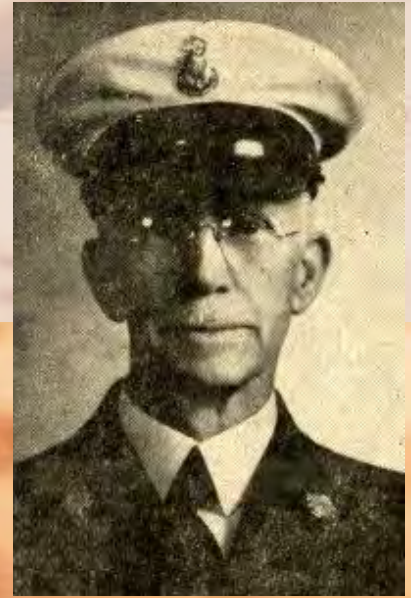


# **Mooreville's World-Famous Composer: Rev. Dr. Frank Claude Huston**

**Famous Mooresvillians Series**



# **Video: Mooresville Moments #8**

## **“Rev. Dr. Frank C. Huston”**

**<https://youtu.be/sVCQHhbjIA>**

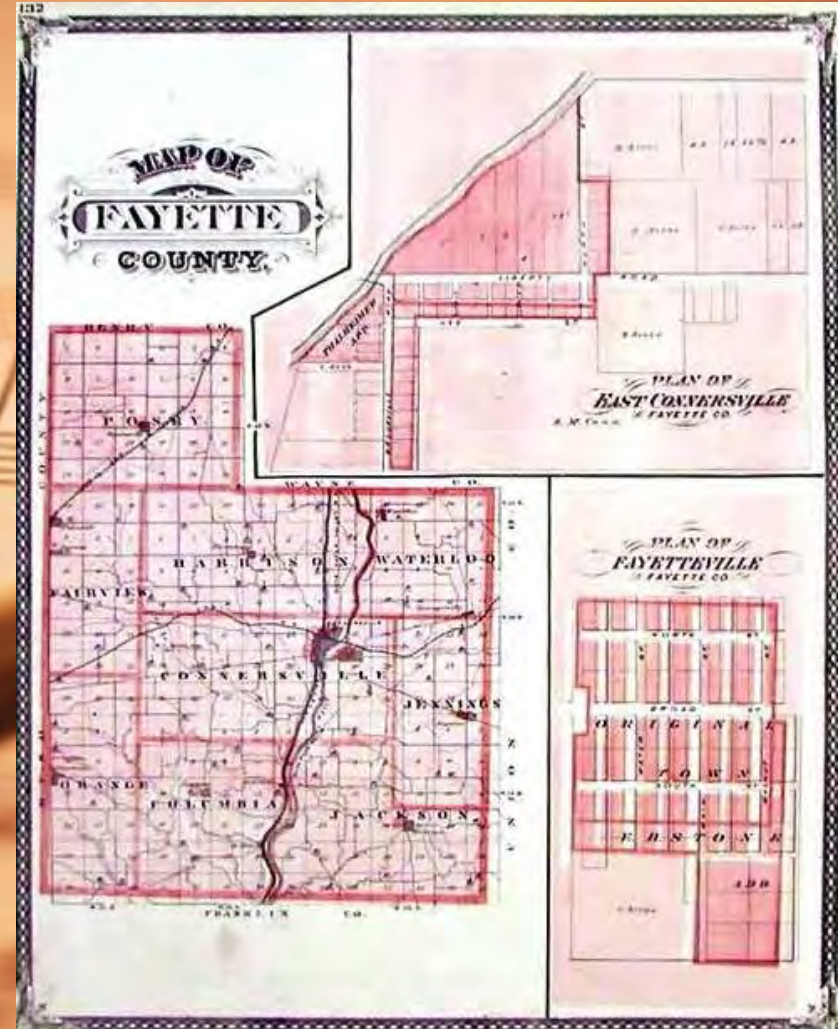


# **Rev. Dr. Frank Claude Huston (1871-1959)**

- **Pastor, Mooresville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (1934-1937)**
- **Born: September 12, 1871, Orange (Fayette County), Indiana**
- **Died: November 14, 1959, Jacksonville, Florida; Buried in Glencove Cemetery, Knightstown, Indiana**

# Early Years

- Rev. Dr. Frank C. Huston was the son of Thomas M. & Mary E. (Harris) Huston. Frank attended Fayette County schools.





# College Days

- Frank graduated from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago in the early 1890s.



MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE — ORIGINAL BUILDING



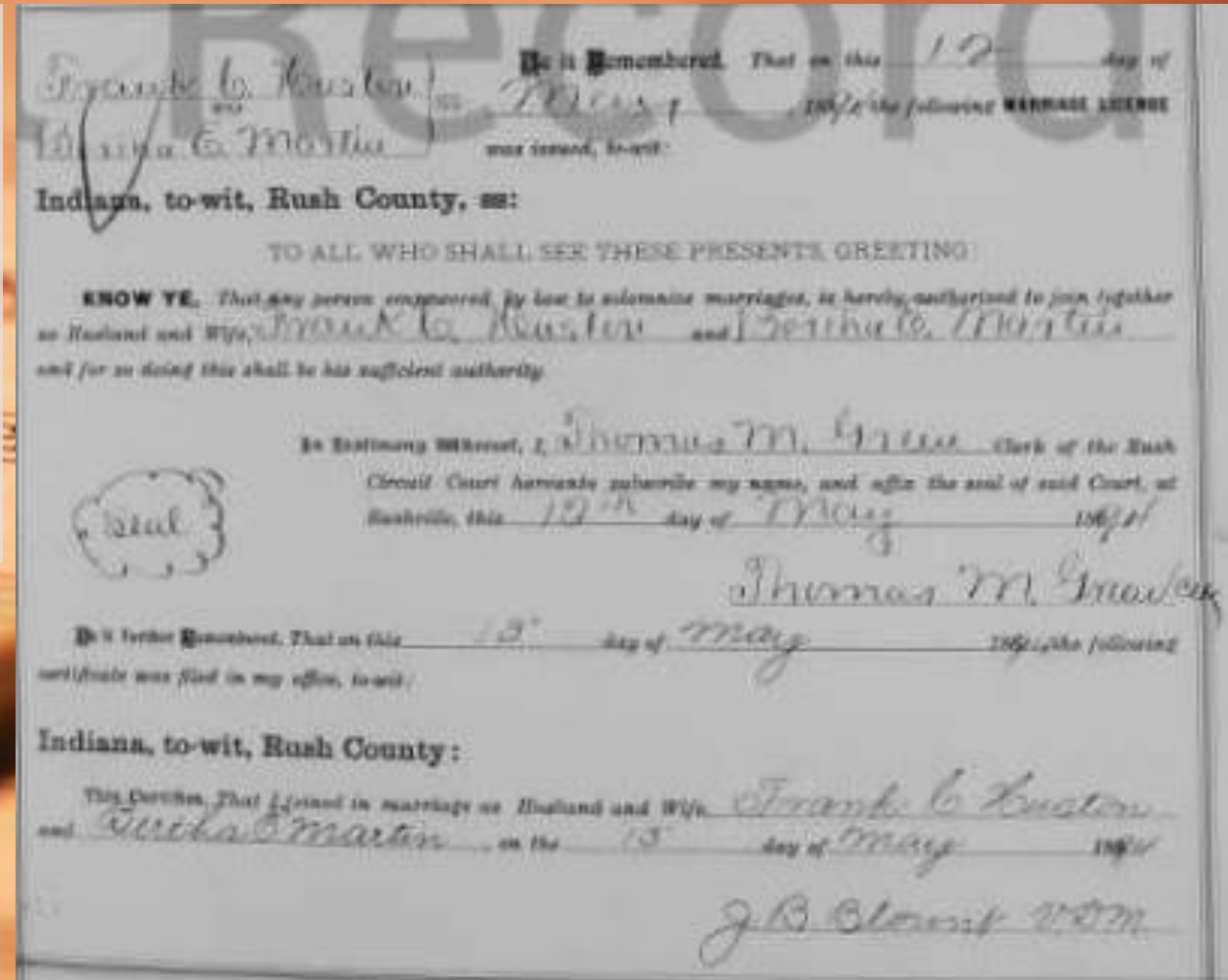
# Road to International Fame: Early Steps

- In 1899 Frank became an evangelistic singer for Charles Reign Scoville, a famous evangelist. From Florida to Nova Scotia Frank sang in 180 evangelistic campaigns over 19 years.



# Marriage & Ordination

- In 1894 Frank married Bertha Martin (see marriage license, right).
- In 1915, Frank was ordained a minister in the Disciples of Christ in Indianapolis.

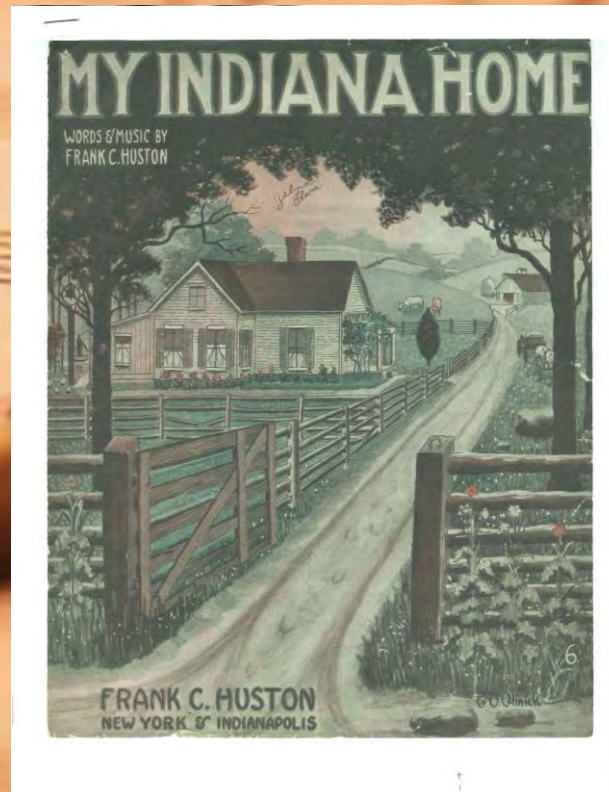




# Internationally-Acclaimed Composer

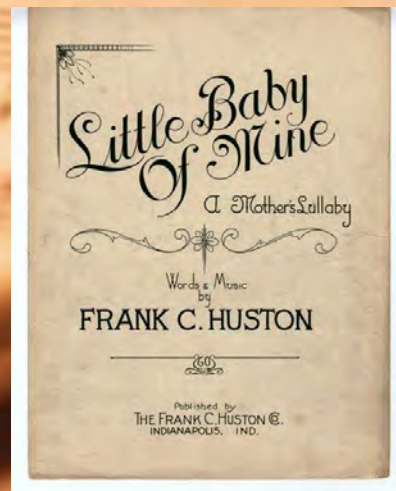
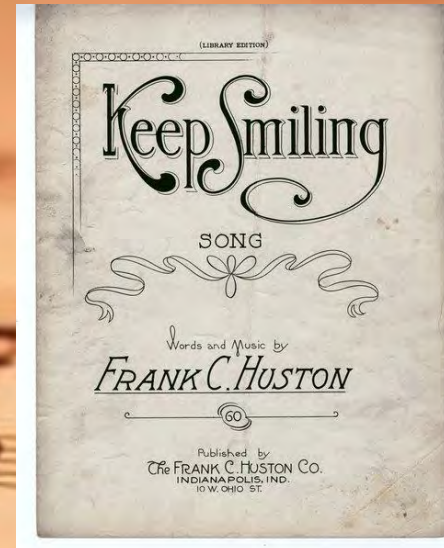
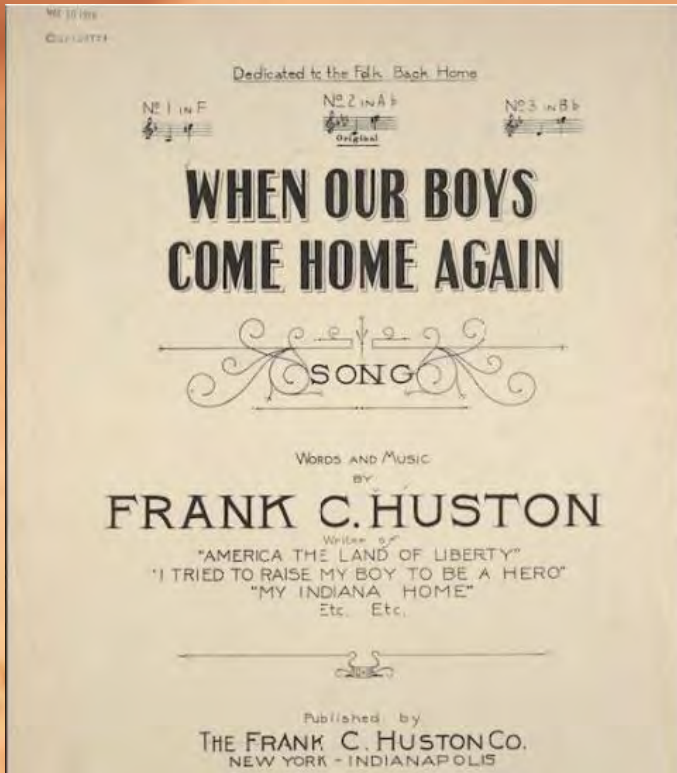
- Frank was internationally known as a composer of hymns, gospel, ballads, popular songs, patriotic tunes, and dance songs (foxtrots, one-steps, and waltzes).
- His first “successful” hymn, *We Shall Gather ‘Round the Throne*, was published in 1898.
- In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Frank founded his own music publishing company in Indianapolis and New York. He published hundreds of songs, many of which were his own compositions.
- His most famous hymn, *It Pays to Serve Jesus* (1909), is still performed today. He also wrote nostalgic songs about Indiana, including *My Indiana Home* (1917) and *We’re From Indiana* (1928). He collected his gospel works in *Selected Sacred Songs* (Jacksonville, Fla.: Frank C. Huston, 1937)

[CLICK HERE](#) TO PLAY  
“IT PAYS TO SERVE JESUS” (1909)





# Examples of Frank Huston's Sheet Music



It Pays to Serve Jesus

Frank Claude Huston, 1909

Frank Claude Huston

1. The ser - vice of Je - sus true plea - sure af - fords, In Him there is joy with -  
2. It pays to serve Je - sus what - e'er may be - tide, It pays to be true what -  
3. Though some-times the sha-dows may hang o'er the way, And sor - rows may come to

- out an al - joy; 'Tis Heav-en to trust Him and rest on His words; It pays to serve  
- e'er you may do; 'Tis rich - es of mer - cy in Him to a - bide; It pays to serve  
becko-n us home, Our pre - cious Re - deem-er each toil will re - pay; It pays to serve

Refrain

Je - sus each day, It pays to serve Je - sus, it pays ev-ery day, It pays ev-ery step of the  
Je - sus each day, Je - sus each day, Je - sus each day, way, Though the path-way to glo-ry may some-times be drear, You'll be hap-py each  
step of the way.

Public Domain  
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™



# More Huston Sheet Music

**MY INDIANA HOME**

Words and Music by FRANK C. HUSTON

Andante

With the eve-ning bell and shad-ows fall-ing, And the  
In my fan-cy once a-gain comes float-ing, O'er the

It - tie birds gone home to rest — My heart goes wan-d'ing back the home-ward track, And  
fra-grant fields of new-mown hay The sound I loved so well, — the old farm bell, — I've

vis-ions come to me of those I love the best, A gain I see the quaint old fash-ioned  
heard no sweet-er mu-sic since I came a-way, A gain I hear my dear old moth-er

cot - tage, And the fields of green I used to roam, — And in  
sing - ing, As she trimmed the vines a-bout the door, — And I

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"AMERICA, THE LAND OF LIBERTY"

**YOU'RE SUCH A WONDERFUL GIRL**

Words and Music by FRANK C. HUSTON

*Suanita Kien*

5

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**My Ships**

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# Huston's Mooresville Pastorship (1934-1937)

- On Jan. 14, 1934, Frank Huston became pastor of Mooresville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on the southeast corner of West Harrison and South Jefferson Streets, a post he held through 1937.
- His salary was \$11.75/week. "The 'normal' salary was \$10/week, but because Brother Huston lived in Knightstown and drove to Mooresville for choir practice on Thursday nights and again on Sundays for services, he was allowed an extra \$1.75 per week."





# “*Mooreville*” (1935) (Town Song)

- In 1935 Frank Huston wrote *Mooreville*, a nostalgic song praising its hometown values.
- Although no published version appears to exist, his sister copied his original handwritten musical score and donated it to the Library, a facsimile of which has faded with time. The *Mooreville Times* twice published Frank’s lyrics (June 11, 1936 & June 24, 1937), each time slightly altering the words from the original.

Mooreville

Words & Music by  
Rev. Frank C. Huston

①

*You may sing of your cit-ies of great re-noun where some that are won-der-ful*

*But I'll sing a song of my own lit-tle town with which there's*

*none to come pare my town may not boast of her*



# Lyrics to Huston's "Mooreville"



## "Mooreville"

Music & Lyrics By

Rev. Frank C. Huston

Pastor, Mooreville Christian Church (1934-1937)

Nationally-renowned composer

### *(First Verse)*

You may sing of your cities of great renown;  
There are some that are wondrously fair,  
But I'll sing a song of my own little town,  
With which there are none to compare.  
My town may not boast of her millionaires,  
Its buildings may not be so tall,  
But if you are thoughtful you're sure to agree,  
Its folks make a town, after all.

### *(Refrain)*

Mooreville, Mooreville,  
You are the theme of my song,  
Mooreville, Mooreville,  
You're the place where I belong.  
Oh, there are others much larger I know,  
But, none so dear as old Mooreville, and so  
I'll sing your praises wherever I go,  
You're my home town.

### *(Second Verse)*

It's a beautiful city, is my home town,  
With its welcoming streets everywhere,  
The charm of her homes, is a proverb well known,  
For culture and beauty are there.  
Where each takes a pride in his own home town,  
There's little but good may befall,  
But still I insist when you're judging a town,  
Its folks make a town, after all.

### *(Repeat Refrain)*

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# Questions?

- William R. Buckley, information director, adult reference services, Mooresville Public Library
- [billb@mooresvillepublic.lib.in.us](mailto:billb@mooresvillepublic.lib.in.us)

INDIANA  
ROOM

