

**Town of Greenville
P.O. Box 188
Greenville, In. 47124**

The following 18 pages are a History of Greenville that was compiled by the Methodist Church Collectors. A copy of it came into my possession in 1995. It was retyped exactly as received in July of 1995.

Some say this is a true account and others say it is partially true. True or Not it does make for some interesting reading.

Hope you enjoy this account of Greenville

Randal Johnes

Greenville was ranked as a village for more than a half century, but was only recently (1866) promoted to the dignity of a town and clothed with the powers of a municipal government. It is not a large place but is the 2nd town in size in the county!! And once had the honor of competing for the county seat with the now considerable city of New Albany...

Mr. C. W. Cotton of the latter city wrote: "It was proposed, so tradition remembers, that the two towns (New Albany and Greenville) the one that made the largest subscription in the way of a donation to the county, should have the county seat! The contest was an animated one; but finally New Albany bore off the prize by offering a few dollars the larger sum, and then added the donation of a bell for the court house! This offer of the bell was irresistible, and vanquished the Greenville people...

And so the future of a would be city was evenly balanced in the scales of fate at one period of existence, having only the weight of a courthouse bell against it. What great events turn upon little things! How different might have been the fate of Greenville had her citizens put a few more dollars in the pot!!!!

The location of the town had no motive - no streams - no natural resources to its vantage - it just grew without previous arrangements or patterns.

The township was covered with a growth of hardwood timber such as oak, in the uplands, and sugar, hickory, beech, black walnut in the lower lands among the streams and in the dense undergrowth could be seen paw-paw, spicewood and other varieties of underbrush. Grape vines grew rankly, climbing to the tops of the highest trees, shutting out the sunlight in places, making the woods a place of gloom. Wild animals of every description known to the forest and creeping things, filled these woods and met the hardy pioneer at every turn. Wolves, bears, deer, turkeys, buffalo, elk, etc...

The township was abundantly watered by numerous creeks, running brooks, and springs; the land in this township is generally rolling, and in places - even hilly!

Greenville was located long before the great turnpike, so the turnpike cannot lay claim for bringing it to life. But instead, the town influenced the roads location. Which started as an Indian trail. The turnpike was then a mud road and a mighty poor one, winding among trees and stumps with nothing to relieve the monotony of its way thru the deep, dark forest full of all sorts of wild animals and wild men.

ANDREW MUNDELL, a Kentucky school teacher, came over about 1806-07 and homesteaded 160 acres of land, upon which the town started. His contemporary, BENJAMIN HAINES, soon purchased the adjoining section - later they became partners. Mundell built the first cabin there - near a small spring in the west end of the town. Haines and Mundell laid out the town in May, 1816 - the territory was then dated as being in Clarke County. They divided the plat, the profits and the losses...

They arranged the town on each side of the turnpike from East to West. The length being longer than the width, in a form of a parrallelogram. There was a public square in the center and the street was called Cross Street. The square was then fenced in. The first schools were subscription schools; that is, someone felt qualified to teach and passed around a paper among the people and obtained subscriptions at so much per scholar for a term, perhaps three months - no public money being available for school purposes during this time. These were taught wherever a vacant room or cabin could be found...

When the town was laid out, a lot near the Methodist church was reserved for a school.

Where it remained for many years. It was also used for church and public meetings. Early teachers were HUFFMAN, a German, and ROLAND MAY.

Greenville was settled in approximately 1806 by settlers who came from South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and parts of New England. Some of the names of the first to come were as follows:

Bostons; Wells; Browns; Clarkes; Collins and Woods...

The first cabins were built on Indian Creek above the forks. Those who followed soon after were:

Mordecai Collins; James and John Taylor; Madison Martin; William Williams; Jacob Garrison; Ludlow Hand; Judge Mills; William Ferguson; Jacob Miller; Amos and Jonathan David; Thos. Hobson; Adam Smith; John Daniel; John Smith; Abraham Coffman; Major Stewart; James Alward; Joseph Woodville; John Moore; John McKown; Jacob Floor; Morris Morris; Major Lucas; Benjamin Bower; Daniel D. Porter; William Foster; Benj. Haines; Rubin Smith; Mathian Sappenfield; Christian Hampel and Alexander Hedden...

The above were all settlers in this township prior to 1826, and some of them came as early as 1810 - or before!!!

The Boston family; Brown family; John Clarke family and the William Well family settled near together on Indian Creek. When they first came the whole country was a wilderness, with no settlement nearer than Corydon. The site of New Albany was then a wilderness with but a single settler, a man named JOHN SPRATT, an Indian trader, who occupied a pole cabin and kept a few trinkets for barter with his red neighbors.

Several additions were made to Greenville. The first by ISAAC STEWART on December 10, 1831. He was a very influential settler and the first regular merchant. He had a frame building which contained a mercantile business. The store carried a fair stock of all classes of goods and traded much in produce, as money was a scarce article. He also operated a tannery. He later represented the county in the State Legislature and afterward moved to St. Louis...

The second addition was by WILLIAM M. FOSTER on August 20, 1834 and the third was by him also, on December 1, 1836.

One of the first settlers was McCLURE, a brother-in-law of Haines. He kept a saloon, was probably the first in the town. DANIEL D. PORTER, a Yankee and a tavern keeper, his brothers JAMES & Julius R. Porter, followed, the former, a doctor and the latter, also a tavern keeper. WILLIAM FOSTER came from Kentucky to Livonia and then to Greenville. He established a tavern in both places. Nearly every other cabin in those days was a tavern. There was considerable travel and these were a necessity for rest and refreshment.

At a meeting on February 10, 1819, the county commissioners made the following price regulations for the taverns on the turnpike: Breakfast - 31½¢; Dinner - 37½¢; Supper - 25¢; Brandy and gin - 18-3/4¢ a half pint; Spirits - 37½¢ a pint; lodging 12½¢ a night; corn and oats - 12½¢ a gallon; stabling - 37½¢; 2 horses - 62½¢. The tavern keepers dared not overcharge or their business would cease! There was an abundance of traffic and they were protected from overcharging...

ABRAHAM COFFMAN was among the earliest settlers. He came from Pennsylvania. He was the proprietor of a horse mill and one of the first millers in Greenville township! He accumulated considerable property. JACOB MILLER was among the early settlers on Indian Creek, and subsequently represented the county in the Legislature. JACOB FLOOR was one of the first tanners in the Greenville village. He sold out later on to GEORGE SEASE. A Mr. MORRIS MORRIS had the first horse mill in the village. He

settled on Richland Creek. ADAM SMITH had the first water mill on Indian Creek. REASON SMITH owned and operated a copper shop.

JAMES GREGG established primitive mills for Carding and Fulling. Also, at the same time, he operated a tavern; a tanning yard; a horse mill. In 1817, he was appointed a Lieutenant in the Militia of the state by Gov. Jonathan Jennings and afterward held a commission as Colonel til he passed on. He was a carpenter and built many of the houses in Greenville. One built in 1816, owned by CHRISTIAN HAMPEL and used as a paint shop and warehouse, was weather-boarded over logs.

The JOHN SAPPENFIELDS of Greenville came there near 1863. It seems as if there were more church organizations in proportion to the number of people in those days than at the present time; and also more people belonged to some church organization then in proportion to the whole number of inhabitants. One fact remains, the religion of the people has changed very materially.

The earliest preachers were missionaries sent out by some society among the 'heathens' of the Western wilderness to convert them to their way of thinking and build up churches that would stand forever to the honor and glory of the Master they desired simply and humbly serve.

Some of the early preachers who served in the area were:

Reuben Smith and Frederick Reasor of the Baptist; E. B. Mann of the Universalist; Richard Lane and John & Jacob Wright of the Christian (or Disciple Church); Ashabel Wells and Reed of the Presbyterian; Rev. Hester of the Methodist Episcopal; and Rev. Glenn of the Lutheran.

The Latter Day Saints, Mormon had a meeting house on the Greenville to Scottsville Road near the Lafayette township line. Same log buildings once used by the Campbellites. It was on land owned by M. C. EMMONS. It was called Mt. Eden. The "New Lights" built the building but the church did not survive.

The Baptists erected two churches. One on Indian Creek and the other about 1½ miles west of the site of Greenville. Some members included the Crooks, Reasors, Randoms, Ellises, Brooks. PHILIP ENGLEMAN originally owned the land on which Indian Creek Church was built. The other church was built on land originally owned by STEPHEN REDDEN.

St. John's Lutheran Church was located on Richland Creek near the southern line of the township. Mordecai Collins, Jacob Summers, Jacob Engleman, Jacob Yenawine, John Engleman, Jacob Buckhart, Phelix Blankbeker, Philip Bierley, the Martins and Zimmerman families were some members of this church organization. The Rev. Glenn was the pastor. The Universalist church had a pastor who was a very respected man in the community, a MR. E. B. MANN. He preached wherever he could get an audience.

In 1840, Rev. Hinkle was the pastor of the Lutheran Church. During this time, this society divided, many, including the pastor adopted the doctrine of the Universal salvation. He later became a Universalist preacher. As the years wore on, they dwindled away...

The United Brethren was organized in 1855 and were made up of the members of Joseph Summers, Jacob Stearns, John Otz and David Mosier. They still held meetings (1882) but were not a strong society.

In 1866 the Presbyterians organized in the southern part of the township, calling themselves, St. Johns Presbyterian Church. The REV. PHILLIP BEVAN, a Welshman, helped with setting this up. Some of those members were Madison Martins, Sarah Martin and daughter, Augustus Engleman, John Smith, J. B. Kepley, T. J. Williams and Phillip Martin.

The Union Church was located on Section 8, land owned by MR. T. HOBSON. It was never a st~~ong~~tchurch. Meetings were held in an old school house. Some of the first members were: William Williams, Joseph Summers. REV. HENRY BONEBROKE helped to organize this church and some other ministers here were Rev. Messrs. Chittenden, Jacob Abbot and Isaac Heistand. The church declined as time went on. The Christian church of Greenville was organized in 1833.

The Chapel Hill Christian Church was built on land owned by Frederick Goss. A frame building on a hill. The cost at approximately \$1,000.00. It was organized at the old Mt. Edin Church. Some of the original members were: Gosses, Fredericks, James and Calvins. Others connected with it were the Reasors, Scotts, Dallas Brown and the Millers. Membership at one time ran over 100. The church is still strong (1974).

The Presbyterian organized March, 1843 by REV. BENJAMIN NICE. The founding members were the Loughmillers. JOHN LOUGHMILLER came from Tennessee and were Presbyterians. He made a vow that if the Lord would bring him and family safely here, he would do something here for His honor and glory. In fulfillment of this pledge then, he almost without aid, except for his sons, built the Presbyterian Church of Greenville. He was a carpenter by trade. Financially he was assisted by contributions from those interested in church matters. Most came out of his own pocket, though.

Rev. Messrs. Reed and Ashabel Wells were the first pastors. The first meetings were held in the school house and also in the Methodist church. The Loughmillers who were members were John, Jacob, William, Joseph, A.R., Christina and Matilda. Mary Kepler and Lydia Porter were members also. The frame buildding erected in 1849 cost \$1,300.00. The church declined as the years rolled by.

St. Mary's Catholic Church was organized in 1840 by FATHER MEYRON from New Albany. It is about three miles northeast of Greenville located on land originally owned by M. KINGSBURGER. It was a hewed-log building. Among the original members were the Kingsburgers, Kresners, Peter Miller, Daniel Missey, J. Naville, M. Naville, T. Keiger and the Stangles. They later built a brick church east of this one in Lafayette township. They have a Parochial School there, also.

A lot of one acre in the town of Greenville was donated by MR. ISAAC REDMAN for the purpose of building the County Seminary. It was located across Harrison St. from the Methodist Church. A brick building costing \$2,800.00 was built nby William Loughmiller. It was two stories high and 30 x 50 ft. in dimension. In 1852, the graded school system came in to operation and the County Seminary was sold at public auction for \$1,000 to JESSE J. BROWN. The District purchased it and used it for common school purposes.

The first teacher in the Seminary was NORMAL J. COLEMAN. He daught two or three terms and then moved to St. Louis. He married CLARA PORTER, of Greenville.

The Greenville Cemetery was laid out December 6, 1852 by SAMUAL SEASE, Julius R. Porter, Reuben C. Smith, C. S. Sample and Jacob Sheets...

The great earthquake of 1811 followed soon after the arrival of the steamboats at the Falls of the Ohio. The first shock was felt by the settlers in Floyd County on the 16th of December and continued with variet severity until the 21st of April 1812, when the last tremor was felt!!!

The pioneers witnessed many changes in the countryside at this time. Many previously living streams of water disapea;red entirely and their former beds are now overgrown with forests or covered with cultivated fields. Trees moved, chimneys fell, homes were cracked, great rocks fell and crushed trees and foliage as they came rumbling down the hills.

The road (Paoli Turnpike), now US 150, began to impprove and connected the oldest town of Vincennes with the Falls of the Ohio. Distance being 104 miles. Stages

went East one day and West the next day. During the 1820s and continued despite the railroad until 1880s. As the railroad and ships improved, the stage went only as far as Paoli, 41 miles, where the turnpike ends.

When Greenville first sprang into existence the roads were frequently so bad the stage was abandoned and the mail carried on a heavy two-wheeled cart drawn by four horses. Greenville was granted provision for a Post Office in 1819 by the Congress, being one of the first in Indiana. The Post Office (Greenville) was the first established within the present limits of the township. KIRKPATRICK was the first postmaster.

In order that those traveling might rest and refresh, the stage stopped here every day. Because of this, the first Log Tavern was erected on the public square by a man named DONAHUE, where the hotel of CHRISTIAN MOSIER was. It was the second building on the town plat. At one time in the history of this community, it supported approximately ten taverns in and around Greenville along with home distilleries and winemakers.

JAMES ALLWARD was a Yankee and probably the first doctor in the Greenville area. Close behind came DR. CONKLING and DR. HAYDEN. DR. REUBEN C. SMITH came along a few years later. Also one of the first doctors was STUART F. COFFMAN of Greenville. His thesis was "Typhoid Fever" and was submitted to the Transylvania Medical Univ.

Other professions represented in Greenville during this time were: DAVID SIGLER, lawyer; JAMES DAVID, Robert KAY, JAMES MURPHY, doctors.

The first secret society was the "Sons of Temperance and Good Templars"!!! It was operating as early as 1845. Some of the charter members were:

A. R. Loughmiller, Thomas Bower, Rev. John Peck, Dr. S. Payne, Philip Dosh, William D. Morris, John Russell, Theophilus Russell and William Loughmiller. The society grew, flourished, decayed and died like all other things mortal, partially fulfilled its mission by implanting the necessity of restraint in the use of liquors. The "Good Templars" flourished a little longer, their object being the same as above!

The Greenville Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons #416 was organized in 1868. The charter members were:

Thos. J. Williams, Jonathan David, Seth M. Brown, John G. Armbroster, Robert T. Keithley, George W. Lugenbeel, Robert Standeford, Samuel Thomas, Samuel W. Waltz and Charles Hemble.

The membership soon grew to 44. The lodge owned a hall in the upper story of the brick flouring mill.

The Greenville Lodge #344, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized March 17, 1870. The charter members were:

James Beck, Samuel Milligan, Albert McQuiddy, James Baner and James Pierce. It was organized in Steele's hall. The membership grew to 71 in the years that followed. The Sister Lodge Rebecca was organized also....

The "Knights of the Golden Circle" was formed during Morgan's Raid. A political society of nature, members sympathized with rebellion. They met at night in the woods in various deserted cabins. No stranger could enter the community and remain long a stranger, at least politically. It was a dangerous, explosive situation, and lasted until the war was over (Civil War)...

JAMES McCUTCHEON, Sr. became the first city officer, Feb. 8, 1819. At this time, Greenville Township started at the road above the Knobs to the Harrison County line.

March 4, 1819, boundaries were reduced to much smaller area. They have now been changed again (1974).

SYRINUS EMMONS was appointed the first constable of Greenville on May 17, 1819. On February 9, 1819, ISAAC STEWART of Greenville, was appointed 'Lister' for the county of Floyd. JOHN IRVIN, DAVID EDWARDS and ISAAC WOOD were appointed 'fence viewers' for Greenville. In 1820, the fence viewers were HENRY SIGLER, Sr., JAMES AKERS, ROBERT Brown for Greenville. JOHN B. HOWARD was appointed constable for Greenville. Later in the year JOHN R. KENDALL replaced him.

The old Collins farm supported one of the first brick homes built in this area in 1820. JAMES TAYLOR was among the first settlers in the southwest part of the township. One of the family still occupies the old homestead (1974)...

BENJAMIN BOWER, father-in-law to JOHN FORD was among the first settlers of Greenville. His saddle shop was where John got his start in Greenville. Greenville was surveyed by GEORGE SMITH, October 28, 1879. The number of voters was 102 and inhabitants 401. The wooded area gathered close to the town dimensions which have remained to the same since 1835 until recently, in 1960, when the town limits were extended to include some new subdivisions. The town rapidly grew and at one time had a population of nearly 600, with quite a variety of businesses.

There was a wooden clock factory ran by Haines. This was quite a business as they sold rapidly. Some of these clocks are still around and are quite valuable. SAMUEL SEASE and DAVID LUKENVILLE operated tanneries. There were three hotels kept by CHRISTIAN MOSIER, EMIL KRAMER and JOHN FLEISHER. MATILDA HAMBLE kept a dry goods and fancy store. ALEXANDER LOUGHMILLER ran a general grocery and provisions store. MARION STEELE ran a General Stock store; ROGER COMPTON, a General Stock store; J. N. SMITH, a grocery; MRS. J. N. SMITH had a millinery store; JAMES SAPPENFIELD ran a shoestore; CHARLES E. SCOTT, a grocery; HENRIETTA SMITH ran a millinery; MATHIAS SAPPENFIELD, a grocery; CHRISTIAN HAMBLE and JAMES LIPSCUM ran a blacksmith shop, JOHN NORRIS, Sr. ran an undershaking establishment, SMITH and KEETHELY, ROBERT SCOTT, G. W. MORRIS, JAMES SCOTT and JOHN GRAAM were coppersmiths. JACOB SHEETS a blacksmith.

A big fire of 1908 started in the home of POLLY WOOD and burned the store and Post Office and also quite a bit of the community. Farming, dairying and fruit orchards were the principal occupations in the 1940s and most homes were simple frame dwellings of mid-nineteenth century construction.

Most of the businesses have all gone, most of the churches have all given out and the town now (1974) supports a population of approximately 450. It is a quiet, peaceful country village again with only a couple churches, a grocery, a couple of filling stations, a barber shop, farm implements shop and a Volunteer Fire Dept.

FACTS:

The Treaty of Greenville, which the town is remembered for in History books, set the boundary lines for the opening of the Southeastern corn of Indiana. It set up limits on the settlers of Indiana 'Indian Lands.' The Treaty of Greenville, signed in 1795 under the leadership of Gov. Harrison. The Treaty was to protect the Indian hunting grounds. But, as soon as the Treaty was signed, Kentucky hunters began to cross the Ohio River and became squatters on the north side. Trouble began at once and Gov. Harrison, knowing he couldn't keep settlers from coming across the river, began to get the Indians out of the way...

LATER NEWS:

A fire took all of NOBLE MILLER's Farm Implement store and garage in the center of town on May 31, 1967. He was seriously burned and was in the hospital approximately

eight weeks. He later rebuilt on Highway 150 next door to the Methodist parsonage.

In February, 1960, Greenville annexed an acre on both sides of 150 from Buttontown Road to the end of Parkland Heights and from the Voyles Road to Highway 335 intersection. Other additions include a parcel north of Clark and another between Bradford Road and the old town.

Town Board president VERNON McKOWN reported that the move taken was a forward look to help plan for the future. After all, we are only 20 minutes from downtown Louisville. This also clarified who should be paying taxes to the town of Greenville and who shouldn't!

On December 18, 1963, the WALTER, WOODY and HEIMERDINGER CO. successfully submitted a bid to the Greenville Water Utility bond issue. Town Board president McKOWN said construction of the community water system would start in about 30 days. A twelve acre spring-fed reservoir will provide water for the system.

The Greenville Post Office moved into a newly completed brick building on April 30, 1967. For the past 27 years, it has been in the home of MRS. HILDA MILLER. Dedication of the new building was held on May 21 at 2 p.m.

On August 23, 1967, the Greenville community invited the public to a celebration marking the formal opening of the shelter house, newly built in the 14½ acre community Park.

GALENA, Greenville's neighbor...

Galena was platted in 1836 in the vain hope that Paoli Turnpike, then being surveyed, it would make it a great city. It was first called Germantown because of the large number of Germans in the community.

Galena had two copper shops and a factory making bellows for blacksmith's furnaces. The Galena Mill, built in 1857, was once a stream powered flour mill. It is now the Odd Fellows Hall and an apartment house with a public laundry in the basement,

Because of the many streams and salt springs in this vicinity, the site was a popular Indian camping and hunting ground and there were several Indian burial grounds in the neighborhood.

RESTORATION OF "LOST" GREENVILLE CEMETERY...

Restoration of the 'lost' cemetery near Greenville, in which some members of the Capt. JOHN FORD family are buried, was sought by MR. AIDEN, as he asked for help of the Floyd County Historical Society back in March 1951..

Mr. Aiken, guest speaker at the March meeting of the society at the public library, related the history of Capt. Ford and his role in American glass-making, which he is preparing in book form to be published under the title "Up-Stream". (WILLIAM E. AIKEN was the public relations direction of the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Corp. of Toledo, Ohio, and biographer of Capt. Ford.

Mr. Aiken told of a search for the Floyd County cemetery which had been 'lost' for 50 years and how it was finally discovered by persons in the Greenville community who became interested in the quest.

He spoke of his first visit to the burial ground where a few worn stones were found in a forgotten spot on the OLD VINCENNES TRAIL. Adding that members of the Ford family would be interested in aiding financially in the restoration of the cemetery and possibly in a move to reconstruct the Shraders Chapel of pioneer days. Shraders Chqpel was named after the Rev. John Shrader, first Methodist minister in Indiana.

He was known as the "Boy Wonder!" because of his tender years when he started preaching. Restoration of the Chapel and Cemetery should be one of the Historical Shrines of Indiana. Mr. Aiken expressed hope that the Historical Society would undertake sponsorship of such a movement.

As of this date in 1974, nothing has been done to accomplish either of the above mentioned. It is still known as the "Lost" cemetery of Greenville.

SENIOR CITIZENS REMEMBER GREENVILLE!!!!

A chat with LOTTIE FINGER - Lottie's grandmother PHILINAPS BRACKEN was a young girl when the old plank road was put down. They lived where Pearce Bottle Gas is now located. The basement part of the building was a restaurant and she cooked for the men working on the road. She married SAM BURREL and moved to a farm near Fredericksburg.

In 1893, her daughter, Phoebe, and husband, FRANK GOSS, moved to Greenville. They bought the hotel located at Main and W. Third Sts. across from the Antique Shop, owned by JOHN FLETCHER, and the fixtures, including the saloon, owned by HENRY STEELE. John Fletcher was the grandfather of FRANK FINGER and his mother was BERTHA FLETCHER. The hotel had a big barn at the back for horses, so he also ran a livery stable. He built the buggy shed to take care of several buggies at one time, which kept them very busy. Early in the week, several Huckster wagons, some from as far away as Rego, would go thru the community gathering up their produce and spend the night at the hotel on their way to Louisville. At the latter part of the week, they'd be back with groceries, dry goods, shoes, ribbons and notions of all sorts to sell on their way home. Around 1919 Frank Goss sold the hotel to FRANK REISERT, Jr., his son in law.

The blacksmith shop at that time was run by FRANK REISERT, Sr. and owned by VERNIE brothers, FRANK and ADOLPH. Their monument shop was in the back of the blacksmith shop. They sold out to WILLIAM and HARVEY SULLIVAN and moved the monument business to New Albany. Around 1910 Sullivans sold to Frank Reisert, Sr. The Sullivans moved to Pekin, then later to Salem. They had run a grocery and huckster wagon, also. Frank Reisert, Sr. sold to Frank, Jr., and he was in business there until his death in 1943.

On May 13, 1946, MARVIN, his son, opened the Gulf Service Station at the same address. Marvin retired on Dec. 22, 1967. This station is now owned by TOM CUNDIFF and seems to be on the boom again. (1974)

The big fire in 1908 did not destroy the blacksmith shop here. I believe CEASOR COFFMAN, a prominent farmer at that time, was at the blacksmith shop, crawled up on top of the building and as the sparks caught a shingle, he pulled it off; therefore helping, along with the bucket brigade, to stop the fire there...

This brings us to the old antique building. According to some news items, this was one of JOHN FORD's dinitial enterprizes - he ran a saddle shop and a flour mill here. I've been told that CHRISTIAN HAMPEL, Sr. ran a meat packing business and around 1816, built the house known to us as EDITH BROCK's at Main (#150) and West 4th Street.

When the flour mill moved to New Albany, they left some of the sack material, so the young girls would go over and make their dolls dresses out of the material. MRS. SALLY JACOBS lived in the back. The young people would save their pennies, buy sugar and go over to Sally's and she'd bake taffy for them - a highlight of the day...

FRANK GOSS sold fertilizer, farm machinery, buggies and such. They stocked the 2nd floor (Masonic side) and opened the two big front doors and let the buggies and etc. down by ropes. This old building is the two buildings known as the Odd Fellow

and Masonic. The Odd Fellows Lodge on the left side and Masonic Lodge on the right. The Odd Fellows built the steps in the front in order to have outside entrance to the 2nd floor.

Around the turn of the century that was quite a busy spot. It seems when anyone wished to entertain, the upstairs was just the right place. Churches held their socials there, suppers, dances or frequently.. The west side entrance which went to the 2nd floor was for plays. After the plays, it was for movies. Every Thursday evening HARRY HURRLE from Bordon came over and ran the movies. This was around 1920 to 1923.

The Redmen sponsored Memorial Day parades. The Redman (Pocahontas); Odd Fellows and the Rebecca marched, the children wore Indian suits, feathers and all, furnished by the Redmen. Parades started at the lodge building and finished at the Cemetery.

There were several who ran grocery stores there. ED STEIN and JOE FITZ sold Fertilizer and farm machinery there and many years later, NOBEL MILLER had farm machinery there also...

Around 1900 MR. HUSSING ran the post office there for a while and CHARLIE JOHNSON had the store. JOE SCHILMILLER and CHARLIE McCUTCHIN RENTED it and ran the store. but was having trouble staying out of the red. In 1915, they asked WALTER OLLIS if he'd like to run the store. Walt, as he was called, did not have the capital but was willing to try if he could make arrangements. He ran the store there for 20 years and then built across the street in 1935, and was there until his death in 1965.

I understand there was still a skeleton in a closet upstairs when the present owners, MR & MRS. WALTER HAM, bought the place - many beautiful costumes. Thru the years, this old building has been home for several around Greenville. Greenville had many social affairs in the early part of 1900 and even into the 30's...

Did you know there was a cigar factory here around 1890 til 1906, located in the 3d building east of Voiles Road on #150? (Cigar brand 'Blue Jay') GEO JACOBI, Sr. and his wife, ALZARA, ran the business. EARL SCHAMEL remembers well the molds, etc. Tobacco, in big boxes, was shipped in. They sold to one company only. He started a milk route for Ewing, Louisville, and also hauled tomatoes for Hirsch, Louisville from 1921 to 1927. Later, they ran a grocery in the same building where the cigar factory had been and built a creamery across the street next to Main's place. The dairy moved to New Albany in 1936. Now, only concrete blocks and such remain there. (Nortew

BILLY CREEK ran the toll gate on the corner of Voiles Rd. and 150. The same building still stands with an addition added. This being the last stop to Paoli.

TRUE's store, the big building next to the town square was not destroyed by the fire. The barber shop now owned by BERNIE LEUTHART at one time had scales in front. The old hitching post was there years after the auto took over transportation. Around 1900 this was a saloon, changing into a barbershop in the early 1900s.

Before 1900, TRUES store was a hotel with saloon, restaurant and big barn in back to take care of the horses. Horses that pulled the bus from Greenville to New Albany were kept there. Geo. Sullivan and MOSE DODGE were a couple of the drivers.

Around 1900, Anna Smith opened a Millinery Shop here and ran it for years. ROBERT TRUE bought the store in 1919, moved in the back and built on in the front. He had a general store - yard goodz, groceries, jewelry, etc. and ran the store as long as his health permitted. His wife, BERT, and her sister, VELVA MARTIN, ran it until 1957. Velva helped Bert for years prior to Mr. True's death. They recall all the fun they had in the store, visits from friends and neighbors, tall tales told, all the things that go with a small neighborhood store. Velva enjoyed the yard goods department and Mr. True preferred the grocery...

JESSE SMITH had a grocery store in the old two story home on the corner of Old Pekin Rd and #150., selling watches, jewelry and running a mail order place also. Some of the older senior citizens remember buying their first rings from Smith. According to abstract, this place dates back to 1836. JOHN FORD and MARY sold it to JESSE CRIM and CHARLES SEMPLE at that time. On March 18, 1843, John Ford bought it back. Then, REUBEN SMITH bought it in 1855, and it was handed down to JESSIE SMITH in 1911.

Smith had the store here for many years. There was a porch which run along the side until someone missed the curve and took down part of the porch - so all was removed.

There seems to have been a sawmill owned and run by JOE and BILL BRISCO. There was also a box factory down by the pump below MRS. MONTGOMERY's house across from the store now owned and run by CARL KEISLER.

At the time GLEN REISERT's father's home burned (1943), his daughter, HELEN, and her child were living downstairs in the house. Her husband was in the service. NORMA JEAN (Williams) MILLER was staying with Helen. They ran out of the house, neither remembering to grab the baby. The neighbors were holding Helen, since it was so dangerous to go back in. Jean dashed back in (knowing where the baby's bed was) grabbed the baby and something to go over the baby's head, fell to the floor and crawled out with the baby....

On May 31, 1967, NOBLE MILLER's fire was started when a spark from someone's welding and an open can (to clean par in) of gasoline. Noble tried to carry it outside and was burned critically. He was in the hospital about 8 weeks. He rebuilt on Hiway 150 across from the old stone quarry - where it now stands.

Can you imagine as we stop and think how busy Hiway 150 is, that MR. FRANK GOSS and GEORGE FERBER would drive turkeys to market in Louisville (along with their helpers). When the turkeys were ready for market, they would buy them from the farmers, round them up and start off down the middle of 150. When it was time to go to roost, the turkeys would start looking for a spot to roost and they'd stop there. Up in the trees they'd go and next morning down they would fly, then the men would gather them up and again head for market. What a job that would be nowadays.

TRUE's GROCERY....

True's market was started in 1919 by MR. & MRS. ROBERT TRUE. Mrs. True, the former BERTHA BURKHART, daughter of MR. & MRS. WILLIAM (Laura) BUREKHART.

The store was opened Monday thru Saturday, serving the community faithfully. Mr. True was one of the most loveable characters I have ever met and definitely the most devout Democrat in the whole United States. Mrs. True was always in the store looking so perky with her lovely print dresses and fancy aprons.

After the death of Mr. True, she and her sister VELVA MARTIN, ran the store for a short period of time and then she sold the business to MR. & MRS. WALLACE CLARK MILLER (Norma Jean) in the spring of 1957. We were there until 1964.

During this time, the old pot bellied stove was still the favorite place for the old timers, telling their stories as they had for many years. We have heard stories of all kinds and descriptions. I wish now I had kept a record of some of the old stories about buffalo trails, Indian raids, Morgan's raid, trapping, hunting, fishing, politics and many other happenings of the community.

Some of the old timers were EARL S^{en} PENFIELD, CLYDE KEITHLY, JOE OLLIS, HENRY KEEHAN but to name a few of the bench warmers. Stores not always remembered the same which led to quite a noise. They were back again the next morning bright and early. One

story of the Indian raids seemed to go like this:

"There was a stockade on the vacant lots between 3rd W. Str. and Voyles Road on 150. When the raid was at Pigeon Roost, they had word to head to the stockade; everyone was accounted for except one of the men which depended too much on his bottle! After midnight they heard blood curdling screams or it sounded as much to them. They were sure the Indians had found him! The next day a few men went looking for him to find out he had been singing to the top of his lungs and was found knocked out from over-indulgence with his favorite company."

Some of their other favorite stories were about the Stage Coach House; Jacobi's Dairy; Risert Homes (destroyed by fire); Dodge Tavern; (Old Rainbolt house that was torn down) hotel; Goss (torn down) Beer Garden; Harold Goss; Miller's Garage (Noble Miller - later destroyed by fire); Clark Store (Van Winkle, now Greenville Market); Phone exchange until dial took over; Homer (Bumb) Hancock - meat peddler; Virginia Ingram - meat peddler; Mill (Mr. Brisco then, John Laibb now; Carl Keisler & Sons S & T Store; Shoe Shop; Spenfield; Undertaker Levi Clkpp...

It seems the undertaker was located straight across 150 from the shoe shop. And, the Bear Waller, so the old timers story goes. It seems that bears had a favorite salt lick somewhere around Paul Hartfields' farm and would travel over to a place in back of Neals' farm to waller.

THE GREAT FIRE OF GREENVILLE Thurzday, March 26, 1908..

Thursday morning, while the wind was blowing a gale from the South toward the north-east, alarm of fire sent a thrill of horror thru the inhabitants of the doomed village. In the tenement house of MRS. MARY K. WOOD, one of the tenants was ironing, using an old flue which had been condemned by the Town Board, and which was under protest by the residents centrally located. R. M. COMPTON saw the flames leap from the chimney and the wind sent the blazing coals of soot onto the roof and in an instant the dry old shingles burned into powder; the wind lifting the fire brands and sending them across the street to make a bonfire of the house of ELMORE SCHAMEL, which was owned by MISS CLARA STEELE, of New Albany.

In less than two minutes the sheet of fire fanned by the wind spread to an old store room belonging to MR. CHESTER STEELE, of New Albany, which stood west, and the home of MR. & MRS. HARVEY SULLIVAN, which was owned by MR. ADOLPH VERNIA, of New Albany ... and stood west of the SCHAMEL home ... and from them to a large building owned by MR. R. M. COMPTON, in which he conducted a general store, kept the postoffice and resided... (typed exactly like they wrote it...)

This stopped the fire going east. West from Chester Steele's property and across the alley was the general store of the SULLIVAN Bros. This was a large building and owned by Mrs. Frances Steele, of New Albany, and the residence portion was occupied by MR. & MRS. H. H. STEELE. The flames and burning embers were carried North to Clark St. and in its path stood the homes of MR. JESSE HOPPER and AMOS WELLS, which were soon laid in ashes.

On this street was an old building belonging to RACHEL RAGAN, also burned. From the Steele building directly west was a cottage belonging to PHILLIP REISERT which was destroyed and the beautiful cottage home of DR. WILLIAMS near and most of the Reisert home. Here buildings stood on the north side of Main St. and the fire on this side was gotten under control by a bucket brigade by throwing water over an old blacksmith shop. Men were on the roof of this old building, while others carried water up ladders and handit it to the men on top. This stopped the fire on the North side of the pike. While these businesses, houses and homes were buring, all the stables and outhouses in the rear of the lots were also in flames. Among which was a large barn belonging to the SULLIVAN Bros. and in which was stored several hundred tons of hay and 700 bushels of corn. All this was burned. Hogs and chickens were burned to cinders.

Back at the starting point, the POLLY WOOD home on the south side of the pike. The building West was owned by MR. FRANK GOSS and was occupied by MR & MRS. JACOB FOUTS and RACHEL RAGAN and family. West of this was a small building owned by W. L. SULLIVAN and only two feet from the WEBB HOTEL. This was the largest building around and West only a few feet away stood the burning barn. West of this was a tenement house owned by MRS. SARAH JACOBS, and in which MR. & MRS. MILLER lived. West of this building stood an old tumble-down and while it was burning the fire fighters used big iron hooks and FRANK GOSS hitched a team of horses to this old shack and razed it to the ground and this caused the flames to burn lower and by the aid of the bucket brigade throwing water over his hotel, the fire was subdued on the north side.

The school house on back street was also burned. In all, 24 dwellings, barns and outhouses were in the fire half hour after the first burst out of the Wood house, consequently very little was saved. On account of the wind, the northside of the pike had no chance whatever to save anything and were fortunate to escape with their lives. Sixteen families were left homeless; \$100,000 would not replace the property destroyed.

Hundreds of visitors were here Sunday to see the ruins made by an ocean of fire. Some pathetic and amusing incidents on Thursday's fire were:

HUBERT KEITHLEY, the little son of MR. & MRS. WM. KEITHLEY; the little son was found after the fire in a fence corner with his belongings, a bicycle, a goat, a wagon and dog. He was sitting in the midst of these crying when found.

After the teachers and scholars rushed from the school building, they went to the assistance of R. M. COMPTON and Roger said after it was over that they all carried goods until the old structure which had stood for more than 92 years was ready to fall.

NELLIE HANCOCK, the small boy of MR. GEO. HANCOCK was carrying a can containing powder down Chapel Street when he was met by someone who asked what he had. Nellie said, "it's powder, how far down this way must I carry it"? He set it at the steps of the M.E. Church which stood untouched by the fire, just like a beacon...

Mrs. Webb was leading her 6 year old son down the street after the fire looking at the ruins of her home. The little fellow asked "Mama where are we going to sleep tonight?" A young lady found MRS. R. M. COMPTON's hat blowing down the pike. She picked it up and caught in the brimming was a nickel. She put the hat away among the goods that had been saved, and afterwards asked if anyone saw where she had laid the nickel...

DR. WILLIAMS walked up the street Friday morning with his coat pockets full of relics. We asked "what he was going to do with them". He said, "Well, I picked them up and thought I would put them away - after a second thought, I have no place to put them!"

MRS. JACK CULLEN helped to hold a wagon bed, loaded with furniture from the Goss Hotel on a log wagon. The horses were hitched to the end of the tongue; the double trees having been taken off for another wagon. The driver went to turn into a field off the pike when the bed almost upset. Mrs. Cullen, not knowing the name of the driver, called "Stop, honey, until I get hold of the other corner". While telling about it, Mrs. Cullen said "My, gentlemen, I never was so proud of my 247 pounds in all my life. I swung every ounce of her onto the corner of that bed and held her down and we got into the field with the furniture safe..."

DR. WILLIAMS will still remain in Greenville, regardless of reports to the contrary. As soon as he can get his drugs. He has purchased the old Durbin property. (My note: Dr. Williams was later killed by an auto while crossing 150 - 84 years old..)

R. M. COMPTON has his store in the Odd Fellows building at the Johnsons old stand..

(End of eye-witness report on the fire of 1908..)

GREENVILLE FLAG ...

In the spring of 1969, the Greenville Park Board sponsored a flag contest. The children in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades at the Greenville Elementary School participated in the contest by drawing a picture of what they thought a flag for the city should be. The pictures were judged by VERNON MCKOWN, THE President of the Town Board at that time. The picture was taken to the Oates Flag Co., in Louisville and, after few modifications, a flag was made and purchased with donations of \$80. collected from door-to-door soliciting. The flag, designed by GLEN BURKHART, age 11, is a green background with a buffalo in the center to represent the old buffalo trail which ran thru Greenville. The date, 1816, is below the buffalo, signifying the date for which the city was laid out..

GREENVILLE PARK...

The Greenville community opened its playground on June 15, 1959 with \$150.00 in donations from the town's people. It was located on the Greenville Elementary School playground. The New Albany Department of Parks and Recreation provided the program and trained the leaders. MRS. JUDY HARTFIELD SCOTT and CHARLES 'Buddy' MILLER were the first two leaders. The playground came about thru the efforts of the Greenville School PTA. Serving on that special committee were: MRS. WM DOWELL, MRS. OSCAR HARTFIELD, Jr., MRS. CARL C. HAYS and MRS. BERKY MOTSINGER.

In September of 1964, 14½ acres were purchased by the Greenville Progressive Assn, Inc., a newly formed organization of five men ... GLADDEN BOAZ, ROBERT C. EVANS, CARL KIESLER, LOUIS SHREWSBURY and PARK G. WARREN. They purchased the ground from IRI SAPPENFIELD for \$6,500. In August, 1967, the Floyd County Dept. of Parks and Recreation bought the park and has helped maintain it up to this time (1974). The park site is on the Buttontown Road, just south of Hiway 150. Park improvements have been carried out largely thru volunteer labor. The accomplishments to present are a shelter house, two baseball diamonds, one with lights, a basketball court, picnic tables, electricity, water, barbecue grills, swings, slides and other playground equipment. Tennis courts are in the planning..

GREENVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH...

The Christian Church of Greenville was organized in 1833 by CYRUS BRADFORD, ROBERT SCOTT, R. C. SCOTT, MARTIN CRIM and JESSE CRIM.

Meetings are held (were held) in the old school house by REV. RICHARD LANE, the first pastor, who remained there approximately 15 years. The church was built in 1840-45 at a cost of about \$1,600.00.

It is a vital part of Greenville, the first membership consisted of 13 members. The church building was to be used for any Protestant group. Rev. Little and Clark from Clark County, Ind. also served for many years. They, like the Methodist, have had their ups and downs thru the years; being the only two churches still existing in Greenville (1974). (My note: There is the New Hope Baptist church in 1994..)

January 31, 1954, the cornerstone was laid for their new Indiana limestone building. Names of more than 100 people, members and friends of the Greenville Christian Church were written mainly by their own hands on parchment paper and placed in a sealed copper box and enclosed in the cornerstone

On September 5, 1954, the congregation walked out of the old building and into the new under the leadership of REV. C. C. CALLAHAN who served as pastor from 1942 to

1963, when he retired from the ministry. The completed building was dedicated November 28, 1954.

On October 12, 1963, a new brick veneer was dedicated as the parsonage. The first minister to live in their new parsonage was REV. RICHARD WILLIAMS and family. REV. & MRS. JOHN SCHLUETER presently reside there. MRS. ELLA HOPPER is remembered as a servant at the piano for more than 30 years. Mrs. Hopper was Greenville's music teacher, driving her buggy from one home to another to give lessons to her pupils. Her sister in-law, MARY (Amos) WELLS was very faithful, dedicated member and Sunday School teacher for many years.

PONY EXPRESS....

The Pony Express is a thing of the past...today! The real Pong Express operated from 1861 until 1867 and was financed by private funds. Its functions later were carried out by Wells-Fargo, a concern which in turn was put out of business by the telegraph. The fastest ride ever made by the Pony Express was that from St. Joseph, Mo. to Sacramento, Calif. in 7½ days.

Each driver was required to take the following oath:

"I hereby swear, before the Great and Living God, that, during my engagement, and while I am an employee of the United States Post Office, I will, under no circumstances, use profane language; that I will drink no intoxicating liquors; that I will not quarrel or fight with any other employee of the firm, and that in every respect I will conduct myself honestly, be faithful to my duties and so direct all my acts as to win the confidence of my employers... so help me God!"

17 riders carried the mail from New Albany to Palmyra, May 10, 1967, a distance of 20.8 miles - in an hour and 37 minutes. The ride coincided with a meeting at Palmyra of 140 postmasters from thruout the 8th & 9th Indiana Congressional districts, plus a few from Ohio and Kentucky. The Pony Express re-enactment began in New Albany at 10:40 am and ended in Palmyra at 12:20 pm. The pouch contained 300 pieces of official U.S. mail, including welcoming letters to the postmaster from Indiana. Gov. Roger Brannigin, Senn.Vance Hartke, Mayor Inman and souvenir cards printed in gold addressed to each of the visitors.

Greenville was granted provision for a post office in 1819 by the Congress, being one of the first in Indiana. The post office of Greenville was the first established within the present limits of the township. KIRKPATRICK was the first postmaster.

Past salaries: 1825 - \$13.44; 1839 - \$95.36; 1841 - \$65.51; 1843; \$131.00

The Greenville Post Office has had a feminine touch since 1931 when MRS. HAZEL CLARK became post mistress. But, especially since 1940. With such excellent clerks as MRS. ESTHER FERBER, during her early years and MRS. DELMA LAMB at a later date; MRS. HILDA MILLER was the head of this post office. She ran it with dignity and humility and a bit of humor now and then.

Mrs. Miller, a widow since 1952, reared her family in the old post office, darting back and forth from the kitchen range to the stamp counter. Over the years, Mrs. Miller said the volume of mail had increased 400% to 500%. After the 5 p.m. post office closing time, she tackled the harder postal chores, including study of the new regulations.

The post office serves 600 patrons. Some 137 families pick up their mail in the post office building. "They're all neighbors and friends." Most of them exchange a sentence or two with the post mistress as they open their postal boxes...

The post office had been at Hilda's home three different times. When Hilda took over

in 1940 they moved the post office down to EDITH BROCK's home and remained there until the new post office was opened in 1967.

I am sure Mrs. Miller has been missed since she retired on June 23, 1972 but her very capable clerk, MRS. DELMA LAMB, has been appointed Post Mistress with BERNICE JOHNSON as her clerk. I am sure she will carry on in the tradition established in years gone by and add her own special brand of the feminine touch. Delma was in charge June 24, 1972 and was officially appointed Post Mistress on Apr. 11, 1973.

THE OLDEST MILLER IN INDIANA ... September 1, 1926

Under the shade of the big trees in front of the home of DR. WILLIAM R. WILLIAMS (his son-in-law) on the State Highway in Greenville sat an old man dozing lightly in the warm noon breeze. It was ELLMORE SMITH. He did not look more than many men of 60, but he was 97 years old!!!! He was born on Easter Day in 1829, on Indian Creek (later called Thompkins Mill)..

He was an old miller and also an Odd Fellow. He was the oldest living citizen in Floyd County and believe to be in Indiana in 1926. He was not working at this time. He was the only surviving charter member of the Greenville Odd Fellows Lodge. There were 16 charter members 56 years ago...

While the water lasted in the creeks, there was no rest in the life of a miller. His father died in 1847 and the mill was sold. He affirmed that the boys of the old days used to come to the mill with a sack of wheat slung over the withers of the horse they were riding. The farmers came with a load on their wagons and sometimes they sold outright, sometimes the miller took his toll. Money was scarce. There were no elevators then and it was pretty hard to tell always what the price of wheat was and what the price of flour might be later. Milling was a risky business.

He worked in many mills for many others. He was now resting at his son-in-laws and daughters, Dr. & Mrs. Williams.

His father, Adam Smith bought the little mill from Haynes and added a sawmill in 1836. The old mills ground the flour with burrs, stones - two of them; the lower one stationary, the upper ones revolving. Stones had to be sharpened ever so often with special hammers. The rollers, now in general use, came in shortly after the War between the States.

He seemed to look deep into the past and smile. This venerable man was hale and keen for his high age and he was proud of being the oldest native citizen of Floyd County.

He was asked about the tornado of 1836! His reply was "It did a great deal of damage to the timber. Blew a great many trees down and scared the people, but so far as he knew no one was killed or hurt. Much of Indiana history was represented in ELLMORE SMITH.

A VALLEY OF PEACE ... September 2d, 1926...

We climbed the highway from New Albany thru the rolling country of Mooresville, Galena and Greenville, headed for Horner's Chapel. One of the oldest churches and congregations in Indiana and the Northwest; with a peaceful history compared with other communities. It escaped the horrors of Indian warfare, massacre and bloodshed, even though the Indian trails ran thru the settlement!

In 1780, there was a Frenchman located just above the fork of East and West Blue River with a trading post, trafficking with the Indians and white fur hunters and trappers. Who he was seemed to have been forgotten.

Horner, Jr. built a two story log house used as a tavern (was still in existence

30 years ago). It is well remembered by the elderly people. A fort was built on the East Fork of Blue River on the farm where Ed Horner now lives (1926). It never had to be used for it's warlike purposes.

Before Horner acquired the trading license, the REV. MARTIN L. REUSS from Clark County - said to be a Lutheran minister - came with his three sons, John, Martin and Frederick in 1803. Seeing a number of cabins gathered about the Horner trading post and tavern, bought the site of Fredericksburg and the town was founded. But, an overflow of Blue River in 1815 caused it to be moved from the north side to the south side of the river - where it now stands. It is a rather curious fact that the waters of Blue River were held to be navigable up to Fredericksburg. The Rev. Reuss seems to have had some sporting blood in him, for he built himself a platform overlooking a saltlick at Fredericksburg and shot a deer occasionally to help out the larder in his time. The Reuss boys all went to Tippecanoe with their father and one of the boys fell in that battle...

It seems that this particular section of Washington County was served early and well with schools taught by competent teachers. The first one was started in the winter of 1809-10 in an abandoned cabin by Nicholas Coster, who seems to have had considerable education. The next winter, he moved this school from Blue Spring near the place of J. L. Martin, farther up the hill. The next teacher heard of was Henry Pifer or Piper. The masons of Washington County who must have investigated the man's story, purchased a tract of 40 acres of land and presented it to him and here he built his cabin and school. This tract is now owned by John R. Beard, principal of one of the Jeffersonville schools (1926).

Almost all the first settlers located along Blue River or one of its branches, and there is no question that at one time before the cutting out of the timber lessened the flow, that the river was, in the sense of pioneers, navigable. There has been no record kept, but before the steamers took charge of navigation on the Ohio River Blue River sent out flotillas of flatboats, laden with produce from its fertile valley.

No doubt, EDWARD HUNTER, who came to the valley in 1811 and established a large distillery at Hunter's Spring, sent many a barrel of his liquor down river by flatboat. Hunter was surveyor of Washington County and also joined the troops which went to Tippecanoe. He is said to have been an Englishman by birth, but he had undoubtedly become what we now call a 100% American. In fact, the valley seems to have a tendency that way for everybody who goes there!

The balance of this article deals with early church activity here in the Greenville area. Material furnished by the local Methodist...

EARLY CIRCUIT DAYS... (Methodist Church activities)

The circuit was formed about 1830. The Missouri Conference formed in 1816 - consisting of the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Michigan.

Illinois Conference replaced the Missouri Conference by order of the General Conference held in Baltimore in 1824. To meet as follows:

1825: Charlestown, Indiana - 39 members were in attendance - presided over by two bishops, McKendree and Roberts - not one of the 39 had even been blessed with a high school education!!!

1826 - Bloomington, Ind; 1827 - Mt. Carmel, Ill.; 1828 - Madison, Ind; 1829 - Edwardsville, Ill; 1830 - Vincennes, Ind. Pastor of that Vincennes Circuit had 43 preaching places to serve - but NO CHURCHES - just homes to preach in., 1831- Indianapolis, Indiana...

The Indiana Conference was formed in 1832 and met in New Albany. Bishop Joshua Soule presided - met at Centenary Church in October. 18 answered the first roll call - others arrived later. JOS. TARKINGTON represented the Greenville-Galena Circuit (this was BOOTH TARKINGTON's grandfather....)

The Circuit Rider at age of death averaged 36 years. This was due to the rigors of the climate, disease, wolf packs and Indians.

Circuit Riders received in pay - \$64.00 yearly, if single; \$80 if married.

Routine questions asked for on reports at the Annual Conferences included: How many received into the church? How many baptisms? How many converted during the year? and how many were killed by Indians?

There was no steeple, nor spire, nor church bell on any Methodist church in the state until 1828. There was no organ nor choir in any Methodist church in Indiana until 1830.

The interior walls of the churches were severely unadorned until the 1830s. (The Quaker friends liked this). All of these things were actively opposed at first; as being works of the Devil. Also there was no such thing as a Sunday School nor any Youth Society. This was true of the Baptists and Presbyterians as well!!!!

A sermon of one hour in length was regarded as 'so-so'. Frequently they lasted for two or three hours...

When BENNIS PENNINGTON, a Methodist, who was destined to become one of the principal founders of the new State, crossed the Ohio River at Corn Island in 1797 and rode out into the Indian wilderness, Vincennes was the only town in the State. The buffalo herds for untold decades had been accustomed at certain seasons to quit the Illinois prairies and cross the Wabash River near Vincennes and by continuing their long journey eastward across the entire state - thus reached a point opposite Corn Island in the Ohio. This island has long since disappeared. The buffalo as well as the Indians and white pioneers found it a favorable crossing place, more especially during the low water stages...

The well-worn buffalo trail, coming eastward from the Wabash, reached what is now Portersville, Haysville and St. Croix. It then maintained itself upon the higher ground by way of French Lick, thence to Paoli, Greenville and Galena and down the Knobs to a place immediately to the east of the present city of New Albany and finally ending on the banks of the Ohio, where the trail then entered Kentucky. These strange beasts were in quest of the succulent grasses found in the general region now denominated by the Blue Grass Section of Kentucky!!!!

----end of report as taken from the Methodist Church history of Greenville Township.

Notes picked up here and there:

Founded in 1778, Louisville became what one visitor called a 'brisk little town' in the first decade of the 19th century. The Falls of the Ohio obstructed navigation on the Ohio River and boats had to land all or part of their freight so that it could be stored or reloaded onto other boats downstream. Floating stores appeared regularly at the landings of river towns. By the time a boat was moored to the dock it was welcomed by an excited crowd eager to make contact with great cities such as Pittsburgh and New Orleans.

Goods often needed to be stored temporarily and warehousing became a cornerstone of Louisville's economic base!

In 1769, Daniel Boone followed bison trails thru the Appalachians to explore what is now Kentucky. He and his companions saw thousands of bison in the lush wilderness. But by the 1790s, after thousands of people had settled the area following

the War for Independence, most of the bison east of the Mississippi had been slaughtered for their hides...

Revolutionary War veterans were paid off with tracts of Ohio Valley land - notably Clark's grant on the Indiana side. The town of Clarksville had twenty to thirty families by 1784. In 1787 Congress passed an ordinance designed to govern land north of the Ohio whereby this new "Territory Northwest of the River Ohio" could be sold to individual settlers in farm-sized tracts. Settlers flooded into the Ohio Valley.

PREPARED

July 18, 1995...

NOTE: Typed as written in history by Methodist church collectors. Much of this material must have come from newspaper accounts - thus the past year datings.