

names and finally discontinued. Later Wm. Hunt published a paper here for several years. W. H. Sage, present owner of the "Mooresville Times," has been in the newspaper business more than twenty-five years, much longer than any other proprietor. J. P. Calvert came to Mooresville in 1868 or soon after. He endured long, hard service in the army and after locating here engaged in photography more than fifty years.

The A. W. Conduitt & Co. sold their store to Jonathan and J. O. Thompson who continued in the business many years. B. H. Perce built a brick business room on South Indiana street and opened a shop for the manufacture of carriages and buggies. When he entered the study of medicine he sold the business to J. H. Mills and B. F. Jones. John Butner, after returning from the war, built the brick store room recently vacated by P. Thompson and opened a furniture store and cabinet shop in it. Mr. Butner made all the first furniture he sold and also the burial caskets. Before this time, when a death occurred, a neighbor or friend took the measure for the casket, usually using a long smooth stick for the length, in which a notch was cut to indicate the widest part of the body. This measure was taken to Wm. McCracken, Rix Newby or O. H. McPherson, who would make the coffin for one dollar per foot. After Mr. Butner's death, John Rusie bought the business from which he retired several years ago. Wm. McCracken's cabinet shop was on his farm southwest of town, but he later discontinued that business and engaged in merchandise in Mooresville. He also opened his home for a boarding house which he and his wife conducted until, because of infirmities of age, his son, Wilkinson McCracken and wife, took charge of the business and spent the remainder of their days there. As time passed they yielded the management to their daughter, Mrs. A. E. Crawford, the present owner. The bell which for more than fifty years has been a signal for rising and meal time is still rung in honor of the ancient custom established by Mrs. Crawford's grandfather. No more familiar sound greets the ear than that of McCracken's bell. In former years it served as a fire signal, and when rung at unseasonable hours or with unusual vigor the alarm was readily responded to.

In order to meet the demands of a steadily increasing growth of business, the Farmers Savings and Trust Company was organized in 1872 and in 1873 became the Farmers Bank. They occupied a small brick building on North Indiana street ten years before building on the present site. Alexander Worth was the first cashier and his daughter, Mrs. Fannie Worth Mills, who now lives in Manatee, Florida, assistant. Mr. Worth was succeeded by John A. Taylor and, after his death, W. F. Hadley was elected to the position and served thirty-six years. Previous to this, Mr. Hadley was telegraph operator and general agent at the I. & V. station.

Great improvements have been made both in town and country, modern invention and labor-saving devices employed. The school system is continually being improved with more and better equipment. Other lodges have been organized and are actively engaged in the ministry of kindly deeds. The Mooresville park, which was a gift from the founder of the town, is being improved and other institutions have been established which reflect the steady growth and general prosperity of the community. Prominent among these are the First National Bank, the Fall Creek Manufacturing Co. and the new public library, but these are not pioneer history. In 1924 Mooresville will have completed a full century of years and I leave these things to be told then by a readier pen than mine and trust that a pageant, representing every episode in our history, will be made a grand and imposing spectacle.

