

## RAY SMITH HOUSE

The land was sold from the United States  
to William Blue Sept. 2, 1839  
to Benjamin Blue 1844  
to John VanTreese March 18, 1848  
to John Morgan Aug. 17. 1850  
to Catherine Mrogan 1879  
to Albert Tucker April 6, 1882

VanTreese was a relative of the Blue's. John and Catherine Morgan were great-grandparents of Ray Smith. When John's estate was settled, the widow received this portion.

John Morgan was the son of Griffith and Jane (Longmore) Morgan who came to the United States from Wales. Catherine Morgan was the daughter of George and Lydia (Anderick) Sarber. Both the Sarbers and were pioneer settlers on farms southwest of Mentone.

Albert Tucker, George Myers, and William Hackedorn laid out the lots in Mentone on land purchased from Catherine Morgan and others. Mentone grew like a mushroom. In three years the population increased to 600.

George Myers was an ancestor of Terry Hammer.

A Frenchman named Doane is credited with building the house, and records show Clarence and Maey Doane owned the property in 1891. There were several owners and mortgages in this period.

Correction: Under the window it says "Albert Tucker A.D. 1898", instead of on the cornerstone.

This Albert Tucker was born in Richalnd Co., O. in 1831 and came to Indiana as a young man. By the 1880's he had acquired considerable rich land near the present Tippecanoe Valley High School.

Among the businesses in the new town of Mentone was an elevator built by Albert Tucker.

Widower Albert Tucker married Mary Odel Baker, Dec. 28, 1897.

We are told that in the old gable houses, that's the way they told the wealth of people: Five was just ordianry plain people, seven was middle class people and nine gables was rich people. Some people call this a nine gable house.

The high ceilings, transoms, wide wooden trimm and brick are typical of houses of the late 19th Century.

The front window of the parlor has some colored glass. Tucker added the kitchen and small room at the back to replace the lean-to. The bricks came from Akron.

An 1898 newspaper reported the sinking of the battleship Maine which started the Spanash American War. The coke that was advertised was to burn, not to drink. New suits for men cost approximately \$20. Ladies outfits probably came from the dressmakers, and were long skirts with