

PIONEER WOMEN  
of  
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA  
1834 - 1850

*By:*

*Avis Byant Brown*

*and*

*Ethel Alice Vinnedge*

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BROW

*DEDICATED to the*

*PIONEER WOMEN OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA*

*1834 — 1850*

*MOST SKETCHES WRITTEN BY THE DESCENDANTS OF  
THESE WOMEN*

*COMPILED BY HISTORIANS*

*AVIS BRYANT BROWN of CROWN POINT, INDIANA*

*and*

*ETHEL ALICE VINNEDGE of CRESTON, INDIANA*

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LUCY WINCHESTER TAYLOR (MRS. ADONIJAH)  
1792 - 1869

# **PIONEER WOMEN OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

--- Compiled by ---

**AVIS BRYANT BROWN (MRS. JOSEPH E. BROWN) of Crown Point, Indiana**

**and**

**ETHEL ALICE VINNEDGE (MISS) of Creston, Indiana**

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**Sketches were written by descendants of these pioneer women**

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1. **AGNEW, Nancy Bryant - Mrs. David Agnew**
2. **BRANNON, Eleanor Foster - Mrs. James Brannon**
3. **BRASS, Julia Watkins - Mrs. Allen H. Brass**
4. **BRYANT, Joanna Woodruff, Mrs. Samuel Bryant**
5. **CHURCH, Mary Ellen Fancher - Mrs. Church**
6. **CLARK, Harriet Storey - Mrs. Joseph Addison Clark**
7. **CLARK, Marrietta - Mrs. Jabez Clark**
8. **CLARK, Mary Hackley - Mrs. Wellington Clark**
9. **CRAWFORD, Adelaide Staley - Mrs. John A. Crawford**
10. **CURTIS, Clarinda H. Warner - Mrs. John J. Curtis**
11. **DINWIDDIE, Mary Janette Perkins - Mrs. John W. Dinwiddie**
12. **DODGE, Lucretia DeGau - Mrs. Henry Dodge**
13. **DODGE, Jerusha - Mrs. Paul Dodge**
14. **DRISCOLL, Betsy Murphy - Mrs. John Driscoll**
15. **DWYER, Cornelia Artemissa Clark - Mrs. John Dwyer**
16. **EDDY, Ruth Ann Wells - Mrs. Russell Eddy**
17. **FLECK, Barbara Schuttler - Mrs. Paul Fleck**
18. **FOSTER, Lucy Jane Hathaway - Mrs. George Lyman Foster**
19. **HARRISON, Elizabeth Wood - Mrs. John Harrison**

20. **HERLITZ**, Gascha Berger - Mrs. Lewis E. Herlitz
21. **HOLTON**, Harriet Warner - Mrs. Alexander Holton
22. **KILBOURNE**, Frances Carlotta Evans - Mrs. Albert Kilbourne
23. **LILLEY**, Dorothy Taylor - Mrs. Calvin Lilley
24. **LITTLE**, Myra Ames - Mrs. Thomas Little
25. **MCCARTY**, Deida Young - Mrs. Benjamin McCarty
26. **PALMER**, Almira Taylor - Mrs. James Palmer
27. **PEACH**, Susanna Garrish - Mrs. Henry Peach
28. **PIERCE**, Marcia Ann Crawford - Mrs. Myiel Pierce
29. **PULVER**, Mary Tobias - Mrs. David Pulver
30. **SANDERS**, Emma Harris - Mrs. William Sanders
31. **SANDERS**, Mary Haines - Mrs. James Steel Sanders
32. **SCRITCHFIELD**, Esther Ann Highfield - Mrs. Hiram Scritchfield
33. **SHERMAN**, Celestia Smith - Mrs. William Sherman
34. **SPALDING**, Cynthia Dodge - Mrs. Joshua Parks Spalding
35. **SPALDING**, Nancy Parker - Mrs. Herman Meyer Spalding
36. **TAYLOR**, Emma Louisa Palmer - Mrs. DeWitt Clinton Taylor
37. **TAYLOR**, Julia Ann Taylor - Mrs. Obadiah G. Taylor
38. **TAYLOR**, Lucy Winchester - Mrs. Adonijah Taylor
39. **TAYLOR**, Lydia O'Dell - Mrs. Sylvester Taylor
40. **TAYLOR**, Sarah Ann O'Dell - Mrs. Horace Taylor
41. **TURNER**, Susan Patterson - Miss
42. **VINNEDGE**, Lorena Baker - Mrs. David Vinnedge
43. **WALLACE**, Stella Louise Vandercar - Mrs. Lester Wallace
44. **WARRINER**, Sabra - Mrs. Lewis Warriner
45. **WASON**, Betsy Rockwood Abbot - Mrs. Hiram Wason

## Nancy Bryant Agnew, Mrs. David

Nancy, fifth daughter and the fourteenth child of Catherine Woolley and David Bryant, was born December 16, 1807 on a farm near Owl Creek, Buffalo township, Washington County, Pennsylvania. She married David Agnew, December 5, 1827 at Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Margaret, Isaac and Elizabeth were born here and when the baby was scarcely two years old they decided to join her brothers Simeon, David, Samuel and families, with their aged parents, to make their future home in a much talked of frontier land now known as Lake County, Indiana. They arrived in late March or early April and settled on section to be known as the Bryant settlement at Pleasant Grove.

Imbued with the spirit of adventure, which had urged her parents to move from Springfield, New Jersey, where they had been born and reared and married to buy land in Pennsylvania, then later in 1816 to Knox County, Ohio, and then to Indiana, Nancy and her husband sold their farm and possessions, taking the bare necessities in a covered wagon, pulled by oxen team, they were undaunted by privations which came. The terrible blizzard that caused David to perish, when he was returning from Porter County with food, lists Nancy as the first to be widowed in the new settlement, and when their baby son was born the following month, May 4, 1835, he was the first child to be born in the county. She did not falter, she made the application for the land and on the Claim Register appears the name "Nancy Agnew, widow-Spring, 1835."

She had a house built, established her home and supported her family of two girls and two boys and did her part in the community. In the Bryant Genealogy, is a photograph of Nancy Agnew, her comely features have an expression of calm reserve, her appearance leads one to believe that she may have been not very tall, slender and active. Not much has been recorded but Timothy Ball in his chapter on Women of Lake County in his History says—"The name of Mrs. Nancy Agnew, may be placed by itself here as belonging to a resolute, earnest woman.—She did not yield to her bitter trial, but soon came to herself and carried her share of the load in the building of a pioneer community."

Nancy married in 1840 a young man of Pleasant Grove neighborhood, by the name of John Gardner Keller. It seems that they ventured their fortunes in another pioneer move to Winfield, Iowa, where Nancy died July 4 1884. Six children were born of this union.

Timothy H. Ball's History of Lake County, Chapter IV page 129

Bryant Genealogy, pages 35 & 36

NOTE: Owl Farm, was also the birthplace of the "Campbellite" or Christian Church founded by Alexander Campbell, aided by his sister Dorothy and her husband Joseph Bryant, brother of Nancy.

Daughters - Margaret Jane age/5 and Elizabeth - 2/years

P. 32 - Ball - 1834-1872

April 1935 Wayne Bryant, Simeon and Samuel D. Bryant, David Bryant and David Agnew came to Pleasant Grove - "Bryant Settlement." Elias Bryant came in the fall. E.W. Bryant is Eliphail Wayne (not related) named the grove. Agnew went to Porter County for supplies - overtaken by night perished in blizzard April 4 on the prairie east of Pleasant Grove. First death - taken back to Porter Co. for burial - Morgan Prairie.

### Eleanor Foster Brannon, Mrs. James

Eleanor Foster Brannon, daughter of Elijah D. Foster, born May 1832, came with the family to West Creek Township in the early 1840's. She was married to James Brannon in 1851, and continued to live in West Creek until 1888 when they moved to Crown Point, and later to Lowell. She had two (2) daughters -- Mrs. Lucina Belshaw (Mrs. Edward) and Mrs. Julia Wason, (Mrs. T. Abbot) and three (3) sons -- Perry, George, and Melvin. She died in 1907.

sent in by: Mrs. Julia Wason Dahl

### Julia Watkins Brass --- biography brief.

Julia Watkins Brass was born in Trenton, New York, March 15, 1818. She died in Crown Point, Indiana - April 13, 1907, at the age of eighty-nine years. She and her husband are buried in the Maplewood Cemetery, Crown Point. (L-32)

Her parents were Scotch-Irish descent. Her father, Oliver Watkins, joined the American forces in 1777, at the age of seventeen years. He served until the close of the war. He enlisted from Berkshire County, Massachusetts; he was with George Washington in all of the latter's campaigns.

Dr. Joseph Loomer, maternal grandfather of Julia was a surgeon, who served in the Continental Army. Her uncles, Frederick Loomer and Charles Loomer likewise served during the war and were with Washington's army at Valley Forge.

Julia married Allen H. Brass in 1840. In 1847 they arrived in Lake County, Indiana. They made claim to land along the Calumet River, and built a large log house on the trail to Fort Dearborn, which had become the village of Chicago, Illinois. They welcomed the weary travellers at any hour of the day or night. This haven of rest was known near and far as the Brass Tavern.

Crown Point Chapter is named "Julia Watkins Brass" honoring this "Real Daughter" and we have placed a marker at the site of the Brass Tavern. Julia lived in Chicago at the time our national society was organized and became a member of their first chapter. At the time she was considered to be the only "Real Daughter" in the United States. They placed a D.A.R. plaque on her monument. We maintain it and place a flag each Decoration Day.

October 15, 1970 compiled for Georgeann Gourley, regent- JWB Chapter, to send to Mrs. Westbrooke, Jonesboro, Arkansas, on the Watkins lineage.

### Joanna Woodruff Bryant, Mrs. Samuel

Joanna Woodruff born in 1802 in Green County, Pennsylvania, was the second wife of Samuel D. Bryant who came with brothers and a sister to Lake County, Indiana in April 1835 and settled at what became known as Pleasant Grove. The daughter of their own marriage at the time of their coming was Hannah, born January 18, 1831, and Sarah Ann by the first marriage. Jane was born January 26, 1838 and Joanna April 2, 1840 the day that Joanna was born the Mother died.

Joanna and Samuel were married in about 1826 in Washington County, Pennsylvania, in 1829 they with Mary, two years old and Jacob, one year old left their farm and moved to Crestline, Ohio, in 1835 again possessed with the spirit of change they migrated to Lake County, Indiana.

They made claim and settled what later became known as the Jones' place, seven and one half miles south of Crown Point and completed what was known also as the Bryant settlement.

by: Jane Bryant

### Mary Ellen Fancher Church

Mary Ellen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Fansher) also spelled Fancher, and her three sisters, now Mesdames Nicholson, S.B.Clark, and Clingham, have contributed their share in community life. Their father was a member of the first exploring party who selected claims in 1834. He lived for a season on his first claim in section 17, on which is the little lake bearing his name, and is now the Lake County Fairgrounds.

### Harriet Storey Clark

(related by Mrs. Beatrice Clark Brownell, Lowell, Indiana. Granddaughter)

In trying to trace the Storey genealogy a few years ago, very little definite information could be found, nor do we have any photograph to give us an idea. Grandmother died many years before I was born but my Father told me that Aunt Wealthy Frank, (his sister) was a perfect picture of his Mother. Aunt Wealthy was a tall, very good sized woman with a very kindly face and quiet manner. We know that she must have been resourceful and an excellent wife and mother, managing her household in a generous, hospitable manner typical of the frontier women.

Harriet Storey, (parents' names unknown) was born December 2, 1807 in Naples, New York, where also the young man she married was born March 4, 1803. In all probability Harriet Storey and Joseph Addison Clark were married in that town or at least in the home state about 1825 or 1826 because they had had five children when they decided to venture to the much talked of northwest Indiana to which so many settlers were trekking. They arrived in what is now Lake County, Indiana in March 1837. They claimed a tract of land in Township 33; section 18; range 8, in the community called Pleasant Grove, about three

continued

miles north east of the present town of Lowell, Cedar Creek Township. The Bryant families, David and Samuel, and Nancy Bryant Agnew had come there in March or April of 1835. The Surprise families later bought farms and still own land there.

Four more children were born to them, their family now consisting of six sons and three daughters. Religion and education held prominent interest in daily life. Their faith was Methodist and their devotion and faithfulness meant that often times the meetings were held in their home. They were active in the organization of the first Methodist Church in the community, and maintained a lifelong connection.

Civic and political affairs had a share of attention. Mr. Clark was the first tax collector of Lake County.

Harriet was widowed May 29, 1854 and bravely carried on the family responsibilities. When the call for volunteers came when the Civil War was declared, three sons responded; In 1861 Joseph A. Jr. left and in course of time became a second lieutenant in the 20th Indiana Regiment, Company B.; George S. was in the 73rd Indiana Regiment of the Infantry. Alva, the youngest to go was a drummer boy and was captured and held in Libbey Prison, he became very ill and was released and sent home. He died two days after his return. He was nineteen years old.

Although not sixty five years of age at the time of her death, April 18, 1872, she had contributed much to the development of the community, she and all members of her family, excepting Mary A. (married daughter) are buried in the Lowell Cemetery.

#### Marietta Clark, Mrs. Jabez

Career of first old settler via Marietta Clark of Lowell, Indiana from 1832 to 1840 inclusive.  
by Schuyler C. Dwyer

In the early times the highly famed Horace Greely, then New York's principal Journalist, published his nationally well known exhortation, ie, "Go West Young Man!" a young Medical Doctor a graduate of a Rhode Island University, but a citizen of the then named "Croton Holler" in North-west New York state, viz, Jabez Clark, accompanied by his young wife our subject, viz, Marietta, acted upon Greely's direction, and with their then three small children, viz, Milo, Perry, and Cornelia, and their personal belongings, boarded one of the "Great Lakes" passenger boats on the shore of Ontario, sailed for the then small village of Michigan City, Indiana on our well named lake in a region where "good wood and water (according to the aforesaid named Writer's advices), could be found." There they safely landed in 1837, and they bought a team of horses and a first invented threshing machine, and proceeded to thresh grain for the farmers of Northwest Indiana while Marietta, no doubt, helped the women of that region whose families her Medical husband ministered unto. Soon they learned from their local explorations that the not distant county of Lake in that corner of the Hoosier state was the "Mecca" point of that of which Greely directed; so westward they continued their way principally through not one "Rolling Prairie", but many such, until they came to lengthy and widening

continued

forests, interspersed by a crooked creek outlet of a beautiful fresh water lake, the hilly shores of which were capped by charming Cedar Trees. Obviously they chimed "This is to be our home." So following the creek they came upon a populous tented and cabined Indian Camp in a beautiful country-side, an agricultural and forestry paradise, with only three recent White Bachelor Settlers, within a 12 mile radius. Here they found an only small vacant cabin habitation of one room topped by a so-called loft, in which they made their first immigrant home, in a later date, the settlement became known as Lowell where Marietta became its Dressmaker and "Jabe" its only Doctor. That first log cabin's location was on the present Northeast corner of intersection of Main and Mill streets in Lowell, which was then the only Business District in the village. Before a year had passed, they moved to another like cabin situated in the then a grove vicinity of the present Golf Course location in that town, thus getting closer to the "Woods, and water" of the Creek. Before 1840 however, they concluded to, and did erect on the East portion of the so called County Road, the first frame house in the village, on land they preempted from the Government. This was of a two story and basement size, of about a dozen rooms etc. similar to hotels commonly seen "for years" along the Emmigrant much traveled roads. Here they lived, Marietta - the good wife and her enterprising M.D. husband and aforesaid children, all cordial hostesses to the citizens as well as the increasing grateful travelling public. They gave gratis to the public, the schoolhouse grounds and even a Public Square to the citizens then recognized - "Lowellites" and freely furnished their Home-made brick, for the first Brick 1½ story School house of three rooms, located where a public honorary engraved Marker was placed at the corner of the grounds there to the joint honor of Melvin A. Halsted and the Clarks.

This finishes the limit of time for this part of the narrative respecting this earliest "Mother in Lowell."

Mary Cordelia Hackley, Mrs. Wellington Clark  
by Wellington A. Clark and Clarabelle Bevan

Mary Cordelia Hackley was born in Richfield, Otsego County, New York, on May 3, 1819 and came to Indiana with her parents Roswell and Ora D. Hackley about 1832 and settled near where Michigan City is now, about 1839 the family moved to Lake County and settled in Hanover Township near Cedar Lake occupying the log cabin vacated by Dr. Joseph Greene the early physician of the community, his brother Sylvester and family and a young brother, Edward, who had moved to the north bank of Cedar Lake.

Here in this log cabin home in Hanover township near the headwaters of West Creek lived the Hackley family and some of the neighbors were the families of Torrey, Wilkinson, Wiles, Bond, Hornor, Greene, Ball and others.

As neighbors in other localities at this time were the families of Hack, Schmal, Orte, Adler, Reder, and others who came about 1837 and settled at Prairie West, what is now St. John, and West Creek Township where were the Hayden's, Clarks, Torrey, and others who came about 1838.

These localities were then many hours travel from the homes of these early settlers as there was only one bridge over West Creek, where is now State Road 2

continued

In the summer of 1843 Mary C. Hackley attended a camp meeting at Cedar Point Bluff on the east bank of Cedar Lake and there met Wellington A. Clark of West Creek Township and a courtship started which lead to their marriage on December 7, 1843 at the Hackley home in Hanover Township.

The ceremony was performed by Judge Robert Wilkinson, who was the first probate judge of Lake County and a neighbor.

The honeymoon was a journey from the Hackley home in Hanover Township to the new farm home of the groom in West Creek Township by horse and buggy loaned by a friend.

They lived at the farm until 1846 when they moved to Crown Point. There they built a good house which is still standing, at 227 South Court Street and is now occupied by her granddaughter Mrs. Clarabel Clark Rockwell Bevan.

About 1867 they returned to the farm in West Creek Township and erected and operated the first cheese factory in Lake County.

They returned to Crown Point about 1875 and lived in the original house the remainder of their lives.

Mary C. Hackley was an ideal Christian lady, raised a family of 3 sons, and one daughter, and when her older son and his wife passed away she and her husband raised, educated and made a home for their granddaughter, Clarabel. A grandson Charles A. Clark was raised by the maternal grandparents Edward Dyer and wife who lived just over the state line in Illinois.

On December 7, 1893 Mr. and Mrs. Wellington A. Clark celebrated the first Golden Wedding Anniversary in Lake County.

She died December 28, 1906 and is buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Crown Point.

#### Adelaide Staley, Mrs. John A. Crawford

Adelaide Staley Crawford was born on December 3, 1823, in Montgomery County, New York. She received a good common school education. In her twenty first year she married John Aaron Crawford, the following year, 1845 they moved to Lake County, Indiana, where they bought a farm on an east-west road just west of South East Grove. Here they lived and successfully operated the fertile farm land. After her husband's death she made her home with her son and family, J.S. Crawford, who lived at the corner of South and Main Streets, Crown Point, Indiana. Here she passed on the seventy-eighth anniversary of her birth, December 3, 1901.

Mrs. Crawford was a remarkable woman; not only was her home ever open to friends and strangers alike, each one receiving a hearty welcome, but she was ever ministering to the needs of others, helping during illness and during strenuous times of busy seasons, such as harvesting. She was wellknown as was a familiar figure throughout the central and southern part of the county. She was a staunch member of the Presbyterian Church at Hebron, Porter County, Indiana. She was a liberal contributor as well as worker.

\*contributed by her daughter, Mrs. Ernest H. Hixon, nee Amy Crawford,

### Clarinda Warner, Mrs. John Curtis

Clarinda M. Warner was born in New Haven Connecticut, February 1, 1828 and died January 29, 1926 at Crown Point, Indiana. They moved in 1883 to Greencastle, Indiana where Mr. Curtis died, she then moved to Phoenix, Arizona and Los Angeles, California.

In 1851 she came by rail and boat on the Great Lakes to Chicago and thence by prairie schooner to Lake County to join her brother, DeForest Warner.

In 1854 she married John J. Curtis. One of their three children lived to adulthood she was Mrs. L. J. Rice, who passed away nine years before her mother, who lacked two days of her ninety-eighth birthday.

Mrs. Curtis was a staunch Republican, and was a registered voter up to the last year. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for eighty five years. Her beautiful, patient life has been an inspiration to all for she broke her hip at the age of eighty-one years and used crutches until the last four years when she was unable to walk. "To do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God" was her creed. She was buried at the little cemetery at Orchard Grove, Lake County, Indiana.

### Mary Janette Perkins Dinwiddie

(from the Dinwiddie Clan record and Mabel Dinwiddie Smith.)

Mary Janette Perkins, born May 5, 1818, near Rome, Oneida County, New York, lived the greater part of her life in Lake county, Indiana, where she died March 15, 1888 and was buried in the Plum Grove Cemetery. (on the south side of what is now known as State Road 2, east of State Road 55.

She left her girlhood home to launch a teaching career in Grundy County, Illinois, about 1838 because she married John Wilson Dinwiddie August 19, 1844, who with his father Thomas, had taken vast acreage near Indian Town in Porter County in 1836. His sister, probably Margaret Jane, kept the home.

After the death of her husband in 1861 she capably managed the 3,700 acre farm in Eagle Creek township, as she had aided her husband and was of a practical and business like nature, she did not find this a hardship. Her executive ability has become a legend in the neighborhood and with whom she had dealings, and all respected her opinions and judgment in business matters. In the community she was a leader, she organized the first Sunday School in the township and conducted it as the superintendent for many years. She actively promoted philanthropic enterprizes that she saw was for the good of the rural community and yet never at any time neglected her family, she was an exemplary pioneer mother. Her household was managed on a business basis, she reared her five children with much attention to character and education.

The children were Oscar, Jerome, (born in Lake County 1848, the family settled here probably about 1846), Frances Rosalia, born May 9, 1852, (married Brownell); Edwin Willis, born December 18, 1856, and Mary Elizabeth born July 18, 1859, (married Nichols).

(Note: Frances and Mary might be classified as "early settler babies")

### Lucretia DeGau Dodge

Written by Mrs. Alice Spalding Scritchfield, (Mrs. Cass) of Lowell

Lucretia DeGau was born near Windsor, Canada October 22, 1819. Having lost her mother when quite young she was raised by an aunt who gave the delicate child every care. Her only brother was drowned in the river near her home.

Little is known of those early years; but she was well trained in the things considered important to a woman of that time. She did beautiful needle work, was a wonderful cook, was a great reader and had religious training, was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1836 Lucretia DeGau was married to Henry Dodge of Vermont. They came the same year to Indiana, and settled near the state line and the south crossing of West Creek. Here most of her thirteen children were born. Left home with four small children while her husband served in the Mexican war. He was discharged a Lieutenant in 1847. She had 1 son in the Civil War, a grandson in the Spanish American War, and three great-grandsons in the Second World War. A record it seems.

Hers was a busy life. By the time she spun the wool and flax, dyed it, and wove it into cloth which was made into garments for her large family. She also made a home for her father-in-law for many year.

Mrs. Dodge was a very cheerful person who loved company. Was a great person to visit her neighbors.

At one time she and her husband kept a hotel and Post Office in Sherbournville, Illinois and during the Civil War he served as draft officer there.

After the Civil war she moved with her family to Oceania Co., Michigan. In 1872 they tried farming in Kansas. Had their house built and the first crop doing fine when the great grass hopper infestation cleaned them out. They returned to Michigan where some of her sons lived and her husband died in 1879. From then on she lived with her children growing young all over again with her grandchildren of who she had 50.

She died at the home of her son in Ferry, Michigan on March 9, 1895 and sleeps in the Ferry Cemetery.

One of her very near and dear neighbors while living in West Creek was Mrs. W. A. Clark. Mr. Clark was some kind of an official. land commissioner or something and was to hold Court in the district.

Mrs. Clark came to Lucretia and said she didn't know what to do as Mr. Clarks trousers were so far gone they were not safe for more mending and she could get no cloth. Mrs. Dodge had one last treasure from her old home, a black broad cloth dress. Without hesitation she brought it out and gave it to Mrs. Clark, who joyously made the much needed pants. That was loving thy neighbor as thy self. Skirts in those days contained cloth enough for any emergency. In those one room homes there were emergencies—Once grandma was taking a foot bath when the deacon arrived. She just dropped her skirt over the pail and picked up her knitting, visited away and the Deacon left none the wiser.

## Jerusha Dodge

Jerusha Dodge wife of Paul Dodge, was born in Vermont in 1786. To give their children a better chance they started west. They came thru Canada and Michigan to Indiana.

With their two sons Henry and Lenord and wives they settled in West Creek. Here after three years of pioneer hardships she died at the age of fifty-three.

She had four sons and one daughter.

In 1839 she was buried in the Hayden Cemetery in the woods, later moved to West Creek Cemetery where she rests. Her husband survived her and spent his last years in the home of his son Henry.

(Written by Alice Spalding Scritchfield (Mrs. Cass) of Lowell)

## Betsy Murphy Driscoll

Contributed by her grand-daughter, Alta M. Lynch, Lowell, Aug. 22, 1950

Betsy Murphy Driscoll was born in Ireland, December 24, 1815. At about nineteen years of age she became desirous of coming to America. Her chance came when she was invited by a family by the name of Bryant who were going, they landed in New York, (about 1834) but did not stay long, they moved to Joliet, Illinois. Here she became acquainted with John Driscoll, who she married in 1838. Since John had made claim to land in the northwest part of Indiana, Section 8; twp. 33, Range 5 (or twp 32 r.8), he took his bride very soon to Lake County, South township. To this union were born eight children.

Indians were living in the woods across the road from their newly purchased farm. In a short time they built a nice frame house to replace the little log cabin. The Indians were very friendly and liked my grandfather very much, but my grandmother was afraid of them. One time Grandfather had to go to Chicago with a load of grain, it took several days to make the trip so he knew that trips to the spring for water would have to be made. He told the Indians that when she went to the spring in the woods that he wished that they would pay no attention to her because she was afraid, they agreed so she got along fine.

The Indians were going to move and they wanted Grandfather to go with them, after they had gone, two of them, with an extra pony, came for him, and wanted him to go back with them which he did, I do not know how long he was gone but they were very pleased to have him go.

The people in that neighborhood, went to Lafler Lake, about one half mile from the house to do their washing. They took all of their things with them, a big kettle to heat the water in, their dinners and stayed all day. The clothes were hung on the bushes or anything they could find to dry. They did not wash every week. Lafler Lake is pretty well grown over now.\*\*

\*\*Note: Wendel McNay drew a sketch of the relative position of Lafler and general shape.

\*\* Marguerite Nichols Schroeder, a researcher at the Lake County Title and Abstract Company gave me this notation "Deed by John Driscoll and his wife Betsy to Cedar Lake Township - September 18, 1854 - land to the Plum Grove Cemetery." Location - south side of what is now State Road 2 and west of State Road 55, diagonally from what is known as Kenney's Corner.

**Career of Cornelia Artemissa Clark Dwyer**  
**First White Family Settlers of Lowell, Indiana**  
**Limited to such as she lived after 1840**

This subject's family, locally then personally known as the "Jabez Clarks" by 1840, had erected the first school-house of Lowell, Indiana within a quarter of a mile East of their large frame house — latter being situated on South side of the "East and West County road" passing through the then village. This small "Temple of Learning" commonly consisted of only one room, with only few facilities; and here it was the subject of this sketch commenced her schooling among the usual few children and teacher, in the very small sized community. Her parents, however, had been well educated in New York state, before their immigration to Lake County, Indiana, and were of great assistance educationally as well as otherwise. She passed through her childhood years in a small neighborhood in her first years, ie. in the "40's", which was settled by the tented and cabined friendly Pottawatomie Indians, in the majority, and white immigrants from the "East". Naturally she devoted her time to her schooling in the fall and winter, and to their homework in spring and summer. At the age of about 20 she had finished her schooling, and was a pronounced "Belle" of the growing population. She took a live interest in attending the then only church in the community, situated about a mile East of the village in the beautiful commonly called "Sanger Grove", and presided over by an occasional "Circuit Rider Pastor." While attending church there one Sunday A.M., it developed that she was surprised to see a "Prince Charming," enter same, accompanied by another Clerical appearing "gent," neither known of by our subject, but immediately ascertained to be "Crown Pointers", the first named, John M. Dwyer, a recent new inhabitant of the County Capitol, who was aiding his father in a special new building constructions; one of which was the first brick Catholic Church building in the near-by village of St. John. He had come to attend this farmers church only as a companion to the gentleman, who had arranged a meeting there, for a "date" with a lady district school teacher - stationed near Lowell, by the then name of Rebecca Dwyer, or later Roberts. In short it developed that she was the sister of the former "Prince", and a close friend of her brother, who had come with the "other" well known Crown Pointer, who was Amos Allman.

Suffice it to say this "surprise party meeting", at the church, was a "Love at first sight between the Dwyer and Clark persons, for she soon learned he was a "native Buckeye" and a graduate of the then leading University in Ohio, viz Oberlin, and soon to be a well acclaimed teacher in the Lake County District Schools - where while teaching he had "free board and room" furnished by patrons of the respective schools which he served, which was then the prevalent custom. From "keeping steady company" a ripening into marriage resulted by or before 1861; and Cornelia and John became the only Dwyer family, known then, in Southern Lake County.

Their first home was on a farm established in West Creek township, a few miles west of Lowell. Five children were born to them before the Civil War ended. Cornelia's husband being a volunteer therein, four of them passing away in infancy, the remaining one, a boy, living only into early manhood, and after the War, in which the husband and father was wounded about 1868. Then he was presented with a Government office position in the War Department building in Washington D.C. Here they resided until 1869 or slightly later. Within

the latter mentioned year, this narrator was born there, within a square from his father's office and within the then popular Vice President, viz, Schuyler Colfax' administration, and this narrator was given the latter's name. The parents then concluded to remove to Lowell, their former home village where Cornelia's parents and brothers were still dwelling; and this move they accomplished before 1872 as John M. was elected Lake County Recorder, and took office within that year, and they moved to Crown Point to be near that office. Here Cornelia gave birth to a daughter, who was named Sylvia May.

At the expiration of Cornelia's husband's term in the Recorder's office, the family returned to farming at Lowell where they had formerly resided until 1872 as aforesaid, where Cornelia was principally interested in the family welfare and education. Therefore by 1880 the family had again moved to Greencastle, Indiana the east of Asbury: later becoming DePauw University, where we children finished our education.

Cornelia and husband with the family, excepting Sylvia, who married at Greencastle, returned to Lowell where this narrator was engaging in the Law practice. About 1900 Cornelia's husband passed away; from then on she remained a widow until about a quarter of a century thereafter; passing away at the age of 91 years.

Schuyler Colfax Dwyer, 1951.

#### Ruth Ann Wells Eddy

Ruth Ann Wells was born and united in marriage with Russell Eddy at Troy, New York, came to Lake County, Indiana in 1837 and made claim to land.

They lived for one year in the Michigan City neighborhood.

Mrs. Eddy, one of the first women in the Presbyterian Church of Crown Point, was a life long active member. As far as is known she was the organizer and promoter of the Sunday School in Lake County. She was the first religious teacher and organized such a school in her home in 1837, four years before the first "School" in what is now Chicago, Illinois. To counteract the general opposition to religious teaching that existed as an undercurrent murmur she merely called her group a gathering of the children to listen to the stories in the "Scriptures".

#### History of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fleck by Clare Fleck December 7, 1949

Peter Fleck was born in the year 1811 in the City of Tolli. This City was under French possession, at the time of his birth.

In 1828 he located in Liverpool, Indiana, which was expected to be a large city. At one time it was choosen as the County seat of Lake County and a Court house was started, the foundation of which is still standing.

He obtained a Government claim on 160 acres of land south of Liverpool on the Joliet - Michigan City Indian Trail. Being a carpenter, he built himself a log cabin. It was a two story building with a large living room, combination kitchen and utility room, and a bed room on the main floor. The second floor

continued

was just one large room arranged for sleeping quarters.

Shortly after he located there, he fell in love with and married Miss Barbara Schuttler who resided at what is now 49th Ave. and Liverpool Road. Several children were born to this union, but all died in infancy. Barbara became ill with tuberculosis and passed away. As a widower, Peter lived alone for several years spending much of his time reading the Bible.

### Lucy Jane Hathaway Foster

Lucy Jane Hathaway Foster was born April 14, 1828 in New York State. She came with her family to Yellow head Township, Illinois in 1838. She often visited and helped the Alfred Fosters who lived on the Foster acreage in West Creek and there met George Lyman Foster a brother of Alfreds.

As I understand it George Lyman Foster came to West Creek about 1835. However he and Lucy Jane were not married until March 9, 1845 so she may not be classed as a pioneer woman.

One of the interesting things about the early life in the Mid-West of the Hathaway family, to me pertains to food. They had been accustomed to mince pie for the Holidays but they did not have apples or meat the first year so they used a little ingenuity. They used breasts of prairie chicken for the meat and pumpkin and cranberries for the apples and had "Mince Meat" for their celebration and no one was disappointed.

by Jule Nelson Diggs

Elizabeth Wood Harrison (Mrs. John)  
(contributed by A. Wood of Lowell)

Elizabeth Wood was born in Center Township, Lake County, Indiana, August 17, 1840, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James A. Wood. She was educated in the grade schools of the township (and Lowell) and later studied in Crown Point and Valparaiso, where she prepared herself for a teacher and taught school in Indiana and in Illinois.

She went to Jewell County, Kansas in 1873 where she took up a claim and remained there for a few years, teaching during the period. She then returned to Lake County to care for her parents and remained with them until their death.

She was married to John Harrison November 11, 1878, who was born in Dorchester, England. Elizabeth Wood Harrison was an active worker in civic affairs and also in the Christian Church where she was a lifetime member and will be long remembered as a teacher in the Sunday School, faithful for many years.

Gascha Borger Herlitz  
(Contributed by Miss Mary Herlitz, granddaughter.)

Gascha Borger was born in Hanover Province, Germany in 1810. A somewhat uneventful girlhood was ended by she and her sister Anna deciding to accept the invitation to join friends who were sailing for America in 1836.

continued

Alluring stories of the fabulous new country had started a migration. On the same boat was a dapper young gentleman by the name of Lewis E. Herlitz, a native of Pymont, a part of the principality of Waldeck, Germany. The two were formally introduced, fell in love and were married the same year, very shortly after they landed. They settled near Detroit, Michigan where they lived until 1839, at which time they moved to Indiana and located on the northwest side of Cedar Lake. They bought a claim that had been taken in 1836 by Hiram Nordyke. They were successful in securing a good title from the government for the land. (Solon Robinson's claim register, 1836)

Indians had left this section a short time before. The land was heavily wooded, but with fertile open spaces. Wild life was plentiful, deer still roamed about, small fruits abounded. Here on a pleasant site they built themselves a new residence, a log cabin, which served them comfortably until 1855 when it was replaced by a fine frame house which still stands on its original spot and is occupied by Fred Herlitz and his son Louis R. at the present time.

Gascha, like all pioneer women, endured many privations and hardships. Conveniences were few, and only as ingenuity and ability they were made. Responsibilities of having and rearing six children were many. The little ones were taught their chores. There were Fred, Margaret, (Vilmer), Louis W., Anna (Dietel), Minnie (Weber) and Oscar J. later as citizens became well known active members of the community.

The spinning wheel is still in the family, that was such an essential piece of furniture and constantly in use in those far away days. So is the coffee browner or roaster, all of the coffee had to be roasted and ground, also, the old meat grinder is on the shelf. The hop vines have multiplied during the years and still adorn the fences on the farm. Hops were important for yeast had to be made before the bread could be made, and that was a staple food and a frequent task. Breadmaking is an art.

Another routine task was the making of soft soap. Lye from wood ashes and scraps of fat were cooked together in a large kettle over an open fire in the yard. This required stirring and pouring into boxes or pans to harden.

In season the butchering was done, the lard tried, the meat cut up to be cured and smoked. Beef and pork were stored away in quantities. Then there was the garden, the ground prepared for the planting, the hoeing, the weeding and the gathering of the crops followed by the canning, drying and preserving of the foods for the winter use. Apples were peeled, cored, cut into pieces and dried in the sun.

These pioneer women were acquainted with the herbs, they collected pennyroyal, yarrow, elder berry blossoms and many others which they dried to be used for medicine. Each household had its medicine chest well supplied with these nature's remedies.

Her sister Anna, Mrs. Henry Sasse, and a Mrs. VanHollen, also of German birth, were all Lutherans by training, and with Jane A. H. Ball were close in association with Gascha in the promising little community north and to the west of Cedar Lake, contributing talent, time, and money.

Gascha Borger Herlitz passed away in 1875, she is buried in the Crown Point Cemetery, (Maplewood).

## Harriet Warner Holton

Harriet Warner Holton, daughter of General and Mrs. Jona'n Warner, was born in Hardwick, Massachusetts January 15, 1783. She was united in marriage with Alexander Holton, a young lawyer, about 1806. Previous to her marriage she had been a successful school teacher at Westminster, Massachusetts.

March 1817 they arrived at Vevay County, Indiana, where they had journeyed in the company of several families desiring to seek their fortunes in the much talked of Northwest Territory; the promising Swiss settlement near the Ohio River was the destination. However, in 1820, the family moved to Vernon, Indiana, where Mrs. Holton again became a teacher; whether from necessity or desire to be a builder in the field for which she had so carefully prepared herself.

The pioneer spirit was strong; when a group of several families decided to journey to what is now Lake County, Indiana, Mrs. Alex Holton, now a widow, with two sons and a daughter, joined the caravan. The trip was long and tedious, the weather was fearfully cold, the Kankakee marsh region was a hazard. At the best, the oxen could make very few miles each day. Early in February 1835, the group arrived at a settlement destined to be known as Crown Point, the county seat. Solon Robinson and a few other families, comprised the population. There was a need for a school.

In the winter of 1835-1836, Harriet Warner Holton opened her home for a school. Three pupils, no doubt her own children, were the first to be enrolled. This log cabin site is just east of the present Pennsylvania station. The triangular spot has a temporary marker.

The professional training and the fine character of our first public school teacher has been a wonderful precedent. Harriet Warner Holton was a typical pioneer woman, brave, courageous and versatile. Timothy Ball, the historian who has recorded this story in the "Lake County History, 1884" states that she was in many respects the most remarkable woman in Lake County. As a wife and mother she was ideal, as a neighbor and friend she was without peer, as a teacher she was not excelled either in qualifications or ability. As her funeral procession passed to the Maplewood Cemetery, at the edge of Crown Point, the Lake County Court House bell was tolled, which was the first and the last time (1900 account) that its deep tones have been heard at the time of a funeral procession. "Honor to who honor is due" quoted our historian.

Harriet was one of nine daughters in her family, the sisters all married well, all were prominent and influential citizens in their respective New England towns. Quoting Mr. Ball. "Mrs. Harriet Warner Holton, - Lake County's first school teacher, is worth of her place (in the Indiana pioneer village, as a sister of those wealthy and cultured women who married governors, judges, and lawyers in the New England towns."

In her declining years she made her home with a son, either A. W. Holton or J. W. Holton, who resided on a farm six miles northeast of Crown Point.

She was a life-long Presbyterian. She died October 17 1879, at the age of 96 years, 9 months and 2 days old.

(Notes, Data taken from T. H. Ball's History)

continued

The first marriage license issued by the first clerk of the newly organized county of Lake, state of Indiana, was to John Russell and Harriet Warner Holton, 1838 - January.

Also, the first divorce granted in the new county was to John Russell and Harriet Warner Holton.

(Verified at the Lake County Recorders files, volume 1, shows it to have been the third license issued.)

Northwest Indiana History -- Timothy H. Ball, Page 109--page 368

Lake County History \*\*T.H.Ball, 1884, page 406-407.

Porter and Lake County History, Blanchard, states that the little old black log cabin home of Harriet Warner Holton came into use as a school house in 1838, it was replaced by a frame building in 1842. The first high school was in a building later used by Luther and Holton as a cigar store. Established high school in 1855.

### Frances Evans Kilborne

Frances Charlotte Evans, daughter of Joseph and Johanna Evans, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 14, 1826. She became acquainted with hardships when quite young. In 1833 her parents moved their family to Canada to escape an epidemic of cholera that raged in Philadelphia. In the environs of their new home, a rather wild hilly country, where sheep raising was a profitable investment, it became the responsibility of little Frances to see that the sheep were safely in shelter each night. On one occasion they were lost and when found were out on a prairie far from home. It was ten o'clock, and the night was dark and dreary when she arrived safely with the stray sheep.

Other new and heavy duties fell to her lot. She became acquainted with hardships of many kinds, since she was the eldest it was her duty to do work and to run errands that an ordinary child in these days would shudder at. Another task was to gather sap for making maple syrup, and indoors she helped spin yarn and learned to sew, and when old enough she worked at sewing in the homes of other people at the magnificent wage of 50 cents per week. Later she taught school for such a small salary that today would not keep one alive.

In her girlhood days she had many interesting experiences, such as the Father of our Country had done. She witnessed the big parade in celebration of the 100th birthday anniversary of George Washington. Such historic events aroused in her mind an unusually deep interest that made lasting impressions. Among her possessions are badges and aprons which her father and uncle wore on that particular occasion. She saw the first steam car ever made.

In September 1841 she was united in marriage to Albert Kilborne (Kilbourn) by a Reverend Mr. Smart, in her home town in Canada. They moved to Crown Point, Lake County, Indiana during April, 1851. At that time there were no railroads nearer to Crown Point than Michigan City and the remainder of the trip was by wagon. Since there were no state roads they just came directly across country, not even property fences barred the way.

They settled in Crown Point near the Solon Robinson home, her Aunt Maria's home.\* There was not a stick of timber anywhere that was large enough to kill a snake and her husband hauled the timber from the Kankakee swamp region to build the house (?). Many times in those early days she would have

frequently hungry callers, who liked her "johnny cake" especially well. Often if there was a big iron kettle of "stew" brewing over the open fire in the yard near the house, the Indians would help themselves to the appetizing preparation.

Religion of the older type played an important part in her life. In her early childhood back in Philadelphia, she united with the Christ Episcopal Church. She witnessed the first baptism, that of a babe, that was performed in that historical church. Throughout life she paid devout attention to matters religious and ardently supported reforms individually or through organizations. She was treasurer of the Crown Point Women's Christian Union for twenty-two years. Although in her advancing years she resigned some of her groups she never lost interest in their activities. She was a friend of the poor, always lending a helping hand. Her sterling qualities and good deeds will long be remembered by all who knew her. She passed away at the ripe age of 98 years, 10 months and 22 days, at the home of her daughter Dora (Mrs. William Randolph) on east Joliet Street. Services were conducted at the First Methodist Church, Rev. George B. Jones was Pastor in charge, burial was in Maplewood Cemetery.

She was active in all departments of the First Methodist Church of this city, of which she became a member in the earlier days.

Tribute accorded this venerable and esteemed lady is that she was one of the outstanding characters of Lake County's growth, she came when the county was a wilderness, abounding in wild animals and Indians, as a sturdy pioneer she did her part to lay the foundation and blaze the trail for the great industrial region of the Calumet District. She retained her wonderful memory until nearly the last and was physically able to do for herself until the last few months when she went to the home of her daughter, Dora, where she died Sunday July 8, 1925.

(note: Richard Kilborne, then his son, Howard lived at 120 North Court Street and across the street at 119 lives Jennie Wheeler Tice in the homestead of her mother Arabelle Holton Wheeler. Richard is the son of Frances K. who is a niece of Maria Evans Robinson, the great-grandmother of Jennie Tice. See \*\* in story.)

(taken from the obituary which appeared in the Lake County Star issue July 8, 1925.)

Dorothy Taylor Lilley

Written by Ethel A. Vinnedge of Creston, Indiana.

Dorothy Taylor was born in Rensselaer County, New York, to Abigail Williams and Obadiah Taylor I (Revolutionary Soldier buried in Lake County). While still a young girl, she moved with her parents to Erie County, Pennsylvania.

It was here that she married Dr. Calvin Lilley. They had no children, so "Aunt Dorothy" helped mother her numerous nieces and nephews, with whom she was a great favorite.

In 1830, she and her husband started west in a covered wagon. Arriving at South Bend, they decided to settle. Dr. Lilley, a man of means, was able to buy a flourishing Inn located on the main Chicago Trail. Here, business was very good so they remained until 1836, when they sold their Inn to Dorothy's sister, Almira, and husband, James Palmer.

The Lillies then decided to move farther west. After an exploratory trip to Lake County in 1832 by Dr. Calvin Lilley and his Taylor in-laws, he returned

in 1836 with his wife and a horse drawn wagon of possessions to the northern end of Cedar Lake in Lake, County, Indiana.

Here, they filed a claim and established a large tavern or inn and a store. In 1837, the tavern license was \$15.; also they were granted a license on May 29, 1837, to sell foreign and domestic groceries and dry goods. They had a very prosperous business here. In 1836, Dr. Lilley and David Reed had built a sawmill on the outlet of Cedar Lake. Here, most of the lumber was cut for the Lilley Tavern.

The tavern was fitted with more than the needed equipment and supplies, Dr. Lilley hauling many wagon loads from Chicago and South Bend, until it was a place of 'luxury' in a new country.

Dorothy was a very efficient innkeeper's wife. During her husband's absence she could take charge of the inn and store with the help of several nearby nephews who loved to work at the Lilley Inn.

Several of the boys were hired all of the time, to help care for the traveler's horses, feeding, watering, rubbing down and bedding them in sheds built near the inn. Also, there was wood and water to be carried in, several huge fireplaces to be cared for, food to be prepared, while a clerk was needed in the store.

Some of Aunt Dorothy's nieces assisted her in the kitchen work. Many of the guests had their own blankets with them, but there was still plenty of washing to do in the nearby washtub of Cedar Lake. There were candles to make, floors to be cleaned, dishes to wash, lamps to be cleaned and filled, meat to be taken care of and baking to be done.

Dorothy was a very particular housekeeper and the Inn had to be kept very clean. The large upstairs rooms were used by several guests at a time, as privacy seemed to be lacking when there was a large crowd. Many times some had to sleep on the floor.

Dorothy had the mattresses freshly filled with straw or husks several times a year. She had several feather beds, too. In her spare hours in the evenings, she pieced quilts or tied comforters so as to keep an adequate supply on hand.

Using her New England recipes plus the foods available at Cedar Lake, Dorothy caused the Lilley Tavern to be noted for the good food served, in contrast to some of the smaller taverns in northern Indiana.

Besides serving wild honey; wild strawberries; blackberries; and cranberries were served in season and made into jam for winter use; to eat on the biscuits and corn bread always served at each meal. In the summer a variety of vegetables were on the menu. Meat was usually venison, bacon, salted or fresh pork, fresh fish or salted fish (from the Lake), quail, squirrels, and rabbits.

The Lilleys had a cow and a few chickens, so the inn served fresh butter and milk, and some eggs. Dr. Lilley bought plenty of other supplies in from Chicago or South Bend, making the trip every few months, so Dorothy always had flour, sugar, salt, tea, and coffee. Enough buckwheat was raised nearby so there were plenty of buckwheat pancakes on winter mornings. Both buckwheat and corn were ground at a nearby mill.

One specialty served by Dorothy, when her nephews caught them for her, was frog legs from the big bull frogs in Cedar Lake, fried in a big iron kettle of deep fat.

The Lilley Hotel and store was, for a few years, a central point where neighbors gathered, where religious meetings were held, and out from which influences of some kind reached the surrounding settlers.

On winter days, the large main room of the Inn would be crowded with the men of the vicinity swapping yarns, discussing ways and means of fishing, farming, building, or there might be a lively political discussion, to which every one listened or took part.

In good weather, the women were glad of an excuse to walk to the store to buy a spool of thread or some trivial thing for the sake of exchanging a bit of gossip with Dorothy Lilley or her guests.

Dr. Lilley, besides being a successful merchant and innkeeper, founder of the town of West Point and builder of mills, was the first physician and surgeon in Lake County, Dorothy assisted her husband as 'nurse and office girl' and in preparing some of his medicines. He died in 1839, and was buried beside her father, Obadiah Taylor, in the West Point Cemetary at Cedar Lake, not far from the Lilley Tavern.

A few years later, Dorothy married Aurora W. Dille, son of General Dille of Ohio. No record of her death is available.

References - Arthur G. Taylor of Crown Point, T.H. Ball's Histories of Lake County, Mrs. Ella Vinnedge Harmon of Creston, Sheldon's History of Deerfield, Mass., Mrs. Margaret Vinnedge Howard of Crown Point, Mrs. Oca Palmer Vallee of Creston, The late A. H. Scritchfield of Creston.

### Myra Ames Little (Mrs. Thomas Little) Personal Family Notes

Mrs. Sol Spry in a Letter written June 1951 says the Thomas Little house in West Creek Township was about ¼ mile northeast of the Neil Love farm on route 41, the farm now owned by Herbert Russel.

Thomas Little surrounded the house with an orchard including such varieties as Russett, Sheepnose, Maiden Blush, Snow, Sweet, Johnny and Strawberry apple trees; Pear trees, Gra pes, Currants, Goose Berries, Raspberry and Blackberry bushes.

The house had about one large and three small rooms and probably an L shaped house with a wood shed and a summer kitchen. There was a loft overhead with a window at each end.

The house was later moved north by the Joseph Little residence and set up on big wooden posts on top of which they put milk pans turned up side down to keep rats from getting inside.

There was a log house on the east 40 acres with 3 big Walnut trees nearby. The children often went there on Sunday afternoons to play and gather wild strawberries. Later the house (log) was moved to the Joseph Ames Little place (son of Thomas and Myra Ames Little)

Myra Ames (Little) Spry (Mrs. Sol) remembers walking across the Henry Peach farm with her mother to the Gerrish grandparents, just south of the Lake Prairie Church. Sometimes she stayed at the Peach place to play with a toy cook stove, made with 4 cooking holes, an oven, and up on 4 legs just like a big stove.

Mrs. Sol Spry feels sure the Thomas Little house was built when they purchased the farm from a southerner because she remembers hearing the folks tell that the farmer threw a grubbing hoe into a small pond there "because he wasn't going to leave it for the darned yankees." The Lewis Little family had the hoe which the thrifty yankee family of Thomas Little promptly rescued.

Letter of July 29, 1951 from Mrs. Sol Spry says she has a small rocking chair that belonged to her grandmother Mrs. Thomas Little; also a white quilt

made for a four poster corded bed, two of the corners are cut out to fit around the foot posts; also two pair of hand made pillowcases marked M.A. Little. These show Mrs. Thomas Little's skill in producing beautiful work with her needle.

Also and perhaps most interesting Mrs. Spry has a small silver heart fashioned by a silversmith from a silver quarter, given to her great-grandmother Hannah (Ames) Ames, born August 11, 1795 died June 18, 1827, (mother of Mrs. Thomas Little) by her (Mrs. Spry's) great-grandmother Mary (Foster) Gerrish, born October 1, 1774, married "sacred to friendship" Hannah's daughter Myra (Mrs. Thomas Little) gave the heart to Mrs. Joseph Ames Little for her eldest son Lewis to cut his teeth on; and Myra Spry eventually recieved the little heart because she had been named for her grandmother Mrs. Thomas Little.

by Hester Little Adams

Source of Material Concerning Mrs. Myra Ames Little (Mrs. Thomas)

From "Encyclopedia of Genealogy and Biography of Lake County, Indiana with a Compedium of History 1834-1904" by Rev. T.H. Ball  
The Lewis Publishing Company

Page 121 p.2

"The family of Thomas Little and wife Myra Ames, came into the then open and wild and beautiful center of Lake Prairie, and with the Gerrish, Ames, Peach, Plummer, and Morey families, formed what was known as the New Hampshire Settlement. The Wason family was soon added to the number."

Page 467 pp.2

"There was joy in the home of Thomas Little on the 24th of May, 1830 that came not alone from the beauty of the season, but more largely from the fact that on that day a male child came to add the blessings of its presence to the family circle. The family at that time lived in Webster township, Merrimac County, New Hampshire. In accordance with the faith of the parents the child received its name in connection with the ordinance of baptism, and for nearly two generations the name of Joseph Ames Little has been a synonym for industry, integrity, and kindness. The Young man came west with his parents (The Thomas Littles) in 1855. From that time until his death his home was mostly in West Creek Township, Lake County.

Deida McCarty

Written by Ethel A. Vinnedge, Creston, Indiana

Deida Walker McCarty, wife of the Hon. Judge Benjamin McCarty, was born in 1796.

She and her husband were early settlers in LaPorte County, where he was the County's first sheriff in 1832. Later, he was Probate Judge. They moved to Porter County in 1836, where they took a claim in the central part of the county. Here Benjamin located Valparaiso, the county seat of Porter County.

Both Deida and her Husband were well educated and leaders in whatever community they lived. They were used to living well and were always well dressed.

They had two daughters, Hannah and Candace, and six sons; Enock Smiley, William Pleasant, Franklin, Fayette Asbury, Morgan, and Jonathan.

When the family moved to Lake County in 1839, the older children were young men and women, more cultivated and better educated than many, quite polished and dignified, the result of the excellent home training by their mother, Deida, and their father, Benjamin, who never spared any expense which meant training to their children.

The older boys brought the finest of Saddle horses to Lake County, each outfitted with expensive saddles. The boys had the best of clothes, manners, and culture. The McCarty family was an asset to Lake County.

After buying the Dr. Calvin Lilley Tavern at the north end of Cedar Lake in 1839, the family successfully ran this inn for several years. Deida had plenty of help with her children to make this inn a popular one.

The McCarty family took part in all of the pioneer's social life. Especially, they enjoyed horseback riding, racing, boating, fishing, skating, bob-sled riding, socials and parties. They attended the Cedar Lake Baptist Church.

In a few years, the McCartys sold the tavern and bought a farm one half mile south of Creston. Judge Benjamin McCarty was unsuccessful in having the county seat located at West Point, which he named the town he had laid out at the north eastern side of Cedar Lake; so, as he was a quick tempered Irishman, he wanted to leave the Lake at once.

Deida continued to make their home life a pleasant one, her quiet even temper helping to balance the Judge's fiery, quick temper.

Two of her sons became school teachers in Lake County. William Pleasant married Sarah, daughter of Rev. G. Taylor of Pleasant Grove. Enock Smiley married a girl from White Post. Fayette traveled all over the west and south after his fiancée was killed by the Indians. Candace married George Belshaw and moved to Oregon. Hannah married Israel Taylor, son of Adonijah Taylor. Franklin married Catherine, daughter of Esther Ann and Hiram Scritchfield. Their descendants still live in Lake County. Franklin was killed in Nashville in 1864, a member of the 12th Cavalry-Co. G in the Civil War.

On March 8, 1848, Deida McCarty died and was buried in the McCarty cemetery, located on their farm, along the road a few rods west of the house.

Judge Benjamin McCarty and the rest of his family, except Franklin, went to Oregon to live.

References: The late Alexander Scritchfield of Creston

Miss Ruby McCarty of Crown Point

Obadiah G. Vinnedge of Creston

Lake County Histories by T.H. Ball

Almira Taylor Palmer

by Ethel A. Vinnedge

Almira Taylor was born in 1800, in Rensselaer County, New York, one of eleven children born to Abigail Williams and Obadiah Taylor I.

Her mother, Abigail Williams of Deerfield, Massachusetts, was doubly descended from Robert Williams, the first Williams to arrive in America. Her father was Dr. Thomas William, a cousin of the founder of William's College.

Abigail was a granddaughter of Major Elijah Williams, son of Rev. John Williams Puritan Pastor of Deerfield, who was carried away by the Indians.

Her father, Obadiah Taylor I, was a son of Adonijah Taylor and Rachelle Sawtelle of Deerfield. Obadiah and five brothers served in the Revolutionary War, as did his father, Adonijah, a first Lieutenant at Fort Ticonderoga and later was in command of a block house at Lake George Landing. Also, he was one of the Minute Men of April 19, 1775.

While still a young girl, Almira moved with her parents to Erie County, Pennsylvania. Here in 1818, she was united in marriage to James Palmer, who was born in Connecticut. He served in the War of 1812, in the Battle of Lake Erie.

Their children were born in Pennsylvania and in St. Joseph County, Indiana. They migrated to Indiana in about 1830, in a covered wagon drawn by a team of fine horses. Other relatives came at the same time, including her aged father. Her mother had died in Pennsylvania.

On their way to Indiana they experienced many adventures plus plenty of hardships.

One day they stopped at a cabin, and Almira went with her husband, James, to an open well full of water. Just as James had drawn out two pails of water to carry back to the wagons, a man came dashing out of the cabin and shouted, "Stop! I'm not giving any water to any travelers or their stock". James talked to him, but he still refused them any water. So James Palmer, who was very tall and so strong that he could carry sixteen bushels of wheat across a grainery floor at one time, grabbed the man's gun, handed it to Almira, then picked him up and ducked him into the well, repeatedly, until he begged to be set free. After he had promised to give water to any traveler desiring it, he quit ducking him.

The prairie on which they settled, south of South Bend, was given the name of Palmer Prairie, and still bears that name. Then Dr. Calvin Lilley, Almira's brother in law, sold his inn in South Bend to James and Almira Palmer.

This South Bend Tavern was located on the main road to Chicago, so their business was a good one. If a lady with a baby stopped, Almira, who had quite a sense of humor, would say to her husband, "Jim, you take the baby, while the lady eats her dinner. You know, babies always like to look at your lovely eyes."

After a while, they moved back to their Palmer Prairie home. Here the soil was very sandy, and Almira used to remark that there were so many fleas she could almost catch a handful between her thumb nails while crossing the kitchen.

Her aged father and other relatives had come to Lake County in 1834, where they settled in 1836, but Almira and James Palmer did not bring their family until 1844. They bought 320 acres in 1846. As they were afraid of Prairie fires, they did not locate with their relatives at Cedar Lake, but settled in the timber along West Creek, which they had explored in 1838.

Here the father and sons cleared a space and built a snug log cabin of several rooms, also a barn for their stock. Their cattle was allowed to run for miles, mingling with those of other settlers. At night, they would locate their own herd of cattle by the sound of the bells on their necks. Riding on horseback, each owner soon rounded out his own cows to drive home to be milked.

The deer were so thick that there was always plenty of venison. One morning Almira looked out of her back door and saw a drove of thirty seven deer, in single file, crossing West Creek, a few rods from the house.

One time, a large buck deer came running through their yard. Her son, Adelbert, caught it by the antlers, and with the assistance of his brothers, shut it in the barn. It escaped during the night, but the next day some dogs chased it back. This time they caught it and shut it in an enclosure made by a rail fence. Here it became very tame and was quite a pet. One morning, Almira went out to see it and found it had broken its neck from a fall off the haystack.

The Pottawatomie Indians did not bother them much. Occasionally, several would stop at the home for a night's lodging, or a meal, to which they were always welcome.

They and their neighbors had more to fear from the lack of doctors and medicine than from friendly Indians. Almira faithfully nursed her family through a seige or Smallpox, from which many others in the neighborhood had died. Their being no doctor available, to each mother fell the lot of being nurse and doctor, making her own medicine from local herbs.

Almira sent her children, on horseback, seven or eight miles to attend the daily summer school at Cedar Lake. They carried their lunch in a large basket.

Her children assisted their mother's cousin, Obadiah Taylor III, in his cranberry marsh south of Cedar Lake, where they picked many bushels of cranberries each year. Almira canned many quarts of these cranberries, also preserving gallons of them and of the wild strawberries and blackberries, which grew in abundance in this land of plenty.

On Sundays, Almira, with her family, drove in their wagon to the Cedar Lake school house to attend the meetings of the Baptist Church. Later they went to the newly organized Cedar Lake Sunday School, which in 1849, was transferred to the Tinkerville schoolhouse or Stillson school, then to a room in Almira's son, Adelbert's house and store in Tinkerville. This was one mile south of Cedar Lake and one half mile from Creston (Creston did not exist at that time.) Timothy Ball used to preach at these meetings.

At this time, Almira and James Palmer had moved to Tinkerville, buying a farm of 200 acres one half mile south, across from the homestead of Obadiah Taylor III, later known as the Fedde Carstern farm, and on the south eastern part of what is now the Henry Cutler farm.

Tinkerville had obtained its name from a tinker shop owned by Fred Miller, who was a blacksmith, and to whom people brought their tinkering jobs. The village included a store, the Cedar Lake Post Office and several houses. It was a center for evening and religious and school meetings and Sabath gatherings of the twenty or more families nearby, including Almira's family. The Stillson school was located on the south west corner of the Obadiah Taylor III homestead, across from the home of Almira Palmer.

Here, in this little village of Tinkerville, Almira enjoyed her later life, taking active part in the simple pleasures afforded the pioneers. She was much in demand at the neighborhood quilting bees, or as hostess for a mush and milk supper, or other church social.

Charles Palmer, of Lowell, can vaguely remember her as his grandmother, a tall thin woman, very energetic, wearing a sun bonnet and gingham apron to match, carrying a basket of eggs to his father's store to exchange for groceries, cloth to sew or piece into a new quilt from a pattern one of her many friends had brought her.

Charles Palmer can remember, also, that his grandmother, Almira Palmer, always had the best sugar cookies and the sweetest jam for her little grandson, who always enjoyed going to grandma's house.

Almira Taylor Palmer was a very competent manager of her home and family. She had few idle moments and was never ill. Neighbors always found her busy at her spinning wheel or sewing, as she made all of the clothes for her large family after spinning and weaving the cloth until later years when cloth could be bought at the store. Cooking, cleaning, washing, making candles, plus the other numerous tasks of the pioneer housewife, still kept her time for studying with her children and reading to them from the family Bible.

After her family was grown, she devoted most of her time to piecing many beautiful quilts, some of which are now treasured heirlooms in the homes of her grandchildren.

After the death of her devoted husband in 1863, Almira made her home with her daughter, Dorothy, wife of Amasa Edgerton. Here she passed away in 1869. Her funeral service was held in the Creston School house, as the church had not been built. She was buried beside her husband, James Palmer, in the central part of the Cedar Lake Cemetery, now called the Creston Cemetery.

Beside her gravestone, the Obadiah Taylor Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, have placed a bronze marker reading "Daughter of a Revolutionary Soldier" on May 27, 1937.

Her picture was among the possessions of the late Ben Palmer of Lowell, and Mrs. Etta Ragon of Crown Point owns the shirt waist worn in the picture. Mrs. Emil Vallee has a sugar bowl and washstand which Almira brought from Pennsylvania in a covered wagon.

Children of Almira Taylor and James Palmer were -- Sylvester, married Ann Studebaker of South Bend. He moved to California. Adelbert, married Marietta Burch. They bought the store of Amos Edgerton in Tinkerville, had the Post Office, Cedar Lake, (renamed Creston P.O. in 1882.) Then he built a store in Creston. George W. married Ann Taylor, daughter of Obadiah Taylor III. They owned the waterfront on the south end of Cedar Lake (now owned by Cordie Coffin and others). He had an ice business, and later was a partner in the Palmer and Taylor Lumber Yard in Creston. Later he was a farmer. William married Elsie Strong and moved to Nebraska. Louisa, married DeWitt Clinton Taylor. They had a farm south of Creston. Dorothy married Amasa Edgerton and lived on a farm near Creston. Sophia married Henry J. Geer and moved to Kansas. Elvina married John Wilkenson.

#### References --

Arthur G. Taylor of Crown Point, Almira's Grandchildren --  
Charles Palmer of Lowell, Mrs. Henrietta Ragon of Crown Point, Mrs. Martin Palmer of Idaho, Mrs. Oca Vallee of Creston.  
Histories of Lake County by T.H. Ball

Susanna Garrish Peach (Mrs. Henry)  
by Hester Little Adams

Dr. Thomas Peach of Boscawen, New Hampshire (later moved to West Creek, Indiana) was married February 2, 1815 to Susanne (Sukey) Gerrish, born June 15, 1797 at Boscawen, New Hampshire, a daughter of Henry Gerrish (6th generation in America) and Mary, Daughter of Hon. Abiel Foster of Canterbury.

Henry and Mary Foster Gerrish married June 6, 1796. Mary born October 1, 1774, died September 23, 1869, aged about 95.

Henry Peach - a son of Dr. Thomas Peach and Susanne Gerrish Peach. Henry B. December 5, 1816. 1st. Esther E. Coffin B. 1821 to Moses and Susanna Farnum Coffin, child of Henry and Esther (the first Mrs. Henry Peach. She died July 1843, before the family came to Indiana.) George H. Peach b. June 10, 1841 to Henry and Esther Coffin Peach. 2nd. Henry son of Dr. Thomas and Susanne Gerrish Peach. Married the Mrs. Henry Peach who came to Indiana - Betsy Chadwick Watson Peach. She was a daughter (grand) of Edmund and Susanna Atkinson Chadwick. Edmund born April 1754. He had two sons and then a daughter Hannah b. March 15, 1784, died January 26, 1853. Hannah Chadwick married James Watson, who was born April 19, 1788 and died November 14, 1840. Hannah and James were married February 23, 1815.

Children of Henry and Betsy Chadwick Watson Peach (Mrs. Henry) Mary E. born October 22, 18-- , Ann E., born March 18, 1850. Emma S., born January 12, 1853.

Emma S. Peach was the second wife of Timothy Abbot Wason and she is the mother of Boyd and Dr. Bell Wason (Mrs. Henry Peach was the Grand-mother of Boyd and Bell). Balls history p. 474 says Emma born in New Hampshire so probably all children of Mrs. Henry Peach was born there. Emma Susan died May 1894.

#### Marcia Ann Crawford Pierce

by (Mrs. Herbert Saxton, nee Pierce, a possible descendent of Jesse or David who took land in the Merrillville area in 1834)

Myiel and Marcia Ann Crawford Pierce were the parents of the first white child born in what is now Merrillville, February 1, 1844, whose name was Myiel Pierce Jr. They had four other children -- Angeline, Marion, Sidney and Corydon.

Myiel, Marion and Corydon all served their country in the Civil War for three years. Marion died in Wilmington, N.C. in Andersonville prison, March 7, 1865. A prisoner for six months, he died of starvation.

Myiel Pierce was united in marriage to Maria Prudence Muzzall, November 12, 1866. To this union were born six children, Alfred Hayward, Marion Henry, Claud Myron, Arthur Willard, Maud Caroline, and Nora Edna.

Myiel Pierce helped to build the Methodist Church in Merrillville, in 1879 and was a faithful member and worker until his death at his home January 24, 1923.

Two of this family are living, Alfred of Lompoc, California, and Nora Saxton of Merrillville. Five Pierce families still reside in Merrillville.

(see Ball's history for earlier story.)

#### Mercy Tobias Pulver

Mercy Tobias Pulver was born in Pennsylvania September 2, 1805. She was educated in the old time schools existing during the earliest years of the past century. November 25, 1826 she was married to David C. Pulver. In the fall of 1841 she with her husband and family came west from Pennsylvania by covered

wagon and took up thier residence on one hundred and ten acres of raw land in West Creek township, Lake County, Indiana.

On their journey west at Rolling Prairie, Indiana, where they camped for the night, their baby Eunice, later Eunice Ashton, was taken from her crib by the Indians who roamed freely in those days and was kept in their possession for three hours before she was rescued.

The first home to shelter the family when they reached Indiana was a log cabin. They afterward built a frame house that now stands on the late Eli Edmonds farm and is owned by Lewis Shurle. Deer often fled across their premises and the howl of the wolves could be heard for many years after their settlement.

The town of Lowell was not yet founded and it was many years before the wild shriek of the locomotive was heard.

Mercy Pulver was the mother of seven children; William, Mary, (wife of W.W. Ackerman) Anne, (wife of H.H. Farrington) Eunice, (wife of Edward Ashton) and David C. Two died in infancy.

David Pulver Sr. Died December 27, 1843 when David C. Jr. was six months old. He being the only child born in Indiana. He cared for his mother in her later years until her death, October 24, 1881.

David C. Jr. was married to Ursula Vandecar and they lived their lives on the Pulver farm, southwest of Lowell. To this union was born five children. Two grand-daughters, Lura Pulver Hayden and Jessie L. Pulver were well known in this area for many years.

by Jessie L. Pulver)

#### Mrs. Emma (Harris) Sanders

Emma Harris, daughter of Nathan and Betsey (Morse) Harris was born in Bennington, Vermont on January 21, 1805. She marrried William Sanders on January 13, 1821 at the young age of 16 years.

To the Sanders's were born twelve children, all living to an adult age except one son. Nine of the twelve children were born in Ohio.

The father and mother with the children came to Indiana on November 27, 1841, and settled on a farm in West Creek Township where they entered heroically into pioneer life. A part of that 1100 acre farm is still owned by the children of Cassius Pinkerton son of Sarah (Sanders) Pinkerton the youngest child of William and Emma Sanders.

Soon after arrival here they cut logs for a school house which was built on the farm, for they knew of a need for education. Also church services were held in this schoolhouse, although the first services were held in the different homes in the neighborhood.

Down through the years Mrs. Sanders together with her husband William suffered much sorrow together with the happiness which a large family will have. One son Ralph died in the Mexican War and Horace died in the Civil War. Neither body rests on the Sanders Cemetery for which Mr. Sanders gave the ground to West Creek Township. This large family was scattered far and wide.

Mrs. Sanders was a real pioneer. She did her own weaving, a sample of which is still preserved in the family records. The spinning wheel was always in evidence, she spinning the wool into yarn, the yarn in turn being knitted into hose. The hose for her large family was no small item, and needed constant

replenishing. There were always quilts to be quilted and those pioneer neighbors gathered for a quilting party often.

The Sanders's were hospitable folk. The latchstring was always out, and there was always popcorn, apples and honey and biscuits made at a moments notice for serving to the the drop in company.

Mrs. Sanders was a lover of flowers, her large yard a riot of color. When coming from Ohio she brought Lilac and Trumpet Vine roots to plant in the new Indiana home.

After nearly 76 years of life, 40 of them on the original homestead in Indiana, she passed away at the home of her daughter Sarah and husband (Mr. and Mrs. James Pinkerton) on November 11, 1881.

Written by Leoti M. Pinkerton, Lowell, Indiana

### Mary Haines Sanders (Mrs. James)

"In the spring of 1846, James and Mary Sanders, with their five sons and three daughters set out from Richland County, Ohio for Indiana in a covered wagon, drawn by a team of oxen, the wagon containing all the household effects and a plentiful stock of provisions. The daily cooking was done by the wayside while the team was resting or feeding and when night came on, the sleeping apartments were found in and under the wagon.

The somewhat tedious journey was terminated on the banks of Eagle Creek, Lake County, where the elder Sanders had "entered" a quarter section of land. There being no house on the premises, the wagon continued to serve as a storehouse and dwelling-place until a cabin could be erected. Within five days after the family completed cabin, eighteen feet square, welcomed the occupancy of a thankful and happy family. The ensuing winter a family of Ohio neighbors having arrived late in the fall, the two families of seventeen persons shared in common the conveniences and comforts of the hospitable cabin."

\* - From Biographical Sketch of Rev. R. H. Sanders, of the Northwest Indiana Conference Methodist Episcopal Church, by R. D. U. Northwest Indiana Conference, March 4, 1908.

James Steele Sanders (born February 13, 1809) was a native of Frederick County, Va.; his wife, Mary (Haines) Sanders (born April 4, 1808) was a native of Westmoreland County, Penn. and was the daughter of Frederick and Joanna (Jarrett) Haines, natives of Penn. and respectively of German and English decent.

James, at the age of 16, in 1825, went to Greensburg Penn., where he met and married Mary Haines. The ensuing years gave to James and Mary Sanders eight children (exclusive of one that died in infancy).

William Petter b. April 24, 1830, m. Mary Dorothea Kin, resided in California.  
Catherine Elizabeth b. November 24, 1831, M. John Shaw 1850, resided in Ark.  
Reuben Haines b. October 12, 1833, m. Mary Ann Sutton 1853, resided in LaPorte, Indiana

James Frederick b. January 25, 1838, m. Pearl A. Booth, resided in Ames, Iowa  
Benjamin Franklin January 9, 1840, m. Clarissa A. Brooks, resided in Black Rock, Arkansas

John Thomas June 20, 1842, m. Hess A. Crowley, resided in St. Louis, Mo.  
Rachel J. Shiffler b. February 25, 1846, M. Abram S. Culbertson than Solomon  
Crawford, resided in Crown Point, Indiana  
Joanna Margaret b. December 28, 1835, m. Lemiah Shaw January 4, 1853,  
resided in Lake County, Indiana, Died March 11, 1867

In 1835 the family moved from Greensbur, Penn. to Richland County, Ohio, and eleven years later to Lake County, Indiana.

The region in which the cabin stood-that part of the county, though here and there invaded by a home-seeker, was as yet a brand-new country, - a land of heavily timbered groves, with intervening stretches of beautiful prairie, - a specimen, in short, of nature's best handiwork. Wild game was plentiful. Herds of deer frequently came with-in easy rifle-range of the cabin door. Wolves also were numerous, often disturbing the slumbers of the family by their hideous howling. Neighbors were few and far apart, but not for long. Home-seekers soon took full possession of the country.

In the following spring, 1847, Reuben, who had entered his fourteenth year, was given charge of the "breaking team". the father and the other members of the family devoting their energies to everything else that had to be done to advance the home-making enterprise. The team assigned to Reuben consisted of several yoke of oxen, drawing a huge plow that cut a furrow two feet wide. The driver, who proved an expert from the start, had charge of the team four consecutive seasons, turning over in the time many acres of virgin soil.

The Eagle Creek farm, which had been greatly improved, was then sold and a much larger body of land purchased in the Deer Creek neighborhood, about four miles north of Crown Point. This land was unimproved and, for the most part, covered with timber. The family home was there reestablished, and in due time the wilderness acres became a fruitful farm.

After the lapse of some twenty-five years, the father and the mother, they being then well advanced in years, their children all married and settled in life, disposed of the homestead, together with its cares, and retired to a cottage home in Westville, LaPorte County, Indiana., where they spent the remainder of their days; the former dying July 10, 1891, the latter, January 25, 1900. Their bodies both rest in the beautiful Door Village Cemetery.

-- Most of this material was taken from the same Biographical Sketch.

Esther Ann Scritchfield  
written by Ethel A. Vinnedge

Esther Ann (Highfill) Highfield was born January 4, 1812 on a large plantation between Nicholasville and Lexington, Kentucky.

In 1832, Esther Ann married Hiram Scritchfield of Kentucky. Esther Ann was of German descent, while Hiram H. was Irish. They lived near Lexington for several years. Here a number of their children were born.

In a few years, they, with a few possessions, plus their children, moved north in a covered wagon pulled by oxen. They settled near Greensburg in Decatur County, Indiana. Here a few more children were born.

Hearing from Hiram's aunt, Patsy Ammerman of LaPorte, about the

opportunities offered in northern Indiana. Esther Ann and her families again moved north in their covered wagon drawn by oxen. Several neighbors came with them in 1852.

Alexander Scritchfield remembered going on a visit to his Highfield grandparents in Kentucky when he was about four years old. Little Frances Henry, who was six, refused to eat, when she saw the negro cook, one of the many slaves on the plantation. She embarrassed her mother by saying in a loud voice that the cook was dirty. Esther Ann had to prepare a separate meal for her small girl.

During their first winter in Lake County, the Scritchfield family lived on what is known as the Fred Schnurlein place. Then they bought the Shultz place, west of Creston. They spent one winter in Lowell in the brick house later called the Simpson house (first brick house in Lake County). One summer they lived on the Peter Parrot place.

Then they bought the old Warriner place, known for years as the Scritchfield place, later as the Esty farm. Their 80 acre farm, west of Creston, which they sold to Schultz, they had to take back again, so, again they moved there. It was on this farm that Esther Ann's husband, Hiram H. Scritchfield, died.

Esther Ann Hiram Scritchfield also owned 200 acres of land in Missouri, which they later sold. They owned 80 acres in Iowa, which, when Hiram's estate was settled, was given to one son, Will, who went out and took possession of it, with his mother's consent.

In Lowell, the Scritchfield's owned a half interest in a grist mill. Later they sold it.

Esther Ann Highfield and Hiram H. Scritchfield had fourteen children: One baby, Robert, died in Decatur County.

Alexander Hamilton Scritchfield, was named by a friend of the family, Robert Hamilton, for whom the other baby was named. Alex married (1st) Leona Dille - April 12, 1872; (2nd) Delpha Bussert - January 15, 1896. He lived in Creston.

Frances Henry, named for the old family doctor, who wanted to adopt her when he thought her mother, Esther Ann, was going to die. One brother, Stamp called her Frinn. Others called her Fan or Fanny. She was always teased about her boy's name. She married Rueben Wood. They lived in Creston and later in Lowell.

William Thomas Scritchfield married Laura Thompson and moved to Iowa. Hiram Jackson (Jack) Scritchfield married Addie Serman of Crown Point. They went to Kansas.

Oliver Stamper (Stamp) Scritchfield married Amanda Donnell. They lived in Kansas.

James Taylor Scritchfield (1851-1919) married Julia Whearty on Nov. 7, 1878. He was named for a Taylor relative in Kentucky. They lived in Kansas. Richard Irvin Scritchfield married Sarah Garrison and lived near Creston. Malinda Custer married William Garrison and lived in Creston.

Martha Fedelia married (1st) Robert Fuller, who died in the Civil War, and (2nd) Orin Thompson. They lived at Creston.

Nancy Ann married William H. Pixley and lived on a farm west of Creston.

Jane Hartly married Alfred Edgerton and lived on a farm in Tinkerville - one half mile east of Creston.

Catherine married (1st) Franklin McCarty who died at Nashville in the Civil War, and (2nd) Hamlet Snell. They lived on the Judge McCarty farm in Creston. Margaret married Timothy Cleveland of Crown Point.

Many descendants of Esther Ann Highfield Scritchfield still live in Lake County, Indiana.

The Scritchfield's journey to Lake County was a long tiresome one. There were a few toll bridges and just trails for roads.

Esther Ann was a very determined woman with a great deal of courage and a big sense of humor, as did her husband. These qualities carried them through many hard places in their pioneer life. Most of their children inherited these traits, and were noted for their big senses of humor. They learned from their mother to laugh when things went wrong and soon things would go right.

Though Esther Ann had a large family, they were not quarrelsome, but greatly enjoyed each other. Jokes and pranks were the expected procedure in that happy home.

Esther Ann humored and joined in the fun with her children, who adored their loving mother. Besides the excellent home training they received, Esther Ann and her children had religious training in the Cedar Lake Baptist Church and later they were members of the Creston Methodist Episcopal Church.

Esther Ann had a lovely voice and there was much singing in her home, all of the children joining in the songs their mother taught them. Also she read to her family from the large family Bible she had brought from her Kentucky home.

During the first year in Lake County, until they could build, they lived in an old house near Foley's pond. Here Hiram had a carpenter's shop.

The children used to get peaches to eat at Lindey McCarty's place (he had no children). He always said, "Let the children eat all they want." At this same place, when a well was being dug, little Lynn fell in head first, down about ten feet.

Esther Ann never had time to get lonesome or wish to be back in the spacious luxury of her parent's home. Something was always happening in the Scritchfield home. One day, after Hiram had brought some sacks of sugar home from Crown Point, and Esther Ann had stored them under the big bed in one corner of the large kitchen, Alex and Lynn were missing. Finally, Esther Ann hearing a snicker, pulled up the ruffle from around the bed, and discovered Alexander and Malinda, lying on their stomachs, eating sugar from a hole they had made in one of the sacks. Everyone laughed, so no one got spanked.

Esther Ann was a very efficient home maker. Before her marriage, she was accustomed to being waited on by her father's many slaves; but this did not seem to prevent her in any way from being a remarkable pioneer wife and mother. Never complaining, she always made the best of everything, laughing and singing her cares away. Besides doing the many things necessary for a large family, she found time to weave linen for clothes, sheets and tableclothes. Some of these are now in the homes of her grandchildren, treasured heirlooms.

She and her family enjoyed the social gatherings in the community, church socials, Cedar Lake Lyceum, Cedar Lake Belles Lettres Society, the Tinkerville Literary Society, and the Tinkerville Song Service or the Sing Meetings.

Esther Ann did not want Fanny (Frances) to marry Reuben Wood, but Hiram told her, "If they get burned, let them sit on the blister. I got who I wanted, so let them." Fannie had been engaged to someone who was killed in the Civil War, so Reuben said he married a War Widow.

Esther Ann always had big weddings for her daughters, except Fannie and Lynn, who got tired of doing so much work for such big affairs, so they said they would not have big weddings.

Esther and the whole family had to work for several weeks to get ready for a wedding. They used little rice cakes covered with cloves to decorate the leaves and alum.

When Nancy Ann married William H. Pixley, Esther Ann invited so many guests, she had to borrow dishes and other things from all of the neighbors. Many chickens had been prepared, besides pies, cakes, etc. Just before the dinner, the Scritchfield boys, with some of their friends, got through a window into the pantry and made off with all of the chickens - so it was a chickenless wedding feast.

Esther Ann sewed for many weeks making the wedding clothes for her daughters. She was an excellent seamstress, and her lovely tatting and crocheting laces were used for trimmings. She taught these arts to her daughters, also she taught them to be excellent cooks.

One of her daughters, Nancy Ann was quite a flirt and heart breaker. First, Elish Cleveland wanted to marry her. He was a brother of Margaret's husband, Timothy Cleveland, of whom Esther Ann did not approve. So Esther Ann said, "One slice is enough, unless it is better than the one we got." So she ordered him out of the house. Andrew Beckley was next. He gave her some lovely earrings, and Nancy Ann promised to marry him, then later said she had changed her mind. Next, Nancy Ann promised to marry John Fisher, but when he came she hid upstairs and had Frances say she was not at home. Then she became engaged to John Bryant. She had her things all ready to be married when, again, she changed her mind, and returned his many gifts. Esther Ann told her to 'look before she leaped', but she accused her husband of encouraging Nancy Ann in being such a flirt and heart breaker. But his childrens' antics always amused Hiram and in his eyes they could do no wrong; a view which Esther Ann also had.

Esther Ann sent three sons to the Civil War, as Yankee soldiers, although she and Hiram were from Kentucky where their relatives were slave owners. Jack, Stamp, and Will enlisted along with the other young men of the community.

Oliver Stamper contracted the rheumatism so badly that he was sent home, so weak and thin he could hardly walk. In camp, all the treatment he had received was iodine. At first he was not going to apply for a pension. Finally, his mother and some others persuaded him to send in his disability discharge.

William Scritchfield was also discharged on disability and came home before the end of the war. Esther Ann nursed these two soldier boys very tenderly for many months before they were well.

Hiram Jackson Scritchfield was in the army for three years and four months. He was badly wounded by a bullet which ripped through his elbow and came out near his shoulder. His arm started to decay, and the doctors wanted to cut his arm off, but he refused to let them, so they performed an operation, slitting his arm from the elbow to the shoulder. He suffered a great deal but did not lose his arm. He was wounded at Spottsylvania Court House in the Battle of the Wilderness near Richmond, Virginia.

During the war, Esther Ann would send Malinda, on foot, to the Post Office, several miles from their home, twice a week, to see if there were any letters from

the boys. Mail was brought from Crown Point on horseback to the Warriner place, where Mr. Warriner kept the Cedar Lake Post Office.

Esther Ann greatly enjoyed the many pranks of her grandchildren. On one Halloween, Grandma Scritchfield was visiting at the home of her daughter, Nancy Ann Pixley, and she suggested that the boys make a big jack-o-lantern and put a candle in it. Then the boys took it and placed it on a post by the front gate of the Smith family across the road. The Smiths were only recently arrived from Germany. Grandma Scritchfield laughed heartily when the Pixley boys returned, after they had lain down in the ditch to await results. They reported that one of the Smith Children saw the strangely lighted grinning face on the post and he screamed in terror, which brought the rest of the family out to see what had happened. They, also, were terrified. "Mine Gott", said Mr. Smith, "The devil has brought us a dead head." Friends visiting them soon convinced them that it was just a pumpkin. Mr. Smith then went out, pushed it off the post and said, "Ha! Ha! Them Pixley boys think they can scare us with an old punkin."

Some foods as prepared by Esther Ann and expecially enjoyed by her entire family.

#### Cottage cheese-

Set a gallon or more of thick sour milk on the back of a warm stove for an hour or more until the whey is separated and the curd is firm. Pour into a course then bag and hang up to drain for several hours. Then squeeze out the remaining whey and turn the white cheese into a crock and work it fine with the hands. Add salt and rich cream. Place in the spring house until time to serve.

#### Scrambled eggs--

Place one tablespoon of sweet milk in a pan per egg, add a pinch of salt. Break eggs into a bowl. When the milk comes to a boil, pour in the eggs. As the eggs cook, scrape gently from the bottom of the dish continuously, drawing the cooked mass to one side. Remove from the heat as soon as the mixture is light and fluffy. Serve while hot.

#### Black bird Pie -

Clean only the breasts of from twenty five to thirty blackbirds (blackbirds used to be very numerous in this area). Boil in enough water to cover the meat, until almost done, or about twenty minutes. Place in a large baking pan or a dishpan, add a teaspoon of salt, a little pepper and two heaping tablespoons of butter. Add a few slices of salt pork or bacon, if desired. Add another cup or two of water. Then place a biscuit crust over the top. Pierce a few holes in the top of the crust. Put this pie in the oven and bake until the crust is done. When done, a little flour mixed in a cup of sweet thick cream may be poured in through the holes made in the crust.

The same recipe may be used for rabbit, squirrel, or any wild fowl.

#### Strawberry shortcake --

4 cups flour	1 teaspoon salt
8 teaspoons baking powder	6 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons sugar	2 eggs
1½ cups milk	1 quart cream
2½ or 3 quarts wild strawberries - sweetened with plenty of sugar	

Mix dry ingrediants, mix in butter. Add eggs and milk and blend until smooth. Pour batter in two large cake layer pans. Butter the top lightly with melted butter. Bake in a hot oven for about 20 minutes. When baked, remove from oven

and split cakes. Butter each side with melted butter. Place half of the crushed berries in between the layers. Pour the rest of the berries on the tops of the cakes. Cut and serve in large soup bowls and serve the cream to pour over each serving. Serves 8 or 10.

On September 23, 1868, her husband, Hiram Scritchfield, died at the age of 58 years. His tombstone in the Creston Cemetery bears this inscription - "Loved in life mourned in death."

A number of years later, Esther Ann married Jonah Thorn of Lowell. Here she lived for a number of years. On February 12, 1885, she died at the age of 72 years. Buried in the Creston Cemetery beside her first husband, the epitaph on her stone reads, "Loved on earth mourned in death." "There is rest in Heaven."

— Compiled by Miss Ethel A. Vinnedge of Creston, Indiana. Great-grand daughter of Esther Ann Scritchfield.

#### References

The late Mrs. Fannie Wood of Lowell, daughter of Esther Ann Scritchfield.

The late Alexander Scritchfield of Creston, son of Esther Ann Scritchfield.

The late Mrs. Martha Pixley Vinnedge of Creston and the late Mrs. Alice Pixley Taylor of Lowell, grand daughters of Esther Ann Scritchfield.

Lake County from 1834-1872 by T.H. Ball

Lake County Sunday Schools by T. H. Ball

Creston Cemetery Record

Family Bible

#### Celestia Smith Sherman

(by Mrs. Joseph E. Brown, NSDAR)

(contributed by Adelia Sherman Cooper, (Mrs. Frank) grand-daughter.)

Celestia, daughter of Nehemiah and Lyda Warrington Smith, was born in 1789, at Shrewsbury, Vermont. Reared in the frugal typical home of the eastern seaboard and privileged to have a fair amount of school education, she was a person of ability and integrity.

In 1810 she married an energetic young man of the community, by the name of William Sherman. The desire to explore new country, took them first to Canada. Rumors reached them that the United States surveyors had completed their assignment to the northwest part of Indiana. They joined the western moving caravans over the borders into the states, in the summer of 1834. First they stopped at the thriving Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana. More alluring was Lake County, which by act of legislature became an independent unit in February, 1837. The last of the 92 counties formed in Indiana.

A duplicate receipt, dated November 17, 1838, proves that they purchased one hundred and twenty acres (120 A.) in the county of Lake thus described:

The South half of the South West quarter, and the North West quarter, all in Section Twenty-one (21), in Township Thirty-four (34) North, of Range eight (8) West of the Second Principle Meridian.

To-day this farm is known as the J. B. Peterson farm on the "Nine Mile Stretch", made famous by the Kobe Cup Races in June 1909. It is located about

four miles south of the city limits of Crown Point, on the east side of the road.

Grandmother was forty nine years old when the family settled there. They were the parents of nine children, one by formal adoption and two who were welcomed as members of the family, orphaned children. The log cabin was not large but spacious enough to be a cheerful, comfortable happy home until all twelve were reared to adulthood. Later Grandmother or "Aunt" Sherman as everyone fondly called her, moved to Crown Point, where she lived until her death in 1884 in the home of her daughter, Mrs. J.H. Luther. The Luther homestead extended from about what is now about 467 through 473 South Court Street.

Named in the Abstract of Title as the "relict" of William Sherman, deceased from August 23, 1844, we know that Celestia Sherman had all of the responsibility of directing affairs of a family of seven boys and two girls and the three, one boy and two girls, (not certain about the sex) although several of the children were not married and had homes of their own, "Aunt" left the farm about 1852 as her permanent abode. She had earned a high place of esteem as an industrious farm-wife, an excellent business manager and warm hospitality.

Auntie's happy disposition and her unusual ability to "tell stories" made her a general favorite wherever she went. Although very frail in her latter years she retained her mental faculties and was alert in mind and recalled accurately. From her long varied experiences she would tell fascinating stories in her own inimitable manner.

An often repeated favorite tale was about the day she was working in her garden, (the spring of 1839). She had a surprise visit from an "Indian brave" who had often been troublesome, he lunged toward her, threatening her harm. She raised her hoe with vigor and chased him away. As he ran he called from a distance "Heap brave squaw - she no 'fraid." The Indians had frequently stolen food from the storage places, such as meat, fruit, vegetables, and grains that had been harvested for the winter. She was not intimidated. She and the children were ever on guard.

She died at the age of ninety-five years and five months. She is buried on the Luther lot in Maplewood. No marker.

### Cynthia Dodge Spalding

(contributed by Alice Spalding Scritchfield, Mrs. Cass, her daughter of Lowell)

Cynthia, the first of thirteen children born to Henry and Lucretia DeGau Dodge, was a real product of pioneer life. Born June 28, 1838, in West Creek Township in the first house, (no doubt a log cabin) on their homestead near the "south crossing." Her long life was filled with many interesting events. One of her first memories was of being carried across West Creek on her father's back and handing him the tools as he worked as a carpenter on the West Creek Methodist Church; the first church building in Lake County. Though the land had been given to the white settlers, it was still in the untamed condition as the Indians knew it.

This blue eyed little girl grew up to love all of the beautiful wild life of the prairies, she gathered the fruits and the flowers, she broke over the rosin weed stalks to gather her own chewing gum. She went out on the unfenced prairie and thru the woods to bring home the cows which she found by listening to the

tinkling of the bell on the old Cow-bell. Her father had told her to give the cows a start and then stand still till they chose a direction and then follow. She obeyed, as it paid for children to do in those days; but often she would shed a few tears because she felt sure that the old cows were going wrong.

When her father broke sod he held the plow while she carried the goad and drove the oxen. Later she was adept at handling the horses.

In 1846 her father, Lieutenant Henry Dodge, served in the Mexican War. Cynthia was a great favorite of her grandfather, Paul Dodge, and they spent many happy useful hours together. She recalled crawling up behind some bushes on the edge of the marsh and watching at close range hundreds of cranes at play. Her grandfather said, "Cynthia, you will live to see corn growing all over where the cranes are," and she did.

It was a busy life helping raise this large family; but Cynthia was ambitious and when a dear friend, Mrs. W.A. Clark, wanted some one to help her to keep an eye on her children, she became one of the earliest "Baby sitters." This gave her the advantage that she craved. She attended Mr. Townley's school for girls and also the Presbyterian Church of which she was a member.

On October 22, 1856 (18 years old) she married Joshua Parker Spalding, also a pioneer. The wedding, a large one for those times, was at the home of her parents. The only honeymoon was a trip to Miller Station in a lumber wagon, behind two spirited young horses. An Aunt and Uncle from Saginaw, Michigan, who had attended the wedding was going home and Miller was the nearest railroad station.

In those days everyone looked after his neighbor. When the Pinkerton family arrived in southern Lake County, it was too late in the fall to get a house ready. Cynthia was blessed with two rooms; so she moved into one and the Pinkertons the other, were fixed for shelter.

On August 12, 1862, her husband marched away to the Civil War, leaving her with three small children. Her heroism in facing those three years were notable. She stayed on her farm, the good neighbors farmed her land and made it possible for her to get her produce to market. The school teacher, Martha Burnham, boarded with her. This gave her much needed companionship, they remained lifelong friends. She knit and sewed and did many other things to earn the necessities for her little brood. Mr. Edson Foster once told me his father, who handled the help for the soldiers' families said, "Mrs. Spalding never asked for nor accepted help."

In 1869 Mr. and Mrs. Spalding sold their farm on the state line and bought the Farley farm on West Creek. It was the Major Tory farm with the cranberry bog and a very pretty home. They took over the West Creek Post Office when Mrs. Spalding was appointed postmaster by Schuyler Colfax. The mail was carried by stage between Moline and Valparaiso by way of Crown Point. The stage driver always, and often the passengers too, took meals with the Spaldings; so there was much cooking. Here again they boarded the teachers.

In 1882 they sold the farm and the post office was discontinued. They bought the large Harris farm at Orchard Grove. Here on this beautiful spot she finished raising her family of seven children and at various times cared for five nieces and nephews and her mother. The summers brought grandchildren and friends from the city so her large table was still full.

She was a very good nurse and the doctors often called on her to help when a neighbor needed such care. She and her husband were always interested in all public movements and were life members of the "Historical Society."

Once more the war clouds appeared, her youngest son answered the call and went to Puerto Rico. The border incident called on grandson and World War I enlisted two more grandsons. Four wars in her lifetime, but all of her men came home. She was bereft of her husband only a few weeks before their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary. Living on a few years, she passed away at the old farm home at Orchard Grove, aged eighty-eight years. (1926)

Mrs. Spalding was of slight stature, very particular in dress, attractive in appearance, and carried herself erect in perfect posture. She was endowed with a puritanic nature and lived a life as straight as her figure. She was an efficient manager, tireless worker, and broad readed. The secret of her vast accomplishment lies in her motto , "FINISH TODAY'S TASK AS EVERY DAY BRINGS ITS OWN WORK"

### Nancy Parker Spalding

(contributed by Alice Spalding Scritchfield, Mrs. Cass, Lowell, Indiana.)

Nancy Parker was born July 24, 1814, in the town of Verona, Onida County, New York. Her parents moved to Monroe County, Michigan, when she was a young girl. While in Michigan she spent several years in the home of a Methodist minister, as a member of the family. Her whole life was affected by her devotion to the Methodist Church.

In 1832 she was married to Heman Myer Spalding, who was born in West Morland, Onida County, New York. In 1837 they came west, took up land and built their home on the state line in West Creek Township. Here in this garden spot of southern Lake County, with its abundance of wild fruit and flowers, game and fish to help the pioneer, she raised her family of nine children. All grew to maturity.

At the early age of forty-three years she was left a widow by the death of her husband in 1857.

Nancy was one of the pioneers who helped to build the Methodist Church at West Creek, which is thought to have been the first church building, erected in 1843. At a time when the church service was not regular she would walk from her home on the State Line to Sanger's corners, a distance of twelve miles, to attend a meeting. Shoes were very hard to get in those days; she and her daughters would carry their shoes and put them on just before they entered the meeting house.

Nancy Spalding spent much time nursing and doctoring the sick and delivered many West Creek babies.

In 1838 her little son, three years old, wandered away and was lost on the prairie for many hours. All of the neighbors were out hunting all through the night. He was found in the morning, safe but frightened, on the edge of the great Kankakee swamp, or marsh. Three of her sons served in the Civil War; another became a doctor, practiced in Chicago and served on the Chicago Board of Health for many years.

Nancy died March 1, 1897 and was laid to rest beside her husband in the West Creek Cemetery. Her last years were spent in the home of one of her daughters, Maryette Sims.

## Emma Louisa Palmer Taylor

Written by her daughter, Emma Taylor Palmer, in 1951  
(contributed by grand daughter Mrs. Carl Miller (Lyrell Taylor))

The subject of this article, Emma Louisa Palmer, was born on April 26, 1831, in South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana. She had the distinction of being the first white girl baby born in that city. She was the child of James and Almira Palmer, both of whom were from New England. Emma Louisa was the fifth child of eight brothers and sisters.

Her parents located on a small prairie and called it Palmer's Prairie and it retains its early name until this day. They moved from Palmer's Prairie to Lake County, Indiana in the year of 1844.

When Emma Louisa was eleven years of age, her parents and the rest of the family, went away for the day leaving her and a seven year old sister, Dorothy, at home. Emma Louisa said, "Dorothy, let us kill a pig and have some fresh meat for dinner." Dorothy was greatly enthused with the idea, so out to the pig pen, with a butcher knife in hand, went the two girls. There were a dozen or more hogs of various sizes in the pen. Emma Louisa got in the pen, and killed the pig. Dorothy then had to climb in to help lift the pig over the fence. They managed to get it outside, then dressed it and had their fresh meat for dinner. She related to her children in later years that their parents didn't scold or punish them for the escapade, but were very thankful they hadn't gotten hurt in any way. She told her children many times that will power helps people to accomplish difficult tasks.

On December 30, 1849, Emma Louisa was married to Dewitt Clinton Taylor. They located one half mile south of the present site of Creston, Indiana. In 1869 they moved to a larger farm one and one half miles south of Creston, where they made their home the rest of their lives. Five children were born to Emma Louisa and Dewitt Clinton; three sons, Charles A., Frank, and William, and two daughters, Helen and Emma. Helen died at the age of two years. The boys all lived to be well past seventy and the daughter is still living at the age of eighty-two.

During the Civil War, Dewitt Clinton went to the battlefields to help defend his country. Emma Louisa was left to care for two small children and a large farm. She had great executive ability and was able to carry on his work successfully, as well as to care for her family.

She has told her children that when Dr. Davis of Lowell, was just starting his practice, she taught him how to wash and dress a new born baby. She was a good neighbor and always ready to help in time of sickness or need.

Emma Louisa was truly a pioneer woman who came to this county when it was a wilderness and by her helpful patient ways, aided in making it bloom like a rose. She was a member of the Creston Methodist Church.

She died in 1903 and is buried in the Creston Cemetery.

Julia Anne Taylor  
by Helen Vinnedge Prage

Julia Anne was born on November 29, 1828 to Adonijah and Lucy (Winchester) Taylor in Erie County, Pennsylvania, and came to Lake County, Indiana when she was a small girl. With her parents, she settled on the outlet of eastern

Cedar Lake, as did many of her Taylor relatives.

Here, on April 30th, 1844, at the age of 16, she was married to her cousin, Obadiah G. Taylor. He was the son of Horace and Sarah (O'dell) Taylor, also of Cedar Lake.

Later, they moved south from the outlet at eastern Cedar Lake, two miles south to Tinkerville, taking a homestead - later owned by the pioneer Carstens. Then they took a homestead one half mile west of this farm, and one half mile south of Creston. In this spacious house, they reared their large family. In later years, their daughter, Ella (Mrs. Celestian Barber) lived, then her daughter Myrtle (Mrs. Edward Meyers), spent her last years in this same home, built by Julia Ann and Obadiah Taylor.

Here, Julia Ann was a very happy homemaker, enjoying her large family and later her many grandchildren.

Julia Ann and Obadiah laid out the town of Creston, which was recorded in 1882 in the Lake County Court House. Here, they built nice houses for each of their married daughters. After their children were all married, they built a spacious home in Creston. Here they entertained their children, grandchildren, relatives and hosts of friends.

Their children included; Mary Ann 1845-1915, married 1860 to George W. Palmer; Cassius M. 1847-1902, married 1877 Annie E. McCarty; Josephine E. 1851-1919, married Thomas E. A. Vinnedge in 1872; Clinton A. 1854-1903 married 1877 Susan Edgerton; George W. 1857-1919, married 1879 Ella D. Ross Emma 1859-1914, married 1877 Marshall Nichols; Addie 1861-1861; Esther Jennie 1868-1889; Ella May 1862-1937, married 1881 Celestian Barber; Martha Alice 1871-1920, married 1887 Mark Palmer; Lucy H. 1864-1945 married 1882 Kinzie Witter.

The Obadiah G. Taylor family seemed to have plenty of money, so Julia Ann had everything she wanted. Her home was nicely furnished. She would go into Chicago to buy whatever she wanted for her home or children. Her children had plenty of clothes, mostly made by Julia Ann, as she was an excellent seamstress. Her table was always set with a large variety of food. There was always plenty for the many visitors who dropped in at meal time. Aunt Julie's delicious cooking was a drawing card for relatives and friends.

In the early 1850s, her husband with his father and others went to California in the Gold Rush. His father, Horace Taylor was killed by the Indians in 1853 but Obadiah returned safely with much gold. While he was gone, Julia Ann took small children and stayed with her parents, Lucy and Adonijah Taylor at Cedar Lake.

She loved to pick wild berries, grapes and cranberries from the marsh north of Creston. These were used to make jams and jellies. Spiced wild crab-apples was one of her specialties. Her weekly menus included her good hot breads, pumpkin, apple, strawberry and custard pies.

Usually she wore a sunbonnet with matching apron, when she was outdoors. Her grandchildren loved to stay all night at Grandma Taylors she always fixed special treats for them - big sugar cookies, fudge and popcorn balls.

She was a member of the Creston Methodist Episcopal Church, where she was active. Julia Ann Taylor died in 1893 and is buried in the Creston Cemetery.

Lucy Winchester Taylor  
by Ethel A. Vinnedge

Lucy Winchester was born August 12, 1792 in Connecticut, but moved to Vermont when still a small child. She was the daughter of Bethia Benjamin and Benjamin Winchester of Vershire, Vermont, and a granddaughter of Joseph Winchester (1730-1803) who served in the Battle of Bennington during the Revolutionary War, a descendant of John Winchester of Cranbrook, England.

Lucy received a very good education in Vermont. She was considered a very well educated, accomplished, refined, and talented Christian woman. Her father was a Puritan minister.

In 1813, she married Adonijah Taylor II, son of Obadiah Taylor I of Deerfield, Massachusetts. They lived for several years in Rensselaer County, New York, and later in Erie County, Pennsylvania.

In 1830, having heard from Adonijah's brother in law, Dr. Calvin Lilley, about the wonderful possibilities in St. Joseph County, as Northern Indiana was called, Lucy and some of her husband's people migrated to South Bend, where Dr. Calvin Lilley and his wife, Dorothy, owned a successful inn on the Chicago stagecoach road. They lived at South Bend for a few years, but had an urge to go farther west. In 1832, Adonijah, with his father, Obadiah I, and several brothers, came to Lake County to find a suitable location.

In 1836, Adonijah brought his wife, Lucy, and family along with other relatives to Lake County. They came down the Kankakee River to Momence, where their boat over turned, and their cookstove sank to the bottom of the river. Probably, this was the first cookstove to be brought here. Other members of the Taylor family came in covered wagons, bringing what goods they could carry. Later, they returned for more of their household furnishings.

Proceeding to the east side of Cedar Lake, Lucy and Adonijah Taylor located where the Binyon Hotel later stood at the outlet of the lake. Later they extended their claims as far south as Creston with other relatives. Their claim is recorded on the Claim Register as of May 15, 1836, prairie, outlet, and mill seat.

Lucy's husband soon had a saw and grist mill on the outlet called 'Timber and Outlet'. He was a partner with Dr. Calvin Lilley.

Adonijah, assisted by his relatives, built a large roomy log house for his family close to the lake shore. Lucy soon had a comfortable home for her family, as she had brought many extra things with her from the east, where she had been reared to appreciate the better things in life.

She had brought books, a few pictures, lovely dishes and silver, several pieces of fine furniture. However, some of these were brought at a later trip when her husband, Adonijah, returned east for a load of the things which his wife desired for their pioneer home.

Although there was no school at first, Lucy's children were not retarded in their education, as she was able to teach them in her own home. She also taught their cousins, who would come to Aunt Lucy's house, eager for the book learning she was so willing to share with them. She had an organ and taught her daughters to play hymns thereon. Before a Sunday School was established she taught a group of children in her home on Sunday afternoons.

The Bible was read daily in Lucy's home and the stories of the Bible and the choicest verses were memorized by the children. Lucy was very active as an instructor and helper in the Cedar Lake Baptist Church. She was baptised by

Elder Thomas Hunt in 1850.

Lucy's children became very good swimmers and fishermen, the fish they caught being a very welcome addition to their diet.

During the first summer in Lake County there was very little rain and few crops. Although they did very little farming, Lucy always raised a big garden. In the following years, her garden was the best in the community, as she had that certain touch which always made plants and flowers grow. Her husband and children helped in the garden, but Lucy loved to be outdoors working among the growing things.

The first summer also brought a great deal of sickness. Aunt Lucy was always in demand as a nurse. She seemed to know just what to do for easing the pain, and how to make medicines from nearby herbs. When the first death occurred a burial place, also used by the Indians West Point Cemetery was selected on the east bank of Cedar Lake. Here, later, her father in law, Obadiah Taylor I, and her husband, Adonijah Taylor II, were buried.

In 1838, a log school house was built, wherein Lucy's son, Albert, was the first teacher. Before the school was finished, he taught in one of the homes east of the lake, back in the timber. Inheriting from his mother those traits necessary he was a very successful teacher. Lorin Hall and Norman Warriner followed him as teachers.

Lucy had been very insistant as to the need of this school house and did much toward having it built. In it, Lucy assisted with the religious meetings of the community.

Her family Bible (which I now have) shows signs of continuous use and was used constantly in the services in her home and in the Church services. I have a song book used by her also.

In 1850, Lucy Taylor was baptised by Elder Thomas Hunt and she became a member of the Cedar Lake Baptist Church. She was well loved and respected. Throughout many traials or sorrows, Lucy maintained a pleasantness and spirit of acceptance, through her great faith in God.

Always she was noted as a dutiful and affectionate wife, and a loving mother to her eight children. Because of these qualities, her home was usually the center for many community activities.

Lucy and her family were active members in the Literaries Societies, one the Cedar Lake Lyceum and the other the Cedar Lake Belles Letters Society. The first one was only for men.

Lucy encouraged her children to partake in wholesome play. She always assisted them with plentiful refreshments after their parties of boating, bathing, fishing, coasting, or skating. The neighborhood children depended on Aunt Lucy and her generosity. Always there was plenty of fresh bread, new butter, jam or honey, venison or bear meat, sugar cookies or dough-nuts, Johnny cake, or mush and milk and lots of hot tea, sassafras preferred. Often the young people would come to Aunt Lucy's for taffy pulls.

The Pottawatomie Indians used to camp near the lake, but caused no trouble among the pioneers, who were careful not to cross them in any way. One day, several braves entered Lucy's home, walked over to her water pail and washed their muskrat furs in it. Then with a few grunts of either satisfaction or thanks, they left as quietly as they had come. Then Lucy scoured and scoured on her water pail.

Lucy had a large wash tub - Cedar Lake. Being so close it was easy for her to keep her clothes washed and the children bathed. In the summer, when other women would come in their wagons loaded with dirty clothes and children, Aunt Lucy would join in the scrubbing too; as these poor tired women, using home made soap and stones for wash boards, did their week or more washing. Last of all, the children were taken out into the lake and scrubbed. Then everyone joined in a picnic, forgetting tired backs and hands for a while, as they spread out their baskets of lunch. Always Lucy added to their feast with hot drinks, milk, soup, cookies or candy. The children really enjoyed washday and even the women looked forward to a day with Aunt Lucy, whose cheery ways and kindly deeds made their work seem lighter.

Lucy always was ready to help her neighbors. If she heard of some special work to be done, as butchering, drying apples or corn, quilting, wool picking, special sewing, she would send some of her children to spread the word and early in the day a group of women would appear to 'help out' the one with the work. Lucy was the life of the party, with her many humorous stories and jokes, her clever ideas and her ability to lead the group in singing as they worked.

Many descendants of Lucy Winchester and Adonijah Taylor live in Lake County, Indiana. I am her great great granddaughter.

Her children were--Israel Taylor, Albert Taylor, William Taylor, twins Almira and Alvira, DeWitt Clinton Taylor, Julia Ann Taylor, Calvin L. Taylor, Lucy A. Taylor. One of the twins died when a baby.

I have the family Bible which belonged to Lucy Taylor. Arthur G. Taylor of Crown Point has a picture of her. Mrs. Harry Howard of Crown Point has Lucy's large footed glass bowl, which she brought with her from her girlhood home. It was used at all of the Taylor weddings.

Lucy Winchester Taylor died December 10, 1869, aged 77 years. She is buried in the Cedar Lake Cemetery at Creston. On her stone is this epitaph--"She has gone to the mansions of great rest."

#### References:

Arthur G. Taylor of Crown Point, Mrs. Harry Howard of Crown Point, Mrs. Ella Harmon of Creston, Obadiah G. Vinnedge of Creston, Family Bible, Histories of Lake County by T.H. Ball, Lake of the Red Cedars by T. H. Ball, The late Mrs. Celstian Barber of Creston, Mrs. Oca Vallee of Creston

Lydia L. O'Dell Taylor

by Maud Wheeler, a granddaughter, of Hammond, Indiana

Lydia L. (O'Dell) Taylor was born in 1828 where Chicago now stands. She was married to Sylvester Taylor of Crown Point and they moved to Lake County, Indiana, near Creston at a place which was then called Tinkerville, here most of her children were born. They moved to Wisconsin where they lived during the gold rush in California. She moved to Crown Point some years later.

She was the mother of five sons and two daughters, one passed away when an infant in Wisconsin. Her sons were: John R. who served three years in the Civil War, He was 98½ years when he died. Alfred, James Horace, "Vest" and Clara Belle. Horace, James & Vest remained at home with their mother till she passed away. John R. married Susan Strong of Lowell and had three sons and three daughters. (Lydia Pixby, deceased; Calvin, died in infancy; Maude Wheeler

Hammond, had 5 children; Hamlet B. of West Creek, had 7 children; John A. of Cedar Creek, had 9 children; Cora E. of Griffith, had 3 children.

Alfred married Mary Kobesh, died in October 1943, had 3 girls and two sons. Eda, Clare, Madaline, all deceased, Tom and Ernie. Clara Belle Hessler, one daughter, June Hamilton of East Chicago.

She had five grandsons and six granddaughters; twenty-three great grandchildren, and a large number of great great grandchildren. One great grandson in World War 1. One great grandson, Major Burdette Wheeler, in World War 2. who is still in the army at Washington D.C. Also several great great grandsons were in service. Great Grandson Leslie B. Schofield gave his life for his country during World War 2.

Her children have all passed on, but her grand children will cherish her memory. She was loved by all who knew her for her many kind deeds. She went through many a hardship, but like all of those noble ladies of long ago was able to smile and carry on. During the civil War her eldest son John went off to war when but a young man, she wrote words of cheer to him, the letters he cherished till he passed away. I have some of those letters, which Johns granddaughter reads now and then. I will always have a lovely memory of my beloved grandmother, Lydia L. O'Dell Taylor.

She died in 1893 and is buried in Creston Cemetery beside her husband Sylvester Taylor (1825-1909).

### Sarah Ann O'Dell Taylor

Written by Ethel A. Vinnedge of Creston, Indiana

Sarah Ann O'Dell was born about 1800 in Erie County, Pennsylvania. In 1820, she married Horace Taylor, son of Obadiah Taylor I, Revolutionary War Soldier.

In 1830, they moved west to South Bend where they lived on a claim for a couple of years.

In 1832, her husband, with his father and several brothers, came to explore Lake County and find a suitable place to stake claims. After reaching Cedar Lake, they searched no farther, but returned home to prepare to move to Lake County, Indiana.

In 1836, Horace, Sarah Ann and their children, with a covered wagon full of household goods and pulled by two strong horses, reached the eastern side of Cedar Lake along with other Taylor relatives.

Horace and Sarah Ann Taylor filed a claim in the timber on the eastern shore of the lake, at Cedar Point and south. Here he built a large log house near the lake where the Stanley or Enock Peterson house stands.

Sarah Ann was a loving wife and mother and her home was a happy place to be. Though far away from her own people, she was very happy among her husband's people, pioneering in this beautiful place.

Sarah Ann was a very good housekeeper, also she did her own spinning and made the clothes for her family. She was very friendly and enjoyed visiting her in-laws and neighbors. She was active in the services of the Cedar Lake Baptist Church and was a leader in the social activities of the community. She was a well educated woman and was very adept in the training of her children.

The children of Horace and Sarah Ann Taylor were; Obadiah Taylor III, who founded the town of Creston, George Taylor, Sylester Taylor, the father of Civil War Verteran John R. Taylor and of Alfred Taylor of Cedar Lake - both of whom died a few years ago, Polly M. Taylor, Alvin Taylor, Sarah J. Taylor, Esther Ann Taylor, and Parthenia Taylor.

Sarah's husband, Horace, and several sons went west to California in the gold rush. Horace started home with several thousand dollars worth of gold, but was killed on the way in an Indian massacre in 1853. One son, Obadiah, returned to Lake County, but Alvin remained in the west.

It is presumed that Sarah Ann Taylor is buried in an unmarked grave in the old Cedar Lake Cemetery in Creston, where several of her children are buried.

#### References.-

Arthur G. Taylor of Crown Point, Mrs. Ella Harmon of Creston, The late Mrs. Ella Taylor Barber of Creston, Sheldon's History of Deerfield, Mass., T.H. Ball's Histories of Lake County.

#### Susan Turner

Susan Patterson Turner, daughter of Samuel Turner, born February 27, 1813, near Gettysburg (or in) Pennsylvania and moved with her parents to Lake County, Indiana in 1838.

Chapter IV of Timothy Ball's History of Lake County, 1904, p 141, says that while Samuel Turner and his wife the former Jane Dinwiddie, went to LaPorte the winter of 1838 to find a more comfortable adobe, they left their eldest child, Susan, in charge of the household in Eagle Creek community. She and her five brothers, ranging in age from twenty-three years to thirteen years, passed safely and well through the privations of that winter.

Possessed of a genuine pioneer spirit she was a resourceful and helpful citizen and throughout the years became known to everyone as Aunt Susan. She was a very motherly woman, who was never married, but of whom, as doing a mother's part, it may be truthfully said, that many would rise up and do her honor. "For many years she remained on the old homestead where she welcomed her nieces and nephews, her motherly capabilities and excellent qualities endeared her to them as well as to her neighbors and friends who appreciated her nobility of character. Her later years were spent in Hebron, Porter County, where she bought a little white house. The one story cottage on the south side of the street was where she went to her nightly rest as usual and did not awaken from her sleep July 24, 1899, fulfilling an often expressed wish that she might die in that manner.

Her photograph, opposite page 41 of the Dinwiddie Clan Record, shows her to be a slight, plain sweet faced person, her hair of brown parted in the middle is brushed neatly and closely, her hazel yeas have a twinkle, though bespectacled and her chin and firmly held lips hint the smile that bespoke her nature of humor and good will. She was short slender and very active.

#### Jane Dinwiddie Turner

Jane, born January 19, 1783 at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, married Samuel Turner in February 1810 and was eager to venture with her family to settle in Eagle Creek community at the age of 55 years. Susan is her daughter.

## Lurina Baker Vinnedge

Written by Ethel A. Vinnedge of Creston, Indiana

Lurina Baker, of German descent, was born in 1815 to George Baker and Margarite Heaton in Richmond, Virginia.

Later she moved to Xenia, Ohio, then to Marshall County, Indiana. Here in 1835, she married David Vinnedge, son of Rebecca Packard, of South Bend, and George William Vinnedge, son of Revolutionary soldier, Adam Vinnedge of Columbus, Ohio. The Vinnedges were French Huguenots from Alsace Lorraine, who settled in New Jersey.

Lurina (Lorinna) and David Vinnedge lived in South Bend and Plymouth, where several of their ten children were born. Then in a covered wagon, they came to Lake County, and took a claim south of Cedar Lake, where now is the Surprise Golf Course. David built a very large roomy house across the road from where the Jess Mathew house stands.

A very goodnatured and loving wife and mother, she was very strict in the rearing of her ten children, teaching them obedience, respect, and honesty. Lurina instilled love of God and religion in all of her children, with the assistance of her brother, Rev. Abner Baker, the first minister to preach in the Creston Methodist Church.

A very religious woman, she and her family were members of the Cedar Lake Baptist Church, in which they took active part.

While the youngest child, Thomas, was about five years old, her husband, David, died, the result of injuries received when he fell from a load of hay on his head. Lurina continued living on the homestead, where she successfully reared her large family to manhood and womanhood. Her older son, Joseph stayed on the farm with her, helping with the children and the farm. During the Civil War, although wishing very much to go to war with his brothers, James Thompson Vinnedge and Francis Marion Vinnedge, stayed behind with mother.

They had an old dog, Bruno, who was usually lying at Lurina's feet, if she were knitting or sewing. I have a picture of 16year old Joe with a racoon and old Bruno sitting beside him, also I have a picture of Lurina. Old Bruno was a very jealous dog, whenever Lurina passed cookies to the neighborhood children, he would sit up and beg for one, which he always got.

Anxious that her children should have an education, Lurina gave one upstairs room in her large house for a schoolroom. It was taught by a man named Sutton of West Creek. Thomas used to tell of going barefooted upstairs to school when he was very small.

After Thomas was married, he lived across the road and on the south corner where now is the Wagner place. His older sons, Obadiah and Calvin used to run away most every day to see Grandma Vinnedge, who always had delicious cookies awaiting them. Often little Obe would go alone, and Grandma would see his little white tow head bobbing along through the meadow about the same time every day, as he never went by the road. He usually asked for some of her famous "shiken dumps." He still says that her chicken dumplings were the best he ever ate. He can also remember the first pair of little red mittens she knitted for him.

Her later years were spent at the home of her son, Thomas in Creston. Here Obadiah had to stand and hold the skeins of yarn as Lurina would the yarn with which she knitted stockings and mittens for her grandchildren. Her lovely

tatted lace was the envy of the neighborhood. Each of her new grandchildren received a tatted bonnet and tatted lace trimmed clothes.

After each meal, Lurina smoked one pipefull of tobacco in her clay pipe. It was Obie's job to fill the pipe and bring it to her as she sat by the stove in her rocking chair. Strange to say, her son, Tom, nor any of his three sons ever used tobacco in any form.

In 1889, she died in Hammond at the home of her daughter Mary Ellen Irsh. and was buried in the Creston cemetery beside her husband.

Lurina and David Vinnedge had ten children - Joseph Baker married Sophronia Davis, Martha died an infant, James Thompson married Evaline Burch and moved to Zion, Illinois. He was a Civil War Veteran. Jothan Baldwin died at the age of two, Francis Marion, a Civil War Veteran, married Emma Gragg and moved to Iowa. Mary Ellen married C.J. Irish and lived in Hammond, Delilah married William Reed and moved to Nebraska, Elizabeth Jane married Chris Gilger and moved to Kansas, Sabra Millicent married Casper Kannarr, lived at Plymouth, Thomas Edwin Alonzo married Josephine E. Taylor, and they lived at Creston.

References -- Obadiah G. Vinnedge of Creston, Calvin D. Vinnedge of Cedar Lake, Fronia Vinnedge of Zion, Illinois, Elmer Vinnedge of Crown Point, Mrs. Ella Harmon of Creston, and Lake County Histories by T.H. Ball.

### Stella Louisa Vandercar Wallace

Stella Louisa, born April 3, 1853 to Adna Vandercar and Martha Hogan Vandercar at their farm home, Orchard Grove, east of Lowell, Lake County, Ind. died on the same farm but in a modern farm house that long ago replaced the first log cabin and later enlarged house. Her parents bought the farm in 1846 by claim and a dollar and a quarter per acre from the United States Government. Her grave is in the old part of the Orchard Grove Cemetery, (on a hill to the south, where the generations of her family and their pioneer neighbors are laid to rest. She died January 27, 1944, aged 90 years, 9 months, 24 days.

Louisa married Lester Wallace, a boy of the neighborhood in her teens. Two daughters are mentioned, Addie, who married Brownell and Bertha who married Kenney. Tossie Brownell Ebert, (Mrs. Fred) and Cecil Kenny of the present generation are grandchildren.

Mrs. Wallace relates that her parents brought their family here in a covered wagon, drawn by ox teams. The richest farmer in that part of Lake County, Henry Sanger, hired her father to work for the sum of fifty cents a day, he also worked for Charles Kenney during harvest season. He cradled wheat for that sum per day.

After the log house was built her father made crude furniture to meet their needs, her mother and grandmother spun flax, carded wool, spun yarn, knit stockings, mittens, scarfs made underwear dresses, suits, in fact all of the wearing apparel was home made; Blankets and coverlets too. Not to mention the cooking baking canning and all of the tasks of each season. Twisted rags soaked in lard were the first candles, then the kerosene lamps and the electric lighting system were all a series of developments during Louisa's lifetime.

Her education consisted of brief terms at the Orchard Grove School. Church and Sunday School met there too.

She recalls the tedious lumber wagon trips with produce hauled to Chicago over the rail like roads through Lake County and into Illinois. Deer wandering through the hazelnut brush and groves were shot for winter supplies. She recalls the Indians haunting the area, some dealings were others caused worry.

By granddaughter Toosie Brownell Ebert  
newspaper account by Gladys Brown Linton



Mrs. Stella Wallace

HAMMOND TIMES — APRIL 19, 1943

(45)

## By GLADYS LINTON

**LOWELL**—Memories of the ox-cart days are being recalled today by Mrs. Stella "Grandma" Wallace, who is celebrating her 90th birthday on the farm east of Lowell, where she was born.

She lives on the old homestead place with her granddaughter, Mrs. Tossie Ebert, whom she reared from infancy.

A sweet-faced, gentle-spoken old lady, Grandma Wallace likes to tell of the part her family played in the pioneering of Lake county. Her story follows:

"My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adna Vandecar, came to Lake county from New York state in 1846, driving an ox team hitched to a covered wagon. Along with two other families, each driving their own team, they cooked their meals along the roadside and slept in makeshift beds in the wagons.

### Eafned 50 Cents a Day

"When they arrived here, father started at once to look for work and learned that Uncle Henry Sanger was the richest man around at that time and able to hire help, worked for him, cradling wheat and mowing and raking hay.

"Charles Kenney lived where Ernest Ebert now lives and father also worked for him, cradling wheat for 50 cents a day. When he had saved a little money, he obtained 120 acres of land from the government for \$1.25 an acre. He built a one-room log house with slabs laid for a floor. When the ends of the slabs warped and turned up, he turned them over. Two holes were cut for windows and boards were set in when it rained. Chairs and tables were slabs with four legs nailed on.

"Mother spun yarn and knit our stockings and my grandmother wove cloth to make our clothes, blankets and coverlids. When father began farming for himself, he cradled wheat for other people in the daytime and cut his own grain in the moonlight.

### No Rationing Worries

"Electric lights were then unthought of and light was made by rags twisted and burned in lard. Food was not plentiful but was very nourishing—such as pumpkin butter, corn bread and mush and milk.

Coffee rationing would not have worried people then, for we made our own by browning corn and cracking it fine.

"The first corn planter was a small rake with a spring on the bottom. This was fastened to the hoe handle and when the spring was pushed down and the hoe turned over, the corn was covered. A cradle was first used to cut grain, then a reaper, next the self-rake and finally the binder. Fuel was wood cut in the marsh by hand.

"Everyone helped his neighbor at butchering time, four or five families working together. Four or five days were required for wagon trips

to Chicago, where they sold dressed hogs and returned with shoes, barrels of flour and sugar and a bolt of calico to be sewed by hand into clothing.

"The first school I recall was built across the road from where the Orchard Grove school now stands. It had one room with benches facing desks fastened to the wall around the room. There were four months of school in the winter and three in the summer, since boys and girls helped with the work at home. For spelling bees, we often went to the 'Old Sam Bryant' school, now called Center school, or to South East Grove. Our school boasted two pupils who were never spelled down—George Hill and his sister, who knew the spelling book by heart.

### Recalls Early Teachers

"My first teacher was Orlando

Beebee, a relative of the Beebees now living in this vicinity, and two early teachers were John Dwyer, the father of Attorney S. C. Dwyer, and Harrison H. Ragon, father of L. W. and Cordie Ragon of Lowell.

"Our first post office was started when a Mr. Warner came from Canada, driving a one-horse peddler's wagon. He first lived in father's log house until he entered the land where Walter Miller now lives. He then built a one-room store and added another room when he was appointed postmaster. Later, he built the store on the corner, which became Jerry Kenney's store. The post office for Orchard Grove was located there until the rural route from Lowell was started.

"Many Indians lived here when I was young and many of them lived on land now known as the Kenney farm. They traded baskets for articles the white settlers had.

## Sabra Warriner

Written by Ethel A. Vinnedge of Creston, Indiana

Sabra Warriner, wife of Lewis Warriner, was born about 1792 in West Springfield, (now Holyoke) Massachusetts.

On November 9, 1837, she came to eastern Cedar Lake, Lake County, Indiana with her husband, Lewis, and children, Edwin B., Fanny, and Sabra.

Early in the summer of 1837, on horseback, Sabra's husband, Lewis Warriner, Amasa Ainsworth, Norman Warriner, Hervey Ball, and Job Worthington had come west from Massachusetts to locate a place to bring their families. Reaching Cedar Lake, they had been delighted with the beauty of the lake and surrounding woodland and prairie. So they had returned at once to Massachusetts to prepare to move their families and possessions to this western land.

The home of Sabra and Lewis Warriner was located just north of Tinker-ville on what was later known as the Scritchfield Place, and later the Esty place. It is now owned by Victor Roberts of Lowell.

With the help of the other pioneer neighbors from Massachusetts, a log cabin was soon erected, wherein Sabra spread her few possessions to make the Warriner home in this pioneer country.

Sabra was a very intelligent and well educated and religious woman. Her husband, Lewis, had been a town representative in Massachusetts legislature, also a school teacher and an active church member. In this new country, he was the first postmaster of Cedar Lake, having the post office in his home.

So the home life of Sabra's family was a happy and a religious one. The children were well instructed and trained by both father and mother.

A very energetic woman, Sabra entered actively upon all of those tasks which were the lot of a pioneer homemaker.

Sabra was an active member of the Baptist Church and her family with the Norman Warriner and the Hervey Ball families soon established a Cedar Lake Baptist Church, which held meetings in their homes, as there were no school houses.

On August 24, 1838, sickness entered the Warriner home and death came to Sabra and her youngest daughter, Sabra. Both were buried in the West Point Cemetery on eastern Cedar Lake.

Her husband, Lewis, died in 1845.

References ----Lake County Histories of Lake County by T.H.Ball and Obadiah G. Vinnedge of Creston.

### Mrs. Hiram Wason (Betsy Rockwood Abbot)

Betsy Wason, born August 1, 1818, in Wilton, N.H. Married Rev. H.Wason on October 31, 1844. She moved with him to Vevay, Indiana where he was both Pastor and School teacher, she also assisted in teaching. In 1857 when her husband was called to be the first Pastor of the newly organized Lake Prairie Church, she came to West Creek township, where they continued to live the remainder of their lives, until 1889. She had one son, T. Abbot, and two daughters, Nannie, later Mrs. Edward P. Ames, and Maria who became Mrs. Chas. Burhans.

by Julia Wason Dahl (Mrs. Olto)

## FIRST LADIES OF LAKE COUNTY

by Ethel Alice Vinnedge

It took courage to seek this far place-  
So came these women, with love and grace;  
Who made their rough cabins, a home-  
'Mid tall trees, hills, soil of clay and loam.

Their many children helped with the work-  
To further their hopes, they dared not shirk;  
Mothers made clothes of gingham, calico-  
To buy supplies, they had far to go.

A two days journey with wagon and team-  
As of a bright future they did dream;  
With corn and flour ground at the grist mill-  
Also wild honey, larders did fill.

Wild game, prairie chickens, fish and deer-  
And daily the Indians, they'd fear;  
They learned to shoot, and protect their own-  
They had no time to cry or to moan.

We revere these early women here-  
Their homes so crude - no neighbors were near;  
But in their homes, much love was the scheme-  
Bible read, obey its laws - their theme.

Venturesome ladies from out our past-  
You helped our Lake County grow up fast;  
To you, First Ladies of our County Lake-  
A big vote of thanks to you we make.

