

PALESTINE
and
COMMUNITY HISTORY

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It is plain to see
Men have come,
Men have gone,
Trimble Creek still flows on.

Many bushel of grain
The "Lone Eagle" has ground,
For table use
And Livestock, too.

Oh! Where are the stores?
Uplingers General Store,
Horns Drugs and Groceries,
Weirick sold shoes and boots.

Winters made shoes and boots for sale.
Latimer's store is missing
The Post Office is gone -----?
Oh yes, "Mr. Time" has been here.

The boundaries of Kosciusko County were established by the General Assembly Session of 1834 - 1835. The county was named after Thaddeus Kosciuzko, a Polish Noble, who came to America and offered his services to George Washington, in the cause of American Freedom. He worked under Washington and became a very close friend of Washington and Jefferson.

Palestine was surveyed, April 1837 by George Bumgardner on Trumbles Creek now known as Trimble Creek. Isham Summy, filed the plot of Palestine, May 3, 1837. The plot contained 96 lots. Then Isham Summy built the township's first grist mill and a saw mill.

Harrison Township was organized, March 8, 1838. It was formed from territory originally included within the boundaries of Wayne Township. It is the second largest township.

James Wooden and Andrew Sells were the first white settlers in the township. They came from Preble County, Ohio, in the spring of 1834. In sections 18 and 19, they cleared ground and built homes for their families. Eight more families joined them in the next two years. They were Thomas Romine, Daniel and John Underhill, Thomas Reed, Joseph Shively, William Blue, Isham Summy, Christian Sarber and their families, also Phildon Romine, a single man.

The first store in the township was started in 1836 by Daniel Underhill. It was on the site of the present Palestine. He sold general merchandise in his log cabin store.

The first marriage in the township was April 24, 1840. "Billy" Wililams, later a famous politician married Miss Eliza Jane Douglas.

In the 1870's Palestine was a flourishing town. Ezra Uplinger operated a general store, Adam Horn sold drugs and groceries, George M. Wirick sold boots and shoes, Henderson Ward run the grist mill, W. H. Winters made and sold shoes and boots, and Aaron Liskey was a doctor.

Dr. J. W. Heffley and Dr. F. M. Pearman were the local physicians. That was when doctors made house calls, as well as taking care of the patients coming to their office..

Palestine was getting extensive trade with surrounding settlements and across the county lines.

During the period Paul Summy was County Surveyor, about 1917, a hard-surfaced road was built from the west edge of Palestine and run through Mentone. It was sponsored by Elmer Vandermark. He was the first man in the county to deliver mail in an automobile. Then the pavement was built through Palestine to Warsaw, about 1926. It was known as the "Turner Road". The surveying was done by Stanley Boggs, the county surveyor. Stanley Boggs succeeded Paul Summy as County Surveyor.

The first post office in the township was at the James Wooden home. He was appointed postmaster. It was located in section 18 northwest of Palestine.

During the early part of Van Buren's administration, the post office was moved to Palestine. Isham Summy was appointed postmaster.

Dr. F. M. Pearman was appointed postmaster in 1879 during, the administration of president Hayes.

In the 1869's, Dr. W. E. Sarber practiced medicine in the Palestine vicinity which was a busy town. He lived east of intersection State Road 25 and 450 west, the second house. He owned 160 acres of ground. He also owned a drugstore in Palestine.

His work was in a time when there were no telephones and hospitals, like we have in 1980. The daybook he kept, dated 1861 - 1862 will help us understand their kind of life.

The book has lots of drug sales listed such as, gargling oil, castor oil, quinine, cough syrup, turpentine, verifuge, red percipitote, calomel, lunar caustic, paregoric, camphor, iodine, sweet oil, sweet spirits of nitre, oil of clover, chloride of lime, morphine, Mc Lane Pills, tonic bitters, Robacks Pills, Dovers Powders and others.

His records tells of childbirths that he attended and whether the new-born was a boy or girl. He charged \$5.00 for the case. He gave the number of hours he was in attendance. Sometimes he did not get there in time to see the birth of the child. In these cases the cost was less.

Someone would have to ride in to get the doctor, then he would have to make his call by horseback or horse and buggy. So there was quite a delay.

One item in book reads "Aron Leighty, medicine for children at night 62¢." The cost of Dr. Sarber's visit ranged from 25¢ to \$1.50. The biggest item shown is amputating of John Skinners finger for \$8.00.

Major operations were taken to towns where there were better facilities if possible. Some accidents and other situations made immediate attention necessary.

In his book he would sometimes note the weather such as "a bad night," or "roads very bad".

Some other items in his book were, paid George Dreischbauch 75¢ for plowing, Tom Foster \$13.75 for 6075 wood lath. He credits another man with a peck of cranberries at 50¢. Martin Bissort, given credit for 37¢ for making and setting horse shoes. At two different times he bought beef from Ben Andrick, once for 17¢ per lb., the other time 41¢ per lb. He paid David Blue, \$1.25 for tanning calf skin. There is cranberries 50¢ peck, sugar 10¢, apples 25¢, bu. and beef 3-1/2¢ lb. He paid \$1.50 to get a pair of mittens knitted, another time a teamster got \$2.00 a day for himself and his team.

Dr. Sarber also made deeds and other documents for the Palestine people.

Some of the families he attended as a doctor are Milburns, Bakers, Loehrs, Romines, Myers, Prices, Mollenhours, Garwoods, Mc Sherrys, Castlemans, Andricks, Gochenours, Blues, Sarbers, Santees, Lashes, Dorans, Fosters, Benders, Poulsons, Somervilles, Lasers, Haddixes, Hanks, Hublers, Daugherties, Kuhns, Leighters, Lloyds, Bowmans, Burkets, Heighways, Gress, Dreischbacks and others.

Doctors being human could stand only so much of this kind of conditions. Everything seems to lead to the fact he was a conscientious and hard working person. Dr. Sarber was less than 50 years old when he died with lung trouble in the year of 1869.

Some other doctors he mentioned were, Dr. Brocket, Dr. Gray, and Dr. Davenport.

PALESTINE MILL
LONE EAGLE
Flour & Feeds

Isham Summy filed the Plat of Palestine on May 3, 1837. His next adventure was to build a grist and flour mill by Trimble Creek; also, a sawmill was built there. This was Harrison Townships first grist mill. It started operating in 1838.

Samuel and Richard Croxton were the next operators in 1854. They rebuilt the mill after the first fire.

Then John Thorn rented and operated it in 1868. Palestine was a flourishing town at that time.

N. Henderson purchased the mill in 1877, and operated it. Charles Ward operated it before John Slone run it in 1902, at this time flour was still being made at the mill and being hauled to Warsaw, Burket, Mentone and other towns around.

Henry Secour and Edwin Shirey purchased the mill in 1924 and operated it together. Then in 1929 Edwin Shirey purchased Henry Secour's share. The old stone burrs were still being used to grind flour and feed.

It burned down November 9, 1938. Edwin Shirey rebuilt the mill and had it operating in 1939 on electrical power. He owned it until he died in 1953. His sons Allen and Dean worked with him the last few years before he died. Then Mrs. Edwin Shirey and the two sons operated the mill for a period of time. Then Mrs. Shirey and her daughter Delores and husband, Thomas Harmon operated the mill until it closed in 1977. Henry Fletcher worked in the mill for Mr. Harmon.

After the mill was rebuilt the last time the principal product was feeds and feed mixing.

With Trimble Creek dammed up making a 40 acre reservoir with a large water shed, the water supply generally lasted all year. This was a better supply of water than some of the early mills had.

When Samuel and Richard Croxton rebuilt the mill, they put in an overshot water wheel. They used steam power in case of emergency.

I did not find any record of Isham Summy having steam power to use in case of water shortage. According to one article, there was no steam power in this territory when the first mill was built in 1838. It could have been installed later by Mr. I. Summy.

The early wood dam was replaced with stone and cement in the early 1900's or before. Then it was repaired again in the early 1970's.

In the pioneer days, bands of Indians would stop and buy or beg supplies of cornmeal at the mill.

By 1930, Edwin Shirey had purchased the ground across from the mill on the east side of Trimble Creek. He had a filling station there. Then there were cottages southeast of the filling station.

SCHOOLS

When the early settlers started coming to this territory, there were lots of trees and no sawmills. After several families settled in a vicinity they would get together and build a school house.

Lots of the early school houses were 16 feet by 18 feet. They were built with logs. For a window, they would cut out a section of log and leave it open or put a piece of greased paper over it. Others would not have any windows. Candles were used for extra light. The door was large and strong to protect the children from wolves and other wild animals, also Indian raids. The floors were made of split logs with the flat side smoothed with an ax or adze. Some of the school houses would have dirt floors. The benches were made of split logs smoothed on the flat side. Then two holes were drilled on each end of the rounded side to fasten the legs in. The benches were generally lined along the outside wall. The fireplace was generally in one corner for heat. They would put on a clapboard roof without nails and fasten it down with ridge poles. Sometimes an abandoned log house was used for a school.

A lot of these school houses were put up in a days time. After they were up the men would get together and decide who they would get to teach school. Possibly one of the best qualified fellows would teach until a regular teacher was hired. Men were the most desirable teachers in this period of time. Some of the older pupils were large and husky, needing a man teacher to control them. The parents in the school district paid all of the school expenses. If the teacher lived a long distance from school, he would board at one or more of the students homes. This would help pay his salary. Some of the pupils walked two or three miles to school.

The Mc Guffey Speller was the most common spelling book. It served as a spelling, reading and language book. Also writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography and history were taught.

They had their special school events, too. Their singing groups were well attended. A teacher who could sing would lead the group that was made up of pupils from different schools.

Also there were spelling contests. They would have candles for light since they were held in the evening. There were school members and parents there to cheer their contestants on. The spelling bees had the excitement of the present day basketball games.

At this period of time a lot of the creeks did not have bridges over them. One excerpt tells of spellers from Harrison and Wayne Townships got together one evening north of Warsaw. A group on one wagon came to a ditch north of Warsaw that they could not cross with their team because of high water. The spelling bee meant so much to the group the men got out of the wagon, put the boys that were going to do the spelling on their shoulders and carried them through the water to the opposite side of the ditch. So they could make it to the spelling contest. It was after 4:00 A.M. the next morning before it was over. If any school refused to join a contest when asked they were really considered poor sports.

The first school system was proposed in 1816 by the constitution. There was very little unity in the schools. Also, very little supervision locally or by the state before 1851. In 1873 the office of Superintendent of Schools was established. This was the beginning of the greatest progress.

When the first state man came around checking all schools, it made many unhappy parents and teachers. They felt they were losing control of the schools, but it was the beginning of certain requirements for all schools.

In 1879 there were 13 schools in the township with a total of 657 pupils. They had school districts marked off so pupils did not have to walk over a mile in most instances. By this time there were several sawmills in the township. The buildings were being made of sawed lumber.

There is no record of the very early school houses and their teachers. The first school house on record in Harrison township was build in 1838, with Henry Bradley being the first teacher. The school was located on section 29, which joined Palestine on the northwest corner.

Charles Hudson taught there during the school year of 1910 - 1911. Mable (Hudson) Rickel taught her first school there in 1914. Orvel Wilson taught school there, Orvel Wilson is the father of Merle Wilson the well known Mentone painter, who still does a lot of painting.

The Loehr School number 7 was located about 1-1/2 miles east of Palestine, on the southeast corner of the Loehr farm, next to the Sam Boggs farm. Lawrence Bell's sister, Blanche, began her teaching at the Loehr School. Her teaching there lasted a short period of time because of sickness, which brought on her death. It was thought to be appendicitis. The Loehr School was used through the early 1900's. The children were taken to the Huffer School by hack.

In later years the school house was sold to Sam Boggs and he moved it to where it now stands. It is west of his barn with an addition on each side of it. In 1950 the two inch well pipe, the school used to pump their water from was still there sticking three feet above ground. I, Freeman Gruenewald, the owner of the farm at that time, took it off at a point three feet underground. The big trees along the line fence were set out by Ray Henderson when he went to school there. They were small saplings at setting time. The Sam Boggs farm is about two miles east of Palestine on what is now State Road 25.

One fourth of a mile east of the Loehr School at the crossroads, School House Number 15 set on the Dr. Sarber farm. North of this school, two miles, on the northeast corner of the crossroad set the Cook School House, made of brick. North of the Palestine Christian Church one mile, then west about three-fourths mile on ~~side~~ ^{NORTH} side of the road a school house used to be located. It was ~~the~~ the Huffer School. Two miles west of the Palestine Mill was the Milbern School Number 9. This school is being renovated. One-half of a mile south of Burket was School House Number 6. School House Number 13 was on the present sight of Mentone about 15 years before Mentone was founded.

William Jefferson Blue was superintendent in the school year of 1910-1911. The Township Teachers on a picture I saw, were ~~the~~ Mae Lash, the teacher at Palestine School, Caurel Cook, Charles Christian, Laura Huffer, Chloe Fawley, Ora Beeson, Donnis Kelly, Orvell Wilson, and Chester Manwaring.

They figured on about 25 pupils per school. Sometimes it would run up to about 50 pupils which made it especially hard for one teacher to handle.

Then the consolidation of schools started about 1900 under the leadership of Edison B. Sarber. It was about 1930 before most children of rural schools were hauled into a central school.

The first School Hacks were horse drawn. They were heated with charcoal in a unit under the hack floor, or at one corner. Some never had any heat.

A road building program started in the 1920's which made it easier for the School Hacks. About 1925 they started using motorized school buses.

PALESTINE

Palestine in the 1870's had a Grist Mill run by Henderson and Ward. On lot 61, George M. Wirick had a boot and shoe store. Ezra Uplinger had a general store on lot 68. Adam Horn had a drug store on lot 70. There was a blacksmith shop on lot 76, the school was located on lot 80. There were over 40 pupils attending school. The well-pump was made of wood. The Methodist Church was on lot 81. The Christian Church was located northeast of the Grist Mill along the road. On lot 41, Reubin Kibler had a blacksmith shop. He was a very good violin player too. On lot 65 was Dr. Pearmans home and office. He drove a team of ponies hitched to an open buggy to make house calls. Bonnie Latta, just a young boy then, took care of the ponies. On lot 82 John Wainwright and his father had a shop where they made and sold wooden water pumps. William Shirey owned a cider mill one mile west of the Grist Mill. William Hatfield, Dave Fawley and Milton Black owned a threshing machine to do threshing for the farmers. William Hatfield had a barber shop also. Libby Yarnel wove carpets; Milt Black was a paper hanger; Frank Mortimore was a stone mason. Lyman Dunnuck was the sexton at the church. In the mid 1900's Wilber Judd had a gas station at the southwest corner of State Road 25 and Shilling Road.

In 1929 Henry Secour sold his share of the Palestine Mill to Edwin Shirey, then he purchased the grocery store from Alvey Mendel. Mr. Shirey operated it for a while, then Henry and Bessey Fletcher rented the building and operated the grocery store in 1936 -1937. After them Delford and Bessie Deland operated the store. They were followed by Louie and Hazel Kratz. George and Hatti Clark followed them. Adolph and Grace Heckrote purchased the building plus contents and moved it across the road. He operated it for a time and sold it to Clarence and Ester Lackey. Robert and Eleanor Hoover purchased it in 1951. Then George and Helen Mollenhour purchased the store in 1952. They operated it till 1970. Paul and Lavina Nelson purchased the store, and a short time later their daughter started operating the Canine Castle, where she groomed pets. The store and grooming business was discontinued about 1979.

A store was operated by James Hartley on lot 37 after Nelsons closed theirs, it was closed in 1981. In the early 1900's this building was a dance hall. About 1930 Merl Yocum stored and repaired his threshing machine in it. He did threshing for the farmers. He also operated a Gasoline Station west of the building for a few years. Later Harry and Buthene Smythe operated the station, about 1939 and 1940. Mr. Smythe got a factory job later, then he closed the station. Marburgers had an aquarium in the building where they are selling groceries now. They sold several species of small fish.

Naomi Cain now has a camping grounds in Palestine which has acreage enough to serve lots of people. It lays close the State Road 25 back to Palestine Lake.

I have just spent time going through the daily records of L. L. Latimer and Co., of Palestine, Indiana, dated from March 1, 1853 to February 1861. Also there were many letters he had received, some of Mr. Latimers legal papers and a book dated 1852 - Building Job.

First I will list some of the items used in the building job; 2200 Shingles, \$7.33, 260 feet of square timber, \$5.20, Paid Peter Sells, \$150, 3250 lath \$4.88, 2 door handles, \$.25, 1 bottle turpentine, \$.13, 1 lock \$2.50 12 pounds white lead \$1.50, and 2 bushels hair, \$.50. The hair was used in plaster to make it stronger. On one invoice he received 5 kegs of nails shipped from the east to Fort Wayne by railroad. The Fort Wayne station and Mr. Latimer had to find a way to get them to Palestine.

They sold a wide variety of items which were listed in the book daily, I will list a few. Some of the foods sold were: 1 lb. rice, \$.08, 6 lb. rice \$.50, 20 lb. rice, \$1.40, 5 lb. raisins, \$.62, 22 lbs. lard \$2.64, 20 lb. coffee, \$3.00, 21 lb. shoulder meat, \$1.89, 39 lb. side meat \$3.12, 4 lb. butter, \$.40, 4 dozen eggs, \$.25, 1/2 lb. tobacco, \$.10, and 1 gallon molasses, \$.63.

In the drygoods line there were 8 yds. calico \$1.00, 31 yds. muslin \$2.79, 16 yds. muslin \$1.00, 3 yds. tweeds \$1.13, 3 yds. lining \$.37, 1 doz. buttons \$.15, 1 thimble \$.05, 1 pr. gloves \$.25, 1 pr. hose \$.25, 1 pr. boots \$4.50, 1 pr. boots \$3.00, 1 pr. shoes \$.63 and a spelling book \$.10. There were a lot of kinds of medication sold through the store, 24 quinine pills \$.50, 1 bottle castor oil \$.19, 1 bottle of sweet oil \$.18, and many others that a doctor would give.

Some of their customers were Thomas Mersdith, John Manwaring, John Polson, Joseph Clark, R. P. Shipley, Phillip Smith, Andrew Stickler, Thomas Romine, I. H. Jennings, John Bybee, Riley Warren, Limon Hartman, Alex Reed, Amos Towl, Isaac Hartman, John Hartman, William Baker, John Sarber, Levi Reeler, Limon McViker, John Hatfield, James Bowser, Anthony Boggs, James Blue, Jesse Whitman, Jesse Grubbs, Joe Snively, M. Ault, E. Price, P. Doran, and Limon Smith. Many of these names are familiar in this vicinity, now.

People of Palestine & Vicinity

The story of the Rippey family who traveled from Henry County east of the central part of Indiana to Kosciusko County is a good example of early life in Indiana. On April 12, 1836, Mr. Rippey started for their new home in Kosciusko County, with a large covered wagon known as a "prairie schooner" at that time, was drawn by four oxen. The travelers included Mr. and Mrs. Rippey, Henry G., May June and William, a baby just beginning to walk. Mr. Rippey's sister Mary Rippey, Samuel Fennimore, William Catey and Milton Jeffries accompanied them.

Their livestock consisted of two horses, some sheep, two cows and calves. They made slow progress due to poor roads. They had a broken rear axel on the wagon which took a couple of days to fix and get started again. They passed through Muncie, Marion and Largo. Muncie had only two or three log cabin homes at that time. They crossed the Eel River near there. On account of wolves the livestock had to be corralled in pens built of logs and brush. Also fires were kept going all night, fed with logs and brush, for protection.

On April 26, 1836 they arrived at their new home in Kosciusko County in time to fix dinner in the fireplace. Their home was a log cabin with a clapboard roof held in place with poles. The floor was made of split logs having the flat side smoothed and turned up. The fireplace was built of flat stone and a chimney built of sticks and mud. As soon as the neighbors heard of their arrival they came to get acquainted and give a helping hand.

There are different accounts where a man would come west walking 800 to 1200 miles alone, riding when he was offered one.

The "Star Band" of Palestine was directed by Elmer Vandermark. It operated for several years. The band was so accomplished, it was often invited away from home. During some of Warsaws street fairs, the Palestine Band furnished the music.

The members were people from around Palestine. Edson Vandermark and his wife Esta, Charles Vandermark, Elmer Vandermark and his wife Bess and daughter Louise, Fremont Fisher and wife Lillie, and Arthur Brown and his wife Helen. In later years Edson led the band, his wife Esta played the piano.

Farmers 1866

Some of the farmers living in the Palestine vicinity in 1866 according to a map of that date, were: V. Gochenour, J. Andrick, M. A. Galkins, L. Andrick, R. Andrick, A. Philpott, J. H. Mayers, J. Rupe, J. Everly and J. Hastings living northeast and east of Palestine.

Then to the northwest, S. Shirey, J. Romine, S. Vandermark, E. Clark, L. L. Latimer, J. M. Jacobs, J. Borton, and A. Melton.

South and west of Palestine were: C. Sarber, D. Williams, S. Vandermark, J. Hartman, Porter and Blackmore, W. E. Sarber, H. Milburn, J. Kibler, A. Messersmith, A. Warren, Mc Sherry's and Miller's.

Then to the southeast were: D. Williams, A. Ault, J. I. Best, H. Sewell, W. Wagner, M. Hatfield, W. H. Bowser and A. E. Rupe. Some of the owners may not have lived on the farms.

Thirteen years later, 1879, a very complete atlas of the county was made. Palestine was surrounded by some of the most prosperous farmers of that time.

Some of the farmers were Gochenours, Andricks, Rupes, Shivelys, Ebys, and Hendersons north and east of Palestine. To the north and west were farms of J. Latta, S. Shirey, G. Cook, W. Keller, T. Holmon, W. H. R. Hay, A. and E. Hatfield, J. Galloway and R. Huffer. To the south and west were, S. Vandermark, S. Latimore, H. B. Dunnuck and C. R. Stillwell. To the south and east of Palestine lived W. H. Loehr, D. Shutts, T. Davenport, J. Bruner, J. T. Alt, A. E. Mayer, R. Forman, and B. D. Kinsey. Sarbers owned and operated a saw mill near Palestine in the 1840's. They sawed the lumber for the first courthouse of Warsaw.

Stanley Boggs was County Surveyor of the "Turner Road", which is now State Road 25, when it was paved from Warsaw through Palestine. He spent about 16 years as County Surveyor. After getting out of college, he spent several years as Civil Engineer on the building of the Texas & Pacific Railroad, living in Texas and Oklahoma. He came back to Indiana about 1912 or 1914.

Joseph Boggs, the son of Mr. Stanley Boggs, operates the "Boggs and Nelson" Insurance Agency in Mentone.

The first mill was built by Isham Summy, the father of Mel Summy, a lawyer and grandfather of surveyor Paul Summy. Paul Summy married Mary Louise Vandermark. Clyde and Mary are their children.

When Harry and Buthene Smythe ran the filling station, jobs were hard to get. There were lots of people fishing on Palestine Lake. Sometimes Mrs. Smythe would take care of their child and pump the gasoline and Harry would go out to the lake and sell hamburgers and drinks to the fishermen.

Buthene's parents, Alvin and Jeanettie Bowser owned a farm north of the Palestine Christian Church where their family was raised. It was owned then by Ray and Reba Tucker. Now David Koldyke owns it and he has a large poultry house on it.

Reubin Kibler, the Palestine Blacksmith was a good friend of Alvin and Jeanettie Bowser. He came to their house to visit often. Buthene said she would walk to Palestine Store when she was young to pick up things for her parents. On one of her trips she stopped in to watch the blacksmith work. He had to go into the house for something. Mr. Kibler always wore a leather apron when he was working, so he threy it over the anvil. Buthene tried out his anvil with his big hammer, but she did not take the apron off. When Mr. Kibler came back and picked up the apron, it had holes in it. He asked her if she did it. She would not admit she did it then. Now, 60 some years later she does.

George Wirick was having a theft problem in his store. He started spending his nights there. One night there was a noise at the back door, George was ready. Two fellows broke in the door and he shot, hitting one in the stomach. The fellow fell and crawled to a nearby building where the men found him and carried him to a house. He died the next day. The other buglar got away.

L. L. Latimer and wife Susan(Hartman), of Palestine was the father of Marion Latimer who operated a hardware store in Mentone. Marion Latimer married Reedy Bybee and their children were Lyndes and Minnie. Lyndes has one living son Wilber who lives on a farm southeast of Mentone on road 900W.

Zelda Lash taught at the Palestine school across from the Methodist Church. She would ride the Winona Interurban back and forth to Mentone. It is a good mile and a half walk from the Palestine School to the Interurban track north of Palestine. The Interurban traveled one direction on the even hour and on the odd hour in the opposite direction. This worked good coming to Palestine school. Later she taught at the Sevastopol School. Then she had to catch the 6:00 o'clock Interurban going south from Mentone to get to

her school on time at 8:00 o'clock A. M.

Jim Chiverins was a candy maker who would go around to the different homes and make candy during the early 1900's. He made several different kinds.

The Dr. W. E. Sarber farm is now a poultry farm with two large poultry houses on it, owned by Maynard Kauffman. It was owned by Dale Sinclair before him, and Dean Marble owned it before that.

Samuel Boggs Sr. purchased the farm east of Palestine at the intersection of State Road 25 and 450 W, in the early 1900's. His son Samuel lives there now, doing general farming. He has one son Robert who lives between the farm and Palestine, who has two children Lisa and Bret and they are both teachers.

The barn on the Sam Boggs farm has a cement block exterior. The blocks were all hand made. The barn is approximately 100 years old. There used to be a log house across the road before the present house was built. They moved the log house east of the cross roads on the north side of the road. It still stands therewith additions built on it. It has been covered with modern type siding.

The early history of Palestine lists farmers by the name of McSherry's. It is another family line who have stayed in the vicinity. Charles Mc Sherry and sons do a considerable amount of farming in the Palestine vicinity now.

Railroads

There were no railroads running through Palestine. The Pennsylvania Railroad came through Warsaw in 1856. This helped Warsaw to expand.

The Nickel Plate Railroad came through about one mile south of Palestine in 1882. Then the town of Burket came into existence.

In a few years, Warsaw, Sidney, Claypool, Burket and Mentone were the main trading centers. During this time Palestine stores started moving to Burket.

WHERE PEOPLE CONGREGATE

GOD IS NEEDED

Palestine Methodist Church

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized October 9, 1854. Rev. James A. Hallord was the pastor and John Fresh was class leader. The meetings were held in the pastor's house until the next spring. Then with their thirteen members, they renovated an old blacksmith shop and converted it into a House of Worship.

Starting in the fall of 1856, they erected a new church on Lot 81 in Palestine. It was completed 1859. They started using it in the summer of 1857. The dimensions of the church was 30 x 40 feet. The cost was \$600.00. The building committee was Pheobe and Aaron Mayers, William Sarber and John Fresh.

The church was dedicated in 1859 by Rev. Jacob Colelazer. The trustees were William Sarber, Elijah Baker, John Fresh and William Daugherty.

In 1879 J. Ault and wife, Aaron Mayers, J. W. Dunnuck and wife, John Romine and wife, Elizabeth Yarnel and Nancy Mc Sherry were the only survivors of the thirteen constituent members of the church. Rev. M. Swadener was pastor at this time with 55 church members and 28 probationers.

The Sunday School was organized while church was being held in the renovated blacksmith shop. They held Sunday School only in the summer until 1876. By 1879 the Sunday School enrollment had increased to 140 members, with average attendance of 100.

In 1914 the minister being Rev. C. A. Modlin, the church was remodeled. They put a basement under the church and installed a one register furnace. An addition to the rear of the building for an entrance to the basement was built, a new roof, a new piano was added. In 1920 the first Homecoming meeting was held with Elmer S. Vandermark the first chairman; He served for several years. With the exception of two years there has been Homecoming meetings held the second Sunday in October.

In 1951 more remodeling was done. A new hardwood floor was purchased with the men of the church donating the work and Orval Secor directing the work. In 1952 an addition to the front of the church with a class room and an entrance room was built. Again the men of the church donated their work. In 1954 new shingles were put on the roof and the windows repaired. In 1955 a new oil furnace was installed and the basement was changed completely. The full basement could be used for meetings.

People attending church and Sunday school in the 1950's were:

Esta Vandermark
Naomi See
Ray and Carey Wiltrout
Neil and Blanche Estlick
Hubert and Evelyn Shilling
Floyd and Ruth Blackwell
Bert and Mable Rickel
Joe and Faye Stickler
Roy and Silvia Stickler
Rosa Hipsher
Theodore and Linda Tompson
Marshall and Helene Eaton
Agnes and Fred Surgey
Edna Jones
Helen and George Mollenhour

Paul and Lavina Nelson
 Albert and Louise Tucker
 James and Evelyn Hyde
 Louise Summy
 Mary Louise Summy and children Tammy, Kevin, James Allen
 Orvel and Lois Secor and children David, Doug, Dennis
 Dale and Dorothy Wiltrout and children Robert, Suzanne, Tom
 Frank and Esther Nelson and children Robert, Ann
 Eldon and Mary Horn and children Cheryl, Karen
 Freeman and Velma Gruenewald and children Lowell, Dennis, Warren
 Earl and Margret Bruner and children Danny, Steven
 "Bing" and Beverly Clark and children Patty
 Josephine Blackwell
 Susie Smythe

There were others who attended some. In the 1950's interest started to grow again in the Palestine Methodist Church. One day the attendance was over 100. The attendance was up for a few years.

Ministers of Palestine Methodist Church

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MINISTER</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>
1854	James A. Hallord	Organized the Church
1859	Jacob Colelazer	
1879	M. Swadener	
1886 - 1888	L. Reeves	Mentone
1889	J. N. McCurdy	Mentone
1890	J. M. Rush	Mentone
1891 - 1892	J. M. Baker	Mentone
1893 - 1894	Henry Bridge	Mentone
1895 - 1896	M. H. Mott	Mentone
1897 - 1898	M. R. Pierce	Mentone
1899	J. I. McCoy	Burket
1900	J. O. Carden (supply)	Burket
1901 - 1902	G. F. Osbun	Burket
1903 - 1904	T. N. Hill	Burket
1905	Milford M. Reynolds	Burket
1906 - 1907	J. E. Young	Burket
1908	(C. F. Brindley)	Burket
1909	(C. A. Hile)	Burket
	(J. M. Haines)	Burket
1910	C. A. Hile	Burket
1911 - 1912	(A. F. White)	Burket
1913	C. E. Lindsay	Burket
1914 - 1915	C. A. Modlin	Burket
1916 - 1917	J. H. McNary	Burket
1918	Henry Lacy	Burket
1919	A. E. Scotten	Burket
1920	(A. L. Myers)	Burket
1921	(S. L. Whitman)	Burket
1922 - 1923	C. A. Cloud	Burket
1924	(A. C. Cragun)	Burket
1925 - 1926	C. A. Maynard	Warsaw Circuit
		Warsaw Circuit

1927 - 1931	Garry Browne	Warsaw Circuit
1932 - 1933	J. H. Brown	Warsaw Circuit
1934	A. Ray Noland	Warsaw Circuit
1935 - 1936	J. S. Newcombe	Burket
1937 - 1938	O. C. Bogne	Burket
1939 - 1941	(Frederick Vincent)	Burket
1942 - 1943	Joseph Hanawalt	Burket
1944	(To be supplied)	Burket
1945	(Earl Naftzger)	Burket
1946 - 1947	(Robert Spoolstra)	Burket
1948	(Norman Culvar)	Burket
1949 - 1951	(Lawrence I. Smith)	Burket
1952 - 1954	(Albert Rider)	Burket
1955 - 1958	Lloyd Wright	Burket
1959 - 1962	Robert Garmin	Burket
1963 - 1964	Clyde Byers	Burket
1965		
1966	Herman Olson	Burket

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON
PALESTINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"There is a history in all men's lives."

August 23, 1959

The written record of the Christian Church near the village of Palestine, Indiana dates back to May 13, 1868. But we are sure the group met sometime prior to this date, because the oldest paper states, "according to notice duly given, a meeting of this day at the usual place of holding meeting." The purpose of this particular gathering is also mentioned therein, "to locate and properly lay off and take care of a graveyard." This reason must be the answer to the question why our Church did not build in Palestine proper. Joseph Everly, Robert Mitchell, William E. Sarber, John S. Sarber and Martin Hatfield are noted as the elected trustees and were directed to procure ground and build the "house."

The body of Mary Sarber was the first burial in Palestine Cemetery in May, 1868. Although older tombstones appear in the cemetery, it is known that these memorials were moved from across the road and creek.

Sometime between 1868 and 1873, the Church was erected. For we may read in Record B, 2nd Election, page 321, of the first recorded meeting in the "House of Worship." Rev. A. F. Leaman was the chairman of this meeting and is considered the first minister of our Church. Much thanks must be given to W. J. Mummah, the first Secretary. For many years, he faithfully recorded the history of the "meeting house." In beautiful penmanship, he wrote, "Record of the Christian Church near the village of Palestine . . . organized in a Church capacity on the Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible, as our rule of faith and practice to be known as Christian Church near Palestine, Indiana." Unfortunately, the first official record book of the Church has disappeared. Elder Carels (Carrels) gave this record to Rev. E. T. Gilliam in 1884 as a recommendation to his next pastorate.

On December 18, 1875 the members were considering the sale of the "Christian Chapel" property. God's faithful hand directed. One member voted against the sale, and the property was retained.

No doubt some people wish they could shingle their house as did the oldsters in 1886! S. D. Henderson bid to give the Church 17,000 shingles at \$2.90 per thousand, and put on the same for \$.75 per thousand. A picket fence of Elm, three feet long pickets and two inches wide with posts twelve feet apart was installed in 1887.

In demonstration of the earnestness and devotion of the early people, Clerk William J. Mumma recorded on August 11, 1888:

The members of the Church, friends and neighbors of the same turned out for the purpose of cleaning up the yard, fixing the fence, sweeping the house. A large number were present at an early hour and the whole yard was mowed and all rubbish removed. It was the most thorough cleaning the yard ever had. All worked with a will and a determination to do something and they did.

The Christian Church hereby extends their sincere thanks to all who helped on this occasion.

In the records of February 13, 1890 our Church was first noted as a Disciple's Church and the election day for the trustees was announced in the "Northern Indiana" weekly paper.

The Palestine Christian Church did not always set at the present location. Actually, the first spot was several hundred yards east and the Church entrance was in the opposite direction. At this time, the parishioners entered and left past the pulpit! On May 20, 1890 the Church was moved northwest to its present spot. December 9, 1898, \$35.00 was procured for a new fence on the north and west sides of the graveyard. In 1899 the Church folk spent \$115.00 for fencing and gates. In the fall of 1901, Montgomery-Ward Church Bell #40 made of 1300 lbs. of steel alloy was purchased by the Church for \$67.50.

The moving of the building came as a result of the reorganization of the Church. From October 1896 until April 5, 1900 our Church remained mostly idle. Nor was this to be the last time of closing. The passing on of leaders, and disinterest on the part of remaining members caused the closing. A layman with a passion and love, W. T. Morgan, reopened the Church and started the Sunday School in 1900. Rev. W. L. Barnau received an unanimous call to Pastor the Church for \$250.00 a year. It is worthy to note that on February 8, 1900, Brother Canfield held evangelistic services. Twenty-nine people made decisions for Christ. However, these enthusiastic efforts were short-lived for the Church soon closed again. At this time, the Church of Christ (Mentone) and the Church of God (Warsaw) held meetings in our idle building. The group from the latter Church planned to build near us or secure our Church building. But in 1902 the Lord intervened again and Mr. Henry, a layman, with Rev. Mr. Llenry got the program under way.

At the conclusion of the part-time ministry of Rev. Mr. Anderson in 1906, the Church lay idle until 1911. Lack of funds to hire a preacher was the reason for this closure. During the summer of 1911, Rev. J. E. Rose, pastor of the First Christian Church of Warsaw, and singer Mr. Sturgess held two weeks of special meetings. But the Church group still did not hold regular services.

1912 was a red letter year! On July 1st of this year, evangelist H. E. Wilhite and singer F. H. Shaul began notable services. God blessed and built the little group of thirteen people to forty-seven members in a short while. People experiencing conversion and/or those uniting with this Church numbered over sixty. Then, Brother Morrison lent the Church money to purchase hymnals. The first recorded Sunday School was held on June 23, 1912. The introductory remark was "The work of the Lord was commenced in song and prayer."

An impressive verse was found in the Sunday School record for May 1917:

Not what we give but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare.
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,
Himself, his hungering neighbor and me.

On April 15, 1919 the Church negotiated for the land of Mrs. Joseph Hartman to enlarge the cemetery grounds. Mule-team grading of the cemetery was then accomplished by Emmett Clark, Fremont Fisher, Herman Snodgrass, E. R. Huffer and Lloyd Lowman. Also, in this year, carpet and window blinds were purchased for the Church.

A barb-wire fence with metal gates enclosed the cemetery March 4, 1921. On May 19, 1923, Henry Binkley was paid \$35.00 for raising the Church, and changing its direction as it is today. Several men from the Church aided in this large task. The belfry and vestibule with double doors were added to the Church over twenty years before this. The Church received its brick facing in summer of 1923.

All these things were done by the early twenties in preparation for a great day in the history of Palestine Christian Church. January 20, 1924 must be singled out, for on this date the Church dedication services were held. Although no minister served as the pastor of our Church at this occasion, several preachers were in attendance. Three great services were conducted. In the morning service at 9:30 A.M., Rev. Mr. Cloud of the local circuit for Methodist Churches gave the devotions; then, Rev. A. E. Dubber, pastor of the First Christian Church of Warsaw, delivered the morning message. After dinner in the Church basement, Rev. Noah McCoy, former pastor of Burket United Brethren Church, spoke at the 2:00 P.M. service. The final address entitled "The First and Modern Church" was given at 7:00 P.M. by a retired minister, Rev. J. W. Keefer. A spiritual refreshing was experienced by the attenders. As it was in the early 1900's, so the services continued: "Unity and brotherly love prevailed throughout the meeting. (Records of February 21, 1901).

But there was a real scare thrown into the day of Blessings. Several hooded Klu Klux Klan members entered the building and donated \$200.00 to the Church. At the highest moment of agitation and disturbance, Rev. J. W. Keefer said, "Let us kneel and pray." The masked visitors then disappeared.

The Church records go on in a rather ordinary fashion for several years to come. Occasionally, the Christian Church circuit, Milford, Etna Green and Palestine met for county meetings. Three great sessions are on record: July 11, 1915 with 110 people here; June 28, 1931 with 126 persons in attendance; and June 23, 1935 with 180 people in our Sunday School.

Beginning with Rev. Walter Mickley in 1939, a series of pastors have been elected from students and faculty of Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Indiana. Notable among these former pastors is Rev. Homer A. Kent, Th. D., professor of Church History and Practical Theology.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Ivan French that the membership of Palestine Christian Church took several important steps. One of these steps made in 1951 was the incorporation of the cemetery with \$361.63 in the treasurer's hand. Another step taken on October 29, 1951 was the first missionary offering made to European Bible Mission. To this date our Church has continued to support Rev. and Mrs. Robert Munn as they labor for Christ in France at the European Bible Institute. On January 20, 1952, Merrill Bear was installed as deacon and James Lackey and Carroll Eiler were placed into the office of elder.

An interesting notation is found in the records for June 13, 1953. James M. Lackey motioned that we "break entirely from Disciples of Christ and Unified Promotion and that money be spent for spiritual rather than social Gospel." The Church has maintained its independent position until this date.

During the summer and fall of 1956, the Church was beautifully redecorated and a seventy-five foot green matting was laid in the auditorium.

At the request of several church members, a call was put out in June 1958 for more missionary support. On July 11, 1958 the first free-will offering was taken for the Negro work of the Tom Florence's in Spring City, Tennessee. The Church has continued to take a monthly free-will offering for this work.

On July 27, 1958 a high mark was hit when sixty-three persons were in attendance at Sunday School. This was the highest number in attendance since September 14, 1941; sixty-five people gathered for that service. It is interesting to note that the lowest attendance was recorded on November 15, 1925. Only ten people came to Sunday School.

On July 29, 1958 Robert Boggs and Greenwade Howard were installed as deacons of this Church. These men were chosen by the people "to stand in the gap" for the Lord's work.

The history pen is slowly stopping. From now on, we must live the story day by day. May God grant many years of pleasing service to the membership and friends of the Christian Church near the village of Palestine.

Deacon Carl H. Mahoney
Elder Omer Morrison
Rev. James H. Gabhart.

Ministers of Palestine Christian Church

March 22, 1873* - - - - - A. F. Leaman
 October 13, 1877 - - - - - Ralph Phinney
 November 19, 1881 - - - - - F. P. Franklin
 December 9, 1883 - - - - - E. T. Gilliam
 ? - - - - - Pastor Lacey
 ? - - - - - Pastor McDermott
 ? - - - - - Pastor Dunkleberger
 July 28, 1896 - - - - - W. T. Sherbrum(Sherbourne)
 October, 1896 - - - - - A. M. Galespy (Gillispie)
 Church Closed
 April 5, 1900 - - - - - W. L. Burnau
 ? - - - - - Pastor Llenry
 February 24, 1902 - - - - - H. P. Church
 December 20, 1904 - - - - - Pastor Anderson (part-time)
 to 1906
 Church Closed
 March 10, 1913 - - - - - Everette Smith
 to May 12, 1918
 August 25, 1918 - - - - - T. A. Thomas
 to July 18, 1919
 December, 1920 - - - - - J. B. Dunkleburger
 January 9, 1921 - - - - - Ira Boyts
 to November 19, 1922
 ? - - - - - Pastor Ewing
 Church Closed
 Spring, 1924 - - - - -
 to 1925 - - - - - Pastor Able

1926
to June 1, 1930- - - - - Elwood Dunn

February 21, 1932- - - - - Francis Garrett

October, 1933
to August, 1936- - - - - Everett Smith

August 23, 1936
to September 24, 1939- - - - - Darrell Norwood

October 8, 1939
to June 15, 1941- - - - - Walter Mickley

July, 1941
to December, 1941- - - - - Howard Meyer (Mayer)

December, 1941
to June 30, 1942- - - - - Walter Mickley

August 15, 1942
to October 27, 1946- - - - - Homer A. Kent

May, 1947
to March 14, 1948- - - - - Donald Blake

October, 1948
to September, 1950- - - - - John Drury

October 1, 1950
to April 12, 1953- - - - - Ivan French

May 10, 1953
to May, 1956- - - - - Fred T. Hall

September 23, 1956
to October 1, 1957- - - - - Glen Lockwood

October 27, 1957- - - - - James H. Gabhart

April, 1960
to April 1964- - - - - Norman McVey

September, 1964
to May, 1965- - - - - Don Apperson

June, 1965
 to July, 1966- - - - - Eugene Frye

 November, 1966 to June, 1969- - - - - Gelbert Pugh

 June, 1969 to May, 1971- - - - - Gary Janzen

 June, 1971 to June, 1975- - - - - Warren McCuen

 September, 1975 to May, 1976- - - - - Harlan Palser

 September, 1976 to September, 1978- - - - - Alex DeGolyer

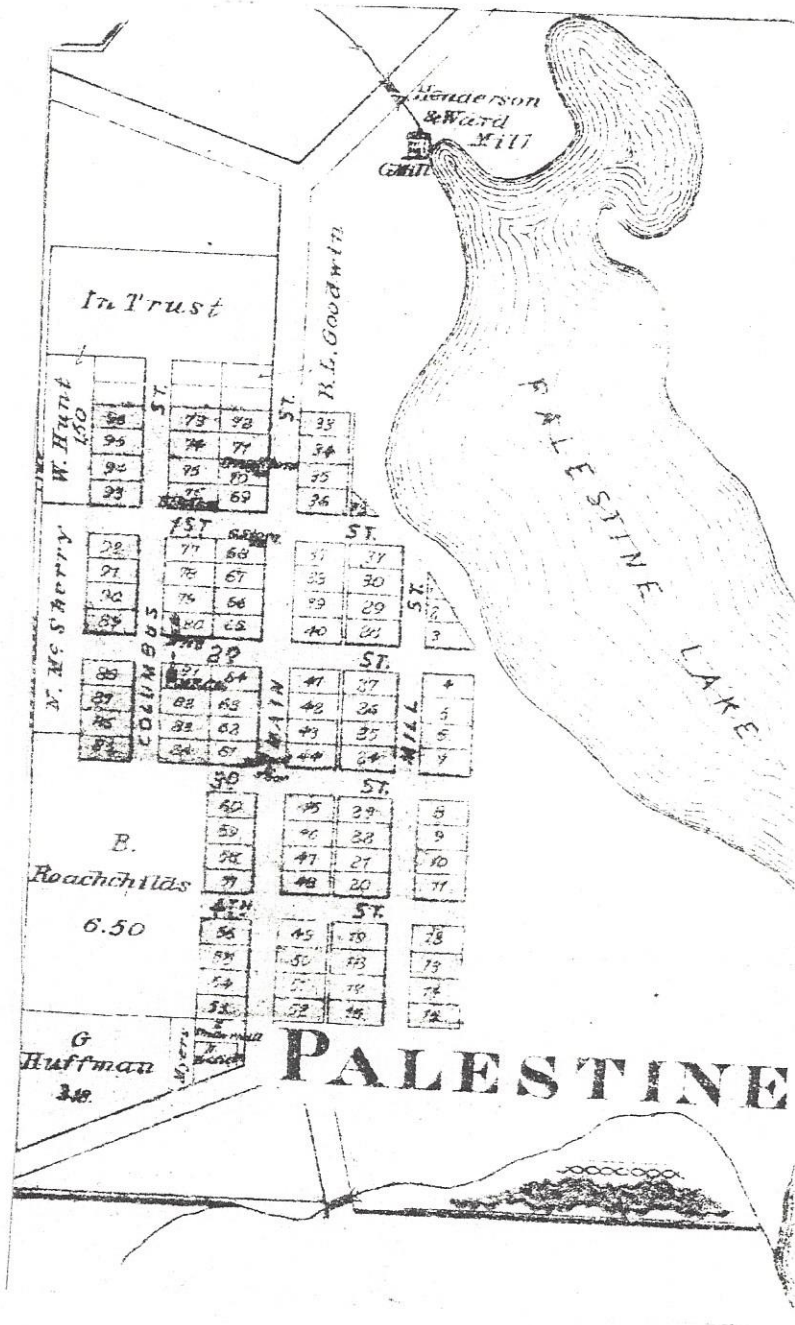
 August, 1979 to February, 1981- - - - - Richard C. Piatt II

 March, 1981 to Present- - - - - Robert Wheeler

* Although we believe our list of pastors is complete, it is impossible to determine the exact length of ministry of some at Palestine.

Remember When ???

- December 9, 1883--Rev. E. T. Gilliam preached for \$2.00 per day or \$6.00 for a three day trip.
- December 13, 1887--Mrs. Joseph Kivler boarded "hands" while the church was repaired.
- February 13, 1890--William J. Mummah was elected to the post of Church Clerk for life.
- January 1, 1901--"No preacher considered employed to preach for us unless employed by the elders and deacons of the Church."
- August 15, 1895--A motion was rejected to hold an ice cream supper at Crouse School for financing the cost of a pulpit.
- February 28, 1896--Alvery Bowser was the lowest responsible bidder for employment as Church janitor.
- April 5, 1896--The people pledged to have prayer meeting every Tuesday and preaching every second week for the period of one year.
- December 27, 1896--Pastor Sherbrum and seven members were present in Church. Because of the small group, the people refused to take the emblems and the Pastor refused to abandon the service to attend the Methodist morning service.
- Fall, 1912--Omer Morrison was elected as trustee.
- March 10, 1913--Rev. Everett Smith rode the circuit of Etna Green, Milford and Palestine Christian Churches.
- October, 1913--The Church people secured a sack of cement for \$.35.
- May, 1914--Mr. Milton Black papered the walls of the Church.
- October 18, 1914--No Church was held this date because of a funeral.
- May 27, 1917--"Collection given to Y. M. C. A. work in the Army, \$13.04."
- June, 1917--Eight Sunday School Classes were held in our Church! A basement was not yet available!
- June 7, 1918--"Mr. E. Huffer gave 23 cents more making the amount \$5.00 to be sent to Foreign Missions."



PALESTINE LAYOUT IN 1870's

