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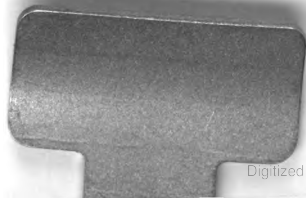
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INDIANA'S BIRTHPLACE

ROOSE











# Indiana's Birthplace

## A HISTORY OF HARRISON COUNTY INDIANA

By

WILLIAM H. ROOSE

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# PREFACE

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I shall cheerfully bear the reproach of having descended below the dignity of history.

—Macaulay—*History of England.*

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The following pages are published at the solicitation of friends who have examined the original manuscript of this work, which was gathered by the author for his own personal benefit. After a careful search, I have selected the data contained in these pages from various sources, and I am indebted to many citizens of Harrison County for much of the information herein contained. I have made no attempt to elaborate, and if the important early happenings of Harrison County have been clearly and concisely told, my object in the preparation of this work has been fulfilled.

However noticeable the lack of a literary air may be in these pages, my own experience causes me to believe that they will be of interest to the reader who was born and reared in Harrison County. A perusal of these pages will enhance the interest centering about many of the old landmarks and historical points which are to be found in every township of the county. The happenings about the birthplace of Indiana during the time of her struggles for a foothold in the Union should be interesting to every patriotic "Hoosier." It was in Harrison County that the first constitution of the State of Indiana was

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formed and adopted. It was here that our first statesmen met and enacted many laws that were to govern a great people. It was here that the foundation was laid for a state that was destined to produce many great men and women. My enthusiasm may be too great. If so, I trust that my readers will attribute it to a patriotic pride with which I point to my native county—Indiana's Birthplace.

WILLIAM H. ROOSE,

January 1, 1911.

The Author.

# INDIANA'S BIRTHPLACE

## A HISTORY OF HARRISON COUNTY INDIANA

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History hath triumphed over Time, which besides it, nothing but Eternity has triumphed over.—*Sir Walter Raleigh*  
—*The History of the World. Preface.*

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### EARLY SETTLEMENT

The first known settlement by white men in Harrison County, Indiana, was in the year 1792, when some members of the Pennington family settled near Lanesville. Later, when the territory now comprising the State of Indiana was erected into a territory, adventurers and pioneers migrated from the eastern states by means of horses, wagons, on foot and floated down the beautiful Ohio River in search of home and fortune in that vast wilderness which was then "the unknown west."

One of the most prominent men whose acquaintance extended into Harrison County, in the early days, was the noted pioneer, Daniel Boone. Daniel Boone frequently made hunting and exploring trips into the county, remaining for weeks among relatives and friends. In that day his acquaintance was co-extensive with the entire county. A few years ago there was a

tree still standing in the eastern part of Posey Township upon which was carved certain characters pointing to the location of a supposed "gold mine" found by Daniel Boone, but investigation developed the fact that the deposit which Boone thought was gold was the common iron mineral known as "fool's gold."

Squire Boone: One of the most prominent men in Indiana, in his day, was Squire Boone, who was a brother of Daniel Boone. In 1802, Squire Boone, with his sons, Isaiah, Enoch, Moses and Jonathan, located on a claim in Grassy Valley, in Heth Township, about six miles from the Ohio River. The Bible names given to his sons are indicative of his religious turn of mind and his sons all grew up to become useful, patriotic citizens. Squire Boone was an eccentric character, but possessed many excellent and admirable qualities and was a man of sterling worth. Old settlers have often found trees in the southern part of the county, upon which were carved, with a knife, records of his prowess as a hunter, such as "A bear killed here October 16th, 1802, by Squire Boone," which inscription is said to have stood for many years on an old beach tree in Boone Township. In 1803, Squire Boone is said to have engaged in a hand to hand contest with an Indian, in which the Indian was killed. This was at a point near Carter's School House in Taylor Township. On one of his hunting expeditions, Squire Boone discovered a cave near Buck Creek in Heth Township. At a later time he escaped, by hiding in this cave, when being pursued by hostile Indians. This cave became one of his favorite resorts and many figures of birds, beasts, Bible quotations,

etc., are found on the rocks of its walls where they were engraved by the hand of Squire Boone. Two of the lines carved in the face of a large stone are as follows:

“Here I sit and sing my soul’s salvation,  
And bless the God of my creation.”

This old hunter had a design of building a mill of singular workmanship, on Buck Creek, and had prepared a large quantity of stones, engraved with many curious devices and tokens such as fishes, birds, animals and other inscriptions, to be placed in the building. He died without accomplishing this work, however, a mill was erected by his son, Moses Boone, near the spot selected by his father. Squire Boone was buried, at his own request, in the cave which he had discovered, and here rested the remains of the noble old pioneer until his bones were carried away by animals and relic hunters and today, nothing remains but the inscriptions engraved in the walls of the cave, by his own hands.

John Ripperdan: In 1807, John Ripperdan came from Danville, Kentucky, and settled in Ripperdan’s Valley. Although much of the land in this valley has been cultivated for more than a hundred years, it is one of the most fertile spots in Harrison County.

Ephriam Fleshman: In 1807, Ephriam Fleshman came to Harrison County and settled in Heth Township. He was the first white man to die in the county. His remains lie in Heth Township.

John Frank moved from Salisbury, North Carolina, to Heth Township, in 1808. He brought with

him a large quantity of apple, pear and peach seeds from which many of the first orchards in the county were grown.

Jacob Lopp came in the same year.

John Simler came to the county in 1807 and a short time after his arrival he built a wolf pen or trap at Wolf Knob which derived its name from the large number of wolves that congregated there. The hides of the wolves were tanned and the leather made therefrom was put to many uses by the settlers.

Daniel Cunningham crossed the Ohio River from Brandenburg, Kentucky, in 1800. He lived on the Kentucky side of the river but cleared and cultivated a piece of land on the Indiana side where the Town of Morvin was afterward laid out.

Edward Smith settled on the land now owned by the Harrison County Agricultural Society, near Corydon, in 1806. Mr. Smith was born in England and came to America in 1774, as a British soldier. He later deserted and came to Harrison county and erected his cabin on a knoll near the Fairground Spring. Smith died at Corydon in 1828, and while he was buried on the hill south of Corydon the exact spot cannot be located. It is not certain that he ever joined the American Army but the Daughters of the Revolution have erected a monument to his memory. This was placed in the cemetery at Mt. Zion, near Mauckport, where his wife lies.

John Tipton settled near Brinley's Ferry on the Ohio River in 1807. At the first election under the State Constitution he was elected sheriff of Harrison county, and the records show that at the July term of

court, 1817, he and his deputy, Hiram C. Boone, were fined one dollar for failing to maintain order in the court room. Tipton served with Spencer's "Yellow Jackets" at the battle of Tippecanoe. After the battle an election for officers was held and Tipton was elected Captain of the company. He was promoted until he became a Brigadier General in the service of the state, and donated to the state the Tippecanoe Battle ground. He died at Logansport, April 7th, 1839, and was buried with military honors.

Spier Spencer came from Kentucky to Vincennes and from there he removed to Corydon in 1809, coming down the Wabash River and up the Ohio to Morvin, and thence overland to Corydon. He organized a military company called the "Yellow Jackets" for the campaign against the Indians which ended with the Battle of Tippecanoe, November 7, 1811. Captain Spencer was seriously wounded during the battle and as he was being carried from the field a second shot ended his life. He was the first sheriff of Harrison County and served in that office from 1809 to 1811. For many years he conducted a hotel in a large log house on Oak Street in Corydon. After his death this business was continued by his widow until her marriage to William Boone after which they conducted the famous "Billy Boone Tavern."

Patrick Shields was born in Virginia in 1773. In 1800 he came to Kentucky and in the spring of 1805 he came to Indiana and settled on the banks of the Ohio River about two miles below New Albany. In a short time the high water drove him from his home and he went westwardly and built a cabin on the

banks of Indian Creek near where the Town of Crandall now stands. Mr. Shields was one of the first judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

Robert Crosier, Dr. Adam Douglas, Anthony Dodd and wife, Adam Dodd and twenty-three other members of their families came from New York and settled in Boone Township on the 3rd day of June, 1816. Mr. Crosier bought a thousand acres of land in that township from the government for which he paid twelve and one-half and twenty-five cents per acre.

Alexander Hockaday was born in Danville, Kentucky, and moved to Indiana on the knobs just below New Albany when a young man. In 1822 he settled in Blue River Township in Harrison County where he started a blacksmith shop. He died in 1894 at the age of one hundred and one years.

Miss Sarah Davis, was born in Springfield, Kentucky, September 5, 1807. She came with her parents, to Harrison County, in 1819. In 1825 she was married to William Gresham with whom she lived near Lanesville until January, 1834, when Mr. Gresham was killed while performing his duties as sheriff of the county. She was afterward married to Nathan Rumley. She was the mother of Colonel Benjamin Gresham, Colonel William Gresham and General Walter Quinton Gresham. She died March 6, 1906, in the house where she had lived since 1825.

Colonel Lewis Jordan was born in Virginia, March 14, 1792. In 1819 he came to Harrison County and settled three miles south of Corydon. In 1828 he moved to Corydon and started a tannery. Colonel Jordon held commissions in the Indiana Militia bearing

the signatures of six Indiana Governors commencing with Jonathan Jennings in 1822, and ending with O. P. Morton in 1861.

John Mathes came to Harrison County with his parents from Kentucky, while Indiana was still a territory. He served with distinction as State Senator and Representative and was one of the members of the Constitutional Convention of 1850.

Colonel J. J. Lehmanosky, of the Ninth Polish Lancers of the Army of France, came to Harrison County and settled two and one-half miles west of Corydon, in 1833. He was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1773, but left his native country and went to France. He drifted into the army and was identified with Napoleon Bonaparte's fortunes until the the Battle of Waterloo put an end to his commander's career. Together with many other officers he was imprisoned, but made his escape and eventually found his way to America.

Henry Funk was born in the southern part of Harrison County November 20, 1809, where his parents had settled a short time before. He is still living near Elizabeth, on a farm where he has lived since 1832. When a boy Mr. Funk lived near Corydon and sold fruit and hazel nuts to the members of the legislatures that were held at Corydon when the capital was there.

Daniel McRae came to Harrison County in 1814 and settled on the land where New Middletown now stands.

Robert Denbo settled a short distance south of Corydon, in 1807.

Richard McMahan and Joseph McMahan settled in the same neighborhood in 1808.

James Trotter was born in Armaugh County, Ireland, January 1st, 1811. He emigrated to Baltimore with his parents in 1816, and in 1826, he came to Harrison county where he settled near Lopp's Landing.

William M. Saffer was born in Virginia, in 1796, and came to Harrison County with his parents when a small boy. In 1853, he was elected to the Legislature where he was very active in behalf of state-wide prohibition. He was the "temperance candidate" for Governor before the convention which nominated A. P. Willard. Mr. Saffer was beaten one vote and Mr. Willard was afterward elected Governor. He died April 27th, 1869.

Daniel Dean settled about a mile east of where Lanesville now stands, in 1801.

Other stalwart pioneers who assisted in opening up this unexplored wilderness to civilization were R. M. Heth, who bought the claim and cabin of Squire Boone; William Applegate, who came from Pennsylvania; Henry Watson came from Kentucky; Frederick Mauck came from Virginia, and bought the cabin of some earlier settler where the town of Mauckport now stands. It was he who established the first regular ferry between Kentucky and Harrison county, operating for a number of years between Mauckport and Brandenburg. Others were Isom Stroud, Teeson Byrn, Daniel Stout, Samuel Pfrimmer, David Floyd, Thomas Wilson, Mr. Westfall and James Samuels. It is said that James Samuels planted the first orchard in Harrison county.

The mills originally used for "cracking corn" in

Harrison county, were known as "horse mills." The first mill to be propelled by water power was built by Moses Boone, on Buck Creek, about four miles from the Ohio River, in 1806. In the fall of the same year Harvey Heth erected a second mill on Buck Creek about a mile above Boone's mill. The next year Gov. Wm. H. Harrison built a water power mill at Wilson's Spring on Blue River. For several years the settlers of Harrison county went to Shepherdsville, Kentucky, for their provisions. Shepherdsville was many miles away, but it was then the nearest trading post, and trips were not frequently made for the reason that the cornfield and abundant supply of wild game furnished the chief subsistence of the early settlers.

## HARRISON COUNTY

Harrison County was named after Gen. Wm. H. Harrison and was the fourth county formed in the state, Knox, Clark and Dearborn being earlier. It was carved in 1809, from a portion of the territory included in Knox County. It is bounded on the north by Washington County, on the east by Floyd County and the Ohio River, on the south by the Ohio River and on the west by the Ohio River and Crawford County, and contains four hundred and seventy-eight square miles. In common with the entire southern part of the state, it is somewhat broken and hilly, but contains within its borders, some beautiful and fertile valleys and more than fifty miles of bottom land along the borders of the Ohio River. As a rule, the people of Harrison County are prosperous and their generosity and hospitality is unexcelled.

Upon the formation of the county the Governor appointed Patrick Shields Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas with Moses Boone and John G. Pfrimmer as Associate Judges. They held the first term of court at Corydon on May 10, 1809, and proceeded to divide the county into townships, lay out roads, license ferries, taverns, etc., they having the jurisdiction now possessed by the Board of County Commissioners. The first sheriff of the county was Spier Spencer, who was appointed by the Governor. Dennis Pennington was foreman of the first Grand Jury. The other members were John Smith, William Nance, George Gresham, Reuben Wright, Tice Light, Henry Rice, George Crutchfield, John Livanks, Jacob Conrad, Eli Wright, William Vest, Edward Smith, Lawrence Black, John Smith, Sr., William Branham, Isaac Richardson, John Hickman, Lawrence Bell, ✓ William Pennington and William Sands. The first election was held in the fall of 1809, and the first officers were George F. Pope, Clerk and Recorder; Spier Spencer, Sheriff and Treasurer. Thomas Randolph, being Attorney General of Indiana Territory, appointed W. Dunn, of Harrison County, Deputy.

## WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

William Henry Harrison, the Father of Harrison County, was born in Berkeley, Va., February 9, 1773. He entered the army early and was appointed Secretary of the Northwestern Territory. On May 13, 1800, he was appointed Governor of Indiana Territory. On January 10, 1801, he took charge of the office at

Vincennes, which was then the Territorial Capital. He remained in charge of the executive department of the Territory until September, 1812, when he was appointed a Brigadier General and assigned to the command of the northwestern frontier. He was the ninth President of the United States. General Harrison, in 1807, entered a tract of land on Blue River, at Wilson's Spring. He there set out a large apple orchard, some of the trees of which are still standing to mark the spot where a President of the United States once lived. He was in every sense a man of the people and was known among the early settlers far and near as "Bill" Harrison.

### CORYDON

Corydon, the first State Capital of Indiana, is about the center of the county and is still the county seat. It is located at the junction of Big and Little Indian Creeks, and is surrounded on all sides by high hills, from which beautiful views of the surrounding country may be obtained. It is located 120 miles south of Indianapolis, twenty miles west of New Albany, and eight miles east of the famous Wyandotte Cave, and is reached by the Louisville, New Albany and Corydon Railway, which operates between Corydon and Corydon Junction, a station on the Southern Railway, seventeen miles west of New Albany. In 1806 Edward Smith, a deserter from the British army, settled at the present site of the Town of Corydon, upon the land now owned by the Harrison County Agricultural Society and used as a Fair Ground. In 1804 General William Henry Harrison entered the

land where Corydon now stands and held a certificate of purchase for it. It was afterward sold by General Harrison to Harvey Heth, who patented it and by a special act of Congress laid out the Town of Corydon in 1807. Edward Smith brought his family, consisting of his three sons, John, James and Samuel, and six daughters, Jennie, Polly, Sallie, Rachel, Isabel and Nancy, to his new home in the far west. The members of the family became fast friends of General Harrison, who frequently stopped over night at the Smith home on his trips between his farm on Blue River and the Government office at Jeffersonville. It is said that in those days it was impossible to secure lumber, and mother earth provided the floor of the Smith home. A platform was constructed in one side of the cabin by planting two forked poles in the ground and laying a pole from one to the other and then laying cross poles from this to the logs of the wall. This platform or gallery was reached by a ladder and provided the sleeping quarters for the family, as well as any strangers who might happen in to spend a night. When General Harrison staid over night with the Smiths he slept on this platform where his slumbers were undisturbed except by the cries of the wild animals in the forests near by.

Miss Jennie Smith was the proud owner of an old "Missouri Harmony" which was the only song book in use in those days. Vocal music was not often to be heard in the wilderness of Harrison County, and upon the occasions of General Harrison's visits, Miss Jennie was always requested, by the General, to sing from her song book. His favorite song was "The

Pastoral Elegy," and his favorite singer Jennie Smith. These are the words of two verses of the song from which the first capital derived its name :

What sorrowful sounds do I hear,  
 Move slowly along in the gale;  
 How solemn they fall on my ear  
 As softly they pass through the vale;  
 Sweet Corydon's notes are all o'er,  
 Now lonely he sleeps in the clay,  
 His cheeks blown with roses no more  
 Since death called his spirit away.

O Corydon ! hear the sad cries  
 Of Caroline plaintive and slow;  
 O Spirit look down from the skies  
 And pity the mourner below;  
 Till Caroline's voice in the grove  
 Which Philomel hears on the plain  
 Then striving the mourner to soothe  
 With sympathy joins in her strain.

This plaintive lament for the death of the young shepherd, Corydon, sung by the sweet voice of Jennie Smith, suggested to General Harrison, a name for the town which has borne it for more than a hundred years.

### **CORYDON'S EARLY DAYS**

In the early days the houses of Corydon were all built of logs and stone in such a substantial manner that many of them are still standing. Following Edward Smith, a Mr. Westfall located in Corydon in 1807 and started a tan yard. This was later sold by him to a Mr. Kirkpatrick, who in turn sold it to Colonel Lewis Jordan, who together with his son,

David Jordan, operated it for many years. Near the tanyard Colonel Jordan erected a substantial log house which provided a shelter for the Jordan family for more than eighty years. A smaller log house, which is still standing in the shade of the Constitutional Elm Tree, was built and occupied by Daniel C. Lane, who later became State Treasurer of the State of Indiana. In 1808 Richard M. Heth built a log house on the corner of Poplar and Water Streets. This house served as a dwelling until 1852, when it burned. In that year also, Jacob Conrad erected the large stone house on the Corydon Pike known as the Old Capital Hotel. Many ambitious and substantial men settled in Harrison County, and in 1809, the Commissioners bought of Harvey Heth and Wm. H. Harrison one acre and four perches of ground for a Public Square. This parcel of land included the present Public Square and the block immediately west of the square. Spier Spencer, the Sheriff, was ordered to contract, by bid, for the clearing and cleaning the Public Square and for building a Stray Pen on the west side thereof, with a fence seven rails high, staked and ridged and a good ground chunk. This contract was let by Mr. Spencer, April 26, 1810, to Henry Berghn, who was the lowest bidder, the contract price being \$33.75. This is convincing proof that Public Graft was unknown in Harrison County in 1810. The first squandering of public funds and accusation of public graft in Harrison County occurred while Henry W. Heth was Clerk. He was charged with giving away English quills to the school children. The English quills were said to be much better than the

ordinary quills for pens. Mr. Heth's extravagance, which caused the sensation, probably cost the county as much as two dollars during a period of several years.

## THE CAPITOL BUILDING

On the 9th day of March, 1809, a contract was let to Dennis Pennington, by Judges Patrick Shields, Moses Boone and John George Pfrimmer, for the building of a Court House. The building of the stone walls was superintended by Watty Pennington, a brother of Dennis Pennington, and the roof was put on by Patrick Flanigan. The building was built in 1811 and 1812 and cost about \$1500. The building was erected of limestone and is forty feet square. The foundation was placed three feet in the ground and made two and one half feet thick, and the room fifteen feet high. The walls of the second story are two feet thick and the rooms ten feet high. On the roof was placed an iron balance or scales, as emblematic of justice. The stairway to the upper story was originally on the inside and the floor was made of stone flagging in the lobby outside of the bar-rail. Inside the bar-rail was a platform of hewn timber. Two very large fire places, one on the north and one on the south, heated the room.

In 1833, Thomas Farquar removed the "emblem of justice" and reroofed the old building. He also hung the bell which, for almost seventy years, has summoned the citizens to court, church, lectures, political meetings, fires and even to war, for, many years after, it conveyed the tidings to an anxious

populace that General John Morgan and his gang of "Guerillas" were coming to destroy Corydon. In 1873, the building was remodeled. The steps were removed to the outside where they are now located and the old stone floor gave way to a modern wood floor. The



INDIANA'S FIRST CAPITOL.

fire places were filled up and the building was replastered. Since that time there has been no change except the remodeling of the second story by building new partitions, thereby changing the shape and number of rooms on the second floor. From the time Indiana became a state until 1825, the Legislature met in this building. The House of Representatives occupied the

lower room and the Senate Chamber was a large room in the south side of the upper story. The clerk of the Supreme court occupied a room in the northeast corner of the second story. When the Legislature was not in session these rooms were occupied by the Supreme, District and County courts.

## PUBLIC OFFICES

In the early days the state offices were located in the building on Walnut street, now occupied as a dwelling by the family of the late Amzi W. Brewster. A cellar under the building was used as a vault for keeping the public funds. A one story building on the west was used as a dwelling by the Treasurer of State. When the capital was moved to Indianapolis in 1825, this house was occupied by Samuel Merrill, who was then Treasurer of State. Mr. Merrill was the father of Catherine Merrill, the authoress and teacher of Indianapolis, and the grandfather of William A. Ketcham, formerly Attorney General of Indiana, and Hon. Merrill Moores, now of Indianapolis.

In 1825, the county built a small brick building in the public square, to be used as an office building, and the Masons built a second story on it, which was occupied by them as a lodge hall. In 1840, a two story brick building was erected for use as a county office building. In 1882 this building was torn down and the present office building was erected in its place. The present handsome jail and sheriff's residence was built in 1873. It has recently been remodeled and today it presents a handsome appearance and is a credit to the county.

## GOVERNOR'S MANSION

The brick building known as the Governor's Mansion was built by Harbin H. Moore, a noted lawyer, who in 1828, was defeated by James Brown Ray for Governor of Indiana. This house was substantially built of brick, made on the lot where it stood, and



GOVERNOR'S MANSION.

remained standing until a few years ago, when it gave way to a modern dwelling. The interior of the house was finished in hand carved hardwood. While it was known as the Governor's Mansion, it was occupied by but one Governor, Jonathan Jennings. Governor Posey declined to live in Corydon on account of his health, and Governor Hendricks lived in Madison, coming to Corydon at frequent intervals. While in Corydon, he roomed at the Porter homestead, which is still standing and is occupied as a dwelling by Patrick Griffin.

## MASONIC GRAND LODGE

A few yards east of the Governor's Mansion stood a two story stone house, which had been built by Reuben W. Nelson, also a famous lawyer. In this house on the 3rd day of December, 1817, delegates from the various Masonic Lodges of the state, met to make arrangements for organizing a Grand Lodge for the State of Indiana. The following eleven Masons attended this meeting; General W. Johnson, S. C. Stevens, Abel C. Pepper, Christopher Harrison, Henry P. Thornton, Joseph Bartholomew, John Miller, Davis Floyd, Hezekiah B. Hull, James Dill and A. Buckner. After the transaction of some business and making preparations for the completion of their arrangements, they adjourned, to meet at Madison on the 12th day of January, 1818, and there the Grand Lodge was duly organized.

## EARLY BUSINESS AFFAIRS

The first blacksmith shop in Corydon was established by Israel Butt at the corner of Oak and Walnut Streets, in 1808.

Colonel Thomas Posey came to Corydon from Virginia about 1810, and kept a general store on Oak Street, in a brick house which is still standing. Colonel Posey was an excellent man and was said to be the natural son of General George Washington. He never married, and in 1861, he removed to Henderson, Kentucky, where he died a short time afterward.

Joshua Wilson kept a store at the southeast corner of Market and Walnut Streets for many years.

David Byrn started a silversmith business in Corydon in 1818.

In 1816, James Giles walked from Vincennes to Corydon and together with John Meffert engaged in the hat business.

In 1812, Dr. James B. Slaughter passed through Corydon on a military expedition against the Indians. In 1813, he came back and located at Corydon.

In 1815, John T. Jamison started a tavern on Chestnut Street in Corydon, and in 1816, David Craig established one on Elm Street. When President Monroe and General Jackson visited Corydon in 1819, they stopped at Craig's Tavern. President Monroe and General Jackson visited Corydon on the 22nd day of June, 1819, remaining until June 23rd, when they departed for Louisville, Kentucky.

Thomas Farquar was a Justice of the Peace and also kept boarders.

Spier Spencer kept a hotel in Corydon until his death at Tippecanoe. His wife conducted the business for many years thereafter.

In 1807, Henry Rice left Washington, Pennsylvania, and came down the Ohio River on a flat boat, landing at Tobacco Landing. He settled on a farm six miles east of Corydon where he remained until 1809, when he removed to Corydon and built a large brick house on Chestnut Street near Elm where he engaged in the hotel business.

Judan Vigus came to Corydon in 1816, and opened out a tailor shop and tavern on the corner of Chestnut and Market Streets.

Armstrong Brandon kept store in a house on

Elm Street. In his store was a branch of the Indiana State Bank of Vincennes, which he conducted.

Colonel Samuel Judah, a noted lawyer, practiced law in Corydon for a number of years. He was afterwards associated with Henry Clay in the noted Myra Clark case, to recover a large amount of property in New Orleans.

John Aydelotte started a store on Elm Street in 1820.

## CHURCHES

“Old Goshen” church is the oldest church building in Harrison County. And, today it stands just as it did when the work of building it was completed by Moses Boone and George Bartley in 1813. Many moss-covered tomb-stones more than three-quarters of a century old stand in the cemetery near the church. During the ninety-seven years of its existence, the population of “Old Goshen Graveyard” has grown to about two hundred.

John George Pfrimmer, a United Brethren Minister, organized all of the United Brethren Churches in Indiana. He built Pfrimmer’s Chapel in 1818. The original church was a small log building and stood on the present site of the comfortable frame building now known as Pfrimmer’s Chapel.

James Armstrong, a Methodist Preacher, settled near Lanesville in 1800, and for many years preached at churches, school houses and camp meetings throughout the state.

Roger’s Chapel in Posey Township was built by a Mr. Rogers and a Mr. Potts, and is one of the oldest

churches in the county. The original building has long since disappeared but the present church stands on the same site.

On July 31, 1824, John Hughes deeded the land, where Thompson's Chapel now stands, for a Methodist Church and school house. It was named in honor of William Thompson, a pioneer preacher, who accepted such donations as were given him by the people for his services.

During the early years of Harrison County a Dunkard Church stood in Morgan Township, near Bradford. The church has been gone for many years but the location is fixed by a cemetery containing many tombstones nearly a hundred years old.

Mt. Solomon church in Scott Township was built in August, 1835, and was the first Lutheran Church in Indiana. The present church was dedicated about the year 1860 by the Rev. P. A. Peter, now of Verona, Ohio.

Levi Long was a noted Baptist Preacher. He was born about the close of the Revolutionary War and when a young man he came to Indiana. He traveled over the state preaching for a number of years. He helped to build the old state house and put in some coins when the corner stone was laid.

The noted Republican meeting house was built in Ripperdan's Valley in 1828. It was built by the united efforts of the neighborhood and was free to all denominations. The first Baptist preachers were Revs. Lone, Armstrong and Levi Long. Lutheran ministers were Henkle, Reiser and Krack. Presbyterians were Martin and Dunbar. Methodists were

Revs. Daniels and W. C. Smith. The Methodists organized there about 1838, and in 1847, organized the first Sunday school, with Aaron Bean as superintendent. In 1873, the old church building was removed to New Amsterdam and in 1884, it was washed away by high water.

The present Christian Church, in Corydon, was originally a United Brethren Church was bought by a small membership of the Christian Church in 1852.

In 1810, Rev. Dr. Crowe, of Hanover, organized a Presbyterian Church in Corydon with Henry Rice and Mr. Armstrong, as ruling elders. A small church was erected in 1819. Its first pastor was William W. Martin who was commonly known as Father Martin. He had three sons, D. N., William A. P., and Claudius B. H., all of whom became ministers, the two former going to China as missionaries. W. A. P. Martin is still in China, as an aged missionary. For many years he has been President of the Imperial College at Peking and was a trusted advisor during the Boxer uprising in that country.

The Catholic Cathedral at Lanesville is one of the finest churches in the state. The congregation was organized in 1843 by Father Opperman. The first church was built in 1849 by Father Neyron. In 1854 Rev. Alphonse Munshina took charge of the church and erected a school and parsonage for the Sisters of Providence. The present magnificent church was begun in 1856 and completed in 1860, and dedicated by Bishop de St. Palais in 1864. Father Munshina was pastor until 1893, when he was succeeded by Rev. A. Peckskamp who is still its pastor. Since

assuming charge, Father Peckskamp has made many improvements in the interior of the church and has built a handsome brick school building.

## INCORPORATION OF CORYDON

On Monday, the 3rd day of March, 1817, the citizens of Corydon met to consider the propriety of incorporating the town. General John Tipton presided over the meeting and Reuben W. Nelson was elected Secretary. A vote was taken and the following qualified voters expressed themselves favorable to the incorporation:

Joseph McMahan	James B. Slaughter
David S. Collins	Anthony Gwartney
George Jones	James Kirkpatrick
Wm. P. Thomasson	Patrick Flannagan
H. P. Coburn	Jonathan Houser
Milo R. Davis	John T. Jameson
Daniel Craig	William Johnson
Dudley Gresham	A. Brandon
Lyman Beeman	Henry Rice, Jr.
Robert A. New	Thomas Spencer
James G. Smith	William Smith
Harbin H. Moore	Ezekiel Wood
Samuel Ruth	

There being no opposition to incorporation, it was so ordered. On Monday, the 17th day of March, 1817, the qualified voters met at the court house, in Corydon, for the purpose of electing five Trustees for said town. General John Tipton presided and Davis Floyd was chosen Clerk of the election. The following

named persons were there elected to serve for one year: Henry Rice, Richard M. Heth, A. D. Thom, James Kirkpatrick and Milo R. Davis.

This incorporation was permitted to lapse, but the town was incorporated again on the 24th of January, 1835, and John Smith, W. A. Porter, Lewis Jordan, Thomas Craig and Benjamin Aydelotte were elected Trustees.

The incorporation lapsed again and Corydon lost its charter a second time, but it was re-incorporated again in 1849, and James G. May, T. C. Slaughter, S. K. Wolfe, Thomas Posey and Benjamin Aydelotte were elected Trustees.

### **CORYDON THE CAPITAL**

By an act of the General Assembly of Indiana Territory, at Vincennes, which was approved on the 11th day of March, 1813, the seat of Government of the territory was fixed at Corydon, Harrison County, "from and after the first day of May, 1813."

In conformity with a joint resolution of both houses of the General Assembly of the Territory, Acting Governor Gibson prorogued them to meet at Corydon on the first day of December, 1813. Corydon remained the Territorial and State Capitol from that date until the 10th day of January, 1825. Its population during that time was about five hundred. It has since grown until the population is now about twenty-two hundred.

The Territorial Legislature, in 1813, enacted thirty-two laws, among which was the act providing for the removal of the Capital of the Territory from

Vincennes to Corydon. In December, 1813, the General Assembly duly convened at Corydon, and Governor Posey, who had been inaugurated on May 25, 1813, delivered his message on the first day of the session.

Governor Posey, who was in ill health, declined to remain at Corydon and in an official communication addressed to the President of the Legislative Council, on the 27th day of December, 1813, he wrote the following:

"I wish you to communicate to your honorable body, that the delicate state of my health will not admit of my longer continuance at this place (Corydon). I find myself badly situated on account of medical aid. My physician is at Louisville, and I have taken all the medicine brought with me."

Immediately following the delivery of this message, the Governor removed to Jeffersonville. During his absence, on the 6th day of January, 1814, the Legislative Council adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, both houses of the Legislature did, on the 4th instant inform the Governor that they had gone through their Legislative business, and were ready to be prorogued, and

Whereas, the expense of near \$50 per day doth arise to the people of the territory by reason of the Legislature being kept in session—all of which evils and inconvenience doth arise from the Governor leaving the seat of government, during the session of the Legislature, and going to Jeffersonville, and the Legislature having to send their committee on enrolled bills to that place, to lay them before him for his approval and signature; be it, therefore,

Resolved, that, in order to prevent any further

expense accruing to the Territory at the present session, that the President of the Legislative Council and Speaker of the House of Representatives be, and they are hereby, authorized to receive the report of the Governor, of the laws by him signed or rejected, and his order of propogation, and communicate the same to the Clerks of their respective Houses, who shall insert the same in their journals, in the same manner as if the houses were in session."

The House of Representatives concurred in this resolution, and the two houses adjourned sine die.

This was a cool rebuke to the Governor for his careless lack of regard for public extravagance as well as an illustrative example of the spirit of economy with which Indiana's early legislators guarded the public funds and the interests of their constituents. The publicity which this resolution received resulted in the defeat of Governor Posey, for Governor of Indiana, by Jonathan Jennings in 1816.

The General Assembly of Indiana Territory, which met at Corydon on the first Monday in December, 1815, on the 14th day of that month, adopted a memorial which was presented to Congress, by the Territorial Delegate, Jonathan Jennings, on the 28th day of the same month. This memorial contained the following passages.

"WHEREAS, the ordinance of Congress for the government of this Territory has provided, that when there shall be sixty thousand free inhabitants therein, the territory shall be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States; and, whereas, by a census taken by the authority of the Legislature of this territory, it appears from the returns, that the number of free white inhabitants exceeds sixty thous-

and—We, therefore, pray the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled, to order an election to be conducted agreeable to the existing laws of this territory, on the first Monday of May, 1816, for Representatives to meet in Convention, at the seat of Government of this Territory, on the \_\_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_1816, who, when assembled, shall determine, by a majority of the votes of all the members elected, whether it will be expedient or inexpedient to go into a State Government, and if it be determined expedient, the Convention thus assembled shall have the power to form a Constitution and frame of Government; or, if it be deemed inexpedient, to provide for the election of Representatives to meet, in Convention, at some future period to form a constitution.”

“And, whereas, the inhabitants of this Territory are principally composed of emigrants from every part of the Union, and as various in their customs and sentiments as in their persons, we think it prudent, at this time, to express to the General Government, our attachment to the fundamental principles of legislation prescribed by Congress in their ordinances for the government of this Territory, particularly, as respects personal freedom and involuntary servitude, and hope they may be continued as the basis of the Constitution.”

The memorial was referred to a committee, of which Jonathan Jennings, the Delegate from Indiana Territory, was the Chairman; and on the 6th day of January, 1816, this gentleman reported to the House of Representatives of the United States, a bill to enable the people of Indiana Territory to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of such state into the Union on equal footing with the original States. This bill, after having been amended in some particulars, was passed by Congress, and became a

law, by the approval of the President of the United States on the 19th day of April, 1816. The following is a copy of the act:

## ACT OF CONGRESS

An act to enable the people of the Indiana Territory to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of such State into the Union on an equal footing with the original states.

(Approved April 19, 1816.)

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives, of the United States of America, in Congress assembled; That the inhabitants of the Territory of Indiana, be, and they are hereby authorized, to form for themselves a Constitution and State Government, and to assume such name as they shall deem proper; and the said State when formed, shall be admitted into the Union upon the same footing with the original states, in all respects whatever.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, that the said State shall consist of all the territory included within the following boundaries, to-wit: Bounded on the east by the meridian line which forms the western boundary of the State of Ohio; on the south by the River Ohio, from the mouth of the Great Miami River to the mouth of the river Wabash; on the west, by a line drawn from the middle of the Wabash, from its mouth to a point where a due north line drawn from the Town of Vincennes would last touch the north-western shore of the said river; and from thence, by a due north line, until the same shall intersect an east and west line drawn through a point ten miles north of the southern extreme of Lake Michigan; on the north by the said east and west line, until the same shall intersect the first mentioned meridian line, which forms the western boundary of the State of Ohio;

provided that the convention hereinafter provided for, when formed, shall ratify the boundaries aforesaid, otherwise they shall be and remain as now prescribed by the ordinance for the government of the Territory north west of the river Ohio; provided, also that the said State shall have concurrent jurisdiction on the river Wabash, with the State to be formed west thereof, so far as the said river shall form a common boundary to both.

SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted*, that all male citizens of the United States, who shall have arrived at the age of twenty one years, and resided within the said Territory at least one year previous to the day of election, and shall have paid a county or territorial tax, and all persons having in other respects the legal qualifications to vote for Representatives in the General Assembly by the said Territory, be, and they are hereby authorized to choose Representatives to form a Convention, who shall be apportioned among the several counties within the said Territory, according to the apportionment made by the Legislature thereof, at their last session, to-wit: From the county of Wayne, four representatives; from the county of Dearborn, three representatives; from the county of Switzerland, one representative; from the county of Jefferson, three representatives; from the county of Clark, five representatives; from the county of Harrison, five representatives; from the county of Washington, five representatives; from the county of Knox, five representatives, from the county of Gibson, four representatives; from the county of Posey, one representative; from the county of Warrick, one representative. from the county of Perry, one representative.

And the election for the representatives aforesaid, shall be holden on the second Monday in May, One thousand eight hundred and sixteen, throughout the several counties in said Territory; and shall be conducted in the same manner, and under the same penal-

ties as prescribed by the laws of said Territory regulating elections therein for members of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 4. And be it further enacted, that the members of the Convention, thus duly elected, be, and they are hereby authorized to meet at the seat of government of said Territory, on the second Monday of June next, which Convention when met, shall first determine, by a majority of the whole number elected, whether it be or be not expedient, at that time, to form a Constitution and State Government for the people within the said Territory; and if it be determined to be expedient, the Convention shall be, and hereby are authorized to form a Constitution and State Government; or if it be deemed more expedient, the said Convention shall provide by Ordinance for election of representatives to form a Constitution or frame of government, which said representatives shall be chosen in such manner, and in such proportion, and shall meet at such time and place, as shall be prescribed by the said Ordinance; and shall then form, for the people of said Territory, a Constitution and State Government; provided, that the same, whenever formed, shall be republican, and not repugnant to those articles of the Ordinance of the thirteenth of July, One thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, which are declared to be irrevocable between the original states and the people and States of the territory northwest of the river Ohio; excepting so much of said articles as relates to the boundaries of States therein to be formed.

SECTION 5. *And be it further enacted,* That until the next general census shall be taken, the said State shall be entitled to one Representative in the House of Representatives of the United States.

SECTION 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the following propositions be, and the same are hereby offered to the Convention of the said Territory of

Indiana, when formed, for their free acceptance or rejection, which, if accepted by the Convention shall be obligatory upon the United States: ...

**FIRST:** That the section numbered sixteen, in every township, and when such section has been sold, granted or disposed of, other lands, equivalent thereto, and most contiguous to the same, shall be granted to the inhabitants of such township, for the use of schools.

**SECOND:** That all salt springs within the said Territory, and the land reserved for the use of the same, together with such other lands as may, by the President of the United States, be deemed necessary and proper for working the said salt springs, not exceeding in the whole, the quantity contained in six entire sections, shall be granted to the said State for use of the people of the said State, the same to be used under such terms, conditions, and regulations as the Legislature of the said State shall direct; provided, the said Legislature shall never sell nor lease the same for a longer period than ten years at any one time.

**THIRD:** That five per cent of the net proceeds of the lands lying within the said Territory, and which shall be sold by congress, from and after the first day of December next, after deducting all expenses incident to the same, shall be reserved for making public roads and canals, of which three-fifths shall be applied to those objects within the said State, under the direction of the Legislature thereof, and two-fifths to the making of a road or roads leading to the said State under the direction of Congress.

**FOURTH:** That one entire township, which shall be designated by the President of the United States in addition to the one heretofore reserved for the use of a seminary of learning, and vested in the Legislature of the said State, to be appropriated solely to the use of such seminary by the said Legislature.

**FIFTH:** That four sections of land be, and the same are hereby granted to the said State, for the

purpose of fixing their seat of Government thereon, which four sections shall, under the direction of the Legislature of said State, be located at any time in such township and range, as the Legislature, aforesaid, may select on such lands as may hereafter be acquired by the United States, from the Indian tribes within said Territory; provided that such locations shall be made prior to the public sale of the lands of the United States, surrounding such location; and, provided always, that the five foregoing propositions herein offered are on the conditions; that the Convention of the said State shall provide by an ordinance irrevocable, without the consent of the United States, that every and each tract of land sold by the United States, from and after the first day of December next, shall be and remain exempt from any tax, laid by order or under any authority of the State, whether for State, county or township, or for any other purpose whatever, for the term of five years, from and after the day of sale."

In conformity with the provisions of this act, an election for members of a Convention, to form a State Constitution, was held in the several counties of the Territory on Monday, the 13th day of May, 1816. The members of the Convention were elected according to an apportionment which had been made by the Territorial Legislature, and confirmed by an act of Congress. Their names and the names of the counties which they represented, follow:

Clark County, five members: Jonathan Jennings, James Scott, Thomas Carr, John K. Graham and James Lemmon.

Knox County, five members: John Johnson, John Badollet, William Polke, Benjamin Parke and John Benefiel.

Dearborn County, three members: James Bill, Solomon Manwaring and Ezra Ferris.

Harrison County, five members: Dennis Pennington, Davis Floyd, Daniel C. Lane, John Boone and Patrick Shields.

Wayne County, four members: Jeremiah Cox, Patrick Bank, Joseph Holman and Hugh Cull.

Franklin County, five members: William H. Eads, James Brownlee, Enoch McCarty, Robert Hanna, Jr., and James Noble.

Switzerland County, one member: William Cotton.

Jefferson County, three members: David H. Maxwell, Samuel Smock and Nathaniel Hunt.

Washington County, five members: John DePauw, Samuel Milroy, Robert McIntyre, William Lowe and William Graham.

Gibson County, four members: David Robb, James Smith, Alexander Devin and Frederick Rapp.

Warrick County, one member: Daniel Grass.

Perry County, one member: Charles Polke.

Posey County, one member: Dann Lynn.

The Convention, with all of the members present, commenced its session at Corydon, on the 10th day of June, 1816, and continued to meet from day to day, until the 29th day of June, when, having completed the work of forming a State Constitution, the members closed the session by final adjournment.

Hon. Jonathan Jennings was President, and Hon. William Hendricks was Secretary of the Convention. Both of these gentlemen afterward served as Governor of Indiana.

On the third day of the Convention, the President,

Mr. Jennings, announced the appointment of the following committees:

Committee to prepare a Bill of Rights and Preamble to the Constitution, Messrs. Badollet, Manwaring, Graham, of Clark; Lane, Smith and Pennington.

Committee relative to the distribution of the Powers of Government, Messrs. Johnson, Polke, of Perry; Floyd, Maxwell and McCarty.

Committee relative to the Legislative Department of Government, Messrs. Noble, Ferris, Milroy, Benefiel and Grass.

Committee relative to the Executive Department of Government, Messrs. Graham, of Clark; Polke, of Knox; Rappe, Shields, Smock, Smith, Ferris and Brownlee.

Committee relative to the Judicial Department of Government, Messrs. Scott, Johnson, Dill, Milroy, Noble, Cotton, Lowe, Parke and Hunt.

Committee relative to Impeachments, Messrs. Dill, Cox, Hunt, Eads and Carr.

Committee relative to general provisions for the Constitution not embraced in the subjects referred to other Committees, Messrs. Maxwell, DePauw, Robb, Scott and Baird.

Committee relative to the mode of revising the Constitution, Messrs. Hanna, Pennington, Devin, Johnson and Graham, of Washington.

Committee relative to the change of Government and preserving the existing laws until repealed by the State Legislature, and providing for appeals from the Territorial Court to the State Courts, Messrs. Floyd, Lemmon, Holman, McIntyre, Manwaring and Benefiel.

Committee relative to education and the universal dissemination of useful knowledge, and other objects which it might be deemed proper to enjoin or advise the State Legislature to provide for, Messrs. Scott, Badollet, Polke, of Knox; Lynn and Boone.

Committee relative to the Militia, Messrs. Dill, Hanna, Carr, Cotton, Robb, Holman, Cox, DePauw, Noble, Rappe and Benefiel.

Committee relative to Elective Franchise and Elections, Messrs. Ferris, Lemmon, Grass, Polke, of Perry; Cull, Smith and DePauw.

Committee on Prisons, Messrs. Carr, Pennington, Milroy, Grass, Hunt, Graham, of Washington; and McCarty.

On June 29, 1816, the following ordinance was adopted by the Convention:

Be it ordained by the Representatives of the people of the Territory of Indiana, in Convention met at Corydon, on Monday, the tenth day of June, in the year of our Lord, Eighteen Hundred and Sixteen, That we do, for ourselves and our posterity, agree, determine, declare, and ordain, that we will, and do hereby, accept the propositions of the Congress of the United States, as made and contained in their act of the nineteenth day of April, Eighteen Hundred and Sixteen, entitled, "An act to enable the people of the Indiana Territory to form a State Government and Constitution, and for the admission of such State into the Union, on an equal footing with the original States."

And we do, further, for ourselves and our posterity, hereby ratify, confirm, and establish, the boundaries of the said State of Indiana, as fixed, prescribed, laid down, and established, in the act of Congress aforesaid, and we do also, further, for ourselves and our posterity, hereby agree, determine,

declare, and ordain, that each and every tract of land sold by the United States, lying within the said State, and which shall be sold from and after the first day of December next, shall be and remain exempt from any tax laid by order, or under any authority of the said State of Indiana, or by or under the authority of the General Assembly thereof, whether for State, county, or township, or any other purpose whatever, for the term of five years from and after the day of sale of any such tract of land; and we do, moreover, for ourselves and our posterity, hereby declare and ordain this Ordinance, and every part thereof, shall forever be and remain irrevocable and inviolate, without the consent of the United States, in Congress assembled, first had and obtained for the alteration thereof, or any part thereof.

JONATHAN JENNINGS,

President of the Convention.

Attest: WILLIAM HENDRICKS, Secretary.

June 29, 1816."

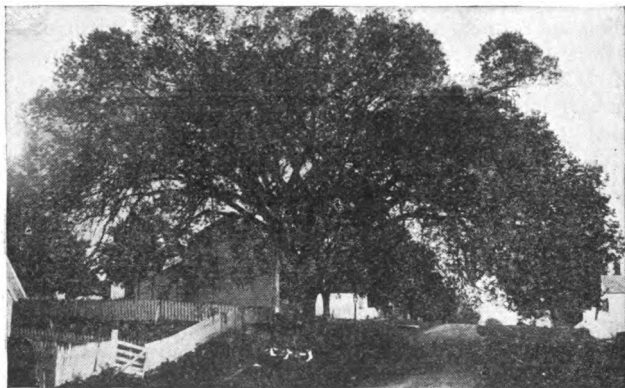
The following is the Preamble to the Constitution adopted at that Convention:

We, the Representatives of the people of the Territory of Indiana, in Convention, met at Corydon, on Monday, the tenth day of June, in the year of our Lord, Eighteen Hundred and Sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States the fortieth, having the right of admission into the General Government, as a member of the Union, consistent with the Constitution of the United States, the Ordinance of Congress of One thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and the Law of Congress entitled, "An act to enable the people of Indiana Territory to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of such State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States," in order to establish justice, promote the welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain, and establish the

following Constitution or form of Government; and do mutually agree, with each other, to form ourselves into a free and independent State by the name of The State of Indiana.

## THE CONSTITUTIONAL ELM

When those hardy, pioneer delegates met at Corydon on the 10th day of June, 1816, to draft a Constitution for a state that was destined to become one of the



CONSTITUTIONAL ELM.

greatest commonwealths of the Union, and to formulate plans of government, for a great people, most of them had left the rude log cabins which they called home, and had traveled many miles through an almost unbroken wilderness, infested with Indians, and wild animals of almost every specie.

These early settlers were accustomed to all classes of hardship and an outdoor life, and rather than be

seated in the large, commodious room of the "Ancient Capitol" building, during the warm days of June, while the Convention was in session, they hied themselves to the inviting shade of the spreading boughs of a hugh Elm tree, near the banks of Big Indian Creek and about two hundred yards northwest of the Capitol Building, where they spent the greater portion of that memorable period of twenty days in devising ways and means of securing to their posterity, a wise and good government.

The old Elm Tree, under which the first Constitution of Indiana was framed and adopted is still standing in all of its grandeur. It is one hundred and twenty-four feet from tip to tip of its branches, five feet in diameter and about fifty feet in height. This mammoth tree is sacred to the hearts of the inhabitants of Corydon and an attempt to mutilate it would likely be met with acts of violence on the part of many of the citizens.

## THE FIRST ELECTION

The Convention that formed the first Constitution of the State of Indiana, was composed of clear minded unpretending men, many of whom possessed but a limited education, but all of whom were endowed with a liberal supply of common sense, rugged honesty and unquestioned patriotism. Realizing the importance of good government and absolute freedom, they had familiarized themselves with the imperishable principles and theories of that grand instrument, the Declaration of Independence. The constitution of the United States was also cherished by them as a sacred

document. The Constitution that was there adopted for Indiana, was clear and concise, comprehensive and just, for the maintenance of civil and religious liberty, designed to protect the rights of the people, and to provide for the public welfare.

The officers of the Territorial Government were required to continue to discharge their duties until superceded by officers elected under the Constitution of the State. The President of the Convention was required to "issue writs of election, directed to the several sheriffs of the several counties, requiring them to cause an election to be held for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Representative to Congress, members of the General Assembly, Sheriffs and Coroners, at their respective election districts, in each county, on the first Monday in August, 1816." At the general election which was held on that date, Jonathan Jennings, of Clark County, was elected Governor over Gov. Thomas Posey, of Harrison County, who was then the Territorial Governor. Mr. Jennings received 5,211 votes and Gov. Posey received 3,936 votes. Christopher Harrison, of Washington County, was elected Lieutenant Governor, and William Hendricks, of Jefferson County, was elected Representative to Congress.

The election of members of the first General Assembly, under the Constitution of the State of Indiana, resulted as follows:

SENATE.

Knox County—William Polke.

Gibson County—William Prince.

Posey, Perry and Warrick Counties—Daniel Grass.

Wayne County—Patrick Baird.  
 Franklin County—John Connor.  
 Washington, Orange and Jackson Counties—John DePauw.  
 Jefferson and Switzerland Counties—John Paul.  
 Dearborn County—Ezra Ferris.  
 Harrison County—Dennis Pennington.  
 Clark County—James Beggs.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wayne County—Joseph Holman, Ephriam Overman and John Scott.  
 Franklin County—James Noble, David Mounts and James Brownlee.  
 Dearborn County—Amos Lane and Erasmus Powell.  
 Switzerland County—John Durmont.  
 Jefferson County—Williamson Dunn and Samuel Alexander.  
 Clark County—Benjamin Ferguson, Thomas Carr and John K. Graham.  
 Harrison County—Davis Floyd, Jacob Zenor and John Boone.  
 Washington County—Samuel Milroy and Alexander Littell.  
 Jackson County—William Graham.  
 Orange County—Jonathan Lindley.  
 Knox County—Isaac Blackford, Walter Wilson and Henry I. Mills.  
 Gibson County—Edmond Hogan and John Johnson.  
 Posey County—Dann Lynn.  
 Warrick County—Ratliff Boone.  
 Perry County—Samuel Connor.

## FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The men above named duly assembled at Corydon, and the first General Assembly of the State of Indiana, commenced its session on Monday, the fourth day of November, 1816.

John Paul was called to the Chair of the Senate pro tempore, and Isaac Blackford was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On Thursday, November 7th, the oath of office was administered to Governor Jennings and Lieutenant Governor Harrison, in the presence of both houses. Immediately after the administration of the oath of office, Governor Jennings delivered his first message to the first General Assembly of the State of Indiana. In his message Governor Jennings had the following to say:

“Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: The period has arrived which has devolved on you the important duty of giving the first impulse to the government of the State. The result of your deliberations will be considered as indicative of its future character as well as of the future happiness and prosperity of its citizens. The reputation of the State, as well as its highest interest, will require that a just and generous policy toward the general Government, and a due regard to the rights of its members respectively, should invariably have their proper influence. In the commencement of the State government, shackles of the Colonial should be forgotten in your untried exertions to prove, by happy experience, that a uniform adherence to the first principles of our Government, and a virtuous exercise of its powers, will best secure efficiency to its measures and stability to its character. Without a frequent recurrence to

those principles and administration of the government will imperceptibly become more and more arduous, until the simplicity of our republican institutions may eventually be lost in dangerous expedients and political design. Under every free government the happiness of the citizens must be identified with their morals; and while a constitutional exercise of their rights shall continue to have its due weight in the discharge of the duties required of the constituted authorities of the State, too much attention cannot be bestowed to the encouragement and promotion of every moral virtue, and to the enactment of laws calculated to restrain the vicious, and prescribe punishment for every crime commensurate to its enormity. In measuring, however, to each crime its adequate punishment, it will be well to recollect, that the certainty of punishment has generally the surest effect to prevent crime; while punishment unnecessarily severe, too often produces the acquittal of the guilty, and disappoints one of the greatest objects of legislation and good government.

The dissemination of useful knowledge will be indispensably necessary as a support to morals, and a restraint to vice; and on this subject, it will be necessary to direct your attention to the plan of education as prescribed by the Constitution. I recommend, to your consideration, the propriety of providing, by law, to prevent, more effectually, any unlawful attempts to seize, or carry into bondage persons of color legally entitled to their freedom; and at the same time, as far as practicable, to prevent those who rightfully owe service to the citizens of any other State or Territory, from seeking, within the limits of this State a refuge from the possession of their lawful owners. Such a measure will tend to secure those who are free from any unlawful attempts to enslave them, and secure the rights of the citizens of the other States and Territories as far as ought reasonably to be expected."

Thus was the Territorial Government superseded

by a State Government, on the 7th day of November, 1816, and the State of Indiana was formally admitted into the Union, by a joint resolution of Congress, approved on the 11th day of December, 1816, which resolution was as follows:

**RESOLUTION FOR ADMITTING THE STATE OF INDIANA  
INTO THE UNION.**

Whereas, in pursuance of an act of Congress passed on the nineteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, entitled "An act to enable the people of Indiana Territory to form a constitution and State government, and for the admission of that State into the Union," the people of the said Territory did on the twenty-ninth day of June, in the present year, by a convention called for that purpose, form for themselves a constitution and State Government, which Constitution and State Government, so formed, is republican, and in conformity with the principles of the articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the territory northwest of the river Ohio, passed on the thirteenth day of July, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the State of Indiana shall be one, and is hereby declared to be one, of the United States of America, and admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, in all respects whatever. Approved, December 11, 1816.

### **STATE OFFICIALS**

The following named gentlemen served as State officers during the time that Corydon was the State Capital. The names of the State officers are followed

by the names of the United States Senators and Representatives in Congress.

## GOVERNORS.

Jonathan Jennings, from November 7, 1816, to December 4, 1822.

William Hendricks, from December 4, 1822, to February 12, 1825.

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS.

Christopher Harrison, 1816 to 1819.

Ratliff Boone, 1819 to 1825.

## SECRETARY OF STATE.

Robert A. New, 1816 to 1825.

## AUDITOR OF STATE

William H. Lilly, 1816 to 1829.

## TREASURER OF STATE.

Daniel C. Lane, 1816 to 1823.

Samuel Merrill, 1823 to 1835.

## SUPREME COURT JUDGES.

James Scott, 1816 to 1831.

John Johnson, 1816 to 1817. (Died.)

Jesse L. Holman, 1816 to 1831.

Isaac Blackford, 1817 to 1853.

## UNITED STATES SENATORS.

James Noble, 1816 to 1831.

Waller Taylor, 1816 to 1825.

## REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

William Hendricks, 1817 to 1822.

William Prince, 1822 to 1824. (Died.)

Jacob Call, 1824. (To fill vacancy.)

## OLD CAPITAL HOTEL

The principal hotel building at which the members of the Constitutional Convention of 1816, and the members of the General Assemblies that followed, while Corydon was the State Capital, boarded, was built in 1809, by Jacob Conrad, who came to Corydon from Pennsylvania. The Old Capital Hotel is located on the Corydon and New Albany Pike about one mile



THE OLD CAPITAL HOTEL.

east of Corydon. Our readers may not be able to understand why a hotel a mile away from the State House would be patronized in preference to those located nearer to their place of work. But we must remember that in those days, most of the statesmen traveled many miles through a roadless country, many of them walking to and from the State Capital, and when we consider the many privations and hardships to which they were accustomed we realize that a walk

of a mile, morning and evening, was no task in their estimation. Besides this, the genial proprietor of the Old Capital Hotel furnished good pasture for the beast of the weary traveler without additional compensation, and many places for amusement were maintained on the hotel grounds, where the Sundays and evenings were spent in pitching horseshoes, running, jumping and wrestling.

The cut shown presents an excellent likeness of the Old Capital Hotel as it appears at the age of 101 years. There are many rooms in the building. The walls are twenty feet high and eighteen inches thick. Each L is about twenty feet long, and the building is constructed of hard blue limestone, taken from an inexhaustible quarry in the immediate vicinity. The fact that the estimated weight of the masonry of this old building is 618,790 tons, causes us to realize the magnitude of this building in its palmy days. The building contains 3,412 feet of blue ash flooring. The joists were prepared with the broad-axe and whip-saw. All of the wood-work, not exposed, remains in a perfect state of preservation; the giant walls remain intact and the mortar used seems impervious, although it has been exposed to the elements for more than a hundred years. In fact, centuries may come and go, but the lodging house of Indiana's first statesmen will stand intact. The small stone building nearby, is a spring house, through which flows, a large spring of pure, cool, refreshing, limestone water. It is said that in those days, a little of this water blended with a reasonable quantity of apple or peach brandy served as an excellent preventative of malaria, chills and ague

and snake bites and it is barely possible that it was used by some, as a remedy for many other ailments. It is said that toward the close of his public life Governor Jennings became intemperate to such a degree that his usefulness was greatly impeded.

The Old Capital Hotel property is now owned by Mrs. Agnes Hess, widow of former County Auditor George Hess, who occupies it as a dwelling.

### ANTIQUÉ RECORDS

A search of the Old Public Records of Harrison County reveals copies of many peculiar and interesting documents.

On the commissioners' record, dated August 13, 1817, appears the following:

On application of Ebenezer McDonald, Esqr., Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Indiana, by Davis Floyd, it is ordered that Mr. McDonald be permitted to keep his office in the northeast corner room of the upper story of the Court house when the said room is not occupied by any court of Indiana, or the Legislature.

"Ordered that John Tipton be allowed the sum of four dollars and fifty cents, with interest, for so much money advanced for wolf scalps, killed previous to the late law, as per certificate filed and that the county Treasurer pay the same out of this year's levy."

"Ordered that the Sheriff do on this day let out to the lowest bidder the cleaning of lot No. 44, being one acre & — perches, and the cleaning half of the streets adjoining the same, and also the building of a stray pen, of hewed logs, twenty four feet square, to be fixed on nine good blocks two feet long, one of the feet sunk in the ground, the pen to be six feet high including the one foot of the blocks—to have girders.

across the corners well pinned on, the door to be faced and well pinned on and a strong shutter to the door with a common padlock, and that the said sheriff take bond with good security in double the amount of the lowest bid, to be completed within four months. The money to be paid at the expiration of the time aforesaid."

The following order, entered on record on Tuesday, the 4th day of April, 1809, also appears.

"Ordered that the Sheriff of Harrison County collect agreeably to law and agreeably to the commissioners list from each person chargeable therewith on each horse, mare, etc., above three years old, fifty cents, and on each slave one dollar, on each horse the rates of the season, on each Ferry, except George Doups, four dollars, on Geo. Doups' ferry, two dollars, on each tavern licensed four dollars, on each one hundred dollars valuation of land ten cents, and pay to the county claimants the sums respectively allowed.

Ordered that the taverns be rated as follows, towit:

For each quart of whisky.....	37½ cts
For every quart of bounce.....	37½ cts
For every quart of brandy (French).....	\$1.50
For every quart of Peach brandy.....	37½ cts
For every pint of whisky.....	18¾ cts
For every pint of bounce.....	25 cts
For every pint of French brandy.....	75 cts
For every pint of Peach brandy.....	18¾ cts
For every half pint of whisky.....	12½ cts
For every half pint of bounce.....	18¾ cts
For every half pint of French brandy.....	50 cts
For every half pint of Peach brandy.....	12½ cts
For a breakfast and dinner each.....	25 cts
For supper.....	25 cts
For a cold breakfast, dinner and supper, each.....	16½ cts
For a horse per night, stabling and hay.....	25 cts
For a feed of grain, per gallon.....	12½ cts
Lodging per night.....	12½ cts

Wednesday, April 15, 1809.

In the Recorder's Office, we find the following records:

Know all men by these present that I, John Elliot, of the County of Knox, and Indiana Territory, have for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred dollars, to me in hand paid at or before the inseating and delivery hereof bargained, and do by these present bargain and sell, unto John George Pfrimmer, of the County of Harrison, in said Territory, a certain negro woman named Betty, with her mulatto child, named Selina, which said negro and child was purchased of my father, Robert Elliott, of said county of Knox; by bill of sale dated on the 7th day of January last past, which said bill of sale with its conditions and assurances I do hereby assign and guarantee unto the said Pfrimmer, his heirs and assigns, and will by these presents warrant and defend.

Given under my hand and seal in the said county of Harrison, this 10th day of Feb., 1811.

JOHN ELLIOTT. (Seal.)

In presence of the words  
"Four hundred & Woman"  
Being first indented.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,  
HENRY RICE.

Recorder's office, 15th March, 1811. I, Richard M. Heth, recorder of Harrison county, do certify that I have recorded the within Bill of Sale in my office.

R. M. HETH, Recorder."

This indenture made the 11th day of October, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eleven, between Squire Boone of Harrison County, Indiana Territory, of the one part, and Thomas Currance, of the State of Kentucky, and county of Henry, of the other part, witnesseth that the said Squire Boone for and in consideration of the sum of

fifty pounds current money to him the said Boone in hand paid the receipt whereof he doth hereby confess and acknowledge hath given, granted, bargained, sold and confirmed, unto the said Thomas Currance, his heir and assigns one tract or parcel of land lying and being in Henry County out of a 2000 acre survey made in the name of said Boone seventy-five acres. Beginning at a Hickory, Ash, and white Oak, thence n 45 e. West the old line 72 poles to a white oak and two black oaks, Thence S. 45 E. 167 to a white oak, dog wood & hickory, Thence S. 45 W. 72 poles to a hickory, beach and red oak, Thence n. 45 W. 167 poles to the beginning. To have and to hold the said 75 acres of land be the same more or less with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging unto the said Thomas Currance his heirs or assigns to the only proper use and benefit and behalf of him the said Currance forever, and him the said Boone of himself his heirs assigns the said 75 acres of land with all the appurtenances unto the said Thomas Currance his heirs or assigns against the claim or claims of any person or persons claiming by from or under him the said Boone will warrant and forever defend.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.  
 SQUIRE BOONE. (Seal)

Recorder's Office, October 11, 1811.

I, Richard M. Heth, Recorder of Harrison County, Indiana Territory, do certify that I have recorded the within deed in my office this 11th day of October, 1811.

R. M. HETH.

From the Senate Journal, December 9, 1818, we copy the following:

“The President laid before the Senate a written communication from R. A. New, Esquire, Secretary of State, relative to sundry contracts for printing the

laws, &c. &c. as follows, to-wit: To the Honorable the President of the Senate of the State of Indiana:

In obedience to an existing law of this State the Secretary thereof respectfully represents, that the following contracts have been entered into for and on the part of the State.

A. & J. Brandon have contracted to print the bills, laws and journals of the General Assembly for 50 cents per thousand Ms. and 50 cents per token press work; with the addition of 50 per cent for figured and one hundred per cent for ruled and figured work—the paper being a separate charge at cost and carriage. The work to be done in a workmanlike manner, on good type, at the rate of thirty-two octave pages per week, if required; and they will fold and stitch the same, and have them ready for delivery in a week after the printing is done, at the following rates: If the book contains not more than twenty signatures, at six dollars per hundred; if more at 10 dollars per hundred copies. But nothing in this contract is to be construed as to prevent an application to the Legislature for a further compensation, if the money be not paid within thirty days after the work is completed. They contracted also to furnish the Legislature with stationery at the following rates: Letter or post paper at 5 dollars per ream; writing or cap No. 1 at 5 dollars; No. 2 at 4 dollars and 50 cents, and No. 3 at 4 dollars. Quills, wafers and ink-powder at the current retailing prices—subject to the same provisions as to payment. Ephraim Gwartney has contracted to furnish the Legislature with fuel at ninety-eight cents per day.

Bond and approved security has been given for the faithful discharge of their several contracts.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

R. A. NEW,

Secretary of State.

(From Senate Journal, December 9, 1818.)

## MURDER OF WILLIAM GRESHAM

In January, 1834, Levi Sipes, a young man of Blue River Township, became enraged on account of a whipping which had been administered to his brother by a school teacher, and run amuck. County Sheriff William Gresham was sent for and when he arrived and attempted to arrest Sipes, the infuriated young man shot him and afterwards cut him in a number of places with a knife. Mr. Gresham died and Sipes was arrested and tried for his murder at Corydon in April, 1835. Sipes was defended by Hon. John Rowan, of Louisville, Kentucky, and the prosecution was conducted by prosecuting attorney Charles Dewey, who was a relative of Admiral George Dewey of Manila fame. Sipes was convicted of manslaughter and his punishment fixed at twenty-one years in the penitentiary and a fine of one thousand dollars. In 1840 he was pardoned by the Governor. William Gresham, the murdered man, was the father of Walter Q. Gresham, who was Secretary of State under President Cleveland's last administration.

## THE "WHITE CAPS"

The first case of "White Capping" in Indiana occurred in 1812, in Harrison County. At that time Colonel Posey was a Pension Agent. A pensioner named White came to Corydon to draw his pension and during his stay he boarded at the Spencer House where a stranger named Cooley was also stopping. In the evening the two men went out together and White became helplessly intoxicated. The next morning it was discovered that he had been robbed and suspicion was at once directed toward Cooley. A party of citizens among whom were John Tipton, Judan Vigus, Fred Kintner and other prominent men, accused Cooley of being the thief. Cooley denied that he was guilty of the crime whereupon he was taken out and tied to

a tree and whipped with switches until he confessed and told where he had secreted the money. A search revealed the money, which was returned to its owner and the culprit was allowed to depart.

In 1868, James Keen was accused of stealing from his neighbors in Scott Township. He was taken from his home and thoroughly whipped and allowed to return to Kentucky, his native state.

In 1873, there came into existence, a secret organization, under the pretentious name of "Harrison County Regulators." This society is said to have had signs, grips, passwords, by-laws and blood curdling obligations. The official disguise of the "Regulators" was a white hood, worn over the head and face, with holes provided for the eyes. From this regalia came the name of "White Cap." Each council of "White Caps" was governed by duly elected officers and meetings were held at stated intervals in secluded barns or spots in the woods or ravines. At these meetings, reports were received from investigating committees and punishment for alleged offenses was voted. The members were then provided with switches cut in the surrounding thickets, and at the command of their captain, galloped away upon their mission of vindicating the offended law or custom.

Within the next few years more than thirty cases of "White Capping" occurred. The punishment inflicted ranged from twenty-five to one hundred lashes across the bare back. On one occasion a citizen sat at home during the greater part of a winter and required his wife to haul logs and limbs from the woods and chop and split them into stovewood, most of which was used for the purpose of keeping this worthy gentleman comfortable. One moonlight night at midnight, he was called from his bed by the "White Caps" who took him out and harnessed him to an old fashioned wood sled. From midnight until almost dawn he "played horse" for the "White Caps" and hauled

wood for his wife and children. At dawn he was released and told by the "White Caps'" leader that he could retire. This would have been the extent of his punishment but for the fact that he then informed the leader that he usually curried his horses before he stabled them after hard work. The "White Caps'" not desiring him to be neglected, promptly tied him to a convenient sapling and gave him a hundred lashes with a hickory limb.

The first sacrifice of life in these hazardous expeditions occurred in Blue River Township on the night of April 26th, 1880. Henry Long was termed a "Jack-leg-lawyer" and was accused of stirring up strife in the neighborhood. He was a man of well known courage and in order to avoid danger to themselves, the "White Caps'" had him arrested on some frivolous charge which they had trumped up and had the trial set at night. The trial was called before Squire Archibald Boston and a long array of witnesses prolonged it until a late hour. Toward midnight the "White Caps'" appeared. Long had been disarmed but some friend had secretly given him a revolver. The first man who attempted to enter the door was promptly shot by Long. The man lived but a short time, and proved to be Louis Henriot, one of the leading citizens of the community. After the first shot the revolver failed to fire. After being shot in the head, Long escaped from the Regulators, but he died in a few days from the effect of the wound.

On Friday, June 7, 1889, James Devin and Charles Tennyson, of Floyd County, went to the home of James Lemay, four miles northeast of Corydon where they represented themselves to be stock buyers and asked for supper and lodging. They were given their supper and a sleeping room was put in readiness for them. While they were eating their actions aroused Mr. Lemay's suspicions and he armed himself with a revolver. When the men were told that their room

was ready, one of them drew a revolver and ordered the family, consisting of Mr. Lemay, his wife, his two nieces and a hired man, into a room and closed the doors. When the doors were closed Mr. Lemay attempted to draw his revolver, and one of the men began firing at him. Mr. Lemay fired three shots and was wounded five times, and Miss Lucy Lemay was shot in the arm. After emptying his revolver, Devin ran out the door and Tennyson jumped head-long through the nearest window Miss Matilda Lemay ran out and rang the farm bell for help, but the men escaped. They were captured at New Albany the next day and taken to Corydon where they were placed in jail to await trial.

At midnight on the night of the 12th day of June, 1889, one hundred and fifty mounted men rode into Corydon and after throwing guards about the vicinity of the jail, battered down the jail doors and took Devin and Tennyson to the bridge across Big Indian Creek at the west end of Walnut Street where they were hung.

The closing act of the "White Cap" drama was enacted in "Conrad's Hollow" in Boone Township, on the night of Saturday, August 5, 1893. Samuel and William Conrad lived in a little log cabin here, with their mother and sister. A few months prior to that date, their father, Edward Conrad, had been found in a dying condition a short distance from his home. The two boys were accused of having murdered him, and they were arrested and tried at Corydon, but the evidence being insufficient, the trial resulted in a prompt acquittal.

George K. Gwartney, who is still practicing law in Corydon, was their attorney and he received from them two shot-guns in payment of his fee. Upon receiving an intimation that they would probably be "White-capped," Mr. Gwartney returned the guns to his clients. The Conrads returned to their home and

when a few days later their dog was mysteriously poisoned they realized that they would soon receive a call from the "White Caps." Secreting themselves behind an old fence they patiently awaited the coming of the Regulators, and prepared to welcome them in an unexpected manner.

After several nights of waiting and watching, the Regulators quietly appeared and entered the cabin from the rear. After thoroughly searching the house, they appeared on the front porch when the two vigilant brothers promptly opened fire with shotguns charged with double loads of buckshot. Five men fell mortally wounded and the others fled. It was not until eight o'clock the next morning that the bodies were found. In the meantime the Conrads fled to Kentucky where they now live.

The men killed were Edward Huston, Lewis Wiseman, Willis May, John Timberlake and Alfred N. Howe. While all of the dead men were prominent citizens of the vicinity the Conrads were never arrested. This was the last act of the organization that made Harrison County notorious as "The White Cap County."

## SLAVE TROUBLES

Major Horace Bell was born in New Albany, December 11, 1830. When he was two years of age his parents moved to Harrison County and settled a short distance above the Town of Mauckport.

In 1849, Major Bell went to California in search of gold. In January, 1856, he joined the Walker army of occupation in Nicaragua and at the close of the war in 1857, he was in command of a battalion and was one of eighteen left of the original three hundred and eighty-five. In 1858 his father and brother, Charles, were arrested and placed in jail in Brandenburg, Kentucky, on a charge of assisting slaves to escape. Because of the bitter feeling between the north and the south there was no hope for their

release. Horace and his brother, John, were called home from California and on a day when many of the citizens of Brandenburg were away attending a picnic, they went to Brandenburg, forced the jailer to open the doors and liberated their father and brother. The four ran quickly to their skiff and started to cross the river but they were soon discovered and pursued. Horace stood up in the boat with a revolver in each hand and by keeping up a rapid fire, held the pursuers at bay until they reached the Indiana shore, when the chase was abandoned.

Horace Bell returned to California in 1860, but in a short time he came back to Indiana and joined the Sixth Indiana Regiment at Camp Morton. On April 18, 1866, he was mustered out a Major. After the war he went to Los Angeles and engaged in the practice of law. He is now one of the leading citizens of Berkeley, California.

## THE MORGAN RAID

On Tuesday, the 7th day of July, 1863, General John Morgan appeared at Brandenburg, Kentucky, on his way to Indiana. Shortly afterward the steamboat, T. J. McCombs, landed at Brandenburg, and was promptly captured by Morgan's men. The McCombs was taken out to the middle of the river and a short time later the Alice Dean came steaming up the river. A distress signal was hoisted on the McCombs and when the Alice Dean came up to render assistance, she was also captured.

News of the capture of the McCombs and the Alice Dean was conveyed to Lieutenant Colonel William J. Irwin, of the Indiana Legion, who was then at Mauckport. A short time later the Lady Pike landed at Mauckport, on her way up the river and was sent back to Leavenworth after a six pound gun and reinforcements. At midnight the Lady Pike returned with the gun and a handful of men under command of

Captain Lyons and Colonel Woodbury. At daybreak Wednesday morning, the gunners opened fire on the rebels but the Morgan men had planted a battery at the Court House in Brandenburg and one at the lower end of town, with which they opened fire on the Indiana gun, thereby causing the defenders to beat a hasty retreat.

Under cover of their batteries, the rebels began crossing their troops to the Indiana side of the river where they were met by about a hundred men under Captains Hays, Huffman and Farquar. The enemy soon became too strong for them and they fell back, leaving Jeremiah Nance, of Laconia, and James Current, of Heth township, dead on the field.

Dispatches for help were sent to New Albany, where government troops and artillery were stationed and every effort was made to delay Morgan until reenforcement could arrive or until General Hobson, who was in pursuit of Morgan, could come up. While the fighting between Mauckport and Corydon delayed Morgan five hours, Hobson was still "four hours behind."

On Wednesday afternoon, the Home Guards, with Colonel Jordon in command, gathered a force of three hundred men and marched south on the Mauckport road about four miles to a point where Peter Glenn lived. A body of rebel cavalry had dismounted at Glenn's house and shot John Glenn, who appeared on the porch with a gun in his hand. Before the war Mr. Glenn had preached at many points in Kentucky, and occasionally he had bitterly denounced the institution of slavery. It is said that by so doing he had incurred the displeasure of a number of Kentuckians who were then with Morgan's command. When the Home Guards arrived the rebels rushed for their horses and Mr. Glenn shot one man who was delayed in his efforts to release his horse. The rebels later killed Mr. Glenn and burned the house in which he lived.

About 11:30 o'clock Thursday morning the report reached Corydon that the enemy were coming. The Home Guards, under command of Colonel Lewis Jordan, Provost Marshal Timberlake and Major J. S. Pfrimmer, formed a line of battle on the hill about a mile south of Corydon and threw up a temporary breast works composed of logs, brush and fence rails. When Morgan's Advance Guard appeared they were repulsed by the infantry under command of Captain G. W. Lahue. In that fight Harry Steepleton was killed. The rebels had three killed and seven wounded. Before this skirmish was over the enemy appeared in force, when fire was opened by the "Henry Rifles" under command of Major Thomas McGrain. However Morgan's men soon opened fire with three pieces of artillery, thereby demoralizing the defenders and causing them to fall back, each man fighting for himself.

The rebels soon planted a battery on the hill south of town and proceeded to make arrangements to bombard the town. After a couple of shells had been thrown into town a white flag was hoisted, Corydon surrendered, and the people and property were at the mercy of General Morgan.

Before the rebels entered the town they captured County Auditor S. W. Douglas and State Senator S. K. Wolfe, who had been with the "Henry Rifles," and required them to ride in at their head declaring that a shot from the citizens would be the signal for their death.

Then it was that the noted General Morgan begun the important part of their warfare. The general stores of Douglas, Denbo & Co., and S. J. Wright were robbed of about three thousand dollars each. The drug store of Dr. Reader and several other small stores were also relieved of such stock as could be used by the raiders. A tribute of \$500 each was levied upon the two flouring mills owned by Leffler & Applegate and Wright & Brown, the payment of which

was necessary to save them from the torch. A like ransom was levied on Mauck's Mill, about one-half mile west of town. John J. Mauck, the owner, could not be found and this sum was paid by S. J. Wright and Harbin Applegate.

The "Guerillas" robbed Treasurer Hisey of seven hundred and fifty dollars, raided every home, stable and hen-house and all of the ribbon found in the stores was utilized to make streamers and ornaments for the rebels and their horses.

The total Union loss was three killed and two wounded. The dead were William Heth, Nathan McKinzie and Harry Steepleton. The wounded were Jacob Feree and Caleb Thomas. The rebels had eight killed and thirty-three wounded.

After stealing everything that could be found of any value, that was light enough to carry, they left about five o'clock in the evening. The next day General Hobson entered Corydon in pursuit. General Basil Duke, in his History of Morgan's Cavalry, estimates the number of Home Guards in the Corydon fight at four thousand and says "They defended their rail piles manfully." That was certainly an industrious company of men who caused General Duke to see four thousand men where there were but four hundred.

The War Department recognized this engagement by inserting the name of Corydon in the official list of battles of the Civil war.

## HARRISON COUNTY TOWNS

Besides Corydon, the county seat, there have been many other towns laid out in Harrison County. The following is a brief history of each.

### LANESVILLE.

The original plat of the Town of Lanesville was sworn to by Edward Pennington on December 11,

1817. While the town was not platted until 1817, there had been a settlement there since about 1800. For many years the population of the entire county obtained their supply of salt from a salt spring in the creek bottom below Lanesville on the land entered by James Armstrong. The town was named for Mr. Lane, a Government Surveyor, who surveyed the town. A subsequent addition was laid out on August 11, 1855, by Robert Biggs. Captain Speir Spencer's company in the Indian War was largely recruited in and around Lanesville as was the noted "Yellow Jackets."

#### ELIZABETH.

The original plat of the town of Elizabeth was sworn to by William D. Littell, before John Tipton, Justice of the Peace, on April 17, 1812. The Town was incorporated March 8, 1819, and was named for Elizabeth Veatch, whose husband gave the land.

#### MAUCKPORT.

The original plat of the Town of Mauckport was sworn to on April 17, 1827, and recorded May 7, 1827. The town was laid out on land owned by Frederick Mauck, who settled on the site of the present town in 1811.

#### LACONIA.

Laconia was platted on March 9, 1816, by John Boone.

#### PALMYRA.

The Town of Palmyra was leased by Hays McCallen, November 14, 1810, and was originally known as McCallen's Cross Roads. It was laid out in forty-eight lots in October, 1836, and named Carthage. There being another Carthage in the state, the name of the town was changed to Palmyra, March 25, 1839. It is said that McCallen secured the land

from an earlier settler who complained that he had become too crowded because Fredericksburg had been settled four mile on one side of him and Greenville six miles on the other.

#### BOSTON.

Boston was a flourishing town in Taylor township, on the Ohio River and a short distance below Evan's Landing, in the fifties. A cut in the river has washed the town away until nothing remains at this time.

#### NEW SALISBURY.

New Salisbury was platted by John Kepley, August 28, 1839. It was named for Salisbury, North Carolina, which was Kepley's home before coming to Indiana.

#### MORVIN.

Morvin was platted by Harvey Heth, September 7, 1816. Morvin, as a town, was a failure and the last house in the town was demolished by a cannon ball from one of Morgan's guns July 8, 1863.

#### FRENCHTOWN.

Frenchtown was settled in 1840 when a colony of about fifty families from France settled there. The place was first called St. Bernard, which was the name of the church there, but when a postoffice was established there the name was changed to Frenchtown.

#### NEW AMSTERDAM.

New Amsterdam was platted September 19, 1815, by Jacob Funk and Samuel McAdams. Daniel Funk and Henry Funk, who were soldiers in the Revolutionary War are buried one mile below the town on the bank of Indian Creek.

## BRIDGEPORT.

Bridgeport was laid out in September, 1849, by Thomas Joyes and David M. Farnsley, but its growth has been slow. The postoffice has always borne the name of Locust Point.

## NORTH HAMPTON.

North Hampton was platted by James Riley, May 25, 1815. It is said that the place was noted during its existence of fifteen years for its drinking, gambling, horse racing and fighting. It is now almost unknown.

## BUENA VISTA.

Buena Vista, in Taylor township was laid out by William Wallace in 1850. It was here that a meteor fell about four o'clock in the afternoon of March 28, 1859. The falling of the meteor was attended with great rattling and hissing noises which were heard for miles. The meteor was secured by Dr. E. S. Crosier and it is now in the British Museum in London.

## BRADFORD.

The Town of Bradford was platted by Ulrich H. How, July 20, 1838. The old Indian trail across the northern part of Harrison County passed near the town.

## NEW MIDDLETOWN.

New Middletown was laid out by Henry Sechrist, October 16, 1860. The town is surrounded by some of the best farming land in the county and the people are prosperous and well educated.

## BYRNVILLE

Byrnville was settled by Temple C. Byrn in 1809, and platted by him in October, 1838.

Wynnsboro was laid out by John R. Wynn, April 25, 1820.

Hurstown was settled by John Hurst in 1800.

✓ Moberly is a prosperous settlement in Spencer Township. The date of its settlement was about 1850.

Valley City was platted in November, 1859, by James H. Trotter and Jacob C. Lopp.

Fandale was platted by John McPheeters, October 15, 1867.

Crandall was platted by Cornelius F. Crandall, June 11, 1872.

Central City (Mott) was platted by George A. Crosby, May 12, 1883.

✓ DePauw was platted by Felician Henriott, April 8, 1884.

Gresham is that part of Corydon Junction lying north of the railroad. It was named for Walter Q. Gresham and was platted November 14, 1883.

O'Bannon is that part of Corydon Junction lying south of the railroad. It was platted September 3, 1889, by Joseph Deweese.

Jackson City (Ramsey) was platted by H. C. Ramsey, March 14, 1883.

Central was platted by William Smith, May 31, 1890.

## NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper published in Harrison County was the Indiana Gazette which was launched in November, 1818.

The Corydon Democrat, the present Democratic weekly, was established in 1856 by Simeon K. Wolfe. Other editors have been A. W. Brewster, Askren & Stockslager, George K. Gwartney, Thomas & Ellis, and Lew M. O'Bannon, its present owner.

The Corydon Republican, the present Republican weekly, was established in 1868, by Henry Jordan and W. T. Jones. It later passed into the hands of

Self & Adams and then to George W. Self, its present owner.

## ROADS AND RAILROADS

Closely following the building of the Louisville, Evansville and St. Louis Railroad through the northern part of Harrison County, the Louisville, New Albany and Corydon Railroad was built from Corydon to Corydon Junction. The first train was run over that road November 27, 1883, (Thanksgiving Day). This train consisted of a small engine and one coach and made the trip from Corydon Junction to Corydon, a distance of eight miles, in one hour and five minutes. It is said that at the end of the run one of the officers of the company remarked that a change in the road-bed would have to be made at one point and gave as a reason that the track was straight at that point for more than a quarter of a mile when a curve could have been made.

The first turnpike in Harrison County was the New Albany and Vincennes Turnpike which runs through the north-eastern part of the county. This road follows the old "Indian Trail" and was constructed in 1841.

On July 8, 1851, the New Albany, Lanesville and Corydon Plank Road Company was organized. This road was completed about 1853.

## HARRISON COUNTY OFFICERS

### JUDGES.

The first Judges of the Common Pleas Court were Patrick Shields, John George Pfrimmer and Moses Boone, May 10, 1809. At the June term of the court Peter McIntosh succeeded John George Pfrimmer.

The first Judges of the Circuit Court were Jesse L. Holman, president, and Daniel C. Lane and Patrick

Shields, associates; November, 1814, to April, 1817; These gentlemen were succeeded by David Raymond, president, and Patrick Shields and Peter McIntosh, associates, November, 1817, to April, 1818; Davis Floyd, president, and Peter McIntosh and Fielding M. Bradford, associates, April, 1818, to September, 1820; David Floyd, president, and James Kirkpatrick and Peter McIntosh, associates, September, 1820, to March, 1823; Davis Floyd, president, and James Kirkpatrick and Abijah Bayless, associates, March, 1823, to June, 1823; John F. Ross, president, and James Kirkpatrick and Abijah Bayless, associates, June, 1823, to May, 1824; John F. Ross, president, and John Harrison and Moses Boone, associates, May, 1824, to April, 1831; John F. Ross, president, and Craven Lynn and Moses Boone, associates, April, 1831, to October, 1834; John H. Thompson, president, and Fielding Cromwell and Craven Lynn, associates, October, 1834, to October, 1836; John H. Thompson, president, and Fielding Cromwell and John Hogan, associates, October, 1836, to April, 1845; William P. Otto, president, and Fielding Cromwell and John Hogan, associates, April, 1845, to April, 1852; William P. Otto, sole judge, 1852; George A. Bicknell, 1853; T. C. Slaughter, 1872 to 1879; George W. Denbo, 1879 to 1880; Samuel Ramsey, 1880 to 1886; William T. Zenor, 1886 to 1897; Robert S. Kirkham, 1897, C. W. Cook, 1898 to October, 1909; William Ridley, October 1909 for a term of six years.

#### JUDGES OF PROBATE COURT.

W. A. Porter, November, 1829, to February, 1834; Lyman Leslie, February, 1834, to November, 1834; George Bently, November, 1834, to November, 1842; Charles D. Murray, November, 1842, to May, 1843; Lemuel S. Leonard, May, 1843, to August, 1847; T. C. Slaughter, August, 1847, to August, 1848; Craven Lynn, succeeded Judge Slaughter.

## JUDGES OF COMMON PLEAS COURT.

William Morrow, January, 1853, to November, 1856; Fred W. Mathis, November, 1856, to February, 1861; Amos Lovering, February, 1861, to April, 1864; B. P. Douglas, April, 1864, to August, 1864; W. W. Gilliland, August, 1864; B. P. Douglass, August, 1864, to December, 1864; Patrick H. Jewett, December, 1864, to December, 1872. Charles P. Ferguson succeeded Judge Jewett.

## CLERKS.

George F. Pope, 1809 to April, 1811; R. M. Heth, 1811 to 1818; Henry W. Heth, 1818 to 1852; Hugh Neely, 1852 to 1856; George W. Denbo, 1856 to 1860; E. M. Jones, 1860 to August, 1864; S. W. Douglass, August to November, 1864; William Hancock, November, 1864, to 1868; B. P. Douglass, 1868 to 1872; John Ridley, 1872 to 1880; D. F. Lemmon, 1884 to 1888; Alva Smith, 1888 to 1892; Amos Lemmon, 1892 to 1896; Otto Cunningham, 1896 to 1900; Charles A. Bline, 1900 to 1904; James A. McRae, 1904 to 1908. Charles H. Kintner succeeded Mr. McRae for a term of four years.

## TREASURERS.

Gillis McBean, 1818; Thomas Posey, 1818 to 1824; Armstrong Brandon, 1824 to 1828; John W. Payne and Robert Vance, 1828 to 1849; John Tabler, 1849 to 1853; George W. Denbo, 1853 to 1855; John Deeweese, 1855 to 1857; James W. Starr, 1857 to 1859; Willison Hisey, 1859 to 1863; E. H. Richards, 1864 to 1869; Edward Harbeson, 1867 to 1871; Lewis W. Bowling, 1871 to 1875; William Benson, 1875 to 1879; Lewis W. Bowling, 1879 to 1883; John C. Graves, 1883 to 1887; Z. T. Funk, 1887 to 1889; Patrick Griffin, 1889 to 1893; William Meyer, 1893 to 1895; John W. Marshall, 1895 to 1897; Levi Sappenfield, 1897 to 1902; Edward O'Connor, 1902 to 1906; John M. Baelz, 1906 to

1908; William D. Barnes, 1908 to 1912; Daniel Pitman was elected in 1910 to succeed Mr. Barnes.

#### CORONERS.

William Heth, 1834 to 1838; William Booker, 1838 to 1842; William Applegate, 1842 to 1844; Samuel Littell, 1844 to 1846; David Groves, 1846 to 1848; Harvey Steepleton, 1848 to 1850; Job Robinson, 1850 to 1853; James H. Richards, 1853 to 1854; William R. Hunter, 1854 to 1856; Upton Boone, 1856 to 1860; Z. B. Cooper, 1860 to 1862; George O'Conner, 1862 to 1870; James Wilson, 1870 to 1880; George Kintner, 1880 to 1884; Andrew J. Glaze, 1884 to 1894; William Windell, 1894 to 1896; Peter S. Wright, 1896 to 1900; William S. Nye, 1900 to 1904; Peter S. Wright, 1904 to 1906; James M. Blake, 1906 to 1908; Henry Wise, 1908 to 1910; William S. Nye succeeded Mr. Wise in 1911.

#### SURVEYORS.

Adam Crosier, 1854 to 1856; James Armstrong, 1856 to 1868; John Brewster, 1868 to 1882; Sam Roberts, 1882 to 1883; Lafe Crosier, 1883 to 1884; Amos Zenor, 1884 to 1887; William B. Douglass, 1887; Lew M. O'Bannon, 1887 to 1890; A. J. Armstrong, 1890 to 1892; J. V. Denton, 1892 to 1894; William Churchill, 1894 to 1896; Joseph E. Bunch, 1896 to 1898; Thomas J. Wright, 1898 to 1899; Dan Sharp, 1899 to 1903; Hugh Rhodes, 1902 to 1907; Arvel Snyder, 1907 to 1908; John L. Kaylor, 1908 to 1910; Mr. Kaylor was re-elected in 1910.

#### RECORDERS.

H. W. Heth, 1841 to 1855; L. S. Leonard, 1855 to 1859; N. B. Boone, 1859 to 1862; Conrad Hottell, September 30 to October 8, 1862; Marion Hise, 1862 to 1866; M. M. Hon, 1866 to 1870; William Zollman, 1870 to 1874; William B. Hunter, 1878 to 1882;

Edward Hunter, 1882 to 1884; Henry Wright, 1884 to 1886; John M. Baelz, 1886 to 1890; L. M. O'Bannon, 1890 to 1894; E. S. Tuell, 1894 to 1898; Henry W. Denbo, 1898 to 1902; Frank M. Wilson, 1903 to 1907, Julius Rothrock, 1907 to 1911; Charles H. Ginkins succeeded Mr. Rothrock in 1911, having been elected for a term of four years.

#### AUDITORS.

T. C. Slaughter, 1842 to 1847; S. J. Wright, 1847 to 1851; B. P. Douglass, 1851 to 1859; S. W. Douglass, 1859 to 1863; William Miller, 1863 to 1867; B. P. Douglass, 1866 to 1867; S. J. Wright, 1867 to 1871; W. W. Brewster, 1871 to 1875; C. M. Miller, 1875 to 1879; A. W. Brewster, 1879 to 1887; James Woodward, 1887 to 1889; Leslie Trotter, November, 1889, to November, 1890; C. W. Cole, November, 1890, to 1894; T. S. Getzendanner, 1894 to 1898; James A. Watson, 1898 to January, 1903; George Hess, 1903 to April, 1904; Frank E. Watson, April, 1904, to 1909; William Taylor succeeded Mr. Watson for a term of four years.

#### SHERIFFS.

Spier Spencer, 1809 to 1812; John Hurst, 1812 to 1817; from 1817 to 1834 the dates of the term of sheriffs cannot be definitely fixed, but the following gentlemen filled that office during that period: John Tipton, Joseph Paddocks, Jesse Shields, Frederick Lesle, William Gresham and Dennis Pennington; Jesse Shields, 1834 to 1836; Dennis Pennington, 1836 to 1838; William Madden, 1838 to 1842; James Giles, 1842 to 1846; William Gwinn, 1846 to 1850; William McMahan, 1850 to 1854; James Giles, 1854 to 1856; Jacob Stockslager, 1856 to 1860; John F. Cunningham, 1860 to 1864; Henry Zenor, 1864 to 1868; Peter Endris, 1868 to 1872; Silas Crayden, 1872 to 1876; Lewis Brown, 1876 to 1880; Joseph L. Marsh, 1880 to

1884; S. J. Bence, 1884 to 1888; Claiborne Shuck, 1888 to 1892; Nathan McElfresh, 1892 to 1894; William Blake, 1894 to 1896, J. M. Baelz, 1897 to 1900; Philip Lottich, 1900 to 1905; William Ludlow, 1905 to 1907; Alver G. Ward, 1907 to 1911; Peter S. Wright, 1911, for a term of two years.

## NOTED CITIZENS

During her existence, Harrison County has been the home of many noted men and women, among whom are the following: William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States; Colonel Thomas Posey, Territorial Governor from 1813 to 1816; General John Tipton, Captain Spier Spencer, Colonel Lewis Jordan, General Walter Q. Gresham, who was United States Judge for the District of Indiana from 1869 to 1882, Postmaster General from 1882 to 1884, Secretary of the Treasury in 1884, and was appointed Secretary of State by President Cleveland in 1893; Colonel Thomas Posey, Jonathan Jennings, first Governor of Indiana; Allen D. Thom, Adjutant General of Indiana; Daniel C. Lane, first State Treasurer; Davis Floyd, Dennis Pennington, General Sparks, Land Commissioner during Cleveland's first administration; Robert J. Tracewell, Congressman and Controller of the United States Treasury; Nathaniel Albertson, Congressman; W. T. Jones, Congressman from Wyoming; S. M. Stockslager, Congressman and Land Commissioner under President Cleveland; Josiah Lincoln, uncle of Abraham Lincoln; Simeon K. Wolfe, Congressman; William T. Zenor, Congressman; T. C. Slaughter, Assessor of Internal Revenue and Indian Agent; Harbin H. Moore, Reuben W. Nelson, William A. Porter, Colonel G. W. Friedley, James H. Jordan, Judge of the Supreme Court of Indiana; General James C. Veach, George W. Self, Reporter of the Supreme Court of Indiana; Mary E. Nealy, who wrote

as "Mary Neal," Brainard Williamson, poet and writer; Miss Abbie Slemmons, whose poems attracted considerable attention during the Civil War; William Ridley, Grand Master of Indiana Masons, and many others.

## THE CORYDON FAIR

The first "County Fair" was held at Corydon by the Harrison County Agricultural Society September 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1860. The officers that year were Edward W. Aydelotte, President; P. D. Bean, Vice President; Eli Wright, Treasurer; and David Jordan, Secretary. This fair was attended by about fifty people and is described by many old people who attended it as being similar to the old fashioned "Basket Meeting." The Corydon Fair has been successful and has grown in magnitude until today it ranks among the best county fairs in the state and an attendance of less than twelve thousand on the "Big days" is a disappointment to every native. The grounds lie just across "Little Indian" Creek from the business portion of Corydon and are beautifully shaded. There we also find a never failing spring of pure, cold water, a natural amphitheater, a modern half mile race track and every convenience that goes to make a modern up-to-date fair grounds.

## HARRISON COUNTY TODAY

In Harrison County, today, many changes and improvements are noticeable to the eye which has been absent for twenty years. The land of the county has more than doubled in value; great forests of gigantic oaks, walnut, poplar and other valuable woods of twenty years ago have given away to fertile fields and green pasture lands. The farmers are prosperous and progressive and no county of Indiana possesses more modern farm machinery and implements. She is noted

for her fine poultry, thoroughbred horses and Jersey cattle. It has been correctly termed the county of peace, happiness and plenty. Many miles of free macadam roads have been built and travel today is a pleasure and convenience when compared with the old days of the hillside path and creek bottom road. Many improvements in methods of farming have been inaugurated and there are now few farms in the county that do not possess handsome residences and comfortable roomy barns. Few counties can boast of schools that equal those found here, and the teachers of the county bear a state-wide reputation. Mrs. Julia Fried Walker, a teacher and Institute Lecturer of more than state-wide reputation, is a native of Corydon, as are Prof. Orlin Venner, Lucien Morris, Walter Bean and many other noted educators. Creameries have been erected in nearly every town in the county and many distilleries exist within her borders. Harrison County now produces more fruit brandy than any other county in the world, the bulk of this product coming from Mauckport and New Amsterdam. In 1894, an electric light plant and water works system were built in Corydon by William H. Keller. Both of these industries are now operated by Mr. Frank R. Wright. In 1903 the Town of Corydon built another water works system. Corydon also has a large canning factory, two ice and cold storage plants, two national banks, one savings and loan association, one trust company, two flouring mills, one grain elevator and many other modern business houses and enterprises of various kinds. One of the largest and best equipped wagon manufacturing plants in the country is located at Corydon. It is owned and operated by a corporation, The Keller Manufacturing Company, of which William H. Keller is president. This plant employs more than one hundred men and has a capacity of more than seven thousand completed wagons annually. Harrison County is now and has always been a hotly

contested political ground. Many notable men have campaigned within her borders. A spirit of pride in the public welfare impregnates the atmosphere and the boy of Harrison County, from his early childhood, is taught thrift, politics and morality. Harrison County may always remain in the "pocket" of the majestic Ohio; she may always be "out of the way;" she may always remain "slow" and "conservative" but so long as her name remains unchanged, the world will, at least, occasionally, be reminded that she occupies a place upon the map of that great state that was born and reared in her bosom—INDIANA.

Yon sun that sets upon the sea;  
We follow in his flight,  
Farewell awhile to him and thee,  
My native land—Good Night.  
—*Byron-Childe Harold.*







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