

1834 » 1934

**Pittsboro
Centennial
Celebration**

»

**Souvenir
Program**

»

September 28-29, 1934

PROGRAM OF PAGEANT
Friday and Saturday Nights
September 28th and 29th, 1934



A Pageant Commemorating The One Hundreth
Anniversary Of Pittsboro



WRITTEN BY MRS. FRANCES WEAVER FISHER

ASSISTANTS
Ross Williams, Mary Jeanette Evans, Helen Williams,
Jewel A. Vaughan, Hortense Guthrie

PROLOGUE — A Symbolical Scene

EPISODE I 1834—1895

Scene 1 The Indians
Scene 2 Pittsboro Is Laid Out
Scene 3 The Pioneer Home
Interlude—The Husking Bee
Scene 4 The First School House
Interlude—The Stage Coach
Scene 5 The Early Churches
Interlude—Pittsboro's First Officers
Scene 6 The Singing School

EPISODE II 1859—1884

Scene 1 The Civil War
Scene 2 The Millinery Shop
Klapdans by 3rd & 4th Grades

EPISODE III 1884—1904

Scene 1 Political Rally
Scene 2 Fraternal Organizations
Scene 3 The First High School
Scene 4 Pittsboro Is Incorporated

EPISODE IV 1909—1934

Scene 1 The World War
Scene 2 The Spirit of the Past

EPILOGUE
Music Directed by Mrs. Vera Turner

Knetzer's Market

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1834

1934

HISTORY OF PITTSBORO AND MIDDLE TOWNSHIP

written by

CHESTER V. PARKER
Educational Section By EVA PEBWORTH

❖❖

ASSISTANTS:—

Mrs. Etta Evans
Russell Wills
Ewart Watson
Murat Keeney

:::: ::::

BASED ON INFORMATION GATHERED FROM

:::: ::::

History of Hendricks County by
Judge John V. Hadley

:::: ::::

County and Township Records

:::: ::::

Newspaper Files

:::: ::::

History of Hendricks County 1885

:::: ::::

State Library

:::: ::::

County Atlas

:::: ::::

Interviews with old Residents and Decendants
of Pioneers

:::: ::::

Thad. S. Adams, Danville, Ind.

:::: ::::

Roscoe Leak, Lizton, Ind.

:::: ::::

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DR. THOMAS IRONS, V.S.

(Billy Irons' dad)

Out of the vast territory secured from the Miami Indians by the treaty at St. Marys, Ohio, in 1818 has been created thirty counties of which Hendricks is one. As Hendricks County is on the Meridian it was first surveyed in 1819.

The Legislature of the State of Indiana passed an act organizing Hendricks County, which was approved December 20, 1823. The name Hendricks was given the newly formed County in honor of William Hendricks, Governor of the State of Indiana.

This act reads, in part, as follows: "Sec. 2. The said new county of Hendricks shall, from and after the first day of April next, enjoy all the rights, privileges and jurisdiction which to separate and independent counties do, or may properly belong and appertain."

Having satisfied the terms of organization, seats of Justice were established, the proper officials chosen, and a site for the county seat was selected. The first Commissioners were Thomas Lockhart, Gideon Wilson and Littlebury Blakely. The county was divided into nine civil Townships of equal size. Only four of which had sufficient population to give them a civil organization. It is regrettable that Book No. 1 of the Commissioners Record, comprising the proceedings from 1824 to 1831 has been lost beyond recovery. This, no doubt, contained much valuable information relative to the early history of the County.

Since most of the immigrants came from Kentucky, Tennessee, Carolinas and Virginia they naturally selected the southern part of the County as their homes rather than travel farther north through the forests which was by no means as promising location since it was flat, more nearly approaching the plains. It having very little natural drainage thus offering stubborn resistance to settlers who suffered from malaria contracted from "the Black swamps" as this section was then called.

Middle Township was organized in 1833. It is in the north tier of townships and comprises land in two ranges, the second principal meridian as well as the Base line crossing it, thus it is also in four congressional townships, namely; Townships 16 and 17 North,

Range 1 west and Townships 16 and 17 North range 1 east, as originally laid out Middle Township was eight miles north and south, except a half section is added to the south east corner, making an extreme length of eight and one half miles. It is also eight miles east and west, containing sixty four and one half square miles or 41,280 acres. This as you will readily observe, is much larger than the present Township, as it included not only what is now Middle township but union and that part of center north of the North Center school house.

On March 4, 1851, a petition was presented to the county commissioners praying for a division of the township by a line running due north and south through the center of the township, thereby separating what is now Union Township and eight sections of the north side of Center Township from Middle Township. The same order established a voting precinct at Pittsborough and one at New Elizabeth Town, now Lizton. We will endeavor to follow as nearly as possible the early history of the present township, however, as a few of the personages and places important to this history are to be found within the boundaries of the newly formed township of Union.

It has been said that in 1830, although the population of Hendricks County was 3,975, there were not to exceed 50 settlers in what is now Middle, Union, Brown and Lincoln townships due largely to the swampy conditions prevalent throughout the major portions of these townships.

The deep records of the County record entries as early as 1827 by Thomas Weaver, however, as far as can be ascertained by the writer, he did not settle here until some few years later probably, 1835 when on a knoll near the present site of the Weaver Cemetery, presumably left by a "squatter" or Indian.

Upon entering they found that a fire had not long since died out. Here they spent the winter. In the following spring Watson selected and entered a tract of land about two miles farther. Other entries were Thomas Jordan 1829, Richard Richardson, 1831 who entered a part of the present side of Pittsboro.

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During the period from 1833 to 1840 numerous other entries were made, among which were, Asa Caywood, Horatio Caywood, Samuel Hill, James Chadwick, Joseph Wells, Thomas Barber, Harrison Newton, McBees, the Spicklemires, Alex Marcey, Joseph Frakes, Jacob Triggs, Thorton Gorham, Jephtha D. Botts, Fountain Rutledge, Jessie Hockett, Nelson Ball, John Poak, Jr., John Miller, and Jacob Wilson. It was during this period that we find such names as Shirley, Money, Fitch, Faught, Tout Dillon, Crabb, Dollerhide, McCaslin, Dodson, Cannada, Fowler, Surber, Carpenter, Spears, Hadley Pointer, Parks, Waters and Parker. It is doubtful if all of these settled on their claims as very early transfers from some of the above are recorded.

In 1833 we are told by family tradition that some two or three cabins stood in Pittsboro. One stood on the southwest corner of the cross streets. Lemuel McBee lived in a cabin probably on the present site of S. E. Berkey's home. Another stood where Ernest Jones now lives, it was occupied by Richard Richardson.

November 8, 1831, Richard Richardson, entered the North Fractional North East Quarter of section 6 containing 85 acres and sold by him to Aaron Spicklemire, Feb. 28, 1834.

Aaron Spicklemire entered the North west fractional quarter section 6 containing 2.62 acres. On November 15, 1834 Aaron Spicklemire sold to William L. Matlock and Simon T. Hadley in consideration of \$50.00, the following described lands, to wit: The North west fractional quarter of section 6, township 16 North Range 1 East, containing 2.62 acres, also 25 acres off of the west end of the north fraction of the North east fractional quarter of said section 6. The said 25 acres being a lot of land lately conveyed by Richardson to said Spicklemire. (Deed record No. 3, Page 203) On September 29, 1834, Alexander Marcey entered land in Sec. 1 Township 16 North range 1 West.

It was upon these plots of land that Matlock and Hadley plotted the original town of Pittsborough which consisted of 30 lots, extending east and west

along Main Street, two tiers deep on the south side and one tier on the north side. Lots fronting on Main street were 66 feet front and 132 feet deep; back lots on Cross streets were 132 feet each way. Main street was seventy feet wide and cross streets were 60 feet wide. J. M. Wills says that the newly formed town was named Pittsburg in honor of Hadley's home in North Carolina. The original plot, however, gives the name as Pittsborough. This plot was recorded Dec. 9, 1834, A.D. Subsequent to plotting the sale of lots was undertaken by auction. Philip Waters bought lot 1 Block 1, Samuel Janes or John Money lot, and the lot now occupied by John McCord for the sum of \$8.00. On December 27, 1834, two deeds were executed, one from Matlock and Hadley to Archibald Bowen, of Franklin Co., State of Pennsylvania, Lot 4, Block 1—Pittsborough for the consideration of \$10.00. This lot is the present location of the Bank Building. Mr. Bowen was never heard of again and this lot was sold for taxes in 1856 to Simon T. Hadley who sold it to Amos C. Weaver in 1870 for \$250.00. The other deed is from Matlock & Hadley to Lemuel McBee. Lots 1, 2 & 6, Block 4, for the consideration of \$20.00. These lots are the site of the home of Frank and Cary Kirk. From time to time sales were made until all thirty lots were sold. The growth and development of the town thus began and has resulted in the quiet, peaceful village of the present. From time to time various additions have been made, mentioned as follows:

Cundiff & Hadley of 16 lots;
Cundiff second addition 8 lots;
Wm. G. Parker, 12 lots east side of north
Maple from Mrs. Wat's property to
railroad;
John A. Jordan addition north of railroad
R. L. Dillon addition north part of town;
H. T. Kirk addition; and Osborne addition

Since our present study includes not only the town of Pittsboro but the surrounding territory commonly known as Middle Township we will endeavor to coordinate the history of the two civil organizations. This would be only natural since the histories of any

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of the towns and villages of the Central part of Indiana are so closely connected with the history of the surrounding territory that it would be almost impossible to separate them. In fact were it not for the inhabitants, natural resources and wealth of the surrounding territory, such towns would soon cease to thrive, for it is from these territories that towns and villages of any agricultural community, such as this receives its means of sustenance, it is to them, they sell their wares and from them they receive their supplies of food and clothing, either directly or indirectly. This was more keenly felt in those pioneer days with the crude methods of transportation than at present with the more highly developed systems. However, should the populace of any vicinity withhold their patronage from the village in their midst a decided decline in the village's condition is very apparent.

At the time of the founding of Pittsboro other settlers were rapidly occupying the surrounding farms. One of the earliest of these was Samuel Hill, who settled south of town. A part of his farm still bears the Hill name. It being owned by Harry Hill. This can be said of but very few farms. The story of his settlement in Middle Township is told in the Indianapolis News of Feb. 22, 1897. Mr. Hill gave the information at an interview at the age of 91. According to this account Mr. Hill and his young wife migrated from North Carolina in 1833 and in September stopped his team in a sugar grove which he had formerly selected as the site of his future home. Here he hastily built a rude shed which served as a home until he and his wife constructed a log house without nails, brick or glass. Before his arrival the sound or mark of an axe was neither heard nor seen for several miles around. Indians and wild animals in large numbers roaming the forests at will. By spring he had a ten acre patch ready for cultivation. This he planted to corn. Year by year the clearings were enlarged and from time to time the acreage of his holdings were increased.

The Republican of 1916 printed an account of Mr. Hill's settlement as given by his (Hill's) manuscript

of former years. It is here that he mentions the families living here when he arrived. They were: Adam, Aaron and Abraham Spicklemire, Joshua Kennedy, Franklin Barber, Benjamin Davis and Hiram Huddleston. This account gives the date of his settlement as July 9, 1834, a discrepancy of a few months in the two accounts, which is accounted for by his stay in Belleville during the winter. Many others of whom similar stories might be told came from time to time, either singly or in groups, J. M. Wills recounts the story of the settlement of John Young, Grandfather of Alcie Ridgway, Nora Walter, Ruth Stipe and Lottie Parker. This account is very similar to that of Mr. Hill's.

In quick succession came the Weaver, Watson, Money, Chadwick, Caywood, Wells, Jordan, Waters, Dodson, Touz, Dickerson, Parks, Crabb, Faught, Parker families, together with many others. Space in this brief sketch prohibits a detailed account of each of the above mentioned families were it possible.

It is these noble men and women; men and women with a purpose and ideal for which they were willing to endure the privations and hardships of pioneer life, that have moulded from a dense and tangled forest this fair community with its fertile fields and fair homes of which we are so justly proud. Their implements were few and of a very crude and simple nature. No household being complete without the ax, musket, spinning wheel, and loom, crude wooden plow, an ox cart or clumsy wagon, a team of horses or a yoke of oxen.

The roads were mere trails through the forests which followed the higher ground, avoiding the numerous swampy places. Partly because of this we find many farm houses are located some distance from the present roads. They were originally built along these trails or roads as they zigzagged through the forest and as the community developed and the swamps were more and more drained the roads were changed into a somewhat more regular system. The winding character of the early roads has contributed largely to the less regular highway system of the township as compared to the system of some of the neighboring

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townships. The supervision of all road work was assigned to supervisors who were appointed to have complete charge of all road work. Each able bodied man between the ages of 21 and 50 was required to work a specified amount of time on the roads. This amount came to be called road or "land" tax. Each spring and fall the supervisor would "warn the hands out" to perform whatever labor was necessary, consisting largely of clearing or grading the road bed. After the swamps were drained the work consisted of straightening and later applying gravel to the worst places. Much of the road work was done by "donation" which was quite prevalent during the latter part of the past century and in the early 1900's, some of the present roads were originally improved by the farmers donating the work of teams and hands.

In 1833 there were only three road districts in the entire township as originally formed. In May of that year the county commissioners appointed Archibald Alexander, supervisor of District No. 1; Adam S. Spicklemire, District No. 2 and John Merriitt, District No. 3. The rapidity of the growth of the township is readily apparent when we note that in May, 1837 the number of Districts had increased to seven.

Since the Indianapolis and Crawfordsville Road afforded the most important means of transportation to the markets a more complete account will not be amiss. This was referred to as "A Mud Road" by Mr. Hill in his account previously mentioned. Under Indiana's first constitution all Highways extending into two or more counties were chartered by an act of the Legislature. At the session of 1824 an act was passed establishing the Indianapolis and Crawfordsville Road, and in 1828 another act provided for the opening. Hence this Highway has been a State Road for more than a century. In 1830 a portion of this road was relocated in Marion County thereby making a different entrance into the city of Indianapolis. The County Commissioners were given control of these roads in their respective counties. Family tradition tells us that in 1833, Jonathan McDaniel had a contract of carrying mail over this road from the Harrisburg (Brownsburg) station to Crawfordsville.

His son, Isaac, father-in-law of Nancy McDaniel, then a lad of 16 years made weekly trips between Harrisburg (Brownsburg) and Crawfordsville, while the elder McDaniel blazed the trail. We are also told that a cabin stood on the site of the Sawyer Block and at what point another blazed trail led to the southward.

In 1833 Archibald Alexander was appointed road Commissioner for the Indianapolis and Crawfordsville State Road and in November of that year presented vouchers for \$175.28%. The Legislature passed an act providing for the creation of funds for the improvement of the State Roads. One such fund was called the three percent fund. The account of this fund is somewhat vague as given in the Commissioners record and space will not permit an exhaustive study. Suffice it to say that from time to time various amounts were appropriated by the County Commissioners for the Improvement of the State Road. Such improvements usually consisted of cutting saplings along the road and placing the trunks side by side, cross wise, in the wet, swampy places, thus forming what was commonly called "corduroy" roads. In one instance \$175 was appropriated and James Green was directed to build "a good substantial bridge across the east fork of Eel River and that the balance, be expended in making durable improvements on said road." This bridge was the first mentioned in the County records to be built in Middle Township and was located just east of Lizton. In 1838 this road was a stage coach line from Indianapolis to Danville, Ill. At Crawfordsville the line intersected a line for Lafayette. Roscoe Leak in his "Old Trails" describes this as being a "Two-Horse Mail Stage Coach Road," this classification he quotes from a map in the State Library. The State coach companies advertised transportation in "Good coaches with steady, moral and careful drivers and the best of horses." The average cost was five cents per mile.

About 1850 the road was leased to "Plank Road Companies" and in 1851 the State road was planked from Pittsboro to Indianapolis. Only the very worst places were planked west of Pittsboro. With the

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leasing to the "Plank Road Companies" the Road became a Toll Road. We are told that Joseph Wells and Samuel Hill had such a contract and in time a Toll Gate was erected east of town at the foot of the Kress Hill at the Thornbrough Farm. Later this road was improved by stock companies, graveling over the planking. In time it again became a road to be maintained at public expense and ceased to be a toll road. In 1927 & '28 this road became State Road 34. In 1927 and 1928 this Road became State Road 34, it having been paved with concrete. It is now one of the main roads leading to Indianapolis. The stage coach and freight wagons of former days have vanished and numerous passenger automobiles, busses and monstrous trucks speed over its surface daily. Today Pittsboro is less than one hours drive from Indianapolis, whereas, only a score of years ago a round trip consumed the entire day.

We must not fail to mention the modes of travel of the populace in their everyday errands. We imagine a settler approaching the village with his oxen or horses drawing a huge, clumsy wagon with high front and back, which has been called the "Conestoga" Wagon. It was in such a wagon that Joseph Wells, grandfather of Mrs. Effie Martin, Mrs. Etta Evans and Mrs. Esther McConnaha and great grandfather of the writer, migrated from the Carolinas.

Horse back riding has been quite prevalent through the history of Middle Township until recently when the automobile has become the common method of travel. Many stories are told of the sport and pleasure of the countryside derived from horseback riding. The bobsled and farm wagon were also convenient and common methods of travel, especially, when the entire family embarked upon a picnic, political rally or to the religious services.

The high wheel bicycle first ridden by Geo. Fay, a railroad man, was succeeded by the modern, low wire wheel with coaster breaks, balloon tires and other modern accessories.

During the years 1867 to 1869 Pittsboro saw the opening of the Big Four Railroad. This has probably

contributed more to the growth and development of the community than any other one thing. Methods of transportation were radically changed and new industries developed. Of these we will mention the draying business, among those directly interested were Messrs. Cox, Griffith, Huddleston and J. A. Pratt. Ermine Smith now operates the dray although modern motor vehicles have largely supplanted it.

Another important method of transportation, the traction line between Indianapolis & Crawfordsville, or Ben Hur Route was developed about 1906. This was another boon to the community as almost hourly passenger and freight service was established. This was discontinued in 1930.

With the advent of the automobile, the first three of which were owned by Jasper Fisher, Dr. McClintock and Mr. James Hughes, the life of the community was again materially changed. Our citizens travel daily to Indianapolis factories and at evening or during their leisure time their families enjoy a motor trip. The motor truck has contributed largely to the farming and live stock industries. The pioneer would drive his hogs and cattle to Cincinnati or Madison and later to Lafayette to market. These journeys would require days and much hardship. With the improvement of the roads the farmer would deliver a load of hogs or other produce to market at Indianapolis in his farm wagon usually requiring two days. Now he supplies the morning feed in his own feed lot and loads and delivers his stock in time for markets and by noon has returned to his farm duties.

Only a casual mention has been made of the draining of the "Black Swamps" of the early days of Middle Township. The developments of the community are so dependent on this phase of work that a brief mention will be made of some of the more important facts. The original Township was drained by two watersheds, Eel River in the western part and White Lick to the east. It is along these streams that we find a few traces of the Indians, who had given the name of Sho-a-mack of "Slippery Fish" to Eel River and to White Lick they applied the name of Wa-pe-ke-way or "White Salt." The Indians and early white settlers sought the portions which were

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more rolling, thus securing the benefits of natural drainage. The first artificial or underground drainage was constructed by placing two rails parallel with the sides of a trench and placing wooden slabs crosswise over these. These crude drains were quite efficient and many were still in use during the latter part of the past century. Later came the clay tile, first the horseshoe type, then the flat bottom, and lastly the modern round tile made either of clay, shale or cement.

Numerous tile factories sprang up throughout the Township. Among those are Balaum Wells, who operated on the south part of Jesse Evans farm; the Selch factory about two and one half miles north of town on the old Selch farm, this was later sold to James Hale and removed to Ranstown; the Thompson factory which stood on the site of the Slaughter house, this was sold to A. J. Cocherell and later to Nicholas Koebnick.

So closely connected is the tile and brick industry that we will make mention of a few brick subbusinesses. About 1876 Joseph G. Jones operated a brick yard where Ermine Smith lived. The Long brick yard was located in the vicinity of Maplewood. During the late 90's R. L. Dillon operated a brick yard just north of town. With brick from this factory he built the Sawyer and Hayworth Blocks.

Another industry closely associated with the clearing of the forests is the sawmill. It is only natural that the broad axe should be supplanted by the saw. One of the early saw mills was operated on the banks of the creek on the Warrick farm then the Jonas Lipe farm. This was a combined grist and sawmill, being operated by water power. Evidence of the mill race and dam were clearly in evidence until they were somewhat erased by dredging of the creek in 1929. Other visible evidences are the mill stones in the lawn of the F. A. Haynes (Luther Job) farm. This mill was of the "sash" saw type or a saw similar to the crosscut saw was arranged to operate in a vertical position while a carriage conveyed the log to the sawing position. Numerous sawmills were operated at various places throughout the township. The Thompson mill preceded the tile factory on the

slaughter house site. This mill having the misfortune of a boiler explosion. Another was the Smith mill east of the elevator location. The Atkins mill stood just back of the Christian church. Later a mill was erected north of the railroad and west of the stockpens. The names of Wills, Mullen, Atkins, Shepherd and others are associated with the industry. Hiram Rains operated a sawmill for a number of years at Rainstown.

An old mill site is still visible on the farm occupied by Ed Beaman. This was the Alexander mill, likewise the race and dam of the Logan or Tout mill are still visible on the Tout farm. The Logan, and Tout Mill are in all probability the same mill as the ownership of the land coincides if the Metes and Bounds description has been correctly interpreted. Frees' mill is also mentioned in the County records and was located on White Lick probably in the southeastern part of the Township. A mill located in the northern part of Union township was referred to as Josep's horse mill. No information is at hand as to whether these were sawmills or grist mills. The Epperson Mill was evidently located in the northern part of the present Center township.

McBees Mill was a sawmill located just north of the residence of Patrick Dugan, the old Feeney home, on a road which zigzagged from the south west corner of the Selch farm to the Martin Johnson farm.

In his history of Hendricks county, Judge Hadley says in part, "Pittsboro's first store was in a small log room kept by Basil Tout." From his description it was evidently located in the neighborhood of the Sawyer Block. He was followed by James Hoadley, James Barber and Enoch King. Some of the older citizens tell that a store was located north of the Dorman Brick, now the Masonic Building. None could give the name but some remember his stock as consisting of sugar, salt, a bolt or two of Calico, and a barrel of whiskey. Frequent licenses were issued by the county commissioners to various citizens throughout the county but unfortunately none were specified for Pittsboro. These licenses were issued for a period of one year and varied from \$5 to \$15 each. No

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explanation of the difference in the licenses was made. John Vaughn built a store on the site of the Sawyer Block in 1844. He was succeeded by John C. Parker who built a brick store on the Hayworth site. This was destroyed by fire in 1884. A chair factory was operated by a man by the name of Babbs in the 1850's or 60's at the present location of the Junken House. Furniture and caskets or coffins were some of the products of our citizens. Among those engaged in the manufacture of these were Elias Leach, and Isaac B. Waters. A blacksmith shop was operated early in the township's history by a Mr. Benson. Other blacksmiths were Webb, Buergelin's, Proctor's, Wm. Parker, Crowley's, A. Olsen and Adams.

C. J. Olsen operated a blacksmith shop, Wagon and Carriage factory and harness shop. He later specialized in buggies and carriages and then developed the school wagon industry. His wagons were shipped throughout the country many going into other states. At one time he attempted the manufacture of automobiles. This venture, however, was not developed.

A stave factory was built in 1873 by Dan Feely which was located on the elevator site. This did a thriving business, offering an outlet for considerable timber. It employed about 21 hands regularly. At one time mention is made of 100 employees. Barrel staves were shipped by car lots in the various states. Judge Hadley gives 1886 as the year in which this factory ceased operations. However, citizens of the locality give the date as 1888 or 1891.

The Grist Mill of Pittsboro was built by McLean and Bromfield and continued to operate until it was destroyed by fire in the 1900's. The disastrous fire struck a blow to the community as it caused the citizens to seek else where for milling facilities.

The names of othe Merchants that we recall are Hoak, Weaver, Jordan, Crabb, Shirley, Parker, A. Shirley, Tout, Dorman, Hill, Waters, Mitchell, Brumfield, Fowler, McConnaha, Wing, Zerr, Olsen, Dunn, Schenck, Pedigo.

Mrs. Jane Dorman tells of a wagon and carriage shop on the lot adjoining the residence of Dr. Scama-

horn. This shop was owned by Geo. Thompson. The present business men are;— H. M. Knetzer, Restaurant; A. F. Junken, Hotel; E. H. Jones, filling station; Bonnie Coffin, barber; Addison Abney, Blacksmith; A. Garner, trucking; Evert Beck, Poultry; Bowman & Watts, I.H.C. Implements and Hardware; Carl Shirley, Garage; Graves', Restaurant; Neaville Drug Store; Geo Foreman, Groceries & Dry Goods; Frank Lovell, barber; C. R. Stewart, Garage; L. M. Zerr, Poultry; E. E. Sparks, Ice, Baling and Trucking; S. E. Berkey, Contractor; I. J. Sparks, Contractor; Carl Sparks, rucking, threshing; O. O. Williams, Gas & Oil; Grover Agan, Groceries; E. E. Williams, Garage; Lyle Strange, barber; Bruce Walton, Groceries; W. H. Schenck, Groceries; O. E. McConnaha, Undertaking & Furniture; Cocherell & Walter, Hardware, Plumbing & Heating; Frank McClung, Groceries; N. A. Wall, Grain, Coal & Feed; A. A. Wilkinson Lumber Co.

Another business which has disappeared because of the changes is the livery business. Griffiths, Hubble, Sallee are names familiar to this enterprise.

The Taverns of the early day were the center of much activity. As the flow of immigration continued for a considerable length of time numerous taverns were situated in the community. One evidently stood on the corner where the Sawyer block is located. This is probably the first. Another on the Frank Kirk location. The old house that stood where the Standard Oil station is located was a tavern frequently mentioned. This was operated by Archibald Alexander. Another stood on the Fred Kress, (Harry Thompson) farm and another east of Pittsboro, the location not being definite. The latter part of the 19th and the early part of the 20th century will remember the Dillon House, the home of Mary Dugan.

Although the Tavern was located in Harrisburg (Brownsburg) we will mention the license granted John L. Parker, Grandfather of Robert E. Parker, to operate a tavern in what is now Brownsburg for a period of one year. The license fee was \$15.

Middle Township has always striven toward the forefront in the agricultural pursuits. Its contour and natural fertility of its soil render it one of the best

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farming communities in the county. Early in the township's history, Nelson Faught, father of Homer Faught, patented a steel plow, the first in the township. This revolutionized the farming occupation discarding the old wooden plows of the time. He attempted the manufacture of the plow, however another patent with improvements dealt a death blow to the enterprise. The work of our esteemed citizens was not minimized as we are told that the Oliver plow was a development of this first plow. In rapid succession the sickle and cradle are supplanted by the drop machine, this by the massive wire tying binder, drawn by six or eight horses and is likewise followed by the modern binder. The flail has been succeeded by the horse power thresher and this succeeded by the horse drawn steam engine which in turn is followed by the modern tractor, thresher and now the combine is taking its place on the Indiana farms.

Another inventor was Joe Thompson who secured a patent on a carpet stretcher.

The community has also taken an active part in the promotion of agriculture. In 1874 in The Union appears an article describing the organization of "The Patrons of Husbandry." This organization, as the local unit of the Grange, had for its purpose "The mutual instruction and protection of those engaged in agricultural pursuits, and the diffusion of a more general knowledge of its aims and purposes and devising of ways and means by which the labor of cultivation may be more remunerative." The Middle Township membership was represented by M. L. Reitzel, Master and Amos Hoak, secretary.

The Farmers' Institute movement also received the support of the community. About 1918 came the Farm Bureau which at present is represented by C. H. Walter, chairman and R. T. Halfaker, Sec.

As time progressed the village of Pittsboro grew and on March 6, 1906 a petition for incorporation was presented by Samuel Janes. The Board of County Commissioners was composed of E. M. Murphy, A. S. Lineinger, and Bascom W. McClain. The Commissioners' Records gives the following account:—"Now comes Sam Janes and files a map, survey and cens...

of territory to be incorporated and a petition asking for the incorporation of said territory under the name of Pittsboro." Then follow the legal descriptions and statement of regularity of petition. On order of Board an election was held in John Lewis' Tin Shop in said territory between the hours of 9 o'clock A. M. and 4 o'clock P. M. on the sixth day of April 1906. The election officials were John Neaville, Inspector; Elwood Parker, Judge and C. J. Olsen, clerk. The results of election was 83 favorable and 38 opposed.

As an incorporated town many improvements have been made, including the sidewalks which were laid shortly following incorporation, the improvement of most of the streets and the erection of a lighting system. A water system was undertaken in 1932 but owing to financial difficulties has not been completed. Plans are under way at present for the completion in near future.

The telephone facilities have grown from a public pay station of Danville system in Sawyer's store to a system owned and operated by local citizens. The Danville system built the first lines throughout the community and later the local company erected their system finally purchasing the Danville lines.

The present town board is composed of Dr. O. T. Scamahorn, Ross Williams, O. E. McConnaha and L. M. Schenck, as clerk.

When the County Commissioners ordered the organization of the township they also provided for the system of government as specified by the state constitution and various state laws. Accordingly James Parks was the first Justice of Peace, which was the principal office of the township as we learn that beginning with the year 1834 the Board of County Commissioners was composed of the Justices of Peace of the various townships. Other officers were constable, overseer of Poor, Inspector of Elections and road supervisor.

The office of trustee was not created until after the adoption of the present State Constitution. A local township record of 1853 gives the names of Z. B. Long, Balaam Wells, and Samuel Hill as comprising the Board of Trustees of Middle Township.

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Joseph Wells was treasurer and O. W. Hill, clerk. The office of Treasurer and clerk were soon abolished and the Board of trustees was replaced by the office of trustee, John N. Shirley filling this office in 1859. Many of the prominent citizens have held this office. H. M. Knetzer is the present trustee. By 1870 another office is added to the list, that of township assessor. Alfred Stanley served as the first assessor. The Legislature of 1933 abolished this office in townships of less than 5000 population. Henry Smith is the retiring assessor.

Many of Middle Townships citizens have served their county in an official capacity. Among these are Archibald Alexander, Amos Hoak, Frank A. Haynes, Robert E. Parker and Elvin Stipe as county Commissioner; Ellis M. Weaver, recorder; L. S. Watts, Enos Hornaday and John Patterson, Treasurer; Dr. W. H. Terrell, coroner; John A. Bell and Samuel Hollingsworth, Sheriff and John J. Dugan, State Representative, Don Hill, Prosecutor, Frank McCray, a former resident, held a Judgeship in Marion County and Samuel Ashby was counsel for the city of Indianapolis.

It might be of interest to give a very brief summary of Middle Township's Political sentiments. It has been Democratic, Whig, Democratic, Republican and lastly Democratic. In 1872 Middle Township gave Uylsses S. Grant a majority of 30 votes, since that time however it has been consistently Democratic in National affairs. Its local politics have been some what more checkered. Many times a Republican trustee has served with an advisory Board either wholly or partly Democratic. Twice the vote for trustee has tied. The poll book of 1852 gives the names of 152 voters, while in the recent primary election 917 voters were registered while some 50 or 60 were not registered.

The tax levies of the county afford a rather interesting study. The first levy affecting Middle township was in 1833. This levy was specific, as follows:—"Poll tax 50 cents; each horse 37½c; yoke of Oxen, 37½c; "pinch back" or silver watch, 25c; gold watch, \$1; Metal clock, \$1; each hundred acres of first rate

land, 40c; Second rate land, 30c and third rate land, 20c; pleasure carriage, 25c and vender of wooden clocks, \$10."

By 1836 the taxes had changed from a specific to advalorem or according to value levy. This tax rate was 50 cents on each taxable Poll and 10 cents on each \$100 valuation of taxable property for county revenue and 2 cents on each \$100 valuation of land for road purposes.

The records of the county auditor make the following inventory of Middle Township and Pittsboro for 1934:

Total Value of Township	
Personal property	\$ 153,280
Real property	1,216,035
Total	1,369,315
Less exemptions	106,355
Net Valuation	1,262,960

Pittsboro	
Personal	\$ 58,805
Real	242,575
Total	301,380
Less Exceptions	35,865
Net Valuation	265,515
Value of Utilities, Middle Twp.	187,555
Pittsboro	16,055
Total combined Valuation	\$1,732,085

Estimated tax rate for 1934 payable in 1935 is \$2.435 per \$100 valuation and to this must be added the Poll Tax. This tax rate includes the State Tax, County Tax, Township poor, School, Bond and gravel road Bonds.

Number of Taxable Polls	
Middle Township	159
Pittsboro	92
Total	251

"The Pittsboro Bank was organized in 1897 by Isaac Palmer, Jesse Smith, and Steve Cline, the two latter acting as President and Cashier, respectively," says Judge John V. Hadley. The bank was chartered in 1905 with a capital of \$10,000. Other persons later associated with the bank were G. C. Tolin, E. W. Sawyer, F. A. Haynes, W. A. Berry, A. M. Ridgeway, May

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Davis, Marvin Weaver, Dr. O. T. Scamahorn. The Bank operated for several years as a State Bank with a capital of \$25,000. It is very regrettable that during the last days of 1932 the bank ceased to operate.

Another enterprise that helped to mold the character was that of the local weekly newspaper, the Pittsboro Sun. This publication was established in 1893 by Frank C. Harrell. E. C. Weaver purchased it during its first year and on Dec. 25, 1898, Samuel Janes became the owner and publisher. In June 1911, Evert Watson became publisher and owner who later sold to Gregory Waldem. It is to be regretted that the weekly newspaper has ceased to be a part of our community life.

In 1848 the Postmaster was a man by the name of Vaughan. Other postmasters were Dan Hill, E. W. Sawyer, Lloyd Parker, F. A. Haynes, Morton Ellis, Winbern Dillon. Elias Leach mentions a post office in 1838, however, he does not give any information as to establishment. Frank Kirk, Frank Wills, Porter Hornaday, Ida Jones, Paul Canary and others have served as Rural Route Carriers. The present Post mistress is Mary Dugan. We regret that we have not been favored with a more thorough history of the Post Office.

The early pioneers were not negligent of religious instruction for on Oct., 12, 1833, Big White Lick Baptist Church was organized at the home of Adam Spicklemire.

The charter members were:—Abraham and Charity Spicklemire, Adam and Phoebe Spicklemire, Aaron and Jane Spicklemire, David and Elizabeth Spicklemire, Jane Dollerhide, Nancy Dollerhide, Caleb and Phoebe Shirley. Benjamin Harris served as moderator and Abraham Spicklemire as secretary. A house of worship was built about one mile east of town on the site of White Lick cemetery. All that remains of this building is a few of the information stones and its former location serving as a cemetery.

In 1893 a committee of five, composed of Wm McLeod, J. M. Spicklemire and B. A. Hyten was appointed to erect a new house. They erected the building on the present site in the south part of town.

In 1918 this building was remodeled and dedicated May 12 of that year. Among the ministers are:—Wm Benson, J. E. Lee, J. R. Daily, C. M. Reed, and E. A. Williams, who has served the local church for more than 30 years.

To the Methodist Church belongs the distinction of being the first to be erected in the town of Pittsboro. Simon Hadley, one of the founders of the town offered to donate a lot to any denomination that would build a house of worship.

In the year 1836 the Methodists erected a house of worship on Lot 2, Block 2 of the original town of Pittsboro. Arch and John Alexander, William Tinner, Nathaniel Hilton and their families were the charter members.

The elder Alexander sawed the lumber in his water mill on his farm south of town. Rev. Enoch Wood served as the first Minister and Rev. Pointer and Nathaniel Gossett were its local preachers. The church seems to have been associated with the Danville Church, or rather with the other churches of the county including Lizton, Brownsburg, and North Salem Circuit from 1828. In 1868 the present building was erected at a cost of \$2,000. In 1873 the membership was 74, with Rev. Peter S. Cook, pastor. Isaac N. Patch held an outstanding revival in 1878. Another revival of note was held in 1891 by Horace G. Ogden. The first building stood on the Cline Lot.

In 1919 the church was again remodeled at a cost of \$6,000. Rev. S. A. P. Reakes serving as pastor. The present membership is about 100 with only about 65 active members. Rev. R. R. Blake is Pastor.

The Christian Church was founded Feb. 5, 1854 by Elder Thomas Lockhart. Some of the Charter members came from the church at Brownsburg. Among them were John L. and Nancy Parker, Mathew Parker, Oakley Parker, David and Margaret Junken, Oliver Hill, Joseph Wells, and Dennis Clark. The first trustees were Joseph Wells, Dennis Clark, John L. Parker, Stephen Hale, and Asa Veatch, Martha Wells Parker was the last survivor of the charter members, she having died in 1914 at the age of 86 years. In 1854 a church building was erected on the

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lots now occupied by Grover Agan's and Douglas Armstrong's residences at a cost of \$2,000. In 1873 a second building was erected at the present location. At this time there were 150 members and the property was valued at \$3,000.

The building was again remodeled in 1899 at a cost of \$1,025. Again in the year 1924 the building was remodeled at a cost of \$12,000 this amount having been raised by donation work, and cash pledges. The present trustees are Alonzo Alagle, Mura. Keeney and Dr. O. T. Scamahorn. The present Pastor, Robert Andry, lives in Indianapolis. Other ministers are Elders Lockhart, Warren, Rev. Canfield, Brewer, E. Daughtery, Willoughby, Blair, Huston, Morro, Andrews and Leonard.

To this church, according to Mrs. Dorman, goes the distinction of the first Sunday School. Eliza Herbster, Eva Parker Lewis, Mary Wilkinson, Shirley, Fanny Stillinger and Mrs. Jane Dorman composed a class taught by Dudley Parker.

Among rural churches of the township menion must be made of the New Hope, and Quebec Christian Churches; the former located in the northern part on the farm formerly owned by John Money, and the latter located in the southern, opposite the Thomas Swain home. These have long since been abandoned.

Although in what is now Center township, a building was erected for all denominations so long as no disagreement occurred, contention soon arose and the building reverted to its original owner.

Pittsboro Lodge 342 I.O.O.F. was instituted Feb. 10, 1870, in a hall owned by J. N. Shirley where the property of Mrs. Cline stands. The dispensation being granted by Grand Master James A. Wilderman, E. H. Barry acting Noble Grand A. C. Dodson, Vice N. G. and John T. Burns, secretary. Charter members were:— J. N. Shirley, Wm. N. Crabb, Lewis Watts, Amos Hoak, and J. M. McLean. First Officers were:— N. G. Lewis Watts; V. G. W. N. Crabb; Fin. Sec. Marshal Holtsclaw; Rec. Sec. J. M. McLean; conductor, Jas. A. Adams; Warden, Doc Holtsclaw; Inside Guard John Car'er, Outside Guard, Wm. P. McIntire, Chaplin N. Faught.

In 1874 the present building was erected by Bro. A. J. Cocherell and dedicated Nov. 30, 1874 with an oyster supper.

Statistical Report from Feb. 19, 1870 to June 30, 1934:—

Initiations	326
Reinstated	54
Admitted by Card	48
Withdrawn by Card or Transfer	72
Expelled	12
Dropped	209
Death	50

Receipts and Disbursements

Receipts	\$32,185.72
Total Expense	13,524.86
Grand Lodge dues & Home Tax	4,460.53
Total Relief Paid	13,891.61

Masonic Lodge, F. & A. M. was first instituted March 1869, under dispensation with the following officers:—Wm G. Parker, W.M.; John P. Smith, S.W.; Dan Larimore, J.W.; Dan Hill, Sec.; I. B. Waters, S.D.; J. M. Wills, J.D.; and Jerome Benne't, Tyler. This lodge worked for one year in the Parker block, on present site of Hayworth Building. It received its charter in 1870 as Pittsboro Lodge 428. They then moved to second floor of A. C. Weaver building. Its charter members were the above named officers and John Rainey, R. T. Dorman, Dr. J. H. Tilford, A. C. Weaver, D. A. Junken, Phelgmuel Dickerson and Henry C. Wills. In 1882, the lodge lost its charter. Sixteen years later Jan. 1898, thirteen members of the old lodge and other resident members of other jurisdictions petitioned the Grand Lodge for the erection of a new lodge. In May the following officers were installed Sabert Offutt, W.M.; C. A. Weaver, S.W.; W. D. Lewis, J.W.; G. D. Junken, sec.; John Bell, Treas.; J. A. Pratt, S.D.; P. O. Waters, J.D.; R. T. Dorman, Tyler. The lodge met in the Junken Hall and May 23 received charter as Pittsboro Lodge No. 620 F. & A. M. Later it was removed to Sawyer Block and remained there until the old Dorman property was purchased and the residence remodeled into a very attractive lodge hall. Marvin Weaver

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is present Worshipful Master and Joe Ray Cowley is Secre ary.

Margaret Rebekah Lodge was instituted May 3, 1894, with seven charter members, namely, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hale, Mr. and Mrs. E. Will Wills, Mr. and Mrs. Urban Weaver, and Sherman Talbott. Degrees were conferred on seventeen candidates on May 3, 1894 making a membership of 24. The Lodge was named for Mrs. Margaret Hoak who was a member of the old Rebekah Lodge.

Statistical Report:—
Initiated 346
Death 74
Present membership 47

consisting of 39 sisters and 8 brethren
Pittsboro Camp No. 10686 Modern Woodmen of America was chartered May 15, 1902 with the following beneficial members:— Charles W. McClintock, Knotley S. Tansel, Robert E. Tout, Geo. E. Walter, William F. Prdigo, Oscar G. Weddle, James De'ong, Oliver P. Junken, Millard McClung, Geo. W. Smith and J. H. Ashby.

First officers were O. G. Weddle, Consul, and Oliver P. Junken, Secretary. This lodge has surrendered its charter.

The auxiliary of this order known as Royal Neighbors has since disbanded.

The Pittsboro Chapter Order of Eastern Star, was chartered Feb. 21, 1917 with the following charter members:—Chester, Nelle and Frances Weaver, Alcie and Nora Ridgeway, Russell and Merle Wills, Harold and Ruth Knetzer, O. T. and Fannie Scamahorn, Pearl Cowley, Ewart and Bertha Watson, Effie Doty, Loyal and Julia Schenck, William and Mary Williams, Lee and Julia Oversreet, Dr. Thos. and Myrtle Irons, Frank and Eva Lovell, and Ed and Sallie Watts. The present officers are:— Worthy matron, Julia Dillon; Worthy Patron, Ross Williams; Associate Matron, Ruth Knetzer; Associate Patron, Harold Knetzer; Secretary, Merle Wills; Treasurer, Alcie Ridgeway; Conductress, Beryl Williams; Associate conductress, Lewella Williams; Chaplin, Myrtle Irons; Warden, Agnes Schneck and sentinel, Murat

Keeney; Ada, Daisy Keeney; Ruth, Ruth Hall; Esther, Josie Huber; Martha, Pearl Crowley; Electa, Frances Weaver Fisher; and Marshall, Eva Lovell.

Throughout the history of the community women have taken an active part in the social affairs through their club work. Among the clubs we will mention the M.C.A. Club, Economics Club, Mothers Club and Stndy Club.

The Study Club are sponsors of the Centennial Celebration. Its present officers are:— Frances Fisher, President; Irene Scott, Vice-President; Myrtle Beaman, Sec. Treas. The present membership is 46.

Soon after the Civil War Pittsboro boasted of a band. This was composed of several of the local boys. They appeared on various programs throughout the country. From time to time other bands were organized and various musical programs were presented. The bands contributed largely to the entertainment of the red letter days of Pittsboro, especially the horse shows. At the present time a group of young people have organized a band under the direction of Mr. Skidmore of Central Normal College of Danville.

The citizens of Middle Township have always been ready and eager to bear their patriotic responsibilities. Each time giving loyal support to the cause of the United States. Many of her sons returned home maimed and wounded while others sleep beneath the sod of the battlefields. While yet young the township sent at least one, Nelson Faught, to enlist in the Mexican War.

With the call of Lincoln many volunteered and from time to time others enlisted until the roll is one of which any community might justly be proud. A permanent record of the Township's soldiers has not been found and any errors in the following list are not intentional. The soldiers, who enlisted from the Township or who were associated with the township are:—A. C. Weaver, W. D. Lewis, R. T. Dorman, H. T. Kirk, E. M. Weaver, J. M. Wills, S.S. Wills, W.H. Milam, Geo. W. Tidrick, W.B. McClung, Jacob C. Waters, Lewis Buergelein, Thomas Brooks, Chas. P. Cox, Joe Williamson, Samuel Janes, John Ridgeway, J. A. Jordan, Wm. Jordan, Jesse Lacy, Calvin Warrick, Luke

ODER R. PIERSON

Democratic Candidate

For Trustee

Middle Township

HERSCHEL GENTRY

Republican Candidate

For Trustee

Middle Township

GENEVA HATCHERY

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VISITORS WELCOME

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N.R.A. Compliance Certificate No. 2397

Dillon, John W. Smith, Oliver Kesler, L. S. Watts, Marshall Holtsclaw, Silas Pearson, Lewis Davis, J.J. Halfaker, J.H. Pebworth, Dr. French, Leander B. Ashby, Thos. Ashby John A. Holley, William Walter, Melville Phillips, Wm Tout, Dudley Parker, James Adams, "Jack" Adams, John Bell, Enos Hornaday, Rob Parker, Dan Hill, Wesley Parker, Mr. Frenyear, James Smoot, Walter Scamahorn, Peter Case, Fred Leonard, Robert Cundiff, John Cundiff, Jefferson Thompson, Wm McLeod, Marion Watson, Jap Linton, Job Smith, Geo P. Potts, Frank Martin, Bob Presley, Samuel Watson, Henry Caywood, Vincent Crabb, John Tout, Henry Moore, T. C. Dollerhide, and Frank Ray.

Some of the above mentioned paid the supreme sacrifice on the battle field, Prison pen or hospital. Today not one of their number are living, John W. Smith being the last survivor, he having died in 1934.

The Thomas Ashby Post No. 451 G.A.R., was organized Sept. 8, 1886 with the following charter members:—A. C. Weaver, W. D. Lewis, R. T. Dorman, H. T. Kirk, E. M. Weaver, J. M. Wills, S. S. Wills, W. H. Milam, Geo. W. Tidrick, W. B. McClung, Jacob C. Waters, Lewis Buergelein, Thos. Brooks, Chas. P. Cox, Joe Williamson and Samuel Janes.

The Women's Relief Corps, No. 231, was organized March 25, 1899 with eighteen charter members. Mrs. Marian McVey French was first President; Mrs. Eva Lewis Sec.; and Etta Palmer, Treasurer.

The Spanish American War veterans are:— Lon Phillips, Ollie Worrell, Bert Lacy, Joe Bell, Charles Bell, Ralph Wills, Luke Yeager, Arch Davidson, Elsworth Crawley and Charles Rich. Some of these never lived in Middle Township until after the War.

Again in the World War several of our boys donned the khaki and went forth to a foreign battle field. Some of these lived elsewhere at the time of enlistment, however, they were closely associated with Middle Township soon after the War or had formerly lived here:— The roll like that of the Civil War has not been kept, and it is very difficult to name all. According to the best available information the list includes: John Hott, the only survivor of "The Lost

Battalion" living in Indiana; Chester V. Hott, Verne Hott, Otis Pierson, who met death while saving a child from the wheels of the artillery; Paul Jordan, Russell Hale, Clifford Dorman, Frank McClung, Maurice Huddleston, Edwin Terrell, Frank W. Hubble, Fred Hubble, Norman Smith, Glenn Groover, Harold Smith, Ora Boler, John Holley, Luke Yeager, Ernest Walter, Ernest Jones, Lora Wynkoop, Mathew Gaston, Elbert Rawlings, Hollis Lovell, Loyd Ellis, Lyle Gregg, Byron Beaman, Corbert Warren, Clifford Warren, Herschel Gentry, Edgar Parker, Omer Harlin, Thos. Feeney, Jesse Elmore, Otis Sallee, Chas. Stanley, Urban Holley, Bunnie Airhart, who died in a hospital, Glen Hart, Fred Payne, Clyde Linton, James Ashby, Paul Robbins, Ora F. Johnson, who was fatally wounded while in action, Lester Rounds who also suffered mortal wounds; Lester Griggs, Lawrence Junken, Oscar Holtsclaw, Raleigh Rosebaum, Hollis Ashby, Maurice Hearl, Julian Zerr, Raymond Fowler, Percy Fowler, Chester Smith, Paul Canary and Glen Hovermale.

The History of any community is not complete without mention being made to the physicians and other associates in the Medical world, Dentists and Veterinarians. This list we give is taken largely from a memorandum of Dow Tout:— Dr. Pratt, Dr. Tom Hoadley, Dr. Bill Hoadley, Dr. Witty, Dr. Cloud, Dr. Talbert, Dr. Brill, Dr. French, Dr. Clay Weaver, Dr. Hatfield, Dr. Tius, Dr. Tilford, Dr. Stephenson, Dentist: Dr. Byrum, Dentist: Dr. Barnhill, Dentist: Dr. Kirtley, Dentist: Dr. Steele, Dentist: Dr. Blacklock, Dr. Sowder, Dr. McClintock, Dr. King, Dr. John Osborne, Dr. Harry Osborn, Dr. W. H. Terrill, Dr. O. T. Scamahorn, Dr. Sidenbender, Dentist and Dr. Van Coach, M.D., and Dr. Hardin and Dr. Thos. Irons, Veterinarians.

Although some of the present buildings and Houses are of recent construction yet a few still standing are worthy of mention. Beyond any doubt one of the oldest houses is the J. B. Hale house, which Mrs. Dorman says was used not only as a residence for the family, but a shoe shop was located in the west room. This shop was operated by Gus Sullivan. The log portion of the Sarah Junken home, was ori-

CHESTER V. PARKER

Republican Candidate

For

State Representative

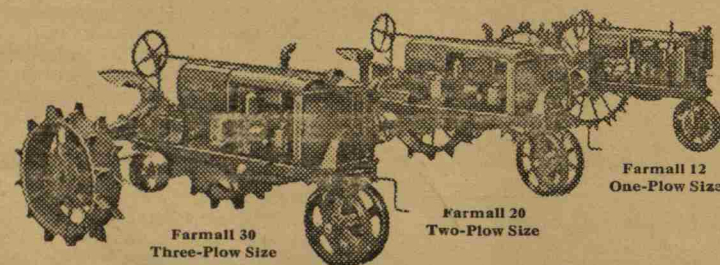
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For

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tionally the main building which was the birthplace of Mrs. Dorman.

The other houses are the Neville House, the birthplace of Mrs. Emma Welshans on South Maple, the Bruce Walton home built by Dan Hill and a portion of the Nora Wills house occupied by Winbern Dillon.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The first school in Middle township was taught in 1835 on the farm of Samuel Hill two miles south of Pittsboro. John Lineberry was hired by Mr. Hill at ten dollars per month to teach the school and the neighbors helped to erect the cabin. There were fifteen pupils in the school. Elias Leach in his account of his life says that in 1836 he taught school on the east fork of Eel River just east of the present site of Lizton and in 1837 he taught on the west fork of White Lick one mile N.E. of Pittsboro on the Warrick land. These schools were both within the borders of Middle township at that time since at that early date Middle township included all of the present township, Union township and the north part of Center.

The pioneers established schools just as soon as possible after their homes were established. Sometimes school was taught in the homes. When possible a cabin was built or procured and school of a crude sort was conducted. Very frequently the teacher was poorly prepared for his task and too often his chief qualification was the ability to use the rod.

There is evidence of the existence of a few of these early cabin school houses within the borders of Middle township. Within the memory of some of our citizens these houses or remnants of them have stood, William F. Pedigo, Oscar G. Weddle, James Delong,

One of these houses stood near the present location of old Tamarack school. It remained after a better school building was erected and was used as a residence. Another cabin school was located near where the Logan Halfaker home now stands. It was used as a residence after Caledonia school house was built 1/4 mile east of it. Another of these cabins stood one fourth mile south and one half mile east of the old Quebec school. Still another was located in the extreme south east part of the township on the Smith

land and only a few rods from the Township line.

Not many years ago a few old logs marked the site of another of these cabin schools on the John Caywood land, then owned by Eldridge Huff, one mile north and one fourth mile west of Tilden. This is probably the house in which L. M. Campbell taught in the spring and summer of 1852. Mr. Campbell, once a prominent attorney of Danville, says in a diary kept at the time, that he taught school three miles from Pittsboro and three miles from Brownsburg. The names of his pupils furnish further proof of the location of the school. The children came from the homes of the pioneer families of Parker, Huff, Hughes, Chadwick, Patterson, White, Wells, Hornaday, Crimes, Lowder, Hill and Montgomery. This is the earliest record of names of pupils in any school in the township. Mr. Campbell further states in his diary that at the close of his school he collected the money due him from the patrons then delivered his report to the county clerk and was given an order upon the county treasurer for the public funds due him. This reminds us that under the first Indiana Constitution (1816-1852) that the congressional township was the school unit and that the interest from funds arising from the sale or rental of Section 16 of each township and from some other sources was to be used for school purposes. These funds were not sufficient in many cases to support schools and the patrons were called upon to contribute a part of the teacher's salary. This is the only instance known to us at this time in which public funds were used to help support a school in this township prior to the day of "free" or tax supported schools under the new Constitution.

The "Subscription" school met the need where public funds were inadequate. Public records, however, give evidence of trustees being elected or appointed to look after the interests of the "school townships", (Congressional) that lay in Middle township.

In 1852 Middle township was divided. The west half became Union township. The Civil township at that time was governed by a board of three trustees. They chose in addition a clerk and a treasurer. The civil township was now the school unit. In addition to

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PITTSBORO, INDIANA

public funds in existence taxes were levied for school purposes. The earliest record under the new order affecting Middle township schools is under the date of June 2, 1855. The township board consisted of Z. B. Long, James N. Tout, and Louis Percy, trustees; C. L. Benton Clerk and Asa T. Hoadley, treasurer. They "proceeded to levy a tax of 25 cents on the hundred dollars both personal and real and 50 cents poll tax for the purpose of building school houses." This tax was continued for a time and within five years the township had built 9 school houses in as many districts. These were the one room frame buildings that preceded the brick buildings of a later day in many of the districts.

The type of building erected is best described by the following advertisement for bids:

NOTICE

"Is hereby given that I will sell at public auction on the fourth day of May next at or about one o'clock P. M. in the town of Pittsboro to the lowest bidder the building of school house No. 2 in Middle Township. Said house to be twenty two by twenty eight feet. Studding ten feet long with a center sill. One panel door shutter three by 6½ feet. Seven windows, twelve lights ten by twelve glass with a sufficient number of seats and desks, two coats of paint on the outside and black boards inside—the undertaker to furnish all good material except nails, paint, and glass and locks which will be furnished by the trustee, and do said work in a good and workman like manner. House to be completed by the first day of November, 1860."

April 20, 1860. John N. Shirley Trustee.

Dennis Clark was the lowest bidder. His bid being \$274.25.

The men who built a number of these houses, according to contracts let Sept 13, 1856 were, Archibald Alexander, No's 4, 5 and 6. Ezekial and Dennis Clark No. 8. Elias Leach & J.S. Thompson contracted to

build No. 9 but on Jan. 10, 1857 their contract was cancelled and the board purchased a house of Elias Leach for that location. On March 9, 1857 Elias Leach was allowed \$165.00 from the Specific fund for location No. 9. Whether this is the lot or the building is not specified. This is the first known building provided for school purposes in Pittsboro. A building stood just south of White Lick cemetery, first a cabin, later a frame building, to which the children of Pittsboro went to school. George Nash was one of the early teachers. Some of our present citizens attended school there. This house was later moved into Pittsboro and became the first railroad station.

School No. 9, or the first in Pittsboro was located west of the present Methodist church about where the alley intersects Meridian street. The first record of school taught there was April 21, 1860 when B. B. Freeman was paid \$44.32 for teaching. On October 17, 1860, G. I. Frenyear was paid \$60.00 for teaching there. Mr. Frenyear is the teacher in the J. B. Hale picture taken July 4, 1860. This is the oldest picture known to exist of any Middle township school.

The first record of teaching under the new school system is contained in the minutes of the township board meeting of November 15, 1856 when David C. Lane was paid \$70.00 for teaching at location No. 2. The first of the new school houses built at this time was No. 1 on January 10, 1857 "James Oscar—teacher at location No. 1 was allowed \$90.00 from the Common school fund." On March 2, 1857, William J. Smith of "location" No. 7 was allowed \$97.50 from the tuition fund.

Other early teachers 1859 and 1860 were James W. Adams, Abigail Coffin, G. A. Huron, William Young, William Smith, Isaac B. Waters, C. M. Baugh, Lane Freeman, T. J. Scearce, Perlina Garret, M. J. Freeman, William McLeod, Thomas McCaslin, A. C. Weaver, and T. J. Spicklemire. During the Civil war the names of T. J. Shirley, Mary E. Leach, Marshall Holtsclaw, Eliza A. Leach, Lucinda Atkins and Nancy Cofer appear as teachers in the township.

The following statistical report is found without signature or date but must be 1859 and prepared by J. N.

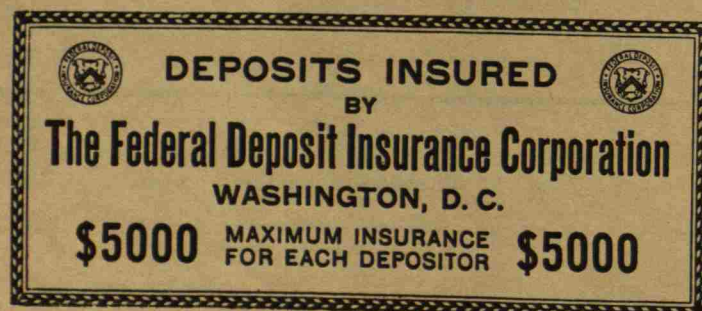
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Lizton, Indiana

Shirley:

Total amount paid for tuition	6.03
Average amount paid for males	1.15
Average amount paid for females	1.00
Apportionment of school revenue for May	609.60
Total amount of school revenue for October	147.24
For tuition received within the year ..	756.84
Maps	108.00
Average attendance in primary	191
Total amount of special school revenue received within the year	119.41
Total amount of such revenue expended within the year	93.42
Amount paid to trustee for managing educational affairs	29.25
Number of pupils admitted into the primary department within the year	348
Number included in the foregoing who are more than 21 yrs. of age, Males 2, Females 1.	
The word primary can hardly be used as it is today. It probably meant elementary.	

In 1859 the township board ceased to be and one trustee took its place. The first one of these was John N. Shirley. The trustees who have succeeded him in office are:

Jonas Lipe, Silas Davidson, A. C. Weaver, Wm. G. Parker, Harry Hoak, B. A. Acton, Daniel Feeley, Austin Pierson, A. A. Serber, Enos Hornaday, John Brumfield, Wm. Hollingsworth, R. L. Dillon, Chas. Patterson, Otha Dale; Robert Parker, Harold Kneizer.

During the '70's the names of the following teachers appeared: John W. Bishop, J. M. Wills, Henry Wills, John T. Wells, Cinderella Darnell, Lizzie Carrington, H. F. Whitsett, Jacob Horner, Sade Leach (Duzan), George D. Junken, S. Thad Adams, Laura Edwards, Mollie J. Larsh, W. L. Leak, G. W. Baker, Clara E. Bunker, Scottie Talbot, A. B. Tharp, Wm. Y. Turner, Lida Bowen, Franklin McCray, Nannie Talbot, Mattie

Montgomery, D. D. Pike.

The length of the school term seldom exceeded three months during all the years preceding 1873 and often the term was shorter than that. The contract price for teaching at that time was \$2.00 per day in most cases.

Not until 1873 was the school term lengthened to five months and during the '80s a slight increase in the pay of the teachers is noted.

The one room school building erected in Pittsboro just before the Civil War was soon outgrown. In 1870 the old Christian Church in the south part of town was acquired and made into a two or three room school building. This was the school of the town until 1879 when the four room brick building was erected in the east part of town.

With better roads and better means of transportation came consolidation of schools. For a number of years beginning about 1900 the demand for "graded" schools and better facilities grew and one by one the one room district schools vanished. This, with the organization of the Pittsboro High school in 1894 made it necessary to erect a new building and what is now the grade building of the Pittsboro school was built in 1913. A few district schools remained and they soon called for consolidation. In 1921 the present High School building was erected and this made it possible to abandon all of the outlying schools of the township. The Community building was erected during the winter of 1919 and 1920. Its cost was subscribed by citizens of the town and township.

During the years not so far in the past there appear on the roll of teachers of our schools the names of: R. J. Bland, V. D. George, Mattie E. Cope, James Potts, Florence Talbot, Urban Ballard, C. M. Griggs, Millard McClung, Cora A. Hendricks, U. J. Billar, J. W. Gillaspie, B. C. Symmonds, Georgia B. Martin, J. H. George, A. L. Christie, W. B. Parker, William W. Martin, James Kellem, J. W. Riddle, Laetitia Lambert, Agnes Kennedy, Miles K. Moffit, Mary Baker, John R. Daily.

The first graduates known as such are those who finished school in the old grade building in the east end

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of town in 1884. Having passed an examination in a required number of subjects they were graduates of Middle township schools. The names of the members of the class of 1884 and the two succeeding classes are:

1884—Benjamin Hoak, Everett M. Turner, Virgil H. Tout, E. Will Wills, Hollis Weaver, Louise Fowler, Mamie Reynolds

1885—Anna Hoak, Carrie Walters, Mollie Cundiff, Luna Thompson, Sherman Walters

1886—Nettie Hoak, Charles Beaman, Etta Surber, Joseph Reynolds, Shiles Warrick, Thomas Adams, Virgil S. Watson, Mrs. Mary Baker, Samuel Ashby, Grace Weaver, Emma Wills.

Of this number of graduates almost all became teachers in the township. Miss Mamie Reynolds had the honor of teaching the first High School in 1884.

The "Hall of Fame" in the present high school building contains the pictures of both teachers and pupils who have been a part of the more recent history of education in Middle township. Their number is too great for any individual mention and even that would omit the host of teachers who have carried on in the grades, as well as the pupils who did not complete the full twelve years of school.

At present Mr. Jewell Vaughn, principal, and a competent corps of teachers have in charge the task of educating the children of the township. History cannot be adequately told by mere mention of a few facts, names and dates. Only the lives and ideals of the people give proper expression to it. So we see in our present school the ideals of our people as they seek to try to educate their children, a century of progress in education.

SUMMARY

Within a century our community has changed from the primeval forest, dense and unbroken, save only by the wild animals and Indians who roamed at will to a community of thrifty, industrious people. The ruthless elements of time and the progress of civilization have all but obliterated the landmarks of the century. All that remains of the Indians are a few collections of relics gathered here and there by a few of our people. The wild buffalo no longer leads his herd to the wallows such as the one still visible in the barnyard of the Oliver Wells farm. No longer do we hear the piercing howl of the hungry wolf as he seeks his sustenance from the flocks. The housewife no longer depends upon the skill of the hunter as the means of securing meat. The shy deer no longer gather at the "licks" but in its place stands the House of Worship of the Baptist congregation.

Here and there stand the ruins of a cabin or log structure as mute evidence of the progress of civilization, while in their stead we see a well kept home of the thrifty farmer or village merchant. The trails have given place to highways of gravel, stone, tarvia and concrete, and to ribbons of steel upon which speed monstrous locomotives laden with the products of the soil or the merchandise of the factory. The small irregular "clearings" have changed to well arranged fields, tilled with tractors and modern horse drawn machinery rather than with the oxen and wooden plows of a century ago. The dense forests of walnut, oak, ash, poplar, elm, hickory, maple and beech with their tangled undergrowth and dismal swamps have disappeared and in their places are fertile farms and happy homes with the little town in their midst.

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DAVID A. MYERS
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ARCHIE N. BOBBITT
ALFRED EVANS

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Clerk Hendricks Circuit Court
WALTER E. HADLEY
Prosecuting Attorney
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County Auditor
W. R. FUSON
County Treasurer
CLAUDE B. HOLLETT
County Sheriff
ALBERT H. SHANE
County Surveyor
HAROLD COOK
County Recorder
CORA B. VESTAL

County Assessor
HARRY DEAN
County Coroner
C. RAWLEIGH BAKER
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JOHN L. GRAVE
Commissioner, 3rd District
VICTOR EULISS
Councilman, First District
FRANK E. GUTHRIE
Councilman, Second District
ADRIAN McCLAIN
Councilman, Third District
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Councilman Fourth District
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* * *

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since the founding of the Republic. It is the party
which is as old as the Nation. Its principles have
never varied.

* * *

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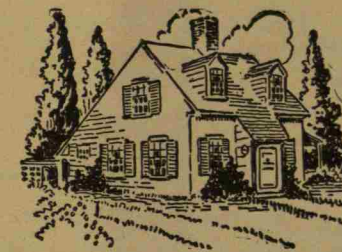
* * *

Let the Franchise be guided by reason, not fear
nor prejudice.

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Representative—Murat Keeney
Clerk—Ernest M. Heringlake
Auditor—Howard L. Rhea
Treasurer—Hilden Harris
Sheriff—Jesse E. Airhart
Recorder—William E. Reed
Assessor—Anson L. Jones
Surveyor—Carl E. Logan
Coroner—Dr. Tracy O'Brien
Commissioner, 2nd District—George Huber
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