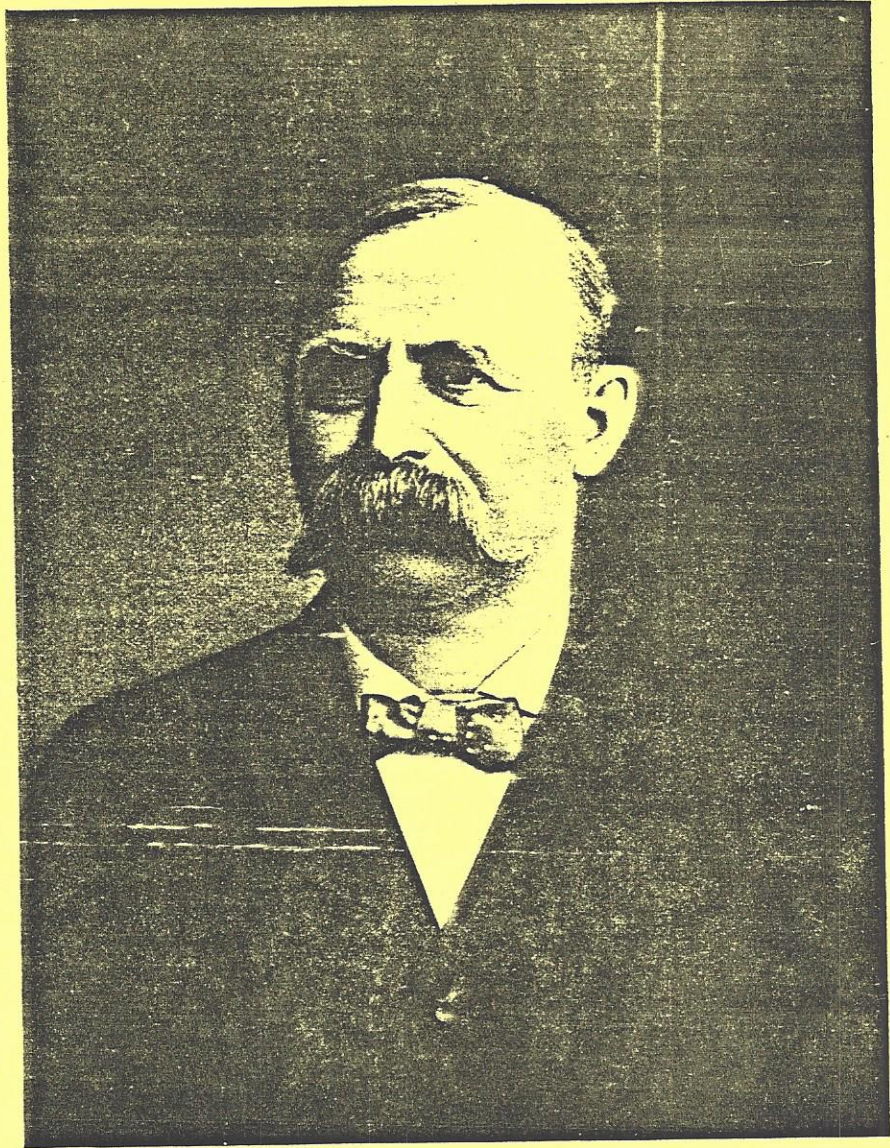


*Royce*



*J. F. Beyer.*



*Royce*

## History of Kosciusko County

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JOHN FREDERICK BEYER. Kosciusko County could claim no better citizen and one of more distinctive achievements during the past thirty-eight years than John Frederick Beyer of Warsaw. It was Mr. Beyer who was the primary factor in establishing one of the largest provision packing and commission firms in Northern Indiana, and as this concern is still in operation in Warsaw, there need be no further reminder of his connection with that widely known commercial enterprise. However, Mr. Beyer has made more than a commercial success, and has been one of the vital energizers and up-builders in the county and the City of Warsaw.

A native of Germany, he was born in the Kingdom of Hesse Cassel, now a part of Prussia, October 17, 1850. He was one of a family of five sons, whose parents were August and Mary (Eckhart) Beyer. His father died when his youngest child was three months old, and the widow subsequently married George Pfeifer, by whom she had four more children.

Of the five sons, J. Frederick Beyer was the second. His older brother is still living on a farm in Germany. Reared in an attractive section of rural Germany, after leaving the common or Volk schools he served a thorough five years' apprenticeship in the blacksmith's trade. In 1869, at the age of nineteen, he came to America to visit relatives. The steamer "Donau" on which he made the passage was twelve days in crossing the Atlantic. In his company was his brother Albert. He first went to Goshen, Indiana, where his relatives were living, and remained there seven years, a part of the time working at his trade. However, it was while at Goshen that he laid the foundation for his highly prosperous business career. He began on a small scale and with hardly any capital, to collect and handle butter and eggs, which he gathered up from local producers and shipped to outside markets. This was the germ of the present wholesale packing business of Beyer Brothers, with three main offices at Warsaw, Kendallville and Rochester, and with commission houses in New York City, Boston and Providence, Rhode Island, besides numerous branch establishments throughout the country. It would be interesting if space permitted to give a detailed history of the growth



*Boyer*

of this industry. It was started by Mr. Beyer with a capital of only about \$5,000 and with two wagons. It is now an incorporated company under the title Beyer Brothers Company, has a vast capital employed, and its equipment includes hundreds of wagons and automobile trucks, and an independent refrigerator line. In the course of time two more brothers, Christian C. and J. Edward, came to this country and threw in their energies with the business.

It was in February, 1877, that Mr. Beyer came to Warsaw and extended his business to this town. In the early days he had many difficulties to surmount, but by hard work, good business management and indomitable energy succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations. Gradually, however, he withdrew from the active management of the packing business. It was not a retirement from business altogether, since in the meantime he conceived the idea of establishing an educational and pleasure park at Winona Lake. Toward that end he acquired extensive tracts of land along the eastern shore of the lake, and then in 1888, with his brothers, founded Spring Fountain Park. Their first enterprise there was a creamery, and they also built a hotel. After a few years, in 1895, Spring Fountain Park was sold to the Winona Assembly and has ever since been the beautiful grounds of what is probably the most noted and best attended chautauqua assembly in the country. Though he sold the property, Mr. Beyer was asked to remain as superintendent of the grounds. He has ever since been actively identified with the assembly, and much credit is due him for the splendid condition of the park and facilities with which thousands and thousands of people become acquainted every year. In a hardly less important manner Mr. Beyer has been a prominent factor in the making of modern Warsaw. He has been a liberal contributor to all worthy enterprises. Coming to America with but little means at his command, unacquainted with the language and customs of the people, he has been wonderfully prosperous, but better still has acquired an honest name and commands universal respect.

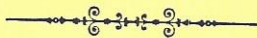
In politics he is a republican, though he has never aspired for political office. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. On December 15, 1877, he married Miss Anna M. Miller, daughter of Jacob Miller, who was born in Pennsylvania and spent many years of his career in Elkhart County, Indiana. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Beyer are: Mae E., Carl F. and Harold R. Mr. and Mrs. Beyer are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In later years Mr. Beyer has devoted much of his attention to farming and stock raising, and is one of the most extensive cultivators of crops and general agricultural enterprise in this section of Indiana. He owns about 500 acres, comprising a splendid country estate near Warsaw, where he spends most of his time, and he also operates about 700 other acres, largely in Kosciusko County.

JAMES A. COOK. One of the first of the hardy pioneers to settle in what is now Kosciusko County was John Cook, who became widely



OF KOSCIUSKO COUNTY.

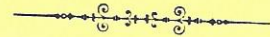
a young and married. They have three children—Ethel, Thomas and Florence. Mr. Warner affiliates with the Republican party, and both himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In the fall of 1885 he built the frame hotel of eighteen rooms, at a cost of \$2,500. It is neatly and appropriately furnished, and whoever desires the quiet and enjoyment of a country village cannot find pleasanter accommodations. Mr. Warner built the first hotel in North Webster, although his father, Thomas K. Warner and Henry Strombeck had accommodated travelers at their residences in former years.



**JOHN FREDERICK BEYER**, of the firm of Beyer Brothers, wholesale produce dealers and shippers, of Warsaw, was born near Hessen Cassel, Germany, in 1850. He was reared in his native place until he was nineteen years of age, and had learned the trade of blacksmithing. At that age he and a younger brother immigrated to the United States, landing at Castle Garden, New York, in October, 1869. From there he went to Goshen, Indiana, where he worked at his trade one year, then became an employé in shipping butter and eggs for George Freese for about three years. He then became associated with Mr. Freese in the same business, under the firm name of Freese & Beyer. In the meantime they opened a business house at Warsaw. In 1878 Mr. Beyer purchased the interest of Mr. Freese at Warsaw, and in the same year his brothers, Cyrus C. and John E., became associated with him, and the firm became Beyer Brothers. They do an extensive business in shipping produce, butter and eggs to New York markets. They have branch business houses at North Manchester, Rochester, Columbia City, Goshen,

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Monticello and Huntingdon, Indiana. In addition to the shipping business, in 1874 they built the Big Eagle Creamery, near Warsaw, on the east shore of Eagle Lake, where they own 160 acres of land, and with an outlay of \$30,000 they are fitting up a summer resort, which, from its numerous springs, is named "Spring Fountain Park," and with other attractions, in the shape of fountain flower gardens and conservatories, they are now erecting an appropriate building for the great historical painting, the panorama of the siege of Chattanooga, Tennessee, including Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, painted on 15,000 square feet of canvas, by Professor Harry J. Kellogg, the great American historical painter. December 15, 1877, Mr. Beyer was married at Goshen to Miss Anna M. Miller, daughter of Jacob and Anna G. (Eckhart) Miller, of Goshen. They have two children—May E. and Carl Frederick. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Warsaw, and he is a member of Forest Lodge, No. 46, K. of P., Warsaw.



**GEORGE B. HOOPINGARNER, M. D.**, of Sidney, is a native of Indiana, born in Hamilton, Steuben County, September 13, 1856. He is the first son of Dr. J. J. and Ellen (Brown) Hoopingarner, natives of Ohio, the father born April 3, 1824, of German descent, and the mother of Scotch and Irish parentage, the date of her birth being March 3, 1825. They were married at Canal Fulton, Ohio, in 1850, and in 1854 removed to Hamilton, Indiana, where the father engaged in the practice of medicine. In 1865 he removed with his family to Butler, DeKalb County, Indiana, where he carried on a drug store in connection with his medi-



chester to Miss Mary E. Willis, who died at the same place in 1865, leaving at her death one child—Willie B., of North Manchester, Robert having died at North Manchester when four years of age. He was married to his present wife, Miss Rachel Shoemaker, at Pierceton, in 1869, and to this union have been born six children—Elsie May, Charles, Lizzie, Frank, Amie, and Josie, who died in infancy. Mrs. Foster is a member of the Presbyterian church at Pierceton. Mr. Foster is an Odd Fellow, belonging to the lodge, encampment and canton. He is past grand, past high priest, and a past lieutenant of the Canton Warsaw, No. 5, and chief of staff of the Department of the State of Indiana, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He is also a comrade of John Murray Post No. 124, G. A. R., of Pierceton, of which he is a past post commander. He has been foreman of Alert Fire Company, No. 1, of Pierceton, since its organization in 1876.

**J**OHN EDWARD BEYER was born March 16, 1858, at Gensungen, Hessen Castle, Germany, where he was reared until fourteen years of age, when he came to America, landing at Castle Garden, New York, August 28, 1872. He first located at Goshen, Indiana, and was employed by George Freese, dealer in produce, and was thus employed until February 2, 1877, when he came to Warsaw and engaged with Freese & Beyer, his brother being one of the firm, where he remained until January 1, 1878, when he became associated with his brothers, J. F. and C. C. Beyer, under the firm name of Beyer Brothers, dealers in produce, butter and eggs at Warsaw. His early educational advantages were very limited, having attended the public schools at Goshen only a few months.

November 13, 1884, he was married near Warsaw to Miss Irena Belle Oldfather, daughter of Adam and Caroline (Berger) Oldfather, of Wabash County, Indiana. They have one child—Earl Edward. They are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Warsaw. Mr. Beyer is a member of Forest Lodge, No. 46, K. of P., and of Kosciusko Division, No. 8, uniformed rank K. of P. He is part proprietor of the Big Eagle Creamery and Spring Fountain Park, mentioned in the sketch of his brother, J. F. Beyer.

**H**IRAM FINTON, a mason and plasterer, living in Washington Township, is a native of Logan County, Ohio, born near Roundhead, December 10, 1837, a son of John and Elizabeth (Wolf) Finton, who were both natives of Pennsylvania, the father of Irish, and the mother of German descent. The mother died when our subject was a year old, her death occurring in 1838, and in 1846 the father came with his family to Kosciusko County, settling in Washington Township. He was a farmer by occupation, which avocation he followed till within a few years before his death, when he engaged in the mercantile business at Wooster, Washington Township. For years he served as justice of the peace of Washington Township, where he was an honored and respected citizen. His death occurred in 1858. Hiram Finton, the subject of this sketch, was eight years of age when he accompanied his father to Kosciusko County, and he was reared on his father's farm in Washington Township. When eighteen years old he began working at masonry and plastering, which he has since made his principal occupation. He was married in Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, September 17, 1861, to Miss Pric-



### Kosciusko County Courthouse Warsaw

**1** The grandeur of this 3-story stone courthouse is surpassed by few. Completed in 1884, it is 99'10" wide, 159'6" long, and 162'3" high. In 1963 when the courtroom was redone, the Victorian wood-working, carving, and cabinetry and the wrought iron seats were maintained. Robert Hitzler of Hitzler Furniture did the inlay around the Judge's seat, and James MusCroft of Goshen worked on the carvings all around the courtroom and offices.

In 1834-35 the county boundaries were defined. The city was surveyed in 1836 and incorporated February 4, 1854 with a population of 752. In 1856 the railroad was completed and Warsaw was the largest town between Fort Wayne and Chicago. The county is named for Thaddeus Kosciusko, a great Polish nobleman and Revolutionary War hero.

### Billy Sunday Museum Winona Lake

**2** The Billy Sunday home was built prior to 1900. Many beautiful antiques were brought from Mrs. Sunday's mother's home, and most other furnishings were gifts from friends. The main hallway is virtually a "hall of fame." The walls are covered with autographed pictures of famous Americans, among them 6 Presidents of the U.S. The fireplace mantel clock was a gift from the Billy Sunday baseball team.

We are indebted to the Winona Christian Assembly for allowing this home to be included in our tour.

**North Webster** — This community was surveyed and platted May 2, 1837. The village was named in honor of Daniel Webster and located on Lake Boydston, now known as Webster Lake. In 1879 the population was 150. Present-day North Webster is famous for its International Palace of Sports and Camelot Square.

### Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Prickett Syracuse

**3** The 1879 Kosciusko County Atlas notes that George B. Mellenger settled on Sec. 27 in Turkey Creek Township. This home was built in 1858 of native timber. The low ceilings with wide ceiling moldings and beams are reminiscent of Williamsburg, Virginia. At the back of the house is a blacksmith shop. "Let me live my life by the side of the road and be a friend of man" is the inscription on the fireplace.

### Kosciusko County Historical Museum, 1838 Oswego

**9** The museum is located in the first commercial building built in Kosciusko County. Given to the Historical Society by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pound, this admission-free museum has been giving pleasure to visitors for the past two summers.

Tightening every nail on the outside and repairing the roof were just some of the tasks that faced the original museum committee appointed by then-Historical Society President Ralph Brubaker. Members of that committee were Ronald Sharp, Fred Gilliam, Joe Ettinger, Pete Strayer, Carl Oxenrider, and Mrs. Robert Lichtenwalter.

Mrs. Cary Groninger succeeded Mrs. Lichtenwalter as museum chairman and worked on the inside of this very early general store, trading post, post office, and telegraph office. Mrs. Stuart Stokes, Mrs. John Ball, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Alexander, Miss Viola Spomer, Ralph Franz, Professor Wayne Snider, Mrs. Ralph Brubaker, and many others labored long hours to transform this building into a historical museum.

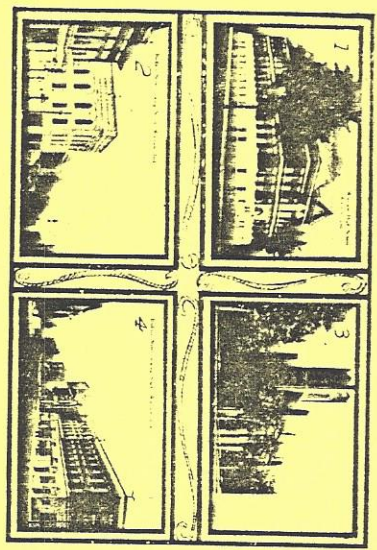
The first season opened June, 1972. By May, 1973, the second floor had been turned into period rooms—an 1800's bedroom, a 1900's kitchen, and the start of a Victorian parlor. An Indian dugout found in Papekechie Lake was added. This prized relic hopefully will be just the start of a collection of Indian artifacts donated to the museum by county residents.

The museum is financed from donations and fund-raising projects. All items have been given by citizens interested in preserving a part of the past for future generations. The workers are all volunteers, and your help is welcomed. The museum is open to visitors on Sundays and holidays, May through September, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Special group tours can be arranged.

Outstanding private collections will be on display for Tour Day only. Hosts and hostesses will be in period dress, and refreshments made from old county recipes will be served.

This land was originally part of Chief Musquabuck's village. His family left the area in the 1840's. In 1837 Messrs. Barbee, Williard, and French purchased this tract of land and laid out the village of Oswego. Early people and places of interest included the store and post office kept by John Hour; a blacksmith shop (1843); a physician, Dr. Roland R. Willard; a tannery operated by A. M. Cowan (1840); and the Oswego Baptist Church (1837).

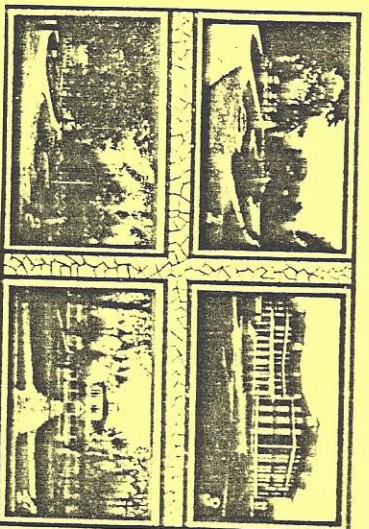




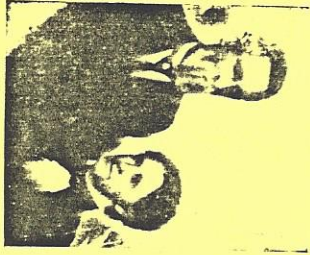
1—Western High School. 2—Buffalo Street, Looking North. 3—First M. E. Church. 4—Buffalo Street, Looking South, Warsaw, Indiana.



REV. W. E. GROVES.  
Rev. Groves is the Editor and founder of the Millford Mail, published in Millford, Indiana. He founded the paper in 1889 and at present has the largest circulation of any newspaper published in Kosciusko County on public view. Groves is also a minister of the gospel, receiving his first ordination by Bishop Taylor, President of the Taylor University.



1—Lilly Pond and Auditorium in Distance. 2—The Homestead. 3—Westminster Hotel. 4—The Inn, Winona Lake, Indiana.



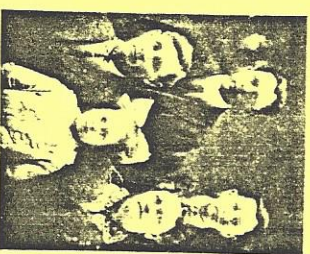
MR. AND MRS. JAMES W. ARMSTRONG,  
LEADERS, IND.



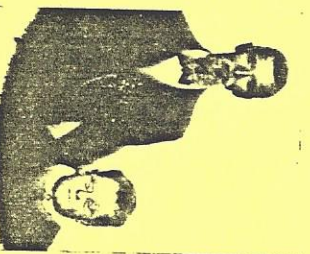
PHOTOGRAPH FROM ROBERT NIGHSWANDER,  
R. F. D. No. 4,  
CLAYPOOL, IND.



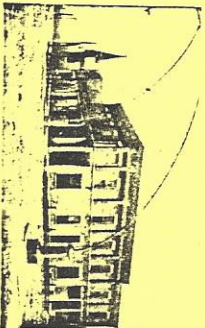
HENRY SHIRELY,  
R. F. D. No. 1,  
WARSAW, IND.



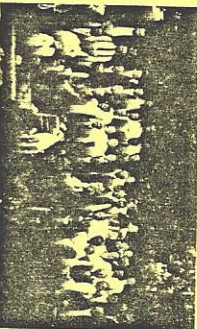
L. F. MINER AND FAMILY,  
CLAYPOOL, IND.



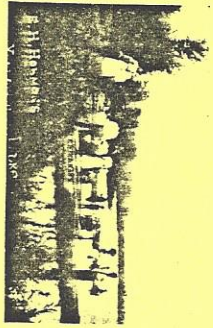
MR. AND MRS. GEO. A. TIBBITTS,  
R. F. D. No. 3,  
WARSAW, IND.



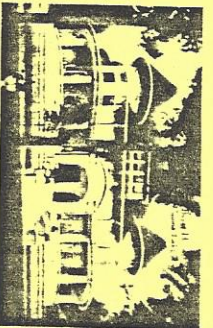
MAIN STREET, EAST FROM FARMERS' BANK BUILDING,  
MUNSON, IND.



SOCIALIST MEETING AT E. H. HOHMAN'S,  
Yellow Creek,  
CLAYPOOL, IND.



PHOTOGRAPH FROM E. H. HOHMAN'S,  
CLAYPOOL, IND.



BEVER HOTEL,  
WARSAW, IND.