

A historical black and white photograph of a three-story brick building. The ground floor features a storefront with a sign that reads "W. OLLIS GENERAL STORE". Two people are standing on the steps of the entrance. The building has multiple windows on the upper floors. The image is faded and serves as a background for the title text.

# HISTORY OF GREENVILLE

PRESENTED BY GREENVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

# INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Uhl - Chairman

Kim Hardin - Vice Chair

Shelly Hartfield - Treasurer

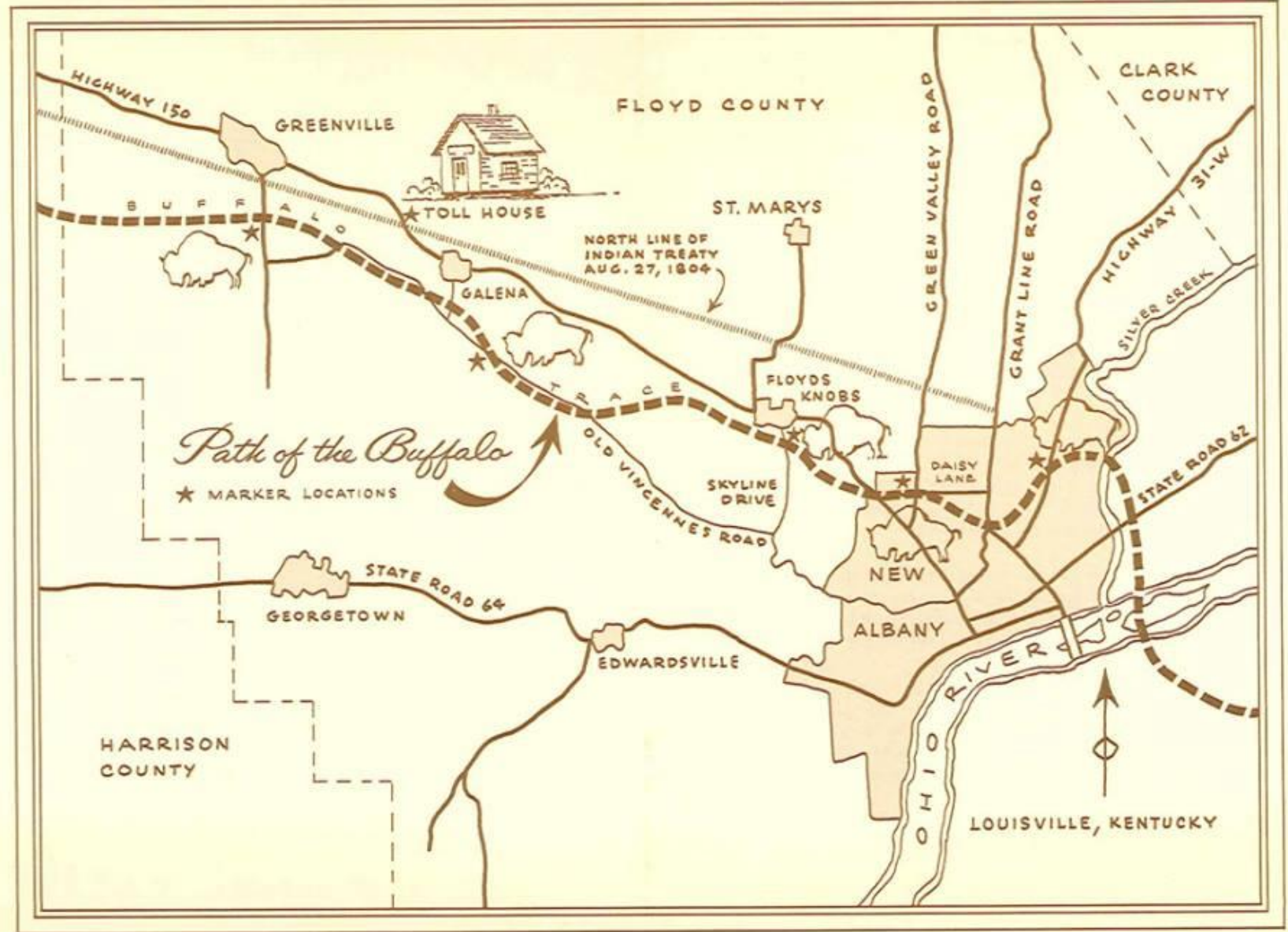
Andy Lemon - Greenville Town Council



# FOUNDING CONTEXT

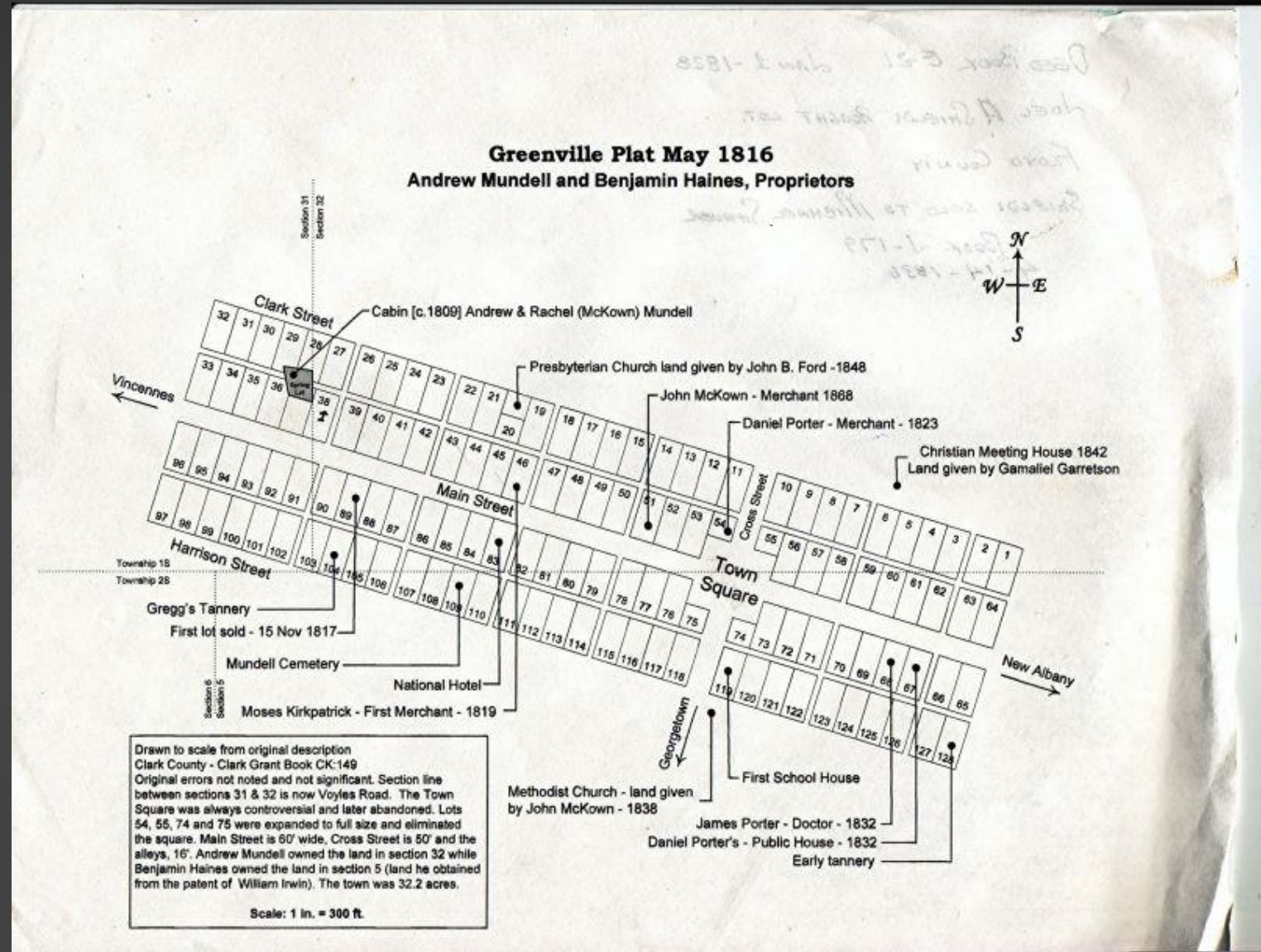
Pre-1816

Bison Route from  
Illinois fields through  
Falls of Ohio to  
Kentucky Salt licks.



## FOUNDING ERA

- ❖ Founded in May 1816, by Andrew Mundell and Benjamin Haines.
- ❖ First settlers started appearing early 1800's.
- ❖ Many streets in Town have retained their original platted size and are as narrow as 9 feet wide.



# FIRST FAMILIES

Last names of original settlers include, but are not limited to:

-Boston (Robert), Wells (William), Brown (John & William), Mundell, Clark (John), Collins (Mordecai), and Woods (Isaac)

Immediately following were:

-Abraham Coffman, John and James Taylor, Madison Martin, William Williams, William Ferguson, Jacob Miller, Amos and Johnathan Davis, Thomas Hobson, Adam Smith, Major Stewart, James Alward, Joseph Woodville, John Moore, John McCown, Jacob Floor, Morris Morris, Major Lucas, Benjamin Bower, Daniel Porter, William Foster, Benjamin Haines, Reuben Smith, Mathias Sappenfield, and Alexander Hedden. (All are ca 1826 or before)

# ANTEBELLUM PERIOD 1820'S - 1850'S

# JOHN BAPTISTE FORD

## JOHN B FORD - GREENVILLE

- Apprenticed with uncle in Greenville, 1820's.
- Started mill on site of first post office, 1830's.
- Married his school teacher, Marry Bower from Greenville.
- Branched into pie safes, saddleworks, plate glass startup.
- Said to have invented plated glass in the natural sand pits near Greenville.
- Cousin of Washington C. DePauw.



# JOHN BAPTISTE FORD

## JOHN B FORD – NEW ALBANY

- Moved to New Albany in 1854, started steamboat building company.
- Became known as “Captain” John B Ford because of his work building steamboats.
- Built and operated as many as 38 ships prior to closure.
- Founded New Albany Glass Works, ca 1867, & later business interests.



*Louisville ~The People's Line Packet Wild Wagoner Arriving at the Levee in 1868' – John Stobart*



# JOHN BAPTISTE FORD



Home of John B. Ford, Maker of First Plate Glass in the United States, Greenville In

**Glass Works**

**J.B. FORD & SONS**  
MANUFACTURERS  
OF  
**ROLLED**  
**PLATE GLASS**  
FOR SKYLIGHTS, FLOOR,  
HOATHOUSES & C.  
Also all kinds of  
**WINDOW GLASS**  
SINGLE DOUBLE  
& TRIPPLE STRENGTH.

Office of **J.B. FORD & SONS**

JOHN B. FORD  
EDWARD FORD  
EMORY L. FORD

## John Baptiste Ford.

*Special to The New York Times.*

PITTSBURG, Penn., May 1.—John Baptiste Ford, father of the plate glass industry in this country, and the first to pipe natural gas into Pittsburg, died yesterday at Creighton, Penn. Born in Danville, Ky., Nov. 17, 1811, he accumulated a fortune making boxes and building boats in Indiana during the civil war. He lost everything when seventy years of age.

He and his two sons soon after erected a plate glass factory at Tarentum, Penn., with \$17,000 which they received for a glass patent, and amassed another fortune. They entered the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company as owners of about \$2,500,000 of stock. They built the Ford City Plate Glass Works on the Allegheny River, the largest of its kind in the world. Failing to agree with other Directors of the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company, they sold out about 1886. They soon after erected the Ford plate glass plant at Toledo, Ohio, and built the Alkali plant at Wyandotte, Mich., for which they were offered \$6,000,000. Mr. Ford was noted for his philanthropy, and grateful employes recently erected a statue to him at Ford City, which he founded.

*The New York Times*

Published: May 2, 1903

Copyright © The New York Times

# NORMAN COLMAN

## NORMAN COLMAN

- Born in NY (1827), moved to Louisville to attend law school at U of L.
- Started law practice in New Albany, ca 1849.
- Hired as initial headmaster of Greenville Seminary, 1850.



# THE BEGINNING OF FLOYD COUNTY SEMINARY

## FLOYD COUNTY SEMINARY.

**T**HE Fall term of this Institution will open on Monday, the 2d day of September, 1850.

Miss Sophia C. Colman, a competent and experienced teacher, has been employed to take charge of the Female Department.

Tuition per year, for students resident in the county, in either Department, from \$4 to \$8; for students out of the county, from \$8 to \$20. The Principal and Trustees are determined to spare no pains in making this Institution equal to any similar one in the State.

The Seminary building is a new, spacious, brick edifice, containing two distinct departments, and is capable of accommodating upwards of 150 students. The location is in the pleasant and healthy village of Greenville, twelve miles from the Ohio river, on the Vincennes turnpike, and is accessible by a daily line of stages. Board can be obtained in the most respectable families from \$1 to \$1 50 per week. The extraordinary cheapness of tuition and board, the healthful location, and the absence of city allurements, render this a most desirable public Institution.

A Teachers' Department will be formed at the beginning of the term, the object of which will be to qualify students for the profession of Teaching.

NORMAN J. COLMAN, Principal.

Greenville, Aug. 27, 1850—d&wtf Bul. copy

## County Seminary Examination.

We learn that the examination of the students in the Floyd county Seminary took place at Greenville, on the 21st inst., and that the exercises were highly creditable to the scholars and their instructors. The day was pleasant, which afforded an opportunity for the patrons of the school and the friends of education to be present, and the Seminary building, we are informed, was crowded with spectators from Greenville, Germantown, Georgetown, and their vicinities. At the request of a number of persons, Mr. Colman continued the exercises in the evening, when a still larger concourse was present, all of whom appeared delighted with the intelligence displayed by the pupils.

This institution has been in existence but a twelve-month, and yet, under the labors of its principal, Mr. N. J. Colman, it stands second to none, of a similar character, in the State. It commenced with forty pupils, while during the past session, there have been about a hundred young ladies and gentlemen in attendance.

The preceptress of the female department, Miss Sophia C. Colman, is deserving of great credit for the reputation she has given that department of the institution, the exercises in which are said to have been very creditable.

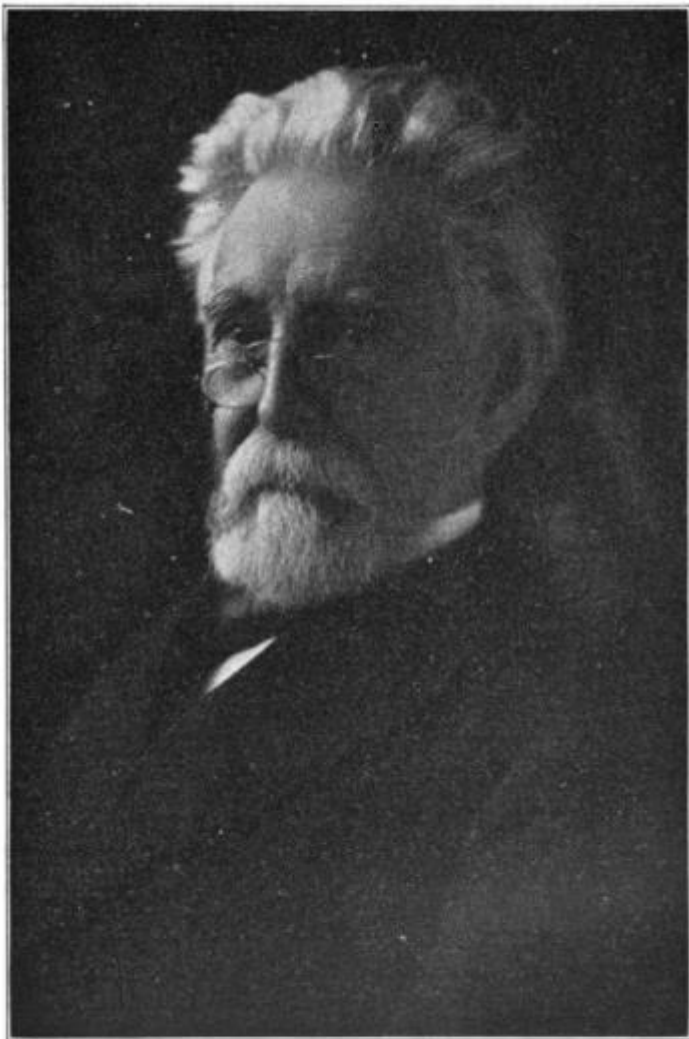
We regret to learn that Mr. Colman intends resigning his situation as principal. We fear the Trustees will find it difficult to obtain the services of one who will fill the station with so much ability and who will give such general satisfaction. Mr. C. we learn, designs resuming the practice of his profession in this city, in which we hope he may be liberally patronized.

# NORMAN COLMAN



## NORMAN COLMAN

- Married teacher Clara Porter.
- Moved in 1852 to Missouri to start agriculture-related magazine.
- Later named first US Secretary of Agriculture, 1889.



**NORMAN J. COLMAN**  
BORN 1827. DIED 1911.



# CIVIL WAR

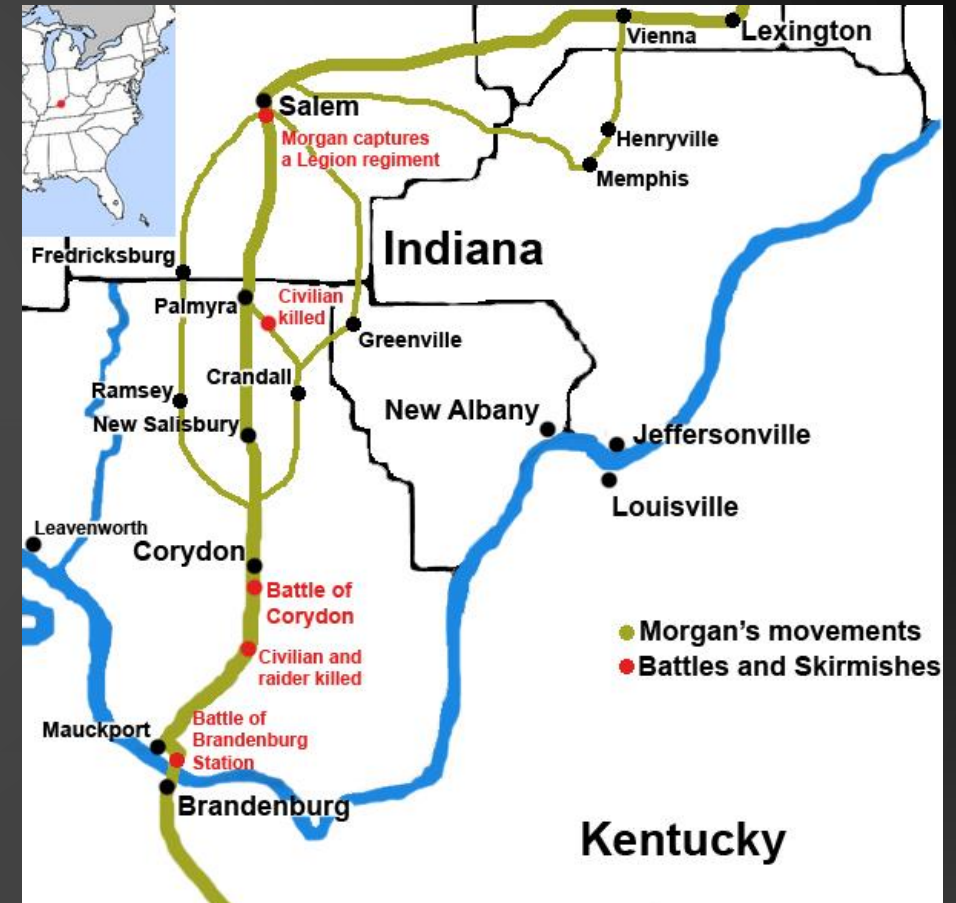
## 1861 - 1865





# MORGAN'S RAID

- John Hunt Morgan Raid in July 1863.
- Scouting parties and Copperhead activities included New Salisbury, Crandall, Palmyra, and Greenville.
- Troops reconvened in Salem on July 10, 1863.



# FRANCIS HIEQUIT



Wooden shoes worn by Civil War Home Guardsman Francis Hiequit, 1863; Collection of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Gift of Frank Hiequit  
*(Photo: Courtesy Indiana State Museum)*





# EPHRAIM GIRDNER

## EPHRAIM GIRDNER

- Union Private & Lieutenant, Indiana 66<sup>th</sup> Regiment Company H
- Served and captured at Battle of Richmond KY (POW) 1862
- Released, later served with Gen Sherman 1863-64

To *Perr Haute Ind<sup>a</sup> Jan 4 1884*  
*Morton* Post No. *1*  
Dept. of Indiana, Grand Army of the Republic.

I have the honor to apply for membership in your Post, basing my application on the following facts:

I am *43* years of age, and was born in *Galena* State of *Indiana*. I now reside at *514 N 8<sup>th</sup> St Perr Haute*  
State of *Indiana* and am by occupation *General Business*

I served during the late rebellion as follows:

I enlisted on the *8<sup>th</sup>* day of *Aug* 1862 as *Private* in Co. *H*,  
*66<sup>th</sup>* Regiment *Indiana Inf Regts* for the period of *Three*  
years and was discharged therefrom as *Ordnance Sergeant* at *Widow Mitchell's Plantation*  
on the *30<sup>th</sup>* day of *May* 1864, by reason of *Expiration*

*of term of service* to first Lieutenant  
Promoted to Captaincy and mustered accordingly  
on the *fifteenth* day of *November* 1864, as *Captain*  
in Co. *H 66<sup>th</sup>* Regiment *Ind Inf Regts* and was discharged therefrom as *Captain*  
*Same Co.* at *Washington D.C.* on the *third*  
day of *June* 1865, by reason of *Expiration of term of service*

I have never borne arms against the United States, am not borne on the rolls as a Deserter, and have

# EPHRAIM GIRDNER

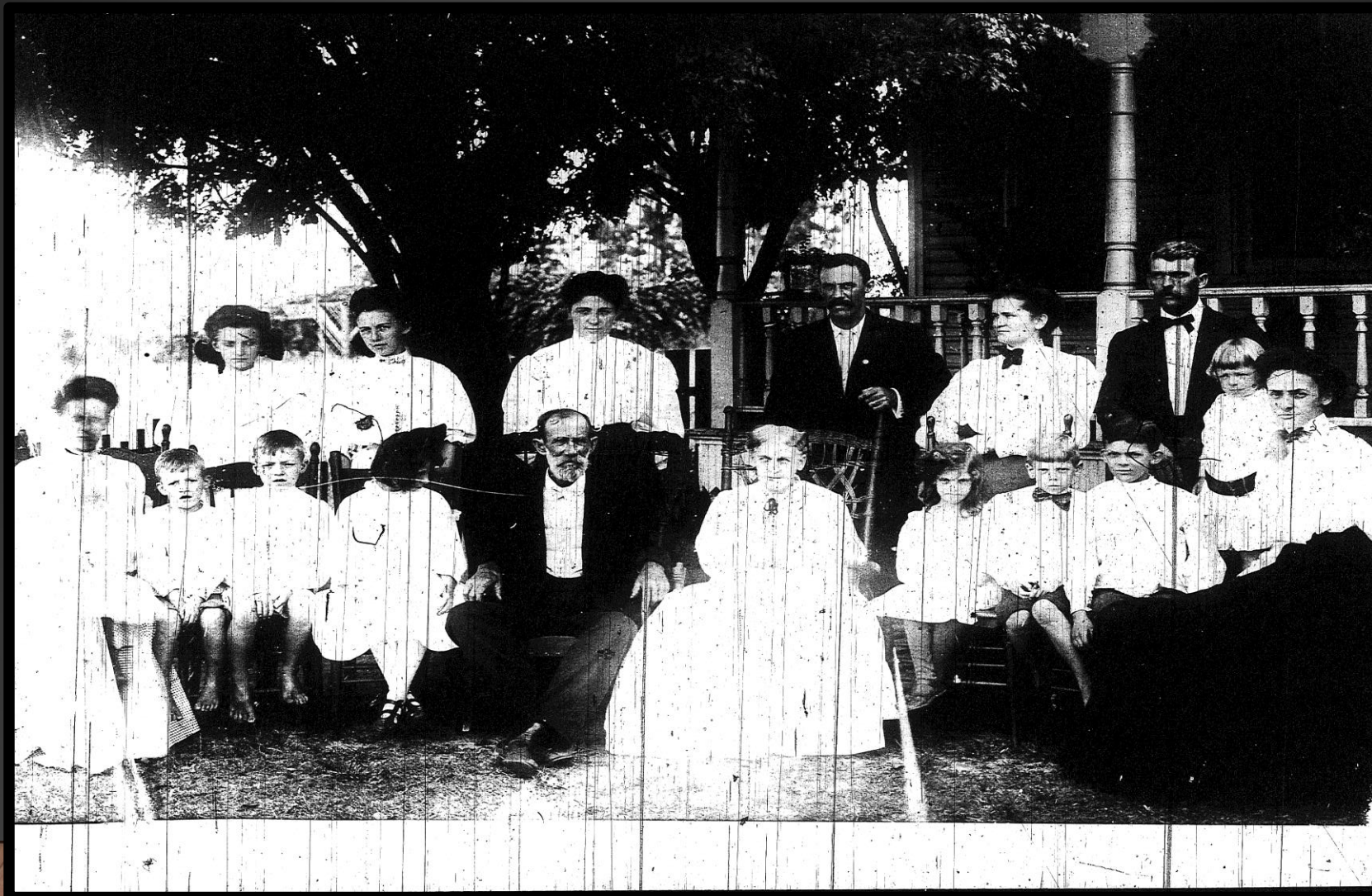


Headquarters Army of Kentucky,  
Richmond, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1862.

*Ephraim Girdner, Captain, 11<sup>th</sup> Co. H. 16<sup>th</sup> Reg.*  
*Under parole* a prisoner of war, captured by the Confederate troops  
under **GENERAL KIRBY SMITH**, and this day paroled, do solemnly swear that I will  
take arms against the Confederate States, that I will neither give aid nor comfort to  
enemies thereof, nor communicate any military information to them, until duly exchanged  
according to the usages of war. The violation of this parole will be punished with death.

*Ephraim Girdner*

# EPHRAIM GIRDNER



LATE 1800'S

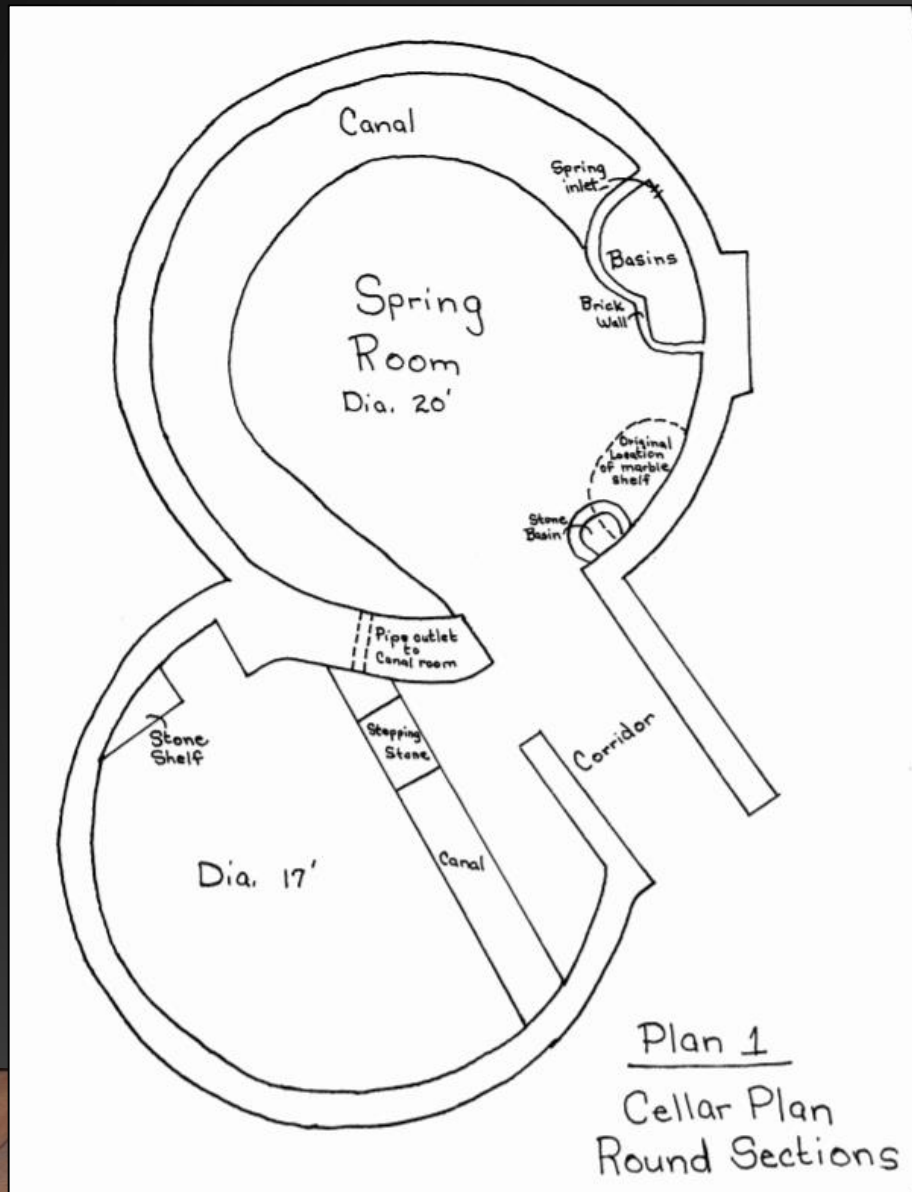
# JERSEY PARK FARM

## ABRAHAM COFFMAN

- One of earlier settlers of township
- Built farm around 1875
- Accumulated 780+ acres
- Transitioned farm to son John Spear Coffman, including dairy farm



# JERSEY PARK FARM



# JERSEY PARK FARM

## SPEAR FAMILY & ACTIVITIES

- Started resort farm in 1884.
- Fourth of July picnic, dance pavilion, guest house.
- Dairy provided products to Louisville hotels, including Brown Hotel
- Listed on National Register 1984



# SIMPSON MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- Built in 1899 in Gothic Revival style.
- Funds donated by Capt. John Baptiste Ford (\$3,500).
- Andrew Carnegie donated toward the church's pipe organ.
- Added to National Register of Historic Places in 2004.





EARLY 1900'S

# GREENVILLE FIRE OF 1908

- March 26, 1908
- Chimney from Wood family overheated, caught fire.
- Wind-driven, consumed majority of town along both sides of Hwy 150.
- 24 buildings total were consumed, including post office & Greenville School.



# GREENVILLE FIRE OF 1908



---

## APPEAL FOR AID

---

**The Sufferers from the  
Greenville Fire Appeal  
to the People In  
General For  
Assistance.**

---

Greenville, twelve miles out from New Albany on the Paoli pike, was almost destroyed by fire last Thursday, 17 residences and the two largest stores in the town were consumed by the flames. A number of the families are not only left homeless, but in many instances not a single thing was rescued from the flames. A pitiful sight, beholding little children, looking in the faces of father and mother wholly bereft of home and food. A number of these families were renters, with no insurance. This is as great a calamity, in proportion to population and wealth, as San Francisco during the earthquake. We, therefore appeal to people everywhere to come to our rescue with money to relieve suffering. Greenville is doing all that she can do. The Town Board has appropriated money from the treasury, but this is not sufficient. Any assistance that you may be able to give will be greatly appreciated. Send all remittances to Mrs. Ellen Keithly, Treasurer., or to Rev. Myers McKinney, Chairman of Relief Committee, Greenville, Ind.

## GREENVILLE FIRE OF 1908



# ROSCOE P MILLER



## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Born in Greenville in 1876.

He was a pitcher in Major League Baseball who played parts of four seasons (1901 - 1904) with the Detroit Tigers, New York Giants and Pittsburgh Pirates.

He was 39-45 for his career with 198 strikeouts and a 3.45 ERA.

Miller's rookie season in 1901 he pitched 35 complete games which is still an American League Rookie record.

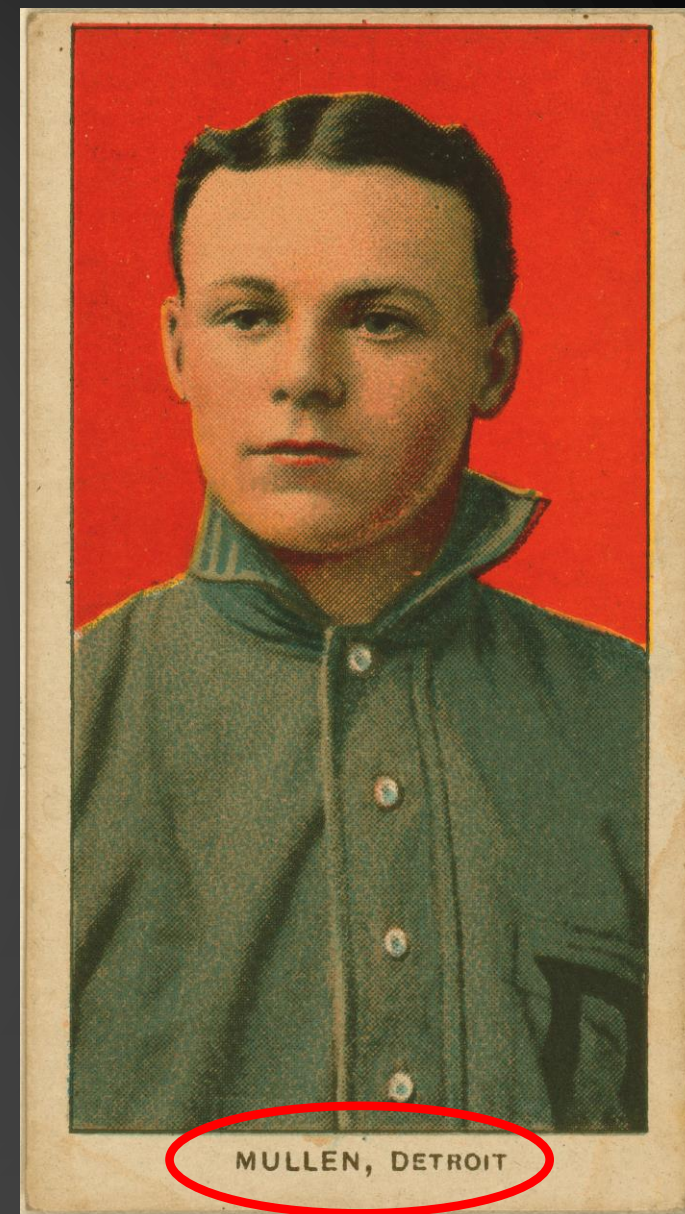


Shaw, c. Miller, p. Cronin, p. Elberfeld, ss. Owens, p. Yeager, p. Barrett, c. f.  
Casey, 3b. Holmes, r. f. Stallings, Manager. Siever, p. McAllister, c. Dillon, 1b.  
Nance, l. f. Gleason, 2b.

DETROIT AMERICAN LEAGUE TEAM OF 1901.

# RESEARCH CASE STUDY

Who is the guy on the baseball card?



# EARLY 1900'S

## LOCAL BUSINESSES



# EARLY 1900'S

## LOCAL BUSINESSES



Charlotte Goss at Harold Goss' Beer Garden, Greenville, In - Circa 1935

# WHOPEE!

**UNCLE ZEKE**  
Big Barn  
Dance Frolic  
Every Wednesday Nite

AT

**Greenville, Indiana**

Better known as the  
**MOONLIGHT GARDEN**

**ADMISSION 35 CENTS Per Couple**  
**LADIES FREE**

**Square and Round Dances**

DANCE FROM 8 O'CLOCK UNTIL MIDNITE



# EARLY 1900'S

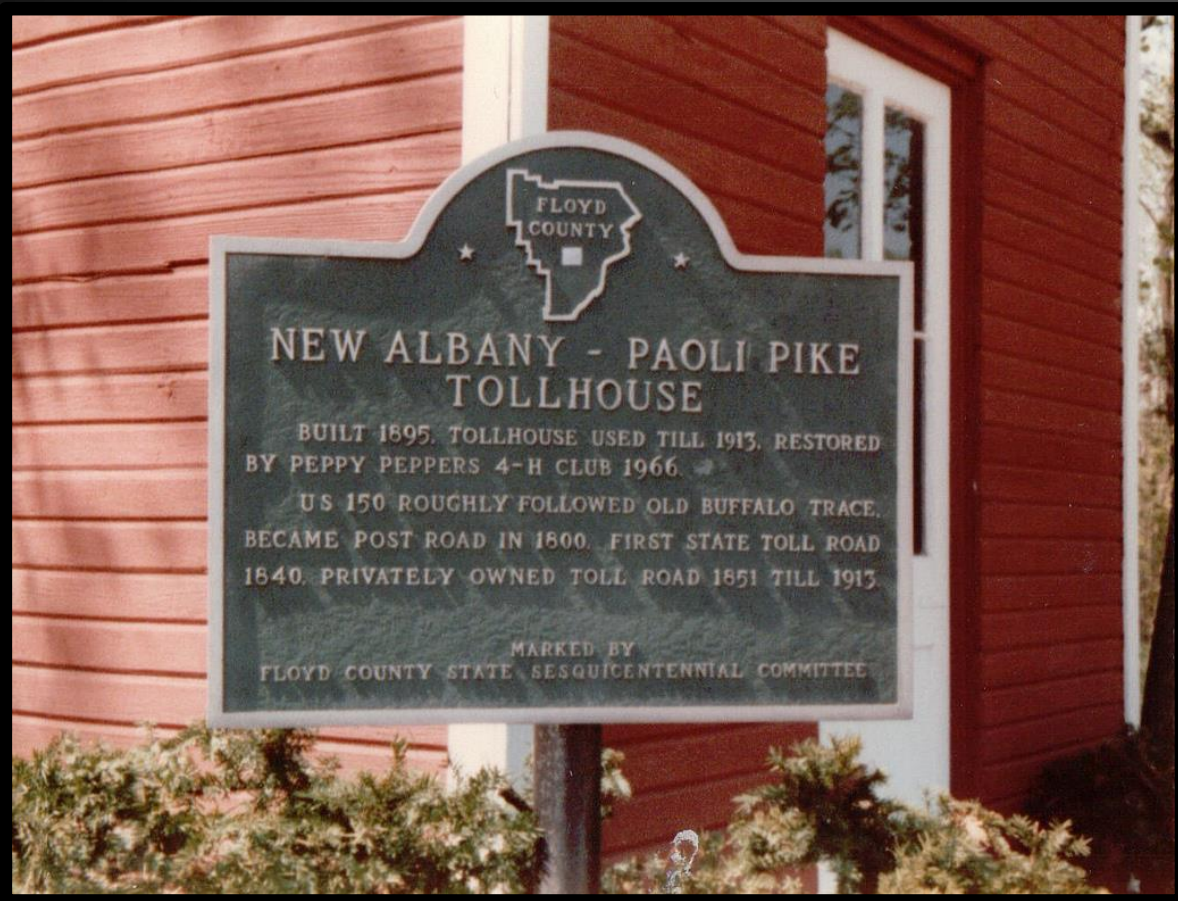
## LOCAL BUSINESSES



Walter Ollis Store and National Hotel - Greenville, Ind. - Circa 1940

# EARLY 1900'S

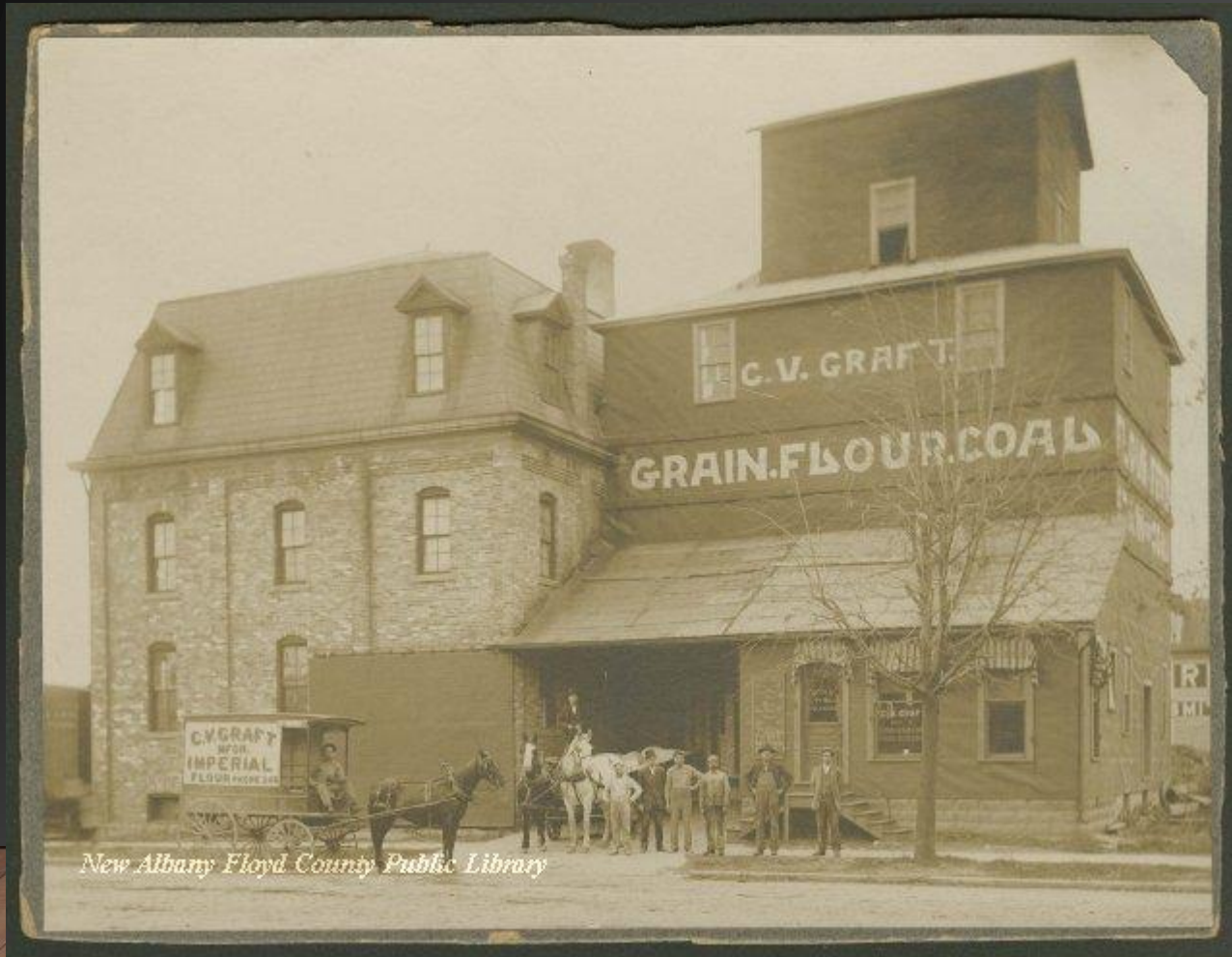
## TOLL ROAD ENHANCEMENTS



Paving Crew - Us 150 - Southern Indiana - Ca 1930  
Bonnie Bary, standing in front of truck; Gilmer J. Boaz, lying on roadbed, others unknown

# RESEARCH CASE STUDY – C.V. GRAFT MILL

WHERE DO YOU THINK THE C.V. GRAFT MILL WAS LOCATED?



*New Albany Floyd County Public Library*

## NAFC Library



C. V. Graft Mill in Galena or Greenville area, Indiana - Mills Grain elevators Grain trade Coal Delivery wagons Horses

Businesses--Graft, C. V. Mill--Floyd County, Indiana The C. V. Graft Mill in the Greenville or Galena area in Indiana. On the side of the building is C. V. Graft Mill in Galena or Greenville area, Indiana

Record Type: Photo

## Indiana State Library

Indiana Memory: C. V. Graft Mill in Galena or Greenville...

[https://digital.library.in.gov/.../PPO\\_NAFCHistoricArchive-71B90162-62E8-4F3E-A3...](https://digital.library.in.gov/.../PPO_NAFCHistoricArchive-71B90162-62E8-4F3E-A3...)

Description: The C. V. Graft Mill in the Greenville or Galena area in Indiana. On the side of the building is written "Grain. Flour. Coal", The horse-drawn delivery ...

You've visited this page 2 times. Last visit: 1/30/18

Evansville, Ind.—The Independent Hay & Grain Co. has increased its capital stock from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Winchester, Ind.—We are building a retail dep't in connection with our plant.—C. V. Graft, C. V. Graft Mfg. Co.

Muncie, Ind.—Richard H. Nabring, 64 years old, formerly a grain dealer here, died at his home in Flint, Mich., recently.

ing good success until the gases from the fire became so strong that we were compelled to go down. We could see that the fire at this time was confined to the inside of this stand of elvtrs. We moved from the building everything movable, and closed all doors. Immediately after this the gases in the cupola ignited blew out the windows and blew the cover off the scuttle hole. The manlift weight

Res  
uation  
to dis  
Ma  
Walt  
Farm  
Hig  
purch  
inter  
Su

*Graft Elevator/Graft Mill, east side of Main Street, Winchester, Indiana*

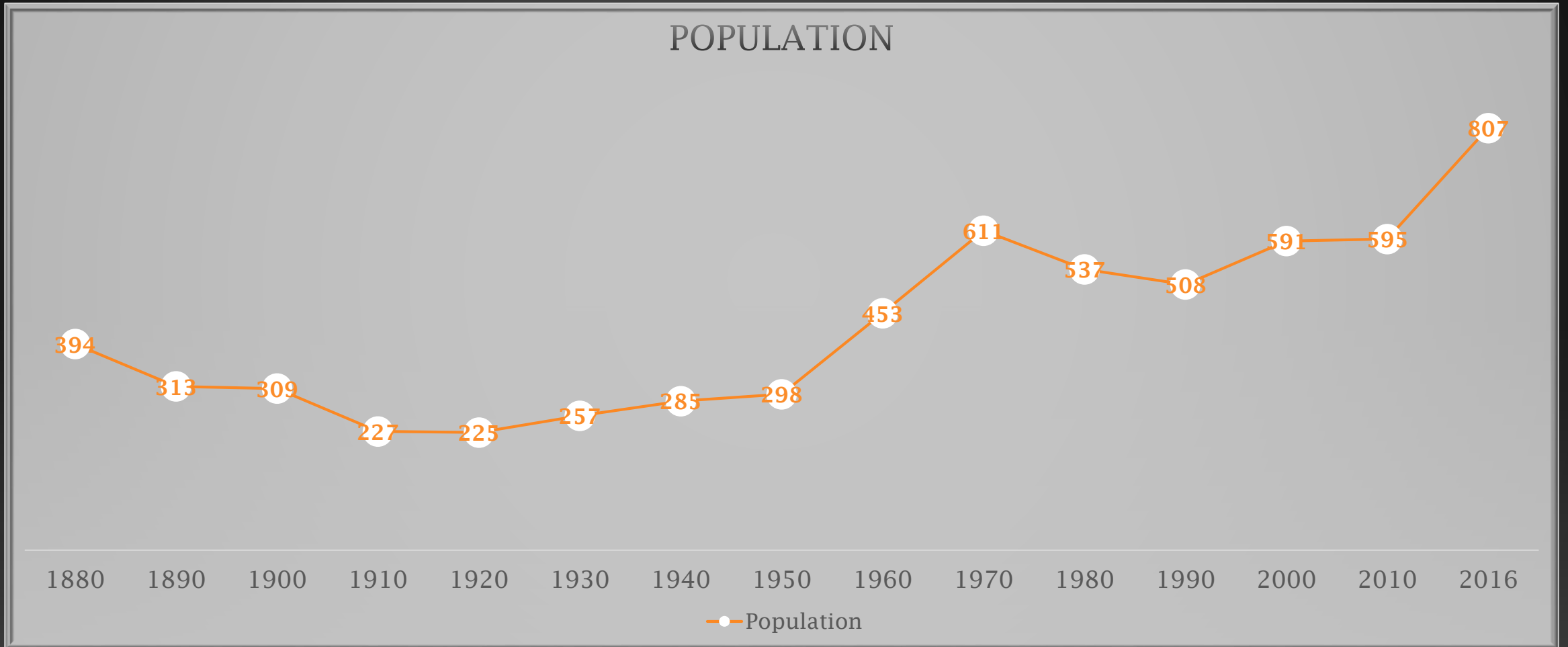


*Horse drawn school buses from White River Township and Wabash Township schools parked near the C.V. Graft Mill, Winchester, Indiana*



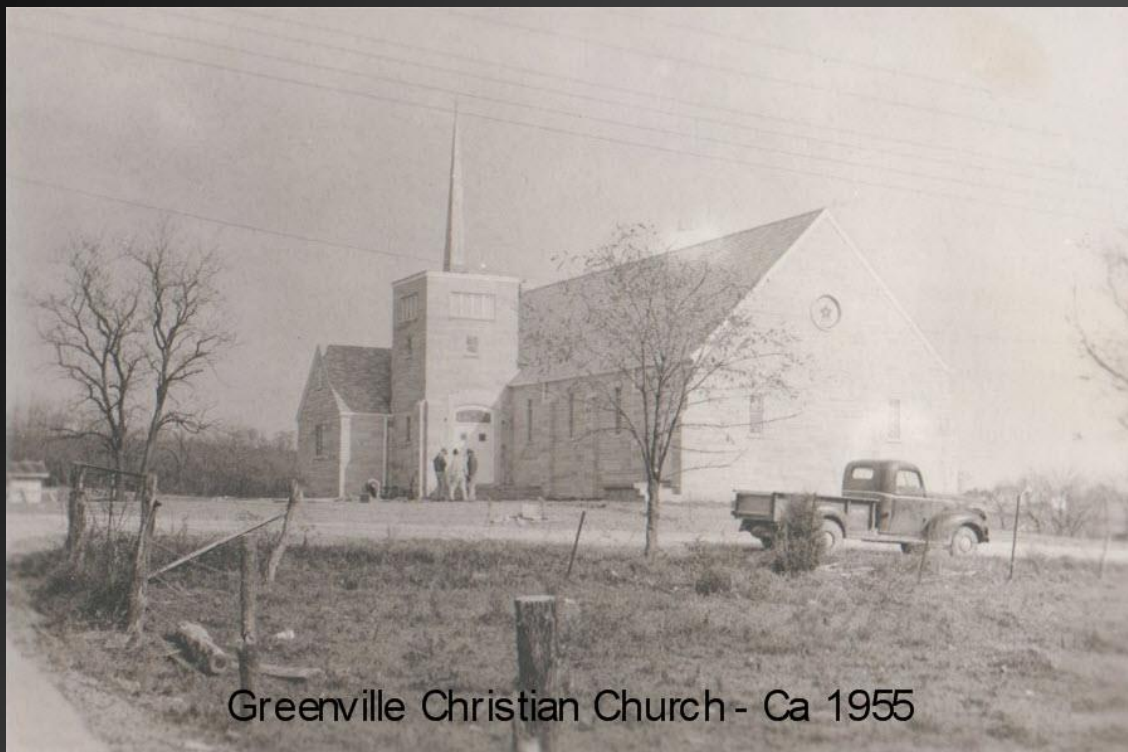
# GREENVILLE TOWN HISTORIC POPULATION TREND

US CENSUS DATA, 1880 TO PRESENT



# 1950 ONWARD

## NEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Greenville Christian Church - Ca 1955

## EXPANDED SCHOOL



Greenville, Indiana, Elementary School & Gymnasium - ca 1951

# CEMETERIES IN GREENVILLE

## GREENLAWN CEMETERY

- One of the larger of cemeteries in township
- 1,500+ graves
- Begun in earnest in 1852



# CEMETERIES IN GREENVILLE

## BUTTONTOWN/MAPLE HILL

- One of the older of cemeteries in township
- Smaller, 75 plots or so
- Several pre-date Greenlawn Cemetery
- Nathan McKinzie (1826-1863) killed in Battle of Corydon





# CEMETERIES IN GREENVILLE

## SCHRADER/TAYLOR CEMETERY

- One of the oldest cemeteries in township
- Just east of Buttontown Cemetery
- Jesse Stroud (1755-1812) NC revolutionary war veteran
- Unmarked graves of several of John B Ford's family



# SMITH CEMETERY

## MISLABELED ~~GIRDNER~~ CEMETERY

- Located inside Heritage Springs Subdivision
- Listed as 12 plots; however, appx. 20 plots have been discovered now



## DEED FROM SMITH FAMILY TO JOHN G. GIRDNER

# SMITH CEMETERY WHY NAME IT SMITH CEMETERY?

Dr John Girdner and Mary Girdner are buried in Greenlawn Cemetery.



Know all men by these presents that we Andrew Smith and Sophrona Smith wife of said Andrew Smith of the county of Floyd and state of Indiana, in consideration of the sum of eight hundred dollars in hand paid by John G Girdner of the county of Floyd and state aforesaid, have bargained and sold, and do hereby grant bargain sell and convey unto the said John G Girdner his heirs and assigns forever the following ----- estate in the county of Floyd & state of Indiana and bounded and a----- as following to wit: being a part of the north west quarter of section four, of town two south of range five, beginning at the North West corner of said quarter section, thence running South one hundred and twenty five rods, thence East fifty two rods, thence North sixty four rods, thence North 58° 30' East twenty six rods, thence East thirty rods, thence North sixty rods, thence West with the township and section at line one hundred and six rods to the place of beginning, containing fifty eight acres and thirty five rods (The graveyard which lies near the center of said piece of land, containing one thousand five hundred and sixty square feet, being sixty four feet in length from North to South and twenty five feet in width from East to West is reserved and not included in this sale). To have and to hold said premises with the app----- unto the said John G Girdner his heirs and assigns forever. And the said Andrew Smith for himself and heirs ----- here by covenant with John G Gardner.

Of the premises aforesaid that the premises are free and clear from all encumbrances whatsoever and that he will forever warrant and defend the same with the appurtenances unto the said John G Girdner his heirs and assigns against the lawful claims of all persons whomever. In testimony whereof the said Andrew Smith and Sophrona Smith have hereunto let their hands and seals this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September one thousand eight hundred and fifty five.

Andrew Smith  
Sophrona Smith

State of Indiana

Floyd Co. Before me Enoch Ferguson a justice of the peace of Greenville township state and certify aforesaid personally appeared the said Andrew Smith and Sophrona Smith and acknowledged the execution of the annexed deed. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25 day of September 1855.

Enoch Ferguson, justice

# CEMETERIES IN GREENVILLE

## MORRIS CEMETERY

- Located South of Hwy 150 on former Morris Morris farm plot, West of Greenville.

## “OLD” GREENVILLE CEMETERY

- Located near western extent of Harrison Street
- Used prior to Greenlawn Cemetery opening in 1852
- All headstones removed

# QUESTIONS?



**THANK YOU!**

**Greenville Historic Preservation Commission**

- [www.visitgreenvillein.com](http://www.visitgreenvillein.com)
- [muhl24@gmail.com](mailto:muhl24@gmail.com)