

Delphi

Carrollton Township: Singing and soybeans



This barber shop was the site of the Wheeling Choral Union rehearsals. HJ photo by MARK SMITH

BY MARK SMITH
CARROLL COUNTY HISTORICAL
MUSEUM CURATOR

Descending in alphabetical order but ascending in geographical location we come to Carrollton Township, which contains the name of the county in which it is situated.

If one can imagine the State of Indiana as being a giant pan of brownies and the individual counties within that another pan, we know that

Carrollton Township was formed up from a portion of what had originally been Jackson Township (where Camden is located), and two tiers of sections taken from what had been included in Burlington Township, which is directly adjacent to Carrollton.

Michigan Road was instrumental in opening this area up in similar fashion to the great Wabash-Erie canal on the western part of the county.

Spiritual needs were met in this unique area of Carroll County by the two predominant churches of Wheeling, that being the Hopewell North Presbyterian Church at Wheeling (no longer standing), founded on April 16, 1842 on the farm of Jacob Cohen.

The Sharon Baptist Church was another spiritual refuge of the Baptist stripe which was established in the home of Richard Dunkin. The first building was erected in 1856. The church at Sharon was the launching pad for a musical invasion of many of the Carroll County schools which was overseen by the McCain family, the head of which was David J. McCain, whose death was recorded in the Saturday, June eleventh 1949 issue of the Logansport Press. McCain was the character of a unique group called the Wheeling Choral

barber shop was almost slated to be purchased by Henry Ford for inclusion in Greenfield Village but according to county historian Dora Thomas Mayhill heirs wouldn't sell.

Today we often take soybeans for granted but it wasn't always that way. The inclusion of soybeans in the agricultural landscape was a pioneering work of Solomon Fouts, who was born on December 16, 1826 in Montgomery County, Ohio. His father, Noah Fouts, had origins in North Carolina. His initial experience with farming was on the farm of Jonathan Martin near Camden. His marriage was to Miss Margaret Bridge of Carrollton Township. His travels took him to Washington Township until 1872 when he purchased the farm on which he lived at the writing of the History of Carroll County, Indiana with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches, Kingman Brothers, 1882. In 1896 Solomon received two varieties of soybean seeds free of charge from the U.S.

In 1902 Taylor Fouts, who was the only offspring of Solomon to be graduated from a university, (Purdue), received a B.S. degree in agriculture. Taylor was able to disseminate the soybean mania to others at the University, including W.C. Latta, John H. Skinner, Alfred T. Wiancko, and C.O. Cromer.

Following the death of Solomon in 1907, son Taylor was married to Lillie May Wagoner on October fourth—following their harvest of—guess what—soybeans!

They were married at 3 p.m. on that day with 200 bushels of seed beans in their inventory.

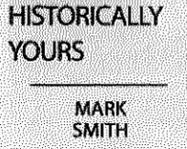
In the spring of 1908 brothers Noah and Finis catch the bean bug and join the enterprise.

Other developments credited to the Fouts Soybean enterprise include Taylor's first article in an agricultural article in June of 1909; the first "Soybean Day" which attracted visitors clear from Tolono, Illinois; and the purchase of a rather antiquated

Caldwell in 1928 who rename this Soy Seeds.

Taylor's death occurred on December 11, 1952, and his son-in-law Leo Bowman assumes the reins of the farm. A well-worded trib-

ute was published in the Logansport Pharos-Tribune in the editorial section in his honor. Another well-penned article on the family's unique contributions was a pivotal feature of the Friday,



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The three small settlements contained in Carrollton Township are, from south to north, Carrollton, Sharon, and Wheeling, all located from south to north along the Michigan Road on its way ultimately to Michigan City.

As commented on in the previous article, the

Church in another spiritual refuge of the Baptist stripe which was established in the home of Richard Dunkin. The first building was erected in 1856. The church at Sharon was the launching pad for a musical invasion of many of the Carroll County schools which was overseen by the McCain family, the head of which was David J. McCain, whose death was recorded in the Saturday, June eleventh 1949 issue of the Logansport Press. McCain was the chorister of a unique group called the Wheeling Choral Union which was formed up in a barber shop in Wheeling in 1878 by a group of men singing informally while they waited for their haircuts or shaves. McCain's family disseminated music instruction all over Carroll County by being employed in various schools county-wide. The aforementioned

Fouts, had origins in North Carolina. His initial experience with farming was on the farm of Jonathan Martin near Camden. His marriage was to Miss Margaret Bridge of Carrollton Township. His travels took him to Washington Township until 1872 when he purchased the farm on which he lived at the writing of the History of Carroll County, Indiana with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches, Kingman Brothers, 1882. In 1896 Solomon received two varieties of soybean seeds free of charge from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, planting them in rows across a cornfield on his farm. These were probably the first soybeans grown on any farm in Carroll County.

I will provide a random time-line of the Fouts family as well as a focus on soybeans and their production in Carroll County.

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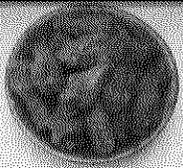
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Other developments credited to the Fouts Soybean enterprise include Taylor's first article in an agricultural article in June of 1909; the first "Soybean Day" which attracted visitors clear from Tolono, Illinois; and the purchase of a rather antiquated grain elevator from Camden for cleaning and preparation of the seed beans.

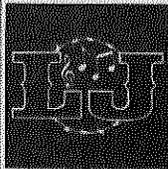
In 1918 the name "Soyland" was adopted for the farm; in 1927 he was elected to the position of the first ten Master Farmers in Indiana. The firm known as Soyland Seeds was sold to Chester Joyce and Roy

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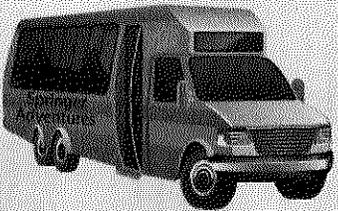
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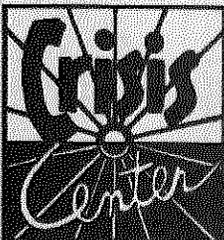


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