

History of Mentone
written by Carl Myers

Mentone Public Library



(one)
Mentone, Indiana

Along back in the Early Eighties, 1881 or 2
Hon Calvin S Bruce Senator of Ohio and his
associates - who had been consolidating a
number of rail Road in the middle west - in
Lake Erie ^{Louisville} ~~and~~ Bloomington
and western, Peoria & Western - making connect-
ing links and extensions + the Richmond
terminal combination in the East ~~as others~~
Suggested to the late George D Myers
of Findlay Ohio - that his associates had
in mind a Rail Road Cleveland to Chicago
over the old Continental grade which ran
through the north part of Hancock Co -
from Mansfield Ohio to Ft Wayne - that
the Chicago extension in Indiana would
run close to his Indiana land - the
preliminary survey showed it would be one
1/2 miles south of the land - then
over

Mr. Myers got interested and decided
to have a town close to farm -
He got interested W. M. E. Hockaday of
Lima Ohio a young attorney and Secretary
of Senator Bruce - they came out to look
over the prospect - they found South
of the farm one mile a crossroad store
of J. F. Johnson named Oak Ridge - and
west of that 2 1/2 miles the Saw Mill of Sam
Mentzer and store of Allen Blair - town
called Little Chicago ^P and in Drawing the
terrace decided to locate between the
two stores, at the present location of
Mentzer, they got in communication with
Albert Gucker and the three formed
a partnership to start a town -
having a nucleus of a school house
church and cemetery to start with
they purchased the farm of Mrs. ^{John} Morgan 80
acres ^{in 1882} and 20 acres off of the North End of
the Sam Lee farm and had the County
Surveyor ^{Robert} ~~make~~ ^{make} a plot - with
Broadway as the main ~~street~~ ^{business} street
This was done, and the

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Rail Road Company demanded the
 right of way in Franklin and Harrison
 townships and \$1500 - for depot Building
 Sillisters as I recollect got all the right of
 way but two pieces one in Franklin and
 one in Harrison Township and about a \$1000 -
 and Pucker Myers & Heckel raised the rest.
 (insert - 2011) about this time there was a lot of agitation
 to have the highway Warsaw to Rochester
 road the main street and Mr James Blue
 who has a ^{land} farm the town site on the west
 laid out some of his farm in lots
 and half of Little Chicago, Allen Blues store
 got on wheels and moved to this town
 locating ~~suburb~~ of the ~~street~~ from
 the stick yards - Oak Ridge came and
 located ^{across the street} ~~of a side~~ - ~~I am~~ ^{the Blue store} ~~located~~
~~Side of Methodist Church -~~ ~~located~~ ^{towards} moved east to the
~~Leop Latimer~~ ~~Says~~ Johnson was first store here -
~~born~~ East of town ² having been in business

in Kansas a few years. Came back
and located and built the first store
East of the RR tracks on Main St -
where the Farmers Bank is now located, also - (insert 2)
Forest Bros de W Lewis arrived on
the scene a little later - W W Reed of Reed City,
Michigan came about that time and built the Central
Hotel. George Jeffers put in a Planing Mill and Saw
Mill - later the Electric Light plant, Star heading mill
by Lesh & Matthews - other mills and factories built up the town to 1000
by 1890 =

This should be put in above at 201 -
The name ^{prol.} at a meeting of the Packer & H a name
for this location was discussed and an effort to
link the three initials or part of each name was made
and a particular name. Packer town or something like
was finally agreed on, but was turned down by the Post
office department - as ^{there was} a similar name was in Indiana -
In the discussion Mrs George W Myers - suggested as
the Queen Victoria of England had just sailed to
the Mediterranean to Mentone France, a popular Resort -
why not use that name - It was adopted - while now
almost every State has a town by that name - Each letter
pronounced in full - while the French - Say Men, it ten a



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a brick yard East of town at Stoops Mill furnished bricks at that time -

(2) A. Manwaring also later built the Mentone Egg Case Co. The Grist Mill - ¹⁸⁸⁴ the first roller mill in the part of the State also ^{located at Stoops Bank and the first} John and Tom Gaber of Argos started the first ^{Bank} store - John and Richard ^{Christ and Dore} started the grain buying ^{in the old church =} Tucker built the Elevator - David Milling has started the first Saw Mill - on the Morgan land and his Son Charles was first child born in town - Ed. Ralback opened first Furniture store and butcher Hoane & Clayton had first hardware store John Cox built a mill - second last by fire later Sullivan Eckert moved from Ohio on the Kent Road and was first paid freight at this place

Henry Damon was first Butcher Doctors arrived in this order Chandler Sargay Hefley Stockbarger Robinson ^{Swigert} Yocum Morehouse Kaseba Bennett Clutter Taylor - Courthouse

The first telephone line was at Mentone to the Yocum's office was constructed 1890 or about then 100 Yocum has the original in use in his office & about 45 years

Earlie Myers brought in the first owned automobile a one cylinder 4 passenger Cadillac - no top or windshield rear entrance to rear seats - it would go some 15 M.P.H.

In the 1850 a log ¹⁰
the East Side of Franklin St a ^{block}
of that RR in 1865 the church was a frame
structure ^{slide} ^{at the time} of the junction of Franklin
Street and Warsaw Rochester road - on the
East Side, so close when the RR came
along it had to be moved short way South
afterwards used as a grain shipping bin
and in short time burned down the church
had been reorganized and built on main St
at present site about 1885 New Church 1891

The decision after the war caused for
of the congregation to organize the Pres. to
Methodist Church which created a build
at Mill Chicago west of town ^{2 miles}
this was moved to Franklin Street on West
Clemmer lot about 1889 - and abandoned
members joined with the M.E. Church -

Baptist Church moved here from Sun
in 1886 - New Church built 1916 -
Church of Christ built 1893 -