

SEVASTOPOL

Sevastopol is at the crossroads of 700 South and 1000 West. It was laid out in 1856 by George W. White, John Mollenhour and John Tucker, who were owners of the ground.

Franklin Township was covered with timber at the time the early white settlers started coming. The land was cleared for farming. A portion of the timber was used for building. Of course, much of the timber was destroyed at first because there was little demand for it.

In 1837 Benjamin Blue came from Ohio and settled on Section 2, Township 31, Range 4 east. His house was the first in the township made of logs. His neighbors were the Potawatomi Indians who were peaceable. Mr. B. Blue was a man of enterprise and energy and bore a prominent part in the development of the township (Franklin). He spent his lifetime here.

Benjamin West also settled in 1837 on Section 7, Township 3 north, Range 5 east. He spent two years there before he left the country. His land was purchased by John Bybee. Mr. J. Bybee spent his lifetime on the farm. In 1838 came Dr. I. H. Jennings who settled in Section 10, Township 31 north, Range 4 east. He also worked hard to better the community.

In the fall of 1838 Jesse Myers settled on Section 19, Township 31 north, Range 5 east, near the site of Sevastopol. He remained there about two years and sold to Rudolph Hire and left the country. Richard A. Lee also came in 1838 and settled on Section 1, Township 31 north, Range 4 east, and cleared the land for a farm. Prosper Nicholas, a former resident of Harrison County, Ohio, settled on Section 35, Township 31 north, Range 4 east. For 30 years he was a very prominent person in public improvement of the community. He died in 1868. In the fall of 1839 his son Solomon Nicholas settled on the same section. He also cleared land for a farm and worked for the advancement of the community.

In 1841 Amos Baldwin settled on Sect. 31, Township 31N., Range 5E. and George Barber settled on Sect. 2, Township 31N., Range 4E. Others who came at various periods and helped develop the community were: J. E. Day, John Mollenhour, William Provault, Simon Hartman, Abraham Blue, William Bell, Enoch and William Sturgeon, John D. Highway, John Smart, William Horner, Omer Pierce, William Jafferries, John, Horace, and Albert Tucker, Henry Black, James Warren, Robert Cook, Allen Judd, George Barr, Levi Shively, Thomas and James H. Burns and Caleb Rogers.

There was an Indian Trail from Peru northwest which went across Franklin Township. It remained well-marked for many years after the white men settled the township. The first road was surveyed in 1836 and was known as the Logansport and Mishawaka State Road. In 1838 the Logansport and Warsaw State Road was surveyed.

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

The first Nuptial Ceremony was the Marriage of Hugh Bryant and Miss Anna Nichols, daughter of Prosper Nichols in 1840. In 1842 other marriages were: Samuel Shields and Miss Mary Nicholas, William Wagner and Miss Sarah Nicholas, Charles W. Holman and Miss Delilah Burn, and Peter Bryant and Miss Lucy Nichols.

The first cemetery ground was donated by Prosper Nicholas in 1843, section 35. Richard A. Lee donated a lot for the same purpose.

The first school was a log cabin erected on the land of Solomon Nicholas, the teacher was Jeremiah Burns in 1842. The school was financed by the citizens of the community who had children. In 1846 the first Public school was erected. By 1879 there were eleven schools in the township with 455 pupils.

The first sawmill was erected in Sevastopol in 1848 or 1849 by Edwin G. Gordon. Several years later he added a Buhr Mill for grinding corn, also a flour mill and they were still in operation in year 1879.

The first tannery was started in 1842 by Benjamin Blue. It was the only one in Franklin Township and received its power from Yellow Creek. It operated 3 or 4 years.

In 1853 the first brick were made by David Hammon. He continued the kiln until his death. Then it was run by his son, Franklin Hammon.

In 1858 the Baptist Church was organized through the influence of Rev. Andrew Babcock. They held meetings in Sevastopol school until 1860. Then there was a church erected in Sevastopol (36 x40 feet) for \$900. By 1879 the church had about 100 members. In 1879 Rev. Peter Hummer was the pastor, and the church officers were Solomon Ernsberger, John D. Highway, and Elliott Manwaring, Trustee. John D. Highway and Elliott Manwaring, Deacons. In 1860 Sunday School was organized in connection with church. John I. Cox was Superintendent at that time.

Sevastopol was laid out in 1856 by George W. White, John Tucker and John Mollenhour who owned the land. Thomas and A. J. Whittenberger opened the first general store in town.

The Post Office was established in 1857. William Dunlap was appointed Postmaster and kept the office at his house, 1/2 mile west of town. In 1861 A. J. Whittenberger was appointed Postmaster and the Post Office was moved to his store in Sevastopol. Dr. A. M. Towl was the next Postmaster, then Dr. C. R. Grubbs. Several years later A. M. Towl was again Postmaster. Teh W. C. Riner.

The first Blacksmith shop in Sevastopol was established by Mr. McCowick in 1856. The first Physicians were Dr. C. R. Grubbs and Dr. A. M. Towl.

In 1879 the following businesses were in Sevastopol:

Dunlap and Burns	General Merchandise
H. C. Riner	Groceries
David L. Lewis	Hardware
C. E. Newhouse	Drug Store
Mott and Mollenhour	Undertakers and Furniture Dealers
Richard Doremire	Boot and shoe Manufacturer
R. J. Lambert and George Kern	Blacksmiths
T. M. Paschall and Philetus Leiter	Wagon Makers
Towl and Keesecker	Steam flouring mill
J. C. Cox and Bros.	Steam Saw Mill
Dr. H. B. Ernsberger and Dr. A. M. Towl	Resident Physicians.

Dr. A. M. Towl came from Palestine, to Sevastopol about the time it was laid out. He had a drug store on the northwest corner of the cross roads. For thirty years he was the leading physician of the community. He was postmaster for many years with the office in the drug store. He was agent of the Northern Indianan, a newspaper. At one time he was trustee of Franklin Township. In 1879 he was proprietor of a hotel by the name of Locust Grove. In those days the roads were very poor. Doctors went by buggy or horseback with saddle bags to carry their supplies. He was a person to make use

of newly developed medicines. His day was the time of much fever, ague and much rheumatism. They were partly due to the many mosquitoes which bred in the low swampy places not yet drained. Dr. Towl was born in Maine in 1819. He read about medicines in a doctors office in the state of New York and began his practice there. In 1852 he came to Palestine, Indiana, and four years later moved to Sevastopol. He was the father of seven children. In 1886 Dr. Towl died very suddenly, which was a great shock to the community.

Sevastopol prospered during the civil war times and until a time after the Nickle Plate Railroad was constructed in 1882 and the town of Mentone was laid out. At the time Sevastopol was at its peak, it had a population of 200. It was large enough that in September of 1863 a large meeting was held there to arouse the war spirit. It is recorded that 1000 people were there in attendance. There were speeches by J. J. Cooper, Govener "Billy" Williams and Captain Atkins. This is only one of many large meetings held in the town. There is also a record of a grand coalition party held there during the civil war days at \$1.50 per couple. Sevastopol was the home of several lodges and they held events which brought many visiting lodges.