

local

Jackson Township: Launching Pad for Medical Doctors

Proceeding east of Delphi along State Road 218 we encounter Jackson Township, which was created in 1830 and which comprised at first all of the part from which later Burlington, Carrollton, Monroe, Democrat, and a small part of Washington Townships were formed. Jackson Township



HISTORICALLY YOURS

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is currently ringed by Rock Creek Township on the north, Carrollton Township on the east, Monroe Township on the south, and Deer Creek on the west. Jackson Township is another "Presidential" township having been possibly named for Jackson Township, Virginia by a pioneer Adam Porter.

Jackson Township is wonderfully

blessed by streams such as Bachelor Run, named for a settlement along that body of water which was pioneered by, you guessed it, a group of unmarried men, Paint Creek (unsure of the reason for its name) which gave its name to a rather unique Primitive Baptist Church flock, Robinson's Run (named for the pioneering Robinson family in Deer Creek Township), Hoff's Run, and, of course, the two Deer Creeks—little and big.

Spiritual needs have been met in this area of Carroll County via several flocks of varying stripes, including the aforementioned Paint Creek Primitive Baptist flock, Camden United Methodist, St. Peter's Lutheran, Camden Baptist, Nebo Methodist, and various German Baptist/Brethren groups of varying degrees of thought.

Water-powered industries included mills managed by John Lenon and John McCloskey along Paint Creek in 1838; another by John Musselman which was a woolen mill on Deer Creek with Andrew Robeson as his partner; another by Miles Goodwin along Bachelor's Run in 1840; another by Jacob Plank and Jacob Snoeberger a half-mile southeast of Camden; and one which was a planing and sawmill run by Jacob Koontz, and a final operation by Goldsmith and Humrickhouse which was operating in 1882.

The Snoeberger name figures greatly in the history of the area due to the fact that the first actual post office was in the home of John E. Snoeberger. This dwelling is still standing and visible as one is travelling from Delphi to Camden on State Road 218 as a one-story white-sided dwelling with a colonnaded front porch. As with many dwellings in Carroll County the original log structure has been adorned by more artistic siding and windows as technology allowed. Although this is more hortatory than germane to the history of the area, the Snoebergers' spiritual heritage stems from the Snow Hill Nunnery in Pennsylvania, the original name being Schneeberger.

Although the town of Camden wasn't founded due to the presence of the railroad's presence in the area, the railroad figured greatly in the transportation heritage of the area, having entered the Town of Camden as the Logansport, Crawfordsville, and Southwestern Railway in 1869, then became known as the Vandalia in December of 1879; then the Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cincinnati, and St. Louis Railroad, then the Pennsylvania. The final voyage of the mail coursed through the area in December of 1949 and the final passenger train on May twenty-third of 1958. The depot was moved to the outskirts of the town in 1965 and re-cycled as a dentist's office under the



Caption: Camden Public Library--formerly the home of Andrew J. Thomas, built in 1869. Thomas was a Banker and Dealer in Lumber in Camden, Indiana | Photo contributed

direction of Dr. Bernard Kerkhove.

The first platting of the town of Camden occurred on the fifth of April in 1832. The town proudly celebrated its Sesquicentennial in 1982.

Without wishing to slight or discriminate against any of the very important enterprises in the Camden area, I will select some notable businesses of the Camden area, one of which is Select Seeds, an outgrowth of the Soyland Seeds initiated by the Fouts family of Carrollton Township.

As the title of this article implies, the Camden area was well known for stellar members of the medical community. The Gish family leads in this effort, with Dr. Charles Gish, D.D.S. and his brother Howard, who were sons of Floyd Gish, who was also a trained portrait painter. Dr. Charles Gish, D.D.S. was instrumental in developing Crest toothpaste. Charles was a dental corpsman during WWII. He attended Purdue University, the University Of Notre Dame and was graduated from Indiana University School of Dentistry with honors in 1949. The late Howard Gish was also an alumnus of Indiana University School of Medicine in 1949 and practiced in Brookston and Lafayette. He was instrumental in founding the Urgent Care division of Arnett Clinic. Although they weren't indigenous to Camden, Dr. Charles and Eva Kennedy were well-known for their medical skills, practicing in the former Rice home in Camden. Long before the modern

medical era we enjoy today Dr. Eva credited the power of prayer for many of the healings she witnessed.

Many of our readers have probably heard of "Carter's Little Liver Pills", never having known that Dr. Carter was a Camden inhabitant also credited with founding the Camden Expositor newspaper. Another Camden dweller who although not indigenous to the Camden area was well-known there was Dr. Franklin G. Armstrong, who was born in Wayne County, Indiana on June twentieth of 1822, and the family moved to Camden in 1829. Dr. Armstrong served the area as State Representative in 1866, as testimony to his versatility.

Dr. Charles Wise was a Deer Creek township-born M.D. on July eleventh of 1903. His two sons are Charles and Lafayette and Robert of Speedway, Indiana. A well-known dentist was the late Dr. Bernard Kerkhove, graduate of the I.U. School of Dentistry in 1927.

The list is well completed by the addition of Dr. William Lane, D.V.M. who was well-known for his veterinary skills. Dr. Lane was born near Delphi on March twenty-eighth, 1876.