

REMINISCENCES OF A PIONEER HOOSIER SETTLEMENT IN CENTRAL INDIANA BY THOMAS NEWBY (1916)

"This little pamphlet contains incidents of pioneer life, which I have written from memory, and I trust may be of interest to the reader" Respectfully,
Thomas T. Newby Carthage, Indiana, 1916

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Tharp's Barn

The farm on which this barn was built by Andrew Tharp was bought by my father, Henry Newby, in 1833. It was built probably about 1829, as I have seen that date on a log inside in red keal(?).

It is forty feet long, and twenty feet wide, outside measurement, and about thirty feet high to the ridge pole. A partition was built in the middle to the top, and 20-foot logs were dove-tailed spliced on this wall to make the long sides. However the middle partition is the stable and passway wall up

about eight feet, then the joists over the stable and passway extend two and half feet, then the joists over the stable and passway extend two and one-half feet over the treading floor to the middle of the building, which is then built to the top like

the ends. This gives more space for the treading floor or general purpose room. The logs were selected from the best and straightest, easy-working timber, such as Poplar, Blue Ash, Red elm and a few Sugar trees, etc.

twelve inches to eighteen

inches in diameter, and not twenty feet long. Two sides of them were lined and hewn to make a perpendicular wall seven inches thick. Experts cut the saddles, and notches to fit at the corners, and made the dove-tailed splices as the heavy timbers were put up; and thus the barn was built from the foundation to the top. A partition of logs across one end inside made a corn crib four and one-half feet wide, nearly eighteen feet long, eight or nine feet high.

The roof had shingles made of Blue Ash or Poplar timber of suitable sized blocks eighteen inches long. The blocks were rove upon in rough boards with mallet and frow, and then dressed into "shingle shape" by hand with a drawing knife on a rude "shaving horse," that held them firmly, while being "shaved" or dressed. A slow process, but they would out-last many times the "cut" or sawed shingles of to-day. A common phrase in those days was "Why my friends it is as nice as Tharp's barn."

Clearing Land

In my youth much valuable timber was burned or allowed to rot, for the people needed the ground on which to grow corn, etc. and the easiest and quickest way to clear it off was to "deaden" the trees, and in two or three years burn them. I have helped to roll together and burn fine Poplar and Oak trees, which if on the ground now would be of more value than the land.

Many "log rollings" were had usually in early spring at which thirty or forty men - neighbors, would be engaged sometimes two or more days on the same farm. The logs were chopped or burned into convenient lengths for handling during the

winter. Each man took his own good "hand spike"

a seasoned hickory, iron-wood or dog-wood, that he always kept on hand for that purpose. Many tests of strength were had on these occasions in lifting and carrying the logs to the "heaps."

A good yoke of oxen was often used to drag up the heaviest logs - many farmers used oxen to plow, and to do other farm work. No one thought of asking or receiving pay for his work but expected "hands" (neighbors) to help at his "log-rollings". A good wholesome dinner was always served by

the women at the farm house. Often a man would help his neighbor every day, and burn his own "log heaps" at night.

This wholesome clearing of timber of the land had a wonderful effect on the whole country. In dry season comparatively good crops were raised. In wet seasons not so good on account of the large territory of swamp land, also of very wet seasons

there was so much swampy land covered with decaying vegetable matter that in the autumn it was one field of malaria or "fever an' aigger" as it was called.

I knew it so prevalent that not a family in the neighborhood was exempt, and once when there was scarcely an individual for miles around but was affected with it. It was in several forms, but the prevailing one was a chill in the morning with

fever in the evening, every other day: another the "Shaking Ague" when the person's teeth would rattle and body shake for an hour or more, and followed by a high fever, in some cases this would be every third day: with "Dumb Ague" there was

no perceptible chill, but much fever. While this sickness was rarely fatal it was often very serious, and quinine was the universal remedy, but many kinds of home made bitter teas were used - such as dog-wood, cherry-bark, wild snake-root, bone set, etc.

The winters after so much timber was cut were more variable than before. The greatest extreme in temperature I ever observed was January 1, 1864. The date has been in dispute, but I was teaching school at "Macedonia" at the time, and have a record of it. The evening before, the temperature was 50 degrees, and raining. The wind suddenly changed, coming from the northwest in blizzard style with snow, and early the next morning my thermometer registered 20 degrees below zero – a change of 70 degrees in a little more than twelve hours. Eleven children out of forty came to school that day, two boys each had their right ears (to the windward) frozen, and their sister, whose ears were protected had a white, frozen spot in her cheek, and they walked only a half a mile. Many people were frozen, especially soldiers of the Civil War in this and other states, as the blizzard was very extensive. Samuel Addison, the hack-driver and mail carrier from Knightstown by way of Carthage to Arlington took pneumonia and died. There was much suffering in city and country. Many birds, especially quails, were frozen; and peach trees killed to the ground.

Then came the ditching period. A few farmers put in timber ditches - a rail was placed on each side of the bottom of the ditch, and short pieces of good oak timber placed across them, then covered with dirt. They did not last long, but good tile was

soon plentiful, and much used, and most of the swamp land was drained and then the best crops ever known were produced. With the ditching "ague and fever" was almost annihilated. But there were such vast quantities of water carried from the ponds, and swamp lands in comparatively so short a time, that floods in the large rivers were increased. Many fine springs that had been "never failing" were made "wet weather" springs, and many of them now afford an uncertain quantity of water; this is mainly because the ponds and swamps, that use to feed them the year round are completely drained of all surface water in a few hours, but of course the greater evaporation of moisture since the timber was removed must be considered.

Keeping Fire

It was the custom with everybody in early times to keep fire, usually in the kitchen fire-place during the summer, from the getting of one meal to the next by partly covering a burning chunk or some live coals with ashes. There were no matches with which to start a fire, and it was rather difficult with a flint lock rifle. I remember once, one of our neighbor's fire burned out,, and they sent some of the children to our house to "borrow fire" to start with again. It was a very rare thing for a country home to have no fire.

The first matches I ever saw was sometime before 1847. My sister Melly had been on horseback to Knightstown trading, and she bought a very small box (perhaps one dozen) sulfur matches. She gave them to brother Henry and me, and we took them away from the house, and enjoyed them to the full extent by burning every one. The first cook stove my father had was a "Wolf." A very heavy stove made in Cincinnati – it had a very large fire-box, that would take in twofoot stove wood.

Candles, Etc.

I assisted my mother, Sarah Newby, once, in making some "dip-candles." I procured some nice "Golden Rod" sticks about two feet long, and we prepared the wicks by doubling and slightly twisting the cotton, and made them about six inches long and much larger than the wicks of present day candles. Eight or ten wicks were strung on each of the Golden Rod sticks by their loops. In a large deep, iron kettle we had a lot of tallow, with some bees-wax in it to make the candles more firm – this was kept melted, but not too hot while the dipping was being done, or the partly made candles would be melted. No thermometer was at hand to test the temperature. A "stick" of wicks was dipped again and also the others; at each dipping a thin coat of the mixture would stick to and remain on the candles, and the

dipping was continued until they were of suitable size for use, probably a little over one-half inch in diameter. This special dipping furnished sixty or eighty candles for home use, enough for quite a while as candles were used in those days. Then came the three-candle tin molds, later the six and twelve. Candles were used in the heavy iron, and brass "candle sticks" and also in the tin lanterns.

Someone invented a "candle -snuffer," not to put the light out with, but to clip off the charred end of the big wicks and cause them to give a better light. They were made on the principle of a pair of scissors with a small box fastened on one of the blades to catch the clipped-off candle snuff. A point on the end of them was made to open the wick and cause a better light. snuffers were made of iron or brass, and every family had one or more of them. Our first pair was of wrought-iron, hand-made and is still preserved. The tin lanterns were about five and one half inches in diameter and twelve inches high including a cone-shaped top to which was fastened a tin ring handle. A hinged door was made in one side of the lantern and a tin socket in the center of the bottom of the lantern for the candle. The body of the lantern had many perforations, some of ornamental design to permit the rays of light to pass through and illuminate a road or objects as desired and could be canied about barns and other buildings with safety.

A small, iron grease lamp was used. It was a round, flat cup one inch deep, 2 or 2 inches across and connected on a level with this was a two inch extension one inch wide and one inch deep in which to place a wick. The top was covered, one-half of the lid on the circular part and that nearly over all the wick part being hinged so as to be easily refilled with grease and wicks replaced. Opposite the wick part a hand of thin three-fourths inch iron, six inches, long was fastened firmly, straight up from the bottom - the top end had a small hole in it in which a piece of wire or a nail was fastened that could be stuck in a hole or crack in the log cabin wall. This little lamp was cheap and, serviceable, and handy to carry around.

A cold-lard lamp was patented by Stonsefer, August 8, 1854. It consisted of a tin, pan-like base six and one-half inches in diameter on the center of which was soldered a tin cylinder two and one-fourth inches in diameter and four and one-fourth inches high. A screw one-forth inch in diameter and five inches long with a coarse spiral thread was fastened firmly to the base in the center of the cylinder by a swivel. A follower with leather washer that fit snugly in the cylinder and screw tap in the center of it to fit the screw thread. A tin cover for the top of the cylinder with hole in the center for end of screw which was square, and had a cast-iron thumb piece to turn the screw to move the follower up or down in the cylinder. A three-fourths inch opening was made in the cylinder at the base where a tin tube two and one-half inches long and one-half inches higher than the cylinder

and 1x2 inches at the top was soldered; a cap with an air hole in it was soldered on which was cut a slot 1 x 1 1/2 inch, and a piece of tin twelve inches long was doubled in the center to hold the wick and put to nearly the bottom of the tube. The tin wick-holder was one-eighth inch higher than the tube. To the side of the cylinder opposite of the tube a tin handle was soldered which completed the lamp. To use it a wick was put in place and the follower in the cylinder was removed and clean lard put in the cylinder, the follower replaced, and the lard forced up in the wick tube with the thumb piece on the screw and kept the right height. Many persons could read, study or sew by it as it gave a light equal to the first coal oil lamps, but it took more care keep it in order. Jabez H. Newsom was agent of whom father bought ours. Then came the coal oil of which at first many small bottles were sold as "Rock Oil from Canada" at twenty-five cents each as a liniment to relieve pains and afflictions in man and beast. George E. Hunnicutt, a school teacher and farmer west of Walnut Ridge, was the first that I knew of using a coal-oil lamp.

Fruit

Peaches were very abundant in early times – all were white seedlings, some of very fine quality, especially the Free-stones -- I know of none now so sweet and good. There was no market for them. Sufficient was dried for home use, and there was some demand for them, but nothing was known of the canning business. Often many bushels of peaches were fed to hogs or allowed to rot on the ground.

Apples were not so plentiful, mostly seedlings of inferior quality and no market for even the best. I have sold fine Summer Queens at 10 cents per bushel, and drove all over town to dispose of a few bushels. Generally grafted varieties were Vandevere Pippin, R. I. Greening, Yellow Bellflower, Rambo, Never Fail, American Golden Russet, Pennock, Winesap and "Roman Stem. Vandevere Pippin was the leading variety all over Indiana and a favorite for "Apple Dumplings."

There was an orchard of seventy or eighty bearing trees on the farm when father bought it. All were seedlings except about a dozen trees. The seedlings were mostly sour and of poor quality and were made into cider and vinegar, or fed to stock. Sweet apple cider was boiled three barrels to one or less, and thickened with other apples, making "apple butter," A very satisfactory change to go with "corn dodgers: and bacon. Apples were dried and there was some market for them. Not much effort was made "to keep" apples for winter use - a few people had cellars and others kept them in "hills" like some keep potatoes. Wormy apples were unknown - no coddling moths then; for all that was necessary was to plant the trees, protect from stock and gather the fruit. My father could graft, so "worked over" some of

the seedlings; as he did, not knowing how to make "grafting wax," he used the ball of prepared clay, and wrapped it with cloth and tied it on. Some "Yankee grafters" came along one spring and father employed them to graft a few trees. They used "grafting wax," and most of the grafts grew, and bore fruit; several of the grafts proved to be pears and bore several times of rather large size and of fairly good quality, but the union of the graft with the apple tree was not perfect and they died and the apples proved worthless. The first pear I ever ate grew on an apple tree.

There were a few Damson plums, many wild ones of little value and some cherries of sour varieties. There were wild Blackberries and Raspberries a few cultivated Currants and Gooseberries, wild Strawberries almost worthless, they were so small.

Elias Henley brought a wild Grape from N.C. when he came - it was moderately good for pies and was distributed. Our native wild grapes were small and worthless, but the vines often grew very large on "bottom lands." I have seen them twelve inches in diameter, and held at least half that size up fifty or sixty feet where they branched off on the tops of several close by trees, eighty to one hundred feet high, and thus held the long, heavy vine nearly perpendicular. Mary Phelps (wife of Jonathan Phelps, sister of Thomas W. Henley), had the only "tame grape" here then, a variety called Isabella, which we have yet.

Cider Mills and Cider Making.

(The measurements are approximately correct as I give them from memory.) When we lived on the brow of the hill I can just remember seeing near our house, a number of logs and poles, for a cider press, probably made by Tharp before father bought the farm. It was a kind of lever press. The apples were pounded or crushed with a wooden pestle or maul, and the cider pressed out in some way with those logs. Some years later my father made a large cider mill and press. The mill had wooden rollers about twelve inches in diameter and eighteen inches long, with large, wooden journals on each end, and one journal was three feet longer than the other and made square several inches down from the end. The rollers had large grooves cut in them exactly alike, and they fitted into each other like big cog-wheels. They were placed on a stout frame five or six feet high, with the journals fastened firmly in the frame so that the cogs of the rollers would work snugly in each other, and were perpendicular, with the long journal up. The short, journal roller was adjusted with wooden wedges so it could be kept the desired closeness to the other. A crooked pole of suitable shape and length was found to make the so called "sweep" to pass

over a man's head, when working about the mill, and the small end of which came near enough the ground to which to hitch a horse. A square hole was made at the center of gravity of the "sweep" to fit on the square end of the long roller, and was placed and fastened in this position. A light pole of proper length was fastened to the "sweep" to which to tie the horse's bridle, so he could walk in a circle around the mill.

A "hopper" to put apples in was fitted to and fastened on the front part of the mill, so they fell into the cogs of the rollers as they turned around. A five or six barrel poplar trough was placed under the rollers to catch the pumice and cider. A two foot oak post ten feet long with an 8x10 inch mortise at the ground was set firmly, and a good piece of split oak eight feet long extending equally each side of the post was fitted in this mortise. Another mortise 4x 18 inches four feet higher up was made in the post for the tenant of the big beam or lever to work in. Four heavy oak timbers were placed on each of each on the split oak cross-piece on the post, and the other ends on the ground extending in the direction the "beam" was to be, and then on these four or five other good sawed timbers were placed, and then a good six foot square platform of sawed poplar made of two wide four inch boards fitted together.

A circular, concave groove three inches wide and about two inches deep was made in the platform all around near the edge, with an opening and tin spout on one side to run the cider into a tub. A Hickory Elm "beam" thirty feet long and two feet in diameter had a on it to fit closely in the 4x18 inch mortise in the post. Father made a Black Gum, wooden screw, the first ever made here, for the other end of the "beam." It was twelve feet long and six inches in diameter, eight feet of which had an inch thread cut on it. A large perpendicular hole was made near the end of the "beam," and the large, wooden bur or tap for the screw was fastened there. The screw, which had an iron point that fitted in a hole in a stone on the ground was set up with the upper end in the wooden bur, which was fastened to the underside of the "beam," so the screw could pass through the hole in the "beam," and the iron point in place on the rock. Two 3x4 inch mortises were cut at right angles to each other in the screw three feet from the ground, and two twelve foot levers were put half-way through, making four arms with which to turn the screw to raise or lower the "beam." Boards were put on these arms so that stone might be put close around the screw to add more weight if desired. Two heavy guide posts were fixed firmly on each side of the "beam" so it could not fall; and the "beam" raised to the top of the screw. After the apples had been ground a four foot square hoop made of boards 1x6 inches was placed on the platform inside of the groove. Then some clean, wheat straw, which had been prepared previously for the cider press by holding the heads of some bound bundles of wheat in a

threshing machine until the wheat was thrashed out, then pulling them back, was dampened and placed thickly on the hoop, so that one-half of the length of the straw was inside the hoop and the other half left out. The hoop was then filled with pomace and the outer end ends of the straw bent over the center, and a little pomace put on them to hold them in place. The hoop was raised up, and two sticks of 18 suitable length were placed on the he edges on opposite sides of this first "cheese" to hold up the hoop so as to make another "cheese" in the same manner as the first, and continued until all the pomace in the trough was on the press, sometimes five or six "cheeses." Wide, thick boards were put on the pile of "cheeses" and heavy square timbers of suitable length to reach across them, and a heavier block on these until built up to the "beam" and the screw was turned to let the weight on. This arrangement pressed the pomace comparatively dry, but not as completely as the hydraulic press now used. An improvement was soon made by using clean coffee sacks instead of straw to form the "cheeses." On hot days bees and yellow jackets were a terror to the cider maker for they swarmed about the press to get the cider. As many young orchards came into bearing, and there being no other cider mill and press near, much cider was made here. Each customer did practically all the work, and paid father ten cents per barrel for the use of the mill and press. It was slow process and the most I remember being made in one day was ten barrels by Dayton Holloway's boys and help. In those days everybody drank sweet cider, and some drank "hard cider." It was the only source of good vinegar, and much "apple-butter" and some "pumpkin apple-butter" was made; brass and copper kettles were used to boil the cider, and make it in, as iron kettles made it very dark. In course of time father's cider mill and press rotted down, and were not rebuilt, but there were others built in the neighborhood. Samuel Stinger one mile east of Carthage had a good one. The mill was a great improvement over father's. It was a small wooden cylinder filled with spikes somewhat after the plan of an old "chaff piler" thresher without the concave teeth. The cylinder had a pulley for a belt, and was run by a light threshing machine horse-power with leather belt to the pulley. The apples were fed in a hopper on the top of the cylinder, which run at high speed, and with its spikes cut the apples into very fine pomace, and the cider was more easily pressed out. Stinger's press was practically the same as father's. The "sawed stuff" referred to in this article was sawed on a "water-power sash saw-mill" at Carthage.

Spiceland Quarterly Meeting of Friends

It used to be held alternately at Spiceland in Henry County, and Walnut Ridge in Rush county, In the third and ninth months at Spiceland, and

twelfth and sixth months at Walnut Ridge. The hospitality of the Friends on these occasions was very noted, and at time most remarkable, particularly so if the weather was fine at the time in sixth and ninth months. There were only a few riding carriages, so most of the young Friends, of the Carthage Friends Meeting in the 1850s and some of the older ones would go on horse-back. We might expect a big crowd at sixth month Quarterly here at Walnut Ridge, and then we would return the compliment so to speak in the ninth month at Spiceland.

The custom was to go to Quarterly Meeting seventh day morning and return first day evening, and in the meantime receive free entertainment somewhere, which was often left to the entertained on whom he or they should call, though invitations were freely extended and all were welcome that could be accommodated. Sometimes the house floor was almost covered with "pallets" for the night lodgers. I remember one such occasion when forty persons came to father's for the seventh day night lodging; a large number stayed, but several went to other places. There were no butcher shops back then where fresh meats might be obtained, so farmers and many others would often dress a pig or a mutton for the occasion, and chickens and turkeys were always on the bill of fare. These occasions were means of cementing the Society together, as well as extending individual acquaintances and in cultivating the Friends principles and doctrine by the Preachers always in attendance. It also showed the earnest attachment to Friends' principles, and they would endure hardships to attend distant meetings not to be thought of now, by even women riding horse-back to the Spiceland Quarterly Meetings and even to the Yearly Meeting at Richmond from here.

All preachers then had some occupation on which to depend for a living. I used to often see and hear the following Quaker preachers at our Quarterly Meetings and other meetings as well as many of them in family visiting: Jeremiah Hubbard of Richmond, Indiana. His son Richard Hubbard of Raysville, Indiana and his son Charles S. Hubbard, school teacher and merchant of Raysville, Indiana. Jeremiah Hubbard had a scientific turn and made wheel barometers - John Clark owned one. Daniel Williams of near Centerville, Indiana, loved flowers: grew "Johnny-jumpups" (pansies) and had a park with deer and peafowl's in it. He looked through my father's book-shelf once, and he was looking for a novel (not to read but to see if one were there.) Novels were under the Quaker ban in that day. Calvin Wasson, farmer of near Plainfield, Indiana, made droll comparisons in his preaching, that would always clinch his remarks. Eleazer Bales of Plainfield, Indiana a very lovable preacher. William Haughton of Raysville, Indiana was a notable school teacher in the Knightstown high school many years. Asenath H. Clark of North Carolina, and later of Westfield, Indiana.

Her son Nathan H. Clark, of N.C. a farmer. Nathan and Abigail Hoag, VT, died at Daniel Clark's and were buried at Carthage, William G. Johnson, North Carolina. Anna Hobbs, Spiceland, Indiana. Anna Jane Porch, Spiceland, Indiana. Amos Kenworthy, Spiceland, Indiana. Anna Thornburg of Walnut Ridge made two ministerial trips in a two-horse carriage to North Carolina and several carriage trips in winter time in Indiana and Ohio. I remember the occasion, but not the date of Anna Thornburg and her mother Hannah Willis, being at father's one winter, and of Hannah telling of times in North Carolina before the battle of Guilford Court House of the Revolutionary War. she as a young girl and with a sister had been permitted to pass through the British lines to attend the regular Friends' meeting at New Garden. On returning, a nice, new "bandana" silk handkerchief was seen lying on the road, her sister picked it up. "Now suppose that has smallpox in it" remarked Hannah - it was thrown down, but in due time they took the smallpox. Their father had it severely. When at his worst, just before the battle, a British officer rode up to the house and demanded a "bed cord" to make "halters" for their horses. Hearing him their father said "open the door," I'll give him a bed cord," as he appeared in view, broken out with smallpox, the officer (uttering oaths) laid whip to his horse, and was not seen again. Mahlon Hockett, farmer, N.C. and later of Pleasant View, three miles northwest of Carthage. Sarah Jane fill of N.C. later of Carthage, Indiana. Jared Patterson, farmer of Walnut Ridge. William Binford, farmer, near Carthage. David Marshall, teacher at Friends' Boarding School , NC. later a dentist and silversmith at Carthage, Indiana. Keturah Miles, Carthage, Indiana. Francis W. Thomas, farmer, near Dublin, Indiana. Henry C. Aydelott, lived in Carthage many years, present address Fall River, Mass. Caleb Johnson, merchant Spiceland, Indiana. Daniel Clark, Carthage, Indiana. Jared P. Binford, farmer, Carthage, Indiana. Hezekiah Clark, Carthage, Indiana. Rhoda M. Hare, Whittier, California. Mary N. Henley, Carthage, Indiana. Edward C. Young, Carthage, Indiana. Numerous other Quaker preachers called at Carthage as they were moved by the spirit or the way opened for service.

(A personal note here. A large number of Quakers migrated from Guilford N.C. and the New Garden Meeting and settled around Knightstown and near-by communities. The Knights were among them.)

Schools

The first school I attended was at the Friends' frame school house on the Abraham Small farm, about eighty rods south of the dwelling house, and less than one-half mile east of our house. George Gipson (N.C.) Jabez Henley (N.C.) George E. Hunnicutt, William Johnson (Va.) Joseph W. Young and others taught many terms there. It was a subscription school as were

all of the Friends' schools then. Other children not Friends, also colored children were allowed to attend by complying with the rules, and paying equal share of tuition, etc. - there being no other school near, the privilege was gladly accepted by many. One rule was to attend Friends' "Mid-week meetings" at Carthage on fifth days at 11 a.m. Scholars were arranged in twos according to their height, and walked to the meeting house, the teacher bringing up the rear. It was rather irksome of hot days, but was often done. In time there were many more children in and around Carthage, than were near the school house on the hill. So it was decided to move the school house to town, which was done, when the ground was frozen and covered with snow. A straight heavy pole a little longer than house was fastened to the sills on each side of the house, and the north end of each one was beveled like a sled runner. Then with twelve yoke of oxen, six on each side, the house was pulled north on these "skids" (poles) to the top of the hill, where men with "hand spikes" managed to slide it down to level ground, where the oxen were hitched on again, and pulled it through fields and woodland to near where Murray Moore's brick house now stands. It required two days to move and place it. This same old school house was later moved uptown, and is now occupied by Eva Johnson's millinery store. A larger frame school house was built on the lot from which the old one was moved, where I and many young Friends about the same age completed our education.

Some of the teachers had attended Friends' Boarding School (Earlham College) and brought with them new ideas and methods much to the betterment and improvement of our school. Among others Evan Lewis Johnson made quite a change in "training the young idea how to shoot." Hiram Hadley from Ohio, now of Mesilla Park, New Mexico, by his energy accomplished much, and won the esteem of all. He introduced Stoddard's Mental Arithmetic, which was superior to any then in use. The frame building was superseded by a brick school house now Murray Moore's residence. Later the Friends' school lost its identity, being merged with the Carthage Graded Schools.

The "three R's - Reading, Riting and Rithmetic" was about the limit for a complete education, though some branched off into the so called "Dead Languages" etc. The McGuffey's series of readers was used in practically all subscription and public (State) schools; and the sterling moral worthy of the sentiments and lessons to be gained from nearly all the articles in them were of a very ennobling and elevating nature, and their influence for the good and betterment of mankind cannot be estimated and it will go on and on through the generations to come. Good spelling was expected, the old "elementary spelling book" was known "by heart" and "spelling bees" were common. Good penmanship was a greatly desired accomplishment. Goose

quill pens were used, and the teacher was expected to make and mend pens for the scholars, and also teach them how. School was to be eight hours five days of the week, and no holidays, and the custom was for all to walk to school. On the school house grounds were many large trees, Sugar, Beech, etc., and the boys had to cut and split there into stove wood to burn in the stoves of the school house, and had to be their own janitors - the larger boys usually taking it to turns, a week at a time.

About eight years ago near the school house on the Small farm, Nathan Small felled a large Poplar tree for a raccoon, since then a walnut by some means got inside the poplar stump, and it grew to be a tree by 1906 more than fifty feet high and eight and one-half feet in circumference just about the top of the stump, which was burst asunder, one cleft on the west being twelve inches, another to the east six inches wide; the stump with all the bark and sapwood decayed measured thirteen feet in circumference two and one-half feet from the ground. In 1908, the present owner of the farm, John V. Beason sold the walnut tree. The large, hollow, popular log was used by George E. Hunnicutt as a prison for unruly boys - one boy saw a black snake crawl out, and afterwards it was a terror to the scholars. Two or three rods from the school house was a never-failing spring, that furnished water for the school.

Aunt Judith Henley, uncle Elias Henley's second wife, used to teach a small school for girls in the second story of a spring-house nearly opposite the late T. Benton Henley residence. I can just remember of some of my sisters attending her school. When the house was taken down a few years ago, several "quill pens" were found in the walls.

The Latch String

The universal custom in early times was to have a large, wooden latch to the house door on the inside, and made so strong and secure it was impossible to open it from the outside, except by the stout string, that passed through a hole to the outside by which the latch was easily raised and the door opened. Of nights and for enemies this "latch string" was always pulled inside, and there was positively no admittance. Among the Quakers the proverbial "latch string" was always out.

Colored Pioneers

Quite a number of colored people came to Carthage and vicinity in early times, mostly from slave states and principally from N.C. and Va. They generally came with white people and were "free born" or had been "set free," but they had a hard time there having to compete with slave labor,

and were in dread of slavery as some of their people had been "kidnapped" and sold to work in the cotton fields "away down south" and never returned.

Here in a new country they had better opportunities to accumulate property, and secure homes of their own. They paid taxes here, but were not allowed to vote or send their children to the public schools. They had a school of their own in the "Beech" (Settlement) northwest of Carthage, Where several children of the Jeffries, Watkins, Browns and other families got a rude start in education. Wright Jeffries, a very ambitious young colored man was a leader and teacher for them. A log school house was built by some colored people and their friends on the southwest part of Joseph W. Young's farm on the "Beech Grove Road" now the "Arlington Pike," and Joseph W. Young taught school for the colored children there for a number of years without much remuneration, and afterwards it was taught by Hezkiah Clark and also John Street, a young Friend, for a few years. At the Friends' subscription school at Carthage, where my education was obtained there were not many terms but that there were some and often several colored children in attendance. The tuition when not paid by the parents was by benevolent persons. So in that early day seventy or more years ago (Editor's note: this would have been about 1846) they were striving as best they could for educational attainments. The log school house situated on the Young farm was used also many years for a colored people's Sabbath School, and for temperance meetings. The speakers were usually colored. There was some rather remarkable eloquence delivered there. On one occasion when I was there "Uncle" Tommy Winborn while not a drunkard, but took an occasional dram, closed his speech with the declaration that he "would never take another drop of liquor unless it was - subscribed by a physician." I do not know but that he kept his pledge. His brother Bennett Winborn also made temperance speeches, and it was said of Reddick Brooks that if he had a good dram he could then make a fine temperance speech. Turner Newsom and family came from North Carolina. He told me that he had 37 1/2 cents in money when he came, and that was borrowed. English money, pounds, shillings and pence was in use here then, so he could have that amount. He also said that Rex Brown, who came the same time told him if he (Brown) could not get 50 cents a day he would not work. Turner replied that he would work for 25 cents a day or anything he could get. When Turner Newsom died he owned 160 acres of land, a good, two story frame house, a good barn and other buildings; had a two-horse carriage, several horses, cattle and hogs, raised wheat, corn, hay, etc. Thus he and his large family were comfortably fixed, while Rex Brown never owned a home, and continued through life a day laborer. Emsley Lassiter a young, free colored man came from N.C. with my father

and family and others in 1832. He worked for father on the farm many years. He was a good teamster, liked horses, and in the winter he often used the big, four-horse covered wagon father moved in here to haul flour, bacon, dried fruit, etc. to Cincinnati for people here, and would return with merchandise and groceries, etc. for them. The roads then, in winter were often in a terrible condition, simply awful, just mud, mud; and that "without end or bottom." He drove six horses to the wagon, some of them his own, and some father's or others; sometimes it would take him two weeks or more to make the round trip. He married one of Tommy Winborn's daughters, bought the Simeon Wiltse (Mort Barber) farm, and succeeded well at farming, and stock raising for a time, sold out and bought a large farm north of Knightstown, but failed in payments, and lost nearly all. He had a large family. Farlow Lassiter, I think a cousin of Emsley Lassiter, was a good shoe-maker, lived on the Jesse Lassiter and then the Abraham Small farm.

"Uncle Dave Mose," David Winslow, came from N.C. in 1833 or 1834. He and his family came in his own little, covered one-horse wagon with Samuel Charles and others to Richmond, Indiana. He was a free man raised in the neighborhood where father and the Hensley's lived in N.C. and so wanted to come to Carthage so as to be among his former friends. He was given minute instructions of the directions and roads, and that after passing through the little village of Raysville and come to Blue River he was wrecked sure enough he did "take down it" right in the middle of the stream. The river was low, and someone saw him, and soon had him on solid ground so he could come to Carthage by land instead of water. But really it was not to be wondered at after traveling the mountain roads of Virginia and Kentucky to Indiana, and the roads here were merely paths. He lived on father's and Thomas Henley's farms several years, then he bought ten acres of the John Earnest farm, and had a home there until his death. He was the greatest natural mimic I ever knew. He could mimic people, animals, birds or anything from a cow-bell to a rail road train, and he was always making sport for the boys at log rollings, wheat threshing, and all gatherings where he was.

Edmund Cary came to this country probably with some of the Binford's from Virginia, and lived in the Walnut Ridge settlement. He belonged to the Society of Friends there, and often spoke in meeting. One of his oft repeated sayings was that, "every tub should stand on its bottom and a tub what's got no bottom is no tub at all." Tom Johnson, colored, a fairly good carpenter built a dwelling house about 14x14 of six inch straight black ash poles and also a stable on the John Winslow 80 acres before father bought it. The house was connected with an old log kitchen previously built, by extending the roof and floor (unenclosed) seven and one-half feet to it; the

other end of the house had a "fire-place" with an outside mud and stick chimney. The Johnson family lived there a number of years, and worked some at his trade and did other work for father and others. The house was moved near our home many years ago, and used for a chicken house, corn crib, etc., and is in service yet.

"General" Tootle lived in the "Beech" and was a leader and preacher in their Methodist church. He made fine hominy by beating white corn in a wooden mortar with an iron wedge fastened firmly with an iron band on one end of a split, wooden handle. He disposed readily of the hominy at Carthage and other nearby towns. John Roberts, Sr., bought two acres of land of Henry Henley north of Carthage, and built a log house on it, and the family lived there in his and his wife's lifetime. They were hard workers and made a comfortable living. His son John Roberts, Jr., was an excellent, and the only barber in Carthage for many years. His grand-daughter who married Nerius Heathcock now lives on the old home place.

"Aunt" Pattie Waldron came from N.C. with many other colored people. She was nearly white and had great energy, resolution and tact. On one occasion when she and her company were on the road from N.C. some rough white men stopped them, and put fence rails through the wagon wheels so they could not proceed and demanded them to show their free papers. This all doubtless with intent to take them back or rush them into slavery elsewhere. "Aunt Pattie" understood the situation at once, and assumed command; she told the men that she was boss of that company; they were under her care to take to Indiana. She directed the colored men to take the rails from the wagon wheels and drive on, which they did and were not molested again. The men thought she was a white woman, and this and her tact saved them. Her relatives told of this incident but I remember her well in my youth, and that she had a great reputation as a "pound cake" maker for weddings and other notable occasions. There were several other colored families around here but I never knew their history.

Underground Rail Road

During slavery times many runaway slaves passed through Carthage on the so called "Under Ground Rail Road" on their way to Canada, where they received governmental protection, and were never returned to their masters. In 1850 Congress passed the "Fugitive Slave Law," which gave authority to arrest and return slaves to their masters from any state in the Union. Any person who harbored, fed or clothed or in any way aided a runaway slave was liable to a fine of \$100 of which \$50 went to the informant. In 1841 my father bought 80 acres of land of John Winslow, now the south part of our farm. There were two log dwelling houses on it, the

two houses were connected by an open log shed and one was occupied by Tom Johnson's family (colored). They moved away and a family named Scott came in a little one-horse wagon and moved into the vacant house. The husband, and wife and four children, all nearly white, said they were runaway slaves from Spartenburg, S.C. They stayed two or three years, and we used to go and play with the children, and whenever my little brother Daniel (two or three years old) went with us Scott would pat him on the head and greet him thus: "My little Quaker, thee, thou, though." He made little baskets with colored and plain splits that were greatly admired by us children. He was an expert with a hoe and had learned "the trade" in the cotton fields. He would quickly "scutch" the weeds and grass off all around a hill of corn. Back then all corn was planted in hills and pull up by hand those remaining, loosen the soil or "hill it up" as desired. His services were in demand as all farmers did more or less corn hoeing for the little "bull-tongue" and small "bar-share" plows were poor weed killers.

He used the first "clod-fender" I ever saw, to keep the plow from covering the little corn. It was composed of two parts, one part a foot wide, wooden paddle with a good hand, the other part a quick, active boy. In use, the boy held the paddle by the hill of corn till the plow passed it, then quick as a flash boy and paddle were at the next corn hill, and so on until the field was plowed. The boy did not see many of the birds that flew over the field while using the paddle, and the exercise was equal to a modern "ball game" for health. But I do not know what became of the family.

For a few years before the Civil War the "underground railroad" was patronized very frequently though here by those mostly from Kentucky and Tennessee. There were several men in Carthage who sympathized with the South, and who were ever watching and ready to inform against any who aided a runaway, so that any assistance given had to be managed with care and secrecy. There was a "station" at Rushville managed by "Agent" Burns (colored) who would bring slaves to Carthage after night, and they were kept secreted until the next night, when an "Agent" here Elisha B. White or Jim Hunt (colored) would take them to another station, the Jessup neighborhood four miles north of Knightstown, where they were hidden in day time and at night taken on to the next station north, and then on to Newport Fountain City now.) where the "president of the under ground rail road" lived, a staunch friend of the slave, Levi Coffin. From there they were "shipped" on to Canada, sometimes taking several days and much risk. One Sabbath day in the summer of 1855 there were twelve "runaways" hidden all day in our sugar orchard, it being a dense thicket then. I was recovering from typhoid fever and did not get to see them, but some of my sisters visited them; they consisted of a family, some children, and the rest grown slaves that had determined to be free. They were all "shipped" on north,

and doubtless got through safe, as we did not hear from them again. Sometime after that, one evening, nearly night I was returning from my sister Nelly Jessup's north of Knightstown, and met Jim Hunt north of Carthage with two noble looking men in a buggy that he was taking to the next station. He was more venturesome with them than some, and seemed not to fear being molested. I do not remember seeing any other runaways on the road.

Salves were very valuable property in the South, a good one either man or woman would sell for \$1,000 and if religious or moral these qualities would be an asset, that would add to their money value. Their masters and others would follow them nearly to Canada, but rarely captured any.

One woman slave with a two-year old child in her arms was pursued to the Ohio river by her master. The river had been frozen over, but then the ice was broken up to large pieces, yet she ventured on and by stepping from piece to piece got across safely, though she and the child were very wet with the icy water. A man on this side at Ripley, Ohio, helped them out, and instructed them where to go to be safe and get dry clothing. The master feared to cross the river, and soon they were at Levi Coffin's house at Newport, where after resting, they were "shipped" to Canada. This incident is said to be the real foundation of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." There were two or three routes from the Ohio River to Newport. Seventeen fugitives who arrived there at one time, and valued at \$17,000 were pursued by fifteen slave hunters, who shot at some of them and wounded two, but not seriously.

These hunters made their headquarters at Richmond, Indiana where they had many sympathizers, and scoured the country for miles around, but failed to capture their slaves. These men said Coffin must have an under ground rail road from his house to Canada and was president of it, hence the term "Levi Coffin, president of the under ground railroad." He estimated that he assisted one hundred fugitives on their way to Canada every year of the twenty years he lived at Newport. I have these facts from his "reminiscences."

(Note: I like most Hoosiers would like to believe that generally the State of Indiana was against the institution of slavery so I was shocked to find that the State Constitution of 1851, which is the one currently valid, stipulated in Article 13 that "No Negro or Mulatto shall come into or settle in this State, after the adoption of this constitution." If you did bring in or hire such a person, the fine was \$500, which was to be applied to a fund for colonization (return of blacks to Africa). The General Assembly was enjoined to pass legislation to enforce these measures. It may come as a surprise to some, as it did to me, that the very entry of blacks to Indiana was forbidden. I guess this was in reaction to the Federal Fugitive Slave Act of

1850. This stipulation has, of course, been removed from the State Constitution long ago.)

Corduroy Roads

Sixty or seventy years ago (approximately the 1840's) the public roads here, especially of wet seasons were much of the time almost impassable for a loaded wagon. There was some grading done, but not a load of gravel was put on, instead, however in the worst places what was called "corduroy roads" was made thus: - ten foot rails were made out of good timber - oak or ash – split wide and laid close together across the grade, and a little soil was thrown on the rails to level up and hold them in place. The road from Carthage south to the half-mile road was fully half "corduroy road," and all over this county in swampy places were many miles of it. Very bad "mud holes" were often filled with green, beech limbs, with the leaves on them till more than level with the road, and soil brown on those and thus made passable for a time.

Railroad from Knightstown to Shelbyville

Business men of Knightstown, Carthage, Morristown and Shelbyville and farmers along the right-a-way made it possible to build it which was done in 1850. It and a railroad from Rushville to Shelbyville built at the same time were the first railroads in Eastern Indiana. (Ed Note: It was really one of the first railroad in the Midwest.) The grade around Carthage was made entirely by man power with spades, shovels and wheel barrows. Southwest where some hills were to cut through and fills to make, a few one-horse dump carts were used.

The track was made by first putting two "mud sills" heavy, rough timbers, in trenches parallel with the grade and at the proper distance apart for the track. On these were spiked the "cross-ties" every few feet apart, these were sawed timber about six inches square with a 3x4 inch notch near each end, at the proper distance apart to make the right gauge. Spikes were driven through the "cross-ties" in the bottom of these notches into the "mud-sills" to hold the ties in place with the notches up. Then long sawed oak "stringers" 4x6 inches were placed in these notches and wedged in their proper places with wooden wedges. On these "stringers" the "flat iron bars" were spiked; the iron was two and one-half inches wide and three-fourths inch thick and dove-tailed together at the ends. Holes were punched in the iron every eighteen inches and counter-sunk to receive the heads of the spikes, which were five inches long, 1/2 x 3 /4 inch square, with heads to fit counter-sunk holes in the bars. No graveling or ballasting was done.

The dimensions of timbers I give entirely from guessing and memory over sixty years ago, never having measured them. I have specimens of the iron and spikes, and give correct measure of these. The trains going over such tracks would loosen the spikes, so they would come out, and the ends of the bars would curve up and the wheels of the return train would sometimes run under them causing the curved bar to shoot up into the car. These were called "snake heads." I do not remember of hearing of such on our road, but these were reported several times on the Rushville and Shelbyville road.

As there was no stock law then all kinds of stock had full and free privilege on all public roads. This compelled the rail road company to make "cow pits" at every outside farm fence. They were made across the track at the fence line, about four feet wide and four feet deep and timbered and boarded up. This road, the track of which was of such slender construction gave out entirely in a little over four years. It was a great institution while it did last, and one mixed train (one passenger coach and few other cars) each ways a day was the extent of business. I well remember when the first locomotive came from Shelbyville to Carthage to bring up iron bars for the track. It came on the timbers without iron part of the way; it was late one evening the last of September. They had steamed up strong and blew the whistle about every two rods. One of my sisters and I ran about eighty rods to the top of the hill from where we could see the monster good. It sure raised the people the country round, not anything like it had ever been heard here. One man in the "Beech," "Chub Jim" Roberts heard the whistle was so excited that he locked his family in his cabin, and taking his gun hurried to his neighbor's, William Binford, to learn what it was, and wanted the boys to go with him to shoot it. They told him it was an "iron horse" and he could not kill it by shooting it and he became more excited than ever, but they finally explained it to him, so he was pacified.

Henry B. Hill was president of the railroad, and his son William Penn Hill was conductor. (Note: The Hills were ancestors of the Sitler family of Knightstown.)

A small, wood burning engine (no coal was used,) one passenger coach, a few small box cars and a few small flat cars constituted the rolling stock of the road. One round trip a day was the usual schedule with but little limit as to time. It required lots of cord wood, and each station had its "wood yard" and sometimes many cords were burned by sparks from the engine. Two very bad accidents happened on the road. One was the blowing up of an engine boiler while running south of Morristown near Corey's Mill. The explosion was at the head of the engine and the engineer and fireman escaped miraculously. I have seen the Walnut tree (30 or 40 feet high) that stands near the road bed that had its top tom off by piece of the boiler. The

other accident was about four miles southwest of Carthage. The mixed train passed Carthage early in the morning and it was quite dark. At that point some cross ties were braced and pinned solid to and across the track. It threw the engine off and down a ten foot embankment, wrecking it completely and breaking the fireman's leg. The coach turned on its side without much injury to the few passengers. Two of them were our neighbors Zachariah Small and his sister Martha Small. The head-light to the engine was but little more than a lantern. The man or men who placed the obstruction never were known, and no prosecution was ever attempted. They ran excursions occasionally from Knightstown to Shelbyville, I recall especially one. They had the passenger coach and I think fourteen or fifteen of the little open flat cars with plain seats fixed temporarily on them. These were all filled with people, men and women sitting as closely as they could. Some said there were 1,500 people. It was an enormous load for the little engine, and at every little up-grade the engine would "stall". The conductor would kindly ask those along the sides of the cars to step off and give the train a boost. Practically all the men would hop off and push the train up the hill, then all would clamber on, to repeat the performance at the next hill. When the train returned to Carthage, some had imbibed too freely of booze, and there being some ill feeling between Knightstown and Carthage passengers a free-for-all fight developed soon, that resulted in some bruised heads and limbs.

In 1858 an effort was made to rebuild the road with regular cross ties and trails. There was said to be enough culvert and Cow Pit timbers and cross timbers along the road bed to rebuild it, and I was at Shelbyville the spring of 1859, and I saw a new bridge across Blue River, and mile or more of track "Trail" laid up this way, and some forty men laying track, and it was said they would soon be at Carthage. But in a short time that bridge was removed somewhere else, the track torn up and taken away, many of the timbers rotted along the road and all we have of it to this day is the "old road bed."

Wheat

I carried water from the spring near the six acre wheat field for six or eight men, who cut the wheat with "reap hooks" in one day. A wind had blown the wheat to the east or northeast so that it was difficult to save it with a "scythe and cradle" and there were only a few men by then who could use a "reap hook." Father hired Jacob Siler, Jacob Reddick, John Reddick, George Wells, John Earnest, Jonathan Phelps, and one or two other men, all of whom could cut wheat with "reap-hooks." They would cut a swath four or five feet wide across the field, and place the wheat in bunches, then each

man would put his "reap hook" on his shoulder, and go back across the field "binding" his row of bunches into sheaves, and continue to work in this manner until all was cut. Father followed them and shocked the wheat. A few years previous "reap-hooks" were in general use.

Practically all the old, frame barns here have a "treading floor" 24 x 24 feet in the center of the building. Including part of the drive way. These floors were laid double of fine, undressed poplar and "pinned" to the big log sleepers with one inch oak pins, big nails (spikes) were not plentiful then. Many of the present owners of these barns have no idea of the use of these floors then or why they were made, but they were a necessity. Wheat was cut mostly with a "scythe and cradle". My father made "cradles" and "snaths" for scythes. A "cradle" was a light, wooden frame work attached (fastened) to the "snath," the long cutting blade with five wooden fingers nearly as long as the blade to catch the grain as it was cut off with a long sweeping stroke, and thrown in a swath to the left hand. Then it was "bound" into sheaves with a small handful of the wheat for bands by another man, there was a "know how" to tie the bundle securely and rapidly by the process known as "binding over the thumb," which is about obsolete now. Wheat was "shocked" then "bundles" (sheaves) firmly "setup" and two sheaves "broke" in the middle and put on for "caps." When dry enough the wheat was stored into the sheaf in the mows of the barn as needed or when there was room for it. When the weather was rather cold and dry was the best time to "tread out" wheat. The "treading floor" was cleaned off, swept and a circular layer of sheaves placed close together all around with the heads toward the center, another layer was placed inside of that with the heads against the heads against the heads of the outside row, and the straw bands were cut. All the horses on the place were brought in, and tied together in pairs, and driven around and around over the "bed" of the wheat until the grains were all knocked out. The straw had to be turned over occasionally while the horses were going their rounds to facilitate the work. When done the horses were taken out, the straw cleaned off, and wheat and chaff piled up in the center of the "treading floor," and another "bed" put down as was the first, and horses put on again. This process was continued until the crop was all trodden out. Then the wheat and chaff were run through a "fanning mill" twice to clean it ready for the "flouring mill" or market. I think it took about one half a day to "tread out" a "bed," but varied according to the number of horses that could be put on. One time is all I recall of helping at this work. A great improvement came in the horse power "chaff piler" threshing machine "ground hog thresher" some called them. The "treading floor" was generally used for them. The machine was a cylinder with iron or steel spikes that run in a concave with similar spikes at a rapid rate. It was run by a heavy horse-power iron gearing, with levers

to which to hitch four to eight horses that walked in a circle. The sheaves of wheat with the bands cut were fed through the cylinder part, and 200 or 300 bushels could be thus threshed out in a day. Then the wheat had to be run twice through a "fanning mill" to clean it from the chaff. Next came the "horse-power separator" and then the "steam separator. My father owned a "chaff piler" machine and threshed his own and many of his neighbor's wheat crops.

Flax

Flax was grown in "pioneer times" for the "lint" fiber, the tough bark that grows on the stalk. It was sown in the spring, and when the stalks were mature and the seed ripe, in order to save all the lint, it was pulled up by hand and tied into bundles using a few stalks for a band. It was then stored under shelter until toward fall, when it was taken to a grassy place where no livestock was, and spread thinly in rows and left there several weeks to "rot". That is, the woody part of the stalk would decay to some extent and become brittle without injury to the fiber, and really was an advantage to the fiber as it was put in better condition by being more easily spilt into fine threads. It was then bound up again and kept dry until winter, then on cool, bright days it was pounded with a "flax breaker" wooden, bench-like machine having parallel bars on which a bunch of flax was placed, and pounded with a heavy block on which were placed parallel bars to correspond with the lower part. The flax was made as dry as possible by placing it on a scaffold and a fire built under it. It was then pounded until the woody part was broken up, and mostly knocked out. It required a stout man to work a "flax break". It was then "scutched" with a "scutching knife" a two edged paddle two feet long made of hard wood. A ten inch wide board about four feet long, one end sharpened and the other flat and rounded; the sharp end was driven into the ground and a bunch of "broken flax" was held over the end of the board with the left hand, and scutched down with the scutching knife in the other hand. This knocked out the remaining woody part.

It was then "hackled". Forty or fifty small sharp irons fastened near one end of a board was a hackle. The bunches of flax were drawn over these sharp points many times and a lot of "tow" was pulled out leaving nice handfuls of flax and this and the "tow" were now ready for the spinning wheel.

After being spun into thread it was ready for the loom, where it was woven into cloth. The spinning and weaving were done entirely by the women folks. My father made the small "treadle" or "flax wheel," and the "large spinning wheels" for wool, also "looms."

(Note: Apparently Flax was a popular cash crop and somewhat widely grown around Knightstown. There was once a Flax Mill for making linen up

near where the 1965 High School building is. I guess the process produced a bad odor since I have read references as to how it stunk up that end of town.)

Typhoid Fever

In 1855 there was scourge of it here. My sister Mary was teaching four miles north of Knightstown at Union school house in the Huddleston neighborhood, where there were many cases of fever. She was taken with it and had to remain at Wm. Huddleston's several months, before being able to come home. She was treated by a Dr. Hill, a Hydropathist, took no medicine and eventually recovered with better health than before. Dr. Hill treated a number of other cases there successfully. There was much passing back and forth to see and wait on Mary, and my sister Molly, my mother, my sister Phoebe and I also took the fever, but brothers William and Henry and sister Penelope had it severest of all, and the three died within three weeks. A few neighbors took the fever, and it was several months before it was stamped out. Nearly all the cases here were treated by Allopathic physicians and calomel(?) and other strong medicines were used which later were thought to really aggravate the disease.

Chromos

The winter of 1862, I was in Indianapolis and went into Stuart and Rowen's book store. There I first saw Chromos - one that I especially admired was of a duck and six or eight little ducks on a card about ten inches by twelve inches. It looked to be perfection that one could just pick up a little duck in his hand. The price was on \$9.00 so I did not want it as badly as I at first thought. Now there are just as fine chromos given away as advertisements. (Note: Chromos was a kind of printing that was the first to produce brilliant images on paper. Something we take for granted now but was amazing for those early pioneers. Makes one think about how much the world has changed since then.)

My First Bananas

I was more than thirty years old before I saw a banana. Returning from North Carolina in the spring of 1869 I saw some at Baltimore, Md. and bought a few at five cents each to bring home, mainly on account of the novelty of the new fruit. It was many years after that before any were sold in Carthage, now tons are sold here annually, and instead of being considered a luxury it is a simple article of diet.

Molasses and Sugar Making

The first settlers obtained their molasses and sugar from the sugar maple trees. They made sprouts of Elders for tapping the trees, and with a chopping axe made wooden troughs, that held three to six gallons to catch the sugar water in. When the "season" was over these were turned bottom up by the trees and would last for several years' use. Of course leaves, trash and rubbish would be blown or fall into them, which was thrown or strained out of the sugar-water before boiling it, yet these things caused the finished product to be quite dark. However, microbes, germs, bacteria and all such lesser inhabitants were unknown then on this "dirty earth." Bugs, lice and worms were the limit of scientific investigation. Later one or two gallon earthen ware or stone wear crocks were used to catch the sugar water in but they were of short duration, and soon "machine made" three gallon, white pine buckets were universally used. They were cleaner and were housed during the long period, when not in use. A six to ten barrel, poplar "store trough" was a necessity at the "furnaces."

The first boiling was done in iron kettles hung on a pole by a big log, then "furnaces" were made. I remember helping to make one of six, ten to twenty gallon iron kettles. A place was dug out in clay ground some fifteen feet long, two feet wide and four feet deep in the center, and slanting up at each end, much wider at the bottom to give lots of space for wood, and the burned coal and ashes. The kettles were set close together on the clay walls with rims two inches higher than the walls. The larger kettles at the front end of the "furnace" where the hottest of the fire would be. To close the openings around the kettles, green Buckeye limbs two inches in diameter, and three feet long were placed between the kettles on the walls and a small straight rail was staked to each side a few inches from the rims of the kettles. Mortar was made of clay and handful of short timothy hay thrown on it, and worked with a hoe until a wad of hay and mortar was formed nearly the size of a common bucket. This "cat" was placed between the rails, and around the rims of the kettles - enough "cats" were made to fill all the spaces snugly, and a little lower than the tops of the kettles, and smoothed over nicely with a wooden paddle. Close to the last little kettle, a flue was built a few feet high, the lower part of stone and the upper of brick. After using for a period the "cats" dried out, and the kettles were held firmly in place, and having a "clap-board" roof over it the "furnace" lasted a number of years. About ten barrels of sugar-water could be boiled to "syrup" in a day. Later the "furnace" was dug larger at the sides and walled with large boulders (not limestone) and three-foot pieces of flat bar rail road iron were put between the kettles and made tight with "cats," which increased its capacity to hold heat. The sugar water was boiled in these kettles until it was a thin "syrup" then to each barrel of sugar water boiled down one or two well beaten eggs were mixed with one-half gallon of sugar

water. The "syrup" was stopped from boiling by adding a little cold sugar water, and the egg mixture poured in and stirred thoroughly, and then strained through a thick flannel sack into a tub. Thus clarified it was taken to the big "kitchen fireplace" where in a kettle on a "crane" it was boiled to molasses or sugar as desired. It took about forty gallons of the sugar water to make one gallon of thick "molasses."

The sweetness of the sugar water varied of different years, as well as at different times the same season. The first pure, white sugar I remember was piece of hard "loaf sugar;" that came from Cincinnati that mother kept for "sickness," so the ordinary kid seldom got a lump of that sugar.

The original Hill and Henley firm in the early 1840"s bought eggs in large quantities, some at two cents per dozen, and packed them in barrels with shelled oats and shipped them to New Orleans. The late John D. Hill was a member of the firm and had had experience on steam-boats on the Mississippi as carpenter and clerk on some, and Captain on one, often made the trip with the barrels, to sell the eggs and oats, and return with large quantities of "cane sugar" and "Orleans molasses" which were sold at their store in Carthage. The "cane sugar" was course grind of a yellowish color, and came in large "hogsheads," each holding several hundred pounds. Often a section of a large "cane stalk" was placed in the center of the "hogshead." The "Orleans Molasses" was quite dark with a strong taste, and came in barrels and half-barrels. This made "sweetening" much more plentiful here, and much more of it was used.

Tanning Yard.

My uncle Tristram Coggeshall and family moved from North Carolina in 1832, with my father and his family, and bought and settled on the farm adjoining ours on the west. He had learned the "tanner's trade" while a young man in N.C., and about 1844 started a small tan-yard near his home. The strong, never-failing spring, as it was then, on the hill-side north of the house was conveyed in pole gutters northwest across the road where Reu P. Henley's hog feeding lot is. There a few "tanning vats" six feet long, four feet wide and four feet deep were made even with the surface of the ground and water tight, of two inch, sawed, oak boards. The number of "vats" was increased as needed until there were twelve or more. One "vat" was used to "lime the hides" in to take off the hair; another "the pool" was kept full of water to soak the lime from the hides after the hair was off. The surplus water was kept running through "the pool" when not needed elsewhere. When removed from "the pool" the hides were dressed with a "currier's" knife on the flesh side to even thickness, and the shavings and scraps were saved and sent to a "glue factory". Then the dressed hides

were ready for the tanning process. A layer of ground up "tan-bark" was placed in the bottom of a "vat" and a hide spread over it then a layer of the ground tan-bark was placed all over it, then another hide was spread on this tan-bark and treated as the first and continued thus until the "vat" was filled or all the hides put in, then a heavy layer of ground tan-bark was put on the top, and water was run in until the "vat" was full, and kept so for six months with an occasional overhauling and repacking. The hides were then removed and dressed, and blackened on the "grain-side" for shoe or harness leather as desired. They would outwear any of the quick "hot process" leather of today. My uncle developed quite a business and bought hides in all the country around, and also tanned for half the leather. One year clearing over \$1,000. He often tanned sheep skins with the wool on, which were useful for many purposes, and many calf skins for fine shoe and boot leather, and several deer skins and many dog skins for string leather. His leather was too soft for good shoe soles so some Spanish sole leather was hauled from Cincinnati to use instead.

(There follows in the narrative a lengthily description of the mill used to grind the tanning bark. I have omitted it as it adds nothing of historical value.)

When a boy my cousin, the late Oliver W. Coggeshall, did much of the bark grinding for the tan yard and I quote his description of the mills used; "This mill consisted of an up-right center post, reaching from the floor to the ceiling of the large room; to the ceiling this the post was geared (fastened) to a horizontal beam, some fifteen feet long, which passed through an immense, wooden wheel about six feet high and eighteen inches thick. This wheel was of White Oak hewn out of two parts of the first cut of a large tree. Each half of the cut formed one-half of the wheel. These were held together by two large timbers on each side firmly pinned to the wheel. On the outer end of this horizontal beam, which projected through the wheel was a neck cut, and around this neck was bent a collar of wood to which the horse was hitched by a single-tree. A pole to which his bridle reins were fastened kept him in his endless circuit, while the bark was occasionally raked up in a row to keep it under the huge wheel. When ground fine for tanning, it was put into a cellar opening on the tanyard, and a new supply of bark was put in its place. Later on this big wheel was put aside for a cast iron mill, shaped somewhat like the old fashioned coffee mill. It had a large hopper surrounding the upright center part, which was fastened to the inside of the convex part of the mill. To this upright part was fastened a long horizontal beam to which the horse was hitched. The bark was broken over the iron edge of the mill by a wooden mallet. The principle varieties of bark used were: -Pin Oak White Oak, Red Oak and Bur Oak. The two latter

kinds were hard to break, and very hard on the hands of a small boy."

Big Woods

"The Big Woods" a mile or two south of Carthage was a large body of land of several hundred acres owned by different persons with scarcely a fence or road through it, and much large timber on it - especially Bur Oak, and also White Oak, Gray ash, Sycamore, Water Elm, White Maple, Hickory, Swamp Ash, Red Oak, Beech, etc.

Sometimes in autumn the ground would be completely covered with Bur Oak acorns, enough to keep many stock hogs in good condition until Christmas or later. Black Walnut was not plentiful in the "Big Woods" - it grew in the river bottoms and on hilly land. On the drier ground in the "Big Woods" were many Pap-paw bushes that bore annually and some of the fruits were very large, of fine quality, being yellow meated, and were well worth propagating. Often trees were from four to eight feet in diameter at the ground, and one hundred feet high with long, straight bodies, fine for "saw timber". All farm fences were of the "old Virginia zigzag" worm" style; rails ten and one-half feet long and usually ten rails high. It required much valuable timber to make and keep them in repair. Many very fine White Oak, Blue Ash, Black Ash, Gray Ash and often Black Walnut were used; if a Bur Oak tree died it was almost certain to be split into rails, although some fell on the ground and rotted. I have split open much big Burr Oak "rail cuts" with a charge of gunpowder. A one and one-half inch auger hole was bored in the middle of the "rail cut" to nearly one-half its diameter, and one or two ounces of gun-powder put in it, with a "fuse" attached and the hole filled with clay and gravel, and tamped good to hold the charge in. When exploded, if it did not throw the "rail cut" wide open it would be cracked so that it could be easily split into rails with the iron wedge. Seasoned dog-wood and ironwood "gluts" and the heavy wooden knot maul, which were kept "on hand" for the purpose by all farmers. I remember selling an old giant Poplar in 1872 or 1873. It was hollow at the ground, and about six feet up, where it was cut down, was seven foot in diameter. After cutting off several feet of the hollow part, there were four 12-foot logs that brought \$50.00 at ninety cents per hundred feet. It made lumber of the finest yellow grain. Some of those large Poplar and Oak logs had to be split open with a charge of gun-power in a way similar to the Bur Oak "rail cuts" described, before they could be worked on the sawmills of that day. Those old yellow Poplars are about all gone, and in recent years worms got into the Bur Oaks so that most them had to be used or be lost. A notable Bur Oak tree, not as tall and large as some, stood on the southwest corner of our farm about 250 feet north of the east and west

public road, and three and one-half rods east of Charles Young's farm. It was cut down thirty five years ago, and sold at first "cut" almost six feet in diameter being too large to be sawed on the circular saw-mill at Carthage, was loaded on a big, four horse "log wagon" and pulled to the road with a "snatch block" fastened to different trees, and then hauled by four horses to Rushville. It was so heavy many of the wooden culverts crossed were broken down. The other three "cuts" were hauled to Carthage. The center of the Bur Oak stump has now rotted, and a Water Elm eight feet high and one and one-half inches in diameter is growing in it. By careful examination and measurements of the stump I estimate the "annual rings" to exceed 600. I judge some of the larger Poplars, Sycamores and Oaks were about 1000 years old.

Many Lindenwood grew both on the swampland and dry land. It is noticeable fact that Bur Oak, Black Ash, Black Hickory (bearing large nuts), Water Elm, and White Maple are always on the wet, swampy land, while White Oak, Poplar, Gray Ash, Beech, Buckeye, Black Gum, Shell-bark Hickory (bearing small nuts) are always on the dryer ground. Often swamp varieties are only a few rods away from those other varieties on the drier ground, but how they arrange themselves in this manner nature students may explain. There is a traditional account of a tornado or great wind storm many years ago, that caused trees to wave and shake so severely that it made what is known as "wind shaken" timber. A "wind shake" is a circular crack inside the tree in its annual growth pattern, but not in every annual ring," but in some many, that when sawed into plank they fall to pieces. Not all, but many, apparently sound sycamore trees were affected thus from the ground nearly the whole length of their bodies. The inside or heart wood of the trees being so affected would be acted upon by air and water and would rot and leave a shell of green, sound wood on the outside.

Such trees often were made into large stock feed troughs, and sections were sawn from them making "gums" in which wheat, etc. could be stored. My father had three that he made from a Sycamore tree in "The Big Woods." They were some four feet in diameter, and five feet high, with solid heads fitted in one end of the bottom. The bodies of them were sound, and less than three inches thick all around. They were of the same length, and held respectively twenty-six, twenty-four, and twenty-two measured bushels of wheat. They did good service many years, and were burned in 1913, when the barn was struck by lightning.

This same "Big Woods" was a good place to get lost - a crowd of boys were in it with their dog one afternoon, and got hopelessly lost. Now a dog cannot be lost, so they "drove him home" and followed him, and he led them out of the wilderness by an entirely different direction from what any of them had decided was the right way.

There were many wild Turkeys, and they were frequently shot or trapped. I remember father and I caught six at one time on a New Year's Eve in an old, log stable on the south part of the farm. The stable was baited with corn, and fitted with a trap door. They weighed about twenty pounds each, were young and very strong, and I have never seen since such a beating and flapping of wings as when I went to the stable to catch them. We sold a part of them at \$1.00 each, dressed. The meat was thought to be sweeter and better than that of tame kinds. Pheasants were numerous in the "Big Woods" often heard them "drumming" with their wings on logs in the springtime, sounded like distant thunder. Quails were plentiful on all farms. Passenger Pigeons were very numerous in early spring, and continued to be so until a few years after the Civil War. The droves were so great sometimes as to darken the sunshine for several minutes while a flock passed over. When feeding on the ground in large numbers often many thousands, they formed a line and a way of hopping over those in front, so that in wood-land, where there was beech mast of the previous year, there was a great commotion of birds scratching and throwing the leaves in the air. When disturbed they all rose and flew at once, and so many wings beating the air sounded like thunder. They had certain roosting places to which they returned every night. One in Hancock county and a larger one in Grant County, Indiana. So many would collect nights at these places as to break limbs off the trees, and many thousands of pigeons were killed with clubs by persons, who went to the roosts at night. The birds left in early morning in large or small droves, and sometimes flew very far, probably many miles, generally south or some southerly direction, always returning to the "roost" at night. They have disappeared entirely from this county, and no one knows whether they are extinct or not.

Another kind not here now was the Raven, almost twice the size of a crow, and so black that its feathers just glistened. It had a way of flying in a circle, getting higher and higher all the time until lost to sight, making its peculiar shrill cry as it rose. Blue Herons (Cranes) lived and raised their young in the "Big Woods" and continue to do so changing from one woodland to another. They nest in the tops of the highest trees, these often spoken of as "Cranesville." Wild or Wood Ducks were quite common and very numerous of wet seasons in the swampy parts of the "Big Woods." Crows were not as numerous then as now, and did not do as much damage. Turkey Buzzards often had nests in high stumps and raised their young. The "Big Woods" was also the home of the Big Horned Hooting Owl, the mighty terror of the poultry yard. If you were alone in the woods, and heard him snap his bill, and heard his "hoot-tohoo," it would almost make the hair stand up on your head.

Deer have long been gone. The late Nathan Pierson of Howard County, more than eighty years ago saw and counted thirty-five deer, one after the other pass up the ravine northeast of our house. I was quite small when a wounded deer was "bayed" by dogs at our orchard fence. Father went and caught it by a leg, and my sister Abbie held it until he got an ax and killed it. Earnest and other men, who were chasing it soon came up, but I do not recall more of the incident. Several years previous Jonathan Phelps heard a Panther pass the same ravine. There also, Abraham Small shot at a Black Bear one evening but saw it no more. There were Wild Cats or "Catamounts" all over the state, but none were killed near here that I heard of. Gray Squirrels were so abundant as to be a nuisance. They dug up planted corn in the spring, and tore open shucks of roasting ears to eat the grain, and continued their work until corn was gathered, eating the heart of the grain of dry corn, causing great loss. I have known farmers to pay five cents per head to hunters to shoot them. Fox Squirrels were rare, but I have seen a few coal black ones of the gray variety. Ground Hogs were rarely seen, but the weather came around all right without "forecasts" or "shadows." There were no skunks. Raccoons, Opossums, Musk Rats and "CottonTail" Rabbits were plentiful. There were Red and Gray Foxes, and their shrill bark was often heard in the spring time. Missing poultry, pigs and lambs were often charged up to them.

Wolves were seen sometimes, and they also liked pigs and lambs. There were some Beavers. I used often to see the remains of a Beaver Dam in the swamp a little west of the house on the Joseph Henley farm. Minks and Weasels were numerous and often played havoc in the poultry yard.

The long tail Blue Rats were everywhere, and into everything. They were twice as large as common mice, with very long slender tails were. Since the advent of the large Norway rat the "long-tailed Blues" have disappeared. Fish were very abundant and could be caught at any time, and in any way, hook and line, or snare, gig, trap, net or seine net on ice was a favorite way. There were the same varieties as now, except no carp, which were brought from Germany by our Government. Snakes were about the same as now, not many poisonous.

The native American Black Bees were common, often kept in rude hives, generally sections of small hollow trees and called "Bee Gums." It is remarkable that the Italian Gold Banded Bees have entirely superseded the American Black Bees in their own hives, as well as the colonies of the Wild Blacks in trees in the woods here. There were two kinds of Hornets. the Yellow Hornet, now about extinct, and the Bald Hornet. The nests of the Bald Hornet may be found in the late fall or early winter on trees, sometimes very high, and are often larger than a three gallon bucket. The sting of this hornet is terrible.

The wooded hills up and down Blue River must have been a good hunting ground for the native Indians, as many arrowheads, stone axes, etc. have been found. I do not remember seeing the Wild or Blanket Indians here, but I have been told, that when Carthage was first settled there was a roving tribe on the Jesse Hill farm; that when John D. Hill was a little boy he would run away to their wigwams, and as he was a favorite of the Indians, his mother was in constant fear that they might take him off.

Price List

Abraham Small's had a work shop with a foot-power turning-lathe and some tools, and made spinning wheels, chairs and other useful articles. Their rocking-chairs were in great demand because of the substantial frames, everlasting hickory bark bottoms, comfort fit seats and rockers shaped properly for an easy, natural swing. My father used one of their "old timers" day after day in his declining years and now I prefer that same chair for my daily use.

My father also had a "foot-power" tuning-lathe, and a black-smith shop. He made hinges and nails for gates, horse-shoes, horse-shoe nails out of worn-out horse-shoes and scrap iron, and he shod his own horses, ect.

I quote the following prices from my father's day book 1839 to 1851:

Big Spinning Wheel for wool-----	\$3.25
One Spool-1842-----	.12 ½
Pair of Flyers for little spinning wheel-1844---	.25
Scythe Cradle without blades-----	\$1.25 to \$1.50
Screw to hold cradle to blade-1842-----	.12 ½
Scythe Finger-184212 ½
Plows sharpened05 to .06 ¼
Hooping a barrel-1844 -----	.10 to 12 ½
One pair Camage Springs to George Swain-1845 ...	\$10.65
One Broom18 ¾
Wool, per pound-184212 1/2
Wool Roles for spinning, per pound-1842-----	.43
Flax, per pound-184404
Fat Hogs to Thomas Tiner, per 100 lbs.....	\$1.25
Fat Hogs to Henry B. Hill, per 100 lbs.-1843.....	\$1.55
Hog Meat, per pound02 ½ to .03
Beef, per pound-184401 ½
216 pounds Beef to Harmon Allen --1846-----	.02 per lb.
Live Turkeys, each-184520
Home made Cheese, per pound-1842-----	.06 ¼ to .08

Home made Maple Sugar, per pound-1842----- .08
 Wheat, per bushel40 to .50
 Corn per bushel-1842- ----- .15
 Corn, per bushel-185030
 Seed Corn, per bushel-1844----- .27
 Oats, sheaf, per dozen----- . 10 to .12 ½
 Hay, timothy, per load-----\$1.50 to \$3.00
 Hay Stack, timothy, 3 or 4 tons-----\$6.50
 Flax Seed, half bushel-1842----- .40
 Timothy Seed, one gallon37 ½
 Clover Seed, 1839 50 bushels at 10c per bushel to Abraham Small
 207 Sweet Potato Plants bought of Jonathan Jessup 184426
 Apples, in the fall, per bushel----- .08 to .15
 Apples, in the spring, per bushel----- .18 ¾ to .37 ½
 Apples, dried, one bushel-1846----- .75
 Barrel filled with Cider-----\$1.00 to \$1.25
 Barrel and Cider \$2.30 to \$2.85
 Vinegar, per gallon25
 Two Wild-cherry Saw Logs to Benj. Nixon- 1847..... \$2.25
 Making Fence Rails, per hundred----- .37 ½
 Gathering Corn, per day40
 Binding Wheat, per day60
 Mowing Hay, per day- ----- . 75
 Breaking Flax, per day75
 During 1845,1846,1847 many days work, per day- ----- .50
 Later father bought a good, milk cow of Zachariah Small for \$10.00, which
 was the talk of the neighborhood, as it was considered an enormous price.

A Biography of Thomas Newby by Thomas Williams

Thomas Newby was born on May 16,1834 in Carthage and was the child of Henry and Sarah Newby. He was the youngest son of ten children. He married Parthena Jane Griffin on November 11,1875 and had one daughter named Sarah E. Newby. He was a well-known Hoosier horticulturist of such note that a variety of apple became known as the "Newby Apple." He died a short distance south of Carthage, Indiana in March 1919 and is buried at Riverside Cemetery along the beautiful Hoosier Blue River.