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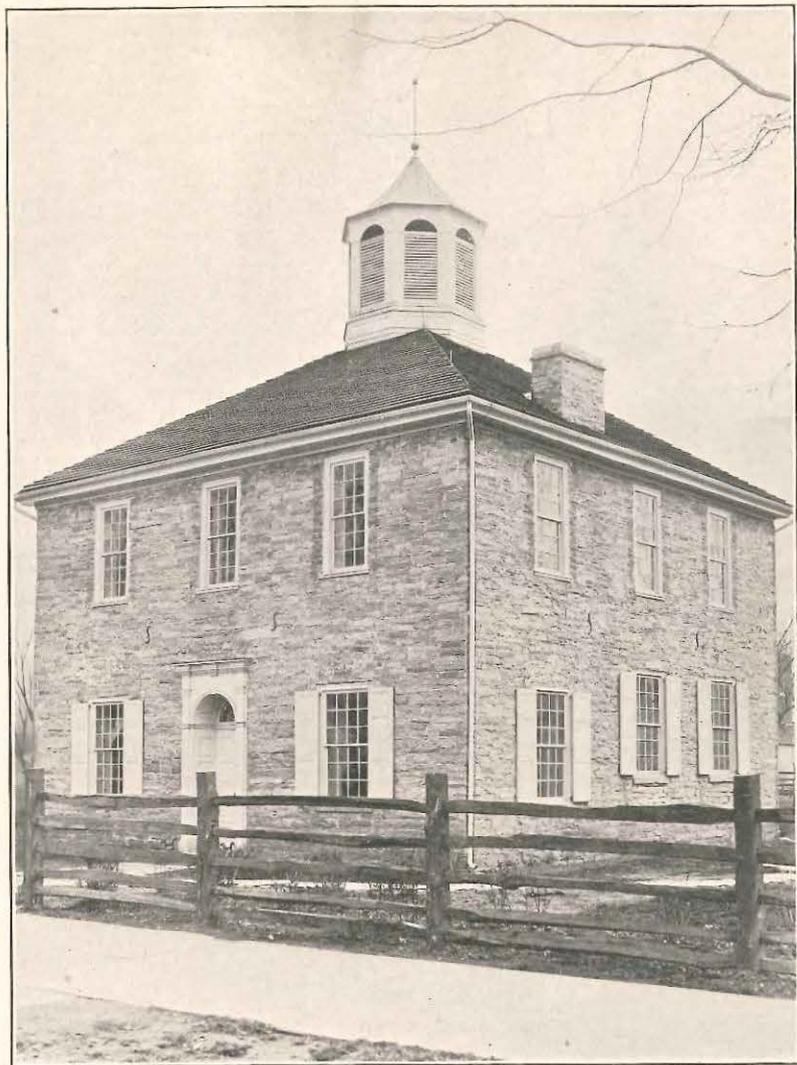
Indiana History

THE CORYDON
STATE HOUSE

A Hoosier Shrine



The
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
STATE OF INDIANA
1930



THE CAPITOL BUILDING AS RESTORED

The CORYDON STATE HOUSE

A Hoosier Shrine



By GEORGE S. COTTMAN



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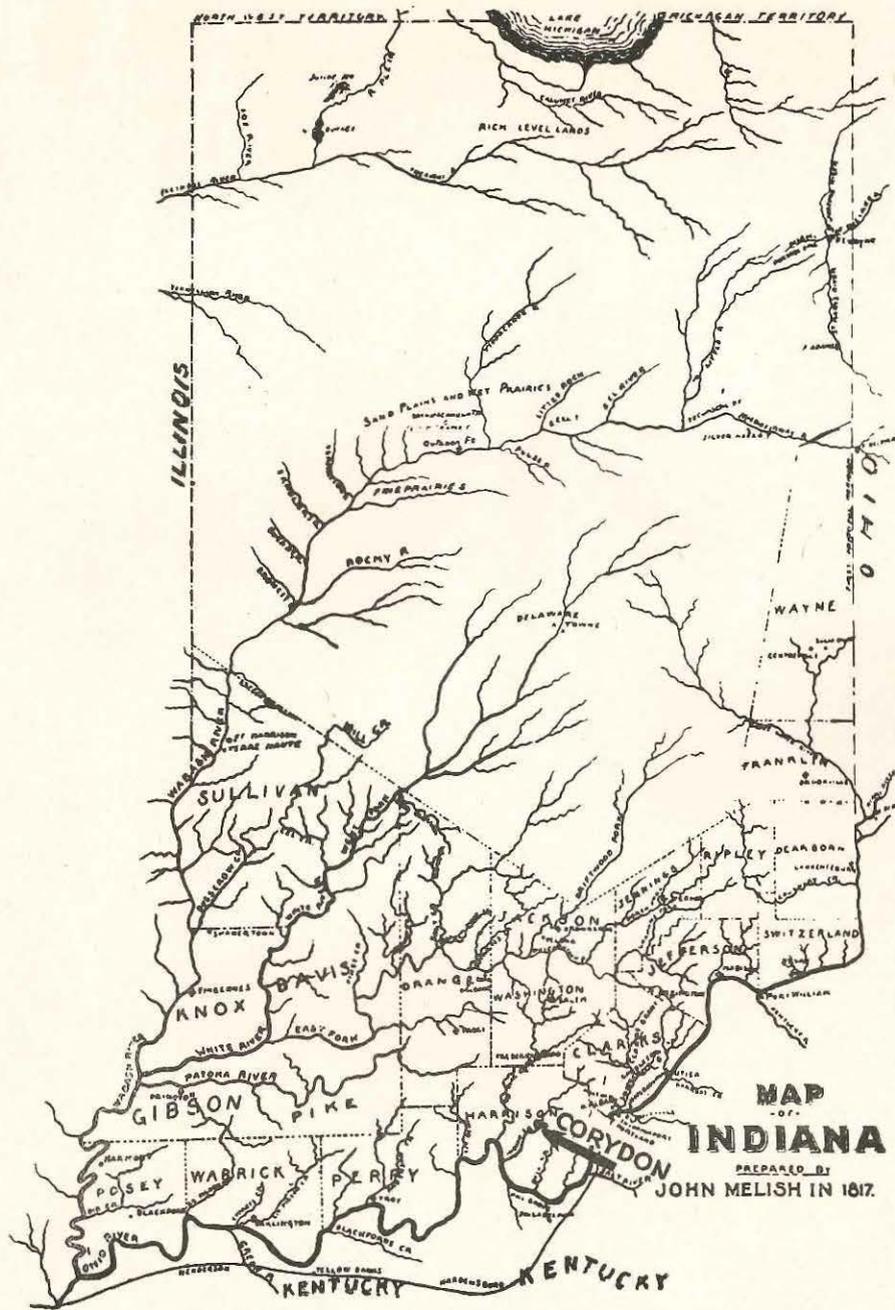
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94th Publication

Division of Lands and Waters

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FIRST MAP OF STATE OF INDIANA
(See page 53)

A HOOSIER SHRINE

By GEO. S. COTTMAN

THE BACKGROUND

To the uninformed within or without our borders who may not know why a certain old stone building in the little hill town of Corydon, Indiana, should be especially honored by the state, this introduction is written. Also it is a background that may be helpful to a fuller understanding of the narrative proper.

The story of it, filled out, goes back to that dramatic event of which we have heard much lately, the conquest of the Northwest by George Rogers Clark and his handful of valorous backwoodsmen—an exploit that secured for the future nation of the United States not less than a quarter of a million square miles. From the western boundary of Pennsylvania to the Mississippi River, from the chain of inland seas to the Ohio River stretched this vast domain, spacious enough of itself to make a separate empire. Hemmed in by navigable waters, blessed with countless natural resources, it was destined to be the home of teeming multitudes and the seat of five great states shaped to the democratic ideal, and which should lead the rest of the nation in the direction of universal freedom.

From the time the United States took possession of this region as a grant from Virginia to the present moment one great unfolding process has been going on. Not only has the wilderness been made to blossom as the rose for the benefit of mankind but, socially and politically, there has been a segregation and crystallization, a growing from the simple to the complex, a progress from paternalistic dependence to self-determining independence. What began as the Northwest Territory, inchoate and tentative, gradually divided and subdivided until the five separate areas we now call States took their fixed boundaries, and the one original political unit became five units, each independent of the others.

These mutations were all according to plans and specifications. From the beginning the goal was statehood—a group of states—and to shape the character of those states a special instrument was framed. This known as the “Ordinance of 1787,” not only laid the foundation for and made mandatory a republican form of government consonant with the Federal Constitution, but it also barred the way against the institution of slavery, which elsewhere had its clutches on the throat of the young nation. A few pregnant words incorporated in the Ordinance—“There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory,”—went far toward determining the character of the population that came flowing in from the south and east as the new country was opened up for settlement, and so fixed the status of its civilization for future time. To those like-minded immigrants, haters of slavery and seekers of a land where they could work out their higher ideals, the future was bright with promise.

We may more fully appreciate the meaning of independent statehood if we consider the successive steps through which it was attained after the formation of our nation, when the organization of a public domain became one of the governmental questions. These steps, in the case of Indiana, were as follows: When first organized under that name, in 1800, it consisted of all the territory won by Clark, with the exception of what is now Ohio. Then came divisions, as the population increased, one made in 1809 reducing the once vast Indiana to, virtually, its present dimensions. The territory, as such, passed through two forms or grades of government, the first being administered by a governor and three judges of federal appointment, and these changing to a governor and legislative council, who were appointees; a house of representatives elected by the people, and a delegate to Congress elected by the legislature. With the granting of statehood all federal jurisdiction was withdrawn and the whole governing body was chosen by the people. The latter status was much like that of a boy attaining his majority and leaving the parental roof to face for himself the responsibilities of life. Thus it may be assumed that after sixteen years of preparation, while the proper growth was making, the final attainment of statehood had its inspiration and hope for the forward-looking majority. The majority, it is said,

because until the last moment there were timorous souls who feared to take up the burden of new responsibilities with their increase of taxation. Such, however, were a small minority.

And there were reasons for inspiration and hope. The Indianans had the smallest of the five states of the group, but, as fortune would have it, we lay directly in the line of that vast tide of commerce that in time to come was to sweep to and fro between an East more opulent than the orient of Marco Polo and a West more glamorous in its potential wealth than any El Dorado of the imagination. Wedged in between the great “artery of the West,” the Ohio River, and the greatest lake system on the globe, with its fertile soil, its natural resources and its climate a happy medium between the rigors of the north and the enervation of the south, it gave promise of being a tight little commonwealth snugly situated at the heart of things. But those who watched its beginning could have at best only a hazy and symbolic conception of the state as it was to be under the magic wand of progress. We who look back and see what that progress has been with its varied developments undreamed of a century ago have yet more reasons for regarding the founding of a state as a matter of great moment. The realization of this is part and parcel of what may be called a state-consciousness which has been growing in our midst for some years. The sentiment for recognizing this in a concrete way by honoring the place of the state’s birth came to the surface as far back as 1913. Corydon was that place; the old stone capitol, still standing there, under the roof of which the transition from territory to state was made, was the very cradle of the commonwealth, and this was the stimulus for a legislative movement looking to the purchase of the building; of which more will be said in its place (p. 29).

IN THE HEART OF THE HILLS

In these days of ever-multiplying automobile tourists the week-end pilgrimage has become a popular form of recreation. An interesting objective with good scenery en route is a sufficient incentive, and of these the State of Indiana, through its Department of Conservation, is offering more and

more. This is particularly true of the south part of the state with its flavor of history and its picturesque hill country spreading in scenic variety from the Whitewater to the Wabash. Here, along the lordly Ohio or in the counties contiguous to it, are the old towns, from Brookville to Vincennes, that represent the urban beginnings of our commonwealth, and here the region whence came so many good Hoosier families that are now scattered over the state. Here, too, the state itself had its origin in the little valley town ensconced amid the hills—and that is Corydon.

If the tourist seeking Corydon approaches from the north it is likely he will travel by road No. 31 via Scottsburg, Sellersburg and New Albany. If he does, a short distance beyond Scottsburg he will come to two features that should be of interest to one who is sight-seeing. The first of these is the neighborhood where occurred the Pigeon Roost massacre, noted in our Indiana history as the bloodiest event of the kind in the annals of the state. As a memorial of the tragedy a monument in the form of a tall shaft of stone stands a short distance east of the road and about two miles south of Vienna. The other feature that challenges the attention is the State Forest Reserve, lying just within the bounds of Clark County. This reserve of approximately 5,000 acres, with its extensive tree nurseries as part of the state's conservation and reforestation system, is well worth a passing notice, and if one will take the pains to climb the tall steel tower that tops the highest hill in the reserve he will get one of the most far-reaching views to be had from any point in the state, and one of the most beautiful, especially as he looks southward into the hill country. At this latitude begins that system of peculiar conical hills called the "Knobs," and on the far side of a broad, rolling, heavily-wooded valley that sweeps to the westward the group of these Knobs known as the "Silver Hills" lie limned against the sky in bold silhouettes. Southward of these, at intervals, rise others of the Knobs which the tourist will better note as he continues on toward New Albany. Southward, too, stretches for miles what seems a great rampart, which lies, a broad belt of blue, against the western horizon. This wall and these sentinel hills give one the sense of a mysterious region beyond, thus guarded from intruders, and one of

lively imagination may borrow zest from the fact that the object of his quest lies hidden there with the way of access as yet unknown.

As a matter of fact the curious rampart with its odd-looking outlying hills and the intriguing lands beyond, speaking of poetic mysteries, are none the less wonderful when the geologists have explained them. What seems a wall, viewed from a distance, is designated in the books as the "Knobstone Escarpment," being the sharply-descending edge of an upland or plateau, spreading beyond. This upland, composed of soft shales, erodes in its own peculiar ways, thus forming the rounded hills; and as to the mysteries beyond, we find their equivalent when, the rock formations shifting to a decomposable limestone, we come to a land of caverns and subterranean streams.

Road No. 62 leading westward from New Albany to Corydon, a distance of twenty miles, first runs into a pocket of hills, then by a long winding climb mounts the escarpment and enters the upland beyond. Here one finds himself traversing a beautiful, undulating landscape, the salient features being a broad, shallow creek valley bordered by panoramas of picturesque hills and ridges. The road is good and the riding so pleasant that almost before the traveler knows it he is entering the streets of Corydon, a town of something less than 2,000 people, "beautiful for situation" where it nestles low in the meeting valleys of Big and Little Indian creeks, with the surrounding heights looking down upon it. If you climbed the heights so as to also look down you would find the town site to be in a big oval dish up the sloping sides of which the scattering homes mount ambitiously till some are perched on the commanding hill tops. On the lower level the houses snuggle beneath the shelter of umbrageous trees, and there by day and night the hurrying waters of Big and Little Indian croon liquid melodies to them. Very peaceful and rural is the spirit of this Mecca of Hoosierdom in spite of its invasion by the fussy, skurrying automobile, and it seems more impressively so when we remember that it is almost within sight of the three Falls Cities to the east, which collectively make a population center but little short of 400,000 souls. Here for more than a hundred and twenty years it has pursued the even tenor of its way, wholly inconspicuous save

for one brief chapter in its history and the renown since reflected by that episode. This was the dozen years between 1813 and 1825, during which period the place was successively the capital of the territory and that of the state, with the added honor of being the scene of the transition from one to the other.

And this brings us finally to the main theme of this booklet—the old capitol building, still existing as a symbol of our political beginnings and as a historical memorial. It stands in its otherwise vacant square in the middle of the town, a plain, two-storied, cube-shaped structure with a hip roof surmounted by a cupola. In its exterior there are few architectural graces, but the whole building speaks of massiveness. The walls are of rough blue limestone, quarried from the neighborhood, the maximum thickness of them being not less than two and a half feet, and the heavy masonry being apparent at the door and window spaces. The house was, obviously, built to withstand the years, and thus far it has done so with no signs of deterioration.

HISTORY AND HEARSAY

Within the last few years curiosity has been stimulated regarding the history of the Corydon capitol and the exact relation of the territory and state to it. Certain traditions about it have been handed down. The date of its construction is usually given as 1811-1812, and its builder as Dennis Pennington, a stone mason, and one of the earliest and best-known citizens of Harrison County. While some say that he was the actual artizan who built it, others state that he was the contractor only. It seems to be generally taken for granted that the building originally erected as a court house was completed by 1813, and that it became the capital at that time. Then there are conflicting statements about various other things relating to Corydon of the capital period, and all in all, one must conclude that along with the bona fide history of the place there is more or less that has been handed down loosely and accepted without verification, as always happens where history of interest has been made.

Since traditions often—perhaps usually—have a valid foundation, the present writer has no desire to take issue with these, but he feels that the first consideration here is to deal

with his subject as accurately as may be from the evidence in the case, and to that end he has studied with some diligence whatever he could find bearing upon the matter.

Unfortunately the evidence is incomplete and fragmentary, owing to a culpable negligence that once prevailed in Corydon as elsewhere throughout our state. In Chamberlain's *Indiana Gazetteer* of 1850, Samuel Merrill, the compiler of the book, speaks of the "laws, records and other papers relating to the early business of the territory" as missing from the state archives, and cites an instance of twenty-seven years before where papers were officially burned up at Corydon because some clerk had complained of being troubled with them. Thus it happens that in the records of Harrison County relating to the old court house there are tantalizing gaps. Fortunately, however, some that were lost have been recovered, and there now exists an interest in their careful preservation by the county officials.

Owing to the dual service rendered by this old building in the past data concerning it are to be sought in two sets of archives—those of the state and those of the county. Those of the state were carefully gone into some years ago by Miss Ethel Cleland, then of the State Library, and as her research gives every evidence of thoroughness I here reprint her findings as they appeared in the *Indiana Quarterly Magazine of History* for March, 1913.

STATE DOCUMENTS—MISS CLELAND'S RESEARCH

Upon a request for information received by the Legislative Reference Department of the Indiana State Library in regard to the erection of the first State House at Corydon, the bill or bills providing for the purchase of the ground and the erection of the building, and the surrender of the ground to Harrison County, the ensuing investigation was undertaken. After a cursory survey of the subject the question became, to show first whether the State ever owned such ground or building, and if not, who did, and by what right the State occupied them. The sources of information consulted are (1) the territorial acts, (2) the early State laws, (3) the early legislative journals, (4) the limited material in the State Library on the subject.

(1) TERRITORIAL LAWS.—In 1813 Corydon was fixed as the seat of government by "An act to remove the seat

of government from the town of Vincennes to the town of Corydon, in the county of Harrison" (Territorial Laws, 1813, p. 51). This act is entirely silent on the subject of property or quarters to be occupied by the legislature or the judges of the general court. In the laws of the same year (1813, p. 80), an appropriation is made to one Mark Barnett "for rent of two rooms for the use of both houses of legislature during the present session," which, of course, was held in Vincennes, showing that the legislature rented quarters previous to removing to Corydon.

The territorial laws of 1814 contain nothing bearing on this question. In those of 1815 we find (p. 72) an appropriation to Elizabeth Spencer for house rent, but it does not state that it is for the use of the legislature. However, a joint resolution of the same year (p. 117) grants the same person "a further allowance for candles and house rent for the present session." From this it would seem that the legislature rented quarters when the capital was removed to Corydon. Another resolution of 1815 (p. 115) bears so directly on the court house (later called State House) of Corydon that it is quoted in full.

"A resolution for the relief of Dennis Pennington.

"Whereas, it has been represented to this legislature, that Dennis Pennington, who was the undertaker for erecting the Court House in Corydon, in consequence of not receiving the money as contracted to be paid, has been compelled to pay a considerable sum, in interest, etc. And whereas, the Circuit Court for Harrison County do not conceive that they have any power by any existing law to give the said Pennington relief—

Therefore, Be it resolved by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives, That the associate judges for the county of Harrison be, and they are hereby authorized to make the said Pennington any other and further allowance as, from a view of the whole circumstance, shall be considered by them equitable and just, to be paid out of the county funds as in other cases.

"This resolution to take effect from its passage."

(2) EARLY STATE LAWS.—In 1816 the constitutional convention fixed the seat of government at Corydon "until the year 1825, and until removed by law" (Journal of the constitutional convention of 1816, p. 61). In the federal Enabling Act of 1816 four sections of land are granted to the state for the purpose of fixing the seat of government thereon. The legislature in 1820 (laws of 1819-20, p. 18) appointed "commissioners to locate a site for the permanent seat of government." But neither in this act nor in the subsequent act of 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824 and 1825 is there any mention of state property and

buildings in Corydon, or the disposal thereof, except, in a joint resolution of 1824 (laws of 1823-24, p. 113) the state treasurer is authorized to sell such furniture belonging to the state as could not be removed to Indianapolis. There are three other resolutions that seem to have a bearing on the question—one in 1816 (laws of 1816, p. 249) in which the legislature adjourned the Circuit Court from the court house in Harrison County to meet in the seminary in Corydon while the legislature was in session; a similar resolution in 1820 (laws of 1820-21, p. 132), adjourning the Circuit Court to meet in a private house, at the date the legislature convened; while another resolution of the same session (laws of 1820-21, p. 142) authorizes repairs to the "State House" for the next session of the legislature (evidently the building was known indiscriminately as "Court House" and "State House"), these repairs to be paid for from the State treasury.

(3) EARLY LEGISLATIVE JOURNALS.—In the Senate Journal of 1816-17 (p. 22) we find the following:

"Resolved, By the Senate that a select committee to whom was referred an investigation of private engagements to provide a house for the governor etc., etc., be instructed to enquire what is the situation of the right of occupancy of the General Assembly to the Court House of the county of Harrison, and what privileges have been granted by the county court or citizens of said county, and what measures may be necessary to be adopted for the future accommodation of the legislature during the continuance of the seat of government at Corydon, and that the House of Representatives be requested to give similar instructions to their committee with leave to report thereon."

A similar resolution was adopted in the House (House Journal, 1816-17, p. 27), and a joint committee was appointed to investigate the matter (Senate Journal, 1816-17, p. 23, and House Journal 1816-17, p. 27). The report of this committee is found on page 57 of the House Journal of 1816-17 as follows:

"Your committee have made the enquiry into the right of occupancy of the Court House in Corydon for the use of the State, and find that the associate judges of Harrison County, June term, special court 1816, made the following order, to-wit:

"Ordered, That the Court House of Harrison County, in the town of Corydon, be tendered to the Territorial and State legislature for the use of the State House so long as Corydon shall remain the seat of government."

"If the Court House be sufficiently guaranteed to the General Assembly of the State of Indiana by the above

order, your committee would recommend to the General Assembly to devote the room occupied by the clerk's office in the Court House to the auditor for an office, and that another room in said house be devoted to the Secretary of State for an office, and further we would recommend that the books and papers belonging to the legislative department be deposited in the secretary's office.

"The committee are decidedly of opinion that more substantial assurances ought to be given to the General Assembly by the citizens or court of Harrison County for the use of the Court House for the benefit of the State while the seat of government remains at Corydon."

An interesting agreement was a contract entered into by citizens of Harrison County to furnish a convenient dwelling for the governor, and also, it would appear, to pay certain sums of money for the use of the state. In the treasurer's and auditor's reports of 1816 to 1823 we find receipts for sums of money recovered from sundry citizens of Harrison County.

COUNTY DOCUMENTS

Research in the Harrison County court house discloses additional information, though it is fragmentary.* The earliest document of a consecutive character is the record book of the Court of Common Pleas, covering the period from March, 1809 to February, 1812. This valuable relic of territorial days long ago mysteriously disappeared from the archives but finally was located and recovered. It is filled up largely with the entries of the county business, hence affords a few glimpses bearing upon the antecedents of the court house. The earliest of these is an item under date of March 9, 1809, which reads:

"Henry [Hervey] Heth and William Henry Harrison came personally into court and acknowledged themselves indebted to the Court of Common Pleas of Harrison County in the sum of five hundred dollars provided the said Heth and Harrison do not on or before June, 1812, convey by a good and sufficient deed to the said court for the use of the said county for public grounds, two lots in the town of Corydon, in said county, containing one acre and four perches each, being heretofore laid off by them for the public ground in said town."

*To the present court house officials, and particularly to Mr. James Brewster and his sister, Miss Elizabeth Brewster, who have long been connected with the auditor's office, the writer is indebted for assistance in his hunt for source material.

The meaning of this, as pieced out by other existing data, is that the land where the major part of Corydon stands was entered by Harrison. This much is shown by the entry records, the date being July 11, 1807, but before the ground was paid for and the patent given the tract was transferred to Heth, who is credited with being the original proprietor of the town. An advertisement of the first sale of lots may be found in a number of issues of the *Vincennes Sun* for 1808, but the name of the proprietor is not there given. Heth, apparently, as anchorage for the county seat, proffered the two lots mentioned as a court house site and for other public uses, but was unable to give title until the land entered was wholly paid for. Meanwhile Harrison's continued interest in it would seem to be indicated by his appearance as a guarantor of the conveyance to the county, as above shown. As a matter of fact the ground in question was not conveyed to the county till July 28, 1813, when we find by another document that Hervey Heth and Rebecca, his wife "granted, bargained and sold unto Patrick Shield, Moses Boon and Peter McIntosh, judges of the Court of Common Pleas, two certain lots or parcels of land, one acre and four perches each, for one dollar paid in hand;" said land (nw. quarter of section 31, township 3 south, range 4 east) being patented to Heth under date of June 4, 1813. This was the year of the coming of the capital, and whether there was any connection between the two events can only be guessed at.

Nor does it appear just what the facts regarding the court house were at this time. On the one hand it seems hardly likely that the county would erect a permanent building on ground that it did not yet own, and yet the record book already quoted from shows that as early as April 25, 1811, there was a specific movement for such a building in the form of two separate court orders. One of these was to the effect that the Harrison County sheriff should "advertise the letting out the building of a court house in said county, in the town of Corydon," the same to be published one week in the *Louisville Gazette*. The other "Ordered that Eli Wright, William Branham and Henry Rice be appointed commissioners to employ a workman to build a stone court house in Corydon." Incorporated in these are specific plans which tally closely with those adopted in the structure as after-

wards built. At the same time it was provided that the public grounds be cleared off and a little later an order authorizes the payment of fifteen dollars for that work.

This truly looks like the beginning of things, and it is doubtless the basis for the traditional statement that the capitol-to-be was built in 1811-12. Unfortunately for the accuracy of this we find in the same records under date of June 7, 1811, this lone and brief entry:

Ordered that the order appointing the commissioner to superintend the building a court house in Corydon be rescinded and that said commissioners present their bill to the next county court.

On the same day are other entries, somewhat mystifying at first, but which on close study seem to throw light on the rescinding order. They are as follows:

A bond from George F. Pope to the judge of the Court of Common Pleas to convey lot No. 12 in Corydon, acknowledged in court.

Ordered that the treasurer of Harrison County pay to George F. Pope [from] the levy of this year three hundred dollars, and that the treasurer of said county pay in the year of 1812, agreeably to law, to said Pope the sum of two hundred dollars out of the treasury of the county.

Henry Rice came into court and undertook to finish the present house purchased from G. F. Pope by the judges for a court house, in a plain, workmanlike manner, and present his bill to the court * * *.

Ordered that the treasurer pay Henry Rice out of this year's levy fifty dollars, to purchase nails, glass, etc., for the court house.

The construction I venture to put upon this is that the court concluded to forego, or at least postpone, the building of a new court house as proposed, instead of which plan it purchased of George F. Pope, for five hundred dollars, in two payments, lot No. 12, and with it an unfinished house, this to be completed and used as a court house. That this was contiguous to the quarters then occupied by the county business is indicated by two other entries, as follows:

Ordered that William Bradley proceed to extend the roof of the office in Corydon to the court house, * * * and that said Branham [?] lay the floor in the passage between the court house and office, and make steps leading from said office into the court house, and present his bill as allowed.

Ordered that the treasurer pay Henry Rice one hundred and fifty-five dollars and twenty-five cents in part of his account for completing the court house in Corydon.

This is the last entry referring to the court house in the first record book of the county, and the document shows beyond doubt that the present building was not begun until after 1811. It may even be doubted if it was begun in 1812 in view of the evidence that the county business was established in other, newly-purchased quarters, as above indicated.

It is a matter for keen regret that the second book of county records, covering from early 1812 to the close of the territorial period, is missing. This, undoubtedly, would furnish much data concerning the building of the so-called state house, and there is a suspicion in Corydon that because of this the book has been deliberately purloined some time in the past, along with detached documents, such as bills, receipts and other papers pertaining to this particular construction, now gone but once in the archives.

The next glimpse we get of the court house question is in the county commissioner's records, which began with the state system of government. Here is evidence that the present building was not finished before 1816, for bills of that year from H. Rice, George Jones and William Hunt are for various materials and services, such as "to making two chimney pieces [mantels];" "to running two partitions;" "to weatherboarding for cupola;" "to making and hanging a double door and casing same," and other items including steps to the judges' seat, lumber for inside finishing, two hundred turned banisters and "216 window lights." This looks very much as if the building was then for the first time being made usable, and it seems not improbable that delayed work was being pushed forward for the accommodation of the newly created state. In support of this the state documents already cited show, or at least indicate, that the territorial legislature was renting quarters for its sessions two years after it came to Corydon (p. 14), and in 1815 it passed a resolution for the relief of Dennis Pennington, who had undertaken the erection of the court house and been financially embarrassed because he had not received moneys "as contracted to be paid" (p. 14). Nor is this the only proof that the construction was a slow and intermittent process

which was not finished even in 1816, for in the commissioner's records, under date of February 3, 1821, it is "ordered that James Holiday, George Armstrong and William Hamrick be appointed viewers to view the court house in Corydon to judge whether it is done in conformity with bond which has been given by Dennis Pennington and others for the building of said court house, and that the said viewers meet at the court house in Corydon on the second Saturday in April next, and that they report to the best of their opinion the insufficiency in the work, if any there be, and what might be the expense of finishing such court house agreeable to the tenor of said bond." This order is repeated on May 3, and the following August the committee reported that "we are of the opinion that said court house is not done agreeable to the bond given, and that in our judgment the whole expense of finishing said house agreeable to said bond would be forty-seven dollars and fifty cents." Following this rather interesting report is a court order to the effect that "Mr. Pennington and others concerned in said bond are requested to come forward and finish the said court house on or before the November term of this court. If they do not complete the same within the above mentioned time they may depend on being prosecuted on said bond, and that Pennington have a copy of this order." Presumably Mr. Pennington responded to this threat to the satisfaction of the court for there is no further evidence of trouble about the original contract. By way of recapitulation it may be noted that what evidence I have cited shows that the time of construction from start to finish was at least six years, and probably longer, since we do not know the exact date of beginning; while other evidence (see Miss Cleland's findings, (p. 13) indicates that the legislative occupancy of the building began in 1816 and not in the territorial period. On what terms the state took possession of the county's property is not known. The state auditor's reports of that period shown no payments for rent.

To many these things may seem inconsequential and not commensurate with the trouble taken to establish them, but on the other hand, since the interest that attaches to the old Capitol is largely an historical one and loose statements about it have long passed current it is held that here is a proper place to present the question as thoroughly as may be.

THE SHIFTING CAPITAL

The story of Indiana's capital in its relation to Corydon is not complete without a survey of its history elsewhere as well as there.

J. P. Dunn introduces his *Indiana, A Redemption From Slavery*, by reminding us of the various seats of government that at different times exercised jurisdiction over our territory. Says Mr. Dunn:

Indiana had no capital within her boundaries for one hundred and thirty years after white men had been upon her soil. She was but a part of a province of a province. For ninety years her provincial seat of government vacillated between Quebec, New Orleans and Montreal, with intermediate authority at Ft. Chartres and Detroit, and the ultimate power at Paris. Then her capital was whisked away to London, without the slightest regard to the wishes of her scattered inhabitants, by the treaty of Paris. Sixteen years later it came over the Atlantic to Richmond on the James, by conquest; and after a tarry of five years at that point it shifted to New York City, then the national seat of government, by cession. In 1788 it reached Marietta, Ohio, on its progress toward its final location. In 1800 it came within the limits of the state.

With the formation of Indiana Territory the only logical location for the governing place was Vincennes, the chief settlement then existing in the zone that was opening for settlement, and the most central. Since the first government was a quite primitive one, the governing body consisting simply of the governor and three judges, the question of a capitol building was as yet hardly born, but with the adoption of the second grade, in 1805, there was introduced a territorial house of representatives and a legislative council. Very little has been said about the home of this enlarged body, but to the present day there is in Vincennes a little frame two-storied residence which is preserved as the first territorial capitol. That the territory did not own this is indicated by the fact that at the last legislative session held there an appropriation was made "for rent of two rooms for the use of both houses of legislature during the present session".

In 1809 occurred events which made Vincennes no longer the best place for the capital. This was the setting off of Illinois as a separate territory, and the purchase by Indian

treaty of some 3,000,000 acres of land which carried the white man's possession much farther to the north. The next year there was a movement for the selection of a permanent capital site, but for several reasons this was premature and came to nothing. It was not until 1813 that the move was finally made, one reason that probably operated at that time being the war with England and the danger to the town on the Wabash from Indian attacks. Just why Corydon was selected one wonders, since there were other bids for the distinction by towns that were more conveniently located. As late as three months before the removal a memorial was submitted to the legislature praying that Jeffersonville be made the seat, and there is evidence that then and thereafter there was a lively rivalry among the various towns to capture the capital. There are reasons for surmising that Governor Harrison may have been a determining influence, which reasons will be discussed in another place.

The capital remained at Corydon until 1825, or, more accurately, until the latter part of 1824, that length of stay being fixed by the first constitution. Meantime, in 1820, a second attempt was made toward a permanent location, another Indian treaty having secured all the central part of the state, and the federal government having, when admitting the state into the Union, donated four sections of land for a capital site, with the privilege of locating it wherever desired in the country still to be acquired. The spot where Indianapolis now stands, at the center of the state, was chosen; a year later the town for the final capital was founded, and on the expiration of the period fixed for the Corydon occupancy the nomadic seat of government made its last shift. Of this moving two or three first-hand accounts have been handed down to us, and it was a picturesque adventure. An imposing cavalcade of four great four-horse wagons laden with the state's effects and the printing outfit of the state printer took about ten days to travel the 125 miles to Indianapolis.

At Indianapolis history repeated itself in the matter of housing the state's governmental establishment. As at Corydon, there was no state house other than a new court house, and, as at Corydon, again, this was proffered to the state pending the materialization of a real capitol. It was used

by the legislature and some of the state offices for eleven years, at the end of which time a \$60,000 building erected on the square donated for that purpose was ready to receive them, and the government for the first time owned its own home. This structure was used for about fifty years, when the present one was built.

THE STATE'S BEGINNING

In the long series of migrations just outlined Corydon, of course, is but one of several places claiming recognition as Indiana's capital, but its special distinction is that here the foundations were laid for the state government, and that event is an inseparable part of the town's history. For that reason the story of the state's beginning is in order here.

To get the proper slant on it one must realize that the state-making process is not a sudden and swift accomplishment but a succession of steps leading up to the consummation. The arguments for and against statehood were, on the one hand, a desire for democratic independence and opposition to too much power lodged with a governor who was a federal appointee; and, on the other, a fear of the burden that would be imposed by new responsibilities and increased taxation, which was a perfectly valid fear if the territory were not yet populous enough to carry those burdens. The first movement in the direction of statehood for Indiana was as far back as November 11, 1811, when a petition was presented to Congress asking for admission to the Union. Evidently, however, public sentiment for the change was not quite ripe yet, and the question dragged along with occasional resuscitations until 1815, when an official census was taken to settle the uncertainty as to population. The latter, it was found, exceeded the number required by the Ordinances of 1787 by nearly four thousand, and that effectually cleared the way for further action. During these four years reasons against admission had, of course, been growing less, and on the heels of the census things began to move. Another memorial was submitted to Congress asking for admission and for certain grants for educational and other purposes, including thirty-six square miles as aid to a permanent seat of state government.* This went through the legislative mill

*Instead of the entire township asked for four square miles were granted.

with reasonable promptness, and by April 19, 1816, an "enabling" act was passed, conceding with a few modifications what the memorialists had asked for. This was for acceptance or rejection by the territory through delegates whose election was provided for in the Enabling Act, and whose office it was to frame the constitution if statehood were decided upon. These elected delegates—forty-three of them less one who was delayed—representing the thirteen counties then existing, met at Corydon on June 10, 1816, and by a vote of 34 to 8 decided to accept the provisions of the Enabling Act and to proceed forthwith to the framing of a constitution. Then followed the work of shaping the instrument that was to serve as the new state's fundamental law, this occupying them till June 29, and after that there was the transmission of copies of the new constitution to the President and Congress of the United States. Finally there was the formality of admitting the state to the Union by a resolution of Congress to the effect that, the State of Indiana, having fulfilled all the requirements, "is hereby declared to be one of the United States of America, and admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states in all respects whatever."

It may be said that in this instance the making of a state took just one year, beginning with the submitting of the memorial to Congress on December 11, 1815, and finishing with the formal admission by Congress on December 11, 1816.

The Constitutional Convention

We may imagine it was a big occasion for Corydon when the delegates for the constitutional convention came trailing their various ways to the little town among the hills to inaugurate a new departure in governmental affairs. To be sure the place had for three years been the scene of the territorial business, legislative and otherwise, but this new step was something more stirring. The question of statehood was the live issue of the day, over which the prospective state was a-buzz, what with the aroused activities of politicians and the widespread interest of the people in the possibilities ahead of them, particularly in the matter of slavery. This was by no means a settled question as yet, despite the

provision against it in the Ordinance governing the country north of the Ohio, and the political partizanship of the day rallied to the anti- and pro-slavery standards. Thus Corydon was in the public eye, so far as that could be in a land of isolated little towns and rural communities where information traveled slowly; and the new stone court house there was the focal point as the forty-three delegates sat there day after day hammering out the foundation on which the state should rest.* If one interested in the process will turn to the Journal of the convention or to Charles Kettleborough's very thorough study, *Constitution Making In Indiana*, he may there trace the growth of the instrument, step by step and find much to stimulate his thinking in certain directions.

It is the general opinion of our historians that the framers did their task well. They were not learned men, eminent in statesmanship; some, even, were illiterate in the modern sense of that word, but they were men of action, of rugged common sense, and acquainted with pioneer needs. At least a few were educated, on the other hand, and, as in the case of Jonathan Jennings, William Hendricks and James Noble, represented a capable leadership. Such is the verdict of history.

CORYDON AS THE STATE CAPITAL

Just to what extent and what way Corydon was affected by its nine years' possession of the state capital cannot be got at directly and clearly. The new situation soon engendered two newspapers—the *Indiana Gazette* and the *Indiana Herald*—but unfortunately they, like all papers of that period, were provokingly lacking in local items, so that any attempt to reconstruct local color is at best a tantalizing process, though indirect glimpses are often furnished by advertisements of various kinds. Even these sources of information in Corydon's case, however, are locally unavailable, barring a little typewritten book of excerpts preserved in the State Library, the only known copies of the publications being carefully treasured in the Library of Congress. The only person known to me who has made a study of these rare

*A colorful tradition that helps out the picture is that the constitution-makers occasionally repaired to the shade of a large elm tree about two squares away where they pursued their labors. Of this elm tree there is more in another place (p. 42).

files in search of light on early Corydon was the late Charles W. Moores, who as a result contributed a sprightly article on "Old Corydon" to the *Indiana Magazine of History* for March, 1917. Mr. Moores' findings and inferences are interesting and I re-present some of them here. For one thing he gathered that there was an oft-recurring fight for the removal of the capital to one or another of the rival towns, one argument for it being that there were insufficient accommodations in Corydon for the visiting law makers and others, and that the boarding house keepers were disposed to profiteer off the situation. Supplementary to this Mr. Moores quotes from his grandfather, Samuel Merrill, compiler of Chamberlain's Gazetteer, to the effect that the town had in 1816 not to exceed a hundred houses, mostly log ones, and that during the legislative sessions there were often large crowds, the provisioning of which was not easy, the nearest source of supplies (Louisville) being twenty-five miles away with bad roads to be negotiated.

Apropos, and drawing from another source, Edmund Dana, a traveler who visited the town in 1819 describes it as having "eight or ten neat buildings, besides many others that are ordinary, and a spacious courthouse of stone which is occupied by the legislature during their sessions," and he adds that fixing the temporary seat of government there "has not so much contributed to the prosperity of the town as was expected," one reason assigned being the distance of the site from the Ohio River, which was the great highway of travel. Samuel R. Brown, another traveling visitor, speaks of the great dissatisfaction prevailing in other parts of the state because of the retention of the capital here, and all in all these things must have militated against the growth of the hill town, for the census of 1820 shows that up to that time its population was only 334. It is a fact often cited that the last territorial governor, Thomas Posey, would not make his residence in the town, to the great inconvenience of the territory's business, his excuse being that he was in poor health and could not receive proper medical attention in Corydon.

But if Corydon did not grow physically its character was undoubtedly affected during those years the capital was located there. After 1816, especially, the place must have become

cosmopolitan in a small way, what with the general segregation of government officials, annual legislatures and those who came and went because of the state's business. Such men as Jonathan Jennings, William Hendricks, Isaac Blackford, Benjamin Parke, Samuel Merrill and others of that class became identified with the town in addition to such permanent citizens as John Tipton, Dennis Pennington, Thomas Posey, Jr.,* the Heth's, etc. An aggregation of such men in that day of small, semi-rustic towns, was something unusual, and there are evidences that these introduced into this one sundry elegancies, literary, artistic and social. Miss Angie Leslie, in a fugitive newspaper article (see Harrison County scrapbook in State Library) tells of a Mrs. Jameson whose home was the housing place of a circulating library for the use of members of the legislature and others. These books, says Miss Leslie, were selected with a view to liberal culture, that definition being broad enough to include education in democratic government as well as in Shakespear, Milton, Burns and other classics. Evidently the collection was not very large, for it was kept in a "secretary" or combined desk and bookcase which piece of furniture, the writer tells us, is still preserved in Corydon. The smallness of the library, however, was compensated for by its quality, and the book lovers of the community presumably made the most of their modest wealth, for we are further informed that "their minds were stored with melodious expressions of high thoughts and beautiful imagery," and that "quotations were used quite freely in their speeches." It is gratifying to learn that Mrs. Jameson, who served as librarian and custodian of the books, was appreciated, as appears from the statement that when she became a bride, in 1820, the legislators, of whom Judge Jeremiah Sullivan was one, sent to a Cincinnati silversmith and had a set of table spoons made from silver coins, which token of esteem was presented to her with great ceremony. These spoons, along with other relics of the capital period are still treasured, or were at the time Miss Leslie wrote, by a niece of Mrs. Jameson's living at Georgetown, Harrison County.

*Some confusion has arisen from statements regarding Thomas Posey, the inference usually being that Governor Posey is meant. There was also a Thomas L. Posey, a resident of Corydon for many years, who was the county treasurer as far back as 1818. The booklet, *Historic Corydon*, compiled by the Hoosier Elm Chapter of the D. A. R., makes the interesting statement that he was the son of Governor Posey.

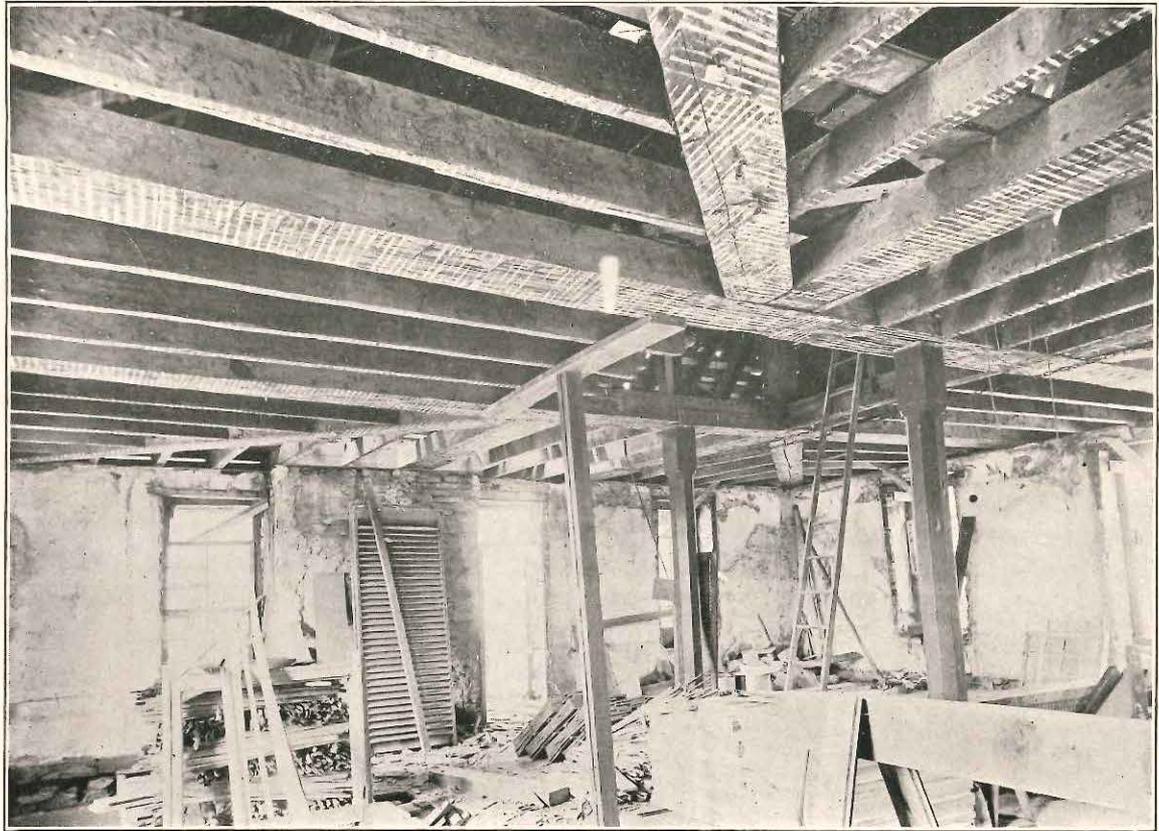
Apropos to this interest in books and libraries, we find it existing at the beginning of the state regime, or, indeed, antedating that, for in the journal of the convention is a paragraph in which it is "Resolved, that it be recommended to the general assembly of the State of Indiana to appropriate the money voluntarily given by the citizens of Harrison County to the state, to the purchase of books for a library for the use of the legislature and other officers of government; and that the said general assembly will from time to time make such other appropriations for the increase of said library as they may deem necessary." This may be regarded as the initial step toward our present State Library, though that institution was not established by law until 1825, and if Harrison County sees fit modestly to boast that its early citizens laid the foundation for said valued library by their free contributions of money the documents will bear them out. It may be added that cultural tastes other than literary have left their traces in the retrospect. Not a few relics in the shape of furniture and other household articles, saved from the capital period, may be found in Corydon homes, one of these being a rare product of the cabinet maker's art once owned by Governor Jennings. Some of the old houses of the better class still standing give evidence of architectural taste, and when the state house came to be restored to its original condition—a work just completed—preliminary investigation revealed that the same good taste prevailed in its finishing (p. 31).

Coming back to Mr. Moores' article, the newspapers show that the serviceable old stone court house and state house was also a community house or social center, where singing schools, debating societies, religious meetings and other functions were made welcome. The character of some of the momentous questions discussed in the debating performances is worth noting, as, for example: "Which is most admired, virtue or beauty?" and, "In which does virtue shine most brilliant, the Male or Female?" Unfortunately the arguments on these points are lost forever. An editorial comment on a religious revival thus speaks of its effects: "It will be peculiarly grateful to the lovers of Christianity to hear of the revival of religion which has taken place in this town. A few weeks ago our streets exhibited little else than intemperance and profanity; but now so far has the scene changed that morality seems to



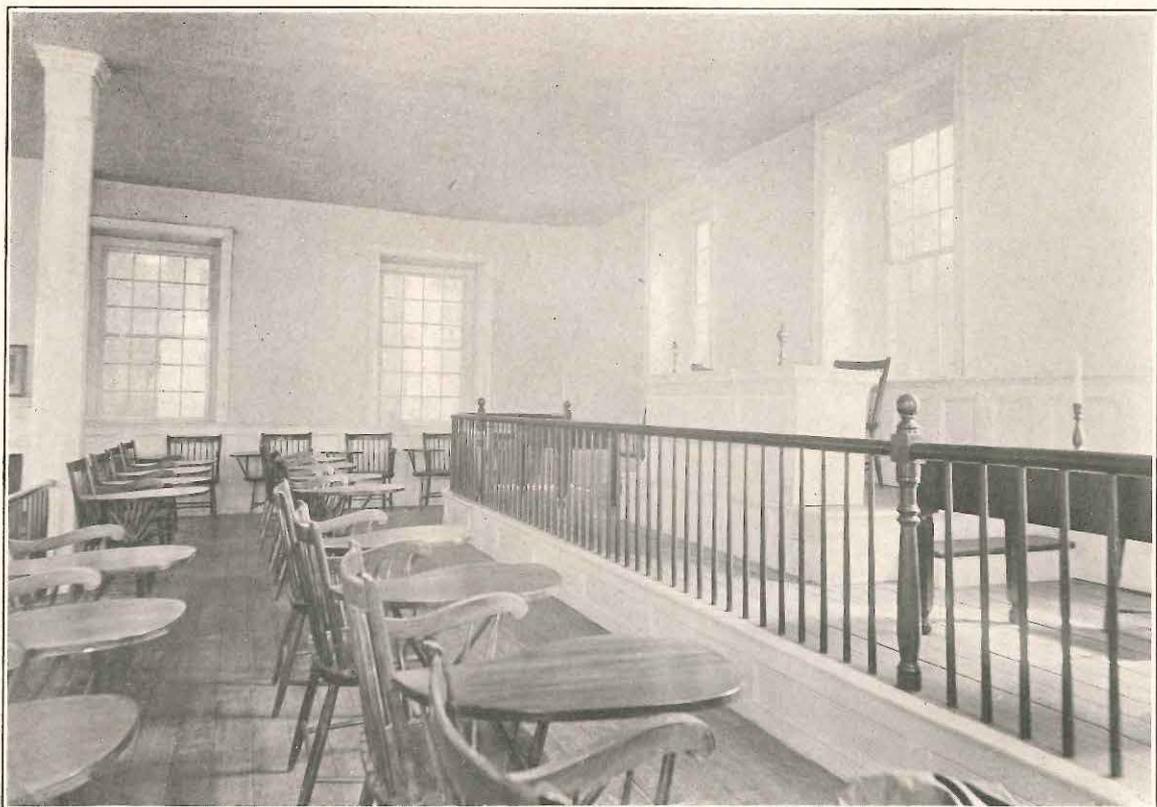
EXTERIOR RECONSTRUCTION OF CAPITOL

(30)



INTERIOR RECONSTRUCTION, SHOWING MASSIVE ORIGINAL TIMBERS

(31)



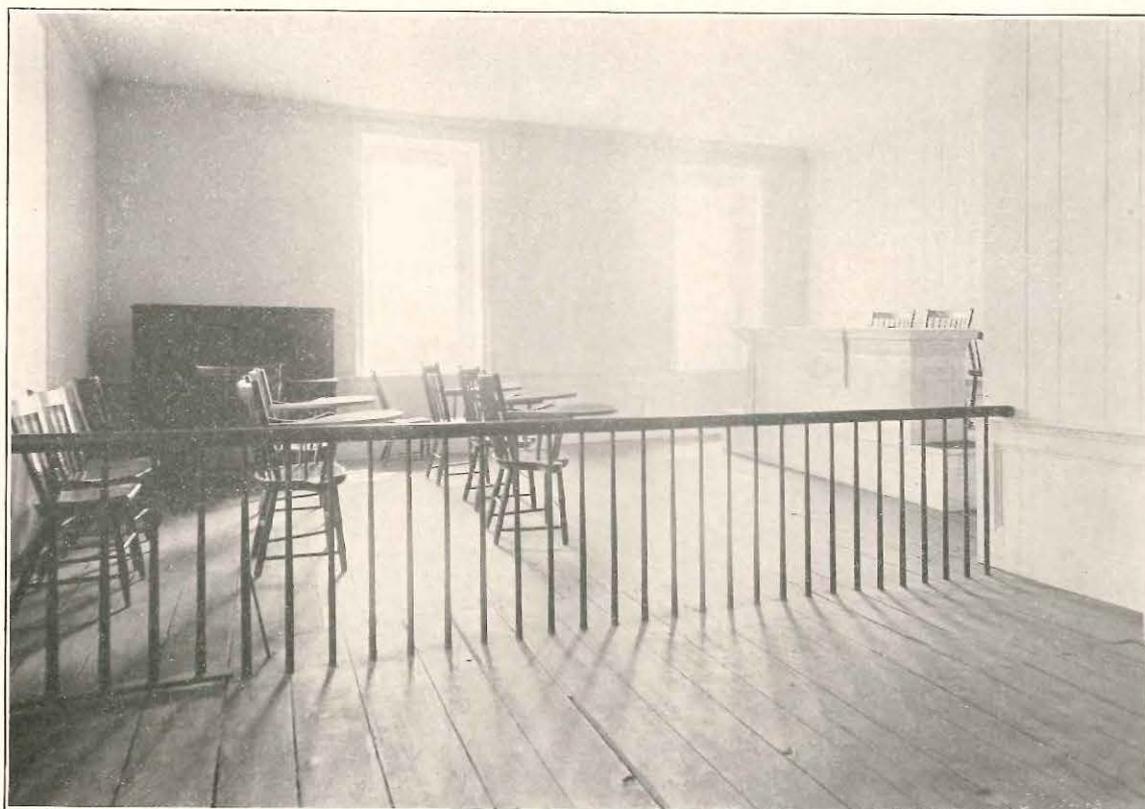
RESTORED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (LOWER FLOOR)

(32)

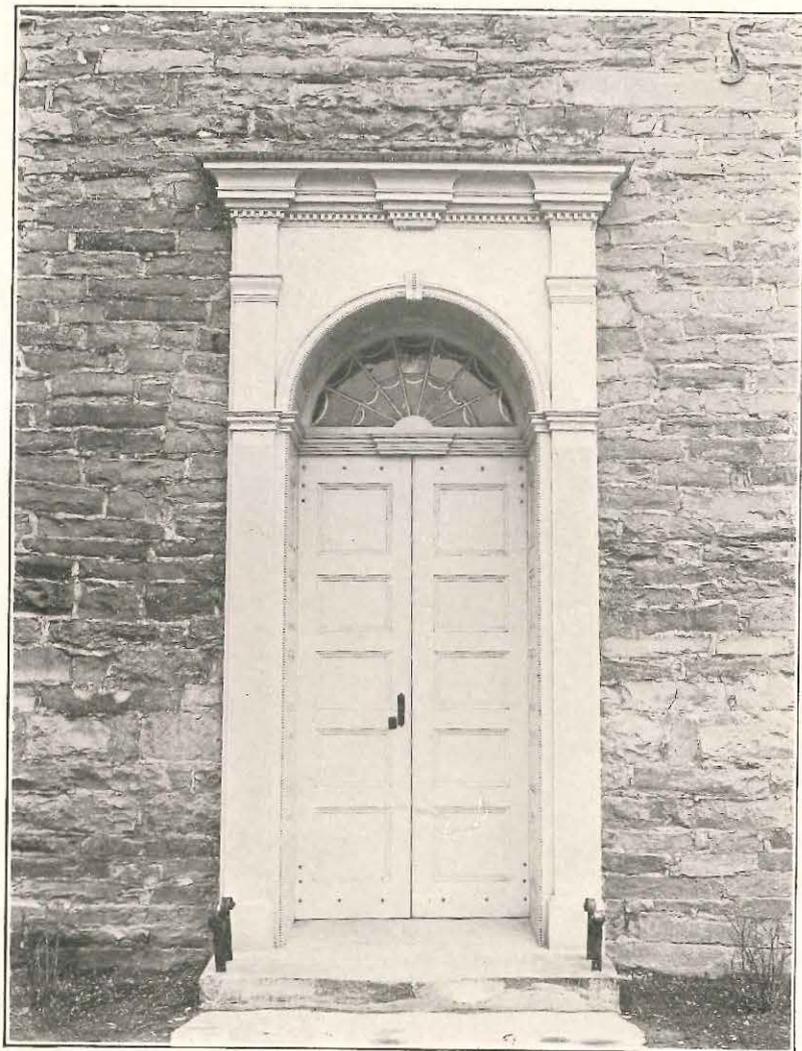


RESTORED SENATE CHAMBER (UPPER FLOOR)

(33)



RESTORED SUPREME COURT ROOM (UPPER FLOOR)



RESTORED DOORWAY WITH ORIGINAL TRANSOM

(34)



RESTORED FIREPLACE WITH ORIGINAL MANTEL

(35)

predominate in every quarter through the day, and at night the sound of prayer and praise, and the shouts of new-born souls cheer the evening shades." Elsewhere these local columns afford glimpses of that ever-popular national diversion, the Fourth of July celebration with its exuberant patriotism, barbecue feasts and interminable toasts, and most memorable of all, of the flying visit, in 1819, of President Monroe and suite, accompanied by General Andrew Jackson, who drove over from Louisville, being met and escorted into town by a liberal contingent of citizens. These distinguished visitors were entertained over night, but a big public banquet that was planned in their honor had to be declined on account of other pressing demands.

ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION OF THE CAPITOL

The foregoing matter is far from satisfactory considered as exact and complete history because of the fragmentary character of the data, but enough has been said, perhaps, to show why the old Corydon capitol should appeal to the sentimental interest of good and loyal Hoosiers. At any rate such interest does exist, and by reason of it, after the lapse of more than a century, the honored edifice has become what we have here termed a "Hoosier Shrine." So far as the writer can learn the first definite movement to so honor it was in 1913, when Senator E. B. Stotsenburg, of New Albany, asked for the historical investigation that was made by Miss Cleland, and which is printed in this brochure (p. 13), his object being purchase of the building by the state. Whether or not this was a cause to after effects no immediate result is traceable, but in 1817 the question re-emerges in the form of an actual law, passed by the legislature of that year, which reads:

"An act authorizing the purchase of the old state capitol building and the public square in the town of Corydon, Harrison County, Indiana, from Harrison County, Indiana, appropriating funds for said purposes, providing the terms and conditions upon which said old state capitol building and public square may be purchased, and providing for such conditions of said purchase as shall be inserted in the deed from the Board of Commissioners of Harrison County, Indiana, conveying said property to the State of Indiana, and creating a commission to buy said building, and a commission to have charge of the same, providing that said building shall be main-

tained as a memorial to the pioneers who established the commonwealth of Indiana, and declaring an emergency."

This action is referred to as "a final step in the celebration of Indiana's Centennial."* The purchasing commission stipulated in the act was composed of the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Auditor of State, and the amount appropriated for the transaction was \$50,000. One condition was that the county should purchase the block north of the public square and erect thereon a court house, the two holdings to make "one continuous public grounds, thus adding to the beauty and value of said public square and old state capitol building as a public memorial." The county was to be permitted the continued use of the building for four years, free of rent. The commission to have charge of the property after purchase was to be of three members appointed by the Governor, two of them to be residents of Harrison County. At the expiration of the four years allowed the county (1921) the time was extended until 1924, on account of the war preventing the erection of a new court house. The next legislation was an act of 1925, by which the capitol, the Tippecanoe battle ground and the Nancy Hanks Lincoln burial ground are all transferred to the management of the Department of Conservation. The final act leading to the present status is one of 1929, making an additional appropriation of \$3,000 "for completing restoration and maintenance of the old state capitol building and grounds to original condition and plans."

The reference in the last quoted law to "restoration" means that the building of 1816 had been subjected to alterations at a later day and the aim now is to preserve it as nearly identical as possible with its features of the capital period. How to determine just what those features were was one of the problems the conservation department had to work out. The principal changes had taken place in 1873, when there was considerable reconstruction. Fortunately specifications for these alterations and other lesser ones at other times are to be

*An earlier step in that celebration was *The Pageant of Corydon*, written and staged by William Chauncey Langdon as one of three promoted and financed by the state. It was presented in June, 1916, in connection with one of the most stirring patriotic celebrations in the history of Corydon. Governor Ralston and many other dignitaries of the state, including the Centennial Commission, besides crowds of other visitors from far and near, filled the town. There were drills, dances, music and speeches, occupying, in all, two days, and winding up with the pageant, the setting of which was the old Capitol and its immediate surroundings. This performance, appropriately costumed, was historic in its character and represented the conditions, events and personages of a century before. For fuller account see the volume "Indiana Centennial" in the *Indiana Historical Collections*, published by the Historical Commission.

found in the county records, and these, on a close study, carry with them more or less information concerning things as they were. These gleanings, reinforced by the recollections of Judge Wm. Ridley, which antedated 1873, and borne out by the discovery of some of the original interior finishing afforded the foundation for the restoration. The perplexities sometimes consequent upon the scrupulous attempt at historical accuracy is exemplified by the restoration of the cupola. It is known that the first cupola was changed, but there is no clue as to its dimensions and proportions, and the best that could be done was to copy the one on the old court house at Chillicothe, Ohio.

Two lucky finds furnished a clue to the interior detail work and showed that excellent taste was displayed in the finishing work. These were, one of the old mantels and a fan-shaped transom from the original doorway, that were, respectively, in the possession of Miss Georgia Wheat, or Corydon, and Mrs. Elmer O. Shepard, of Brownstown. Both were secured, Mrs. Shepard generously presenting the transom, and in harmony with them the rest of the finishing was worked out, the whole being in the colonial style. Old doors and hardware were used when available. The hand-made lock on the front door came from the mansion of Governor Jennings, and was presented to the state by Mr. William Mitchell, of Corydon. Carvings and mouldings taken from an old house in Clark County were used in the speaker's rostrum. The rostrum in the senate chamber involves a carved spread eagle and 19 stars. The eagle and 17 stars were taken from a mantel that was built when there were 17 states in the Union, this being an emblem much used at the time. Considerable time was spent in obtaining old glass for the windows. A newel post, stair rail, spindles and trim from an old colonial house in Madison were used in the stairway and railings. The chair rail is a replica of the one in Faneuil Hall, Boston, and of course is colonial. The roof has been given a weathered appearance by using old-style shakes stained with creosote.

The restoration work on the exterior of the building itself has changed it from one of squatty proportions with brick chimneys, large modern windows, wide cornice and mid-Victorian doorway to a stately old structure of excellent proportions and good colonial detail. The difference in proportion has been effected by removing from around the building dirt

to the amount of eighteen to twenty-four inches, which had once been filled in. On the inside the work consisted of tearing out all partitions and the door and window frames, along with rostrums of several periods; and of supplying wood partitions, paneling, rostrums, stairway, mantels, fireplaces and other detail to correspond with the outside of the building. Other changes have been the restoration of the judges' seats to their original positions and the making of two floor levels in the lower room, dividing the legislative part from the space for the public, the latter part floored only with stone flagging.

The replacement of furniture and other equipment that would exactly duplicate the first legislative and court outfit was also a difficult task, but after considerable research in that direction and a careful estimate of the governing personnel a selection was made of a sufficient number of old-fashioned chairs of appropriate types, along with such tables, benches and other articles as are fitting. These have been made to order, and to fit the general scheme.

GOVERNOR HARRISON AND THE COUNTY

The direct assertion that Governor William Henry Harrison was a deciding influence in the selection of Corydon for the capital when Vincennes could no longer keep it would hardly be susceptible of proof, and yet there are reasons why one may believe that.

By virtue of his standing as governor and military commander, and his prestige in general he was, undoubtedly, the most influential person in the territory. That he was strongly attracted to this beautiful hill country with its abundant water supply is shown by the fact that as early as 1807, while it was yet an unsettled wilderness, he acquired large tracts of land here, one of which, consisting of 207.26 acres, was the site now occupied by the main part of Corydon. This afterwards, and before the patent was received, seems to have been transferred to Harvey Heth, who is usually referred to as the original proprietor of the town. Elsewhere (p. 16) reference is made to Harrison and Heth in this connection.

Another tract was at the great spring near Blue River, which is still known as the Harrison, or sometimes the Wilson, spring. The entry records in the state auditor's office show

that William H. Harrison made here two entries aggregating 360.60 acres, and that Waller Taylor (a Vincennes friend of Harrison's) entered 160 acres; all being in section 19 of township 3 south, range 3 east. Subsequently Harrison must have acquired Taylor's holding, as well as the rest of section 19, for a deed of transfer in the county auditor's office, dated July 26, 1817, conveys from Harrison to Wilson and Bayless, for a consideration of \$10,000, two tracts of land, one of 640 acres, more or less (all of section 19), and one of 180.20 acres, "known as the northwest quarter of section 30," of the same township and range. Further proof of his active interest in this part of the country is given in the record book of the Common Pleas Court, where, in reference to an Ohio River ferry "at the mouth of Eight-Mile Creek" the statement is made that said ferry was established "by William Henry Harrison, governor of the Indiana territory, on the 28th day of April, 1807." When the county came to be organized, in 1808, it was named for the governor, and he is credited with having bestowed upon Corydon its odd name, in honor of a favorite song of his, thus perpetuating, as Mr. Moores facetiously suggests, the general's bad taste in music.

The tradition exists that Harrison's preferred route as he journeyed back and forth between Vincennes and the towns at the falls of the Ohio was through this region, which is not improbable, for though the most used line of travel between these two points was an ancient buffalo trace farther to the north, yet a good way was, westward, along the valley of little Indian Creek to its confluence with Big Indian (where Corydon stands), thence northwestward till the path met the above-mentioned "trace." As a matter of fact the county records show that at quite an early date roads were opened along this route, touching Corydon and "Harrison's mill," of which latter there are several mentions.

Harrison's activities in his namesake county went farther than the mere acquiring of lands. The section 19 above mentioned, lying on both sides of the Great Blue River, was a choice spot scenically, and had on it a remarkable natural feature in the form of a great up-welling body of water, now commonly referred to as "Wilson's Spring" (from a subsequent owner), which furnished excellent water power for a mill (see p. 36). At this picturesque spot Harrison built both

a water mill and a residence. Just when he built, or just when he lived there is not clear. Professor Collett, the geologist, says explicitly that the mill dated from 1805-6, but the error of this is obvious when we remember that the land was not entered until 1807. That it did date back to 1809, however, is shown by the record book, which specifically mentions it at that date and several times thereafter. As has already been said, the property was sold to Wilson and Bayless in 1817, after which Harrison ceased to be a resident of Indiana.

Traditions of the Harrison occupancy linger about this spot. Collett, writing more than fifty years ago, says: "Every locality and plot of land calls up some historic reminiscence of its original owner. One plot is known as the 'governor's field,' another as the 'general's meadow.' * * * Persons now living in the vicinity remember, when boys, being sent to mill on horseback with a sack of corn or wheat which General Harrison would receive with his own hands and carry to the hopper." And he adds: "The old residence is gone; some shrubbery remains, and the orchard planted by the American *Cinnatus* survives in vigorous growth and fruitage, the trees, now from two to two and a half feet in diameter."

J. Edward Murr, writing in the *Corydon Democrat* for March 14, 1923, reports an interview he had once gleaned from an elderly resident, "Aunt Barbara Foster," which confirms Collett, and the present writer, when visiting the locality in question some thirty-five years ago, picked up similar stories. The orchard trees (apples) referred to by Collett were still standing to the number of five or six, three of them green and bearing fruit. The spot where the old house had stood, which could still be identified, was beautiful for location, being situated on a rise of ground in the heart of a fine meadow. Almost surrounding it, and at a distance, a magnificent amphitheatre of wooded hills sweeps upward and away to the purple distance, and here in the seclusion, the deep quiet and the beauty of wild nature Indiana's first governor doubtless found occasional and welcome surcease from the activities of a strenuous life.

COUNTY FEATURES

THE "KNOBS."—In the Indiana geological report for 1878 there is a survey of Harrison County by Prof. John Collett,

then assistant state geologist, which is, perhaps, the best existing account of the natural features of that locality. As Prof. Collett's descriptions are from first-hand studies we can not do better than to draw freely upon them for this topic.

The geology of the region is a key to the peculiarities that are obvious to the casual observer. In the 478 square miles that comprise the county not less than five groups of rock formations come cropping up, two of which may be considered specifically as productive of distinctive features. These are the knobstone shales and the limestone of the cave country. The former has already been mentioned in our introduction to the knobstone belt of hills and upland which occupies the eastern edge of the county. The name is derived from the conical or knob-like character of its hills which, together with their causes, are thus described by Collett: "The pyritous nature of the shale causes rapid decomposition on exposure. The result is a fine plastic clay which at once yields to the action of water, almost of moisture; hence, whenever exposed, the surface of the country underlaid by rocks of this age presents a wonderful succession of sharp, conical knobs, from ten to four hundred feet in height, of singular beauty and symmetry. As seen from a commanding eminence, when covered with grass, they look like the tents of an army of silent giants." Where these hills meet the Ohio River valley their lofty tops command a magnificence of view which Bayard Taylor, the famous traveler, pronounced one of the most interesting he had ever seen, what with the broad sweep of the river's great trough, the three cities clustered together at the rapids miles away, and the far Kentucky hills to the east and south etched against the horizon. One of these knob summits, "Locust Point," 610 feet above the waters of the river, represents in its sheer rise the greatest immediate relief to be found in the topography of Indiana, though it is not the highest point above sea level.

The survey just described is rivaled by other fine views from hilltops west of the knob group. One of these is at the extreme southern point of the county where, from an altitude of four hundred feet or more, the eye commands the river as it describes a vast semicircle, forming the boundaries of the whole southern half of the county, while in the distant hill ranges the sugar-loaf knobs stand out sharp and distinct.

Again, from Pilot Knob and other heights in the vicinity of Corydon may be had a bird's-eye view of much of the county from its center. Here, looking to north and south, can be seen evidences of a great valley washed out by pre-glacial floods, miles wide, and eaten into by the minor valleys of Big and Little Indian creeks. From here, too, the Knobs are part of the scenery, the system extending from the southeast diagonally into Washington County, on the north.

THE CAVE COUNTRY.—Underlying the "extinct" valley spoken of, and extending westward lies the cavernous limestone, out of which nature has created a world of strange phenomena. The technical explanations of this by succeeding geologists are more or less confusing to the layman, partly by reason of changing terminology, so for the sake of clarity we may adhere to Collett. The phenomena referred to are those of subterranean drainage and its allied caves with their various peculiarities. The general cause leading to these effects is in the character of this particular limestone, which decomposes under the action of rainwater, thus adding a chemical agency to the ordinary mechanical agency of erosion. Thus the bedrock becomes honeycombed by the waters that find their way through joints and laminae, chemistry opening the way and aiding erosion. In this destructive process, which is carried on at the surface as well as below it, there is a residuum of various rocky forms which are more resistant, and where these are sufficiently accumulated they make a surface of fragments through which the water percolates to hidden depths, so that it is no unusual thing to see a stream suddenly and mysteriously disappear from its visible bed to reappear at some other point. Sometimes it may enter a tunnel of its own making, in which case it simply duplicates the performance of the famous Lost River in Orange County. Big Indian Creek itself, according to report, in dry weather loses itself a short distance below Pilot Knob and continues its way under cover for several miles.

The sometimes curious and interesting emergence of these streams in the form of so-called springs calls for specific mention. The big Harrison or Wilson Spring already mentioned is fed from two or three depressed areas in the northwest part of the county that would be lake basins but for the filtering away of the rainfalls through a porous surface and

by way of an underground passage that terminates at the Harrison place. Here the waters suddenly reappear, boiling up into a great circular basin whence it flows away to Blue River near by in a stream large enough for mill power, for which purpose it was for many years by Harrison and his successors. A still more spectacular uprising from the nether regions is the spring known as the "Blue Spouter," near Blue River, some three miles below the Harrison Spring. According to Collett's description this, when the water supply is abundant, gushes out "with a roaring violence, sometimes spouting up four or five feet above the basin in a column four or five feet in diameter, silvered with foam, and carrying out the fish peculiar to the open streams of that region, indicating a connection with some of them at no great distance." Other smaller and less impressive emissions of the character described are common in the county, two being within the limits of Corydon—one at the fair grounds and one near the site of the big elm tree of constitution fame.

The conical, pit-like sinkholes constitute another feature of the cave-stone country, and these are numerous in Harrison County. Sometimes they hold water and make convenient little drinking ponds for live stock,* but in general they serve as funnel-like feeders to subterranean passages, and may be called a surface attack in that age-long process which works incessantly to break down and bodily remove what seems to be the foundations of the earth.

But the most impressive phenomena of the cave country are the caves themselves, those mysterious crypts of Pluto, curiously fashioned, weirdly ornamented, and the abodes of strange creatures that dwell in utter darkness. Few natural wonders stir the imagination as does a cavern of the larger sort with its galleries and chambers and devious passages; with its stalactites and stalagmites, now grotesque, now of fairy-like beauty; with its crystallizations and formations of snowy gypsum. Just how many caves there might be in any region of underground streams it would be impossible to say, since not all of them have openings that lead to discovery. Har-

*One of these near the village of Palmyra, in the north part of the county, has been dignified by the name "Lake Palmyra." Its area is given by Collett as twelve to fifteen acres.

ison County, lying at one edge of the cave belt, has a half-dozen or more that are of interest. The most accessible of these is King's Cave, about four miles east of Corydon and near the New Albany road. It has been explored for three or four miles; its largest chamber is said to be 120 by 16 feet, and it has the customary stalactite formations, besides a little lake containing blind fish and crustaceans.

WYANDOTTE CAVE.—The sojourner in this region, however, who wishes to see cave phenomena in their most striking forms will drive some ten miles westward from Corydon to the famous Wyandotte cavern which lies just across the line in Crawford County. Incidentally, the road leading thither connects also, by a slight divergence, with the old Harrison place and spring.

Wyandotte Cave is, in the opinion of many, the most remarkable natural feature of Indiana, being in magnitude and in its aggregation of wonders comparable to the more widely advertised Mammoth Cave, of Kentucky. Though it has repeatedly been described it is by no means so well-known as it should be, and an account of it here is in order since it comes within the tourist zone of Corydon and its vicinity and comprises within itself all the cave features on a large scale.

The ride from Corydon, now made easy by auto, is itself worth while. The last four miles of the way runs along the narrow, winding valley of Blue River with the wildness of nature lying all about. Below the traveler, as he skirts the hillsides, the purling river glistens and murmurs, and through leafy vistas appear ever-shifting glimpses of verdure-laden heights and blue distance. Halfway down the route by the deep-cut valley lies the village of White Cloud nestled within the hollow of a mighty, semi-circular wall of rock that marks a bend of the river—a wall that to the eye seems almost verticle, yet is clothed with timber and thickets intermingled with smaller flora and rich mosses spreading as garments over the seamed and weathered rocks that in places look like ancient ruins. The wild and picturesque scenery continues all the way to the cave, the final stretch being a long up-hill climb to an airy eminence where stands the cave hotel looking over a magnificent prospect.

It is not intended here to specifically describe the numerous features of Wyandotte Cave, but merely to convey an idea of its general character. That character throughout is dramatically impressive. The entrance to it, a great black hole in a forested hillside, looks like a huge gaping mouth, the upper lip represented by an overhanging ledge of rock, and when one approaches and becomes sensible of a soft outward flow of air the suggestion of a breathing monster inspires a feeling of awe. And to one of sensitive imagination this feeling deepens when he enters that dragon's throat and descends by a sharply declining path, down towards the pits of eternal night. For a space the day seeks to keep him company, its penetrating light streaming athwart the rocky sides of the passage, dying away to gray streakings that grow fainter and fainter till swallowed wholly by an inky blackness that is only accentuated by the dim lantern of the guide. Not less uncanny is the vast and unnatural silence that reigns here, coequal with the darkness. The cheerful world with its familiar sights and sounds is left behind, and here is a realm for gnomes and kobolds and all the wierd creatures about which has played the fancy of man from time immemorial. Or, to those who do not indulge in such fancies, it may be said that hardly less strange is the real cave population as revealed to the matter-of-fact naturalist, what with fishes and crayfishes, crickets, centipedes, spiders and others of their ilk, all colorless, all blind and all with instincts developed by their environment.

Wyandotte Cave has three main branches, which, uniting, find a common outlet, and the combined length of which, it has been stated, are about twenty-three miles, though estimates vary. The influences that have operated in the cave at different periods have produced a variety of phenomena. First, we may consider the action of the water as an erosive force. As we enter those Cimmerian vaults and, by the feeble gleaming of lanterns and candles get some idea of their dimensions, we are filled with wonder at the power that could thus invade the living rock and hollow out vast chambers there. In many places the action of the strong floods can be clearly traced by the rounded surfaces and the smooth grooves plowed along the walls. Not the least of the fantastic results of this resistless blind force are the ever-varying forms and

dimensions of these cavernous spaces. Now we walk through low, broad passages where for a stretch we may reach up and touch the rock ceiling; or, again, we must crawl upon all fours—the spectacle of men and women thus making their slow way in a procession through the dimly revealed surroundings suggesting some grotesque, mysterious rite. Again, we tread stately corridors or thread winding tunnels, and anon emerge into some vast room which dwarfs all interiors made by the hand of men. The greatest of these, known as “Rothrock Cathedral”, is a vaulted chamber so spacious that “Monument Mountain”, an immense hill of broken rock that once fell from the roof, making a pile one hundred and seventy-five feet in height, has at least fifty feet of clear space above its summit. Not until the guide, as is his wont, sets aflame a brilliant colored light do we get an idea of the dim immensity of this colossal exhibit.

The stalactite and stalagmite formations with their variants are impressive in a different way. Here we have the grotesque, there the delicately beautiful. Upon the overhanging ledges and where the walls lean inward, presenting oblique surfaces, the mineral deposits run together in curious, fantastic combinations, sometimes in marvelous imitations of rich, heavy fringes and drapery, as if nature with cunning hand had consciously decorated her palace in emulation of art. Another striking form is the union of stalactite and stalagmite into what seems supporting columns, the most remarkable example of this variant being the famous “Pillar of the Constitution,” an elaborately fluted and ornamented shaft, not less than twenty-five feet in diameter and thirty feet high, that connects floor and ceiling. Another kind of formation which adds to the ornamentation of the cave is deposits of gypsum which in places encrust the interior with dazzling white crystals that reflect the candle rays from a million facets. All the fantastic creations of the frost king are reproduced in what seems a covering of purest snow, while delicate wreaths and rosettes of the same white substance adds to the decoration.

Unfortunately we find in Wyandotte Cave repeated evidences of the ubiquitous vandal who does not scruple to mutilate the wonders of nature to gratify a filching instinct, or, what is equally culpable, to mar them by scribbling names over

them. Sermons against this pitiable human weakness can not be preached too often or too vigorously.

MARENGO CAVE.—While speaking of the natural wonders of this region at least a few words should be said about Marengo Cave, which lies a few miles to the north of Wyandotte. In its wealth of curious formations it is generally regarded as the most beautiful of Indiana caverns, though in the magnitude of its erosions it does not compare with Wyandotte. State geologist Blatchley gives its total length as 3,850 feet only, but says that "within this distance of less than three-fourths of a mile are probably crowded more beautiful formation of crystalline limestone than in any other known cave of similar size in the United States." The attempt to suggest the character of its features by appropriate nomenclature has given rise to such names as the "Fairy Palace," the "Pillared Palace," the "Crystal Palace," etc. The last-named Blatchley affirms to be the "Crowning glory of Marengo Cave," and thus describes it: "It is a small alcove or side room, ninety feet long, fifteen feet wide and about twenty-five in height. At the south end is a perpendicular wall along which is a drapery or vast sheet of stalactites, and from a projecting shelf are many slender stalagmites, the whole so grouped as to resemble a giant pipe organ. The side walls are studded with hundreds of small and large formations, while from the roof hang pendant myriads of slender stalactites of the clearest crystal, which reflect with sparkling brilliancy the rays of the calcium or magnesium flash lights." The "Pillared Palace" is so called because of "giant pillars, stalactites and stalagmites so numerous that it is with difficulty the visitor winds his way between and around them." Other features that made the place well worth a visit might be mentioned, among them a great hall-like cavity, with remarkable acoustic properties, and a natural platform of rock at one side. Some twenty or more years ago an enterprising promoter agitated the plan of lighting this chamber with electricity and utilizing it as an auditorium for Chautauquain meetings—a proposition so intriguing in its novelty that it is a wonder some one has never carried it out.

NOTE—Accounts of Wyandotte and Marengo Caves and their fauna, with illustrations may be found in Collet's geological report of 1878 and Blatchleys report of 1896.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATTER

THE CONSTITUTION ELM

The most famous tree that ever stood in Indiana was the "Constitution Elm," at Corydon, only a dead fragment of which now remains. It was a magnificent specimen of its kind, which presented when in full leaf, a vast rounded crown one hundred and thirteen feet across in one diameter and ninety-seven in the other. Its trunk four feet from the ground was about thirteen feet in circumference. The age of the tree was not known, but a tradition that has been handed down is that as long ago as 1816 it cast over the green grass a shade so broad and inviting that when, in the month of June of that year, the delegates were engaged in framing the state constitution they held their meetings on hot days beneath this elm. Several old residents of Harrison County, now dead, whose memories went back to 1816, were authority for this. One of these, a Mr. Wynn, stated that as a lad ten years old he took early apples from his home to the out-of-door meeting-place and peddled them among the delegates; and among the earliest recollections of Henry Funk was a picture of the gathering of the men in their shirt sleeves sitting around under the great tree. For these rescued reminiscences we are indebted to Mr. J. Edward Murr, a locally well-known contributor to the *Corydon Democrat*. Mr. Thomas James de la Hunt, a newspaper man of Evansville, also tells of the stories which, as a child, he used to hear from his grandmother. This grandmother, in 1816, was a little girl, Becky Lang, who with other children was wont to play under the big elm, and her special reason for remembering the convention was that the meetings under the tree took their playground.

Interviewing Mr. Frank Wallace, the state entomologist, with reference to the cause of the elm's destruction I was told that some years ago southwestern Indiana became infested with a root fungus that was especially fatal to elm trees. Corydon was particularly rich in elms, and several fine specimens fell victims to the disease. Then the father of them all was attacked and the deadly fungus carried on its ravages under-ground till it was too late for any remedy. The tree gave visible notice of its approaching end, and the last year of its leafage, with its vast spread of foliage shrivelled and of unhealthy hue, it seemed to be making a pathetic struggle for life as it died inch by inch. Its loss was regarded by the Corydon citizens as little short of a tragic event, and to delay its utter disappearance as long as possible it was shorn of its great limbs and their stumps made to support a sheltering roof to protect the dead trunk as well as could be. Out of the removed boughs many souvenir relics were made, and in a few years more these will be the only tangible reminders of the glorious old historic tree. To the "Hoosier Elm Chapter" of the D. A. R. belongs the credit of a special allegiance to the sylvan monarch. Several years ago they erected at its foot a marker with a bronze tablet bearing this inscription: "On this site, June 10-29, 1816, the Constitution of Indiana was framed." When disease assailed the tree they did what they could to save it by tree surgery and by spraying, but this, it seems, was not the right remedy.

The name of the fungous foe above cited is given as "*Phymatotrichum omnivorum*." If post mortem levity is permissible it may be added that no wonder the tree died.

THE "BATTLE OF CORYDON"

Corydon can lay claim to being the scene of the only battle of the Civil War that was fought north of the Ohio River. The date was July 9, 1863, a few days after the great battle of Gettysburg, also fought north of the Mason and Dixon line; the enemy engaged was the little army of that dashing cavalier, John Morgan, whose audacious invasion of Indiana put the whole state in a panic. Some two thousand five hundred strong, all mounted and equipped for swift adventure, they came sweeping up from Kentucky, and the first that Harrison County knew of their approach was when they arrived at Brandenburg, on the south side of the river, and prepared to cross there. Thus this county on the north side was the first point of attack, and, in view of the steps taken to resist the raiders, the story of the incursion finds here its greatest interest. The hostile incursion as a whole has been written of repeatedly, but reminiscences local to this county that are to be found in the files of the *Corydon Democrat*, and which are preserved in a Harrison County scrapbook in the State Library, give an intimate flavor not to be found in the more formal narratives.

According to articles by Samuel Pfrimmer and J. Edward Murr the advent of Morgan's force on Hoosier soil set the local Paul Reveres a-skurrying far and wide to arouse the country-side. Farmers left their harvest fields, merchants their stores, and all rallied to the defense. Morgan spent the 8th crossing the river, using two steamboats he had captured. Attempts were made to prevent him, but after a brief artillery duel the defenders were driven back and the crossing effected. That night the Confederates encamped on Indiana soil, and the next day took up their march toward Corydon, where the home guard was gathering to stop them. Pfrimmer says the defenders numbered about 500. The first actual violence committed by the invaders seems to have been at the home of Peter Glenn some distance south of the town. Here, for some reason, Glenn was killed, his son wounded and his buildings burned. About a mile south of town a line of defense had been established, protected by a breastwork of logs and rails. Here there was a brisk little fight, raw militia against veterans, which lasted until the raiders flanked both wings of the opposing force and destroyed its morale by the use of two or three cannon which were part of Morgan's material. Then the volunteers were ordered to retreat down hill into the town, which they proceeded to do in orderly fashion at first, but more shells screaming over their heads accelerated their speed, which became a general scramble when a second rail barricade at the foot of the hill obstructed the retreat. In view of their inferiority of numbers, poor arms and utter lack of training and war experience perhaps the minute men did not do so badly. At any rate they put up a fight that resulted in the killing of several men on each side, and the wounding of more.

Murr says that Morgan's command came into Corydon from the north, south, east and west, and that the defeated home guard surrendered to them. The commissary department for the Corydon army, he adds, was under the supervision of David Jordan, who had assembled great quantities of bread, cake, pies and meat, but instead of serving these viands to the patriots, as anticipated, the "Johnnies" deposed him from high office of quartermaster and he was put to drawing a water supply from a well while the intruders took charge of the eatables. Morgan, says the writer, levied \$1,000 on each of the flour mills in town as the price of protection. When one man gave him a roll of greenbacks and it proved to be \$1,200, two hundred were handed back with the query: "Do you think I would be guilty of cheating a man?"

The Confederates kept possession of the town till late that afternoon, then marched onward toward Salem. During their stay they looted some of the stores, appropriating whatever struck their fancies, and some of the soldiers rode about the streets wearing women's bonnets which they decorated to their tastes with gay ribbons. On the whole, however, the exciting adventure turned out so much better than the fear-stricken inhabitants had anticipated, and Morgan's part in it was so tinctured with unexpected humanity that the unwelcome visitors were afterward regarded with considerable leniency. After the war, we are told, Colonel Bennett and others of Morgan's men came to Corydon to place a suitable marker at the graves of their comrades who were slain there. Colonel Bennett made an address on the occasion, and it may be presumed that all animosities were then and there smoothed over, though that did not interfere with the claims of an astonishing number of men, each of whom maintained that he had shot his rebel at the "Battle of Corydon."

BOONE'S MILL AND CAVE

A feature of historic interest that has from time to time furnished picturesque material for newspapers articles is what is known as Boone's mill and cave, located near Buck Creek, in the south part of Harrison County. So far as I know, the first and most authentic account of these two objects is that written by Prof. John Collett, which may be found in the Indiana Geological report of 1878, and which is here reprinted. Collett says:

* * * On one of his hunting expeditions Squier Boone, brother of the famous Daniel Boone, of Kentucky history, in passing along the eastern bluff of Buck Creek, noticed a small cave-like opening in the rocks, partially hidden by bushes. It appeared to be a good hiding-place for large wild game. A few miles further on he was attacked by three Indians; his only chance for life was to fly. The pursuit was immediate and earnest and it was evident that they would soon overtake him. He remembered the hiding-place discovered a few hours before and reached it when his pursuers were less than a hundred yards behind him. Throwing himself into the cave, he heard the Indians pass over his head. The little cavern had saved his life. To him it was

holy ground, and he selected it as his final resting place—a sepulcher carved out by the hand of nature. He desired that after his death his body should be entombed there.”

Collett visited this spot and found the entrance to the cave to be a small opening into the side of a hill, which had been covered by a rough, flat stone. This latter removed, the way led downward to a little room about six by eight feet by five feet high. This was Boone’s tomb, and here the exposed bones of the pioneer were found, though the coffin had been broken and the vandals had taken their toll, the skull being gone.

Squier Boone settled in this vicinity and spent his last days here. Near the “grave cave” spoken of is another one from which pours a stream of water strong enough to supply water power, and here, says Collett “Boone built a mill, preparing the materials almost wholly with his own hands. The building was of stone. Many of the blocks were ornamented with figures and emblems, displaying some degree of artistic skill, and all by the hand of the old hunter. A trailing vine in full leaf and laden with fruit was cut upon the lintels, and figures of deer, fishes, a horse, a cow, a lion, a human face and stars, and many texts from the Bible were sketched upon the stone in different parts of the building. Over the doorway was this inscription:

“The-Travellers-Rest-Consecrated
By-Squier-Boone-1809”

Over another door is the following:

“I-Set-And-Sing-My-Souls-Salvation-
And-Bless-The-God-Of-My-Creation.”

From recent inquiry it would seem that the last vestiges of these interesting relics of Boone that existed half a century ago have now disappeared, by the hands of the relic-purloiners, presumably. Whether the bones of Boone suffered the same fate none seems to know.

THE OLD “CAPITOL HOTEL”

For many years and until 1921 there stood a mile or so east of Corydon, on the New Albany road, a house that shared with the old Capitol the honor of association with the state’s beginning. This was a venerable residence building, constructed, like the Capitol, very massively and of rough limestone. It took its name, “Capitol Hotel,” from the tradition that it was the boarding place of the visiting delegates to the convention that framed the constitution, but this, like some other traditional stories had its rather insecure foundation in the lively imagination of newspaper writers. As a matter of fact, in 1816 there were also other hostelrys in Corydon, and this one a mile away probably took the overflow from the more convenient ones. Aside from this question, however, the building in its own right was worthy of note and remembrance. It was a rare specimen of pioneer architecture, and its destruction by fire, in March 20, 1921, is much to be regretted. Citizens of Corydon sought to secure what was left of it, to restore and preserve it,

but the owner of it seemed to have very little sentiment in that direction, and the ruins were supplanted by another house. When I first visited the place, many years ago, I made notes from which the following description was written:

“A mile east of Corydon I came to a house so picturesque and curious in appearance that I turned up the lane leading to it. I found it a relic (then unoccupied) of other days. It was built of large blocks of limestone, the massive walls, more than a foot thick, still being solid as a fort. A luxuriant trumpet vine clambered over the front, ornamenting it with clusters of long pods, and half concealing the little deep-set windows, while all over the decaying varanda a great grape vine had spread itself. Inside the quaint little rooms, with their hand-beaded joists overhead and cavernous, many-shelved cupboards, the yellow poplar woodwork was still sound. In every room was a fireplace, and in the kitchen a huge one, such as pioneer chronicles tell us of, not less than seven feet wide, shoulder high, and spanned by an old-fashioned mantel-piece almost out of reach. At the rear of the house, flowing a stream as thick as one’s arm or larger, a crystal spring issued from the edge of the hill and down a groove that it had cut across a leaf of solid rock. A dismantled log stable hard by added to the antiquity of the spot, and was especially interesting as evidencing pioneer skill with the ax. The notches and saddles chopped out at the ends of the logs fit together like joinery work, the ax had finished every log with precision and neatness, and even the hinges on which the doors hung had been fashioned by the same tool.”

It is safe to say that this dwelling was as old if not older than the capitol, and it bore evidence of being the handiwork of the same builder. I believe mention of it as the Conrad tavern appears in the county’s first book of records.

THE FIRST STATE MAP

The map opposite page 7, made by a Scotch cartographer, John Melish, in 1817, was the first one of Indiana after its admission as a State, and so comes nearest representing the political division at the time of admission. On the map are five more counties than were represented in the constitutional convention, these being all created by the first state legislature, which convened in December of 1816.

This map is distinguished by a conspicuous error in the placing of Lake Michigan.