he would make the journey back to Ohio or Pennsylvania on foot to borrow twenty-five or thirty dollars he lacked of the necessary amount.

The money, in early days, came from the construction of the canal, immigrants, Indian payments and from the sale of deer, coon, beaver, otter, mink, wolf, fox and bear skins. It was not an uncommon thing for a good hunter and trapper to have a hundred dollars' worth of skins and furs to sell in a season.

From twenty-five to fifty cents was the price of a saddle of venison, and the people were happy.

With wages so low and the prices of many of the necessaries of life so high, the question naturally arises,

## HOW DID THE PEOPLE OF THAT DAY LIVE?

At a tea party, where very small babies was the theme under consideration, an old lady, whose weight was over two hundred pounds, said that when she was a little lonely posty weety she was so small that put her in a quart measure and covered the top with a saucer. "And did you live?" was asked. "Oh, yes! they said I lived and did well."

So of the first settlers; they "lived," but whether they "did well" or the best thing, is no doing, is a question involving "the mutual fitness of things" that it is unnecessary to investigate at this time.

Some general facts in regard to their way of living and their

## HABITS OF ECONOMY

may serve to show how the thing was done. They did not build fine houses, buy costly furniture or maintain expensive equipages. The boys did not lay awake of nights, worrying about the style of their clothes, or spend their money for cigars and billiards; and the girls cared no more at the piano, in asking "What is home without a mother?" for they were expected to be on hand, helping the beloved maternal parent to do the housework while she was "spared" to them, and learn what it was with one.

The men were independent in home-made jeans, low lines and cow-hide boots, and the women well dressed in linsey, calico and substantial leather shoes.

When the female head-gear got to looking dingy and weather-beaten, the old Leghorn bonnet, that had done service for years, was run into some millinery dry dock for repairs, whence it emerged, in due time, looking as pretty as a freshly painted canal-boat.

When the men went down into their trunks and dressed up in their store clothes, they were clad in the same habiliments they had worn for years, and would be recognized as far as they could be seen as readily as the wooden figures that serve as signs at cigar shops.

And these people, in their ignorance of what is called elegance and refinement, were happy, rested under the delusion that they were happy. Poor souls! they didn't know any better and should not be blamed.

## NEWSPAPERS.

*The Peru Forester* was the first paper, the press and material for the publication of which were brought from Wayne County by Samuel Pike, Esq., the editor and proprietor. The first number appeared July 23, 1827. Being governed "by the eternal principles of truth and justice," it was neutral in politics. It ceased to exist in January, 1831.

*The Peru Gazette* was announced July 20, 1839, by James B. Scott and Augustus Banks. It was a Whig paper, and was continued by Mr. Scott until April 18, 1842, when the brothers, James B. & John H. Scott arranged to run the paper one-half sheet Whig, and the other half Democratic, under the names of

*Peru Gazette—Peru Democrat.* This arrangement was intended to deal with all according "to the eternal principles of truth and justice," and the brethren, to show that no effort was spared on their part, belabored each other most fraternally for the public good, to such an extent, in fact, that the Siamese monstrosity died on the 15th of October, 1842.

*The Cork Screw* about this time made its appearance, and was a humorous paper of considerable merit. It was published anonymously by "Nebemiah, Hezekiah and Obadiah." It was going for a few months with such success that "Esbermah" (David Douglas) got a fancy engraved head for the paper and assumed its paternity. It met the fate of its predecessors, and suspended for want of the necessary support.

*The Peru Observer* was started June 8, 1844, as a Whig campaign paper, by James B. Scott, and ended its career June 28, 1844.

*The Peru Herald*, Democratic, was next started by John E. Scott, November 28, 1846, and departed May 20, 1848.

*Miami County Sentinel.* Shortly after the demise of the *Herald*, the press and material which had given existence to all the papers thus far published in the county, were purchased by John A. Graham, who commenced the publication of the *Sentinel* June 28, 1848. It was published without intermission until 1861, a period of over thirteen years.

*The Daily Miami County Sentinel*, commenced June 19, 1854, and continued until July 20th of the same year, was the first daily paper ever published in the county. The daily was started without any expectation that it would be sustained, and nobody was surprised when it quit coming. It was a very neat little daily, and answered the purpose of calling attention, for the time being, to the county.

W. B. Longbridge became owner and editor of the *Sentinel* after Graham's retirement. He sold to T. J. McDowell, and in 1867 Longbridge again became the owner. In 1874, it was continued by Longbridge & Paley; after a year under this management, by *Paley, Jameson & Conner.* Then J. A. Miller came in, and it was run for a few weeks by *Paley & Miller*, when Paley sold to J. C. Maxey, and the firm was Miller & Maxey.

*The Daily and Weekly Times*, which had been started by T. J. McDowell & Sons, in November, 1874, was consolidated with the *Sentinel*, under the name of *Times-Sentinel*, by Maxey & McDowell, and run this way for about a year, when the firm dissolved, each party retaining his paper and its name. The *Miami County Sentinel* passed into the hands of Ewing & Maxey as a weekly Democratic paper, and, at the latest writing, they are succeeded by Samuel Wiseman.

*Free Press.* This paper was started in 1852 as a Whig paper, by J. H. Smith, and was printed on the second press ever brought to this place.

*Weekly Ohio* followed the *Free Press* in 1853-4, by E. & E. H. Trask, on the same press.

*Republican Argus* succeeded the *Ohio* in 1864, J. H. Shirk & Co., proprietors.

*The Peru News* was the next started, by H. & E. Halderman, their paper being the successor of the *Free Press*.

*The Peru Republican* was commenced in 1866, by F. P. Loveland. Republican, as its name implies, and is the foundation of the present paper of that name. It has been successively edited and owned by W. S. Benham and H. C. Chapin, which carried it up to March, 1868, when it was bought by Messrs. Reed & Brown. At the end of a year, Mr. Brown sold his interest to Mr. Reed, by whom it was run until May, 1870, when Mr. Reed sold a half interest to M. R. Sinks. Reed & Sinks are now the proprietors, and G. I. Reed editor.

*The Republican*, under its present management, is successful and well-established, both as a newspaper and as a business. It has a power press, and is run by steam. It occupies its own building, a handsome, two-story brick, corner of Main and Court streets, built expressly by Mr. Reed for the business.

*Daily and Weekly Times.* In November, 1874, the first number of the *Daily Times* was published by Thomas J. McDowell & Sons. It was a neat and useful paper, but the town cannot support a daily, and this, of course, had to succumb. After a short consolidation with the *Sentinel*, under the name of the *Times-Sentinel*, the proprietors dissolved, each taking his own office and resuming the name and publication of his own paper. The *Times-Sentinel* is still published as a weekly, and printed on a power press, and the office has all the material of a first-class printing establishment.

*Xenia Gazette.* This is a handsome weekly paper printed at the enterprising town of Xenia, Jackson Township. It was established in 1870, and is now in the sixth year of its existence; is edited with ability by D. S. Robinson, and retains the characteristics of permanency.

*The Independent Press*, originally *Village News*, established in 1872, a sprightly and well conducted paper, published at Bunker Hill, Pipe Creek Township. It is in the third year of its publication and is conducted by Messrs. Stewart & Metzger.

## CHURCHES.

Nearly all the denominations had adherents among the first settlers; not many, however, a sufficient number to form even a small congregation. But they were a church-going people, and the assemblages for worship were always well attended.

In laying out the town of Peru, the proprietors donated to each of the denominations represented by its first settlers lots for church purposes.

The Catholics, Presbyterians and Methodists were the three provided, and the first public buildings erected in the county were their houses of worship.

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

was built in 1835, by Joseph B. Campbell, who supplemented the office of County Surveyor with the avocation of carpenter and joiner. The first church stood on the lot occupied by the Catholic school building and was destroyed by fire some years ago. There was no resident pastor for several years. Rev. Jos. A. Corcoran, a visiting priest, died here, after a brief illness, in the Summer of 1850, and was buried in the grave yard, then a part of the farm of Wm. M. Reyburn, but now set apart as a cemetery. After a priest was stationed at Logansport, the church was attended from that place until 1859, when Rev. M. J. Clark became resident pastor.

### THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

was commenced in 1836, and finished early in 1837, by Jno. W. Timberlake and Henry Robinson, builders. It was a frame building, and stood upon the site of the present fine edifice owned and occupied by this congregation. Rev. Samuel Newberry was the minister, from the first organization of the Church, in the Fall of 1835, until the Fall of 1837, when he was succeeded by the Rev. Asa Johnson, who held the place until 1843. The church has been maintained regularly, with several changes of ministers, up to the present time. A union with the Old School Church and consolidation of their property interests took place several years ago.

### THE METHODIST CHURCH

was built in 1837, by George S. Passmore and John Gerrell, builders, on the northeast corner of Case and Third streets. It was a frame structure, much like the others. Col. Wm. M. Reyburn, who settled on the farm on the south bank of the Wabash, west of Miamisport, in October, 1831, used H. A. Tarkington, who kept the tavern, corner of Main and Miami streets, were local Methodist preachers. The first circuit preachers were Aaron Johnson and Miles Hadsbarr, in 1834, followed by Jno. A. Brouse, in 1835. The first Presiding Elder was Allen Wiley.

The church, in after years, grew large enough to divide into two charges, one east and the other west of Broadway, but after remaining separate for several years, they have again united and consolidated the property which they held separately.

Simultaneously with the organization of the churches and the building of edifices in Peru, congregations were forming, and the log school houses were being used all over the county, for purposes of public worship by the different denominations whose ministers came along.

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

had a respectable membership at an *early day*, but no church organization until about 1846 or 1847. At the time a room was fitted up, over Dufrees' drug store, East Broadway, north of the Broadway House, and afterward the room over Kilgore & Shirk's store, until the church, corner of Main and Miami, was completed. This is a tasty and convenient building, and the church, having a stationed clergyman, use it regularly for religious services.

### THE BAPTIST CHURCH

has had a large and influential membership in the county from an early period in its history. The church in Peru is well established, and its house of worship is one of the best buildings in the city. It was erected some years ago has regular services and a resident pastor.

### THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

(St. John's, German) was organized about 1861, and in 1862 a neat brick church was erected on Second street, west of Hood. This the congregation occupied until 1876, by which time they had erected one of the finest church edifices in the city, on the southeast corner of Main and Fremont streets. Unlike most of the church buildings of the present day, it is completely finished. The financial affairs of the church are satisfactory, and the church is progressing steadily. The old church edifice on Second street is used for the school of the church. A resident pastor is in charge.

### METHODIST EPISCOPAL—COLORED.

The colored people, though generally poor, have succeeded in building a neat brick church on East Third street, in which services are held according to appointment. They are not yet able to maintain a regular pastor. Their energy in accomplishing what they have is highly creditable.

## EDUCATION

was not overlooked any more than spiritual affairs, by the first settlers. Almost the first substantial of a public character was the building of the rough log school house, in which a school for the primary branches was kept, during the winter months, and in which all kinds of meetings were held when not occupied for school purposes.

Among the earliest institutions of learning in the county was a log house that stood on the third lot west of the southwest corner of Third and Miami streets, where our respected fellow citizen, William Smith, familiarly known to the first settlers as the old "ourspiketor," taught "the young idea how to shoot" among the lower branches of the tree of knowledge, and how "the cow" in the most approved manner, to make the boys smart. If any of them failed, in after life, to secure that reasonable reward of youthful industry—the Presidency—it was owing to some other cause than a defect in the curriculum of their *Alma Mater*.

### THE PERU COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

was founded by the leading citizens and controlled by a Board of Trustees, and, as its name implied, was intended to furnish a thorough academic course.

Rev. Stocker, A. M., a Presbyterian minister, was Principal, and taught the mathematical department, and Mrs. Stocker, his wife, an amiable and accomplished lady, had charge of the female and primary. The Presbyterian Church was used for the female, and a log building on Second street, west of Case, for the male department.

The Institute is remembered, by old citizens as a school that has never been excelled by any in the county. H. Waldo, A. M., succeeded Mr. Stocker as Principal. Rev. S. Newberry, Wm. S. Hood, Richard L. Britton, James B. Fulwiler, Alfred Reiser and others, whose names are not at hand, were officers and members of the Board of Trustees.

## MILITARY COMPANY.

"In time of peace prepare for war" is a maxim in which the first settlers gave due heed by organizing a military company, the name of which is but dimly remembered as the "Peru Blues." The name, no doubt indicated the swollen hue of the uniform they expected to wear, but which, "owing to circumstances, etc.," they were never able to procure.

A. M. Higgins, of Logansport, then a citizen here, was Captain, and Vincent O'Donald, father of Vincent O'Donald, the present Sheriff, First Lieutenant. The death of Lieut. O'Donald is a melancholy incident in the company's history. It had participated in the citizens' celebration of the 4th of July, 1850, and, at the close of the day's festivities, Lieut. O'Donald discharged a musket which burst and blew off the thumb of his left hand. The wound was not regarded as dangerous until after the lapse of about two weeks, when lockjaw set in and caused his death on the 26th day of the same month. Mr. O'Donald was one of the earliest settlers and a worthy citizen, and his death was deeply deplored.

Jas. W. Timberlake is about the only survivor of that band of heroes, who, in days long gone, were seeing

"The battle squadron
Rise in the soldier's breath."

The Blues, while a welcome acquisition to all civic demonstrations, were no mere "carpet knights," but stood ever ready to face danger at the call of duty. Their motto was:

"In peace there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humility,
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then, imitate the action of the tiger."

So, when the blast came from the Potawatomies payment ground, on the Tippecanoe, that "grim visaged war" required their services, the "Blues" responded to the call, and marched valiantly to the unmarkable field of Chippewanee. After the close of that bloodless campaign, they found they had earned a fair share of military glory, their country's gratitude, and some twelve dollars and a half in money, to be paid after the examined tape routine, and following the historical usage of the citizen soldiers, they beat their pruning-hooks into plowshares, or something of that sort, and resumed their peaceful avocations.

## SALUBRIOUS CLIMATE—DOCTORS.

The health—well, the least said about some things the better. They had a good deal of health, such as it was, in the early day, but, as a commodity, it would not rank high.

The country was the most beautiful the eye could behold, but, like many other beautiful things in nature, it had its lurking dangers. It was a bed of delightful flowers in which lay coiled the deadly serpent. Oak, walnut, ash and poplar trees, of gigantic size, receiving vigor from the rich soil of the river bottoms, reared their lofty heads in all directions, while here a ni there other monarchs of the forest, as if fascinating the lesson of self-abnegation, and the duty of helping the dependent, sustained great festoons of verdant, clambering vines. In bright nooks and little openings, where the genial sunshine poured in, the dogwood, sumach and wild briar displayed their white flowers and red berries, in pleasing contrast with the deep green of the surrounding foliage. The rivers, obstructed by logs and drift, spread over the low grounds which grew up in the willow thickets; and the small streams, from a like cause, expended into swamps that bred myriads of sweet singing mosquitos. The fruitless fertility of unutilized nature, followed by the decay of her rank vegetation, loaded the exhalations with malaria, and when the balmy air of the summer evening a deadly enemy to the first settler "or any other man." Hence, it would not be strictly accurate to say that the country, a long time ago, was salubrious.

Doctors got to learn this and came to minister to the afflicted of this region quite early. Dr. Belden in the name of one who came about the time the town was laid out; Dr. J. T. Lizzie and Dr. Alfred Reiser shortly after. Dr. E. H. Brownell arrived in 1838, and Dr. Benjamin Benton in 1837. Drs. Linton and Reiser are still living; the others are dead.

The doctor's calling at that day was no sinecure. His field of labor extended over a great deal of territory. The roads were but little better than none of our turnpikes, and the toll gatherer was not there to cheer him at his lonely way. His pay, at best, did not promise a speedy fortune, and when a patient was not under, or he sometimes did, with all his resources laid up where they could not be made available to pay debts, he mourned as one with a great grief over the actual cash lost to him and suffered in medicines furnished the dear departed, under a various professional custom of the times.

## MANUFACTURES.

Our people know well the advantage of manufactories and have been liberal in securing their establishment. These we have are on a sound business footing, and, having passed the crisis following the panic, will, doubtless, increase their productions in the future.

### FIRST WOOLEN-MILLS.

H. E. & C. F. Barnes, who for years before had been engaged in merchandising, buying grain and packing pork, built a woolen-mill three stories high on Canal street, near Broadway, in 1865. It was in a flourishing condition, when, in January, 1868, it was destroyed by fire, with most of its stock, manufactured goods and machinery, the loss being about $100,000.

Undismayed by their misfortune, the energetic proprietors, with M. Oppenheimer as a new member of the firm, set about rebuilding. They procured the ground of their present location, and in a short time erected buildings, put in machinery of the most approved kind, and completed, as all respects, woolen-mills which are not surpassed by any in the country. The firm has the soundest financial standing, has passed through the hard times successfully, and their manufactures rank among the best in the country. The firm has changed some within the last year, but the Messrs. Sterns, Oppenheimer and Morgenthau are still remain.

### HOWE MACHINE CO.

When, in 1870, this manufacturing company was seeking a location in the West, they had their attention directed to Peru. Our people, by liberal donations of land and building material, secured the establishment of the works here.

They were pushed with vigor and soon got into operation, but, in 1870, they were destroyed by fire, the loss being $200,000 in stock, machinery and buildings. They were shortly rebuilt and manufacturing resumed with largely increased productions.

Here the celebrated Howe sewing machine was made, but the company also got in making a variety of furniture used in schools, offices and churches.

A new company was organized in the Summer of 1875, into which the Howe was merged, whose corporate name is the Indiana Manufacturing Company, with a capital stock of $100,000.

### BASKET FACTORY.

This manufactory was established here by Messrs. Gardners, Blair & Co. It manufactures baskets, rolling pins, clothes pins and other wooden ware, and runs an extensive saw-mill to do its own and custom work.

### FLOURING-MILLS.

Since the washing out of the dam, Messrs. Isaac Miller & Son have removed and rebuilt their mill at a point west of Broadway, near the L., P. & C. R. R. track, which is available for receiving and shipping. They have a first-class mill for merchant and custom work.

### WAGON FACTORY.

Near the new L., P. & C. R. R. shops, F. Ulrich's wagon manufactory is located. He is an energetic German and has a business established which is steadily increasing. He makes a superior wagon, which finds its market south, and as far west as California, besides supplying a large home demand.

### CARRIAGE FACTORIES.

Armentrout & Grey, on Fifth street, by strict personal attention to carriage making as a specialty, have established a manufactory of first-class vehicles of a quality which are not excelled by any in the market. The constantly increasing demand promises fair for a permanent and largely increased business.

Sullivan & Groff, Canal street, are also manufacturers in this line, whose work is second to none and whose business is large. They are established citizens. Their business is permanent.

### FOUNDERIES.

Since the death of F. S. Hackly, who established the first foundry with his brother, George, the business has been continued by his son, L. Hackly.