

Indiana-Delphi
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Delphi, Indiana



Its Heritage

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DELPHI - -

- - *Its Heritage*

Into the Wabash country came the earliest settlers following the first sale of lands at Crawfordsville, December 21, 1824. To what later became Delphi and vicinity came the Henry and Abner Robinson families . . . Benjamin D. Angell . . . the Daniel Baums . . . Daniel and William McCains . . . John Ballard . . . James Odells . . . Isaac Jackson . . . the James McDowells . . . Daniel Vandeventer . . . Grahams with 8 sons . . . Samuel Milroy and family.

The Robinsons to build mills . . . Baums to offer food and shelter to the land-hunters and travelers . . . he kept the first tavern(inn) in their cabin . . . Daniel Vandeventer brought a stock of merchandise in a pirogue up the Wabash and Deer Creek and opened the first store in the yard of Daniel Baum. John Ballard made the first shingles and the first coffin. Others cleared the ground to raise crops.

Those old pioneers had to go to Crawfordsville for more than a year for their mail; to have all blacksmith work done; for all legal work; and to have their grain ground. It took eight to ten days by foot or horseback over the Indian trails; by pirogue down the Wabash; or with ox-team and wagon over the first woods road hacked out by the Robinsons as they came.

The first settlers were men of push and energy, but because of adverse conditions the town grew slowly. Coming as they did from different states, with various kinds of manners, customs and religions, there was cause for friction and jealousy . . . the strongest minded had their say and became the bosses, and there was often then a lack of co-operation in getting things started. Things were at loose ends and it was not until after 1840 that the newspaper editors could help gather up the loose ends and through the columns of their papers made suggestions which helped direct the thoughts and activities in a unity of effort for the good of the community.

The early settlers were high minded, many desiring above all knowledge, culture and religion. From the start, drinking, swearing and breaking the Sabbath had been frowned upon. Ordinances were passed and persons were fined for breaking them.

Politics started early, said Abner Robinson. At first the Democrats predominated with the various opposition parties which existed from time to time . . . Whigs, Know Nothings, Fusion Party, then in 1856, the Republicans.

The Delphi Story In Brief

1824

December 31, . . . Henry and Abner Robinson arrive.

1825

Build first log cabin . . . start mill race for first log mill along Robinson's Run at the east edge of Delphi . . . Daniel Baums arrived in March after poling and cordelling pirogue up Wabash and Deer Creek . . . build cabins just west of Interurban Viaduct under Wabash tracks at end of Water Street.

1826

Log mill completed . . . Methodist church organized, 8 members . . . Sarah B. Robinson started first school in log cabin on bluff . . . Pioneers hold prayer meetings . . . First state road ordered Terre Haute to Fort Wayne through Delphi, came in around west end of South Delphi hill, south of Deer Creek.

1827

Daniel Vandeventer opened first store in log cabin in Baum yard . . . John M. Ewing first doctor arrives . . . Petition State Assembly for new county . . . Surveyors for Wabash and Erie Canal pass through; speak of Indians on Reserves near Delphi.

1828

First postoffice, January, in log cabin near log mill . . . Abner Robinson first postmaster . . . Carroll County organized by act of State Assembly and named by them . . . Site for Seat of Justice selected . . . first election held . . . first court held in Daniel Baum cabin . . . August, first sale of lots, few sold . . . late in year log school built, corner of Monroe and Union Streets . . . Presbyterian church organized.

1829

Henry and Abner Robinson started second mill on Deer Creek and the dam in the creek a mile above for mill race . . . Aaron Dewey built first house of any size, corner Front and Union Streets, still stands . . . Baptist Church organized, met in log school building.

1830

Small frame building on public square; housed offices of clerk-recorder; post office; law office of Henry Chase, first resident lawyer; county library . . . Log jail built on what is today 112 West Monroe street, had a debtor's cell . . . Indiana House kept by Enoch Cox corner Main and Market Streets . . . Lebanon platted for Henry Robinson where South Delphi now stands . . . Much sickness, everyone had ague . . . Settlers coming to the Wabash were told to avoid Delphi, a sickly place.

1831

Moot legislature organized; was an outlet for oratory and debate for members . . . Small brick court house built . . . First steamboat up Wabash to landing west of Delphi.

1832

Merchants accepted produce for pay for goods . . . took produce by oxeam to Cincinnati, or by flatboat to New Orleans to dispose of it . . . no roads only woods traces, laid logs across swamps forming corduroy roads . . . Delphi started fight to have canal cross Wabash River to the north.

1833

Canal had been started at Fort Wayne . . . Delphi looked forward to coming of canal to make it a "Mee-tropolis".

1834

Steamboat Republican attempted to go up Wabash to Logansport, was stranded . . . Noah B. Dewey opens general store and built first warehouse at steamboat landing.

1835

Delphi first incorporated . . . had been under jurisdiction of county and state . . . Market House built west of court house facing Indiana Street . . . Fire ladders and buckets ordered purchased and hung in Market House . . . previously each family kept a bucket to form a bucket brigade in case of fire, man with strongest voice became leader . . . Dr. Robert Webber and Isaac Clymer launched first newspaper, Western Banner, June 23 . . . Democrats started Delphi Oracle, July 2 . . . both suspended before two years . . . James P. Dugan arrives, starts general store and money depository.

1836

Dam across Wabash at Pittsburg ordered built by State Assembly . . . John Burr arrives, opens boot and shoe factory in small shop.

1837

Seminary ordered built in Delphi by State Assembly . . . Abner H. Bowen and brother arrive, open general store and do private banking business . . . Thespian Society had been organized . . . Samuel Milroy in the State Legislature opposed borrowing \$10,000,000 to start the Internal Improvement project.

1838

Potawatomie Indians transported through vicinity, at west edge of Pittsburg . . . Hitching racks ordered built around court house square . . . New Buford House built, N. E. corner Washington and Franklin . . . old Buford House across the street south re-named American House.

1839

Steamboat lock at dam at Pittsburg ordered built by State Assembly . . . opposed by Samuel Milroy . . . Carroll Express, Whig paper, started by A. D. E. Tweed, a Whig . . . Democrats then started Delphi Bulletin, with Jerome B. Kennedy as editor, suspended in few years.

1840

Abner Robinson takes flatboat of flour to New Orleans . . . Flatboat industry now flourishing along Wabash at Pittsburg . . . Canal was completed to Delphi late in the year . . . Editor speaks of grand balls held at various hostelryes . . . Horse Guards parade . . . Farmers and Mechanics Association organized . . . Stones and stumps being removed from Main Street.

1841

Editor advocates planting shade trees . . . James Hervey Stewart attempts to secure branch of State Bank for Delphi . . . opposed by Samuel Milroy and Horatio Harris, both of Delphi and in State Legislature, said banks were a menace . . . A Brass band, organized by a Mr. Huffman, people thought it would be an "uphill business" . . . John Brookbank opens tannery, furrier, saddle and harness shop . . . Delphi Oracle revived with James Coleman as editor, suspended in 1844.

1842

Delphi has not yet started to grow . . . mails now once each week by horseback, mudwagon, canal packet or stage, often delayed . . . two new warehouses built, one by Spears and Case, now Kerlin elevator . . . Spears and Case pork packing industry now well started . . . Mt. Olive Masonic lodge organized . . . Carroll Express sold to Henderson Dunkle.

1843

Canal completed Lafayette to Toledo . . . Editor now satisfied Delphi will make a start and go ahead . . . Howes and Mable Circus visits town. Irish build canal, some settle in Delphi . . . Politics now raging, editors call each other names, stop at nothing.

1844

June, Great Flood . . . canal almost completely ruined . . . General Lewis Cass comes to Delphi . . . big Democratic rally held on court house square . . . big parade . . . Editor Coleman blames City Fathers for bad condition of streets . . . Cooper shops now building thousands of barrels for flour mills, breweries and pork industry . . . two breweries at foot of South Delphi hill . . . Ashery near the breweries, ashes brought by canal boats.

1845

Covered bridge over Deer Creek built . . . George Robertson started paper mill along mill race west of Delphi . . . Many private schools now being held in Delphi . . . Editor thinks there should be a public library.

1846

Western Republican newspaper established, Joseph R. Horsely, Democrat, editor, suspended in 1849 . . . Delphi Lodge No. 28, I. O. O. F. organized.

1847

Washington Society and Sons of Temperance organized . . . County commissioners order gravel walks built around public square . . . paupers are farmed out or sold as apprentices.

1848

Enoch Rinehart buys interest in paper mill . . . Dunkle and Kilgore established wagon works, now Bradshaw Body Works . . . Carroll Express sold to Charles Naylor, changed name to Delphi Herald . . . Telegraph lines strung along state road through Delphi, insulators nailed to trees.

1849

Paper mill burns . . . Jonathan Applegate and Milton Graham take over equipment of suspended Western Banner and launch Delphi Times . . . Delphi to Frankfort Plank Road Company organized . . . Cholera ordinance passed . . . Thomas B Helm buys Delphi Herald.

1850

Twenty-five men left for the California gold fields in March . . . Delphi Franklin Society organized . . . Pivot bridge built where Franklin Street crossed canal . . . Charles Wood joins Enoch Rinehart and rebuilds paper mill . . . Carroll Encampment I. O. O. F. organized . . . David Duke takes over mill at east of town and builds a tavern for his customers . . . Women organize to fight saloons . . . Five miles of plank road completed and toll gates established. *James B. Scott est, Delphi Journal.*

1851

Royal Arch Masons organized . . . Agricultural Society organized . . . Enoch Rinehart has dissolved partnership with Wood and joins Abner H. Bowen in building a new paper mill on the same mill race, also a book and paper store in town . . . Gold is discovered in Deer Creek just below John E. Walker farm . . . Hack to Kirklin, connects with north and south stages on Michigan road, 12 hours to Indianapolis . . . Merchants now realize canal not too satisfactory for shipping.

1852

Editor speaks of many new houses going up . . . Railroad sentiment develops . . . first agricultural fair in Bowen Woods where school house now stands . . . Pittsburg-Delphi plank road completed.

1853

Third paper mill built by Charles Robertson and John Armitage.

1854

Delphi incorporated anew to conform to act of State Assembly passed in 1852 . . . Present school site purchased of A. H. Bowen . . . 4-room brick school building erected.

1855

Old Settlers Society organized . . . Know Nothings, (secret political group) exposed in Carroll County . . . Miss Caroline Bolles opens Academy for young ladies.

1856

First train on Toledo, Wabash and Western R. R., arrives in Delphi . . . big celebration . . . Spiritualism invades Delphi . . . Social life has made marked progress, gay parties, dances and hops described in newspapers.

1857

Brick school on Indiana street, north of the railroad, sold to Catholics for church and school . . . corner stone of new big court house laid, big parade planned by Masonic lodge . . . Holt and Rinehart building south of the court house nearing completion . . . Editors agitate question of organizing fire department . . . Carroll Lodge No. 174, I. O. O. F. organized . . . Carl House and inn near depot.

1858

High waters again carry away canal aqueducts and bridges . . . old Market House declared nuisance, is to be sold . . . Advance Lodge No. 220, F. and A. M., organized . . . pottery plant on Water Street built, clay brought on canal boats from Clay county.

1859

Iron fence around court house ordered at cost of \$5,697 . . . Negro question now causing great disturbance . . . Republicans called "Black Republicans" . . . Democrats, called "Butternuts".

1860

Number of new, large houses now being erected . . . Charles Wood starts flax mill . . . John H. Cartwright has arrived and is mentioned as prominent in school circles.

1861

Civil War has started . . . companies being organized in Delphi to leave for the front . . . Dysen Boothroyd killed July 13, at Laurel Hill . . . farewell banquets being given for soldiers . . . women knitting . . . donations of blankets and other articles being solicited.

1862

Newspapers contain grim stories of the War.

1863

Mortonville platted.

1864

South Delphi platted for John ~~F~~ Cartwright and A. F. Martin.

1865

Christian church organized, met in Court House.

1866

Delphi again re-organized received status of a city . . . John ~~M~~ Cartwright served as first mayor.

1867

Baseball was introduced . . . took the town by storm, threatened to break up the school . . . and took young men from their jobs.

1868

Iron bridge ordered built across Wabash River at Pittsburg, first in county; previously only ferries across river, at first collected toll . . . about 1852 became a free ferry at Pittsburg.

1869

Talk of railroad, Indianapolis to Chicago through Delphi . . . Breach of promise suit, plaintiff receives \$265 . . . City petitions for hook and ladder company . . . elaborate church festivals intrigue editors.

1870

Lime industry now had grown into one of the largest in the state; several companies now own large kilns . . . Progressive euchre parties now the rage, lap suppers served . . . Frisbee House opened, where Hall's Market is today.

1871

Buford House became Knight House; troops of entertainers often come; Uncle Tom's Cabin Shows; Negro Minstrels, very popular . . . Jerome Brooks convicted of murder is hanged from scaffold at N. W. corner of court house.

1872

New impressive jail and sheriff's residence being planned at corner of Main and Wabash streets . . . Large new high school building erected on present site; has been remodeled and added to twice since that year . . . first high school class of two graduated.

1873

Dugan and Company open first chartered bank in Delphi . . . forced to close in 1877 during great national panic and depression, but paid off depositors . . . Rinehart became sole owner of paper mill . . . County school examiner became county superintendent.

1874

A dramatic club organized with Enoch Cox manager . . . Wabash and Erie Canal gates closed by Wabash railroad which had bought property . . . attempts made to dynamite dam, watchman hired by mill owners . . . Women organize to crusade for temperance, visit saloons . . . Editor speaks of many new houses being built . . . Thomas Britton, first county superintendent, starts Normal School at Camden, four weeks in summer.

1875 — 1876

Since Delphi had been established, livestock had been allowed to roam the streets at will . . . now the editors had started a crusade against this practice . . . a hog pound had been built north of the railroad and an attempt had been made to enforce ordinances passed by the city council, but failed . . . High board fences surrounded every yard to keep out livestock.

1877

Murphy Reform Association organized . . . many Granges had been organized . . . Editor writes of "wonderful new science of telephony or

talking by telegraph" . . . Railroad strike affects Delphi . . . Croquet fever rages . . . large amount of ditching being done in vicinity; creates need for tile factories . . . South Delphi protests annexation to Delphi corporation and sets up town council and elects officers . . . Dugan and Co., bank closes . . . group of citizens start Citizens' National Bank . . . steamboat "Wash Oberchain" is built at Pittsburg . . . Amer Green accused of murder was lynched by several hundred men.

1879

Delphi Times, newspaper sold to A. B. Crampton . . . Narrow Gauge railroad opens from Rensselaer to Delphi; first train arrives; big celebration . . . Delphi is terminus for railroad . . . About this time Main Street is graded and filled west of the railroad; all work done with picks, shovels and wheelbarrows . . . Rebekah Lodge organized.

1880

First gravel road, Range Line north of Pittsburg, graveled . . . Mineral springs east of Delphi have been piped to town . . . two sanitariums built . . . one near the east end of Front Street, south side . . . the other about where Masonic Temple stands . . . Animals still running the streets at large . . . Delphi Trotting Association organized . . . Editor said soap-making was all the rage . . . Wind mills being installed, one in South Delphi sadly in need of grease, "has become unbearable", wrote a citizen in the newspaper.

1881

Two more roads graveled, Delphi to Frankfort and Delphi-Wildcat, (Dayton) . . . Company buys Narrow Gauge R. R., widen track and extends it south of Delphi, (Indianapolis, Delphi and Chicago Airline; Delphi has furnished \$22,000 for the road; bonds paid off in 1908 . . . Dam at Pittsburg is dynamited . . . big flood destroys all mills at Pittsburg and south . . . Last steamboat on Wabash comes up to landing west of town.

1882

First train on Airline R. R. arrives; big celebration . . . Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) has been organized here and becomes a ruling force . . . Governor Morton Circle organized about this time . . . Rose Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, No. 36, organized about this time; Organized nationally in 1880.

1885

A. B. Crampton becomes postmaster and sells Delphi Times to Reno Isherwood.

1887

Charles B. Landis buys Delphi Journal with V. L. Ricketts as partner.

1888

Andrew Wolever becomes mayor and passes ordinance to eliminate geese from the streets; became known as the "Goose Mayor" . . . William Bradshaw buys wagon works.

1889

About this time animals are permanently barred from the streets . . . A. B. Crampton tries to buy back the Delphi Times; Isherwood refuses to sell; Crampton then starts Delphi Citizen.

1891

Water works started; water piped from Burt springs east of town and stored in reservoirs . . . fence around court house and hitch racks removed . . . concrete walks built around court house.

1892

Delphi Trotting Association offers \$1,000 for purses for races to be held at Fair grounds.

1893

Iron bridge ordered built over Deer Creek; covered bridge torn down . . . high board fences around yards now being torn down.

1896

Carroll Telephone company organized, E. W. Bowen, Hiram and Clويد Kerlin, Edward Walker, of Delphi, Edward Andress, of Lafayette, stockholders . . . later Walker becomes sole owner . . . Isherwood sells Delphi Times to Crampton who combines Times and Citizen . . . some years later Henry B. Wilson and Mindwell C. Wilson become associated with the paper.

1898

Rural Free delivery secured for vicinity of Delphi by Charles B. Landis, of Delphi, then U. S. representative to Congress.

1900

Bradshaw Wagon Works make first school hacks.

1902

Streets paved around Court house.

1904

Interurban tracks laid through Delphi . . . First automobiles in town owned by James Shirk and Lewis Niewerth . . . First motion picture show was a Nickelodian, owned by Miss Bertha Eldridge in room north of Masonic Temple.

1905 — 1906

Carnegie public library built . . . building torn down on lot had been a hotel.

1908

About this time South Delphi hill was improved . . . road cut through; formerly had been steps up the bluff . . . Dramatic Club had been organized with Mrs. George Ives as secretary . . . outstanding-actors and actresses, John Mount, James P. Wason, George Ives, Buel Ulm, Mrs. Earl Smith, Mrs. Frank Lyon, Miss Harriett Orr now Benson . . . plays given in old opera house on third floor of buildings east of the court house . . . stairway went up there.

1910

Milton Gardners had opened better picture show, each member of family played an instrument and formed an orchestra, furnished music for silent pictures of that time . . . Fort Wayne and Northern Indiana Traction Company contracted to furnish electricity for Delphi . . . for several years before group of men had operated small plant about where Whiteman elevator stands. Mayhill Bros. buy Delphi Journal of Charles B. Landis.

1911

Charles Carroll Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution organized.

1912

Delphi State Bank organized, John A. Cartwright president.

1917

Present court house built.

1927

Carroll-White Circuit court dissolved . . . first judge of Carroll Circuit Court was Judge E. E. Pruitt; prosecuting attorney, Joseph T. Ives.

Details of most of above records can be found in Helm History of Carroll County . . . "The Old Crop", by Sally Smith Pratt . . . "Old Wash and Erie Canal", and "Postal and Allied History of Carroll County", by Dora T. Mayhill . . . all in Delphi library.

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