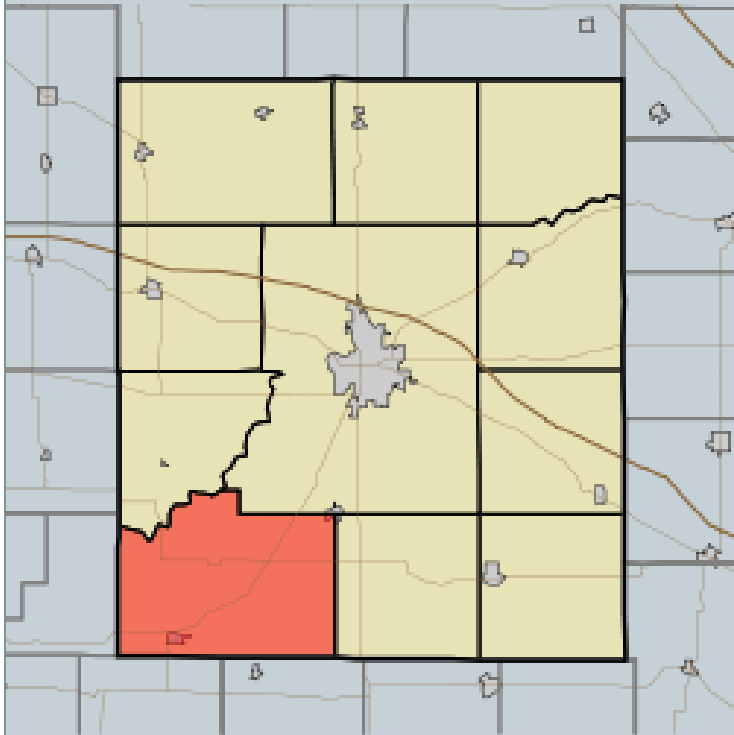


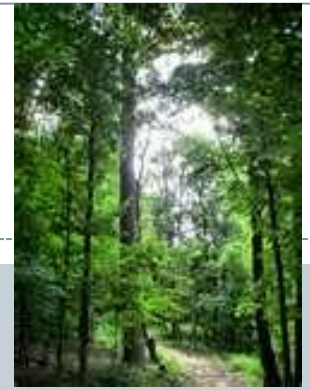
Brown Township, Montgomery County, Indiana

☺ Equals HAPPY DAYS !!



Basically, an oblong rectangle. 9 miles E-W and 6 miles N-S. Sugar Creek on the Ripley-Brown Twp line. 54 square miles

Interesting Info !



- Land in the West & SW of the township – rolling – WAVELAND gives a suggestion of the lay of the land. High, broken rocky cliffs can be seen along Sugar Creek. Some of the land is more clayish.
- Much timber in the Shades --including at one point, Beech, Oak, Black Walnut, **Poplar** and Evergreens.

Indiana State Tree



- The tulip tree, also known as the tulip poplar and yellow poplar, became Indiana's state tree in 1931. The tree grows to 100 feet tall or more. The flowers, which bloom in the summer, are yellow in color and look like tulips. The tulip tree can be found throughout the state. Wood from the tree is soft white in color and can be used to make furniture, trim and cabinets.
- From: indianahistory.org





Limestone, Sandstone, Clay
.. some of the types of stones
found and used in the area



Sugar Creek and Indian Creek in early times were important for water – mill work, travel.





Deere's Mill



Deere's Mill was built by Joel Deer, an early Brown Township settler; high water destroyed the original one & Joel & Wm. Canine built this (that also was a saw mill not just grain) however, it was not the only mill in the area – there were several others , especially grain mills belonging to Caleb Conner; Samuel VanCleave; Thomas Glenn -- Thomas Armstrong built the first carding mill for wool. Some of earliest businesses in the county!

Jimmy Creed, a Montgomery County famous horse



FARMING & SUCH ...

As early as 1855 Farmers worked together here to create the Russellville Union Agricultural Society – located in Brown Township – made up of 35 Acres – got together a couple of times / year – similar to our 4-H fairs only with much horse racing (Red Buck – most famous there – no pic sorry)

MIAMI INDIAN TRIBE

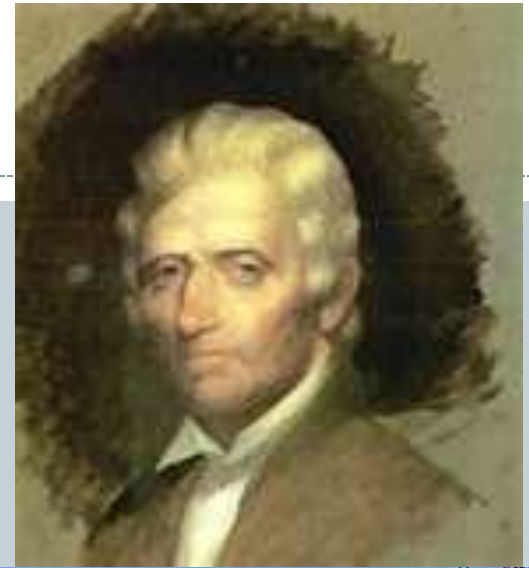


- Shawnee Indians, part of the Miami Tribe in our area – at Shades – left @ 1818 due to the peace treaty signed that year

Early Brown Twp. Settlers



- Most were from Kentucky – many either knew or were relatives of the famous Daniel Boone
- Waveland – named for the beautiful Kentucky home & plantation near Lexington where many of the settlers had lived – great place for a tour



Just Some Facts ☺



- The Old State Road from Terre Haute to Lafayette passed through Brown Township – early in our state history it was the U.S. mail/stage route.
- Halfway House 1/2 way between TH & L – Wm. Moore built home in winter of 1822 – family next spring -- had rooms to rent, food and water for the weary – little town of Waveland popped-up near the inn – the old State Rd 47 built in 1919 past the home but rerouted in the 1930s – most famous visitor General Wm. Henry Harrison & 25 of his soldiers



...More on Moore ...

- Cured 11 deer for summer meat the first winter 1823
- Friend to the Indians (unless they put away too much “fire water”)
- 18 x 24 ‘ hewed log cabin
- Store as well as “inn” – supper was 12 ½ cents
- By late 1820’s, 300-400 / day passed on the trail



Famous Son – Theodore Clement Steele



Impressionistic painter – famous for his landscapes – I love his portraits – this is a self-portrait of TCS. Visited many places to do pictures of scenery – Germany; California; Tennessee; Vermont, and his old and new Indiana homes, Waveland (also Shades & Yountsville area) and Brookville (in Brown County)



Selma in the Garden & Albert G. Porter, 1885



MORE ON TCS



- Born September 22, 1847 in Owen County, Indiana – came to Waveland at about age 5 to join his grandparents, Jesse Evans and Esther Newell. T.C.’s father was a blacksmith and died in Waveland when T.C. was only 14 years old. The boy had received a paint set as a gift and had already discovered his love of painting. Knowing he must get an education, he went to school at the Waveland Academy where within two years, he was also teaching at the Academy as well as giving private painting lessons. A 1926 (year he passed away) article in the *Waveland Independent* stated that the painting he gifted to the Waveland library “is one of the most important pictures from his hand and may easily come to be of more value than the building in which it is housed!”

PROGRESS ... Railroad = TWO



Midland (CIRR) south of town (mainly for freight but some passengers) – late 1880s – Vandalia much larger of two (mainly passengers, some freight) – went much longer – these are a history in themselves ...

Ode to Waveland ... by Ted Whitehead



- When I think of Waveland
- In the days of yore
- Of Burrins & of Sharpes
- And Charlie Moore's Store
- And of that old pot-bellied stove
- We used to gather around
- In those winter days of old
- When snow was all around
- How Mr. Moore would give us
- A stick of gum or two
- We'd carry in the coal for him
- When we were kids back then There was a man named Galloway
- He sold cars you see
- He told how fast they'd run
- Back in 1933.

- There was a man named Dillman
- He sold windmills here and there
- Those old mills pumped water
- When the wind was blowin' fair
- And every Wednesday night
- Everybody came to town
- For there was free movies
- For us folks ... all around



Garrie & Norman D – Dillman Department Store – Waveland to C'ville



HAPPENINGS & SUCH : 7 businesses; home; saw mill = BRICK & FD

- 1873 – Waveland practically wiped-out by fire. Plus 20 years before a horse-drawn engine was purchased for \$585. Many of the town's nicest buildings still being built in this time – citiz then a few small places of rest – most impressive

THE HOTEL STEBBINS.



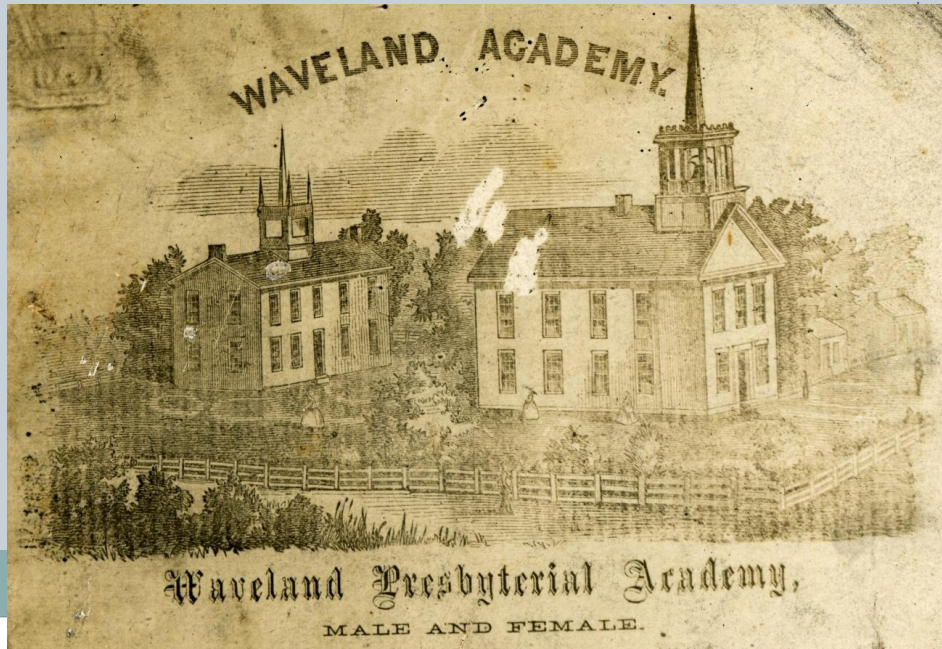
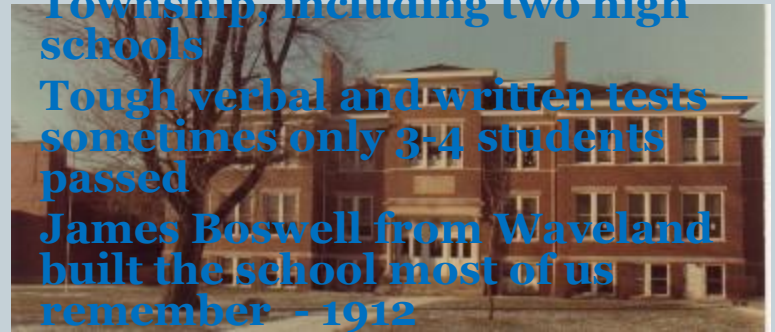
- Waveland Volunteer Fire Department – fab group. First modern engine in 1920. Actual Waveland Volunteer Fire Department began in 1950 with (I think) my dad as Chief and Larry Servies, assistant. I'm more than sure that Larry Servies (Machledt & Servies Funeral Home) has had the longest standing business and has been active longer than anyone in the Fire Department

SCHOOLS ... Your fav subject, RIGHT???



- One of first, if not THE first, Waveland Academy
- Presbyterian based school – wow rep – miles around – 1849-1878
- Co-Ed – stiff curriculum
- T.C. Steele taught there
- Three men headed it at various times – Rev. LF Leake; John Coyner & long-time Principal, Henry S. Kritz.

- High School classes there for several years after closing
- In 1880s 12 schools in Brown Township, including two high schools
- Tough verbal and written tests – sometimes only 3-4 students passed
- James Boswell from Waveland built the school most of us remember - 1912
- Consolidation – Alamo



CHAUTAQUA & SUCH

- Biggest Social Event
- Lecturers
- Musicians
- Artists
- Performers
- Circuit
- William Jennings Bryan (b Salem, Il – 3 x Democratic Cand for Pres – Sec of State 1913-1915 – BIG speech-maker – here in 1909)



- Gun-club – later Waveland Conservation Club
- Street Movies
- Music – school & community bands
- Baseball in the park
- Shades (more later)
- Visits with relatives & friends
- Newspaper reading (more later)
- Dances; Spelling & Quilting Bees

Community Band - 1920



Churches – VERY important

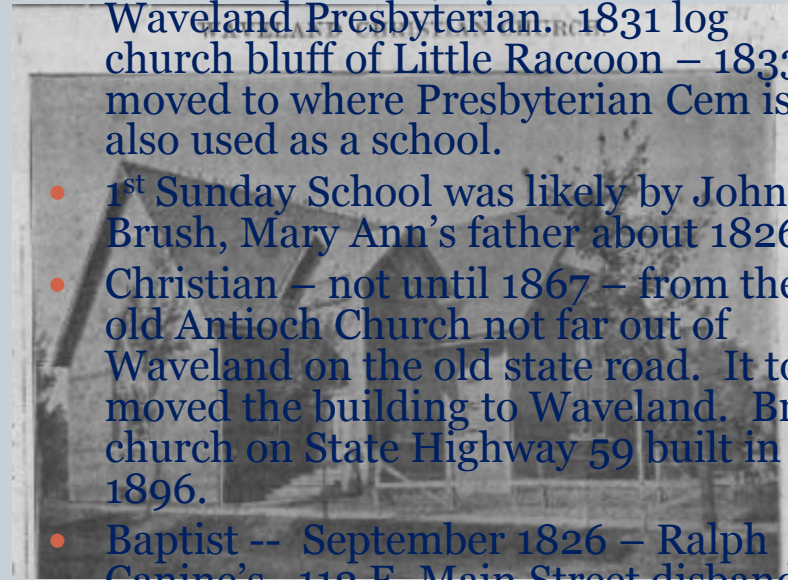
Mainly these 4 churches

- The first Methodist Episcopal minister was Rev. Alexander who rode his horse with saddle bags and stayed awhile in an area where he rode from log cabin to log cabin or would have preachings with several early settlers in attendance. Rev. William Smith who lived in the White River area around Indianapolis also rode with Alexander some. Mary Ann Brush McCormick held the first Methodist Society in her home. Thomas Hanna had one about that time in his log cabin – later merged. 1842 first Methodist Church. Brick one in Waveland about 1828. Presbyterians & Methodist banded together Covenant Church



Old Baptist Church

- Presbyterian – organized in November 1828 – John Stubbins near Browns Valley with a couple of other families – Providence Presbyterian – later named Waveland Presbyterian. 1831 log church bluff of Little Raccoon – 1833 moved to where Presbyterian Cem is – also used as a school.
- 1st Sunday School was likely by John Brush, Mary Ann's father about 1826.
- Christian – not until 1867 – from the old Antioch Church not far out of Waveland on the old state road. It too moved the building to Waveland. Brick church on State Highway 59 built in 1896.
- Baptist -- September 1826 – Ralph Canine's. 112 E. Main Street disbanded 1923. Old Hotel building 1940-50s. Freedom – 1837 – Caleb Conner's land – still goin' strong !!



Organizations & Social Places



- Manual Labor Institute – intellectual improvement – 500 books to library – literary get together 1855
- IOOF 1860 – Parker; Stilwell; Graham; Compton
- Free & Accepted Masons – 1863 – Kelso; Whittington; Belton; Hanna; Conner; Davis (later Eastern Star..)
- Ancient Order of United Workmen – 1879 – Pratt; Bridges; Spruhan; Conner; Banta; Siets...

- Book Club
- Current Events
- Out-Doors Club
- Religious
- Singing
- Library – Priscilla Club instrumental in its beginning – opened 1915 with first book, Little Red Hen (Floyd Sharpe)– Nellie Huston Lamb 1st librarian – her letters on the GenWeb page -- <http://indianagenweb.com/inmontgomery/letters/>



CDPL &I – would appreciate anything historical to add to the library & the GenWeb site

Other Places

- Antioch – just east of Waveland, couple of homes and a Christian Church
- Browns Valley – slow down ☺ about 3 miles north of Waveland – once an active community with three churches, a school, gas station, store, about 300 people ...
- Deerfield – near Shades State Park, basically the burg where Deers Mill bridge is today
- Demaree Creek – tiny branch of Indian Creek north of Waveland
- Fairview – about half way between Waveland and Browns Valley not far from the Halfway House. At one time vied for the central Brown Township town.
- Indian Creek mainly in upper Brown Township
- New Market – just a portion of NM is in Brown Township – other portions of the town in Union & Scott Township
- Old Shoe Branch – probably a small creek near the early Oldshue family's property
- Pine Grove – station stop 1/2 way between Waveland & Browns Valley – south side of road
- Pine Hills – walking (nature) area in Shades State Park



“In the News”



- First -- True American printed at TH 1851-54
- Waveland News – 3 years
- Waveland Enterprise – weekly newspaper 1000 copies / week – 1860s
- Cricket – Ed Foley & Frank Shanks 1870s
- Waveland Item – 2 years; Waveland Call ; Waveland Banner – lasting a trifling
- 1884 Waveland Independent – John Q Russell 1884; 1886 Talbort & Scott purchased in 1900 THRIVED for over 40 years – one of best in state – **Thomas Edward (TE) Huston**. Local minister CN McBrayer for several years (type set by Victor Canine). 1955 Max Harvey from Montezuma bought it under name Tri-County News – late 60s

Through the Wars

- REVOLUTIONARY – Alex. Foster – b Ireland – Lanc Co PA volunteer – Mont Co IN 1828 died 10 years later – buried Indian Creek
- Sam Newell maybe ... 11-4-1754 in 1840 pens. census here – died 9-21-1841 burial?
- 1812 – Joel Deere; Ralph Canine; Bainbridge Hall; Barney James; Thomas Lough; Wm. Milligan; Ben Smith; Zenith Hallett; William Moore – at least 9

- CIVIL --

- Lew Wallace recruited CW
- Scott Busenbark – CW buff – lists Brown Township Casualties = 34 of them mainly from 38th & 40th Ind Inf Co C but others too
<http://indianagenweb.com/inmontgomery/mil/civil-war/casualties-brown-twsp.htm>



Top Row: Russell Sharp, Henry Loudermill, Tip Lough, Wint Goslin, Hezekiah Zachary, Emery Cuppy.
Seated: Hiram Pratt, Pony Moody, Arch Scott, M.O. Sullivan, Dick Rusk.
Picture taken in front of Fisher Building



WWI – 60 listed in 1918 newspaper as active duty –
letters home
Korean War – working on it – Clayt
WWII – working on it – see pic above
Desert Storm --
Current – Brian Bowman





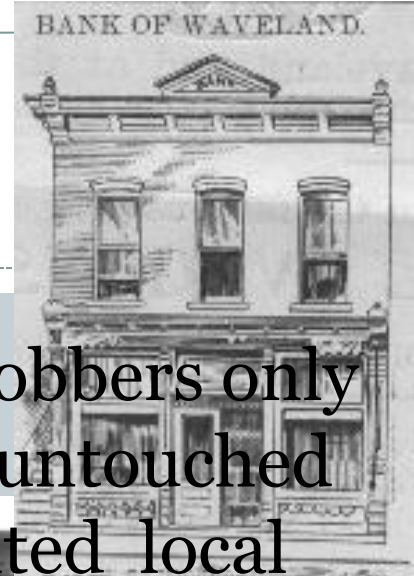
1919 – thanks CDPL



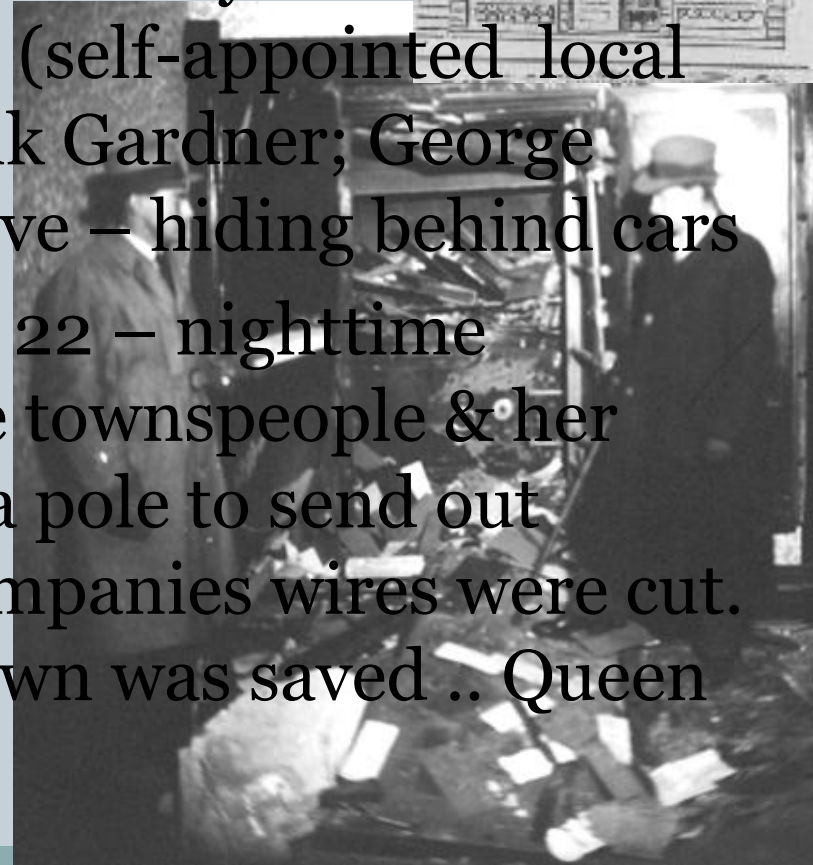
Several local
Folks there
CCC =
Some who were
there stayed (Bill
Search) in area to
live
Mom met dad ...
Nov 1938 –
helped battle
blaze at Leizure
Hour Farm “Real
conservation
efforts” - saved
200 black locust
trees
Serious baseball

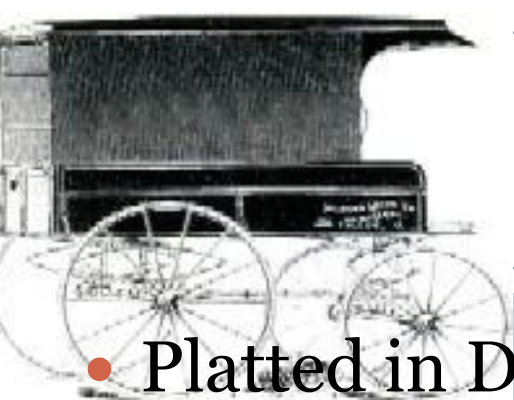


BANK ROBBERY



- 2-6-1932 – even after several blasts, the robbers only got to outer portion of vault – money left untouched thanks to about 20 vigilantes (self-appointed local police) – Theron Banta; Frank Gardner; George Slavens particularly impressive – hiding behind cars
- My cousin, Ruth Morgan age 22 – nighttime telephone operator called the townspeople & her boss, Howard Worl climbed a pole to send out messages since the phone companies wires were cut. 7 robbers got away but the town was saved .. Queen





Browns Valley

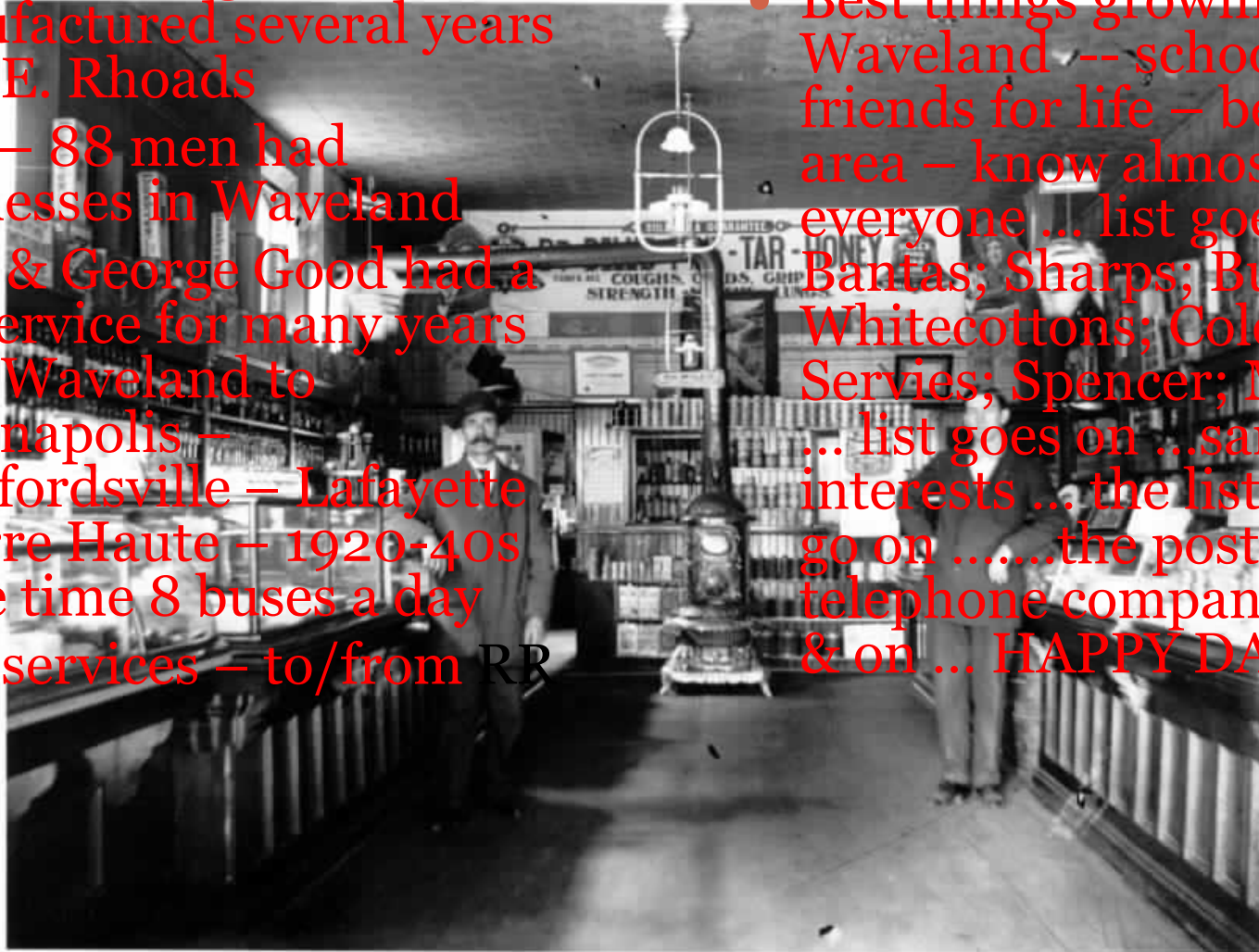


- Platted in December 1836 – Matthias VanCleave – middle of township – saw mills; stock yards; railroad (1870s +) 3 Staples – McCloud; Baptist; Christian; Methodist. Turn of last century, 1900 – Two Dry Goods; General Store; 3 Groceries; Hardware; Barber; 4 Carpenters; Painter; Post Office; Blacksmiths; Huckster; Electrician; and two Drs. – within 12 years added a (Browns Valley) bank; livery; feed barn; painter; huckster; K of P Lodge; ice house; many of you will remember the Taylor's store from 1945-1975 and the Redden Gas Station at the turn of the road. Today ... watch out for the radar gun !!!

Just some useless goodies :)

- Waveland Wagons – manufactured several years by H.E. Rhoads
- 1874 – 88 men had businesses in Waveland
- Mike & George Good had a bus service for many years from Waveland to Indianapolis – Crawfordsville – Lafayette – Terre Haute – 1920-40s – one time 8 buses a day
- Dray services – to/from RR

- Best things growing-up in Waveland -- school – friends for life – beautiful area – know almost everyone ... list goes on ... – Bantas; Sharps; Burrins; Whitecottons; Colemans; Servies; Spencer; Milligan ... list goes on ... same interests ... the list DOES go onthe post office; telephone company On & on ... HAPPY DAYS !!



More About Waveland



- John Milligan put up a crude storeroom in Waveland as early as 1834 and had that store for a long time. Known as “Uncle Johnny” he was a strong pillar in the Presbyterian Church and had rental properties all around the area. Being limp, he rode a horse sidesaddle and would bellow “HALLO” to his renters so they would come out and pay him. Milligan served as the 1st Post Master of this town.
- In the early to mid 1900s, there was a brick jail (wish I had a picture but alas, I do not) two-story. It was straight down the alley (to the end before crossing the street) on the north side of the alley. Jail and town constable’s office on main floor and the upper floor had a large meeting room where the town board especially met. The last known town marshall who had anyone in the jail was Henry Hickman. It was torn down in the early 1950s. In 2015, the Jeffers’ family home is in the front of that lot where the jail was in the back (where their garage is)

LOCAL HELPS



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INDIANA GENWEB:

[HTTP: INDIANAGENWEB.COM/INMONTGOMERY/](http://indianagenweb.com/inmontgomery/)

**CRAWFORDSVILLE DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY**

[HTTP://WWW.CDPL.LIB.IN.US/LH/](http://www.cdpl.lib.in.us/lh/)
