

HISTORY of HARRISON TOWNSHIP

Building villages along the Tippecanoe River approximately 1750, were the Miami Indians being the first people to live in Kosciusko County, Indiana.

Between 1765 - 1795 some Pottawatomi Indians came to this County. By the late 1700's the Pottawatomies were a stonger band of Indians than the Miamis. So the Kosciusko County Pottawatomies seized the Miami Indian villages that were located along the Tippecanoe River.

Deer, turkey, quail and ducks, also large numbers of wolves inhabited the county between 1750 and 1832 Tamarack, Burr Oak, Beech, Walnut and Willow trees and Hazelnuts, Paw-paw, Elder Berry and Huckleberry bushes were found in two-thirds of the county, also Sassafras, Dogwood.

The first white farming Settlement was established in 1832, there were 500 Miamis and Pottawatomies Indians. Pottawatomies were Catholic and Miamis subscribed to their own Indian religion with their leaders being between 52 to 67 years old.

By 1832 one-tenth as many Indians were living here as were in 1700. Many falling victims to alcoholism, tuberculosis and venereal diseases. Tuberculosis was real common in 1835 - 1837. Some of these diseases were brought in by the white settlers.

More white Settlers came to the County as the Indians were leaving by force. White bootleggers supplied Indians with booze to give them, while the Government men under President Martin Van Buren spurred the Indians to sign a treaty to give up their land.

Stashing the Indians on reservations did not work. The Indians, in order to survive began to steal when the reservation were too small to supply enough game which they hunted for food.

Some of the whites that wanted to stake their claim for some free land in Kosciusko County waited on the Elkhart - Kosciusko County border, near the eastern end of Goshen waiting for signing of the treaty in 1832. After the treaty was signed the pioneers has less fear of them. The settlers made it clear to the Indians that the land was made for them and not for the Indians. There were around 500 Indians in the County.

Of the eleven Indian Tribes in the County, the early Settlers knew eight Cheifs. Two Cheifs being Miamis, which were more friendly and peaceful people, while six Chieftains are Pottowatomis being more powerful.

The land was purchased from the Potawatomi Indians by the U. S. Governmment in 1832. It was named in honor of Thoddeus Kosciusko, a Polish patriot, Aide - de - Camp to General Washington. Kosciusko County was organized in 1836 and divided into townships in June of that year.

Harrison township was organized March 8, 1838, and had three Pottawatomi tribes living there. Cheif Mota ruled four section of land about one mile east of Atwood and south on the banks of the Tippecanoe River. Mota face was disfigured after he lost part of his nose. On December 1, 1834, Mota and his band of Indians left their tiny reservation - homeland and promised to move west of the Mississippi after the Government paid them a total \$600 @ \$1.00 to \$1.25 a acre. The Government contracted Fur Traders to escort small groups of around 50 persons at a time to new Kansas reservation. Some of the Indians became home sick and returend to the County. So, in 1840, General Brady and his troop took them back to Kansas by way of land on horses.

A long Trimble Creek in Harrison Township lived an Pottawatomi Indian Chief names Topash and his two sons. Dominique and Joanita. After being expelled from the county in 1848, Tapash and his sons with about 100 others went to Michigan. Topash was an old man when he had to leave his home. One of Topashes sons stoled a horse and was later sent to Michigan City State Prison. Very little was known about Topash.

Another band of Indians that had lived in Harrison Township was Govern-

ed by Chief Checkawkose. He lived in a red brick house two miles north of Mentone, Indiana, now own by Mr. and Mrs. Everett Besson. The Indians own land between Mentone and north to the Tippecanoe River and east and west of the Kosciusko and Marshall County line.

Indian relics have been found all over Kosciusko County. Most of the e early settlers hated the Indians so bad that they tore down their brick houses and drestoyed the bark covered wigwams. They didn't want to hear the sound or even smell the smell of an Indian.

The Hill that encircles and supports the town of Atwood was a Indian Campsite. An Indian burial gownd was located along Tumble Creek. Harrison Township was organized March 8, 1838 just about two years after the Kosciusko County was diveded into townships. The Tippecanoe River bordering on the north side the Tumble Creek runs through the Township. It also has two beauti- iful bodies of water. Palestine Pond near the town of Palestine which is now called Palestine Lake, while Woodden's Lake (Section 7) became Crystal Lake It was first name after James Wooden.

The first Settlers were James Wooden and Andrew Sell. They came from Preble County, Ohio in the spring of 1834 and located on a track of land just south of Wooden Lake in (Sectio 18) lattler clearing ground and erect- ing cabins for the shelter of their familæes in (Section 19) near the pres- ent location of the Harrison Center United Brethren Church. This Church was built in September 1878 with a schoolhouse across the road to the east of the church.

The first Cemetery was laid on a lot for the purpose of a burying grow- nd after the first death, which was the child of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sell and buried on the Sell's farm. So Andrew Sell donated that portion of his farm land known as Harrison Center Cemetery.

SEVASTOPOL

The Village of Sevastopol was laid out in 1856 by George W. White, John Tucker and John Mollenhour.

Thomas and A. J. Whittenberger opened the first stock of merchandise in the Village.

The Post Office was established in 1857 and William Dunlap was Postmaster. In 1861 A. J. Whittenberger became Postmaster and office was in his store.

Later Postmasters were Dr. A. M. Towl, then Dr. C. R. Grubbs and H. C. Riner.

The first Blacksmith Shop was established in 1856 by a Mr. McCowick.

The first Physicians were Dr. C.R.Grubbs and Dr. A. M. Towl.

Business interests; Dunlap and Burns, General Merchandise; H. C. Riner, Groceries; C. E. Newhouse, Drugs; Matt & 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. I. Cox & Brothers, Steam Sawmill;

The first White child born in Franklin Township was James, son of Benjamin Blue in 1839.

In 1843 Prosper Nichols gave a track of land for a Cemetery.

The first Post Office in Franklin Township established in 1884 in the home of Samuel Rickle at Beaver Dam, Indiana, Kosciusko County.