

## WAYNETOWN HISTORY

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his wife lived on a high bluff overlooking the creek. Owing to some difficulty he threatened to kill her. One evening he secretly brought an ax into the house but not obtaining a chance to kill her in the evening lay down on the bed and fell asleep. His wife took the ax and split his head open at a single blow. She was never arrested, the neighborhood doubtless being glad to be rid of him.

In 1831 proposals for building a new court house were advertised for, the first house having been built only for temporary use. The contract was let to John Hughes at \$3,420. This house was two stories high and of brick. It was forty feet square with a cupola and stood on the public square.

It is claimed that the first horse thief detective company ever organized—in the west was a Montgomery county institution. So many horses had been stolen in Coal Creek township that a number of the farmers formed themselves into an association to stop the thieving. At the 1848 session of the legislature an act was passed incorporating the company formed and giving the members the power and authority of constables. The charter members whose names are set out in the act are James Gregory, William Casseboom, Absalom Kirkpatrick, James Meharry, Jesse Meharry, Christian Coon, Elias Moudy, John M. Thomas and Edward McBroome. A large number of similar companies have started from this company. Representatives from all the companies meet at convenient points to make their work more effective by co-operation. John S. Gray of Wayne township was president of the Grand Council for a number of years.

One of the most noted criminal trials of Montgomery county was that of John Coffee. A James McMullen and his wife were murdered in cold blood and the house burned to cover up the crime. Coffee was found a few days afterward wearing some of the clothes of the murdered man. He was arrested and tried for murder. The progress of the trial was watched with interest throughout the county. Coffee was convicted and sentenced to be hung. Just before he was hung, he made a confession which was so contradictory to one he had made during the trial and which implicated a James Dennis. It is very probable that Coffee would have escaped hanging had he made his last confession first and stayed with it.

The first sermon ever preached in Montgomery county was by Rev. Charles Beatty in the year 1821; the afternoon of the same day the reverend gentleman solemnized the first marriage in the county, the high contracting parties being Col. Samuel D. Maxwell, the first sheriff of the county, and Miss Sarah Cowan.

The "Baptist church of Sugar creek" built the first church edifice in Crawfordsville on lot No. 100, which was donated to them. It was of brick and served as a place of worship for all sects and creeds. All traces of this church have disappeared.

The first school in the county was held in a house that stood about where the gas works are now located. It was taught by Josiah Holbrook.

In 1833 Rev. Caleb Mills began the work of instruction in the "Wabash Manual Labor and Teachers' Seminary," an institution which received a charter from the legislature in 1834 and has grown into the amplest proportions and fame as Wabash College. The first building occupied was located at the brow of the hill and was used for recitations and as a boarding place for the students. During the first year of its operations forty-one young men were enrolled.

On October 18, 1831, the initial number of the first newspaper was published in Crawfordsville. It was called the Crawfordsville "Record." While it was an admirable epitome of political history during the years of its publication, however, it failed to present much of the domestic and local news of the town and county.

In 1873, after several years' accumulation of a building fund, by taxation, the county commissioners made a contract with McCormack & Sweeney, of Columbus, Indiana, to erect a new court house. It was to be of Berea sandstone, brick and iron, to be heated with steam and provide a spacious court room with offices for all departments of the county's business and jury rooms, the whole to cost \$124,000. The old building was removed. The extra work added to the cost of the large clock in the tower finally ran the cost of the building up to \$150,000. This edifice still stands as a court house for the county.

When the call for volunteers came to fight in the Mexican War the whole county was thrown into a great excitement. The Democrats, whose policy had been for the annexation of Texas, were denounced by the Whigs for involving the country in a war which was solely for slavery. However, the victories of Taylor soon obliterated all party lines. A large concourse assembled at Crawfordsville on a set day and prepared for a long and tedious journey. They were taken to Indianapolis in wagons and reached the field of the war by various modes of travel. The company from Montgomery county spent most of its time marching up and down the Rio Grande. About half of the men died from sickness. Those volunteers who survived were given a grand ovation on their homecoming.

Montgomery county, even before 1861, was noted as one of the localities of the state where a military spirit had always been more or less fostered. Lewis Wallace, who distinguished himself in the war, was

practicing his profession when the first call for volunteers came. He laid down his pen and books and made ready to defend the Union. He had seen some service in the Mexican War as had Mahlon D. Manson also. A meeting was held at Crawfordsville the night after the call for 75,000 volunteers came. Resolutions were adopted denouncing the rebellion as wicked and inexcusable and proclaiming it the duty of the public authorities to help make the war for the Union successful. The third day after this meeting a company of men was ready to go into camp. The company left the county April 18, 1861. A solemn procession followed them to the train which was to bear away father, son, sweetheart, husband or brother to the field of battle, probably never to return. The next day a company left Ladoga. Another company left Crawfordsville soon afterward. The county promptly met every draft upon her patriotism until 2,000 of her patriotic sons had volunteered. Many a field of the war drank of the best blood of the county, and many a household yet mourns the loss of a brave father or son, who gave his life that we to-day might enjoy a government strong enough to be merciful to its enemies, upright enough to gain the respect of all the nations of the earth and mild enough to retain the undying love of its own citizens.

The railroads have been an important factor in the development of Montgomery county. The legislature was rather reluctant to grant charters for railroads at the time when the people of Indiana first began to agitate such enterprises. In 1850 the citizens of Crawfordsville and Montgomery county organized a company for the construction of a railroad from Crawfordsville to Lafayette. This road was exclusively a Montgomery county enterprise being called the Crawfordsville and Wabash. The next enterprise entered into was a line connecting directly with the east. As early as 1855 a line was surveyed from Newcastle, Henry county, Indiana, through Crawfordsville to Danville, Ill. This enterprise suddenly collapsed because of the financial panic of 1857. In 1864 construction was begun on another line extending from Indianapolis to Danville, Ill., passing through Crawfordsville. This project was abandoned also. The enterprise assumed definite shape in 1866 when a railroad convention was held in Crawfordsville and the project, after numerous setbacks, was completed. This road has changed hands several times and is known as the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis road or more commonly, as the Big Four. There are four other steam roads passing through the county, two of which pass through Crawfordsville, besides two electric railways. One of the steam roads passing through Crawfordsville connects Chicago and Louisville; the other Terre Haute and Logansport. The first is commonly known as the Monon, the latter as the Vandalia. One of the other steam roads passes through the northern part of the county. It is called the Clover Leaf. The other, named the Midland, proceeds through the southern part of the county. The two electric railways connect Crawfordsville with Indianapolis and Lebanon. The one to Lebanon is called the Northwestern, the other the Ben-Hur.

The industries of the county are limited. The main industry, or it is almost permissible to say, the only industry, is agriculture. The agriculture of the county has developed wonderfully in the last few years. The farmers hold their institutes annually and do their farming along scientific lines. They have reaped abundant crops from their tiresome efforts. The principal crops are wheat, corn, hay and oats.

The county has a goodly number of institutions of learning. Every town of any importance has a common school and high school. Besides these there are a number of schools in the country districts. The county is favored with an admirable institution of high learning, Wabash College.

The county has good highways of travel. By far the greater number of these are gravel roads although there are a few stone oads and a good prospect for several more. These excellent highways are very beneficial to the county as they make the modes of travel much quicker and easier than they would be otherwise. Although in some respects Montgomery county may not be a leader, it is a safe statement which says that it is far above the average in practically all things.

### Adverbs.

In English speech the words that sin most against clear expression are adverbs. Thus under stress of dire need you may say, "Come here, quick!" or "Come here quickly!" The former is theoretically incorrect, but it carries the idea. The latter is theoretically correct, but it lacks force. Adverbs are poor things compared with adjectives. Indeed, if an anti-adverb society should ever be organized I desire to record here and now an application for membership.—Ellwood Hendrick in Atlantic.

### To Identify the Corpse.

In the blanks which life insurance companies provide their medical examiners for use in recording the data of the examination of the applicant for insurance they provide a space for personal marks which may be used to identify the insured after death. One company recently received a report from an examining physician with the following in the identification blank: "He has a strong Cornish accent."—Lippincott's.

## HILLSBORO

Charles Drake was in Mellott Wednesday.

Jewel Tinsley was an Indianapolis visitor Tuesday.

William Buckley of Waynetown was in town Saturday.

William A. Wright made a business trip to Indianapolis Monday.

Ed Marvin of Veedersburg transacted business in town Monday.

Ben Martin and Fern Dodge of Newtown were in town Saturday.

Mrs. Myrtle Clark of Indianapolis spent Sunday with home folks.

Rev. W. K. Ingalls of Newtown called on friends here Tuesday.

Mrs. Rynear Rynearson of Shirley is visiting relatives at this place.

John Davidson and Roy Henricks were in Crawfordsville Tuesday.

Elton McClure of Newtown was in town Monday enroute to Covington.

Misses Ruby Butts and Pauline Davis were in Waynetown Saturday evening.

Mrs. Byron Frazier is making an extended visit with relatives at Indianapolis.

Miss Ruth Furr of Veedersburg is the guest of Miss Ethel Frazier for a few days.

Miss Nelle Davidson is spending the week with friends and relatives near Newtown.

Miss Lois Bybee spent the latter part of the week with relatives in Waynetown.

Mrs. Charles Rynearson and daughter Nellie were shopping in Crawfordsville Tuesday.

Halcy Keeling of Indianapolis called on his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Austin Keeling Friday.

Mr. Sam Perlman of Lafayette called on Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Davis Sunday evening.

Deibert Davidson and family spent Sunday with Elmer Davidson and family of near Mellott.

Tom Taylor and family, Joe Hayes and wife and Miss Ida Palmore autoed to Danville Wednesday.

Miss Susie Taylor left Saturday for an extended visit with relatives in Cincinnati O. and Kentucky.

Sam Gilkey of Indianapolis spent the week end with his brethren William Gilkey and wife of this place.

Mrs. Thed McKnight and children of near Mellott spent Wednesday with W. H. Wright and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Clint Ellis, Mrs. Manford Cranmore and daughter Florence were Crawfordsville visitors Monday.

John Ireland and daughters Misses Edna and Berniece and Opal arrived here Monday evening for a short visit with relatives.

Miss Fay Hershberger, who had a position as milliner at Paris, Ill., the past season, returned to her home here Monday.

George Bennett and Miss Velma Chester of Newtown were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Davidson Sunday evening.

\*Milt Youngblood of Crawfordsville spent the week end with his sister Mrs. George Booe and brother Dan Youngblood of this place.

Ralph Hesler, Herbert Harris, Willie Cooper, Russell Davis and Clifford Parker were Waynetown callers Saturday evening.

Miss Suzy Pursley returned home from De Pauw University Saturday evening and will spend the summer vacation with her parents.

Mrs. Elmer Lambdin of Champaign, Ill., arrived here Tuesday and will accompany her sister Mrs. Rynear Rynearson to her home at Shirley.

The Misses Ruby and Mary Fuller entertained at Sunday dinner Miss Lena Bruner of Waynetown, Misses Mable Wilkinson and Florence Wood of this place.

Mrs. Ves Reichard, who has been the guest of relatives here for a short time returned to her home in Urbana, Ill., Sunday accompanied by her mother Mrs. Charles Lough.

E. A. Huff of Kiethsburg, Ill., but formerly of this place, was in town Tuesday, having been called by the serious illness of his father, Frank Huff who resides north-west of Mellott.

Russell Davis who has been a student of Purdue University the past term returned home Saturday evening for the summer vacation. He has accepted a position as clerk in the drug store of his brother, S. M. Davis, of Waynetown and begun work on Monday.

Appropriate and impressive ceremonies in the form of a memorial to the members of the class, that are numbered with the dead, were conducted at the Rose Hill cemetery by the Fraternity Bible Class of the Christian church Sunday School Saturday afternoon at three o'clock.

Following prayer and scripture reading by the pastor, H. A. Davis and the singing of a few songs the members of the class to the number of thirty-five marched two and two and strewed flowers on the graves of the four who have passed to the great beyond. They were as follows: Mrs. James Tinsley, Mrs. William Donaldson, Mrs. Jewel Tinsley and Mrs. A. S. Faulkner. This was the first memorial service conducted by the class but arrangements have been made to make it an annual event.

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## Ice Cream Social

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## Entertainment

AT

## D. W. Barnett's New Barn

3½ miles south east of Waynetown for the Benefit of the Christian Union Church

## Friday Evening, June 13

PROF. JACKSON with his Colored Quartette, of Crawfordsville, will furnish the music, consisting of Vocal, Violin, Cornet and Saxophone. They are considered to be the best in the country.

## Come and Hear Them

Ice Cream will be served. Plenty of room for everybody. Get an Auto party and attend the social At the New Barn of D. W. Barnett.