

A HISTORY OF MILTON, INDIANA

By

Barbara Crawford

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Thomas Symons of Symons Creek, North Carolina, married Hannah Coffin and together they came to the Whitewater Country, Indiana Territory in 1811. Mrs. Symons, years later in 1864, gave this account of their early life. She said, "We had to go 20 miles to get corn for bread. We stayed on the ground that is now Richmond until December 5, 1811. Then we moved where Milton now is. My husband cleared the road twelve miles through the woods and built a little cabin in the woods for us to live in; we were there six weeks before I saw a white woman. The weather was cold and we suffered some from exposure in the new country, in which there were no comforts which are provided by the industry of man. The woods around us had never been defaced by man; it was in its primitive beauty, the large forest trees almost hanging over our little dwelling; wild beasts were to be seen night and day; we could have plenty of wild meat, we had no parents, brothers, or sisters, no friends to come and spend an evening with us. Our nearest neighbors were five miles away, no meeting nearer than ten miles. We were favored with health and contentment. The Indians were numerous. They visited us often; they were no company; they were in the spirit of war, were great beggars and no thanks. I went to the mill once, fifteen miles over snow and ice. We thought it best for me to go alone than to stay there alone so near the wild animals and Indians.

Sometimes the wolves would make so much noise I was afraid, they came near us. When spring came we had many nice flowers in our large and beautiful garden that needed no cultivation to make them grow. We had good fruit too, in it. Plums, grapes, blackberries, food bountiful for our stock. Then we were sure we had the blessings of a Good Providence.

My husband sent sixty miles for fruit trees and had an orchard out soon as possible. He built a mill where Symons Creek empties in to the Whitewater before he cleared much farm as that assisted toward the people coming out to settle about us.

Our living was plain, mostly cornbread with wild meat and milk for the first two years. Then we began to have flour, beef, and pork. We, being the first settlers, our house was public and nearly all came to our house to rest and find a place to suit them. We were pleased to entertain all civil people that came. We first had a little cabin, then a hewed log house, then a brick house built from bricks burned on the place." The Symons home was on the underground railroad and Hannah Symons tells of keeping one Negro woman concealed in an upper room for four weeks. She said, "She was waiting for company, her company came and they were conveyed safely over." By 1832 the Symonds had nine children all around their table at the same time.

Many years later, Wm. H. Coffin (a nephew of Mrs. Symons) wrote an article entitled "Recollections of Milton", from the time it emerged from the woods in 1824 to 1832. He tells of

the Symonds settling on the West River, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the present Milton. The Indian War was coming on and so the Symonds moved back to the Cox Settlement (Richmond) until peace was established, then came back, improved the land and built the first mill in 1814. This mill operated for over 50 years. Now several settlers came, mostly of the Society of Friends, from North Carolina. They organized the first church in the township, The Friends Milford Meeting. It was erected on the southeast part of Symons land (later known as Manlove Park) and this became a center of a large body of Friends. Thomas Symonds built a brick house in 1821 (one of the first of Milton) and older settlers remembered the chimney above the roof marked with his and his wife's initials in large letters "H. & T.S." They raised a large family but later sold out to Joseph Stubbs and migrated to where Marion now is, in 1834. They died at Spiceland where they ended their days with a daughter.

Elijah Coffin (Mrs. Symonds brother) came from North Carolina and settled in Milton 1824 on 80 acres bounded on the east by Main Street (running north and south) and on the south by what is now the Milton Rushville Road, (this was written many years ago).

John Bell had just laid out the town and the original plot included what is now four square blocks. Elijah Coffin and Thoman Symons made additions to it in 1825 and 1827 as did Benajah Hiatt Sr. and Jonathan Justice. Elijah Coffin built a comfortable hewed log house (John Walker later built a house there). Mr Coffin had been a school teacher in North Carolina

and as soon as settled was employed as a teacher in the first school in Milton. The school house was a frame building and stood a little east of where Enoch Maudlin afterward built, probably north of where George Callaway's residence is, in 1902. It was surrounded by trees and the timber was still sparsely standing to the river. Mr. Coffin taught several terms and was a popular teacher as the school was large. A few of the older scholars were Josiah and Bethual Symons, Sarah, Elizabeth and Ruth Kinley and their older brothers. Mary Symons, the Bell girls, Margaret Lydia, Martha and Matilda Ferguson, Verling and Silas Kersey, who later became a doctor, and Gideon Wilson.

The second school house was built more commodious than the first in 1830 at the foot of the hill on the road running west toward Bentonville, the first school house was abandoned or sold. Robert Harrison, an Englishman and a fine classical scholar, taught the first school there. He was a fine teacher for grown young persons who desired a higher education but not adapted to young America, especially the 3 R's being exceedingly high tempered and irascible. He was followed by Robert Butler and Verling Kersey both, afterward, noted physicians. Sally Hubbard taught school for younger persons in her father's front room. Hardy Hubbard then lived some distance north of where William Ferris now lives (1902) but then quite a way out of town. There will be more said about schools later.

The Friends soon after built a large new frame meeting-house near the site of their first log house, a half-mile north of town and for that day a large school house was built next to it. They secured the best teachers obtainable at that time. No public school system had been organized and the Friends offered the best education and the public took advantage of it. A third house had been built in the meantime about half way to the river east from where the first one was built. It was used for public meetings, political and religious and some school was held there.

In 1831 the author of this, Wm. Coffin, well recollected seeing notices up that a Campbellite would preach in it after three o'clock on a Sunday afternoon. It was a novelty to him so he obtained permission to go with his uncle, Mordecai Hiatt. The house was full and a nice appearing man came in, took his place and gave out a hymn. This was nice to the boy as he had never heard any singing except by John Kinley as he preached in Friends Meeting. Then he read the first chapter of James and took for his text the 17th verse from which according to the boy's crude judgement he preached a good practical gospel sermon. The author, writing about this in 1902, over 70 years later, said, "It is enough to make us smile as we look back and see how narrow and sectarian we all were back in those days."

In 1828, Elijah Coffin having sold considerable of his land in lots, built a comfortable dwelling and store room on the corner. Mr. Coffin was the first postmaster, appointed

by John Quincy Adams and commenced keeping store in the spring of 1829, doing good business for several years. (Still quoting from Recollections) Brunson used to bring his best fruit and apples into town from his farm, two or more miles south Allen Hiatt afterward lived on the Brunson farm and then there were the Beesons, Wallaces, Wilsons, Kinleys, Hanbroughs, Harveys, Knipes, and Fergusons and others south, on the east to the Greensfork River. He said that, "John Knipe owned a rich first-bottom farm across east from John Wilson's and south on the Connersville Road. He always wore his pants old style, gathered around the waist and no suspenders and his shirt bosom always open and was supposed to be a good judge of corn whiskey. I was afraid of him as a boy and have never forgotten him."

In October 1825, Dr. Joel Pennington and his wife arrived in Milton and set up practice as the first doctor. He was a respected educated man, and widely known as a great and ^{good} influence on the community and all surrounding area. He was still practicing at age 85 and died a few weeks short of 98 years old. We are indeed indebted to him for much of the early history and development of Milton. He says (a speech given by Dr. Pennington in 1877 at School Hall Jan. 19th) that when he and his wife arrived in 1825 there were eight families at that time, Thomas Reagon, Samuel Pierce, James Lee, John Dill, Lewis Perry, Allen Hiatt, Joseph Neff and widow Catherine Evans. Mrs. Polly Michael resided on the Sinks farm not far from where the woolen mill now stands. (1877) Reagon and Pierce each kept

store-dry goods and groceries which were mostly bartered with farm products. The going prices of 1825 were maple sugar 6¢ lb., eggs 6-8¢ per dozen, butter 4-5¢ per lb., bacon $2\frac{1}{2}$ -4¢, feathers 37¢ per lb., wheat was then 31 to 37¢, corn 10¢, and oats 10-12¢, potatoes the same (10-12¢ per bushel), sweet potatoes 25¢ a bushel, chickens 31-37¢ per dozen, turkeys 25¢, pork $1\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per lb., wood $37\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per cord, 50¢ was a common price for a two horse wagon load of good pumpkins.

At that time Milton contained two two-story houses where J. Brown and Son were later located, first by John Wright and Son and the other owned by Joseph Rollins, the barber. The barber shop stood where the woolen store was in 1877 and was occupied at an early day as a tavern or inn for travelers. Most of the buildings were cabins. During the first ten years of existence of Milton, a very respectable improvement was made in the erection of buildings and in the business of the place. At an early day we could boast of four dry goods stores, two grocery stores, saddle and harness shop, shoe shops, tailor shops, two blacksmiths, cooper and cabinet shops, hatters, etc. We also had for many years a well regulated tavern or public house, well patronized by the traveling public. We also had one doggery (saloon) as at the present (1877). There was a saw mill owned by Jacob Sinks and run by Joseph Neff, his son-in-law. Nearest flouring mill (or rather corn mill) was situated on the river bank, a short distance northwest of where Mr. Boden's house now stands owned by Jacob Schock. It being difficult to procure

good flour at this mill, we patronized Goodlanders Mill eight miles down river until Jesse Brewer built an excellent flouring mill three miles southeast of this on Greensfork. This mill later burned.

Milton was a prominent point in the mail route from Columbus, Ohio to Indianapolis. First on horseback, then by stages with four horses. There were two stages per day, one each way, mostly filled with passengers. A change of teams was kept here and occasionally a portion of our citizens would engage the driver to make an excursion to what was called Goose Pond, six miles south of here where there was fine fishing and hunting. It was not difficult to procure the consent of the stage driver in these raids as it was so much cash in his pocket. We had more fun and real enjoyment in those days that appears to be the case with the present inhabitants (1877). We were social and all enjoyed alike our diversions, were more like one family, had no select parties, no special grades of society.

The first store in Milton is supposed to have been one block north of the principal corner. Thomas Reagon ran it. Samuel Pierce commenced soon after on the west side of Main Street. John Wright and Son were probably next. Some of the early tradesmen were: first cabinet maker, a man named Peck, then Zachary Fletcher and Wm. and Jonathan Matthews. Early shoemakers were Simon Hubbard, John Maze, John Conrad and Wm. Williams. In 1826, Peter Du Hadway came from Maryland and became the first tailor. Harry Irvin was another early tailor.

Henry J. and David G. Kern came from Pennsylvania in 1839 and started a tailoring business. In 1844 David retired and started the drug business. Henry was still a merchant tailor in 1872. The first carpenters were Elihu Coffin, Enoch Maudlin, Wm. B. Unthank, George Wirick, Richard J. Hubbard. Mr. Maudlin and Chas. Wright were early wagon makers and much later (1872) we had Peter Warren and Wm. Ferris. The first chair maker was a Mr. Anderson. Blacksmiths were Wm. Harris and Samual Walker, Hatter James Brown, Saddlers, Mordecai Hiatt, and Shubal Swain. Joel Hiatt and Chas H. Moore made saddles and harnesses. The first carriage manufactory was started in 1840 by Chas. Leibherbt. Tanneries were among the early industries, one of the most extensive was located in the second block west of the present Methodist Church. It was owned by Wm. Conwell of Connersville and operated by Henry and Wm. Hall. Richard Moore started a tannery in 1842 and continued until 1845. Pork packing was carried on extensively in Milton. The business was started in 1836 by Geo. Hopkins, Charles H. Moore and Joel and Allen Hiatt. Their packing house stood on the southwest corner of Connersville and Central Ave. They took their pork to market with wagons until the canal was built and were also in the mercantile business. Several others continued the pork-packing business later, quite largely. A saw mill was erected at Milton by Jacob Sinks prior to 1825. About 1840 he erected a grist mill at the site of the later river mill. This mill had the capacity to manufacture 100 barrels in 24 hours. It burned in the fall of 1871 with a loss of \$12,000 to the owner. In 1872 W.H. Moore, Henry

Myers and N.R. Nixon erected a paper mill on the same site for the manufacture of wrapping paper. They sold out in the summer of 1875 and fire again took its toll, involving a loss of \$40,000. In 1880 a grist mill was built by F.G. Myers and was owned by Isaac Kinsey. The canal mill was built in 1846 by Jonathan Macy, Henry Izor, and Daniel Sinks. Its capacity was said in 1872 to be 150 barrels in 24 hours. There was also a saw mill built at the river mill. This mill, too was destroyed by fire and in 1880 Geo. Leggate erected the flouring mill which remained well into the next century. In 1859 Joseph Ingels, the inventor of the Hoosier Drill commenced the manufacture of drills at Milton, using horse power and making 25 drills the first year. In 1867 Isaac Kinsey, Alexander Jones and Aaron Morris formed a stock company, Joseph Ingels acting as their agent. They did a large business manufacturing drills, cultivators, etc. employing 50-75 hands. In 1877 they sold out to the Hoosier Drill Co. and the factory was moved to Richmond. The Drill Company's works was sold to Oliver Ferguson and he used the works for the manufacture of gates and fences. In 1879 the Dorsey Maching Co. was formed and they bought the works. It was incorporated with a stock of \$60,000 with the following officers: Aaron Morris, President, Oliver Ferguson, Vice-President, D.P. Leibhardt, Secretary and Treasurer. In 1882 the capital was increased to \$125,000. There were about 20 stockholders. The company made harvesters and twine-binders, self-raking reapers, droppers, mowers etc. and employed an average of 140 men. The average annual sales amounted to about \$300,000. The machines made by this company were sold principally in the States of the Ohio and

Mississippi Valleys, one of the most important in the county and proved instrumental in greatly advancing the prosperity of the town of Milton.

A cording machine said to be the first in the township was built by Jonathan Hunt in 1828 a mile north of Milton and continued for many years. Samuel Cummack, about 1830 built a cording maching and fulling mill near his saw mill in the northeast part of the township but 10 or 12 years afterward it was changed to woolen factory and after a few years was moved to Milton. It was much improved and enlarged and conducted by a manufacturing and took the name of Milton Woolen Mill Co. In 1872 it was described as having two sets of machinery employed in the manufacture of cassimeres, plain and plaid jeans, satinetts, plain and plaid flannels, blankets and stocking yarn. Attached was a knitting factory for making ladies and gentlemen's hose with an annual sales of \$60,000.

J.W. Swafford, an early pioneer said this about Milton (1902) "Father moved to Indiana in 1814 about 2 miles southeast of Milton. There were Indians about Milton in those days. Milton was a great place for mills in the early days. There were woolen, flour and saw mills. I was a $\frac{1}{2}$ owner of a saw mill and also a flour mill. We made flour on buhr mills and it was a great deal better than they make now on the roller mills. We made 500 barrels a week. We loaded 500 barrels every Thursday on canal boats and shipped them to Cincinnati on the old Whitewater Canal. No, I never heard that Milton was first

called the "mill town". I think the man is mistaken that published that. I think the town was named Milton after a man of that name." Then from a 1874 history of Wayne Co.

"An early incident in the history of Milton is worthy of record here. The famous and eccentric Lorenzo Dow preached here once in 1828. The services were held in a private house and a large congregation was present. At the conclusion of the exercises Dow jumped out of the window, mounted his horse and rode away without a word to anyone."

Dr. Pennington mentioned earlier, tells us that during the first fifteen years of existence, Milton's surplus products were conveyed to market in wagons with 5 or 6 able horses attached. It took ten days to two weeks to make a round trip to Cincinnati and roads were one continuous mud hole from here to the city. Until the mammoth improvement bill of Indiana was passed and until the raging Whitewater Valley canal was finished there was no other way to convey goods to market. When the Internal Improvement Bill was known to have passed it was the cause of general rejoicing over the State. Milton had a jubilation, many marching through the streets carrying miniature canal boats with music and the houses generally illuminated. E.B. Newman stated that a boat lighted up by tallow candles, on a wagon was drawn through the streets by men and a speech was made by Richard Hubbard. The day on which the first spadeful of earth was taken out at the commencement of the work on the canal at Cambridge City it was estimated by Richard Hubbard that 10,000 people

were present. Dr. Pennington also described the trips that local people would take on the "comfortable canal pocket boats that were fitted up much like our best parlors at home." One could leave Milton at 7 A.M. and arrive at Lawrenceburg the next morning in time to catch a steamboat that conveyed them to the city of Cincinnati and Louisville. I do not know the fare from Milton but it is recorded that from Brookville to Cincinnati and including board was \$4, dinner at Cincinnati 50¢, one day lost worth \$1.00, total \$5.50. By stage the fare was \$6.00, dinner on the road going and coming 75¢, fare at ordinary house for three nights and two days \$5, four days lost worth \$4.00, total \$15.75 making a saving of \$10.25 for one trip. Business flourished on the canal and large warehouses were built at every port. At Milton, four of these were built. Caleb Jackson was superintendent of the canal for a time and an interesting joke on him is related in this connection by Geo. Callaway of Milton. One of the superintendent's duties was to see that the canal was in good condition and as the banks were being badly damaged by muskrats, Jackson offered ten cents a piece for their tails. Accordingly the boys at Milton arranged this scheme: One of them would take some muskrats tails to Mr. Jackson, receive his money and go away, but soon turn around and stealthily follow Jackson down to the canal to see where he threw the tails. When this was ascertained, another boy would get them and repeat the operation, and so on, until all the boys of the village had enough spending money to last them several days. Mr. Jackson finally discovered the plot and after-

ward threw the tails into the canal.

The canal was a temporary boom but the road situation had a different affect on the town. Dr. Pennington, in describing trips he took to Bentonville to call on his patients said, "My route to that settlement was along a path but little traveled and crossed by logs so frequently that only a footman or houseman could travel it. The thick underbrush of spicewood, paw paw, and pea vine prevented one from seeing a deer 30 steps distance." In later years Dr. Pennington said concerning the National Road, "When J. Knight, the engineer ran the first line in order to locate the road, he ran it through Milton, where it ought to have been located, but due to the dismal swamps of Hancock County, the Congress settled on the present location because the estimated cost of construction was something less than the route through Milton." Consequently, the town was by-passed and possibly was one thing that affected the town in years following.

Meanwhile, Milton was growing and prospering. From an early population of 200 in the 1830's and 755 in 1850, the number grew to 823 in 1870, 855 in 1880, and grew so rapidly that there was an estimated 1100 in 1884. However, the official census of 1910 showed the great drop to 601.

Churches were formed with the Milton M.E. Church about 1846. The class was organized by John W. Sullivan, minister. The first Sabbath School in the town was organized by John Bell and John Zell, the latter being superintendent for several years. A frame

meeting house was erected in 1846 and the brick church was built in 1875 at a cost of \$8,000. By 1884 the church and Sabbath School each had about 100 members. The Friends had the Milford Meeting previously mentioned and this was the first religious society of Friends that formed a large proportion of the early settlers. The frame house mentioned earlier was in use until 1882. Then a \$1500 meetinghouse was built in Milton between the canal and the river. In 1828 a separation had taken place and that branch known as the Hicksites formed a new society, retaining the name Milford Meeting. They erected their meetinghouse in Milton in 1829. The membership in 1884 was said to be small, representing about fourteen families. The Wesleyan Methodists formed a church in Milton about 1855. A year or two later, a Union Church, free for all denominations was built at a cost of \$1200 and was still in use in 1884. (According to Atlas was where Knipps factory is, (I.O.O.F. Hall) next to Railroad). This was the place of worship of the Wesleyan Methodists until their organization expired about 1862. The Milton Christian Church was organized chiefly through the efforts of Samuel K. Hoshour who preached in Milton for some time previous to the organization. Formed in May, 1844 the first services were held in the school house, and then later in the Union Church until 1882 when a church was built in the present location for a cost of \$3300. Membership in 1884 was reported to be over 100 members. This church burned in 1922 and the present brick building was erected in 1923.

A lodge of Freemasons was instituted in Milton, February 14, 1851. On May 30th that year a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Indiana and given the name of Milton Lodge, No. 108, Free and Accepted Masons. The meetings were held in its own hall on West River Street (same as present location). In 1884 the building was valued at \$1200 including lodge furniture and there were 38 members. The first Worshipful Master of the Lodge was Dr. Joel Pennington. In July, 1852, the Odd Fellows Lodge was organized and was chartered The Milton Lodge I.O.O.F. No. 111. There were nine members. This lodge surrendered its charter in 1860 but became active again in 1872 and was still flourishing in 1884 with 40 members and had prosperity worth \$1600. This lodge is no longer active.

Milton was the site of controversy concerning slavery prior to the Civil War. The following article was taken from the June 18, 1842 issue of the Richmond Palladium. The article did not specify by what faction the meeting was called but it is assumed that the abolitionists arranged it. "On the evening of May 28, a most disgraceful course of action was exhibited in the town of Milton by a portion of her citizens and those of the vicinity. They disregarded the sanctity of the laws of the land and the security which should be the boast and safeguard of every citizen of the United States. They approached within a short distance of the school house in which a congregation was collected for the purpose of hearing a public lecture on the national subject of slavery. They were shrouded by the darkness of the night and partly concealed from view by fences, outhouses and stables. They pelted the house with

stones and brickbats. This is a poor kind of argument, by the way, but frequently the only one used by those who are the least qualified to appreciate sound reasoning and national rights. A woman with an infant in her arms received a blow in the face from the shattering of a brickbat hurled into the room. A respectable citizen received a partial blow from a missile thrown by an unknown hand, which in its course carried away his hat. Also a young man, while returning from the lecture room was struck in the back by a stone or brickbat thrown it is said, by the hand of an individual whose principles and love of order in society can be easily estimated."

The Civil War came and Milton did her share, raising money for the Wayne Co. Sanitary Committee and helping the families of those men who were in service. Two doctors from Milton were commissioned in the War. Dr. Silas H. Kersey and Dr. I.F. Sweeney both entered as assistant surgeons with Dr. Kersey being promoted to surgeon.

The book "History of Wayne County" published in 1884 says that at that time that "Milton, one of the most thriving and prosperous country towns in Wayne County, is substantially built and pleasantly situated." Changes not mentioned previously may be mentioned here. There were now Dry Goods stores run by Jones & Gresh, Morris H. Moore & Co. and Charles Miller and Co. Grocery stores by John Brown & Son, Wm. P. Moore, Jones & Atkinson and Grocery and Hardware, F.M. Jones and Co. Shoes, L. Baker, Furniture Store, Wm. H. Moore, Undertakers, Lantz Brothers,

Stoves & Tinware, P.J. Hoshour and D. Holloway, Carriage Maker, Peter Warren, Livery Stable, James Ferguson, Lumber Yard, J.L. Lyons. Wm. H. Moore erected a fine hotel building during 1883. Drug stores, St. Clair and Parkins, George Callaway & Co. and J.M. Grigsby. Samuel Pierce built the building on the south-east corner of the main intersection which housed the Grigsby Drug Store. The family resided upstairs. One of the sons was Rolla Grigsby, a druggist later in Cambridge City and father of Richard Grigsby. Dr. Joel Pennington had a drug store also in 1844. There was no shortage of doctors then as we have the names of Dr. Joel Pennington and I.F. Sweeney who were partners for a while, also Dr. B.M. Witmer, Dr. J.W. St. Clair, Dr. J.B. Summers and Dr. Allison B. Bradburey.

The Honorable E.B. Newman represented the legal profession in Milton at that time. A two-story brick structure 48 by 60 feet was built in 1876 by Commons, Lee, and Walker. It was intended for a furniture factory but changed hands after a few months. The Crawford Brothers bought it and used it as a mill principally for the manufacture of lumber. This lumber mill was located on the south side of present Main Street just west of the railroad (possibly where Duffins now live). I was told that the upper floor of that building was used as a roller skating rink and it was "the thing to do" in those days to go skating there. The History of Wayne County of 1884 says that the officers for the town in 1883-84 were Councilmen of 1st Ward, C.J. Morris, 2nd Ward, Wm. A. Bragg, 3rd Ward, John H. Frazee (Pres.), 4th

Ward, Morris Moore, 5th Ward, H.M. Gresh, Clerk, J.B. Summers, Treasurer, D.P. Leibhardt, Marshal, Marcus Moore and Justice of the Peace, Wm. McCullum.

A Citizens Bank of Milton was opened in 1865. It was a private institution with capital stock of \$20,000. Austin B. Claypool was President and he, with Wm. Petty as Vice-Pres., and Albert Moore as Cashier owned the bank. It closed five years later because of the lack of business. It was thirty years before another bank opened. The mill owned by Mr. Claypool burned and was not rebuilt, it and several other firms moved to Cambridge City. This was also called the Citizens Bank and opened in 1901. E.E. Kessler started it without any stated capital and without privilege by law. He owned the bank and all offices were filled by him. He continued business about one year and then closed his doors, one night at the close of business and left. The depositors received only 64¢ on the dollar realized from the sale of the bank fixtures.

A third bank the Farmer's Bank of Milton opened in June of 1903. This was a wealthy bank and had several well-to-do stockholders and did a good business. This bank owned the entire block in which it was located. The bank itself was where the corner grocery now is and they owned the I.O.O.F. Hall above besides the three business rooms to the north of it. Robbery was attempted once in 1908 but the only loss was the damage to the property resulting from the explosion. The townspeople

heard the noise and the robbers did not have time to complete the job. Embezzlement by one of the banks employees caused the bank to go under and it closed about 1919.

On January 2, 1921 the Washington Township Bank opened and continued in the same location until 1926 when it was moved a few doors north (the present Beauty Shop) and continued there until December 1937 when it was moved to Cambridge City and became the Peoples State Bank.

I am not going into the entertainment field as that was covered by a previous paper by Mrs. Wright except to tell about Manlove Park. Joseph L. Manlove, an inventor and manufacturer came to Milton in 1879 and purchased the land just north of town a part of the original land of Thomas Symonds. He expanded the Park's main building which was the Milford Meeting of Friends and when a hotel was needed, the house was remodeled. Mr. Manlove was creative and made what was known as "Uncle Joe's Gate", which was manufactured right on the grounds. With this device, a gate would open as a buggy approached and closed after the buggy went past. It opened as the weight went over a bar and was closed in the same way. The factory building was eventually rented to Doddridge Casket Co. The weight of automobiles was too much for Uncle Joe's Gate and it finally ceased to be needed. Adjacent with the property was a large lake fed by springs and by water from the old Whitewater Canal. The west fork of the Whitewater river was dammed north of the lakes with the resulting lake about 8 feet deep and was said to have cover-

ed between 60 and 75 acres. Mr. Manlove made this land and lake into a park that was one of the most popular attractions in miles. He stocked the lake with water lilies of several colors. Benches were put at a well-trimmed spot on the far side of the lake and became a "Lovers' Lane". No admission was charged for entrance to the park but a small fee was charged for boat rides, the merry-go-round and other special events. Facilities were initiated for tennis, croquet, archery, picnicking, reunions, and relaxation. There was a 35 foot long boat. On the back of this boat was a water wheel as wide as the boat on each side of the boat near the wheel was mounted a bicycle seat one for each of two boys. They had wooden pedals that they pumped just as they would a bicycle. One might question the actual joy received by the boys providing the power. However, throngs of people came. They had what they called a "Musical Congress". This usually lasted a full week in August. There would be special orchestras, bands, acts, dramatic groups, choruses, etc, would perform on the stage erected in the middle of the Park. The charge was 50¢. Harry Manlove (Joe's son, whom many of us knew and remembered) was known as the "man of many faces" and often performed. One special feature was Zemeriah Plummers Chorus. He was the choir leader at the Methodist Church and each year organized about 100 people to sing at the Park. This Park went well for about thirty years then the lake went dry and the park began to fade about 1916.

Milton once had two railroads, one made along the tow path

of the Canal, since has been discontinued and the other in the west part of town still in existence. The town was once connected with Cambridge City by the interurban line familiarly called the "Dinky". Geo. Callaway was a Wayne County Commissioner whose insistence had a lot to do with getting this spur line off the Main Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Eastern's east-west Inter-urban line. It was built in the early 1900's possibly 1901. It was two miles in length and the "talk of the town". It made trips every hour from morning til' night, the last one from Cambridge City to Milton at 11:00 P.M. Bragg's store was the freight and ticket office of the interurban line.

The history of Milton newspaper goes back as far as 1841, although no full account of the earliest ones can be found. There is a record of the fact that a small paper 8 by 10 inches was published in 1841 by a Mr. Wickersham. In 1847 C.B. Bentley of Brookville started the "Milton Times". He sold it to the Rev. Benjamin Franklin, who changed it to a religious monthly called "The Reformer". It was moved away in 1850. During 1850-1851 Pritchard and Whelan, from Cambridge City published "The Western Budget" with Frank Clymer as editor. It was a weekly literary paper. Many local writers contributed to it. In 1876 "The Milton News" was begun by W.R. Hartpence who sold after a year to Mr. Burr of Dublin. In 1893 C.L. Wolfgang started a paper. Also called "The News" and conducted it till 1903, when he sold it to Frank Clouds. Clouds sold it to P.B. Hassler who discontinued it in 1906. There have been no others started since.

So far, we have not mentioned too much about schools. To omit that would be unthinkable. Aside from the schooling the Friends offered, the first school house was indeed built in 1825 with Elijah Coffin the first teacher. According to the Atlas, this school was in Block 11 on Lat. 5. The second school was erected by subscription and was where the Dorsey Shops were later located. I am not sure where this was. The schoolhouse was moved in 1839 to Block 6, Lat. 7 which was on the first block west of the Methodist Church. This building was sold in 1846 to W. Personett who moved it to another location and taught a subscription school for two years. In 1843 the third school (a frame building) was erected on Block 6 Lot 6 being next to the former lot just west of the Methodist Church. Then the first school built by taxation in Washington Township was a brick building erected in 1846 under the directorship of Jonathan Newman. This building was later donated by the town of Milton to the F.W. and M. Railroad Co. who used it as a freight depot. Of course this was after the school was built in 1866 on the same block as the present school. This school was replaced by the present brick building in the early nineteen-twenties. Jonathan Newman mentioned above was a very interesting person. He was a Quaker, born in N.C. in 1794. In 1820 he married Eleanor Dicks, also a member of the Society of Friends. They married out of meeting and that being against the rules of the Society, they sent in a letter to the meeting desiring to be retained as members. It was dated March instead of third month as the rule required, which the meeting returned for correction; that they

failed to do and were disowned. He joined a Militia Co., was elected Captain and served in that capacity for 13 years. In 1836, he sold his plantation and with his family, moved to Milton. He opened a shop and carried on wagon making, that being his occupation which he carried on all his life. He served a number of years as Justice of the Peace in Washington Township and was also Town Trustee and School Director as I have already mentioned. One of his six children was Edmund B. Newman, an attorney who was a representative to the General Assembly from Wayne County in 1860. He served on several important committees during the Civil War period while in the legislature and later was appointed assistant assessor of Internal Revenue for 6 years, the district being Henry, Wayne, Fayette, and Union Co's. He was also connected with the Township Assessor position in Washington Township.

I have read dozens of biographies in preparation of this paper and found them all very interesting. I know I have just "hit the high spots" so to speak. I did not mention among other things, the Cary Club but since I covered that subject before I felt I need not do so again. Milton has produced many well known and highly respected citizens since 1900. Perhaps sometime someone will see fit to bring all of it up to date-and what fascinating reading it will be!!