

Delphi

Burlington Township: A Michigan Road Metropolis

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Gently nestled in the southeast corner of Carroll County is Burlington Township is an area which was affected greatly by the Michigan Road. Michigan Road is one of the oldest means of transportation in Carroll County,



HISTORICALLY YOURS

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having been engineered in that part of the State of Indiana as far back as 1830, and which eventually connected Niles, Michigan with Madison.

This road is currently known as State Road 29, having been declared thus in the early nineteen-twenties, a means of transportation which opened up the eastern part of Carroll County similar to the contribution of the Wabash and Erie Canal on the western section.

Oddly enough in this situation the name of the largest settlement in the area is that of the township, which was named some say for an obscure Wyandot chief, Chief Burlington.

The area was platted out by a none-too-altruistic David Stipp person whose name was David Stipp, a person well-known for his greed and over-zealousness.

Another none-too-altruistic person was David Foster, also well-known for his role in settling the primeval town now city of Kokomo. Foster settled in the area about 1834, and both he and Stipp utilized the Wildcat Creek as a launching pad for their endeavors.

Although it never materialized, it was the goal of Stipp to eventually form a separate county apart from the parent county of Carroll. The spirit of separation from the main county even caused an Old Settlers' Association to be formed up in 1874 in the Burlington Township area which also encompassed Howard and Clinton Counties.

The Michigan Road was utilized to develop the enterprise of the Bolles families and Eaton Pratt Stone, both of whom claimed Connecticut as their home. They developed a warehouse there which dealt in goods trafficked in along



The Earl C. Haun Mansion in Burlington. | HJ Photo by MARK SMITH

firm relationship with William Bolles, also well-known for his enterprise on the east side of the square in Delphi on equal shares.

Various mills were erected, especially those of Mahlon Shinn, who also pioneered the first hotel.

The first educational facility was constructed on the farm of Edmund Moss, who was a member of a pioneer Franklin County, Virginia family which was well-known for their service to God and man through the Church of the Brethren.

One would never think that the Burlington area would have produced an author whose name was Jennie Hall Doremus Brown. At age twenty Jennie was overwhelmed by grief over the death of her father and brother whom she

and a resultant ostracism from the society as a whole in the town of Burlington and vicinity. Her book was entitled: Jennette Browning or a Hoosier Girl's Victory, by Jennie Brown Doremus of Kokomo, published by the author in 1889.

One of the more notable people with Burlington Township ties was that of Dr. Milton T. McCarty, who was born December 13, 1873, and whose death occurred on April first of 1938 in Frankfort, Indiana.

He was graduated from Indiana University with an A.B. and in 1902 with a degree of M.D., having taught high school in Ockley. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1900 while still a student in IU. He was elected as State senator in 1908 and was the youngest to serve in the sessions of 1909 and 1911.

Rossville to Frankfort to practice medicine. His parents were Jonathan C. and Agnes Shanklin McCarty, who are both laid to rest in the Asbury Methodist Church Cemetery in Burlington Township.

One would never think it but Burlington was blessed with an entrepreneurial sort in the person of Earl C. Haun whose visionary spirit outweighed that of his predecessors Stipp and Foster.

Haun, who was born April 7, 1881, and whose death occurred on June 28, 1965, was more than anyone else responsible for seeking out a generator located in northern Indiana which had been used in a school.

Earl purchased the generator and connected it to his grist mill and lighted his home with this

on a sporadic basis when the mill was down, from early evening to around ten o'clock at night and later on Thursdays and Saturdays. All this was driven by water power from the Wildcat Creek.

The flood of 1913 destroyed the generator momentarily until it was put back into service. A larger generator was placed there in 1915. My White County readers will identify with this early attempt at electrification in this area of Carroll County which was later replaced by both Oakdale and Norway dams which were constructed for the same purpose years later.

The Haun home and grounds were a tourist attraction for all who came to the town of Burlington. According to the Sesquicentennial Edition published in 1978 Haun

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The Michigan Road was utilized to develop the enterprise of the Bolles families and Eaton Pratt Stone, both of whom claimed Connecticut as their home. They developed a warehouse there which dealt in goods trafficked in along that thoroughfare.

Having already worked for William Bolles previously, and, following a funeral in his family the trip from which brother George never returned, Stone founded a



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and a resultant ostracism from the society as a whole in the town of Burlington and vicinity. Her book was entitled: *Jennette Browning or a Hoosier Girl's Victory*, by Jennie Brown Doremus of Kokomo, published by the author in 1889.

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In 1903 he moved from

Rossville to Frankfort to practice medicine. His parents were Jonathan C. and Agnes Shanklin McCarty, who are both laid to rest in the Asbury Methodist Church Cemetery in Burlington Township.

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Earl purchased the generator and connected it to his grist mill and lighted his home with this device. According to local historian Bob Davis, he replaced this dynamo with a larger one and spread his wattage and voltage to the entire town of Burlington

on a sporadic basis when the mill was down, from early evening to around ten o'clock at night and later on Thursdays and Saturdays. All this was driven by water power from the Wildcat Creek.

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My readers will I hope enjoy my image of the Haun home in this column.