

## The Beginning

In 1830, Andrew Jackson was the president of the United States; men's fashions were changing from the knee-length pants of George Washington's time to the long ones of today; and northern Indiana was inhabited by the Potawatomi and Miami Indian tribes. Several pioneer families told of Indians along Yellow Creek, <sup>and in</sup> ~~and~~ In 1834, when the men surveyed the land that later became Mentone, they noted an old trail, much used, approximately where South Franklin Street is now.

The treaty made in 1832 along the Tippecanoe River north of Rochester was one in a series that gave the white men large amounts of land in exchange for money, goods, and small tracts of land. The land was given to chiefs, those who attended missionary school, and people with special claims. In this treaty, Chop-y-tuck was granted 640 acres. Years later Harrison Center Church was built on the ~~land~~ he had owned. Miss No-qui, a student, was given two sections. One section was west of Chop-y-tuck's land, and another was along the Tippecanoe River. When she sold the land, she was described as a cheiftess living west of the Mississippi.

Bessiah received two sections near Hobart, Indiana, and two in Kosciusko County. Later the northwest part of Sevastopol was located on the land he had owned.

Anthony Nigo was born in Kosciusko County about 1805. When he was twenty-three, he joined the Catholic Church at Menominee's Village near Plymouth, and there he married a young lady who was part French and part Indian. Anthony's father was a Potawatomi

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and his mother was a Miami. According to their custom a man belongs to his mother's tribe, so he was not forced to leave with the Potawatomies. He was a respected citizen of Marshall County until his death.

Trimble Creek flows north from Palestine Lake and joins the Tippecanoe River just west of Crystal Lake. Topash and others of his family who lived along Trimble Creek probably used the Indian trail which ran roughly parallel to the creek, but on higher ground. A part of this trail is still visible on the Harold Fisher farm. (1996)

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president; women wore hoop skirts; and local residents <sup>enjoyed</sup> ~~were enjoying~~ a much higher standard of living than the pioneers of a generation before.

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Regular  
spelling

In the year 1880, James A. Garfield was elected president; women wore bustles; and there began to be talk of a railroad to be built through this territory. No doubt surveying had been done before this time, but the general public was not aware of what was going on. In a short time actual surveying and probable locations were the talk of the community. At one time the railroad was to come through Sevastapol, then another time about halfway between there and the present location. However, the present location was definitely decided, and work was begun.

At the time of the coming of the railroad, there were a number of small settlements near <sup>the present town of Mentone,</sup> Sevastapol on the south, Palestine on the east, Bloomingsburg on the west, Big Foot, southwest, and Tippecanoe Town on the river one mile north of the present Tippecanoe. Post offices were located various places. One mile east where Abe Whetstone lived was Oak Ridge.

One mile west, at the corner of State Road 25 and Kosciusko County Road 1200, where Harold Lucht (formerly Truman Long) lives was Yellow Creek. This was quite a little settlement, with a drugstore, a general store, a shoe repair shop, a blacksmith, two sawmills, three dwellings and a church.

Allen Blue's store was on the corner on the Truman Long place. Directly west across the road was ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the Methodist Protestant Church. A drugstore <sup>was</sup> operated by Dr. Chandler in a house now owned by Don Boyer (formerly Fred Swick). Mahlon Mentzer's father, Sam, had a sawmill on the ground east of Truman Long's place. William Hyers had a blacksmith shop just west of <sup>the</sup> Fred Swick house, and Mr. Garrison did shoe repairing in a little shop where Sarber's house is now. The post office,

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established in the 1870's, was in Allen Blue's store until Mentone was made a regular post office. The mail was carried from Warsaw to Palestine and from there to the small post offices at Oak Ridge, Sevastapol, Beaver Dam, and Yellow Creek.

This small village (Yellow Creek) uprooted itself in 1882, and moved to Mentone in order to be near the New York, Chicago, and St. Louis Railway. The inhabitants of Yellow Creek, more commonly known as Little Chicago, carted entire buildings including a ~~dry~~ <sup>g</sup> foods store which until recently housed a coin laundry.

Before the railroad, there was a schoolhouse and a church located at the ~~XXXXXX~~ present intersection of Roads 25 and 19. The school stood on the lot now occupied by the Pac-Rat Palace (formerly the American Legion Home). The church, known as the Lee's Chapel, was just west of the place where J & J Service Station (formerly Utters) now stands. With the building of the railroad, it was necessary to move the church to a new location. This was <sup>done</sup> by securing the land where the United Methodist Church now stands.

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"Mentone was platted in 1882, ---"