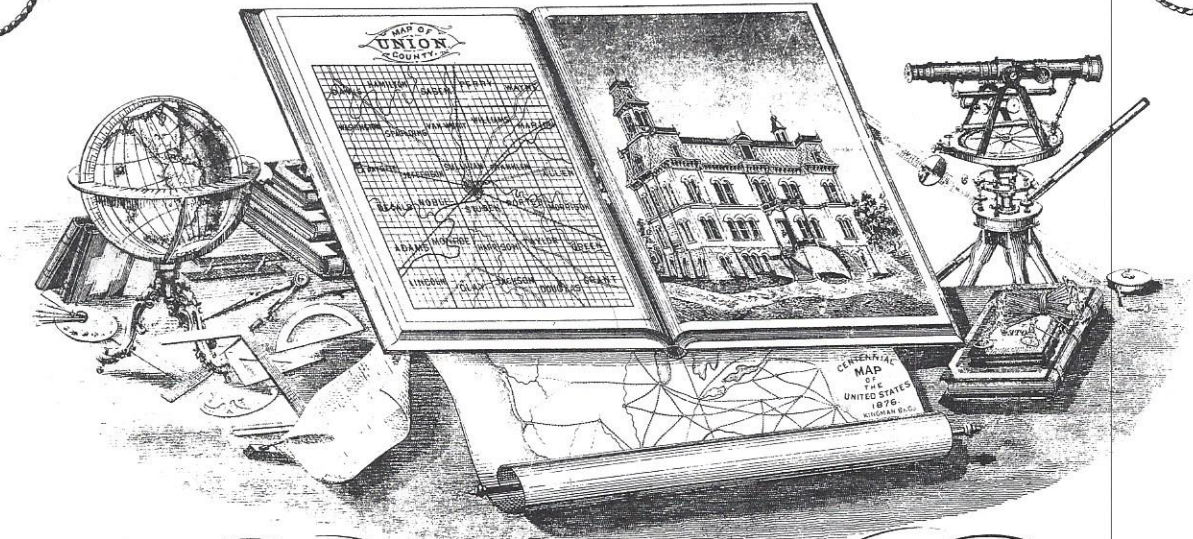


Kosciusko Co. Historical Socy
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COMBINATION ATLAS MAP

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY



INDIANA

Compiled, Drawn and Published from Personal and Surveys,
and (1874-79) Examinations

W. H. KELLOGG & COMPANY  **BROTHERS**

Stoker & Carverville, Lith. Co. Chicago.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP.

Franklin Township, in the southwest corner of Kosciusko County, is bounded as follows: North by Harrison Township, east by Seward Township, south by Fulton and Wabash Counties, west by Fulton County. It contains thirty-six square miles, or 23,040 acres. Its surface is what is denominated "rolling land," and its soil is of black loam, intermixed with sand. The process of under-draining has been employed extensively by its residents, and has greatly enhanced the value and fertility of its farms. The only water-course of any importance in the township is Yellow Creek, which flows through the northeastern portion.

The township was originally covered by a heavy growth of timber, among which was a large per centum of good building material. Much of this was destroyed in the process of clearing, when the timber supply was greatly in excess of the demand. This destruction, although probably unavoidable, was yet the means by which thousands of dollars were lost to the township.

At the present time, however, the saw-mill interest is one of the leading industries, and he who now clears land finds a ready market for all available timber.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Until 1837, these forests were not broken by the ring of the ax, or other implement of civilization. The report of fire-arms, or the death-cry of the wounded game; the shout of the Indian, or the cracking of the dry twigs beneath his stealthy tread, were the only sounds to which their echoes responded.

It was on the Indian highway from Peru to the Northwest, and for many years after the township had become the home of the white man, the Indian trail through its entire length remained a distinctly marked feature and a frequent reminder of the once powerful race who trod its forests in native majesty and unquestioned ownership.

The "war of civilization" was first opened within its boundaries by Benjamin Blue, who came from Ohio in 1837, and settled on Section 2, Town 31 north, Range 4 east. His neighbors were Pottawatomies, who, however, were peaceable, and viewed the advent of the white man with apparent composure. Their lands had been ceded to him, by a treaty (consummated several years previously), and they were determined to abide honorably by its terms.

Mr. Blue continued to reside in the township until his decease, which occurred but a few years ago. He was a man of enterprise and energy, and bore a prominent part in the development and improvement of the township. Before the close of the year 1837, Benjamin West settled on Section 7, Town 31 north, Range 5 east. He remained about two years, during which time he made some improvements, but finally left the county. His land was purchased by John Bybee, Sr., who entered heartily into the labors of the pioneers, and after making a farm, occupied it until his decease.

In 1838, came Dr. I. H. Jennings, who settled on Section 10, Town 31 north, Range 4 east. He took part with his co-laborers in the development and improvement of the township, and yet lives to witness the changes for better, brought forth in the years that have followed.

In the fall of 1838, Jesse Myers settled on Section 19, Town 31 north, Range 5 east, near the present site of Sevastopol. He remained about two years, at the end of which time, he sold his land to Rudolph Hire, and left the county.

Richard A. Lee came in 1838, and settled on Section 1, Town 31 north, Range 4 east. He was a man of industrious habits, and heaved from the wilderness a fine farm.

In the spring of 1839, Prosper Nichols, a former resident of Harrison County, Ohio, settled on Section 35, Town 31 north, Range 4 east. Like those who preceded him, he was of an industrious nature, and throughout a period of thirty years, was more or less prominently identified with the interests and public improvements of the township. He died in 1868.

In the fall of 1839, his son, Solomon Nichols, settled on the same section. For more than forty years, he has been an interested observer of the advancement of his township, and still resides upon the farm cleared and improved by himself.

In 1841, Amos Baldwin settled on Section 31, Town 31 north, Range 5 east, and George Sarber settled on Section 2, Town 31 north, Range 4 east. Both were skilled in the labors of pioneer life, and both entered into the work before them with the zeal and energy characteristic of their class.

There were others who came at various periods, and who bore a prominent part in the development of the township. Among this number may be mentioned Jeremiah Burns, J. E. Day, John Mollenhour, William Provault, Simon Hartman, Abraham Blue, William Ball, Enoch and William Sturgeon, John D. Highway, John Smart, William Horner, Amer Pierce and William Jefferis, John, Horace and Albert Tucker, Henry Black, James Warren, Robert Cook, Allen Jud, George Barr, Levi Shively, Thomas and James H. Burns, and Caleb Rogers—all good men and true.

With strong hearts and noble purpose, they bent their energies to the work before them, and each succeeding year witnessed the accomplishment of some measure for the advancement of the locality which they had chosen for their home; each season witnessed an added number of cleared acres, and those previously cleared were green with growing crops. Year by year their labors were continued, and the fertile soil yielded them a rich return. As the country developed, there was a market demand for their surplus produce, and the fortunes for which they had labored so earnestly began to accumulate.

The first house in the township was a rough log building erected by Benjamin Blue, on the northeast quarter of Section 2.

The first road was surveyed through the township in 1836, and was known as the Logansport and Mishawaka State Road. The Logansport and Warsaw State Road was surveyed and located in 1838.

EARLY BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES.

The first white child born in the township was James, son of Benjamin Blue. He was born in 1839.

Early Marriages.—The first nuptial ceremony in the township was on the occasion of the union of Hugh Bryant with Miss Anna Nichols, daughter of Prosper Nichols. The ceremony took place at the residence of the bride's parents, in the year 1840.

During 1842, life-unions were formed between Samuel Shields and Miss Mary Nichols, William Wagner and Miss Sarah Nichols, Charles W. Holman and Miss Delilah Burns, and Peter Bryant and Miss Lucy Nichols.

THE FIRST CEMETERIES.

In 1843, Prosper Nichols donated a tract of land, on Section 35, to be used as a place of interment for those who died in the township. Its first occupant was a child of Samuel Shields. In the same year, Richard A. Lee donated a lot for burial purposes. Both are still used for the purpose for which they were designed, and are thickly dotted with the headstones of pioneers of the township.

THE FIRST SCHOOL.

In a rude log cabin, erected on the land of Solomon Nichols, Jeremiah Burns taught the first term of school in the township, in 1842. This school was sustained by subscriptions from those having children to be educated, and was the place where some prominent citizens of the township received their education. Among this number was Harmon Mickey, who, in later years, served this county in the capacity of Auditor. Others of its pupils are now influential farmers.

In 1846, the first public school was erected, and, in later years, each school district in the township was supplied with a school building. There are now eleven schools in the township, having a total enrollment of four hundred and fifty-five pupils.

EARLY INDUSTRIES.

The First Mill.—In 1848 or 1849, Edwin C. Gordon erected a steam saw-mill, to which, several years later, he attached a run of buhrs for grinding corn. Subsequently, he erected a steam flouring-mill near the saw-mill. Both were located at Sevastopol, and are still in operation, having been repaired and remodelled from time to time.

The First Tannery.—In 1842, Benjamin Blue established the first and only tannery in the township, on Section 2. It received its motive power from Yellow Creek, on whose bank it was situated. He conducted a successful trade for three or four years, after which he abandoned the enterprise. Since that date, this industry has not been represented in this township.

The First Brickyard.—In 1855, the first kiln of brick in the township was burned by David Hammon, who continued the business successfully until his decease. It is now conducted by his son, Franklin Hammon.

The First Store.—In 1842, Richard A. Lee opened for sale the first stock of general merchandise. The store was located at his farm on Section 1, and was on the line of the Rochester and Warsaw State Road.

In 1848 or 1849, a second store was opened by Charles Garwood on Section 29. He remained but a short time—perhaps, two years—and then abandoned the trade to his only competitor, Mr. Blue.

The First Blacksmith.—In 1845, David Preston erected the first blacksmith's forge in the township, on the land of Solomon Nichols, on Section 35. He remained about three years, at the end of which time, he left the county.

The First Carpenter.—David Bechtelheimer was the first carpenter. He began to ply his trade in 1844, and still resides in the township.

THE FIRST POST OFFICE.

In 1844, a post office was established at the house of Samuel Rickel, and styled Beaver Dam Post Office. Samuel Rickel was appointed Postmaster, and held the position until 1858 or 1859. In that year, the office passed to the charge of Jonathan Weaver. Several years later, Mr. Weaver sold his property and moved to another locality, when the office was removed to the store of Mahlon Middleton, and Mr. Middleton appointed Postmaster. Nathan Hagenbuck was the next Postmaster, and had charge of the post office about three years. Jonas Leininger was then appointed, and the office removed to his store on Section 31, where it is now located.

EARLY PHYSICIANS.

Dr. I. H. Jennings was the first practitioner in the township. He practiced his profession in connection with farming. The same was true of Richard A. Lee, who began the practice a little later than Dr. Jennings. Dr. A. M. Towl came in 1854, and is still in active practice.

ORGANIZATION.

"Franklin Township shall comprehend the following territory, to wit: "Commencing at the northeast corner of Section 2, Town 31, north of Range 5 east; thence west to the county line; thence south along the county line to the southwest corner of this county; thence west to the southeast corner of Section 14, Town 30, north of Range 5 east; thence north to the place of beginning."

Road Districts Established.—District number one in Franklin Township shall take the south half of said township. District number two shall take the north half of said township.

Voting Place.—The place of holding elections in Franklin Township shall be at the house of David Peterson.

David Peterson is appointed Inspector of Elections until his successor be elected; and said township shall be entitled to one Justice of the Peace, to be elected on the first Monday of April or August next. [Commissioner's Record, page 92, March, 1839.]

The First Township Election.—In August, 1839, the qualified voters of the township met at the appointed place to elect their officers. Richard A. Lee was chosen Justice of the Peace, and James Garvin, John W. Dunnuck and Solomon Nichols, Township Trustees.

THE FIRST RELIGIOUS MEETING.

In 1840, Rev. Jacob Miller, of the German Baptist Church, conducted the first religious services in the township at the house of Prosper Nichols. Later in the same year, or early in 1841, Elder Amos Baldwin, of the Christian denomination, conducted services at the house of Jeremiah Burns, and, in pleasant weather, meetings were held by him or some other minister who visited the township, in the groves near at hand. In 1841, Rev. James Martin, of the Baptist Church, conducted services at the house of Benjamin Blue.

THE CHURCHES.

The Church of God.—In the winter of 1865-66, a small class met in the schoolhouse at Beaver Dam and organized a congregation, with fifteen members. Elder Wesley Lovett was the Pastor in charge. Until 1872, meetings continued to be held in the schoolhouse; but, in that year, they were held at Beaver Dam in a neat frame house of worship, 34x44 feet, at a cost of \$1,200. Services are conducted every two weeks by Rev. B. F. Bear. The present number of members is thirty.

The Sunday School was organized in 1870, by David Leininger and Frederick Krause, Superintendents, with eighty scholars. During the winter, the school is discontinued, and, since its last session (summer of 1878), has not been re-organized. Elias Leininger was its last Superintendent, and the average number of scholars was eighty.

The Baptist Church.—In 1858, fifteen members of this denomination met in the schoolhouse at Sevastopol and, through the influence of Rev. Andrew Babcock, organized the Baptist Church. The schoolhouse continued to be the place for holding meetings until 1860. In that year they erected their present house of worship, at Sevastopol. It is a neat, frame edifice, 36x40 feet, and cost \$900. Since its organization, the Church has prospered, and new names have been added yearly to its list of members. It now has a membership of about one hundred, and is under the pastoral care of Rev. Peter Hummer. The Church officers are as follows: Solomon Ernsberger, John D. Highway and Elliott Manwarring, Trustees; John D. Highway and Elliott Manwarring, Deacons. In the year 1860, a Sunday

school was organized in connection with the Church, and was conducted during the summer only, until 1877. Since that date, it has been maintained throughout the year, and now has an average attendance of about forty scholars.

John I. Cox is the present Superintendent. The German Baptist Church was organized in 1857, and was then called Beaver Dam Congregation, by which name it is still known. Their first communion service was held in the same year, at the house of Prosper Nichols. Elder David Bechtelheimer was the first Pastor, and still serves the Church in that capacity. They contemplate building a house of worship at an early day, and have appointed a building committee for that purpose. The edifice will be of brick, 40x50 feet. Simon Bechtelheimer, James Warren and Moses Sagers are the present Trustees. The present number of members is 165.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Sevastopol Lodge, No. 403, I. O. O. F., was organized in July, 1872, by Joseph A. Funk, of Warsaw, Special Deputy, and worked under dispensation until November, 1872, at which time a charter was granted. The Lodge organized with eight charter members, and, on the night of organization, received ten accessions to its numbers by initiation. The following-named persons were the first officers: A. J. Whittenberger, N. G.; J. I. Cox, V. G.; Dr. A. M. Towl, Treasurer; E. B. Towl, Secretary. In 1876, the Order erected a neat frame building, 24 by 66 feet, two stories high, at an expense of \$1,700. The lower story is occupied by a store, and the upper rooms are the place where the lodge meetings are held.

It is in good working order, having at present forty-five members. The officers for 1879 are as follows: L. P. Jefferis, N. G.; Daniel Tipton, V. G.; John Dunlap, R. S.; George W. Jefferis, P. S.; William Jefferis, Treasurer.

THE VILLAGE OF SEVASTOPOL.

Sevastopol was laid out in 1856 by George W. White, John Tucker and John Mollenhour, who were the original proprietors of the land upon which it is situated. Thomas and A. J. Whittenberger opened the first stock of merchandise in the village, and enjoyed a lucrative trade.

The Post Office was established in 1857, and William Dunlap was appointed Postmaster. The office was kept at his house, about one-half mile west of the village, until 1861. In that year, A. J. Whittenberger was appointed Postmaster, and the office removed to his store at Sevastopol. Dr. A. M. Towl was the next Postmaster, and was succeeded by Dr. C. R. Grubbs. Several years later, the office again passed to the charge of Dr. A. M. Towl, and from him to H. C. Riner, the present Postmaster.

The First Blacksmith-Shop in the village was established in 1856 by a Mr. McCowick.

The First Physicians were Dr. C. R. Grubbs and Dr. A. M. Towl, both of whom still survive, and are residents of the village. The business interests of the present are represented by the following-named firms: Dunlap & Burns, general merchandise; H. C. Riner, groceries; David L. Lewis, hardware; C. E. Newhouse, drugs; Mott & Mollenhour, undertakers and furniture dealers; Richard Doremire, boot and shoe manufacturer; R. J. Lambert and George Kern, blacksmiths; T. M. Paschall and Philenus Leiter, wagon-makers; Towl & Keesecker, steam flouring-mill; J. I. Cox & Bro., steam saw-mill; Dr. H. B. Ernsberger and Dr. A. M. Towl, resident physicians.

HARRISON TOWNSHIP.

Harrison Township was organized March 8, 1838, and was formed from territory originally included within the boundaries of Wayne Township.

It is bounded on the north by Tippecanoe River and Prairie Township, east by Wayne Township, south by Seward and Franklin Townships, west by Marshall County.

It contains 28,800 acres, nearly all of which is arable land. There is but one small marsh, and but a small per centum of timbered land. The soil is watered by Tippecanoe River in the north, and Trimble Creek, which traverses the township from southeast to northwest.

Wooden's Lake is a beautiful body of water, situated on Section 7. Palestine Pond is situated in the southern part of the township, near the town of Palestine.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

James Wooden and Andrew Sell were the first white settlers in the township. They came from Preble County, Ohio, in the spring of 1834, and located, the former on Section 19 and the latter on Section 19, and entered at once upon the labor of clearing ground, and erecting cabins for the shelter of their families.

They were recognized as leaders in the community, and bore a prominent part in the settlement and improvement of the township.

Immigration progressed slowly, and for two years after their arrival only eight families joined the settlement. They were Thomas Romine, Daniel and John Underhill, Thomas Reed, Joseph Shively, William Blue, Isham Summy and Christian Sarber, with their families. Phildon Romine, an unmarried man, came in 1836, and still resides in the township.

All were endowed with that fortitude and courage which characterized our pioneers, and fought vigorously in the struggle of civilization against the forces of an undeveloped country; and their labors were not without reward, as the forest disappeared, acre by acre, and the fields of waving grain which succeeded it, provided them with the means of sustenance for their families, and the strength and energy to continue the battle, until nearly the whole of their lands had been redeemed and cultivated.

Some of their number have lived to witness and enjoy the present prosperity of the township, but many entered upon the eternal life, before their eyes beheld the consummation of their hopes.

The First Mill.—In 1833, Isham Summy erected, on the bank of Trimble Creek, the first mill in the township. It was a grist and saw mill, and received its motive power from that stream. Its facilities for grinding were limited, yet it proved a great convenience to the settlers, and a source of at least moderate profit to its proprietor.

The First Store.—In 1836, Daniel Underhill sold the first stock of general merchandise in the township, in a log cabin on the present site of Palestine.

The First Post Office.—In 1836, a post office was established at the house of James Wooden, and Mr. Wooden appointed Postmaster. During the early part of Van Buren's administration, Isham Summy was appointed Postmaster, and the office removed to Palestine.

The First Cemetery was laid out on a lot donated for the purpose by Andrew Sell, near the present location of "Center" United Brethren Church.

The First Death was that of a child of Andrew Sell, who was buried on the home farm, and this fact probably induced the father to consecrate that portion of his farm for a burying-ground.

pp. 39-40
Franklin & Harrison Twp.

TOWNSHIP HISTORIES.

The First Marriage.—April 29, 1840, Hon. William Williams, now a citizen of Warsaw, was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Jane Douglas. This was the first marriage solemnized in the township.

The First Schoolhouse was built on Section 29, in 1838. Henry Bradley was the first teacher. In later years, the public-school system was inaugurated, and, under the State School Law, a building was erected in each school district of the township. Since the introduction of this system, school has been regularly maintained each year, the term varying from four to six months.

There are thirteen schools in the township, having a total enrollment of 657 pupils.

THE CHURCHES.

The United Brethren Church.—In 1844, Rev. Jesse B. Slight organized a class with four members, viz., Noah Tinkey and wife, and Lawrence Easterly and wife.

For eleven years they met at the schoolhouse, or the homes of their members, their congregation having increased in the meantime. In 1855, they erected a log house of worship on Section 10, in which they held meetings until 1870. In that year, they erected their present house of worship, opposite the building formerly occupied.

The present edifice is 36x46 feet, and cost \$1,500. It was dedicated, free from debt, by Bishop Weaver. The Church has continued to prosper since its organization, and now has a membership of eighty.

Rev. William Simons is the present Pastor; Caspar Folk, Steward; August Yenner, Class-Leader.

The Sunday School has seventy-five scholars enrolled, and is in a prosperous condition. August Yenner is the present Superintendent.

"Center" United Brethren Church was organized in 1875, and, in the same year, its members erected their present house of worship on Section 13. The building is 36x46 feet, and cost \$1,500.

Rev. Henry Sney was the first Pastor; George Brant, Class-Leader; C. K. Sensenbath, Steward.

The church is now under the pastoral care of Rev. William Simons. C. K. Sensenbath still serves in the capacity of Steward; William Slonaker is the present Class-Leader.

Atwood United Brethren Church.—In 1878, a class of ten members was organized at Atwood, by Rev. Mr. Light. Soon after organizing, they purchased the village schoolhouse, where they still conduct religious services.

They are well organized, and now have a membership of sixty-two. G. W. Douglas is Steward, and George Gault, Class-Leader. The Church is under the pastoral care of Rev. William Simons.

The Sunday School was organized April 6, 1879, with sixty-five scholars. Levi Pedycoord is the Superintendent.

"Pleasant" Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the spring of 1849, at the house of John W. Dunnuck, with twenty-five members. Rev. Cornelius Dowd was the first Pastor. In April, 1851, a small log house of worship was erected on Section 31, and was dedicated, in the following fall, by Elder John B. De Mott.

In this building the congregation continued to worship until 1860, at which time they disbanded. The house was finally removed.

The Palestine Methodist Episcopal Church.—On the 9th day of October, 1854, the members of this denomination met at the house of Rev. James A. Hallord, in the village of Palestine, and organized a church. The congregation then numbered thirteen members. Rev. James A. Hallord was chosen Pastor, and John Fresh, Class-Leader.

They continued to meet at the house of their minister until the following spring, at which time they renovated an old blacksmith-shop in the village, and converted it into a house of worship.

In the fall of 1856, they began the erection of a church, which they inclosed and had partially completed in the summer of 1857, at which time they began to hold meetings within its walls. It was not fully completed, however, until 1859. In December of that year, it was dedicated by Rev. Jacob Colclazer, P. E. A. E. Mayer, William Sarber and John Fresh constituted the building committee. The Trustees of the Church at that time were A. E. Mayer, William Sarber, Elijah Baker, John Fresh and William Daugherty. The dimensions of the building are 30x40 feet. The estimated cost was \$600, at the time of its erection.

A. E. Mayer has served as Trustee from the inception of the organization to the present time. He has served as Recording Steward since 1855, and as Steward since 1857.

J. T. Alt and wife, A. E. Mayer, J. W. Dunnuck and wife, John Romine and wife, Elizabeth Yarnel and Nancy McSherry are the only survivors among the thirteen constituent members of the Church.

The Church now has fifty-five in full membership, and twenty-eight probationers, and is served by Rev. M. Swadener, Pastor. J. W. McKrill and A. E. Mayer are the Class-Leaders; J. W. Dunnuck, L. P.; T. D. Mayer, Exhorter; A. E. Mayer, T. M. Wiley, J. W. Dunnuck, F. M. Pearman and J. T. Alt, Trustees.

The Sunday School was organized in 1855, in the blacksmith-shop at Palestine. John Dulany was the first Superintendent. Throughout the intervening period, Sunday school has been regularly conducted during the summer, and suspended during the winter, with the exception of the past three years, since which it has been continued throughout the year. The school is in a prosperous condition, having now 140 scholars enrolled, and an annual average attendance of 100. A. E. Mayer, the present Superintendent, has served in that capacity three years. The foregoing data furnished by A. E. Mayer.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Crystal Lake Grange, No. 741, Patrons of Husbandry was organized at Atwood, December 16, 1873, and worked under dispensation until January 1, 1874, when it was duly chartered. The Grange organized with twenty-five chartered members, and elected the following officers: L. D. Epler, W. M.; Thomas Welch, Overseer; J. W. Griffith, Secretary. Meetings are held in the hall at Atwood, on the first and third Saturday evenings of each month.

The present number of members is thirty-two, and the Grange is in a prosperous condition.

The following named persons are the present officers: L. D. Epler, W. M.; Joseph Goble, Overseer; Joseph Miner, Treasurer; Frank Epler, Secretary. (The above data furnished by Frank Epler, Secretary.)

White Oak Grange, No. 1073, Patrons of Husbandry, was organized January 15, 1874, by V. C. Caillet, State Deputy, with twenty-nine charter members. The following persons were the first officers: L. D. Guy, Master; Levi Holloway, Overseer; Elisha Schooley, Lecturer; F. M. Anderson, Steward; Ellis Haysler, L. S.; Z. Griffith, Chaplain; B. Hayhurst, Treasurer; J. V. Vangilder, Secretary; John Hoppess, G. K.; Lauretta Hayhurst, Cress; Catherine Thompson, Pomona; Amanda Hoppess, Flora; Elinabeth Vangilder, L. A. S. The organization was effected in Schoolhouse No. 8, where meetings were held until the fall of 1876, at which time the order

erected a hall on the bank of Tippecanoe River, two and a half miles south of Etina Green, where the meetings are now held. The present number of members is twenty-eight.

PALESTINE.

The village of Palestine was laid out by Isham Summy April 20, 1837, and, like many towns of that date, verdred for a few years, in dreams of future greatness and prosperity. Such dreams were warranted, perhaps, by the prosperity which seemed to come to it in the early days of its existence; for Palestine enjoyed an extensive trade with surrounding settlements, by no means limited to county or township lines; but this was before the days of railroads, and the bright dreams of its people were rudely dispelled when they saw their trade diverted in other channels, and to other parts, and Palestine awoke to a realization of the fact that she was suddenly transformed to a country village, and that her anticipated grandeur must be forever only the memory of a hope.

Its population is distinguished by energy, industry and enterprise, and it is still a flourishing village. Its principal business men are as follows: E. W. Uplinger, general merchandise; A. Horn, drugs and groceries; George M. Wirick, boots and shoes; Henderson & Ward, grist-mill; J. W. Heffley and F. M. Pearman, physicians; F. M. Pearman, Postmaster.

ATWOOD.

Atwood was laid out September, 29, 1857, by Harvey Hunt and Mrs. Agnes Teogarden, who were the proprietors of the land upon which it is situated. It is a station on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad, and is a lively, enterprising village. The amount of wheat received at Atwood for the year ending May 1, 1879, was 13,812 bushels.

It was first called "Mount Ruska," which name it retained until December 11, 1865, when, by a petition of its citizens, it was called Atwood.

Its business men are as follows: Mac M. Forrest & Co., general merchandise; J. A. Roventino, druggist and Postmaster; Wray & Lucas, grocers; D. S. Welch, telegraph operator and agent P. Ft. W. & C. R. R.; George Knight, proprietor "Atwood House."

The Post Office was established at Atwood in 1864, and Ira Hovey appointed Postmaster. He was succeeded by L. H. Shatto, Isaac Gerard, L. D. Green, John Hayes and James Smith, respectively.

J. A. Roventino was appointed November 7, 1878, and still holds the position. *Oak Ridge Post Office* was established in 1877, and John Johnson appointed Postmaster. He still serves in that capacity.

ETNA TOWNSHIP.

Etina Township is composed of the east half of Town 24 north, Range 5 east of the Second Principal Meridian, and has an area of 13,440 acres. It is bounded on the north by Scott Township, east by Prairie and Harrison Townships, west by Marshall County. Its southern boundary is formed by the Tippecanoe River. In the vicinity of this stream, the land is characterized by hills; but in other portions of the township it is quite level, with some marshy localities in the eastern and central parts. The general character of the soil is good, and the farms very productive. Camp Creek rises in the northwest part of the township, and joins the Tippecanoe River at a point about two miles south of Etina Green.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

In 1843, Robert Reed, Solomon Klingerman and Charles Roekhill came to this township and erected cabins near the present site of Etina Green, where they were joined soon after by George Burg, William Bowman and Abraham Bowman.

The First House was erected by Robert Reed, on Section 34, soon after his arrival in the township, and each new settler was thereafter assisted in the building of his cabin by his neighbors already established. A great amount of labor was involved in the preparation of these lands for cultivation, as the township was covered by a heavy growth of timber; but our settlers knew what awaited them, and did not shrink from the task, and their determined efforts soon removed the forests and replaced them by productive farms.

The settlement of Etina Township was not begun until many of its neighboring townships had long been settled and organized; but it possesses many natural advantages, and compares favorably with other portions of the county.

An Incident.—In the summer of 1845, a wind-storm prevailed during the night, and, in its fury, blew a tree across the cabin of Solomon Klingerman, completely wrecking the cabin, and pinning Mr. Klingerman immovably in his bed. His wife escaped unharmed, and ran to the cabin of Robert Reed for assistance. Mr. Reed returned with her and chopped away the tree, releasing the prisoner, who was found to be injured but slightly.

The First Death was that of Mrs. Thomas Hayhurst, who was the first person buried in the Etina Green Cemetery.

The First School was built in the village of Etina Green in 1854, and was taught by Miss Stallard. There are now five schools in the township, having a total enrollment of 285 pupils.

THE CHURCHES.

The Christian Church was organized at Etina Green, February 10, 1866. Rev. A. J. Clark was the first Pastor; William Bowman, Elisha Schooley, Stephen Thomas and James H. Porter, Trustees. Their house of worship is situated in the village of Etina Green, where services are regularly conducted.

The United Brethren also have an organization and church edifice in the village.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Jubilee Lodge, No. 268, I. O. O. F., was organized at Etina Green, October 25, 1866, by D. D. G. M., Walter Soot, of Warsaw, assisted by members of Kosciusko Lodge, No. 62. The charter members were as follows: Alva J. Clark, Aaron Keesberry, M. T. Davis, J. W. Davis, John Huber, G. W. Baker and Jonas B. Thomas. M. J. Coons was received by initiation on the night of organization. The first officers were as follows: John Huber, N. G.; John W. Davis, V. G.; George W. Baker, Secretary; Aaron Keesberry, Treasurer.

November 21, 1866, they were granted a charter by the Grand Lodge of the State of Indiana. The members formed a joint-stock company, and erected a building for a lodge-room 27x56 feet.

Since their organization many new names have been added to their list of members, but of this number some have removed to other localities, in consequence of which the membership has been reduced to thirty-five. John Huber and M. J. Coons are the only charter members who still retain their membership in the Lodge. The present officers are: John Johnson, N. G.; J. W. Hershner, V. G.; B. F. Hamlin, Secretary; James Watson, Permanent Secretary; John Huber, Treasurer; M. J. Coons, D. D. G. M. [The foregoing was furnished by M. J. Coons, Esq.]

THE VILLAGE OF ETNA GREEN.

Etina Green, a station on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad, was laid out in 1853 by David Carr and Levi Keeler. The first sale of lots was held on the 4th of July, of that year.

The First Store was kept by Levi Keeler, who built the first store-room in the village.

The First Mill was built by David Carr, in 1852, on the present site of the village.

The Post Office was established soon after the organization of the village, and Levi Keeler appointed Postmaster.

The First Township Election was held at Etina Green in 1853, and resulted in the choice of the following officers: Joel Loeffel, Justice of the Peace, and Samuel B. Gay, Constable.

Etina Green is a prosperous village and is improving. Its merchants and tradesmen at present are as follows: M. J. Coons, physician and dealer in drugs, etc.; D. W. Hamlin & Co., general merchandise; J. K. Hershner, dry goods, groceries and notions; J. C. Jordan, drugs; Miss Adda Martin, milliner; Thomas Shenefield, boots and shoes; Thomas A. Smalls, hardware, groceries, etc.; Abram Bowman, proprietor "Friendship House"; William Bowman, proprietor of saw-mill; Henry Cole, restaurant; B. F. Hamlin, dealer in lumber. The following are the resident physicians: J. N. Holloway, A. B. Sarguy and M. J. Coons; S. R. Coons and John Huber, Justices of the Peace; W. J. Lightcap, harness manufacturer; Henry Hettinger, boot and shoe manufacturer. Prod. A. Airgood and Bowman & McCrum, blacksmiths and wagon manufacturers.

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

Prairie Township is designated as Town 33 north, Range 5 east of the Third Principal Meridian. It is bounded on the north by Jefferson, east by Plain, south by Harrison, west by Etina, and has an area of 36 square miles, or 23,040 acres, in which is comprised about one-half of Big Turkey Creek Prairie. This is very fertile land, and was settled earlier than the timbered regions of the township.

The soil is very productive throughout, and the farms fine. Prairie Township was organized March 8, 1838.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

John Powell was the first white settler in this township; came with his family from Elkhart County, Ind., March 31, 1833, locating his cabin on Section 21, where he continued to reside until his decease. (See biography.)

James H. Bishop was the second white settler in the township. He located with his family, on Section 1, April 3, 1833. He proceeded at once to erect a cabin, and, shortly after, planted a small amount of corn. He still survives, and is yet a resident of the township. In the summer of 1833, Jacob Smith erected his cabin on Section 13, and subsequently entered 160 acres on Section 14, where he and his wife still reside. Later in the same year, James Garvin came to the township, and settled on Section 25, where he still resides.

Samuel D. Hall came to the township in 1835, and was prominent among the early settlers. He was the second Justice of the Peace in the township, and in 1852, was elected to the Senate of the State of Indiana, from the district of which this county forms a part.

Prior to the arrival of the families heretofore enumerated, the Government caused a ten-acre tract of land to be fenced and prepared for corn, in the hope of inducing the Indians to adopt a profitable occupation, and engage in farming; but after the soil had been broken, and all prepared to their hand, they refused to take the trouble of planting the corn, whereupon Gen. Tipton, agent for the tribe, caused it to be planted and cultivated for them at Government expense. It is not known that they refused it after it had been harvested and tendered to them.

The First Blacksmith-Shop.—The mechanical art of blacksmithing was first introduced in the township in 1836, when William Bowman erected his forge at Stony Point. He was an industrious man, and, in addition to working at his trade, cleared a farm, and took an active part in the improvement of the township.

The First Physician.—Dr. Harper came to the township in 1835, and for several years thereafter was engaged in ministering to the health of its citizens.

Dr. Edward Parks located at Galveston, in 1846, and practiced his profession about four years.

The First Mill in the township was the saw-mill erected on Section 27, by Hughes & Baker, in 1855.

The First Schoolhouse was a rude log structure, erected on Section 10, in 1836. Mr. Moore was the first teacher. It was supported by the residents of the township, by contribution, or "subscription."

Among its pupils were some who have since become prominent residents in the township, and whose entire school-life is comprised in the short period spent within its walls.

Among the survivors from its list of pupils are Hiram Hall, Mrs. Malinda Parks and Clinton Powell.

Since the introduction of free schools, there have been ten schoolhouses erected in the township, and a marked improvement is manifest in the system of education, with a corresponding effect upon the general intelligence of the community.

The total number of pupils in the township is 439.

The Graded School at Atwood.—In that portion of the village of Atwood which lies in this township, a school-building was erected in 1878, at a cost of \$1,575, in which a graded school was inaugurated in the same year. Henry Graham was chosen Principal, and Teacher of the Higher Department, and Miss Lizzie Reed, Teacher of the Primary.

THE CHURCHES.

The Atwood Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1866, under the preaching of Rev. E. P. Church, with twenty members, and in the second year after organization erected a frame house of worship, in Atwood, 36x56 feet, at a cost of \$2,000. The church was built under the pastoral administration of Rev. Charles W. Shackelford, and has continued to prosper since its foundation. The present number of members is sixty-two. Rev. M. Swadener is the present Pastor.

The Sunday School was organized in 1868, with forty scholars. L. H. Shipley was the Superintendent at that time, and S. Parker and A. W. Lucas are now serving the school in that capacity. It is in a prosperous condition, having seventy-five scholars enrolled at present.

In 1840, a society was organized in the western part of the township, under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and was attached to the Leeburg circuit. This was undoubtedly the first religious organization in the township.

In 1842, they built a hewed log house of worship, which was destroyed by fire a few months later. Soon after its destruction, the congregation erected on Section 17 a frame house, 25x36 feet, in which they conducted