

Delphi

Adams Township: A precious corner of Carroll County

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This week I have elected momentarily to lead my readers out of the county seat of Delphi to the area of Carroll County known as Adams Township.

Adams Township is the first of the Presidential Townships which include those with names such as Clay, Madison, and Washington.



HISTORICALLY YOURS

MARK SMITH

Remember—Carroll County's namesake was Charles Carroll who was in his nineties when the county was

founded and who was also one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Geographically speaking, Adams Township is nestled in the northeastern corner of Carroll County next to Cass County, and its neighbor is Jefferson Township, whose neighbor is White.

Its uniqueness lies in the fact that Adams Township claims no centrally located settlement or city in the middle of the township; rather the most well-known areas of that township are situated along the southernmost border in what we canawlers affectionately call a "string of pearls."

The first in the string is Carrollton, a settlement characterized by a unique crossing site of the Wabash-Erie Canal, a lock, and an inn managed by Ignatius Mentzer. This area was purchased by Jacob, John, and Peter Speece and their friend Daniel Neff and developed as a shipping center which became ultimately necessary for the economic peristalsis of the canal era. Proceeding eastward there was another settlement known as Rattlesnake, known for its wooden culvert, warehouses, a blacksmith shop, two large houses, and a cluster of log cabins.

Our next little burg was that of New Franklin, founded by its proprietor Jacob Newman and characterized by an inn and dancing school.

Finally, we arrive at Lockport, a once-vital town of canal shipping and also warehouses, mills, shoe shops, blacksmith shops, and other enticements to attract trade for thirty miles around. The first structure to be declared a National



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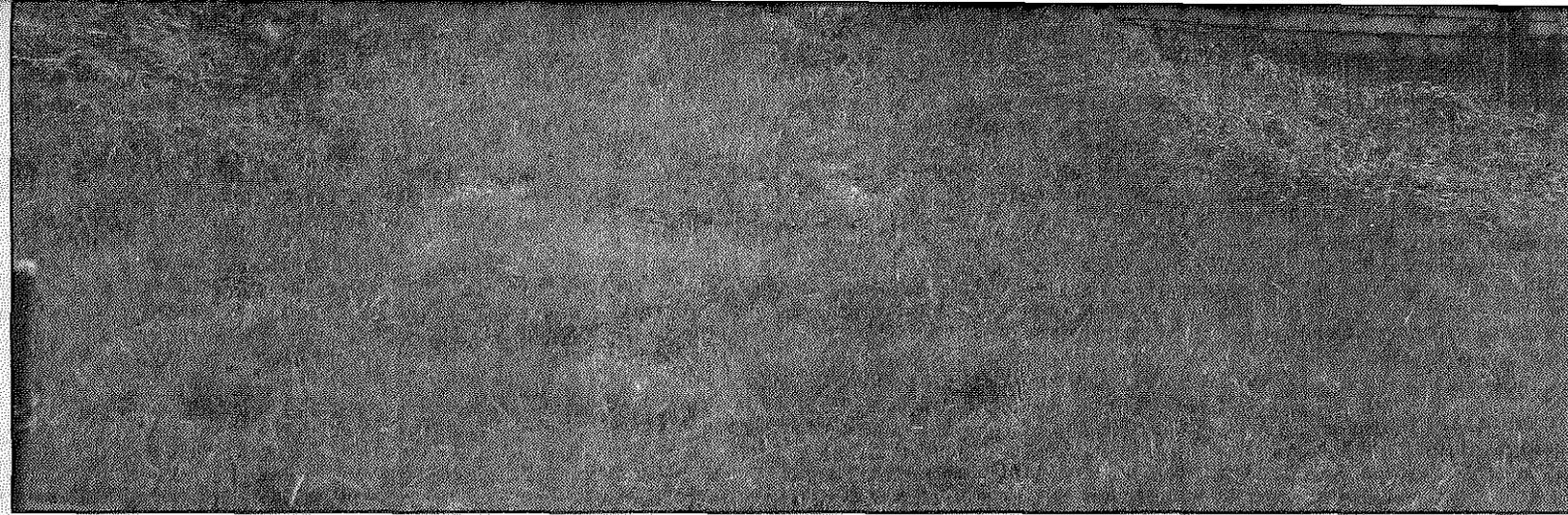
Finally, we arrive at Lockport, a once-vital town of canal shipping and also warehouses, mills, shoe shops, blacksmith shops, and other enticements to attract trade for thirty miles around. The first structure to be declared a National Register treasure in Carroll County was the Burris House at Lockport, which was erected by James Barnes directly adjacent to a lock in that town.

Also noteworthy is the Burnett's Creek culvert, which at one conducted the Wabash-Erie Canal over Burnett's Creek without the two intersecting.

Another dot on the map was that of Frytown, in the easternmost section of the township.

Prior to the canal's appearance there were three main reserves set apart due to the Treaty with the Potawatomi of 1826, those being the Conner, Cicott, and Burnett reserves.

In September of 1838 this section of Adams Township was utilized by the infamous Trail of Death. To slake their thirst during the intense drought of that year the natives utilized the Potawatomi Spring.



This is the Hopedale Church, constructed in 1874; closed ca. 1935; owned by Robert Peterson. | HJ photos by MARK SMITH.

Among the first settlers was that of James Hayden who entered the township in 1826. Other pioneers were those of John Love, Jacob Riegel, and Nathaniel Ingles, minister of the Associate Presbyterian Church, otherwise known as the Seceder Presbyterian Church. The township was officially organized in May of 1831.

An early school was situated on the farm of John Love, and a second was located next to the Hopewell Church.

Spiritual needs were met by gatherings of a totally diverse Theological stripe, including the aforementioned Seceder Presbyterian Church, which was organized due to a very intense missionary effort by those of that denomination on March 28, 1829, on Burnett's Creek and a very primitive log building, was erected in 1834.

Not to be outdone, the Methodists organized a flock in a house of worship which is now used by the present Lockport Church.

The group known as the Campbellites formed up an equally anointed body in the Hopedale area, a settlement which was at one time known for its school, store, and blacksmith shop, sawmill, and later on a filling station managed by James Neff. Land for the church was donated by Hamilton Hoover and a unique house of God was erected which is still standing and owned by Robert Peterson. The congregation dissolved in the middle 1930s. This house of worship is depicted in the article.

Various industries were diffused across the township, and those included mills owned by the Barnes family in the early 1830's, John Shultz in both 1836 and 1844

as a saw and grist mill, and another saw mill at the present site of the Hoover mill.

Without seeming to neglect other equally as notable citizens of this section of Carroll County, I will isolate the person of Jacob C. McManus, who was born on Dec. 31, 1866.

According to John C. Odell, he was the son of Bernard and Isabelle Crowell McManus. John Crowell, who was the father of Isabelle Crowell McManus, was Commissioner when the present courthouse was erected. Isabelle reportedly was witness to the infamous Trail of Death.

Jacob was educated in the common schools of Adams Township and at the Central Normal College of Danville, Indiana.

On November 28, 1897, he was married to Florence Beard, the daughter of Eli and Mary Jane

Hughes Beard. Following the death of his first wife on March twentieth of 1905 he was married to Blanche Armstrong on Sept. 12, 1907.

Another more contemporary well-known of Adams Township was the late Paul E. Smith, who was born Aug. 28, 1920 in Laporte County, the son of the late Howard Logan and Bessie Fern Campbell Smith.

Paul rose from his two-term position as Trustee of Adams Township to serve as Auditor for two terms, President of the Old Settlers Association, President of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, and various positions in the Hickory Grove Church. He was a graduate of Adams Township School. His death occurred in May of 1975.

My sources of information for this article were various histories by Helm, O'Dell, and Mayhill.