and the Senate, 1837-1838. He served as an Associate Judge, beginning with its March 1822 term and served through 1838. He was president of the Franklin County Agricultural Society, 1834, and was a trustee of the Franklin County Seminary.

He had extensive land holdings and developed Metamora after the canal was open, building flouring, carding, and fulling* mills.

His public service and his business pursuits contributed significantly to Franklin County during its pioneer period.

Sources:
*The Indiana American, Brookville, IN, XVIII # 22, obituary, page 2 column 7.

*Fulling: Process that increases the thickness and compactness of woven or knitted wool by subjecting it to moisture, heat, friction, and pressure until shrinkage of 10–25% is achieved. Shrinkage occurs in both the warp and weft, producing a smooth, tightly finished fabric that is light, warm, and relatively weather proof.

Contributor--John J. Newman

David Wallace

Date and Place of Birth: 4 Apr 1799--Lewistown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 4 Sep 1859--Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana

His residence in Brookville from 1822 to 1832 gave him the opportunity to practice politics and serve the needs of his constituents as a member of the Indiana House, 1828 -1831 for Franklin County. The leading men in Brookville were attorneys and he studied under Miles Eggleston. He practiced with, and against, Franklin County lawyers as John T. McKinney, Noah and James Noble, as well as James Brown Ray and as such developed his ability to persuade and influence people to his point of view. Franklin County Circuit Court cases from this era reveal his legal ability.

While he moved on to Fountain County and then to Indianapolis, the experience gained in Brookville remained with him.

Sources:

Contributor--John J. Newman

Rev. Francis Joseph Rudolf

Date and Place of Birth: 23 Apr 1813--Bettelheim, Alsace, France
Date and Place of Death: 29 May 1866--Oldenburg, Franklin County, Indiana

NOTE: Fr. Rudolf arrived in Franklin County four years after this county’s closure date, but he deserves an exception because of his influence in Southeastern Indiana as a pioneer religious leader and his being directly responsible for the establishment of the Oldenburg Convent and school, currently with schools world-wide. The German community had significant influence in the growth and development of Franklin County after their arrival beginning about 1848.

Father Rudolf was instrumental in developing Holy Family Roman Catholic Parish in Oldenburg, Indiana and was directly responsible for the establishment of the Sisters of St. Francis convent there and its school, which later became the Oldenburg Academy.

Father Rudolf arrived in Oldenburg October 29, 1844 and proceeded to build a stone church for the parish, which was
dedicated in 1848. He saw the need for Catholic education of his parishioners so solicited the support of Father Ambrose Buchmaier, New York City, who sought the services of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, in Vienna, Austria. Sister Theresa Hackelmeier volunteered to come to Oldenburg and took charge of developing the convent and school.

Sources:
Historical Sketch of the Convent and Academy of the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana, Oldenburg, 1901.

Contributor--John J. Newman

James Brown Ray

Date and Place of Birth: [19 Feb 1794] (see note, below) --Jefferson County, Kentucky
Date and Place of Death: 4 Aug 1848, of cholera --Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio

Although James Brown Ray spent but seven years in Brookville, from 1818 – 1825, it is here that he developed skills that made him a successful politician in the Indiana General Assembly and as governor.

Ray studied law in Cincinnati and was a young man when he arrived in Brookville. The Franklin County bar, then, consisted of such leading legal luminaries as John Test, James Rariden, William W. Wick, John T. McKinney, Stephen C. Stevens, and James Noble. Ray was able to hold his own among them, and prosper. Common law governed civil litigation and consisted of refining broad claims and counter claims down to specific legal issues. Both procedures required debate, compromise, and persuasion. Successful lawyers used logic and speaking skills to win. Ray was tall with a strong voice which enhanced his ability to convince associate judges and juries to his point of view. His success made him prosper; he built a frame house in Brookville with a palladium window which later haunted him in campaigning for governor. Ray was prominent in the Indiana General Assembly, representing Franklin County, and both skill and luck propelled him into the governorship.

Note: Emma Lou Thornbrough discusses the lack of specifics as to an exact birth date. His age was challenged since it was claimed that he was not of legal age to be governor. See Messages, index, under Ray, birth, for additional discussion.

Sources:
A Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1980, volume 1, pages 322-323 which lists additional sources.

Contributor--John J. Newman

John A. Matson

Date and Place of Birth: 9 Sep 1819 --North Bend, Hamilton County, Ohio
Date and Place of Death: 16 Jul 1870 --Greencastle, Putnam County, Indiana

Matson was a Whig political leader in Brookville from his arrival in 1832 until he moved to Greencastle in February 1851.

He graduated from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, with honors, in 1828 and studied law in Cincinnati, and under O. H, Smith in Connersville for one year before moving to Brookville.

He was a member of the Indiana House, upon election in 1838 and served until he resigned December 22, 1841. He was a successful attorney and built a fine federal style home on North Main Street (still standing) and furnished it handsomely. He ran for governor in 1849 as a simple, poor Hoosier and lost, perhaps due to a letter written by a
fellow Bookvillian, who described his home as having the poorest furnishings from Philadelphia. His son, Courtland, born in Brookville in 1841, ran for governor in 1888, as a Democrat and also lost. While Brookville claims four governors; the Matsons represent two gubernatorial candidates who lost.

Source:
Indiana American, Brookville, IN volume XV!! Number 20, Friday, May 11, 1849, page 2, column 1, which gives a political biography of Matson.
Various issues of The Indiana American, Brookville, Indiana
Contributor–John J. Newman

John T. McKinney

Date and Place of Birth: 18 Mar 1785--Caroline County, Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 4 Mar 1837--Brookville, Franklin County, Indiana

John T. McKinney was a Supreme Court Justice from Franklin County.

McKinney was an early attorney in Franklin County. His arrival is uncertain. Earlier accounts have him in the county by 1816 but he appeared on the 1820 Census in Kentucky. He was admitted to the Franklin County bar March 3, 1822 and was appointed prosecuting attorney October 7, 1822. He was a lawyer of much merit and had a library of over 200 books. He served in the Indiana General Assembly (House) 1827 – 1828 and the Senate (1828-1831). Governor James Brown Ray appointed him to the Supreme Court of Indiana in 1831 and he served until his death. Court historian Leander Monks, in 1917, noted that he was “a first-rate lawyer and his decisions are fair.” McKinney also was a trustee of the Franklin County Seminary and an extensive landowner in the county.

Source:
The most up-to-date source is found on pages 21-23, Justices of the Indiana Supreme Court, Edited by Linda C. Gugin and James E. St. Clair, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, 2010.

Contributor–John J. Newman

Robert Hanna Jr.

Date and Place of Birth: 6 Apr 1786--Laurens District, South Carolina
Date and Place of Death: 19 Nov 1858--Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana

Robert Hanna Jr+. served Franklin County as a public servant.

His family arrived in Franklin County in 1804 and settled north of what now is Brookville, on the east fork of the Whitewater River. He served Franklin County as Sheriff, 1810 -1820 and Treasurer in 1813. He represented Franklin County at the Constitutional Convention 1816. He was register of the Federal Land office, Brookville, 1820 – 1825 and moved to Indianapolis in 1825, when that office was relocated there. He had an extensive public service record later, including serving as U. S. Senator upon the death of James Noble, 1831 – 1832, and among other service he was a member of the Indiana House and Senate from Marion County.

Sources:
Among the many biographical sketches and articles written about him is A Directory of Members of the Indiana General Assembly, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1980, volume 1, page 164. It provides additional sources.

Contributor–John J. Newman
William Henry Eads

Date and Place of Birth: ca 1779--Maryland, possibly Hagerstown
Date and Place of Death: prior to 1863--Missouri, likely St. Louis County

William Henry Eads was a member of the Constitutional Convention which met at Corydon in 1816. In addition, he was a pioneer merchant and political leader in Brookville.

Eads settled in Indiana Territory prior to 1807, in northern Dearborn County, which later became Franklin County January 1, 1811. He married Jane Adair January 10, 1807 in Dearborn County and all eight children were born in what is now Brookville, 1807 – 1823. He was the first trustee of the town of Brookville (along with four others) under Territorial Act, Chapter VII, effective December 18, 1813, to serve until January 1, 1815 and also served as an Associate Judge of the Franklin Circuit Court, December 16, 1815 – February 14, 1817. He was a merchant and businessman in Brookville until he moved to Missouri about 1835, where he settled near St. Louis and was engaged in “the wood and steamboat business.”

Sources:

Contributor--John J. Newman

William McClure

Date and Place of Birth: 1 May 1802--Rock Springs, Harrison County, Kentucky
Date and Place of Death: 14 Jun 1882--Brookville Twp, Franklin County, Indiana

Although McClure spent his life as a farmer, he is noted as being one of the earliest historians of Franklin County. He noted that his recollections of Franklin County date from 1807.

For years he wrote reminisces for the Brookville newspapers on a variety of subjects, and his work served as a basis for latter histories appearing in the Atlas of Franklin County, Indiana, 1882 and the History of Dearborn and Ohio Counties, Indiana, 1885. “A history of the Whitewater Valley, 1804 – 1826” appeared in the Annual Report of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture, 1879. His appreciation of history and the need to preserve it makes him a pioneer founder of Indiana. In an essay on “Whiskey,” one observes his wit when he noted that in harvesting wheat, the men would “take a drink of water and whiskey, the whiskey to keep the water from hurting.” [The Indiana American, Brookville, IN March 6, 1879]

Sources
Atlas of Franklin County, Indiana, 1882, biographical sketch page 114.
History of Dearborn and Ohio Counties, Indiana, 1885. Especially the history of Harrison Township.

Contributor--John J. Newman

Amos Butler

Date and Place of Birth: 1770--Chester County, Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 1837--Jefferson County, Indiana

Amos Butler moved from Pennsylvania to Lawrenceburg, Indiana in 1803. He made the first purchase of land in what would become part of the town of Brookville on December 4, 1804 at the federal land office in Cincinnati, Ohio. He made an additional purchase on July, 3, 1805 with Jesse B. Thomas of Lawrenceburg.
Thomas later became a United States senator from Illinois. Together Butler and Thomas had the town of Brookville platted on August 8, 1808. Butler made additional purchases in 1806, 1808, and 1811. According to his grandson’s biography, Mr. Butler became the future town’s first settler in 1804.

Amos Butler’s son William was born in Brookville in 1810. In 1818, he and his family moved to Hanover, Jefferson County, Indiana. William moved to Hanover with his parents, but, returned to Brookville after he came of age and looked after his father’s interests. Amos Butler died in Jefferson County in 1837 and is buried there. William died in 1903 and is buried in the Old Brookville Cemetery.

William’s son Amos W. Butler was born in Brookville October 1, 1860. He was educated in the public school in Brookville and attended Brookville College. He received degrees from Hanover College and Indiana University. During his distinguished career, he served as the Secretary of the Indiana Board of State Charities from 1898 to 1923. He was a founder of the Brookville Society of Natural History, of the Indiana Academy of Science, Indiana Audubon Society and the American Anthropological Society. He served as Secretary of the Indiana Academy of Science from 1886 to 1893, was vice-president in 1893 and president in 1895. He also served in official capacities in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Sources:

Contributor: Donald Dunaway

Andrew Shirk

Date and Place of Birth: 7 Sep 1753--Switzerland
Date and Place of Death: 14 Jan 1829--Springfield Twp., Franklin Co., Indiana

Andrew Shirk purchased land in Springfield Township from the Cincinnati land office in 1808. He was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. He enlisted in the Colonial Army in Pennsylvania. He served under General Greene and was wounded during the Carolina campaign. Following this, he settled near Augusta, Georgia; later he emigrated to Kentucky, then Cincinnati, Ohio and eventually to Franklin County where he purchased land where he settled. He is buried in the Big Cedar Grove Baptist Cemetery near the Shirk property.

Andrew Shirk was the great-grandfather of John C. Shirk (1858 – 1924) who was the most prominent and influential business man of his time in Brookville. He was a banker and was involved in other enterprises including a furniture factory.

Sources:

Contributor: Donald Dunaway

Benjamin McCarty

Date and Place of Birth: 1759--Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 1837--Franklin County, Indiana

Benjamin McCarty made the first land entry in what would become Franklin County in 1811. His entry was made in Township 8, Range 1 West in May 1803 in what would become Whitewater Township in 1816.

Benjamin McCarty was a judge of the first County Court which met on February 18, 1811. One of his sons, Enoch McCarty was a member of the first state convention in 1816 and a member of the Indiana Legislature for several sessions. Another son, Jonathan McCarty also represented Franklin County in the Indiana Legislature and later the
U.S. Congress. Other members of the McCarty were prominent citizens.

Source:  
*History of Franklin County, Indiana* by August J. Reifel, B.F. Bowen & Company, Inc., 1915

Contributor--Donald Dunaway

Christopher Hansel

Date and Place of Birth: 1759--Ohio or Germany  
Date and Place of Death: 1825--Franklin County, Indiana

Christopher Hansel and his wife Elizabeth were among the first pioneers that came to what would become Bath Township. They came in 1808, before the formation of Franklin County in 1811 and before Indiana became a state in 1816. A copy of the Federal Government’s certificate of sale of land to Christopher Hansel of Adams County, Ohio says he was given title to “the northeast quarter of section twenty five of township number ten, range one west of a meridian drawn from the mouth of the Great Miami River,” dated “the tenth of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight and of the Independence of the United States of America, the thirty third.” The document was signed by President Thomas Jefferson and by Secretary of State James Madison. The quarter section of 160 acres bordering the Ohio State line on Bath Road would remain in the Hansel family for five generations.

The biography on Frank Hansel in Reifel’s *History* (p. 778), includes information on Christopher and Elizabeth, paternal grandparents of Frank Hansel. It says: “they were both natives of Ohio. Christopher is known to have been born in Adams County.”

Another source gives a different account of the birthplace of Christopher. According to the Twin Forks Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution of Franklin County, Christopher Hansel was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. They say he was born in Germany around 1759. The family history in Reifel does not mention that Christopher served in the Revolutionary War.

According to the 1820 Federal Census, Christopher Hansel had a household of 12 persons with one man over 45. By this time, he had neighbors in Bath Township adjoining his quarter section. Elizabeth was his second wife.

In 1822, Christopher purchased eighty acres in Raccoon Township, Parke County, Indiana from the Land Office in the District of Terra Haute. This purchase was apparently for his son William who was born in 1810 in Bath Township. William and his family are shown in DAR genealogical records as living and dying in the western Indiana township and county.

Christopher died in 1825; his widow being much younger lived until 1861. Their son David became the owner of the farm in 1847 through litigation in the court. After David died in 1875, David’s heirs settled on an agreement whereby Franklin Hansel, the oldest son bought the shares of the property from his two brothers and a sister. Frank Hansel’s son, David next owned the farm and then David’s son Gerald. Gerald sold the farm in 1971 to Calvin Finch, so it was in the Hansel family for 163 years. Both Christopher and Elizabeth were buried on the farm. The graves were marked according to Curtis and Helen Miller and Bob Coffey, but no trace of the stones has been found.

Source:  
*History of Franklin County, Indiana*, by August J. Reifel, B.F. Bowen & Company, Inc. 1915

In addition to the references cited above, copies of Federal Land purchase records by Christopher Hansel were provided by Donna Hansel Montgomery.

Contributor--Donald Dunaway
David Gray

Date and Place of Birth: 1752--Ireland
Date and Place of Death: 27 Dec 1839--Bath Township, Franklin County, Indiana

The Revolutionary War service of David Gray is well documented. His name is on a bronze plaque of Revolutionary War soldiers at the Franklin County courthouse. There was an organization of his descendants at one time. A great-grandson of David Gray, Matthew Gray Coleman presented a paper, “Footprints of David Gray, Revolutionary Soldier” at the Eighth Annual Reunion of the Descendants of David Gray, held at College Corner, Ohio, August 19, 1923.

The author of the paper, Rev. Coleman noted that David Gray immigrated to (what would become) Bath Township, Franklin County in 1810. When he arrived there were no roads, no bridges, no schools, no churches, no neighbors—only an occasional log cabin in this vast wilderness, which stood waiting the strong arm of this sturdy Irishman to help subdue it.

According to the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution, Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana by Mrs. Roscoe C. O’Byrne, David Gray was born in Ireland in 1752. He married Nancy Blackburn in 1799 in Nelson County, Kentucky. Altogether they had twelve children born between 1800 and 1819. David was then in his late 60s and Nancy in her late 40s. David Gray died Dec. 27, 1839, age 92 years; he served in the Revolutionary War under Gen. George Washington. He is buried with his wife and a daughter in a small family cemetery on the farm where he lived.

The following is excerpted from the reference, “Footprints:” “The first we know of David Gray, soldier under General George Washington in the Revolution, was his enlistment in that war August 1, 1776. At that time he was twenty-four years of age, a husky young Irishman, spoiling for a fight. The next was the taking of the oath of allegiance as directed by the state of Pennsylvania. The oath was as follows: “I do hereby certify, that David Gray, of Warrick Township, Bucks County, hath voluntarily taken and subscribed the oath of affirmation, allegiance and fidelity as directed by an act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, passed on the 13, day of June, A.D. 1777. … He participated in the battles of Staten Island, Brandywine and Germantown. General Washington commanded in all three of these engagements.

He applied for a pension November 6, 1834, at the age of eighty-two years. The pension was granted and he always received it at Brookville, Franklin County, Indiana.” David’s daughter Mary Gray Miller remembered how he used to ride the old gray mare to Brookville to get his pension. He became so feeble that he had to get on a chair to mount his horse.

Contributor--Donald Dunaway

Jabez Lathrop Winship

Date and Place of Birth: 1752--Connecticut
Date and Place of Death: 1827--Brookville, Indiana

Jabez Lathrop Winship was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. According to the government military marker on his grave in the Old Brookville Cemetery he served in Capt. Lattimer’s Co., Lexington Alarm. His daughter Lavina married John Conner in 1813 after the death of Conner’s Indian wife.

Source:
Sons of the Wilderness John and William Conner, by Charles N. Thompson, Indiana Historical Society, 1937

Contributor--Donald Dunaway
Jacob Myers

Date and Place of Birth: 1735--Germany
Date and Place of Death: 27 Jun 1838--Posey Twp., Franklin County, Indiana

Jacob Myers was a veteran of the French and Indian War and the American Revolution.

Jacob Myers’ name was found on a roster of the Virginia Militia serving under George Washington, during the time of the French and Indian War. He fought in the Battle of Monongahela, also known as Braddock’s Defeat which took place July 9, 1755 at the Monongahela River, at the forks of the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers near modern-day Pittsburgh (Fort Pitt).

Jacob Myers, born circa 1735, was a German immigrant who had settled with his parents in North Carolina. According to the 1882 Atlas, he was the first pioneer to settle in Posey Township. It said he was probably a squatter as his name does not appear on the land records. He died in Posey Township on June 27, 1838 and is buried somewhere on his former property.

Myers’ obituary appeared in the 1838 Indiana American and stated the following: —Die at his residence in Posey Township Franklin County, Indiana, on the night of the 27th of June, 1838, Jacob Myers, aged about one hundred and four years. The deceased was a native of Germany, and brought to this country when a child. He was of low stature, perhaps not more than five feet two or three inches in height, his eyes and hair were dark, cheek bones high—his forehead was prominent and daring. He served in General Braddock’s Army in 1755, and was one of the soldiers that escaped the general massacre. He afterwards served in our Revolutionary struggle in which he was wounded on the head by a sword of a British horseman; he fought through many battles where trophies of death were scattered promiscuously around, but the God that presided over the destinies of our Nation turned the fatal shafts aside that (as far as his life was concerned) they fell harmless around him, and he has been spared to receive his country’s gratitude, to cheer him in his old age and make his descent to the grave as easy as possible. And lastly when the world was receding from his view, and just one week before his death, he experienced the pardon of his sins and the evidence of his acceptance with his God. His funeral took place on the 29th and was attended by a large concourse of people. A part of the 71st Regiment of Indiana Militia of Rush County, commanded by Major Neff and Captain Moor’s company of Andersonville, met at Andersonville in the morning armed and equipped, where they duly formed by their respective officers, and with proper music in front marched to the late residence of the deceased, where the funeral procession was formed. The corpse was borne in front, followed by the relatives of the deceased, and next the Clergy present, Rev. John Linville, Silas Andrews, and John Morgan, and they were followed by the aforesaid Militia, and the rear was composed of a vast number of ladies and gentlemen, and the whole moved slowly to a grave near the burying ground, where the congregation were seated and composed, a sermon was delivered by Rev. John Linville. There were two short discourses, by Andrews and Morgan, on the subject of our Independence, the toils and labors of the early Patriots to procure it— the clear intervention of Providence in our behalf, in the consummation of our glorious undertaking, and the obligations we are under to transmit the blessings we enjoy to our posterity pure and unimpeached. The corpse was then removed to the grave where it was decently buried, with the honors of war. The militia were then marched back to Andersonville and disbanded. The whole was conducted in a very orderly and becoming manner.

Franklin County Historian, Virgil Davis, claimed that this may have been the first military funeral in Franklin County. A search for evidence substantiating such a statement was conducted, but to date, nothing has been found.

Only one clue exists to the burial place of this early patriot; it is in a file in the collection of the Brookville Library. The document states: —Soldiers Whose Burial Place is Unknown. Listed are possible locations. There are no grave stones for these soldiers at these locations. In all probability, Myers is buried in Posey Township, in an old orchard on what used to be the Lockwood farm.

By looking at old plat maps we were able to determine that this was in section 11 of Posey Township. The current owner recalls that there were a few grave stones—out back but that his father had moved them to farm the land and provide an area for livestock.

In 2008, members of the Franklin County Cemetery Commission went in search of Myers’ grave, and other possible burials. What they found were remnants of an old orchard and an open field. Finally after hours of searching, commission member, Ed Baker, found a few broken stones; one piece propped up against an old fence. This one piece had enough lettering on it to determine that it said Lockwood. Obviously we were in the right location, but no
evidence was found substantiating Myers’ grave site. Unfortunately, this cemetery, as so many other early pioneer burial grounds, has been lost to time and purposeful destruction.

Source:  

Contributor--Donald Dunaway

James Adair

Date and Place of Birth: 1747 - Pennsylvania  
Date and Place of Death: 23Mar 1831 - Brookville, Indiana

James Adair was a veteran of the Revolutionary War who is buried in the Old Brookville Cemetery. In February 1811 by an act of the Indiana Legislature he was one of three commissioners appointed “for the purpose of fixing the permanent seat of justice in and for the said county of Franklin.” The first tavern license issued in Brookville and in Franklin County was to James Adair in 1811.

Source:  
*History of Franklin County, Indiana* by August J. Reifel, B.F. Bowen & Company, Inc. 1915

Contributor--Donald Dunaway

James Conwell

Date and Place of Birth: 22 Nov 1787--Maryland  
Date and Place of Death: 10 May 1849--near Laurel, Indiana

James Conwell served in the War of 1812 before coming to Franklin County around October 1816. He platted the town of Laurel, November 30, 1836. He had been selling goods from his home before that date. He was the class leader of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Laurel Township. In one reference, it said that “Perhaps in force of character and real pulpit ability, …, James Conwell, …, had no equal among the local preachers of fifty years ago (1832). As a business man and politician he had few equals, yet when most engaged in business he could take the pulpit and preach with great acceptability.”

He is buried in the Bocum Cemetery near the place where his home was located near the town of Laurel.

Sources:  
*History of Franklin County, Indiana* by A.J. Reifel, B.F. Bowen & Company, 1915

Contributor--Donald Dunaway

James T. Osborn

Date and Place of Birth: 15 Sep 1797--Scott County, Virginia  
Date and Place of Death: 6 Apr 1859--Butler Township, Franklin Co., Indiana

James T. Osborn came to Franklin County with his widowed mother and his four sisters around 1816 or 1817. They were among the earliest settlers of what would later become Butler Township (in 1849). James cleared the land where the town of the town of St. Mary is located now and land for a substantial farm property. He was a militia captain under General Noble. He and his wife are buried in the Osborn-Harvey Cemetery in the town of St. Mary.

Sources:  
*Biographical and Genealogical History of Wayne, Fayette, Union and Franklin Counties*, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1899, p. 1039
Jehu John

Date and Place of Birth: 2 Dec 1759—Chester Co., Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 30 Jan 1837—Brookville, Indiana

Jehu John was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, buried in the Old Brookville Cemetery. His sons, Robert, Enoch D. Jehu Jr. and Isaac, were all men of rare ability and force of character. They were all prominent in the affairs of the town and county in early times.

Source:
Atlas of Franklin County, Indiana, J.H. Beers & Co., 1882, p. 95

Contributor--Donald Dunaway

Job Stout

Date and Place of Birth: 1763—New Jersey
Date and Place of Death: 1833--Springfield Township, Franklin County, Indiana

Job Stout served on General Washington’s staff during the American Revolution. He was an express rider and bearer of dispatches under General Washington and was present when Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in the fall of 1781. In 1788, he and his family emigrated to what is now Louisville, Kentucky. They came to Springfield Township in Franklin County in 1812. He is buried in the Big Cedar Grove Baptist Church cemetery.

Source:
History of Franklin County, Indiana by A.J. Reifel, B.F. Bowen & Company, Inc., 1915

Contributor--Donald Dunaway

John Conner

[See also in Fayette County]

Date and Place of Birth: 27 Aug 1775--Schoenbrunn, Ohio
Date and Place of Death: 19 Apr 1826--Indianapolis, Indiana

John Conner was the first white man to settle in Highland Township, perhaps as early as 1803. He was the first of a group of “squatters,” but did purchase government land in August 1810. Early in his residence he established a trading post “just outside the Indian county” near the site of present day Cedar Grove. He also built a mill there. In 1808 he moved his Indian wife and children twenty miles north where he opened a trading post and later founded Connersville. He was elected to the Indiana General Assembly as Franklin County’s first state senator. He served three terms, 1816-1817, 1817-1818 and 1818-1819. Fayette County was organized in 1819, reducing the size of Franklin County. He then represented Fayette and Union Counties 1821-1822 in the state senate. He was an interpreter for several Indian treaties including the 1809 Fort Wayne Treaty called the “Twelve Mile Purchase.” After his time in Fayette County, he worked in the new state government in several important capacities.

Sources:
John Hackleman

Date and Place of Birth: 16 Dec 1785--Abbeville District, South Carolina
Date and Place of Death: 19 Feb 1864--Franklin Co., Indiana

John Hackleman is listed as a resident of the Indiana Territory in what would become Franklin County in 1803. At that time, this area was part of Dearborn County, Indiana Territory. He married Sarah Adams October 18, 1810. During the War of 1812, John served a three month tour of duty (March 13, 1813 to June 17, 1813). He served as a Sergeant in Captain Samuel Lee’s Company, which was attached to the 7th Regiment, Indiana Territory, Colonel McFarland’s Detachment.

John purchased land in Section 9, Township 8, Range 2 of Franklin County in 1816. Also in 1816, John served as a Lieutenant, then Major in the Franklin County Militia. This unit was attached to the 6th Brigade of the 3rd Division of the Indiana State Militia.

John and his wife Sarah are buried in the Old Brookville Cemetery.

John and Sarah were the parents of Pleasant Adams Hackleman, b. November 15, 1814 in Franklin County. He served as a Brigadier General in the Union Army and was killed October 3, 1862 in Corinth, Mississippi. He and his wife are buried in East Hill Cemetery, Rushville, IN

Source:

Contributor--Donald Dunaway

Rode Holley/Joseph Snelling

Date and Place of Birth: 1792--Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 1856--Franklin County, Indiana

Although Franklin County did not play any significant role in the so called Underground Railroad for escaping slaves, there was a remote corner of the county that played an important role helping fugitive slaves escape across Indiana from about 1840 to 1855.

In December, 1822, a free black farmer from Kentucky by the name of Joseph Snelling bought 56 acres in Decatur County that was located between Clarksburg and about a half mile from the Franklin County line. Joseph Snelling, brought with him seven children but no wife. Other free black farmers from various states followed.

By 1850, there was a large community of free black farmers living in the northwest corner of the county on the Franklin-Decatur county line. The community stretched from Clarksburg in Decatur County along the Salt Creek and Posey township line to Buena Vista in Franklin County. This community is now called the Snelling Settlement.

The 1850 Federal Census shows the population of the settlement was about equally divided by the county line. The Franklin County side had 166 black residents and the Decatur County side had 150 residents.

On the Franklin County side, Rode Holley was the wealthiest resident of the entire settlement. He was born in Virginia and owned 80 acres on the west edge of Buena Vista.
Rufus Haymond

Date and Place of Birth: 5 Jun 1805--Harrison Co., West Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 29 Jul 1886--Brookville, Indiana

Dr. Rufus Haymond came to Brookville in 1826 and began his practice of medicine. In addition to his work as a physician, he was a naturalist and geologist and made many contributions to these fields of science. In 1827, he recorded a census of the town. He was active in town government and was involved in incorporation of the town in 1839. He became the first president of the town board of trustees.

Around 1830, the State Legislature passed a law that all physicians organize themselves into a district society or forfeit their right to collect pay for services. In 1850, a medical society was formed in this county with Dr. Haymond as president.
In 1843, he contributed an article to the American Journal of Science and Arts. The subject was regarding his observations of the remains of megatherium (ground sloth), mastodons and Silurian Fossils.

In 1869, Dr. Haymond completed an impressive “Report of a Geological Survey of Franklin County, Indiana, Made During the Summer and Fall of 1869.” The report was addressed to Professor E. T. Cox, State Geologist. In his report, Dr. Haymond discussed the physical geography and general geology of Franklin County. Rufus Haymond contributed an article describing the mounds of Franklin County. In his report for the Smithsonian Institution, Frank Setzler, said (page 361): “The earliest records describing the Indian mounds of this state are found in the Indiana Geological Reports.”

Source:
History of Franklin County, Indiana, August J. Reifel, B.F. Bowne & Company, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana, 1915

Contributor--Donald Dunaway

Samuel Goodwin

Date and Place of Birth: 12 Apr 1789--Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 26 Jun 1851--Brookville, Indiana

Samuel Goodman came to Brookville from what is now Brownsville, Pennsylvania in April 1816. His home was at the end of East Fifth Street and there by the East Fork he established a tannery. He and his wife were Methodists. They welcomed the circuit riding preachers to their home for many years. These itinerant preachers came only about once each month. At other times, Samuel was in charge of the Methodist class meeting here. He is said to be the "Father of Methodism" in Brookville. Samuel and Eleanor Goodwin were the parents of ten children.

The Methodists' first church in Brookville was built in 1821-22. Samuel Goodwin and William Sims, Jr. were the trustees to whom Amos Butler deeded the lots where the old brick church sits in the old town cemetery.

When the Methodists were preparing to establish the Indiana Asbury University, now DePauw University, Samuel purchased the first perpetual scholarship and sent the first out-of-town student to the institution, his son, Thomas Aiken. Thomas was valedictorian of the first class, graduating in 1840. During his life he was a teacher, editor and minister and president of the Brookville College. Another son, John Reeves graduated from Asbury in 1845. John became a physician and was a surgeon for the Union Army during the Civil War; he later became a prominent banker. Four generations of the Goodwin family lived in Brookville. The last of the Goodwin line, John P. died in August 1972. He was well known in state historical organizations.
Stephen C. Stevens

Date and Place of Birth: 1793--Kentucky
Date and Place of Death: 7 Nov 1869--Indianapolis, Indiana

Stephen C. Stevens was the “moving spirit” in the organization of the Masonic Lodge at Brookville in 1817 and served as its first Worshipful Master. That same year, he represented the Brookville lodge at the Corydon Convention which led to the formation of the Indiana Grand Lodge.

Mr. Stevens had a distinguished career in early Indiana politics. This included service in the Indiana General Assembly, serving in both the House and the State Senate. In 1830, he was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court by Governor James Brown Ray. Stevens served from January 1831 – May 1836. Both Governor Ray and Justice Stevens had been members of Harmony Lodge at Brookville.

Stephen C. Stevens came to Brookville, Indiana, sometime before 1812. During the War of 1812 at the Battle of New Orleans, he received a musket ball wound to the head which troubled him the rest of his life, and probably caused his insanity in old age. After the war, he returned to Brookville, studied law, and was admitted to the Indiana bar in 1817. He represented Franklin County in the Indiana General Assembly in 1817. Renowned for his quick temper, he fought with Senator Noble in the Franklin Circuit Court in 1817, and both were fined five dollars.

Justice Stevens moved to Vevay, Indiana in 1817 and helped organize a local branch of the state bank, serving as its president. When the bank failed, Justice Stevens returned to the practice of law. From 1823 to 1824, and again from 1826 to 1827, he represented Switzerland County in the Indiana House of Representatives. He held the position of speaker during 1824. In 1828, he was elected to the Indiana Senate, where he served until his appointment to the Indiana Supreme Court in 1830. He served on the Indiana Supreme Court from January 28, 1831 to May 30, 1836, when he resigned to open a law office in Madison, Indiana. He amassed quite a fortune but lost it in a failed railroad investment. As a result, he was placed in the state mental hospital where he died penniless. It was said that the Indianapolis bar paid for his burial. He was buried in Madison, Indiana. Harmony Lodge No. 11 placed a tombstone on his unmarked grave in 1967

Sources:
Harmony Lodge No. 11 Indiana Supreme Court website

Thomas Powers

Date and Place of Birth: 30 Nov 1779--Harrison County, Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 6 Aug 1822--Fairfield Twp., Franklin Co., Indiana

Thomas Powers, his wife and three children moved from Virginia to Middletown, Ohio in 1804. He served as an Ensign in the War of 1812. In 1813 they moved to Brookville Township, Franklin County and two years later to Fairfield Township. Their home was a two story log house used as a blockhouse. Altogether there were ten children in their family.

One of the younger children, Mary who was born in Fairfield Township in 1817 was the subject of a newspaper article on the pioneer life of the Powers family. The article was written by Theo. L. Dickerson and published in the Brookville Democrat, March 28, 1907 on the occasion of the ninetieth birthday of Mary Powers Deter. She was born at her parents’ home in Fairfield Township January 31, 1817. She married Alfred Deter on October 31, 1843. He died July 22, 1899. Mary died June 17, 1915 at her home in Blooming Grove Township at the age of 98.

Source:

Contributor--Donald Dunaway
Source:
*Biographical and Genealogical History of Wayne, Fayette, Union and Franklin Counties*, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1899

Contributor—Donald Dunaway

William Tyner

Date and Place of Birth: 9 Apr 1771—South Carolina
Date and Place of Death: 18 Sep 1854—Decatur County, Indiana

Rev. William Tyner purchased land in Township 9, Range 2 West, later Brookville Township from the Cincinnati Federal Land Office on September 28, 1804. He was the second landowner (by four days), but it is believed he was the first to occupy his land. Rev. Tyner is best remembered as the pastor of the Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church. The Baptists came to Franklin County in 1805. They built a brick church in 1812 which still stands. Rev. Tyner’s first wife, Elizabeth is buried in the churchyard. Rev. Tyner ministered to congregations at Big Cedar, in Springfield Township, at Indian Creek in Reily Township, Butler County, Ohio and other places as well as at this church. There were no roads in Indiana in those days, only trails, so travel to such distant places must have been difficult.

He served the local church for thirty-eight years. He moved to Decatur County around 1842 where he preached until he died. Rev. William Tyner is buried with Martha Hamilton, his second wife who died June 1, 1840, and Nancy Jane (Callahan) Beck, his third wife in Horse Shoe Bend Cemetery, near Westport, Indiana, about 14 miles south of Greensburg, IN.

Sources:
*History of Franklin County, Indiana* by August J. Reifel, B.F. Bowen & Company, Inc., 1915 Correspondence with Paul Coble and Jim Duerstock, descendants of Rev. Tyner

Contributor—Donald Dunaway

William Gordon Jr.

Date and Place of Birth: 11 Aug 1779—Loudin County, Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 9 Sep 1860—Metamora Twp., Franklin Co., Indiana

William Gordon Jr. came to Franklin County in 1812 with his wife Elizabeth Kelly Gordon and their three children. They came from a small village near Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. They settled near what would later become the town of Metamora in Metamora Township. Prior to that in 1811, William moved from Fayette County, Kentucky to settle near Cleves, Ohio; he heard about better land in Indiana, went back to Kentucky for Elizabeth and his three children, sold the land near Cleves, Ohio and came to Metamora. He bought 100 acres about a mile north of Metamora. He and three of his sons eventually owned 2200 acres in the area.

The parents of William Gordon Jr. were William Gordon (1740-1779) and Mary Duedsworth (Duedworth) Gordon (1731-1822). After, he died in Loudin County, Virginia in 1779, she accompanied her son to Fayette County, Kentucky. William Gordon came to America from Sheepsbridge, Ireland about 1758 and married about three years later. They were the parents of six children, the last two were twins born after their father’s death, Sarah and William.

In 1795 Mary Gordon sold the farm and spent five months in migration to a small village near Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. There William Jr. met and married Elizabeth Kelly. He moved in 1812 with his wife and three children to Indiana. Mary Gordon moved to Metamora in 1816 to be with her family. She is buried in the cemetery just north of town on Duck Creek Road.

William’s wife Elizabeth Kelly was born in Virginia to Thomas and Elizabeth Kelly, both natives of England. The story is told that Thomas was with Cornwallis’ army and became disgusted with the tactics and treatment of civilians; he deserted, sought shelter in the mountains and married Elizabeth. After the war he was granted amnesty.

Soon after entering land in Franklin County at the Cincinnati Land Office in 1811, William and his brother in law, Thomas Curry erected a blockhouse for defense. Thomas Curry married William’s eldest sister, Alice Gordon Curry.
The front step with a plaque is in the cemetery north of Metamora. William also believed in education and donated land for the district school. He was also instrumental in building the first Methodist Church in Metamora around 1828.

William Gordon as an adult was six feet six inches and weighed 360 pounds. He and his wife Elizabeth became the parents of 13 children. Their descendants were prominent in the history of Metamora and Metamora Township and Franklin County government. William’s oldest son, Orville had a mill on the east end of Metamora, about where a bridge was torn down to allow the canal boat to pass. His brothers, Melvin and Mahlon had the mill in town and Melvin B. (M. B. Gordon) had a hardware store nearby along with a Blackledge.


Source:
Dr. James L. Senefeld, Columbia, Tennessee who cited the reference: A Genealogical Study of the William Gordon Family in Indiana, by H.C. Gordon, Knightstown, Indiana; Dr. Senefeld is a great-great-great grandson of William Gordon Jr. He is a professor of English at Columbia State Community College, Columbia, TN.

Contributor--Donald Dunaway

Alexander Crawford

Date and Place of Birth: 1792--Landrick, Scotland
Date and Place of Death: 24 Nov 1880--Franklin Co., Indiana

Alexander Crawford came to America in 1817 from Landrick, Scotland as a very young man. He worked as a laborer in Cincinnati and Harrison, Ohio for several years. By 1830, he was already a land owner in Franklin Co., IN. With hard work and careful management the original eighty acres increased until it comprised six hundred acres all in one tract including forty acres bought from the government.

In Dec 1832, Alexander Crawford married Mrs. Eliza (Case) Cole and together they raised four children. The farm has continued to be a working farm in the Crawford family for over one hundred seventy-five years.

Alexander Crawford died at his Franklin Co., farm in 1880 and is buried in the family cemetery on the farm.

Contributor--Rose Crawford
General Robert Morgan Evans

Date and Place of Birth: 1783--Frederick County, Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 1844--Evansville, Gibson Co, Indiana

Gen. Robert M. Evans was one of the most conspicuous men in the early history of Gibson County, being clerk and agent, and, in fact, managing all of the affairs of the county for several years. He was born in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1783.

When a small boy, his parents removed to Kentucky, and in 1790 to Tennessee, where, at the age of seventeen, he acted as deputy county clerk in the county in which he was reared. He was married in Kentucky in 1803, to Jane Trimble, sister to Judge Robert Trimble, of the United States Supreme Court. In 1805 his family removed to Indiana territory settling two miles north of where Princeton now stands. At the first sale of government land in 1807, he purchased the tract upon which he had settled, and continued to reside there until 1809, when he moved to Vincennes and kept a hotel on Market Street. This was the favorite stopping place for all of the old pioneers of Indiana. After two years he returned to the old settlement.

At the breaking out of the Indian War in 1811, he joined General Harrison’s army, and participated in the battles of Tippecanoe, Thomas and other less important engagements, and acquired the reputation of a brave and sagacious commander. He was commissioned Brigadier general and commanded a large body of militia. His brother, William, was killed by Indians at the Battle of Tippecanoe. After the war he returned to his old improvements, and it was very soon after that Gibson County was organized.

The value of one with his experience and education was realized in the manipulation of affairs of government, and he was elected county clerk and appointed agent for the transaction of the county’s business. He continued to hold these positions for several years with satisfaction to the people and honor to himself. He was one of the original proprietors of Evansville and did much toward the early building up and progress of the place. In 1824, he left Princeton and made his home in Evansville. He was, however, a resident of New Harmony for a short time. He returned to Evansville and was a resident there until his death in 1844. His wife passed in 1840.

In 1810 James, Alexander Lile and Thomas Jefferson Evans, brothers of Gen. Robert M., became residents of the county and afterward of Princeton, where they engaged in business. Thomas J. moved to Iowa in 1840 and was appointed to a judgeship. He died there in the same year. Alexander L. was engaged in the cooper business in Princeton until 1836 when he removed to Evansville. He died there in 1844. Herman S., a printer in Illinois, is another son. James Evans built and operated a wool carding mill on Main Street in 1818, and which business he continued until his death in 1832. He was also largely engaged in farming, and owned the land upon which the
southwestern portion of Princeton now stands. He was for many years justice of the peace.

Eliza A married Andrew Lewis. She died in 1878. W. L. Evans was a merchant in Princeton from 1853 to 1873, and afterward president of the Princeton National Bank, which position he held until his death, which occurred in 1899.

From “History of Gibson County, Indiana”, by Gil. Stormount, pub. 1914

Contributor:--Committee Member
John Craig, Sr.

Date and Place of Birth: 31 May 1748--Augusta County, Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 22 Feb 1822--Washington County, Indiana

John Craig, Sr. was baptized 31 May 1748 into the family of Alexander and Margaret (Crawford) Craig at the Tinkling Spring Church of Fisherville, Va. This church had the first Presbyterian minister west of the Allegheny Mountains whose name was the Reverend John Craig. Though they bore the same name they were of no relation. John's grandparents were Alexander and Mary (McPheters) Crawford and John Craig all of Scot-Irish decent.

The Crawfords were killed in an Indian massacre at Buffalo gap in Augusta County in October 1764. Alexander's burned body was found inside the log cabin ruins and Mary was found lying outside with a tomahawk in her back from where she tried to escape. They are both buried in Glebe Cemetery. John Craig passed away and was buried in Plot #9 of Craig Cemetery on the top ridge of Bucks Elbow Mountain of Albemarle County (located in the Shenandoah National Park).

In 1771 John married Catherine in Augusta County, Virginia. Three years later he was part of Captain George Moffat's Augusta County Company fighting in Lord Dunmore's Little War. It was here 10 October 1774 he engaged in the Battle of Point Pleasant. A war with the Indians led by Chief Cornstalk that lasted from dawn to dusk with fierce hand to hand combat.

Following the war and the death of his parents John moved his family to Bucks Elbow Mountain near his Uncle Thomas Craig. Here his family nurtured and in time several children married. It was about 1805 when John and Catherine and the family of four sons, five daughters, three sons-in-law and a daughter-in-law started their way west towards the Indiana Territory. First stopping in Tennessee then Kentucky and finally purchasing land in the Indiana Territory located in Vernon Township of Washington County Indiana. With a Deed that reads:

James Madison, President of the United States of America, To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Know ye, that John Craig of Harrison County, Indiana territory having deposited in the General Land office a certificate of the register of the Land office at Jeffersonville, whereby it appears that full payment has been made for the West half of Section twenty two, of Township Two, (North of the Base Line) in Range two (east of the second principal Meridian Line), Given under my hand of the city of Washington, the thirtieth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the fortieth.
John and Catherine worked this land and also purchased 80 acres in Greene County, Indiana. It was here that he and sons, Alexander and Thomas Benton Craig, built a water powered grist mill on the mouth of the Eel and White Rivers at Point Commerce Bluff. He also planted an apple orchard just northwest of Worthington and 50 acres of cotton. Sheep were brought to Green County in early 1820's. Until then women knitted socks by mixing fox or wolf hair with cotton. John was the first to build a distillery and blacksmith's shop while Alexander built a cotton gin to pick out cotton seed for the mill. Supplies were moved on flat barges past the mill going back and forth from Indianapolis to Louisville and beyond. The settlers raised plenty of corn and garden vegetables, sweet and Irish potatoes, lye hominy, and hunted deer. In fact deer skins and venison hams were almost a legal tender on all little debts at William Smith's store in Worthington.

One of the most remarkable wedding parties ever assembled at the mouth of the Eel River was for John Craig, Sr.'s granddaughter, Martha Craig. She was being married at the home of her father, Alexander Craig, on Sunday 30 September 1819 at noon. While the neighborhood was enjoying themselves and having a good time, a tribe of Indians numbering about 200 strong floated down White River from nearby Indianapolis and landed their bark canoes at the mouth of the Eel River and camped overnight. All the wedding party and many of the neighbors went to see the Indians and the Indians were curious about the Craig's Mill. One young brave who had recently married a young Indian Squaw offered to make a wager with the groom, John Fires, to leave it to the crowd who had the prettiest squaw. It was noted that John Fires cawished from the deal. Within a few days after the wedding, 300 Indian Warriors and their Chief passed down the old Indian trail and crossed Eel River at the old gravel ford on horseback. Those were the last Indians to have camped in this vicinity.

John is also recorded in Greene County for helping make a coffin of John O’Banyon from an eight foot section of a yellow poplar tree. The men cut and removed a wedge from the side of the tree. Next they hollowed it out then placed the deceased body inside. Lastly the wedge was replaced and sealed closed with wooden pegs.

Though his time here in Indiana ended on 22 February 1822, the accomplishment he and his family made for the newly formed state were tremendous. Catherine and John Craig, Sr. are buried on the family homestead in Washington County next to daughter, Margaret, and her young son and husband. Alexander and Thomas Benton Craig later sold the mill at Worthington and moved their families to Clark County, Illinois.

Following the death of his parents their third son John, Jr. and his wife, Sarrah (Waggoner), sold the land in Washington County and moved near her folks in Lawrence County purchasing 160 acres for $700.00 from Jacob and Drada Waggoner on 19 February 1823 and another 10 acres from Abraham and Barbara Waggoner for $10.00. John, Jr. built a grist mill on Indian Creek using horse power and one stone buhr*. His son, Robert, would later purchase the mill making it water powered and two buhrs.

It is this same land purchased in 1823 that Audra Craig the current owner and several Craig descendants including myself went to the Indiana Statehouse on 22 March 2013 to commemorate the Hoosier Homestead Award of 190 years of Craig heritage in Lawrence County.

Though we know not their hardships or struggles, our lives and the great state of Indiana are forever formed by their sacrifice and courage.

* buhr = (noun) Short for buhrstone; a porous limestone formerly much used for millstones.

Contributor--Jeanne S. Terry Sons (5th Great Granddaughter of Catherine and John Craig, Sr.)

David Daniel Wesner

Date and Place of Birth: 1 Jan 1760--Buckingham Township, Bucks, Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 14 Feb 1834--Cass Township, Greene County, Indiana

Listed as David Weasner #A123096 in the Daughters of the American Revolution patriot database.

Born: 1760, Bucks County, Pennsylvania Died: 14 Feb 1834 Buried: Slinkyard Graveyard, Cass Township, Greene County, Indiana. Service: In Fourth Penn Battalion 1775-1777 under Col "Mad" Anthony WAYNE, Capt John LACEY, defending Fort Ticonderoga, NY. Also in the Roll of the Associated Co for the Twps of Buckingham and

David Daniel Wesner, Married: ca 1791 Margaret Catherine Walker b. 1770 Bucks Co, PA d. 1833 Greene Co, IN. She is buried beside her husband in the Slinkard Cemetery, Greene County, Indiana

Children:
Jacob: b. 11 April 1802 d. 7 Aug 1861 Daviess Co, IN m. 9 Jan 1820 Margaret FOSTERBURGH m. 11 April 1831

Elizabeth KILLIAN, b. 15 Feb 1816 - d. 8 Sept 1854m. 27 Sept 1856 Mary SPARKS. Both buried in Cornettsville Cemetery, Daviess Co, IN

Infant son: b. 1794 d. Young Infant son: b. 1798 d.
Young George: b. 1800 d. 1850 m. (1st) Sarah Elizabeth BAKER 22 May 1827m. (2nd) Nancy Ann BARKER

Mary Catherine: b. 9 Oct 1804, NC d. 15 Dec 1870 Newberry, IN m. 22 Feb 1822, Green Co, IN Andrew J. SLINKARD, b. Feb 6, 1794, NC d. 14 Jan 1868, Newberry, IN Both buried in Old Slinkard Cemetery

Rebecca: b. 11 Sept 1806 d. 27 Mar 1874 m. 1839 Moses SLINKARD, b. April 1802 d. Nov 1848 Rosanna: b. 15 Oct 1809 m. Wiley KILLIAN b. 25 Jan 1808 d. 21 Feb 1870 Both buried in Cornettsville Cemetery, Daviess Co, Indiana

Sarah "Sally" Wesner Skomp: b. 11 Aug 1812 d. 25 Jan 1851 m. 28 Nov 1827, Green Co, IN Isaac SKOMP b. 2 Dec 1804 d. 9 July 1874 Both are buried on the Ron HESLER Farm south of Newberry, Indiana, The Old Slinkard Cemetery.

John Edgar: b. 23 Dec 1814 d. 21 July 1875m. (1st) Dicey Ebaline KILLIAN b. 24 Feb 1825 d. 28 Jan 1870m. (2nd) 1 Sept 1872 Nancy Ann BARKER John and Dicey are buried in the Old Slinkard Cemetery.

The Wesner's, Skomp's and the Slinkard's played a big part in developing southern Greene County, Indiana holding many original Land Patents. David Daniel Wesner was my 4th great grandfather. His grandson Daniel E. Skomp, my 2nd great grandfather, was named after his grandfather. He is buried in the same cemetery as David Daniel Wesner. My grandfather John Daniel Roberts carried the name of "Daniel", from his grandparents. John Daniel Roberts, was, also, a WW2 veteran.

Though the Slinkard cemetery has been neglected for years, restoration efforts are being made to bring honor to the dead buried there, especially, Revolutionary Soldier and Indiana Pioneer, David Daniel Wesner. I hope this restoration effort continues.

Contributor--Great grandson, Dennis Smith

Samuel Skomp (Schamp)

Date and Place of Birth: 23 Sept 1775--Somerset, New Jersey Date and Place of Death: 11 Dec 1847--Greene County, Indiana

Samuel "Schamp" Skomp early life in New Jersey was much different than when he came to Indiana. He changed his name from Schamp to Skomp when he came to Indiana because most people were pronouncing his name as Skomp. His 2nd great grandfather was Pieter Schamp a soldier from Belgium who married Jannetje Dircks, the youngest daughter of Direck Volkertszen, a prominent citizen of New York and Long Island. The Volkertszen were among the original Dutch settlers that bought the island of Manhattan New York and Long Island New York from the Indians. The Volkertszen's and later the Schamps at one time owned a large portion of Manhattan, New York and Long Island, New York. Samuel "Schamp" Skomp's father, Adrian Schamp had a "Vast" estate on Long Island, New York that was well over 1000 acres and it was considered a plantation. As with family tradition Adrian Schamp passed the most of his estate to his oldest children and their children. Samuel Skomp was born to Adrian Schamp's second wife and
received a smaller portion of his father's estate. Samuel Schamp Skomp was baptized on 22 October 1775 at the Neshanic Reformed Dutch Protestant Church, Somerset County, New Jersey; "Schamp, Adriaen and Catleya--Samuel, bap. Oct. 22, 1775." He was the son of Adriaen Schamp and Catleyta Waldron. Samuel Schamp and Nicolaes Schamp were taken by Samuel Waldron (their grandfather, uncle?) following their father's death on 14 March 1780. "The two children of Adrian Schomp, deceased, are to be at Samuel Waldron's for a year, the oldest, named Samuel, for fourteen pounds, the youngest, named Nicholas, for fifteen pounds, as the money passed in the year 1774, for which sums the said Samuel Waldron is to find said children all necessary supplies, both victualing and clothing." Samuel Schamp Skomp and Nicolaes Schamp were still remaining with Samuel Waldron who was again paid for taking care of the children out of their father's estate in 1786.

Samuel Skomp married Susannah Switzer about 1800 in Huntington County, New Jersey. Samuel Skomp then made his way to Indiana, purchasing several Indiana land patents in Knox County, Indiana, starting in 1829 totaling several hundred acres though Samuel Skomp spent most of his Indiana life in Knox County, Indiana. He and Susannah Switzer Skomp are buried on the Ron HESLER Farm south of Newberry, Greene County, Indiana, The Old Slinkard Cemetery. Many of his descendants and family lived in both Knox, Greene, and Daviess counties Indiana. Samuel Schamp Skomp was a true Indiana pioneer and a descendant of the most early pioneers of this county. He deserves recognition.

Contributor--Great grandson, Dennis Smith

Samuel Simons

Date and Place of Birth: 1793--Blount, Tennessee
Date and Place of Death: 13 Jan 1881--Vigo County, Indiana

Samuel Simons was a Greene County Commissioner from 1830 to 1852. He served on the first board of trustees for the Bloomfield, Seminary. He served on jury for The State of Indiana vs John Workman, March 1820. He was listed as surety for the Greene County Courthouse. The US Census for Greene County, Indiana lists Samuel Simons in 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880. Greene County Land records that Simons bought sec. 4, twp 6, range 6, on October 3, 1835 from Noah and Rachel Waggoner. This land became the town of Lyons, Washington twp., Greene County, IN. November 1835, it was decided to build a new court house in Bloomfield, Greene County. The contractor leaves the state and his sureties, Andrew Downing and Samuel Simons were required to finish the building. The first board to serve under "System of Three-County Commissioners included Samuel Simons. He was recognized by The Society of Indiana Pioneers, 1993, as an early settler.

Find a Grave Memorial 89811292 created by Marie Mills, was placed in the Simons Cemetery, Lyons, Greene County, IN. The record was added May 8, 2012 and included Samuel and Cynthia Price's children, their mates and birth and death dates, Samuel Simons' parents and his brother and sisters.

References:
Baber, Jack. Early History of Greene County, 1875. Fomd a Grave Memorial 89811292 by Marie Mills History of Lawrence County. Goodspeed, 1884.
Greene County Land Records
US Greene County census 1830-1880
Simons Family History as known in 1971 by Ada Story. Yearbook of Society of Indiana Pioneers 1992

Contributor--Erma Jean Alkire Loveland
Daniel Keith

Date and Place of Birth: 1759--Virginia
Date and Place of Death: between Apr & Oct 1822--Jackson Co., Indiana

Daniel Keith, the earliest Baptist minister in the area of Brownstown, was born in Virginia around 1759. He served in the Elk Creek Militia of Montgomery County, VA, before moving to Grayson County, VA. His wife, Rosa Corban, was born 27 Feb 1761, also in Eastern Virginia. There is some conflict as to his father, however, the Will of George Keith, in Grayson County, proved November 1804, names his wife, Nancy, and lists his children as George, Daniel, Polly Porter, Prudence Porter, and a grandson, Robert Keith.

George Keith was known to have been a preacher in Grayson County, but there is no record of Daniel's ministry there.

Daniel Keith's bible, dated 1773, gives the date of his marriage to Rosy Corban, daughter of Wm and Rosannah Corban, 5 Feb 1781. Further, it lists their children: Nancy, b. 19 Jan 1782; Prudence, b. 3 Mar 1784; Constance, b. 25 Aug, 1 786; Dyadame, b. 29 July 1788; Elizabeth, b. 29 July 1790; Rosa, b. 24 July 1794; Patty, b. 24 July 1797; and Polly, b. 30 Jan 1800.

The Keith family, along with Jones and Mash families, moved to the area of Crane's Mill, (Elizabethtown), Jackson County, 1817/18.

About the time that Brownstown was organized, the first resident minister, a Baptist, was shown as Daniel Keith (Keath). Services were held in the homes of congregation members until a wooden church was built in 1834. This church was located on Sugar Street, near the public square. The Will of Daniel Keith was written 2 April 1824, and probated 23 Oct 1824. In it he leaves property to his wife, Rosy; daughters Rosannah, Polly, Prudence Jones, Elizabeth Ruddick - one third of estate divided. Constance, "ten dollars she has in her own hands".

Contributor–Henry B. Blackwell

Stephen Sparks

Date and Place of Birth: 25 Jun--Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 9 Aug 1851--Carr Township, Jackson County, Indiana
Stephen Sparks and other members of his family moved to Indiana Territory from Kentucky, circa 1811, and established residence in what is now the southwest corner of Jackson County adjacent to the East Fork of White River. Soon after his arrival at this location he established a ferry service across the river. The ferry provided transport across the river for settlers, animals, merchants, etc., on the principal lines of travel between settlements to the south, nearer the Ohio River, and northwest toward what is not Bloomington, IN area. This ferry service contributed significantly to the settlement of what is now Lawrence and Monroe counties in Indiana.

Indian troubles associated with the War of 1812 came upon the early settlers of Indiana Territory. Stephen Sparks then joined a company of Indiana Mounted Rangers to assist in the defense of settlers in southern Indiana. Later he received a commission from the State of Indiana appointing him a captain of the 17th Militia Regiment. He eventually was promoted to the rank of Major.

In addition to owning and operating his ferry, Stephen Sparks became the initial entrepreneur in the area where he settled in Jackson County. He erected a horse or oxen powered treadmill to grind grain for himself and other settlers nearby; he constructed ferry boats (flat boats) for his own use and to sell to other flat boaters; he along with other members of his family engaged in using flat boats to transport grain, etc., for sale down river (some trips of his flat boats continued down to New Orleans via the White, Wabash, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers); he also was “owner and keeper of a house of entertainment” (tavern) near his ferry site.

Stephen Sparks was a member of the first grand jury of Jackson County, Indiana which met April 7, 1817. Approximately three years following his death in 1851 a small town was platted at the site of his endeavors and named Sparksville. In 1853-54 the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad was constructed through the town. This railroad later became the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and is now part of the CSX railroad system.

Contributor—Paul A. Carr

John Flavel Carr

Date and Place of Birth: 27 Mar 1805--Clark County, Indiana
Date and Place of Death: 28 Apr 1878--Carr Township, Jackson County, Indiana

John Flavel Carr, the first child of Thomas and Margaret (Buchanan) Carr, was born in Indiana Territory more than 11 years prior to Indiana becoming a State in 1816. During 1811 his parents moved the family north to the frontier settlement of Vallonia where they established residence. They lived near a stockade at that place and on several occasions sought safety there from Indian raids. John obtained his first experience as a young scholar within the walls of the old stockade and retained a life-long interest in education thereafter. Thomas Carr purchased a quarter section of land from the U. S. government, approximately 3 miles west of the present town of Medora, IN., which he and his family occupied about 1816. John and his younger brother, George W. Carr, Sr., assisted their parents clearing the land for agricultural purpose, building a cabin, etc. John and his brother, George, subsequently constructed a tannery on their father’s farm which they ran successfully. Both brothers were self-educated, more or less, and both were interested in politics. Their interests in education may have been passed down through the genes of their grandfather who died prior to their birth. His name was John Flavel Carr, a school teacher and weaver, who came to the U. S. from Ireland prior to the Revolutionary War. He served as a Sergeant of a Pennsylvania unit of riflemen opposing British Forces and died circa 1783.

In 1813, George W. Carr Sr. moved to nearby Lawrence County, Indiana where he eventually became involved in politics and subsequently became a State Senator representing Lawrence County. John F. Carr remained in Jackson County where he too became involved in politics and over the years became a State Senator representing Jackson and Scott counties. In addition to his political activities, John F. Carr was a farmer (owned several hundred acres in Carr Township) and a tanner; he was active in the Methodist Church; he served in the Indiana Militia as a captain in 1832; during the Civil War, he was appointed Deputy Provost Marshal for Jackson County; and he as a Democrat prior to the Civil War, but became a Republican when the war began and continued as such thereafter. He represented Jackson County in the House of Representatives during the following years: 1839-40, 1840-41, 11841-42, 1842-43, 1843-44, and 1844-45. John F. Carr was also a member of the Indiana Constitutional Convention 1850-51. In 1845 he was Director of the State Bank of Indiana. He was a member of the Indiana “sinking fund commission” (a fund for financing improvement of public education in Indiana) for 17 years and considered the increase in finances for this endeavor one of his greatest achievements as a public servant. He was president of the Jackson County
Agricultural Society in 1853 and was a member of the State Board of Agriculture 1862-63. During a portion of his career, John F. Carr served as Jackson County school examiner. When Carr High School was being built on ground donated by his brother, George W. Carr, Sr., John took a leading role selling bonds to the public to complete the school’s construction.

John F. Carr died at his home in Carr Township, Jackson County, Indiana, on April 23, 1878 as a result of internal injuries received from a fall while working in his barn. He is buried alongside his wife and one daughter in Heighton Hill Cemetery north of Medora, Indiana.

Contributor—Paul A. Carr

George Whitfield Carr, Sr.

Date and Place of Birth: 7 Oct 1807--Clark County, Indiana Date and Place of Death: 27 May 1892--Crawfordsville, Indiana

George W. Carr, Sr. was the second son of Thomas and Margaret (Buchanan) Carr. As boys, he and his older brother, John F. Carr, moved with their parents from Clark County, Indiana to the frontier settlement of Vallonia in an area of the state which later became Jackson County, Indiana. Here the family on several occasions sought protection from attacks by Indians by residing within a stockade built for the benefit of settlers in the area. As a youthful apprentice he learned the tanner’s trade. Later George and his brother, John, constructed a tannery on their father’s farm on “Pea Ridge” approximately three miles west of the present town of Medora, IN. Both brothers had political aspirations.

During 1831 George W. Carr moved about five miles further west and established residence near Leesville, Lawrence County, IN where he also established a tannery and was elected Justice of the Peace for the community. In 1838 he was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives from Lawrence County. He served in that body in the 23-25-30-31-33-34 sessions; he was speaker of the House of Representatives during the 33-34 sessions. He was also a member of the Indiana Senate in the 26-27-28 sessions of that body. As a delegate from Lawrence County to the Constitutional Convention of 1850-51 he was unanimously chosen as president of this body whereby the Indiana Constitution of 1816 was revised. During the period 1852-1854 he served as receiver of monies for sale of public land (U.S. owned land) at Jeffersonville, IN until the office was closed and removed to Indianapolis. Following his parents’ deaths he purchased their homestead farm on “Pea Ridge”, Carr Township, Jackson County, IN where he engaged in raising fruit and farming.

In July and August 1862, during the Civil War, George W. Carr, Sr. assisted in the raising of the 93rd Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was 54 years old at the time and was made Lt Colonel of the Regiment. The Regiment saw active service during 1862-63 in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana and participated in the siege of Vicksburg. During the siege of Vicksburg, George W. Carr, Sr. incurred bad health which resulted in him resigning from military service. He then returned to this farm on “Pea Ridge.”

After approximately two years his health had recovered sufficiently for him to resume his practice of farming. His second wife died in March 1886 and soon thereafter George W. Carr, Sr. sold the old homestead farm and went to Crawfordsville, IN where he resided with his youngest son, William Cass Carr. (William C. Carr later became mayor of Crawfordsville and during his administration had one of the first public utilities constructed to provide electricity for the city.)

State Senator/Lt. Colonel George Whitfield Carr, Sr. died at Crawfordsville, IN May 27, 1892. His remains were returned to the homestead farm in Carr Township, Jackson County, IN where he is buried in the Carr Family beside his two wives and his parents.

During 1857 George W. Carr, Sr. and his wife deeded one acre of land from the northeast corner of the Carr Homestead farm to Carr Township as a site for erection of a two story school made of brick. The school was active from 1857 to 1934 and remains on the site to this day (Sep 2013) in good condition. It was initially known as Carr High School.

Contributor—Paul A. Carr
Thomas Carr

Date and Place of Birth: 12 Dec 1777--Chester County, Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 10 Mar 1847--Carr Township, Jackson Co., Indiana

Thomas Carr’s brother was John Flavel Carr, (date of birth not known), who came to America from Ballynahinch, County Down, Ireland prior to the American Revolutionary War. His mother was Margaret (Ewing) Carr born in Virginia. Thomas Carr’s father served in a Pennsylvania military unit fighting the British during the Revolutionary War and he died circa 1784. Margaret Carr was left with five children to raise so she moved the family from their home south of Lancaster, PA to Fredrick County, VA where she had numerous relatives. Thomas Carr was the elder son of her family and circa 1788 he rode to Kentucky with his uncle, Samuel Ewing, where they established residence in an area which later became Mercer and Boyle Counties, Kentucky. Thomas Carr resided with his Uncle Samuel Ewing’s family until he became an adult. Circa 1804 Thomas Carr married Margaret Buchanan and they then moved to Indiana Territory settling on a tract of land near “14 mile creek” in Clark County. Here Thomas Carr cut himself a home out of the woods for the first time for his family. He claimed to have done this feat three times during his life. The second such event occurred establishing a home in the woods near the present town of Vallonia, IN, in Jackson County, and the last time on 160 acres of land he purchased from the U.S. government in an area known as “Pea Ridge” because an abundance of wild peas grew there in pioneer days.

Thomas Carr was a self-educated man and as a young man acquired training and experience as a surveyor. When government land became available for purchase and settlement in the current Jackson County area his uncle, Samuel Ewing, decided to buy a large tract of this land. Samuel Ewing was of advanced age to travel to Indiana Territory so, he enlisted the assistance of his younger brother, Thomas Ewing, of Mercer County, KY, to come to Indiana Territory along with his nephew Thomas Carr (the surveyor), who was then a resident of Clark County, Indiana Territory, to purchase and survey land which he desired. Thomas Ewing and Thomas Carr obtained slightly more than 1,000 acres of land for Samuel Ewing in the immediate area of the present town of Vallonia, IN. Thomas Carr leased some land from his uncle which he cleared of timber and farmed until circa 1816. Circa 1816 Thomas Carr moved his family from the Vallonia area to a quarter section of land he had purchased from the U.S. government approximately three miles west of the present town of Medora, IN. Here he cleared his last home site where he remained until his death March 10, 1847. He is buried there in the small Carr Family Cemetery on the last land he cleared next to his first wife, Margaret (Buchanan) Carr.

Some activities involving Thomas Carr (1777-1847) are as follows:
He assisted in the construction of the stockade for settler’s protection at the present site of Vallonia, IN and on several occasions resided therein with his family during threat of Indian raids; (early settlers knew the stockade as Fort Alexander) due to his surveyor skills he was enlisted to plat the original town of Vallonia, IN. He was elected to the first Board of Commissioners of Jackson County, IN in 1817 and served in that office through 1824. The area where his home was located was originally in Flinn Township, Jackson County, IN. During 1823 a large portion of Flinn Township was detached from Jackson County, IN to make Lawrence County, IN. The portion of Flinn Township remaining in Jackson County was renamed Carr Township in honor of Thomas Carr.

He was always interested in furthering education, so circa 1830 he deeded one acre of his land where upon a one room log school was erected. This school operated as a so-called “subscription school” (pay to attend) from circa 1830 to 1857 when his son, George W. Carr, Sr., donated another acre of land where a two-story brick “public school” was erected and utilized until 1934.

He reported to have made two trips to New Orleans, LA aboard flat-boats with his uncle, Thomas Ewing, to sell produce from Indiana. Thomas Ewing is reported to have made 12 such trips.
He married twice. His first wife, Margaret (Buchanan) Carr (1778-1820), born in Kentucky, was the mother of six children. The two older sons, John Flavel and George Whitfield Carr, Sr., became prominent political figures and civic leaders in Indiana prior to the U.S. Civil War.

During 1823, Thomas Carr married Mary Elizabeth (Boas/Boaz) Cavender (a widow), born May 8, 1791 at Hanover, Germany. She was the daughter of Henry Boas/Boaz and Dorthea (Baumgartner) Boas. Her father was a veteran of the American Revolutionary War who fought with American troops in the battles of Long Island and White Plains, NY and elsewhere. To this marriage two sons and two daughters were born. The elder son was also named Thomas Carr. He was born at the Carr homestead on “Pea Ridge” Carr Township, Jackson Co., IN June 19, 1827 and died at a log home he had built in Carr Hallow (same township, etc.) May 8, 1853. He had married Amanda Sparks, granddaughter of Stephen Sparks, February 8, 1853. Eleven children were born to this marriage; seven surviving to
adulthood including my grandfather, Alexander “Eck” Carr. Thomas Carr, like his father, was a farmer and surveyor. He was elected and served as Surveyor of Jackson County during the following years: 1854-58, and 1884 to May 1887 when he died while still in office. His younger brother, William H. Carr, also a surveyor, often served as his deputy surveyor. Thomas Carr was well known for his accurate surveys and spent much of his life “resurrecting” old survey points and boundary lines made during the early settlement of Jackson County. During his life as a surveyor he conducted the initial surveys to establish the towns of Sparksville and Crothersville, IN in Jackson County.

Thomas Carr’s mother, Mary “Polly” (Boas/Boaz) Carr died Dec 7, 1883 and is buried next to her parents in Brown Cemetery, Carr Township, Jackson County, IN. Thomas Carr and wife Amanda (Sparks) Carr are buried in Spark Cemetery near Sparksville, IN.

Contributor--Paul A. Carr

Michael Beem

Date and Place of Birth: 1785--Rowan Co., North Carolina
Date and Place of Death: 24 Jun 1850--Jackson Co., Indiana

With Uncle Daniel move to Jackson Co., IN 1810 Settled on East Fork of White River near Brownstown arriving 9th or 10th November 1810.

On the 7th day Nov. 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe was fought. Grandfather Michael Lt. Beem and Cousin Major Richard Beem were in the battle.

After the Indian hostilities of the 70 families in Jackson Co., all left but 23. As the Beems were one of those about a dozen joined in the erection of a stockade fort (Fort Vallonia).

These and more stories of the Beem Family can be found in Books of History of Jackson County, Brant & Fuller 1886 – first documented history of Jackson Co. 1816-1976 by Edwin Boley.

Contributor James Lookingbill
Mark Stratton

Date and Place Birth: Birth: 27 Sep 1812--Place of Birth Sussex County, New Jersey
Date and Place of Death: 20 Jan 1890--Place Wabash, Wabash County, Indiana

When Mark Stratton was a small boy his family moved from Vernon Twp, Sussex County, NJ to near Wooster, Wayne County, OH. Mark married Mary Schallenberger on Christmas Eve, 1835. She was born in Beaver Co, PA on 11 Mar 1816.

Mark wanted to go further west for land. He heard that there was fertile, inexpensive land and abundant wildlife in northern Indiana. He located land in southern Kosciusko County and purchased it. He went back to Wayne County and brought Mary and their daughter Catherine and settled in Indiana in 1838. They lived here for several years before he located northeast of Lagro in Wabash County. He sold his first land at a profit and purchased 240 acres of land in Wabash County. He called this land "Hopewell" after his ancestral home in England. His wife Mary loved a garden and around the house was called a paradise of flowers. He donated part of the land for a church and cemetery which was also called Hopewell.

Mark was ordained as a Methodist minister on 12 Feb 1857. By 1863, Mark and Mary had ten living children (2 girls died young): Catherine, Jerome, Mary, Irvin, Florence, Leander, Lemon, Ada and Geneva Grace. Their youngest daughter would become one of the foremost novelist, naturalist and nature photographer of the early 20th century. Her name was Gene Stratton-Porter.

In October 1874, Mary's health was failing and the family moved to the town of Wabash, where she died four months later on 3 Feb 1875. Mark died 20 Jan 1890. Both are buried together with some of their children at the Hopewell Cemetery.

Contributor--Terri Gorney
Theodore and Rebecca (Follis) Webb

Date and Place of Birth: (T) 29 Mar 1807--Virginia
Date and Place of Death: (T) 12 Sep 1866--Frankton, Madison Co., IN

Theodore is the son of Cuthbert Webb and Mary Jarrell. Rebecca is the daughter of Isaac Follis and Mercy Vaughn. They were married in Green Co., OH, in 1836 and shortly thereafter moved to Indiana. Theodore is listed as a pioneer of Jackson Twp. of Madison Co. in Samuel Harden’s PIONEER.

Children: Mary, Mercy, Ellen, Emsley, Charlotte, Sarah, Ishma, Elmer. Theodore and Rebecca are both buried at Prewett Cemetery, w. of Franklin, IN.

Contributor--Ann Orbaugh Brewer

William and Lucinda Etchison

Date and Place of Birth: (W) 1813-1815--North Carolina
Date and Place of Death: (W) 10 Mar 1880--Tipton Co., Indiana

Lucinda (Beeson) Etchison was born 28 Nov 1817 in Indiana. Her parents were James and Sarah (Little) Beeson. William’s parents were John and Rebecca (Sunnell) Etchison. William is likely the William Etchison who served in the Civil War, enrolling in Tipton, IN in 1862. William was a farmer.

Children: James, Henry, Margaret, John Franklin, Amanda Ellen, Eli, and Sarah Catharine. William’s will lists two step-children – Emma (Etchison) Wolverton and Thomas DeHority.

Contributor--Ann Orbaugh Brewer

James and Margaret (Allen) Etchison

Date and Place of Birth: 13 Jan 1839--Madison Co., Indiana
Date and Place of Death: 13 Feb 1894--Madison Co., Indiana
James was the son of William and Lucinda (Beeson) Etchison and Margaret was the daughter of Andrew T. and Rebecca (Hughes) Allen, natives of Ireland. James later married Margaret Powers. James was the Sheriff of Madison County from 1888 to 1892.


Children of James and Margaret (Powers) Etchison: Luella M, and Nellie Alice.

Contributor--Ann Orbaugh Brewer

Morris Gilmore

Date and Place of Birth: 11 Jun 1811--Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 9 Dec 1879--Ovid, Indiana

Morris Gilmore was born in West Virginia (actually Virginia since West Virginia did not become a state until 1863), June 11, 1811, and received a very good school education, becoming a well-read man and a skilled mathematician. His old copy book used in school by him is still in existence. Mr. Gilmore was married in Gallipolis, Ohio, to Elizabeth Blazer, born in Gallia County, Ohio, daughter of George and Elizabeth (McKinley) Blazer, the former of Pennsylvania German stock. Shortly after his marriage Morris Gilmore came to Madison County, Ind. in October, 1829, bringing his parents and two other parties, having two light covered wagons. There were not many roads after passing the Ohio River, the elevations being their only guide, but as it was the dry season they made the trip in about three weeks, arriving Oct. 29th. There was a log cabin on the farm, and Mr. Gilmore bought out the squatter and located on the place with the family. Nothing was cleared on this farm except a small patch around the cabin, but Mr. Gilmore was hearty and strong, and that winter cleared three acres, the next season raising a good crop. The horses and cows lived on the wild pea vine and other wild plants of the forest. Mr. Gilmore became prosperous, clearing up a good farm of 270 acres, and he built the first brick house in that section of Indiana, one and one-half stories, a large, square structure, the timbers for which were cut from the farm and the shingles made by hand. (The Morris Gilmore house, built in 1838, was the first brick house in the township. Like the other brick structures of that era in the county, the bricks were made on location. The clay for the bricks was taken from the knoll across the road. The timber used in the house was taken from the surrounding forest. The Gilmore family's first shelter, a log cabin, originally stood in what is now this house's front yard. At the driveway entrance along Gilmore Road (CR 625S) is not only an Indiana Historic Landmark sign but also a stone with an inscribed history of the house and family. Additionally, the stone contains a time capsule to be opened in 2038.) Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore were Methodists in religious belief. He was an influential man in his community, and for several years served on the board of township trustees. He lived to be seventy-one years of age, and died Dec 5, 1879. Morris had 12 children including 2 sons who fought in the Civil War. Morris Junior was killed in the battle of Antietam and John returned to run the family farm.

Ref: "COMMEMORATIVE BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD"

Personal Sketch of Morris Gilmore:
Morris Gilmore came to Madison County in 1829 and settled one mile east of New Columbus (Ovid). New Columbus contained but one house when Mr. Gilmore settled in the vicinity and all the surrounding country was new. Anderson being but a very small place in 1838. He has always been a devoted Methodist, joining the church when a young man, and has been one of the mainstays of the church ever since. He is regarded as one of the best men in the county, and has accumulated considerable property. He met, however, with quite a misfortune in the fall of 1873, lightning striking his barn killing a valuable horse, and burning wheat, hay, etc., his entire loss being $1,500, on which there was no insurance, in those days a tremendous sum of money. For several years after Mr. Gilmore arrived in the county there was no Methodist society near him. He and his wife attended church in Henry County, seven miles distant. He has always been a strong temperance man, and was one of the leaders of the Good Templar Society at New Columbus. He was an Old Line Whig until that party ceased to exist, since which time he has been acting with the Republican Party. He was a strong war man and gave two of his sons to defend the old flag.

"History of Madison County, Indiana, From 1820 to 1874" by Samuel Harden.

Contributor--Charles H. Gilmore
William Allen

Date and Place of Birth: 1767--Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 1829--Madison Co., Indiana

He was one of the first settlers. During the 1820’s he settled in Anderson Township, Madison Co., IN. He brought with him his wife, Mary Johns, and nine children.

June 3, 1823 land records East ½ SW Section 16 & 17, 74 acres – 87 reserved for school. History tells us that he was Justice of the Peace; taught school – 1824; War Correspondent for John Berry; First Assessor; first election was held in his home; County Commissioner; member of New Light; served in War of 1812; first whip-saw blade in county; saw lumber for the Old Makepeace Mill at Chesterfield; coroner. He died in 1829 and was first buried at Old Cemetery in Anderson. He was moved by his son, John Allen, to Otterbein Cemetery in Chesterfield, IN. He does not have a stone. I have filled out paperwork to see if I can get him an 1812 stone. He was my 3rd great grandfather. He was a man of many firsts in Madison County. My Grandmother Deloris Wood took me to Cemetery when I was a teen and showed me where he and family was buried. This was Otterbein Cemetery in Chesterfield.

Contributor--William H. Wood

John Allen

Date and Place of Birth: 1 Nov 1809--Harden Co., Kentucky
Date and Place of Death: 17 Mar 185--Madison Co., Indiana

J Allen History


Full text of History of Madison County, Indiana, from 1820 to 1874 . . . Archive. Org/. . ./historyofmadison00hard/historyofmadison00hard DJV Indiana Pioneers to Madison Co. Anderson, IN by 1820.

Mr. Allen, son of William Allen/Mary. John came to the county with his father, William Allen, in 1820 when he was 11 years old. He located two miles east of Anderson, where he resided ever since. Mr. Allen has served as lieutenant in the military service or militia which was common many years ago.

He has served as coroner and was Justice of the Peace form 1840-1845. He has served as Township Trustees ten years. He owns a fine farm of 230 acres part of which he entered in 1830. Mr. Allen perhaps the best posted in pioneer history of any man now living in the county. Fifty-four years has elapsed since he came to the county a mere lad and he is now old and white headed man bent with the cares of the time. He has lived to see the Indians retreat, the dense forest cleared away and Anderson built up. Schools, houses, and churches dot our county, his early associates are scattered, his companion summoned away and early privations replace by modern conveniences. He has witnessed a few score of the pioneers develop into a prosperous community of 25,000. His wife, Polly Pittsford Allen, died June 2, 1873 and is buried at the cemetery belonging to the United Brethren Church, one mile west of Chesterfield. John Allen had his father’s body removed from a cemetery in Anderson, IN. To be placed beside him in the Otterbein Cemetery so William Allen and son, John Allen, could be buried beside him. William Allen was born 1767 in Philadelphia, PA and died in Anderson, IN in 1829. John Allen was born Nov. 1, 1809 Hardin Co., KY and died in Madison Co., IN March 17, 1851. Married Mary Polly Pittsford in Anderson IN, 1843. She was born Oct 6, 1827 Licking Co., OH. D/O William Pittsford and Betsy Bodle.

Source:
The History of Madison Co. Indiana 1820-1874, I 977.201 M. 182 1970
A History of Madison Co. Indiana and Its Prominent Men, Chicago 1880 IQ 977.201 M. 182 HE page 207.

Contributor--William H. Wood
John Ade

Date and Place of Birth: 18 Sep 1828--Sussex County, England
Date and Place of Death: 28 Apr 1914--Kentland, Newton Co., Indiana

John Ade was one of the substantial citizens of Newton County, which he helped to organize and served as its first recorder of deeds. He was born in Sussex County, England, September 18, 1828, the son of John and Esther (Wood) Ade, both of whom were natives of that same county. The father followed the occupation of a maltster* in England and with his family sailed for America, in June, 1840, landing in New York after a long voyage of forty-five days. John possessed little of this world's goods, and he settled in Hamilton County, Ohio, near Cincinnati, where he subsequently purchased a small farm and resided on the same until the close of the Civil War, when he sold out and removed to Scott County, Iowa, and bought a small farm near Davenport, where he died in the fiftieth year of his marriage. He was the only member of the family to come to this country, and was an honest, industrious man, winning the confidence and high regard of all with whom he came in contact. His wife survived him but a few months, when she passed away at Davenport, Iowa. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ade were devout members of the Baptist church.

The following mention is made of their children: John is the subject of this review. William resided in Davenport and learned the carpenter's trade, but since 1860 was in the railway mail service. He married and had seven children. Henry was the first to be born in the United States. He married and followed farming near Davenport, Iowa, until his death. Samuel died in Iowa. Joseph, the youngest child, was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, and served as a soldier in the Civil War, in the Sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He married, and engaged in farming in Scott County, Iowa.

John Ade attended the district schools in his youth and learned the rudiments of farming, but at the age of eighteen he took up the blacksmith trade, at which he worked about four years. After his marriage, in 1851, he had charge of a toll-gate near Cincinnati, working in that capacity until 1853, when he came to Morocco, Jasper County. For two years John conducted a general store for Ayers & Company, afterward becoming the village blacksmith of Morocco. In 1860 Newton County was organized, and Mr. Ade was made his party's candidate for recorder of deeds and was elected. He was the only successful candidate on the Republican ticket. Removing to Kentland, he fulfilled the duties of his office for four years and was then, in 1864, elected county auditor, in which capacity he also served four years. At the expiration of his term he took up farming, traded in real estate and was also in the grain business with C. B. Cone and Elmer McCray, and in 1872 he entered the banking house of Mr. Cone, at Kentland, as cashier.

In 1875, Mr. Ade became associated with Greenberry W. McCray and E. Littell Urmston and they purchased the bank of C. B. Cone. The firm's name was Ade, McCray & Company. Mr. Ade was its cashier, and during the twenty-three years he seldom was absent from his desk. The Discount and Deposit Bank of Kentland was the oldest bank in Newton County; it was a sound financial institution and did a larger business than any other concern of a similar nature in the
county. On May 20, 1851, Mr. Ade was united in marriage to Miss Adaline Bush, who was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, August 8, 1833, a daughter of Isaac and Margaret (Adair) Bush. Isaac Bush was born in New Jersey and was a farmer and hotel-keeper. Mrs. Bush was born in Fayette County, Indiana, on the present site of Connersville, and was the first white child born in that county. Mr. and Mrs. Ade became the parents of seven children. Anna Eliza, born April 18, 1852, near Cincinnati, Ohio, married John W. Randall, of Kentland. Mary Alice, born January 19, 1856, married John G. Davis and resides at Plymouth. Mr. Davis was born in Miami County, Ohio, March 24, 1854, and he was educated at Pleasant Hill, Ohio. In January, 1867, he became editor and publisher of the Chronicle, at Pleasant Hill. In 1868 he came to Newton County and engaged in the nursery business and in farming. In March, 1873, he became deputy in the circuit-court clerk's office and in 1878 he was elected circuit clerk and re-elected in 1882. He was married to Miss Ade January 19, 1876.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ade had the following children: William H. Ade was born August 3, 1859, and was in 1899 county treasurer of Newton County. Emma was born January 23, 1861, and died November 28, 1865. Joseph, was born September 23, 1862, and was in the railway mail service on the Fort Wayne Railroad. He was in the wreck that occurred near Shreves, Ohio, September 21, 1892. He was the only survivor of five postal clerks that were caught in that terrible disaster. George Ade was born February 9, 1866, and obtained his early education in the public schools of Kentland, later attending Purdue University at Lafayette. He graduated with the class of 1887. In early life George developed a taste for literary work, and his first effort to appear in print was entitled "A Basket of Potatoes," which was written while being "kept after school to write an essay.

After obtaining his diploma, Mr. Ade accepted a position as reporter on the Lafayette Call. While at Purdue his classmate and chum was John McCutcheon, who subsequently was the celebrated artist of the Chicago Record, and who assisted Mr. Ade in getting a place on the same paper as a reporter. His ability as a descriptive writer soon became recognized, and in 1893 he was given the special work of preparing "Stories of the Streets and of the Town," which were illustrated by his friend McCutcheon. Through this work both these young men won a national reputation. Mr. Ade made two trips to Europe, and on each occasion wrote for the Record a description of his travels, in a most entertaining manner. Ella M. Ade was born October 23, 1867, and became the wife of W. T. McCray. John Ade proudly pointed to the fact that he voted the Republican ticket from the organization of the party, and besides the office mentioned he served for six years as a member of the school board at Kentland. He was a Royal Arch Mason and past master of Newton Lodge, No. 361, F. & A. M., while serving forty years as a member of the Christian church.

*maltster = maker or dealer in malt

Contributor--Committee Member
Moses Gates

Date and Place of Birth: 2 May 1808--Greensboro, Orleans, Vermont
Date and Place of Death: 20 Dec 1901--Valparaiso, Porter Co., Indiana

Moses Gates was a native of Vermont, where he was born in 1808 and was reared there. His first occupation was that of shoemaker, but afterwards he became a farmer. He lived to the advanced age of ninety-five years, and passed away in Porter County in 1903, one of the last of the very early pioneer settlers.

Moses Gates obtained his education in the common schools of his native state, Vermont. His first migration toward the west took him to the state of New York, thence to Ohio, and in 1837 came to La Porte County, Indiana. After a brief stay in LaPorte County, he moved over to Porter County.

At that time the Pottawatomie Indians had not yet passed on to the west, and the country itself was only one step removed from its primitive state of wilderness. At the location where his son Jonas resided, the father, Moses, bought a small tract of forty acres, and later a similar amount. On this farm, developed by his labor, he spent the remainder of his long life. His wife, who died in 1878, was born in Vermont in 1810. Her parents were members of the Methodist Church. Both rest in the Fleming Cemetery of Porter Township. This branch of the Gates family is directly descended from the General Gates family of the Revolution, so that the present generation is entitled to the honors of the Revolutionary societies.

Contributor--Committee Member
Benjamin Cox

Date and Place of Birth: 12 Sep 1780--Randolph (then Guilford) Co. North Carolina
Date and Place of Death: 2 Nov 1847--Randolph Co., Indiana

Benjamin Cox and his family arrived in what is now Randolph County in 1817 from Ohio. His parents and several of his siblings joined him. He was an original commissioner of Randolph County in 1818, and the county’s government was organized in his cabin. He was present when the town square of Winchester was laid out. He was the founder and primary leader of the White River Friends (Quaker) Meeting and was a recorded minister after 1836. He traveled widely among American Friends, and he was a member of the Meeting for Suffering (Executive Committee) of Indiana Yearly Meeting from its organization in 1821 until his death. He presided over the organization of the Randolph County Temperance Society in 1839. He is also recorded as teaching the first school in Winchester (White River) community. His daughter remembered him as a great hunter and a friend of the Indians in the community. Numerous of his descendants reside in Randolph County even today.

Contributor--Dr. Greg Hinshaw

Burkett Pierce

Date and Place of Birth: 16 Jan 1793--Louden County, Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 19 Aug 1884--Randolph Co., Indiana

Burkett Pierce, the son of Samuel and Delilah (Taylor) Pierce, was born on January 16, 1793 in Louden County, Virginia. The family moved to Ross County, Ohio, in 1800 where they were pioneer settlers of that county.

He served in the War of 1812 as a Private in Captain Martin Armstrong's Company in the Ohio Militia.

In 1816 he married Elizabeth Ward, a daughter of Thomas and Margery (Piggott) Ward, and they had six children. In 1819 the family moved to Randolph County, Indiana, building a log cabin on the north side of the Mississinewa River, just east of Ridgeville.

According to The History of Randolph County, Indiana (1882): Among the chief settlers on the Mississinewa may be named Burkett Pierce . . . Burkett Pierce was the first in Ward Township . . .
Burkett Pierce is buried in Reitenour Cemetery near Ridgeville in Randolph County and is my 4th great grandfather.

Contributor--Eric Allan Koch

Thomas Ward

Date and Place of Birth: 3 May 1759--Guilford, North Carolina
Date and Place of Death: 11 Feb 1839--Randolph Co., Indiana

Thomas Ward, the son of Joel and Nancy (Ross) Ward, was born on May 3, 1759 in Guilford County, North Carolina. In 1777, he enlisted as a private in the 1st North Carolina Regiment for a term of three years. His unit was sent north to join General Washington. On June 28, 1778 Colonel Thomas Clark led the North Carolina Continents to the Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey, an important battle in the American Revolution that was personally commanded by George Washington himself.

In 1782, he married Margery Piggott, the daughter of William and Sarah (Pike) Piggott, and they had eight children. In the early 1800s, the Ward family left North Carolina, first pioneering Ross County, Ohio, then in 1819 to Randolph County, Indiana, where Ward Township was named after this early pioneer family.

According to The History of Randolph County, Indiana (1882):
He experienced . . . in full measure, the hardships attending the lot of the pioneer, inconvenience and danger, abounding on every hand, each day aroused anew that sturdy opposition which surmounted every obstacle. On one occasion, with two companions, he was captured by the Indians, who bound them to stakes, to be burned the next morning. Being a powerful man, and drawing from the awfulness of the situation a supernatural strength, he succeeded, during the night in pulling the stake to which he was tied from the ground. Freeing his companions, and stealing a gun from a sleeping Indian, he made his escape. On the following day they were obliged to conceal themselves in a hollow log, nearby which the Indians passed, in searching for them, and it was not until after four days had been spent in wandering about the woods that they at last reached Pittsburgh, which was then an American Fort.

Thomas Ward is buried in White River Friends Cemetery in Randolph County and is my 5th great grandfather.

Contributor--Eric Allan Koch

Daniel Mock

Date and Place of Birth: 1784--Rowan Co., North Carolina
Date and Place of Death: 1865--Randolph Co., Indiana

Daniel Mock, the son of Devaulter and Phoebe (Clinard) Mock, was born in 1784 in Mocksville, Rowan County, North Carolina. Devaulter, an innkeeper and tavern owner who provided aid and support for the Colonial troops during the American Revolution, died in 1798 and his widow moved to Greene County, Ohio, with the children in 1807 where they were pioneer settlers of that county. Daniel married Ruth Lindsey, daughter of Jeremiah and Mary Lindsey, a native of Botetourt, Roanoke County, Virginia, with whom he had nine children.

Daniel served in the War of 1812 as a Private in the 1st Regiment (4th Brigade and 1st Division) in the Ohio Militia.

He became a pioneer of Ward Township, Randolph County, Indiana in 1824, initially settling on Clear Creek and later purchasing 160 acres. He was a farmer and a Democrat.

Daniel died in 1865 and was buried in a pioneer cemetery north of the Saratoga Road east of Highway 27. That cemetery no longer exists and it has been said that his son-in-law, Uriah Pierce, had Daniel and Ruth moved to his lot at Reitenour Cemetery many years later.

Daniel Mock was my 4th great grandfather.

Contributor--Eric Allan Koch
James F. Saunders

Date and Place of Birth: 15 Apr 1839--Perry Twp., Vanderburgh Co., Indiana
Date and Place of Death: 29 Sep 1918--Evansville, Indiana

James F. Saunders, a citizen of Union Township, was born in Perry Township, of Vanderburgh County, April 15, 1839. He was the son of William C. and Lydia E. (Fauquher) Saunders, the former a native of Vanderburgh County, and the latter of Kentucky. His father was born September 22, 1815, and was the son of Ezekiel and Isabel (Willis) Saunders, who were among the first settlers of Vanderburgh County. William C. Saunders was married to Lydia E. Fauquher September 10, 1834. She was born March 12, 1814, and was the daughter of James F. and Margaret Fauquher, who were early settlers of German Township, Vanderburgh County.

James F. Saunders spent his boyhood and youth on a farm in his native township. At twenty years of age he went to Union Township, where he resided and engaged in agriculture for himself. He gave his undivided attention to farming. James began life without means, and nearly all of his property was the product of hard work and good management. He owned 300 acres of excellent land, all in Union Township.

James was married March 9, 1870, to Haidee Upfield. She was born in Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, January 22, 1850, and was the daughter of William and Martha (Wilson) Upfield. Mr. and Mrs. Saunders had four children: Ida M., George, Ruth, and one that died in infancy unnamed.

In politics, Mr. Saunders was a Democrat, and served his township as Assessor, and two terms as Trustee. He was County Commissioner three years and was a faithful and judicious public servant.

Contributor--Committee Member
Silas M. and Martha A. (Harvey) Phebus

Date and Place of Birth: (S) 1822 – Pickaway, Ohio  (M) 8 Dec 1800 - White Co., Indiana
Date and Place of Death: (S) 21 Aug 1898 – White Co., Indiana  (M)7 Jan 1899 Washington, Indiana (M)

Silas M. Phebus, a native of the Buckeye State, was one of the pioneers of White County. Silas arrived in Indiana in 1838. He afterward bought a tract of land and devoted his life to the cultivation and improvement of the land.

In all his transactions he was honorable and just, and all worthy causes found a sincere friend in him. Death put an end to his useful career when he was in his seventy-sixth year, on the 21st of August, 1898.

His widow, Martha A., was the daughter of Henry L. Harvey, one of the early settlers of this county where he entered and improved land. Henry was a pillar in the Christian Church, and worked earnestly for the spread of righteousness. He died in 1874, loved and mourned by all who knew him. Mrs. Martha A. Phebus died January 7, 1899, on the old homestead which was owned by her husband, Silas. Following her early training, she was deeply interested in the Christian Church with which she was identified. Her numerous brothers and sisters were named as follows: James, Betsey, Thomas, Noah, William, Enoch, Charity, Mary, John and Joel. By her union with Mr. Phebus she had five children: David; Samuel, a farmer; Mary E. Bobsine; George, of Monon; and Mrs. Jennie White.

Contributor--Committee Member
THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS

Additional Counties from Years: 2010 - 2011 - 2012

Allen County

Samuel and Matilda (Davis) Fogwell

Date and Place of Birth: 1807 (S) 1813 (M) -- Washington, Maryland
Date and Place of Death: 1861(S) 1872 (M) -- Allen Co., Indiana

Samuel and Matilda (Davis) Fogwell settled in Allen County in 1839. Samuel was a farmer by trade. Twenty- eight acres of their woods were donated by their great grandchildren, Glenn Fogwell, Mildred Klopenstein, and Mable Corville, for a nature preserve. Today, this preserve is owned by ACRES Land Trust and is called Fogwell nature Preserve. Glenn was the fourth generation to farm this land and he wanted it as a “permanent living museum.” The surname Fogwell means “a misty, grassy place in the woods.”

Contributor--Terri Gorney

John Sorg

Date and Place of Birth: Nov 1809--Eckardroth, Germany
Date and Place of Death: 1895--Hessen Cassel, Allen County, Indiana

John was born in 1809 in Eckardroth, Germany. He married 27 Apr 1835 in Allen County to Elizabeth Schmidt. They raised their family in southern Allen County in a German Catholic Community. John died in 1895 and is buried at Hessen Cassel Church Cemetery.

Contributor--Judith Schroff

Catherine Bennett Farmer

Date and Place of Birth: 27 Nov 1808--Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 05 Jun 1863--Churubusco, Indiana

Catherine Bennett, daughter of William and Margaret Bennett, married Andrew Farmer and moved to Allen County in the mid-1830s where they raised their family. She died 5 June 1863.

Contributor--Judith Schroff
Andrew Farmer

Date and Place of Birth: 20 Jul 1812--Franklin Co., Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 30 Jul 1897--Columbia City, Whitley CO., Indiana

Andrew Farmer was born in 1812 in Virginia. He married Catherine Bennett in 1831 in Miami County, Ohio. His first land purchase was in Allen County in 1833. In 1836, he added to the original purchase. He was a farmer by trade. Andrew and Catherine raised their family in Allen County. He died in September 1897 in Columbia City. Both are buried in Eel River Baptist Church Cemetery.

Contributor--Judith Schroff

Abigail Hammond Sweet

Date and Place of Birth: 27 May 1810--Abbeville, South Carolina
Date and Place of Death: 13 Aug 1865--Arcola, Lake Township, Allen County, Indiana

Abigail was the daughter of Louis and Nancy (Buffinton) Hammond. Her father was a soldier in the War of 1812. He died in service in 1813 in Washington D.C. On 13 Dec 1827, she married Francis Sweet. In 1835, they moved to Lake Township, Allen County. She died in 1865 in Arcola.

Contributor--Judith Schroff

Francis Sweet

Date and Place of Birth: 28 Jul 1806--Jonesboro, Washington Co., Tennessee
Date and Place of Death: 25 Mar 1884--Columbia City, Whitley Co., Indiana

Francis Sweet was born in 1806 in Jonesboro, TN. He moved with his family by ox cart from Ohio in the mid-1830s. He was the first postmaster in the Arcola area in Lake Township, Allen County. He was one of the first Masons in the area, an old line Whig, and a devout Methodist. Francis was a justice of the peace for 15 years. He died in 1884 in Columbia City.

Contributor--Judith Schroff

William Bennett

Date and Place of Birth: 03 Apr 1785--Maryland
Date and Place of Death: 26 Sep 1873--Allen Co., Indiana

William Bennett was born in 1785 in Maryland. He married Margaret Brooks. She was born in 1786 in Pennsylvania. He was a farmer by trade. His first deed was dated 1836 in Allen County. He died in 1873. She died in 1872. Both are buried at Eel River Church Cemetery.

Contributor--Judith Schroff

Margaret J. Farmer Maxwell Jimmerson

Date and Place of Birth: 17 Jul 1839--Churubusco, Allen Co., Indiana
Date and Place of Death: 24 Jan 1908--Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana

Margaret Farmer, daughter of Andrew and Catherine Farmer, married John Maxwell. John died in 1863 in service during the Civil War. Margaret and John had two children, William and Sarah. In 1867, Margaret married a Mr. Jimmerson. She received a pension from the federal government for herself and two children in 1865.

Contributor--Judith Schroff
Elmira Sweet Chase Watterson

Date and Place of Birth: 07 Aug 1828--Miami Co., Ohio
Date and Place of Death: 24 Jul 1877--Allen Co., Indiana

Elmira Sweet was the daughter of Francis and Abigail (Hammond) Sweet. She was born in 1828 and married Leonhard Chase in 1850. After his death, she married William Waterson in 1855. She died in 1877 in Churubusco. Descendants Stephanie Schroff Bornotreger and Mark Schroff still live in Allen County.

Contributor: Judith Schroff

John Maxwell

Date and Place of Birth: 1839--Churubusco, Indiana
Date and Place of Death: 20 Aug 1863--Churubusco, Indiana

John Maxwell was the son of Abraham and Mary (Geiger) Maxwell and was born in Churubusco in 1839. He married Margaret Farmer in 26 Sep 1858 in Eel River Township, Allen County. During the Civil War, he served in the 80th Reg. Inf. Co. E pvt. He died 30 Aug 1863 due to complications from an illness contracted in service. He is buried at Eel River Baptist Church Cemetery. Descendants David and Karl Schroff lived in the area of the Maxwell family farm.

Contributor: Judith Schroff

Mary Geiger Parks Maxwell

Date and Place of Birth: 13 Feb 1811--Licking Co., Ohio
Date and Place of Death: 11 Aug 1883--Churubusco, Allen Co., Indiana

Mary Geiger, daughter of Anthony and Mary (Kirk) Geiger, married John Parks. John died young and in 1836, she married Abraham Maxwell

Contributor: Judith Schroff

Carroll County

Daniel and Magdalena (Vorhees) McCain

Date and Place of Birth: 8 Aug 1806 (M)  8 Dec 1800 (D)-- Lebanon, Warren Co., Ohio
Date and Place of Death: 13 Apr 1888 (M)  5 Sep 1855 (D)-- Delphi, Carroll Co., Indiana

On August 9 of 1806, Magdalena, daughter of Margaret Montfort Vorhees and Cornelius Vorhees, was born in near Lebanon in Warren County, Ohio. Her parents, in her words, "having stemmed the hardships of a new settlement," were able to wrest a respectable living from the Ohio frontier. Enough so that having married (October 30, 1823) and experienced the birthing process with their firstborn (September 20, 1824), Magdalena Vorhees McCain was eager to try her luck in the Indiana wilderness.

Her husband, Daniel McCain, six years her senior, carefully selected and purchased a home site for his young and growing family. After crops were harvested and provisions packed, two McCain ox teams began lumbering their way through the unbroken wilderness toward Carroll County on November 9, 1826. In the group were: Magdalena, with toddler Cornelius, and another child on the way, husband Daniel, Daniel's older brother Joseph, his brothers William and (Thomas) Ramsey, and Daniel's cousin John. The pioneer road, which was worn and hacked from the old deer and Indian trails, was muddy and often nearly impassable due to gullies and trees. The weather became cold and disagreeable, snowing off and on as the company of seven continued their exodus from Ohio into Indiana.
One day's journey from their destination, the party camped on Little Sugar Creek. Magdalena wrote, "Here a dismal night we passed . . . after dark the wind began to blow, and it blew almost a hurricane . . . the tall trees bending over our heads, are still fresh before my eyes. It appeared as if every tree would be leveled with the ground by the contending elements. And yet, though there were seven of us in number, there was not even a hair on our heads injured; for He who feeds the young ravens, is able to save us through the greatest dangers . . . " Having narrowly escaped from Death, the freshly invigorated travelers completed the small leg of their pilgrimage.

On arrival at their new land by midday, a tent was pitched on the McCain home site. Magdalena prepared their first meal at what was to be the couple's home until the day they passed from this life. "Kings in their palaces, and with all their dainties, never ate with better relish and with more pleasure than we did, with the hind-gate of a wagon for a table, and nothing but the blue heavens over our heads," she recalled.

Within three days, the McCain men erected a cabin, cut a door out, and "chunked" one side and an end, which also received a limited amount of mortar. "It then commenced raining," the new housewife declared, "and we put what little we had into our new abode. Right happy we were to have at last, poor as it was, a shelter from the storms." Magdalena's brother-in-law, William McCain, was planning to move his family to a site about a mile distant from Daniel's property the following Fall. Before the McCain men left the following morning to build William's cabin, a deer was shot, brought in, and dressed. This left the young mother and her two-year-old youngster to fend for themselves for a few days. Although busily occupied, Magdalena kept vigilant watch for intruders upon her territory. About noon, two visitors appeared in the form of hungry wolves, lured to the homesite by the scent of the freshly-killed deer. Casting about for solutions to this new dilemma, the ever-resourceful Magdalena hit on the idea of scalding the would-be attackers and chasing them off with a broom. Days later, when the men returned from their work, Magdalena had not been required to muster her considerable arsenal against any foes.

After provisions were obtained from the Wildcat, winter set in, which halted any finishing work on the cabin for the duration. Her cheerful nature and exuberance of youth are evident in her description of that winter. "••• we did not suffer; for we kept a good fire in one end of the house, and left an opening in the roof for the smoke to escape. There were no mills in reach of us, except Mr. Robinson's little mill, but even that, because of the severe cold weather, froze up, and we were obliged to make hominy, and pound corn to make bread . . . We were blessed with good appetites, and we lived happy ••• "

Peaceable Indians were the young family's most frequent visitors. By Magdalena's calculations, there were no more than eleven families nearby that settled on Deer Creek as she and Daniel had. About the same number were settling on Rock Creek, to the north, so neighbors were few and far between. Although Dr. Ewing served as the physician in the area, the impending birth of her second child, with or without assistance, did not trouble the expectant young mother enough to make it noteworthy.

That first winter was long for the new settlers in the wilds of Carroll County. Magdalena remembered the snow being over two feet deep when her industrious husband hauled logs to the Robinson saw mill. Although accounts of subsequent winters reveal snow, ice, and cold as severe as those early pioneer years, lack of creature comforts seemingly compounded their inconveniences in those early years. Spring arrived and Magdalena's husband cleared five acres for corn as well as a garden for the household. With the addition of a chimney, floor, and other amenities to her house, Magdalena felt, "as happy as a queen." Although they killed a variety of the abundant snake population, her little family was spared any bites or unwelcome guests slithering in their cabin, as their neighbors endured. The Indians were an invaluable help on the subject of coping with the snake and its dangerous bite.

Lacking the benefit of nearby family members or neighbors, the supervision of her newborn, William Harrison McCain (first white child born in Carroll County), fell to Cornelius, still less than three years old. While Magdalena attended to the gardening, milking, and sundry domestic chores, Cornelius rocked his brother in a sugar-trough, which substituted for a cradle. Again, her unflapping faith is apparent in her writing, "••• to think how easily the Indians might have slipped into the house, in my absence, and carried off my little treasures. But they were protected and spared, I hope for better purposes . . . "

Her firstborn was named for her father, Cornelius. The second son, William Harrison McCain, (April 7, 1827) was named for her husband's father, William, who was still living (d.1831), as well as the territorial governor, Indian fighter, and ill-fated President from Indiana. Her first daughter, Margaret, named for Magdalena's mother, was born on Daniel's thirty-first birthday and died at twenty months of age, just twenty days after Magdalena's twenty-seventh birthday. Although her mother-in-law, Jane Todd McCain, had died in 1826, Magdalena honored her in her second Margaret's (Margaret Jane) name. This Margaret lived to her seventy-eighth year and bore children to both her first
husband, George Vandevert, and her second partner in marriage, George Gedultig. When the seventh child, James, was born, he was given Voorhees as his middle name, although it is spelled Voorhis on occasion.

Self-sacrifice, thrift, tireless industry, and unyielding morality saw the family farm grow to over 200 acres. At the homestead, there were horses, dairy and beef cattle, swine, and poultry. The McCain family owned the necessary work horses and implements to plow, sow, reap, and store grain. Following decades of living in their first cabin, improved and improved once again, a fine brick home was built in time for the birth of their last child, Albert Dean, on April 13, 1852, in Magdalena's forty-sixth year. The house's location near the Delphi to Camden Road, high up on the north bank of Deer Creek, made it a well-known travelers' stop. Handbills, news items, and messages were routinely posted near the watering trough. The springhouse that delighted generations of little girls as a playhouse, provided cool refreshment to many weary wayfarers. The brick home, bank barn and springhouse are still functional for the present farm.

During this time, Magdalena exemplified an "earnest Christian," as an early member of the Presbyterian Church located in the area called Lebanon, now the south hill of Delphi. As the congregations jostled during the Old School/New School era, Magdalena's union with the Presbyterian Church did not falter. Even to her last days "she devoted very much of her time to the reading of God's word . . . " So strong was her Christian example, that her eldest, Cornelius, became a Presbyterian minister. He was a missionary to the Indians of Missouri in Fulton, as part of the "better purpose," for which his mother felt he was protected and spared in his youth. He taught at Hanover College and served as minister at churches in the Indiana pastorate of: Huntington, Jonesboro, Kentland, Goodland, and in Gallatin, Missouri. He was in his ninetieth year when he died.

Cornelius was not the only McCain to continue education beyond high school. Both Leah and Elizabeth trained to become teachers. It is fitting that they attended Lebanon Normal School, in Lebanon, Ohio, where Daniel and Magdalena's education began. There was a generation between the oldest and youngest McCain children. Cornelius was a decade older than Samuel, who in turn, was a decade older than Elizabeth (Lizzie). Two children married McDonalds and two married Lenons. Five of Magdalena and Daniel's offspring were farmers. Five children moved away from Carroll County, Lizzie, only as far as Valparaiso, Indiana. Four, Cornelius (Missouri), Leah (Wisconsin), Margaret Jane (Nebraska), and James (Missouri), moved out of the state - to seek their fortunes as their parents had. Although all of the eleven children married, three children, Leah, Lizzie, and Amanda, died without issue. Two children honored their mother by giving their mother's name to a daughter (Mary Ann and Albert Dean.) Only Mary Ann named one of her sons for Daniel. Several sibling names were recycled for orphan among the second-generation children.

There were good times and hard times, as Mother McCain's span of years included several financial panics, crop and weather anomalies, and the political and emotional turmoil of a civil war. In 1855, her newly-married son, Arthur departed this life on August 6, having never seen his only child and namesake, born April 9, 1856. September 5 of 1855 brought a sad end to Magdalena and Daniel’s love union. Her beloved husband lost his thirty-six hour battle against Death as he succumbed to cholera. Cornelius was thirty-one and Albert Dean was three when their mother began her walk in widowhood. The year ended with joy and celebration as son, Samuel, wed the late Hugh and Catherine (Sheets) McDonald's daughter, Amanda. A December 23 wedding trip to Brookston and then on to Lafayette by train was delayed because the weather interfered with the ferry operation at Pittsburg. Instead, a wedding supper was given in the couple's honor in Rockfield. When Mary Ann married Andrew McDonald the following year, their wedding date, although still beyond harvest and winter provisioning, was earlier by a month (November 20, 1856). Magdalena was astonished at the improvement in roads and travel that she witnessed in her lifetime. In a remembrance she marveled, "For years after we came here, if a man could ride from here to Lebanon, Ohio, in five or six days, it was considered a very speedy trip. . . ." Not so with the iron horse; he goes thundering along at most fearful speed, and carries you over the same distance in one day. What a contrast!" Magdalena was no armchair spectator to modern advances in travel. She knew whereof she spoke, as she owned a good mare, as well as a Hambletonian driving horse and buggy and two bobsleds for transportation in fair weather and foul.

At her disposal was an assortment of grandchildren of various ages clamoring to accompany their grandmother on an outing. In December of 1882, Grandmother McCain and her eight-year-old grandson, (Albert) Lenon McCain visited daughter Elizabeth (Miss Lizzie) in Valparaiso over the Christmas holiday. The following year, Miss Lizzie became Mrs. James Jameson. How fortunate that Mother Magdalena invested precious time with these two members of her treasured family for she was destined to outlive both of them. Lenon died the following summer at the age of nine and Lizzie preceded her mother in death by three months. While visiting her daughter, Mary Ann McDonald's home on April 12, Magdalena suffered a sudden and severe illness lasting but a night, after which she rallied. She was surprised that Dr. Shultz and Mary Ann did not foresee her approaching death. The grand old lady's soul quietly slipped its earthly ties after conversing with her daughter. She was eighty-one years old when she died on April 13, 1888, Albert
Dean's thirty-sixth birthday. Eight of Magdalena's twelve children were alive to mourn her passing. Of her forty grandchildren born, there were thirty-one living at the time of her death. Seventeen great-grandchildren also survived this Hoosier matriarch. As hundreds of thousands of settlers did, Magdalena and Daniel immigrated to Indiana with hopes of seeking their fortunes and making their way in the world. In Magdalena's words, "... our hopes have been in great measure realized. We have... been greatly blessed with health and strength and all of the comforts of life. We have seen the change from a mere wilderness to a well inhabited country of finely cultivated farms; comfortable buildings, towns and villages have dotted all over the beautiful land... It is perfectly astonishing, and yet it is even so."

Contributor--Dan McCain

Archibald Chittick

Date and Place of Birth: 24 Jan 1779--Co. Clair, Fatal Parrish, Ireland
Date and Place of Death: 28 Aug 1855--Geetingsville, Indiana

My ancestor, Archibald Chittick, came to America from Northern Ireland, most likely via St. John or Quebec, Canada. He registered as an alien during the War of 1812, identifying the year of his arrival as 1801. On 11 February 1807, he married Rachel Miller in Ulster Co., NY, and subsequent birth and baptism records confirm lengthy stops in both New Paltz, NY and Butler Co., Ohio, before they settled in Carroll Co., Indiana.

The First Tract Books of Carroll Co. and Clinton Co., Indiana show that between 17 November 1830 and 12 March 1833, Archibald and his son James bought a total of 640 acres of land from the United States Government in what became Democrat and Burlington Townships in Carroll Co., and Warren Township in Clinton Co. Finally, thirty years after coming to America, Archibald Chittick achieved his goal of owning land, but clearing and taming the wilderness remained to be done. Records indicate that he generously helped purchase and provide land and opportunity for each of his 10 children. He died 28 August 1855, 76 years of age and is buried in the Geetingsville, IN cemetery.

I am descended from James, his oldest son who was married to Elizabeth Moore on 13 November 1828, in Butler Co., Ohio. On 11 June 1846, James and three of his brothers enlisted in Co. C of the First Regiment Indiana Volunteers to fight in the Mexican War. They had to provide their own transportation to New Orleans and were paid $7.00 monthly. James Chittick was erroneously listed on the roster as being 29 years old when he was actually 39, the father of five children and Elizabeth was pregnant with their last child. He was discharged 18 December 1846, chronically ill with dysentery, in Camargo, Mexico. On 24 December 1846, he died on board a ship bound for New Orleans and was buried at sea. Like their father before them, each of James and Elizabeth's four sons also went off to war, the Civil War. My great grandfather, Andrew Jackson Chittick, served in Co. B of the Eighty-sixth Regiment of the Indiana Infantry. He fought throughout Tennessee, including the siege of Chattanooga and Lookout Mt.. He then advanced on and encircled Atlanta, but did not go with Sherman to the sea. He was mustered out on 6 June 1865, and returned to Indianapolis, by rail, the next day. Andrew Jackson Chittick married Mary Ann Maish on 22 May 1868. They had 10 children and are buried in the Rossville, IN cemetery.

I am Jo Ann Rose Bloodgood (Mrs. Donald) of West Lafayette. My mother was Mary Opal Otten Rose (Mrs. Frederick) Her mother was Louella Denver Chittick Otten (Mrs. Henry) Her father was Andrew Jackson Chittick, son of James and Elizabeth Moore Chittick.

Source:
History of the Archibald Chittick Family in America Revised-October 2002
Authors-Hugh William Rose and JoAnn Bloodgood

Contributor--Jo Ann Rose Bloodgood

Delaware County

David Kilgore

Date and Place of Birth: 3 Apr 1804--Harrison Co., Kentucky
Date and Place of Death: 23 Jan 1879--Delaware Co., Indiana
David Kilgore was born in Harrison County, Kentucky on April 3, 1804 - the youngest of 4 children (Martha, Alfred, James, David) of the Obed & Rebecca (Cusick) Kilgore family. David spent his early years farming with his parents and siblings near Cynthiana. In 1819, shortly after Indiana became a state and a land office was opened in Brookville, Indiana, Obed & Rebecca moved the family to a parcel of land in Blooming Grove Township of Franklin County.

During the next several years David Kilgore rubbed shoulders with individuals who were or became prominent figures in the fledging years of Indiana politics. On August 23, 1824 at the age of 20 he was commissioned as a Captain in the 7th regiment of the Indiana militia, a Franklin County-organized unit – joining such well known Franklin County figures as soon-to-be governors Noah Noble (Brigadier General, 6th Brigade, 1825) and David Wallace (Captain, 1825; Colonel, 1827). The militia had become more a political proving ground than military organization following removal of much of the Native American population from the state by 1826.

Kilgore began reading law in the mid-1820s and was occasionally tutored/mentored by other prominent Brookville residents: soon-to-be governor James B. Ray (1825-1831) and soon-to-be Supreme Court Justice John T. McKinney. By 1830 Kilgore had completed his legal studies and followed yet another Brookville lawyer/judge, Miles C Eggleston (presiding judge 3rd circuit, 1827-1829), and fellow militia officers John Newland and Powell Scott to Delaware County. Subsequently he received land patent grants to occupy/purchase acreage in Mt. Pleasant Township (west of Yorktown).

Kilgore took up permanent residence in Delaware County by April 1830 and served as Mt. Pleasant Township’s first schoolteacher. He married Mary G. VanMatre on July 14, 1831. Mary was the daughter of Tabitha Harris and Absalom VanMatre [deceased by 1823], Tabitha thereafter marrying Absalom’s distant cousin and early Mt. Pleasant Township pioneer landholder Joseph VanMatre. Kilgore had been admitted to the bar in April of 1831, and commenced the practice of law. Through his Whitewater Valley and militia connections Kilgore’s legal career flourished. He served, for example, as local agent for Connersville attorney Caleb B Smith (soon-to-be Speaker of the Indiana House and Lincoln Cabinet Secretary) and probate attorney for the estate of Mt. Pleasant township-based Harrod L. Newland (brother to militia colleague John Newland). He was elected as State Representative for Delaware County and surrounding areas, and served annual terms in the General Assemblies of 1833-34, 1834-35, 1835-36, 1838-39 – earning a reputation as an independently minded, articulate member of Indiana’s new Whig party. His connection to the Indiana militia also continued, as he was appointed as Brigadier General of the 22nd brigade on March 25, 1834. Legislatively, Kilgore would also figure prominently in crafting and gaining passage of Indiana’s ill-fated Mammoth Internal Improvements Bill of 1836.

Less than a month after his legislative term of 1838-39 Kilgore was appointed by Whig Governor David Wallace as President Judge of the newly formed 11th Judicial circuit. He was subsequently elected to that post by the General Assembly on December 5, 1839 – 2 serving until the spring of 1846. Kilgore remained active politically during this time, however, as he presided over the Delaware County “Democratic Whig Convention” in May of 1840, served as a “stump speaker” for presidential candidate William Henry Harrison in 1840 through his inclusion on Indiana Whig central committee chairman Senator Oliver H. Smith’s list of prominent orators, appeared publicly as a speaker with Henry Clay in Indianapolis during Clay’s presidential campaign of 1843, and shared the dais with Oliver H. Smith at a Whig mass meeting in Kilgore’s hometown of Yorktown in 1844. He had also been elected president of recently organized Masonic Lodge #46 in Muncie in 1843. Later, as war with Mexico loomed in 1846, Kilgore organized a militia company ready to serve in the conflict. He was elected Captain of the “Muncie Guards” he organized, but it was mustered too late to serve.

In 1848 Oliver H. Smith orchestrated Kilgore’s election to the board of one of the state’s earliest and most successful railroads: the Indianapolis & Bellefontaine. While Smith would serve as its first president, Kilgore would become its (and successor lines’) longest-tenured board member – serving until 1870. The route of this line remains part of CSX Railroad’s main East/West line today. Separately, Kilgore’s interest in farming and agriculture continued as his estate grew to more than 1000 acres in Mt. Pleasant & Salem Townships and 200 acres in Madison County. In that regard he was elected President of the Delaware County Agriculture Society on April 5, 1854. Kilgore’s law practice was also thriving as he represented at least three clients before the Indiana Supreme Court between 1848 and 1855. Subsequently, after Kilgore was defeated in a bid for Congress in 1849, he was elected as Delaware County’s delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in 1850-51. This Constitution remains in effect today. He moved away from the Whig party thereafter and joined the short-lived anti-immigrant/anti-Catholic Know Nothings/American and temperance/anti-slavery Democrats/abolitionist/free soilers Fusion/People’s parties in the mid 1850s. Kilgore was returned by the electorate for an additional two-year term in the Indiana House of
Representative for 1855-56. During the first session of this legislature (January 4th – March 5th), Kilgore was elected Speaker of the House under the Fusion/People’s banner – the only such speaker ever elected from this party. By 1856 Kilgore had shifted political parties yet again and was elected to two terms (1857-61) as a Republican Congressman from Delaware County. He was also a founding member of the Indiana Republican Party. During his Congressional tenure Kilgore spoke out against the pro-slavery Kansas Lecompton Constitution statehood petition in 1858, introduced an anti slave-trafficking resolution in 1859, was caught up in a Congressional printing scandal in 1860, and became House floor manager of a sensitively worded proposed Constitutional Amendment in 1861 protecting ‘domestic institutions’ within a State. The so-called Corwin Amendment sought to stem the secession of additional Southern States by accommodating their wishes without using the Northern-polarizing term ‘slavery.’ Both it and a last-ditch North/South Peace Conference advocated by Kilgore in February 1861 failed.

Although he did not run to retain his Congressional seat in 1860, Kilgore none-the-less served as one of three Congressmen on the Republican Congressional Executive Committee during 1859-61. Acting on behalf of the Republican Presidential Campaign 3 which helped elect Abraham Lincoln, Kilgore and members of the Congressional Executive Committee frequently appeared at Republican campaign rallies throughout the North/border states. After Kilgore’s Congressional service, he served the balance of 1861 as a Washington-based advocate on behalf of Indiana’s proactive Civil War Governor Oliver P Morton. In September 1861, Kilgore joined with fellow Indianans Elizabeth & Caleb B Smith (then Secretary of the Interior), David P. Holloway (US Commissioner of Patents) and Robert Dale Owen (Minister/Ambassador and Congressman, Indiana Constitutional Convention delegate) to establish and support the Indiana Hospital in Washington D.C. This facility subsequently became the United States General Hospital at the Patent Office, focused on care for soldiers from Indiana. At the same time Kilgore’s sons Alfred, Tecumseh, David Jr., George W. and James L. served in the Union Army during the War – James L. succumbing to disease while serving in Chattanooga in 1864.

In late 1861 Kilgore returned to Delaware County where he tended to his farm and legal practice while remaining active in politics. He continued to work with Oliver P. Morton in gathering Delaware County regiments, worked to gain financing for the state and Morton in 1863, was a featured speaker at Morton’s/Indiana’s ‘Union Party’ Mass Meeting in 1864 and endorsed Andrew Johnson as Lincoln’s running mate in 1865. After serving as an honorary pallbearer during Abraham Lincoln’s funeral train’s stop in Indianapolis on April 30, 1865, Kilgore supported Johnson’s subsequent presidency and was a delegate to Johnson’s ‘National Union’ Convention in 1866. Kilgore had supported both Lincoln and Johnson’s ‘moderate’ ‘go slow’ Reconstruction policies delaying black citizenship and suffrage to ease the Union back together, and appeared with Johnson at an Indianapolis rally during Johnson’s “Swing Around the Circle” in 1866. Johnson’s Reconstruction policy flew in the face of the Republican abolitionist faction which took control of Congress in 1866 – leading to Johnson’s unsuccessful impeachment in 1868.

While Kilgore subsequently campaigned for mainline Republicans Ulysses S. Grant and Hoosier running mate Schuyler Colfax in 1868, he continued his independent ways. By 1872 Kilgore was in attendance at the Liberal Republican convention in Cincinnati which nominated newspaperman Horace Greeley for president – founded in reaction to rampant Grant administration corruption and need for civil service reform. Two years later Kilgore shifted political alliances again, presiding over the newly forming Independent/Greenbacks/Granger party’s first state convention in Indianapolis in 1874. The Independents supported farming interests against unfair local railroad fee schedules and Grant’s ‘hard currency’ policies which triggered the financial Panic of 1873. Finally, Kilgore presided over one more old-fashioned mass rally for the Grangers in the fall of 1874 before retiring from public life. In his final two years, 1876-79, Kilgore served on the board of the Citizens National Bank of Muncie, and as an investor in it as well as the Muncie National Bank and First National Bank of Indianapolis.

David Kilgore passed away on January 23, 1879 after a long period of decline. He died on his farmstead in Delaware County just west of Yorktown. He was buried in nearby Mt. Pleasant Township cemetery surrounded by family members including his father Obad (who died in 1853) and wife Mary who passed away April 9, 1882. His estate was contested for years following his death and was not finally resolved until nearly a decade thereafter.

Contributor—Arthur Andrew Olson III, great, great, great grandson of David Kilgore Glennview, IL: March 26, 2013

* For a more complete profile of David Kilgore’s political life, see Olson’s 2012 paper entitled “Pioneer and Civil War Era Indiana Politics: The Political Career of David Kilgore” available at the Delaware County Historical Society, Muncie Public Library, Ball State’s Bracken Library, Madison County Historical Society, Genealogy Center of the Franklin County Public Library, Indiana Historical Society and The Society of Indiana Pioneers.
Harrison County

William D. Carter

Date and Place of Birth: 16 Jan 1796--North Carolina  
Date and Place of Death: 6 Jun 1873--Harrison County, Indiana

William came to Indiana when young, and served the Indiana Territory and State well. His War of 1812 service included October-November 1812 when he served as a substitute for Alexander McRae in Captain Jacob Zenor's Company, Indiana Militia. He later volunteered in Corydon and served a second time from May through August 1813 in Captain Craven Payton's Company of Mounted Volunteer Militia called Rangers.

On October 10, 1819, William married Eleanor Lemmon, who had come to Indiana from Baltimore County, Maryland. William and Eleanor raised their family of eleven children in the Rosewood section of Harrison County, where William was appointed a Justice of the Peace, worked as a stone mason and farmed. Carter School on the bluffs near Rosewood was named for William.

In 1832 William served briefly in the Black Hawk War. His grandson, Francis M. Brewer, related that William was returning home from that war, and found the creek within a mile of his residence to be a raging torrent following heavy rains. So as not to be delayed in returning to his family, he left his gun and baggage at a neighbor's house and swam across the stream.

A little more than a year later, Judge Walter Q. Gresham, sheriff of Harrison County, was shot and killed by a desperado. William captured the killer and turned him over to the authorities.

William died in Harrison County in June 1873, followed by wife Eleanor less than a year later. William and Eleanor are buried in the Crawford -Strong Cemetery.

Contributor--Judith C. Damewood

Noah Fouts

Date and Place of Birth: 25 Jul 1785--Uhwarrie River, Randolph Co., North Carolina  
Date and Place of Death: 19 Apr 1866--Shelby Co., Iowa

In late 1808 or early 1809, Noah Fouts, his wife Jane Catherine and 2 young sons (Abner, aged 2, and Reuben a few months old), his older brother David and his family, and David's Parr in-laws left North Carolina for the Indiana Territory. Noah and his wife will have an additional 10 children in Indiana by 1830. No sooner had the North Carolina emigrants arrived in Clark County than Indian troubles began. Noah and David immediately joined the Clark County Militia and received their commissions on March 21, 1809. When other settlers retreated off the frontier south across the Ohio River into Kentucky because of the hostilities, it was recorded that Noah and David stayed in Clark County and were active in the militia to defend their homes.

In 1810 and 1813, two children are born to Noah and his wife, recorded as in Harrison County. Washington County is formed in 1814 from the land to the north of present day Harrison County, and the next five children are born "along Blue River Waters" in Washington County between 1815 and 1824. So, it is possible that Noah and family moved from Harrison County to Washington County in 1814, or the property in Harrison County was reorganized into Washington County, which resulted in a name change of their county of residence. At any rate, in 1824 Noah and Jane Catherine have nine children (ages infant to 17 years old) in Washington County, Indiana somewhere along the Blue River. Noah's older brother, David, with whom he emigrated from North Carolina, also lived in Washington County. He is listed as a "Deacon & Secretary" of the Upper Blue River Baptist Church called "Sharon". He died in Washington Township, Washington County, Indiana on June 23, 1854.

By 1826 Noah and family have moved to Washington Township in Putnam County where 3 more children are born. The family moves again to Cass County where in 1839 Noah built a family home/cabin that is still in existence today and in a state park. Sometime in the late 1840's Noah and family make one last move to Pottawattamie Co., IA,
where he can be found in the 1850 census. He dies in that area in 1866.

Contributor--Jeffrey T Fouts

**Starke County**

**Lorenzo Dow Glazebrook**

Date and Place of Birth: 23 Feb 1830--Greencastle, Putnam County, Indiana  
Date and Place of Death: 20 Apr 1906--Knox, Starke County, Indiana

*The Standard History of Starke County Indiana* published in 1915 wrote the following biography of Lorenzo Dow Glazebrook.

"Dr. Lorenzo Dow Glazebrook was one of the early settlers of Starke County having located in the western part of the county in 1858. He was born near Greencastle on the 23rd of February, 1830, and died April 18, 1906. He was married December 18, 1860, and moved to Knox from San Pierre in 1873. He practiced medicine from the time of his arrival in the county until his death except during the time he served in the State Legislature. He was first to the Legislature from Starke and LaPorte counties in the year. He was again elected from the counties of Starke and St. Joseph in 1885.

Dr. Glazebrook was on one of the committees selected to draw plans for the present state house at Indianapolis and was one of the reporters of the Great Lincoln-Douglas debate and when Stephen A. Douglas died he was chosen as one of the pall-bearers.

Dr. Glazebrook was a man of fine character and was well versed in the moral, religious and political questions of the day. He was a Mason and an Odd Fellow in good standing in both lodges. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

Beyond this biography there is a legend in San Pierre that Thomas Edison would stay in the home of Dr. Glazebrook when he was employed as a traveling telegrapher for the Grand Trunk Western and Monon Railroads. Dr. Glazebrook’s house is still standing.

Dr. Glazebrook's ancestors came from England to Virginia, Kentucky and to Putnam County, Indiana prior to his move to Starke County. He was no doubt named after Lorenzo Dow who was an itinerant Methodist evangelist of great fame in the early 1800s. He was often referred to as "Crazy Lorenzo Dow" but there were many children of Dr. Glazebrook's age given his name.

Dr. Glazebrook is buried in San Pierre, Starke Co., Indiana beneath the largest monument in the cemetery.

Contributor--Keith L. Kingman

**Switzerland County**

**William D. Brindley, Sr.**

Date and Place of Birth: about 1777--Bath County, Virginia  
Date and Place of Death: 1843--Switzerland County, Indiana

William D. Brindley Sr., was born in Bath County, Va. about the year 1777. He was reared in his native State, in which he lived with his parents till a man grown, when he removed to near Olympian Springs, Ky., where he was married to a lady named Nancy Landsdell, or Lansdown, who died after bearing him two children, viz: Lois and Sarah. He married Susan McClannahan for his second wife, and about 1813, or 1814, removed his family to Indiana, and settled in what is now Pleasant Township, this county, in which he passed the remainder of his life. He served in Gen. Harrison's command during the war of 1812, and was an excellent soldier as well as citizen. By his second wife he had nine children, of whom five are living, and reside in this county, viz: James, Nancy Ann, John, William and Henry J. Mr. Brindley died in 1843, aged sixty-six years. His wife departed this life March 17, 1844, aged fifty-seven years.
Edward Hart

Date and Place of Birth: 24 Jan 1792--Williamsburg, Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 11 Dec 1870--Switzerland County, Indiana

Edward Hart was born in Virginia in the year 1792, and was a son of William Hart, who removed with his family to Kentucky when Edward was six years old, and where he died. William's father, probably William by name, came from England in company with two brothers, all of whom settled near Williamsburg, VA. The subject of this sketch was married in Kentucky to Rebecca Olfrey, and in 1817 removed to this county and located one mile east of Moorefield, on land he entered from the Government, on which he lived out the balance of his natural life. He was one of the defenders of his country's honor during the War of 1812. He was present at Dudley's defeat, and during the engagement a part of his company charged upon the Indians, who, being vastly superior in numbers and well-armed, poured a destructive fire upon their assailants, forcing them to cover. Mr. Hart secured a safe position behind a log and was so busily occupied in doing effective work with his rifle that he did not hear the order of retreat nor see the soldiers when they retired. Eventually he realized that he was alone, and not desiring to longer maintain such an unequal fight, he arose and darted with all possible speed to overtake his friends, now some distance away, and after him came a perfect storm of bullets, but he escaped unhurt, seemingly as if by the intervention of Providence. All of his children now living, four in number, reside in this county, viz.: Sarah, wife of Silas L. Smith; Nancy, wife of J.P. Bellamy; James A and Joseph. His first wife, the mother of all his children, was born in Kentucky, September 10, 1790, and died June 26, 1837. His second wife, Elizabeth Griffith, nee Overturf, was born July 17, 1809, and died January 22, 1867. Mr. Hart came to this county with small means, which chiefly consisted of stock and a few farming utensils. He was successful and helped his children to good homes. In politics he was Whig and Republican. His death occurred December 11, 1870.

The above citation is from the Indiana History books.

Contributor--4th great grandson, Dennis Smith

Joseph Dixon Curry (Currie)*

Date and Place of Birth: 27 Mar 1791--Tyrone, Ireland
Date and Place of Death: Nov 1862--Clark County, Iowa

Joseph D. Curry was born in County Tyrone, Ireland in 1791. In 1817, he left his native land in company with his wife and came to America. He located near Vevay for a time, then removed to Milton Township, Jefferson County, Indiana where he lived many years, after which he removed to Iowa where he died in 1864. He possessed scholarly attainments and was one of the first teachers in the county, and one of the most successful ones. He was a devoted Christian gentleman and an exemplary member of the Christian Church. He was twice married. By his first wife, Alice Carr, whom he married in Ireland, he had three children viz.: Samuel, Henry, and Jane. His second wife was Rebecca, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Jane (Jones) Orem, who bore him six children viz.: Sarah, James, Josiah, Rebecca, Ann, and Marion. Mrs. Curry (second wife) died in 1848.


*The original spelling from Ireland was “Currie” which was changed to Curry in Switzerland County, Indiana. He was an educated person before coming to the United States. He left several children behind in Switzerland County when he moved to Iowa. Many of the descendants still live in Jefferson And Switzerland, Indiana.

Contributor--3rd great grandson, Dennis Smith

Frederick Louis Thiebaud
Frederick Louis Thiebaud registered his intention to seek citizenship in Switzerland County on April 18, 1827. Thiebaud pronounced “Cabo” in Switzerland County, Indiana. Frederick swore that he was born in Neufchatel, Switzerland, and migrated in 1817 to Philadelphia, and then to Indiana that same year. Again, Frederick swore that he was born in Neufchatel, Switzerland in 1766 and that he moved to Philadelphia with his wife Henrietta and their children, Charles Aimee, Emily, Julia, Philippe, Justine, Augustine, and Justi. The family landed in Philadelphia in August 1817. He patented the NE1/4 Section 29 on Twp. 2N Range 3W on 27 Oct. 1817 and he was listed in the 1820 Switzerland County census. Frederick's will was written on Dec. 10, 1844 and recorded on Jan.22, 1845 in Switzerland County. More specifically Frederick Louis Thiebaud was born in Oct. 4, 1767 in Neufchatel, Switzerland and died on Dec. 24, 1846 and was buried in the Vevay, Indiana Cemetery Harriet's birth date was given as April 5,1777.

Nearly two centuries later, the Switzerland County Historical Society has restored an Agriculture Museum Center on the property once owned by the Thiebaud family. As part of the $2 million project, the original homestead has undergone a major restoration, and a historic 19th century hay press barn will be reconstructed on the property. The home is listed as Justi Thiebaud and Mary Banta Thiebaud home, the youngest son of Frederick Thiebaud.

Some of the notable people that are descendants of Frederick Thiebaud are: Grandson, LT. Col. Alois O. Bachman Jr. the highest ranking officer from Indiana to have died in the Civil War., Daughter, Justine Thiebaud Schenck who married UP Schenck, the “Hay King” of Switzerland County, Indiana who amassed an estate of over $1 million dollars at the time of his death in 1884. And, Great Grandson, Living Artist, Wayne Thiebaud. Born 15 Nov. 1920 in Arizona.

Some of the associated families are: Bachman, Pernet, Schenck, Detraz, Malcomson, Smith, Shaw, Reed, Anderson, Danner, Brown, Hendricks and Banta.

Contributor—4th great grandson - Dennis Smith

Silas H. Smith

Date and Place of Birth: 7 Mar 1777--State of New York
Date and Place of Death: 10 Sep 1849--Switzerland County, Indiana

Silas H. Smith, born 1777, State of New York, Silas is a true pioneer of two states, Pennsylvania and Indiana. Silas arrived in Allegheny County, Pa, now Erie County, Pennsylvania about 1797. It is unclear who his parents were, but he was living near two other Smiths in Erie County, believed to be relatives. At that time Silas was living in Greenfield Township, Erie County, Pa., he was close to the well known “Judah Colt”. Judah Colt was a land agent for the “Pennsylvania Population Company” as land issues were paramount. Silas is written about in Greenfield Township, Erie, Pa history as “hoeing potatoes” and in 1800 he is taxed on 500 acres and Oxen. But, by 1810, Silas is living in the new town of Erie, Pennsylvania. It is believed he moved there with Judah Colt and helped establish the City of Erie, Pa. Silas H. Smith married Naomi H. Newton in 1805, a descendant of the Newton's of Boston, Mass. and the Loomis's of Hampden County, Mass., very old and well established and still well respected families in America. Silas and Naomi (Newton) Smith had six children in Erie, Pa. and in 1818 they sold everything and traveled from Erie, Pa. to Pittsburgh, Pa and they loaded the family on a flat boat to Cincinnati, Ohio then on to Switzerland County, Indiana. There Silas H. Smith acquired a land grant for 240 acres of wild woods and erected a cabin and cleared the land for farming. Two of their sons, Silas Leonard Smith, born in 1812, married Sarah Mary Hart, daughter of Edward Hart, in 1833, and he owned about 200 acres of land. Edward Hart was another true Indiana Pioneer. Henry Hudson Smith born in 1814 married Mary, daughter of Henry Rogers in 1838. He owned about 290 acres. Both were well to do farmers all their lives, and they were well and favorably known throughout the township.

(From: "History of Switzerland County, Indiana From Their Earliest Settlement" Weakley, Harraman & Co., Publishers, Chicago: 1885)

Silas Leonard and Henry Hudson Smith were, also, builders in Switzerland County, Indiana. To this day there is a group of houses built by them in an area called Smith Ridge (Smith Ridge Road is directly east of the town of Moorefield.) One of the houses built by Henry Hudson Smith has a corner stone with an inscription that notes Henry as the builder. Oliver M. Smith, son of Silas Leonard Smith, was also listed as a carpenter and farmer and an Indiana
Civil War Soldier. He built the stone house that still stands on Braytown Road, Switzerland County, Indiana. He married Elizabeth Shaw, granddaughter of Early Indiana Pioneer, John Shaw. Their Son, Arthur K. Smith, a farmer and township trustee, married Della Malcomson. Della Malcomson was a descendant of the early pioneers, Frederick Thiebaud, John Shaw and Sarah Malcomson. Their son Stanley D. Smith married Geneva Curry, a descendant of early pioneer Joseph Dixon Curry. The early pioneer roots of the “Smith Family” grow deep, in the State of Indiana.

P.S. I am the last of my family line with the “Smith” name from Oliver M. Smith, born 175 years ago.

Contributor—4th great grandson of Silas H. Smith - Dennis Smith

John William Shaw

Date and Place of Birth: May 1776--Renfrewshire, Scotland
Date and Place of Death: 27 Feb 1867--Switzerland County, Indiana

The following sketch was transcribed from the History of Switzerland County, Indiana 1885. Chicago: Weakley, Harraman & Co., Publishers, 1885.

John Shaw, was born in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland A.D. 1776, married Elizabeth Spear on May 24, 1797. She was born in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland, April 5, 1779. In 1816, they with their children then eight in number, viz: Elizabeth, Margaret, William, Mary, John, Ann, Archibald and James, immigrated to America, and, in 1817, located in Craig Township, Switzerland County, in which Mr. and Mrs. Shaw lived out the balance of their natural lives. Mrs. Shaw was a devout Christian and a consistent member of the Methodist Church. Mr. Shaw left Scotland with moderate means, which was largely used in defraying the expenses of his large family to this country. He succeeded admirably after coming here and left his family comfortably well off. He was a weaver by trade in the old country; here he followed farming exclusively. Three other children were born to him in Switzerland County: Janet, Jane and Sarah. Mr. Shaw died in 1867, Mrs. Shaw died in 1866. John's will was dated 12 Oct. 1849 and recorded 14 March 1867 in Switzerland County. It named his wife, Elizabeth Shaw, and mentioned children as follows: Archibald (if dec'd, his heirs), James Shaw (son) or his heirs), Elizabeth Shaw (daughter), Sarah Shaw (daughter), William Shaw, Margaret Shaw, Mary Shaw, Ann Shaw, Janet Shaw, Jean Shaw, Sally Shaw. Exec. William Shaw (son) and Archibald Shaw (son). Witnesses were Robert Drummon and William Shaw

It should be noted that John Shaw played a major part in the Timothy Hay production in Switzerland County. John Shaw brought the Timothy Hay seed to Switzerland County, Indiana from Scotland. Hay was a major crop that was pressed and shipped to New Orleans via the Ohio River. This being the major money maker for Switzerland County, Indiana until after the Civil War, fortunes were made on this crop. John Shaw was also a shrewd businessman. He lent money to local people as if he were a bank, charging interest. Many of his descendants made their mark in history. Lucien Shaw, Supreme Court Justice of California, was the grandson of John Shaw. William Shaw, Chief of Police of Fresno California, was also a grandson of John Shaw. The family names associated with the Shaw's are the Smith's, Madary's, Rous, McKay's, Malcomson's, Thiebaud's, Peters, Staffon's, Welch's, and Anderson's to name a few.

He is buried in the Shaw Cemetery on the Garland Farm, in Switzerland County, Indiana.

Contributor—4th great grandson of John William Shaw - Dennis Smith

Wayne County

Josiah Lamb

Date and Place of Birth: 31 Mar 1817--near Richmond, IN
Date and Place of Death: 11 Aug 1862--Pleasanton, KS

Josiah Lamb was a Linn County, Kansas farmer and millwright who had been born near Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana on 31 March 1817 to John and Lydia (Mendenhall) Lamb. Josiah Lamb moved his family to Kansas Territory from Iowa (where they had lived five years) in 1857. He married his first cousin, Ruth Lamb, on 12 October 1836.
Seven of their ten children were born in Indiana. He was elected justice of the peace in Linn County, KS. He represented his county at the Wyandotte Conventions. He was mostly silent during the floor debate. The exception was about educational opportunities to be given to black children if blacks were allowed to settle in Kansas.

According to early Linn County historian, William Mitchell, Lamb was “one of those forceful but unpretentious and modest characters.” He was a Quaker. When he died, he was laid to rest in the Lamb-Mills Cemetery near Pleasanton, Kansas.

His grandson, Enos A. Mills, was the author and naturalist known as the “father” of the Rocky Mountain National Park. In late 1915, Enos advocated for the creation of three state parks (Dunes, Turkey Run, and Brown County) for Indiana Centennial in 1916.

Research by Kristina Gaylord, Kansas Historical Society
Contributor—Terri Gorney,

2011

Clark County

Thomas Harrison

Date and Place of Birth: 1787--Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 17 Oct 1852--Orange County, Indiana

Thomas Harrison was among those un-celebrated men and women who came to the Northwest Territory in the early 1800's to build a new life for themselves and their families. It was the children of these early Indiana Pioneers that moved on west to help settle what we know as the United States of America.

The first record of Thomas Harrison (b. VA 1787) is his marriage to Elizabeth Aldred (b. 22 Sep. 1792 in Ohio) on 16 July 1812 in Clark County, IN. On the 18th of April 1813 he enlisted as a private Ranger in the command of Captain John Blizzard at Charlestown, Clark Co., IN, during the Indian Wars. In 1820 Thomas Harrison and family are on the Washington County, IN census. He and his family are not found on the 1830 census, but do re-appear in Washington County on the 1840 census. In 1849 he purchases land in neighboring Orange County, IN. In 1852 at the approximate age of 65 years he passes from this earth.

During their lifetime Elizabeth Aldred & Thomas Harrison had a large family of which family researchers are still compiling information. Their descendants can be found all across the United States. The men in this family have served their country in every war since the Indian Wars of 1812. Many of the men worked for the railroads as they were built across the United States. Elizabeth's obituary dated 02 Mar 1875, French Lick, Orange County IN. States she gave birth to 14 children and at her death only four were still living.

The following list is believed to be an accurate list of their known children.

Bennett G Harrison was born in 1819 in Washington Co., IN. He died on 17 Apr. 1864 in Pulaski, TN (Civil War). He married Susan Mullins on 04 Nov. 1841 in Orange Co., IN. She was born in 1811 in IN.

Christopher Columbus Harrison was born on 26 Oct 1821 in Washington Co., IN. He died in 1891 in AR. He married Mary Allen, daughter of William Allen on 30 Dec 1841 in Orange Co., IN.

Joseph H Harrison was born in 1823 in Washington Co., IN. He died on 23 Feb 1847 in the Battle of Buena Vista during the Mexican War. He never married.

Mary G Harrison was born 06 Jun 1824 in Washington Co., IN. She died on 22 Oct 1877 in Liberty Chapel, Orange Co., IN. She married John Keedy on 13 Feb 1845 in Orange Co., IN. He was born in 1821.

Henry F Harrison was born in 1826 in Washington Co., IN. He married Mary Mise 03 Sept. 1843 in Washington Co., IN.

Susan E Harrison was born Sep 1827 in Washington Co., IN. She died on 01 Jan 1902 in Crawford Co., IN. She
married William Poe on 16 Jun 1845 in Orange County, IN. He was born 10 Mar 1807 in Clinton, Ohio. He died on 05 Dec 1882 in Crawford County, IN.

**Thomas Jasper Harrison** was born in 1835 in Washington Co., IN. He died on 25 Feb 1897, Dog Walk, Lincoln Co., KY. He married Martha A Umfleet on 13 Oct 1859 Orange Co., IN. She was born about 1843 in Laurel Co., KY. She died about 1862. He married Nancy Ann Brewer, daughter of Thomas Ambrose Brewer and Elizabeth Seals on 22 Aug 1863 in Orange Co., IN. She was born in 1842 in Hawkins Co., TN. She died about 1881. He married Martha P Lee, daughter of David Fletcher Lee and Mary A Kennedy on 18 Jul 1884 in Grahn (Fire Clay), Carter Co., KY. She was born in 1867 in Russell County, VA. She died on 15 Apr 1915 in Olive Hill Carter Co., KY.

**Sarah Jane Harrison** was born 25 Feb 1838 in Washington Co. IN. She died on 21 Aug 1905 in Dubois County, IN with her burial taking place in Cane Creek Cemetery, Orange County, IN. She married Samuel J Brewer, son of Thomas Ambrose Brewer and Elizabeth Seals in 1871. He was born 11 July 1840 in Hawkins Co., TN. He died on 14 Oct 1912 in Orange County, IN with burial in Cane Creek Cemetery.

Contributor:--Diana Harrison Bennett

**Dearborn County**

Lt. Jacob Blasdel

Date and Place of Birth: 1754
Date and Place of Death: 1831--Dearborn Co., Indiana

The following story involves two pioneer families connected by marriage. It was published by the Lawrenceburg Press and titled “Cousins Letters” published in the Blasdel Papers (Vol. 16 #3; June 2012). The editor of the paper knew of the relationship between the Blasdels and the Ewbanks families. The headline in the Lawrenceburg Press in September 13, 1911 was: “EWBANK FAMILIES celebrate Centennial of Settlement on Tanner’s Creek” The centennial address was given by Louis Blasdel Ewbank.

Lt. Jacob Blasdel and his family settled on Tanner’s Creek in 1807, after he had laid out the town of Cambridge, Indiana, and built his homestead. John Ewbank, Sr. and his family arrived in Tanner’s Creek in 1811. Louis B. Ewbank was born in 1864, his paternal grandfather, John Ewbank, Jr., born in 1795, was 69 years old and lived until he was 85. Louis had 16 years to enjoy his grandfather’s company while growing up on Tanner’s Creek. Louis Ewbank’s maternal grandfather, Jonathan Blasdel, died in 1859, but his mother, Betsy Blasdel Ewbank told him many stories of her life on Tanner’s Creek.

This address provides glimpses of life in pioneer Indiana and the conditions faced by pioneers in the early 1800s.

**Louis Blasdel Ewbank's Centennial Address, September 3, 1911**

You will pardon me if my remarks have a decided flavor of my own family. Besides the fact that our family is making this occasion a part of its centennial celebration, remember that of the few years I lived among you here on Tanner’s creek sixteen of them were spent in daily companionship with my grandfather, already three score and ten when I was born, who had taken part in the early settlement of this county and had reached the age of reminiscence; that I knew my own father and mother better than any other of the next generation; that my uncles and aunts and great-uncles and great-aunts came next; and that when I talk of my early days I must relate the traditions of my own people or ignore my largest and most reliable stock of knowledge.

The earliest settlements in Indiana were not made in Dearborn County. Clark's Grant, Vincennes and trading posts at many places antedate any settlement here. No doubt an occasional hunter trapped and shot along the streams of this county when Indiana was still known to Europe as a place from which furs were obtained. But the first settlers in Dearborn County of which there is any record crossed the Great Miami River and climbed the hill to Georgetown, as the ridge was long called, about 1768. Wayne's treaty with the Indians, by which the western boundary of what is now Dearborn County was fixed as the eastern limit of the Indian country, doubtless encouraged this emigration. As early as 1805, a town was laid out at Lawrenceburg, and the settlers began to push back from the rivers along the creeks.

There were two reasons for following the streams in making new settlements - the use of the creek beds for travel on foot, on horseback and in dugout canoes or flatboats, and access to water in dry seasons. My own maternal
grandfather, Jacob Blasdel\textsuperscript{1}, with his sons and daughters, who were in turn the grandparents of many of the older people here today, settled near Pella, two miles down the creek from this place, in 1805. John Dawson, the grandfather of Harrison Dawson, whose children and grandchildren, and perhaps some great-grandchildren, are with us today, settled at about the same time, just below where Guilford now is. But a log dwelling built by the Blasdel family and Mr. Dawson’s log house marked the farthest outposts of civilization in this direction in 1811, and both were built as blockhouses with loopholes in the sides for defense against savage beasts and savage men. Both of these ancient blockhouses, I believe, are still standing.

When Great-grandfather Ewbank\textsuperscript{2} arrived 100 years ago he pushed on past these blockhouses to the next wide tract of creek bottom and took possession of a section of land one mile square, extending from half a mile north of Guilford up past the old stone church. After a short stay at a deserted squatter's cabin near where the stone church now stands he built a log house half a mile south of there, where some of his grandson's children still live in a house afterward built in the same door yard. The house he built there 100 years ago this summer was the farthest outpost of civilization. From his back door an unbroken wilderness stretching away to the north pole and the Pacific Ocean, except for a trading post here and there to which the Indian hunters brought their furs, and except that toward the southwest a fringe of settlements followed the river to Vincennes.

When we think of the olden times we often lose sight of relative distances from our own time. George Washington, Oliver Cromwell, Julius Caesar, and the patriarch Abraham are jumbled together in our minds as being ancient worthies, and we forget that hundreds and even thousands of years elapsed between the era of one and the other. So it may not be amiss to locate the year 1811 in its proper place, with relation to other periods of the history of our country, our state, our community, our ancestors and ourselves.

It was then thirty years since the close of the Revolutionary War and twenty-two years since Washington was inaugurated as the first president of the United States. Our civil war is now once and a half as far away in the past as the war of the Revolution was then, and Harrison's inauguration is now about as recent as Washington's first inauguration was then. It was only eight years since Indiana had become a territory, and it was not to be a state until five years later. It was ten years before the city of Indianapolis was laid out in a dense forest, and twenty years before the first house was built in Chicago. My grandfather, whom many of you remember as "Uncle John"\textsuperscript{3} Ewbank, was then a boy of sixteen. Old men, whose sons were bringing up their families along Tanner’s creek, were known as veterans. But the term meant soldiers in the Revolutionary War. The parents of the oldest persons here today were still children, as were the grandparent of all of us now in middle life.

But a difference of conditions separates us from that period even more widely than the lapse of time. It was ten years before the first steam boat went up the Ohio River, thirty years before the first railroad, starting at Lawrenceburg to connect the river traffic with the interior, had reached Guilford, and forty years before the first telegraph wires were strung along that railroad. And we must remember that the telegraph wires along Tanner’s Creek preceded the use at any place of telephones by twenty years, and preceded their use in this neighborhood by twenty more, and that automobiles followed some years after the telephones. It was forty years before threshing machines were used, fifty years before the advent of reaping machines, seventy years before we began to hear of self-binders, and eighty years before they were used in this valley. The invention of the sewing machine was almost a lifetime in the future, and instead of the wealth of machinery and tools found in modern homes, ranging from cream separators and carpet sweepers in the house to self-binders and hay loaders outside, the settler who had an ax, an auger and a smooth bore gun was envied for wealth of tools. It was not unusual for a house to be built wholly of wood, without metal for nails, bolts or hinges, by the use of an ax and auger alone. The walls were of unhewed logs; the puncheon doors were hung on wooden hinges; the split log roof was held in place by its own weight; the floor was of split logs, smoothed with the ax, and the chimney was of sticks, plastered over with clay, or perchance of dry stones built up without mortar and covered with clay inside.

Instead of the fields of corn and wheat and hay, the pasture lots and barnyards and the neat homesteads that cover this valley now, all was then thick woods. The creek bottoms were covered with dense forests of sycamore, maple, and walnut, except where a little patch here and there had been cleared by a squatter or an Indian trapper stopping in his wanderings after furs to raise a few bushels of corn. The only roadways through the forests were along the creek beds and over the sand bars and gravel banks that fringed them. The hillsides and hilltops were covered, only less thickly, with forests of oak and ash and other deciduous trees and an undergrowth of dogwood, sumac and all the shrubs with which we are familiar in our own woods. And up the hills and along their tops the trails that answered for roads were the paths worn by the buffalo, deer and other large game in their migrations.

The task undertaken by the settlers of a hundred years ago was to live in the wilderness on what the wilderness supplied, while they converted it into a home and made it their own. A settler must live on what the ground afforded,
for he had no money to buy supplies from the older states and no means of transportation to bring anything in if he could buy it and he must produce enough more than a living to buy his land from the United States for the plan of giving homesteads to settlers was not invented until a generation later. He must remove the forests and bring the land under cultivation, raise money to pay for it and feed, clothe and shelter his family. He must solve the problem of transportation without railroads, wagon roads, or vehicles, supply all necessary manufacturers from the industry of his own household, and improvise shelter from materials found on the ground that could be worked upon without special skill. His roads were the creek beds, deer paths and buffalo trails. He carried things on foot, on horseback, or rude sleds. The spinning wheel and hand loom were in the corner of his cabin. The cobbler's hammer and harness maker's needle were on the closet shelf.

A bench of logs and puncheons built against his log wall was covered with leaves and spread with undressed furs for a bed. Acorns and nuts eked out his scanty supply of grain for bread. The wild deer and bear and turkey, together with smaller birds and animals, such as the squirrel, rabbit and quail, supplied him with meat. The streams were full of fish and no law restrained him from seining or spearing. There were wild plums and berries in the thickets. The maple trees yielded syrup and sugar. And if the settler and his children longed for salt mackerel and fat bacon, it was not because they were hungry, but from a surfeit of game just killed and fresh caught.

Clothes were made of fur and of linen and tow or of wool, homespun. The flax or wool was prepared by hand and spun and woven in the homes, and furs had only the primitive dressing they could be given in the settler's cabin. Moccasins took the place of shoes. And after leather began to be tanned in this part of the country, the settlers still made their own shoes for many year, with the aid of the traveling cobbler, who went around from place to place. Old men who were boys [then]\(^\text{4}\) have said that such a shoe was not necessarily uncomfortable nor bad looking, but the worst objection to the home product was apt to be that while either shoe looked well enough in itself, the two did not look alike.

The settler's money to pay for his land came principally from three sources. Some worked in the salt mines at Louisville, where wages were in money. Some loaded flatboats for New Orleans, or even carried their produce to Havana, then an older city than Cincinnati is now, and almost as large then as now, after the lapse of another hundred years, and relatively a great deal more important. And some [g]athered\(^\text{4}\) furs by trapping or trading them and took them east, where they could be sold for money. Almost all local trade was carried on by barter, commodities being exchanged at agreed [rates]\(^\text{4}\). When obtained from Louisville, New Orleans, Montreal or Philadelphia, the money required to pay for land had to be brought on the owner's person, usually in a belt in which the gold coins were sewed, to his home in Indiana, and then to the United States land office. There were no banks and no drafts nor money orders then.

Starting with what they found on the ground, and living off the country while they labored, the settlers began a work of improvement in all these matters of fields, houses, roads, food and clothing that at still goes on.

Trees where (sic) blazed to mark [the forest]\(^\text{4}\) paths; then trees were cut [here and]\(^\text{4}\) there to turn aside the path [from the]\(^\text{3}\) creek bed run on higher ground; [the]\(^\text{3}\) trails that ran straight up the points where trees were thin and underbrush would not grow were moved to gentler slopes from which the stumps had been removed. But the first generation did little of this. Opening any way at all through the forest primeval was task enough for them. And though their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren made constant improvements, I learned that only within a few years has the road from here to Manchester been lifted from the creek bed to the bank and many roads are still running straight up to the points where the trees were thin a hundred years ago.

The first travel was nearly all afoot, and a blazed trail through the [open]\(^\text{4}\) glades or following game trails answered the purpose of roads. Lopping a few branches and cutting a tree here and there opened these trails to horsemen, and little work was needed to open a bridle path for the passage of log sleds and then of the lumber wagon. But the heavy wain drawing two or three tons to market, and the light carriage and self propelling automobile required a better road; and distant markets could only be reached by steam cars drawn on steel rails. So we have gravel roads, turnpikes, railroads and electric roads to serve for us the purposes which a blazed trail served a century ago.

The most striking feature of life in the backwoods was the isolation. Dropped down in a deep valley, beside a stream on which he was dependent for water and for use as a highway, [among]\(^\text{4}\) giant trees that towered a hundred [feet]?\(^\text{4}\) above his head, the settler's isolation was complete. His nearest neighbor a mile away, and the next a mile farther, there was no means of communication except by treading the forest on foot with a message and returning with the answer. Electricity, carrying the code signal or spoken word miles away in an instant, and steam power, rushing the car along with the speed of the wind, were not then known anywhere in the world. While even the methods of distant
signaling that were used in older countries were denied him. Any signals he might attempt to give could not be seen for the trees, and though a gun shot could be heard a mile away, it gave information to enemies as well as friends, and when heard by friends could be easily misunderstood. A hundred years ago the rangers who had gone from Tanner's creek against the Indians and were sent home after the battle of Tippecanoe reached Great-grandfather Ewbank's house and stopped for dinner at this first outpost of civilization. A little trial of skill at target practice after dinner, heard farther down the valley started an Indian scare and a rush for the fords of the Great Miami, which was hardly stopped by Mr. Ewbank in person going to the fort beyond Hardentown and assuring the frightened settlers that he and his family were safe.

But the scarcity of people was compensated by the size of neighborhoods. A circuit rider wandered over a sixty miles in diameter, and the quarterly meetings held in different parts of the circuit brought together people from all parts of it.

Almost twenty years later the official of the Methodist church on Tanner's creek, with their wives, including some persons nearly eighty years old, walked to Elizabethtown to attend a quarterly conference that became historic. But the complete isolation of a settler's family between those times when the widespread neighborhood gathered for log rolling, a house raising, wedding or religious service, is illustrated by the tales of devout families who lost their reckoning, and came out of the woods to hear the circuit rider's sermon after Sunday was past and the circuit rider gone. Not that the preacher of that day preached only on Sunday. From seven to fourteen sermons a week was apt to be his output. And his appearance riding in from the forest was a signal for all the children not occupied with caring for his horse and making preparations for his own entertainment to set out for the homes of the neighbors to call them in for worship.

The dangers of such a situation, away in the deep forest, while very real, are multiplied by our imaginations. The nearest Indian settlements were more than a hundred miles away, on the Wabash River, and Dearborn County was not on a highway which the war parties were accustomed to use. The few Indians known to have been in the county were friendly to the white men, except the war parties encountered along the Ohio River by parties of soldiers long before Tanner's Creek was settled. The bear and panther would not attack a man unless pressed by hunger or to defend themselves or their young, where escape by running away was cut off. There was some danger from falling trees, but of all the settlers buried here or at the East Fork church, or anywhere in Tanner's creek valley, I know of only one who was killed by a falling tree. My information is not complete on this subject, but David Ewbank's tombstone recites that he met his death in this way. That peril was not peculiar to their situation, however, as one of the third generation after him met his death in the same manner within a half a mile of same place, only a few years ago. The tramps and marauders who follow our great highways of travel were then unknown. And from the shadows of death which lurk in the use of steam and electric trains and in encountering them at crossings, and which threatens on every hand from machinery in our day; from the elevator, the street car, the automobile, the electric wire, the revolving shaft and fly wheel in the city, and from the mower and reaper, the hay fork, corn shredder, hay press and threshing machine in the country, the pioneer settler was entirely free. There was no steam, no electricity, no power vehicles or power machines, no machinery at all. If he faced a few dangers peculiar to his situation, he escaped the many which are everyday matters to us. And those old pioneers set an example of long life and freedom from worry and fear which we find it hard to excel.

The method of farming was primitive in the extreme. The trees being cut down and burned, and the smaller shrubs and bushes dug out from an acre or two of ground, the loose soil was scratched over with single shovel plow made of wood, shaped with an axe. Corn or seed potatoes were thrown into holes dug with a hoe or smaller grains were sowed broadcast and covered by dragging with a brush. Wheat, rye, oats were cut with sickles. Threshing was done with a flail and the grain was winnowed by throwing it up in the wind for the chaff to blow out. Even thirty years later the only improvement on this process was to beat down a hard floor of earth or spread one of boards, lay the grain upon it and drive cattle or horses round and round upon it while they tramped out the grain, to be winnowed as before. Many here today can remember the first fanning mills, and the first threshing machines, which only beat the grain loose from the straw, leaving the chaff to be blown out afterward.

To have food, clothing, shelter and transportation, intellectual development, spiritual consolation and social intercourse, to bring up a family to honorable manhood and womanhood and to pass away in old age, honored and mourned by the community, and to be laid to rest by those he taught life's first lesson, what better fate could anyone enjoy?

Food the settlers had in abundance, if not always in great variety. Their clothing was warm, if it did lack style. What the shelter of the cabin lacked in completeness was made up by the great log fires that roared in the throat of the chimney on cold days. Communion with nature was not the only chance for intellectual development, for men who
had been educated in England and the eastern states settled here, and schools for the young were their first care. Libraries were not unknown. Every circuit rider was both a lecture bureau and a book agent. The Bible was studied constantly, and books of one kind, theological controversy, were more widely read than now. The pioneers transplanted much of the social and intellectual life of the older communities from which they came.

The religious fervor of that day lacked nothing of intensity. Some of the first settlers at Tanner's creek had been among John Wesley's personal followers in England. Some were fresh from the religious controversies which then pervaded New England. Others had encountered different currents of the wave of spiritual enthusiasm that swept the English speaking people in the last half of the Eighteenth century. These facts in connection with the position of the meeting house as the one place to which everybody came, gave the church a prestige which afterward shared with the lecture, the lodge and the social gathering.

Transportation was difficult, but the people had not then forgotten the use of their natural powers, and a settler who lived within sight of this place once walked to Baltimore, Md. and back to arrange a matter of business. The flow of the creek in early spring and the current of the Ohio made a highway for carrying produce to market. Many a stalwart young man could be pointed out who had walked home from New Orleans. In rearing families the settlers were unrestricted. No question of being barred out of flats because of the babies, or of inability to find any place for the children to play vexed the parents then. Each family had its own home, for land was to be had for the taking, and a cabin cost but a few days of labor. The woods furnished a playground without limit, and a working place suited to laborers of any size or age. No questions of occupation for the boy from fourteen to sixteen years old had then grown out of labor legislation. Large families were the rule to which there was scarcely an exception. Early marriages predominated. Whenever the young folk decided to marry, a neighborhood gathering would build them a log house on a tract of land that lay open for the taking and could be bought at a nominal price from the government. A few hours work would supply the rude benches which were all the furniture needed to take a place in the best society, and no question or ability to furnish a home or to keep up appearances delayed the wedding. When the children were grown they need not go away, out west or on the railroad or to a distant city to find a home and work. All around lay unlimited work in clearing, away the forests and reducing the kind to cultivation, and new homes on new farms were to be had for the taking. The difficulty of transportation, too, kept families together, and the pioneer had a greater chance of dying in old age surrounded by his children and grandchildren, than the parent of today, whose nestlings take flight for distant lands on the first trial of their wings.

The Tanner's creek pioneers did not found empires and enslave nations; they did not command armies and kill thousands or devastate (sic) provinces in the name of glory, but they did right well the work their hands found to do; they brought up their children to fear God and love their fellow men; and they set an example of honesty, industry, piety and loyalty which will influence the world for good in all time to come. And today we do ourselves honor, as we do each season when the years roll around in meeting to revere their memory.

1Lt. Jacob Blasdel (5.100; 1754-1831) was L.B. Ewbank’s great grandfather, his mother's grandfather. Louis and his brother Richard Ewbank, also wrote an article titled "Jacob Blasdel, Pioneer" published in The Blaisdell Papers, Volume 2 number 10, May 1945, which contains several additional articles about the settlers on Tanner's Creek
2John Ewbank, Sr. (1752-1832).
3John Ewbank, Jr. (1795-1880).
4"best guess" interpretation of damaged copy. Contributor--Marcia Krieg

John Ewbank, Sr,

Date and Place of Birth: 1752
Date and Place of Death: 1832--Dearborn, Indiana

John Ewbank, Sr. arrived on Tanner's Creek in 1811. The Ewbank and Blasdel families were both early settlers of Dearborn County.

Louis Blasdel Ewbank was the grandchild of Jacob Blasdel and John Ewbank, Sr. Louis Blasdel was an attorney, served as an Indiana Supreme Court Justice from 1920 to 1927, was on the faculty of the Indiana Law School and published several legal textbooks.

Nearly 300 descendants of John Ewbank attended this family centennial in 1911.
(Please see above nominee, Jacob Blasdel, for Louis Blasdel Ewbank's Centennial Address, September 3, 1911, which describes life in pioneer Indiana.)

Contributor--Marcia Krieg

**St. Joseph County**

Enos Abijah Mills

Date and Place of Birth: 26 Dec 1834 --Indiana
Date and Place of Death: 17 Feb 1910 --Pleasanton, Linn Co., Kansas

Enos Abijah Mills Sr. was born 26 Dec 1834 in Indiana. He was the son of Abijah and Sarah (Moon) Mills. He married Ann Lamb, the daughter of Josiah and Ruth (Lamb) Lamb. In 1857, Enos and Ann moved with her parents to Linn County, Kansas.

The Abihah (1801-1868) and Sarah (Moon) Mills family settled in Union Township, St. Joseph County, Indiana in the 1830s. They were Quakers. He was buried in Lakeville Cemetery.

Enos A. Mills, Sr.’s son, Enos A. Mills, was the author and naturalist known as the “father” Rocky Mountain National Park. In late 1915, Enos advocated for the creation of three state parks (Dunes, Turkey Run, and Brown County) for Indiana Centennial in 1916.

Contributor--Terri Gorney

**Washington County**

George Beck

Date and Place of Birth: 1762--Berks Co., Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 16 Aug 1847--Beck’s Mill, Indiana

Baptized Johann George Beck, the youngest son of immigrants, Dewald and Catherine Beck, was born 1762 in Berks Co., PA. As a young boy the family of George Beck moved to Rowan County, NC.

While in North Carolina he served as a private in the Revolutionary War. About 1783, he married Elizabeth Claver. In the fall of 1807, George and Betsy packed up their family and moved West leaving Betsy and the 5 youngest children in Bear Creek (now Louisville). George and his two oldest sons followed a buffalo trace for about 25 miles before turning north. During the winter, the men hunted and searched for a site to build a mill. They located a large spring coming from within a cave - the source of the Blue River. In the spring of 1808, they first built a cabin, and, when it was comfortable, brought the family to Washington County, building, also, a 15 x 15 grist mill. The men traded pelts for two mill stones in Louisville to grind corn. The ability to card wool and saw wood was added after several years.

The fort that they built across from the mill offered protection to the area after the Pigeon Roost massacre. In 1825, a larger mill, 20 x30, was erected, and, finally, in 1864, the current building rose. George, Sr. and a son both volunteered with William Henry Harrison. George, Sr. was given the rank of Major for his bravery in the battle of Tippecanoe.

The mill restoration, funded by Bill and Gayle Cook, was completed in 2008, the 200th anniversary of the building of the first Beck's Mill. The mill is now open to the public for periodic visits.

Contributor Nancy Blackwell
Rush County

David and Elizabeth Longdon (Hall) Retherford

Date and Place of Birth: 9 Jun 1803 (D) 23 Jul 1811 (E) --Bourbon County, Kentucky
Date and Place of Death: 21 Dec 1858 (D) 2 Feb 1896 (E)--Bourbon County, Kentucky

My 3rd great-grandparents, David and Elizabeth Retherford were both born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, David in 1803 and Elizabeth in 1811. Married in 1834, they decided in 1836 to emigrate to Indiana. They crossed the Ohio River on a flatboat, their farm implements and household goods being transported in two covered wagons. They drove their stock, and Elizabeth rode a horse, carrying my 2nd great-grandfather, then about a year old. As families rarely traveled alone, David's sister came with them, as did Elizabeth's father and sister. They eventually bought a farm north of Rushville, and had a family of 9 children. The house on this farm was built from lumber, cut from the woods on the farm.

Contributor--Anne Watt

Wells County

John Aughey Deam (Diehm)

Date and Place of Birth: 25 Jul 1796--Rockingham Co., Virginia
Date and Place of Death: 7 Dec 1867--Wells Co., Indiana

The name was originally Diehm. John Aughey Deam was the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Miller) Deam. Henry served as an ensign in the Pennsylvania Militia during the Revolutionary War.

In the fall of 1836, John came to Wells Co., IN from Ohio and bought 1,300 acres and built a cabin. In February 1837, he moved with his wife and children by wagon to his land just east of Bluffton on the south side of the Wabash River. His grandson, Charles Clemon Deam, was born in 1865 on this farm and would become a world renowned botanist and conservationist.

Contributor--Terri Gorney

Whitley County

Anthony Geiger

Date and Place of Birth: 29 Oct 1776--Frederick Co., Maryland
Date and Place of Death: 26 Dec 1836--Whitely Co., Indiana

Anthony Geiger was born in Frederick County, Maryland. He married Mary Kirk who died in 1832 in Jackstown, Ohio. He moved to Whitley County, Indiana in the early 1830s. He was by profession a farmer. He purchased 160 acres of land which he divided among his adult children shortly before his death in 1936. He is buried in Eel River Baptist Church Cemetery in northwest Allen County. Descendant, David Schroff, and wife, Judith Schroff, raised their family in Eel River Township. Judith still lives there.

Contributor--Judith Schroff
Abraham Maxwell

Date and Place of Birth: Oct 1808--Sumner Co., Pennsylvania
Date and Place of Death: 27 Mar 1863--Churubusco, Indiana

Abraham Maxwell was born in Oct 1808 in Pennsylvania to Mathew and Laura Maxwell. He came to Whitley County in the spring of 1836 and purchased 80 acres from the federal government for the price of $1.25 per acre. He married Mary Geiger Parks, a young widow, on 22 Nov 1836 in Allen County. He died 27 Mar 1863 and is buried in Eel River Baptist Church Cemetery. Mary died 11 Aug 1883 and is buried beside Abraham.

Contributor--Judith Schroff
THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS

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