

EARLY HISTORY OF MADISON TOWNSHIP

By J. REN BATES

BEFORE THE YEAR OF 1837, ONE LARGE TOWNSHIP CONTAINING 42 SECTIONS, 640 ACRES PER SECTION, KNOWN AS CLAY TOWNSHIP WAS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWESTERN PART OF CARROLL COUNTY. CLAY TOWNSHIP WAS ORGANIZED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN 1831 AND IN 1837 THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR SEVERAL GOOD REASONS HAD CLAY TOWNSHIP DIVIDED INTO TWO EQUAL PARTS. THE SOUTH PART OF THE ORIGINAL TOWNSHIP RETAINED THE NAME OF CLAY TOWNSHIP WHILE THE NORTH PART WAS GIVEN THE NAME OF MADISON TOWNSHIP. THE FOREST, WITH WHICH MADISON TOWNSHIP WAS ORIGINALLY DENSELY COVERED, ABUNDANT IN GAME OF ALL KINDS, AND THE MEAT OBTAINED BY THE PIONEERS SERVED THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING THE "WOLF FROM THE DOOR." SKINS OF ANIMALS WENT CURRENT AS MONEY AMONG TRADERS. THERE BEING IN THOSE DAYS NO MARKET FOR TIMBER PRODUCTS AND IT BEING NECESSARY TO CLEAR THE LAND IN ORDER THAT CROPS COULD BE RAISED, IT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD WHY THE MIGHTY FOREST FELL BEFORE THE AXMAN. AS ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF TIMBER COULD BE USED FOR BUILDING PURPOSES, FIRE CONSUMED MOST OF THE TIMBER IN LOG HEAPS.

THE GOVERNMENT LAND OFFICE SERVING THIS SECTION OF THE STATE WAS LOCATED AT CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA, AND LAND COULD BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE CRAWFORDSVILLE OFFICE FOR FROM \$1.25 TO \$1.75 PER ACRE.

THE FIRST SETTLERS WITHIN THE PRESENT LIMITS OF MADISON TOWNSHIP WERE THE GILLAM'S WHO TOOK UP THEIR ABODE HERE DURING THE YEAR OF 1829.

CHURCHES

A LOG CABIN KNOWN AS THE GILLAM MEETING HOUSE WAS ERECTED IN THE EDGE OF DEER CREEK TOWNSHIP. A FRAME BUILDING THAT TOOK THE PLACE OF THE OLD LOG CABIN CHURCH CAN STILL BE SEEN $\frac{1}{2}$ MILE NORTH OF THE ZION CEMETERY, ALTHOUGH THE BUILDING HAS NOT BEEN USED FOR CHURCH PURPOSES FOR OVER FORTY YEARS. THE CLASS OF THE GILLAM'S, COOLEYS, AND OTHERS WERE MEMBERS; AND WERE ORGANIZED PERHAPS AS EARLY AS 1830-31. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT ONLY A FEW YEARS BEFORE THIS OR IN 1826, THERE WERE BUT ONLY ELEVEN FAMILIES LIVING IN CARROLL COUNTY. NOT MANY YEARS AFTER THIS, A CLASS OF THE SAME DENOMINATION WAS ORGANIZED NEAR THE CENTER OF THE TOWNSHIP AT THE HOME OF BENJAMIN UNDERWOOD AND IN 1834 THEY ERECTED A LOG HOUSE OF WORSHIP ON THE UNDERWOOD FARM. THIS WAS THE FARM OF THE LATE CHARLES SMOCK AND IS NOW OWNED BY HAZELLE KIRKPATRICK OF DELPHI.

TWENTY YEARS LATER OR IN 1854 THIS SAME DENOMINATION PURCHASED ONE ACRE OF GROUND OF WILLIAM MAXWELL LOCATED ABOUT $\frac{1}{4}$ MILE EAST OF WHAT IS NOW THE TOWN OF RADNOR AND ERECTED A CHURCH KNOWN AS THE SUGAR CREEK MEETING HOUSE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, THE CHURCH TRUSTEES WERE JOHN LYNCH, THOMAS GILLAM AND DAVID JULIEN. AFTER 15 YEARS OR IN 1869, THIS SAME DENOMINATION MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION $\frac{1}{4}$ MILE WEST, OF WHAT IS NOW THE TOWN OF RADNOR ON THE GILLAM FARM AND THE CHURCH WAS KNOWN AS THE PALESTINE M.E. CHURCH. ABOUT 1889 THE PALESTINE CHURCH WAS MOVED TO RADNOR. IN 1946 THE CHURCH WAS MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION IN RADNOR, IT WAS COMPLETELY REBUILT AND DEDICATED IN OCTOBER 1947.

IN 1873 A DENOMINATION KNOWN AS THE UNITED BRETHREN ERECTED A BRICK CHURCH ONE MILE WEST OF WHAT IS NOW THE TOWN OF OCKLEY. THIS CHURCH WAS USED FOR CHURCH PURPOSES FROM 1873-1901 WHEN A NEW CHURCH WAS ERECTED IN THE TOWN OF OCKLEY.

SCHOOLS

SINCE MADISON TOWNSHIP WAS ONE OF THE LAST TO BE ORGANIZED IT WAS ABOUT 1838 BEFORE THE FIRST LOG CABIN WAS BUILT FOR A SCHOOL. PREVIOUS TO THIS THE CHILDREN OF THE TOWNSHIP HAD ATTENDED SCHOOL ON THE JOHN GILLAM FARM JUST ACROSS THE BORDER IN DEER CREEK TWP. IN 1838 A HEWED LOG CABIN WAS ERECTED ON LAND OWNED BY MICHAEL KITE AND THIS WAS THE ONLY SCHOOL UNTIL 1845. IN THAT YEAR (1845) A FRAME BUILDING WAS ERECTED ON THE FARM OF WILLIAM STRANATHAN; THIS WAS A TUITION SCHOOL AND CHILDREN CAME FROM DEER CREEK TWP. AND ALSO FROM TIPPECANOE COUNTY AND BOARDED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IN 1852-53 A TAX WAS LEVIED FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES AND NEW SCHOOL HOUSES WERE BUILT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TOWNSHIP - HEISTAND, BOUGHER, HARNER, ATHAENEUM, SILVER BEACH, CENTER. WHEN THE MONON RAILROAD RAN A LINE ALMOST THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE TOWNSHIP THE TOWNS OF RADNOR AND OCKLEY WERE STARTED AND A FEW YEARS LATER IN 1888 SCHOOLS WERE BUILT AT RADNOR AND OCKLEY AND CENTER SCHOOL WAS DISCONTINUED. DURING THE EARLY 1920'S THE RADNOR AND OCKLEY WERE CONDEMNED BY THE STATE. MADISON TOWNSHIP WAS FORCED TO BUILD ONE CONSOLIDATED GRADE SCHOOL TO SERVE THE WHOLE TOWNSHIP. THIS SCHOOL WAS COMPLETED IN 1924 AND IN THE FALL OF 1924 SCHOOL STARTED IN THE NEW BUILDING. ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE BEING TRANSPORTED TO THE DELPHI HIGH SCHOOL.

ROADS

DELPHI-FRANKFORT PLANK ROAD COMPANY - A STOCK COMPANY - WAS FORMED TO BUILD A PLANK ROAD FROM DELPHI TO FRANKFORT. CARROLL COUNTY CITIZENS BOUGHT STOCK TO FINANCE THE ROAD TO THE CLINTON COUNTY LINE. THEN CLINTON CO. COMPLETED THE ROAD TO FRANKFORT. THREE TO SEVEN DIRECTORS WERE SELECTED TO

CARRY ON THE WORK IN CARROLL CO. AND STOCK WAS SUBSCRIBED AT THE RATE OF \$15.00 PER MILE, ALSO AT CERTAIN POINTS ALONG THE ROUTE TOLL GATES WERE ESTABLISHED TO COLLECT TOLLS. WHEN THE NECESSARY STOCK WAS SUBSCRIBED THE ROAD WAS GRADED AND WOODEN STRINGERS WERE LAID AND THICK PLANK WERE LAID ON THE WOODEN STRINGERS AND SPIKED WITH HEAVY SPIKES. THE PLANKS WERE 8 FEET LONG. IN 1852- 1853 THE ROAD WAS A GRAND THOROUGHFARE, WAGONS BY THE HUNDREDS, LOADED WITH GRAIN AND DRESSED PORK COULD BE SEEN DAILY IN THE FALL MONTHS COMING TO DELPHI, WHERE A GOOD MARKET AWAITED THEM. SPEARS, CASE AND COMPANY WERE THE PRINCIPAL BUYERS. AFTER THIS ROAD HAD BEEN IN OPERATION FOR 25 YEARS OR MORE IT BECAME DANGEROUS AND THERE WERE MANY ACCIDENTS -SOME FATAL - SO IN 1881, BONDS WERE SOLD TO COVER A PERIOD OF 8 YRS. AT 6% INTEREST TO BUILD A FREE GRAVEL ROAD FROM DELPHI THRU PRINCE WILLIAM TO THE CLINTON CO. LINE. ALSO, IN 1881 BONDS WERE SOLD TO BUILD A GRAVEL ROAD FROM DELPHI THRU PYRMONT, KNOWN AS THE DAYTON ROAD. STATE ROAD 39 - 421 BRIDGES BUILT AND GRADING DONE IN 1929. THE CEMENT WAS POURED IN THE SUMMER OF 1930.

RAILROADS

THE INDIANAPOLIS -DELPHI-CHICAGO RAILWAY COMPANY COMPLETED A NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD FROM RENSSELAER TO DELPHI AND DELPHI CELEBRATED BY HAVING A FEAST ON THE COURT HOUSE LAWN SEPT. 4, 1879. MR. MCCOY, A RENSSELAER BANKER, DONATED A FAT STEER FOR AN OLD FASHIONED BARBECUE. THIS COMPANY SOLD OUT TO THE C.I. & L. RAILROAD MARCH 4, 1881 AND THE ROAD WAS COMPLETED FROM DELPHI TO INDIANAPOLIS. C. I. & L OR CHICAGO, INDIANAPOLIS AND LOUISVILLE WAS GIVEN THE NAME "MONON" AND HAS RETAINED THAT NAME SINCE THE TIME OF COMPLETION IN 1881. WHEN THIS RAILROAD WAS BUILT ALMOST THROUGH THE CENTER OF MADISON TOWNSHIP, TWO TOWNS WERE STARTED. LAND WAS PURCHASED FROM WILLIAM AND RUTH MAXWELL AND ON THIS LAND THE TOWN OF RADNOR WAS BUILT. A POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1883 AND FRANCIS THOMSON WAS THE FIRST POSTMASTER FOLLOWED BY JAMES HAMMILL, JOHN E. SHAFFER, JAMES KENDRICK, MILTON SWAIM, HARVEY CLAWSON, CHARLES FIFE, JOHN CLAWSON, MATTIE CLAWSON, M. J. RIDDER, MADGE BOUGHER, IRIS WHITE AND SYLVIA HEFFLEY.

DURING THE 80 YEAR PERIOD OF ITS EXISTANCE RADNOR HAD DURING THE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS, 2 GROCERY STORES ALL THE TIME, A CREAMERY, BLACKSMITH SHOP, TWO GRAIN ELEVATORS BOTH DESTROYED BY FIRE, A TWO-STORY SCHOOL BUILDING, TWO RAILROAD SECTION CREWS AND TWO CHURCHES. RADNOR NOW HAS A MODERN CHURCH AND IS ON THE BRINGHURST METHODIST CHARGE. W.J. WEAVER OPERATES A WELL EQUIPPED GARAGE AND DELBERT BELL HAS AN AUTOMOBILE REPAIR AND PAINT SHOP. RADNOR IS ALSO AN AIRPLANE CROSS SECTION.

OCKLEY

LAND WAS PURCHASED FROM ELI MOORE AND JOEL STANFIELD IN THE EARLY 1880'S AND ON THIS LAND THE TOWN OF OCKLEY WAS BUILT. A POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1884 AND ELI MOORE WAS THE FIRST POSTMASTER, FOLLOWED BY SAM HIGH, WILL LYONS, WILLIAM BALL, JOHN BEARD, WILL LYONS, CHARLES SMOCK, PERRY CRIPE, WILL BAKER, EFFIE BAKER, HAZEL BEARD AND MARY JACKSON. DURING THE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS OCKLEY HAD TWO GROCERY STORES ALL THE TIME, A TWO STORY SCHOOL BUILDING, CHURCH, SAW MILL, LUMBER COMPANY, GRAIN ELEVATOR, TELEGRAPH OFFICE, HOOP FACTORY, R.F.D. ROUTE. OCKLEY NOW HAS ACCORDING TO ITS SIZE, ONE OF THE MOST UP TO DATE GROCERY STORES OF ANY TOWN IN THE STATE, A GRAIN ELEVATOR, A CHURCH AND A WELL EQUIPPED GARAGE OPERATED BY SAM REEF.

SAWMILL

JOHN SHAFFER ERECTED THE FIRST STEAM SAWMILL IN THE NORTH PART OF THE TOWNSHIP IN 1862.

TILE FACTORY

THE FIRST TILE FACTORY WAS ERECTED BY FRANCIS THOMSON IN 1869. HE BUILT THE SHED AND TILE KILN ON HIS OWN FARM AND ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF TILE FOR 11 YEARS.

AGRICULTURE

MADISON TOWNSHIP RANKS SECOND IN CARROLL COUNTY AS AN AGRICULTURAL TOWNSHIP ONLY TO BE SURPASSED BY WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.