

Early Mooresville



Centennial Souvenir



1824 - 1924

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Early Mooresville

A paper written and read by Margaret W. Fogleman, daughter of Samuel Moore, at the Diamond Jubilee of the town of Mooresville, to which is added

Ye Early Pioneers

Reminiscences of the Settlement of Morgan County; a letter that was written by John Matthews, one of the earliest pioneers in Brown township.

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SAMUEL MOORE
Founder of Mooresville

About Mooresville

Many Facts Gleaned From Records and Good Memories

The following was read at the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the town of Mooresville by Mrs. M. W. Fogleman and is a most interesting account of the early history of that thriving town:

Mooresville and Neighborhood

William Ballard was the first settler on section 36 in 1820; Charles Vertrees lived on the next farm, now owned by Cora Johnson. The land on which Mooresville now stands, was entered by Andrew Clark and Jacob Jessup and was bought by Samuel Moore at \$2 per acre in 1823.

William Ballard sold his land to Mr. Overman, of Highland county, Ohio. William Cobb purchased it of him. He in turn sold to Jesse Rooker and Samuel Moore, next Samuel Moore bought Mr. Rooker out.

Mooresville was laid out by Samuel Moore (from whom it took its name) in the year 1824. He took counsel with his friends, Asa Bales, Barclay Burris and William Hadley, as to how large the town should be. William Hadley and Asa Bales thought ten acres of good land would be enough to supply the demand and all that would ever be occupied as a town. Mr. Moore and Mr. Burris, having more enlarged views as to what would be required for the little town insisted on twenty acres. Finally it was settled that he should lay out four blocks of five acres each, each block to contain sixteen lots. Mr. Hadley charged four dollars and a half for surveying and was offered a choice of lots or the amount in goods. He preferred the goods.

"First plat of Mooresville recorded in my office on the 21st day of February, 1825, in Book A, Vol. 1, Page 88.—George Beeler, Clerk."

The first house in town was built by Asa Bales in 1824 and stood west of Mrs. Chambers' house, on south side East Main street.

Pa built his store in 1824 on the lot where Thompson & Jones are selling goods. Nathaniel Carter (John D's father) and his brother, Joshua, did the carpenter work and Samuel Harryman the brick work.

In 1826 Alexander Worth & Co., opened the second store. They also built a large woolen factory on the lots where O. E. Rooker and James Rusie live. It was afterward burned down, near 1840.

Dr. Curtis G. Hussey came to Mooresville in the fall of 1824. He said there were but five houses here then.

Dr. Frydisger was the next doctor to come. His wife was buried in the old graveyard. He did not remain many years. Sylvia, his daughter, was in New Orleans the last I knew of her.

In the fall of 1823 John H. Bray sowed about two acres of wheat and had a very good crop, it being the first wheat raised in this part of the county. He cut it with a sickle, threshed it with a flail and blew the chaff out with a sheet and cleaned it with a wooden sieve. He had it ground and said it made very good cakes. He and John B. Hadley made the first brick kiln in this section. In 1829 or '30 Mr. Bray built a fulling mill, the first built in the county. Many of the young Hoosiers, now old men, had their wedding suits made from cloth of his make.

Joseph Hobson built a very good saw mill on McCracken creek, the first one west of Mooresville.

The land owned by the late Josiah Weesner was entered by Abijah Bray, who was perhaps the largest man in the county. He weighed 430 pounds. He had a chair made for his own use and when he came to town he came in a wagon and his chair almost reached from one side to the other. He would not sit down in a chair without first testing its strength.

In looking for more items, ran across this from Tommy Lockhart: "Came to this county before it was laid out in company with Asa Bales; rolled the first logs ever rolled in the bottom lands of McCracken's creek, which was in the fall of 1820; settled in the fall of 1821, three miles up the creek. In the construction of Fairfield meeting house, volunteered a helping hand."

The first child born in Mooresville was Samuel M. Rooker, born May 22, 1824, where Stuart Comer's house now stands, but at that time was not in town.

The first persons married when the exact date is given were the following: I. W. Rooker and Polly Ballard, married the 6th of 4th month, 1826; Samuel Jones and Mary Plummer were married the same day by Hiram Mathews; Isaac Williams and Sibby Carter were married 21st of 10th month, 1827.

Deaths

The first death of any grown person of which there is any satisfactory record was the death of Charles Vertreese's wife. She died sometime in 1821; was buried in the grave yard on the Johnson farm. When selling the land Mr. Vertreese reserved one acre for a permanent grave yard. The next grave yard of which I have obtained any record was on Eli Hadley's farm, now Mr. Miles'. That was in 1823; Isaac Overman, first person buried there. In all, twenty-seven were buried there. In 1888 The Friends placed a memorial stone there as it had been abandoned and most of the graves were lost sight of. In Mooresville, Martha Worthington (mother's cousin) was the first person buried.

I have made a copy of all gravestones in the graveyard that I could find up to the spring of 1835:

In memory of Martha J. Worthington, who died May 15, 1829, aged 21 years.

Mary, wife of Barzillai Worth, born Feb. 5, 1768, died Aug. 7, 1830.

Sacred to the memory of Barbara Whetzell, born Oct. 23, 1778, died Nov. 23, 1831.

In memory of Margaret W. Worthington; was born in Philadelphia, Penn., Nov. 15th, 1776, and departed this life Jan. 9, 1832.

Asahel Hussey departed this life September 26, 1833, in the 28th year of his life.

Malinda R., consort of Willis G. Conduitt; born, March 4, 1799; died, March 4, 1835.

Have failed to get any dates from the Friends graveyard at White Lick. Robert McCracken was the first person buried there; time, unknown.

Schools and Teachers

On the southeast quarter of section 30 the first school house was built. On the farm now owned by Daniel Sheets was built the famous Sulphur Springs school house where many of the young people of that neighborhood received the most of their education. James Hadley was the first teacher. Grant Stafford probably taught the first school in Brown township near Hiram Matthews' in the winter of 1821-22. Barclay Burris taught school north of Harris Bray's in 1824. The next teacher there was Horatio N. Teale, from Washington county, in 1828. Willis G. Conduitt taught in the Carter neighborhood in the winter of 1825-26. A log school house was built in Mooresville in 1826; Asa Bales, teacher.

In 1828 "The Mooresville school society" was organized. The meeting was held at the store room of S. Moore. Willis G. Conduitt, President; Asa Bales, Secretary; D. G. Worth, W. C. Conduitt, Alexander Worth, Joel Dixon and Asa Bales, Trustees.

Miss Mary Worth taught in 1831-32 in the Carter settlement. Among Mooresville teachers the first one spoken of that I remember was Mrs. May. I was not old enough to go. A favorite punishment with her was to shut them up in a dark closet. Curtis and Priscilla Cline were among her pupils; one day it fell to their lot to suffer punishment. As the door was opened Curt made good use of his eyes. When the door was closed, Priscilla was afraid and began to cry, Curt, by way of consolation said, "Scillar, don't cry; let's break these trocks" (crops). The destruction of her ware was too much for Mrs. May and the children were released.

Sometime in the thirties a brick school house was built at Mooresville. The house cost about \$600, and was used for church purposes as well as for school. It must have been in this house that Willis Conduitt taught. Mr. John Williams, of Bowling Green, was one of the pioneer teachers; that was my first school. I remember some of the scholars, the Worths, Kellys, Williams, Harrolds, Reagans, Richards, and Pfaffs. E. H. Waugh was another teacher. The first one that I remember after John Williams was R. H. Preston. Of course, some who occupied the place simply kept school, they did not teach. Every old settler remembers Mr. Preston; while he could never be spoken of as "The master so kind and true," he was a good teacher for that age. I do not remember that anything was taught but "the three great R's, reading, riting and rithmetic," with geography and grammar thrown in.

In those good old days we ciphared. We did not have examples to work or problems to solve. (I do not know the latest terms). We had sums. We were required to get a quire of foolscap paper, a bonnet board, and make a blank book in which we had to copy our sums as we finished them, and woe to the one who made a mistake.

"The Master," as he was always called, would go book in hand behind the scholars, look over their work, and if he saw a mistake they were made painfully aware of it by a blow on the side of the head with his book.

At that time steel pens were unknown. We had goose quills; if the master had any spare time he could spend it making pens. This was a necessary accomplishment.

I believe the next teachers were Robert O. Neal and John Laverty. I think it must have been in 1841 that Miss Ruth Hunt, Indianapolis, came

to teach. She certainly was one of the best teachers ever employed. As her school was exclusively for girls she did not have the use of the school house. Her first school was in Mr. Kelly's parlor, now Mr. Moon's. Her next term was in a little house on the east side of Mr. Kelly's lot. Then we were moved again to a house of Mr. Reagan's, standing where the M. P. church is now. When she left, my school days in Mooresville were ended forever.

Meeting Houses.

The first meeting of the Society of Friends as a meeting for worship was held in the cabin of Asa Bales, where the old home of Joseph Moon was in the spring of 1822. At first it was held there every Sabbath, but later on was held half the time at the house of Noah Kellum on the east fork of White Lick. A monthly meeting was established in the 8th month (August) 1823, on the hill east of White Lick, on the north part of the land now owned by Thomas Miles. At this place the first Friends meeting house was built. "In Nov. 1823, D. Williams attended the monthly meeting with credentials from Friends in Pennsylvania and he was the first public Friend, as the ministers are some times called, of whom there is any account or records."

Of the Friends there were some who spoke occasionally; namely, Joseph Ballard, Nathaniel Carter (father of John D.) Rhoda Carey and Rebecca Kenworthy."

Fairfield meeting house, belonging to the Friends, is one of the oldest in this part of the country. In 1827 the Friends built their large brick house at White Lick. The first meeting was a monthly meeting held on the 8th day of 12th month, 1827. The first Sabbath school established was at the White Lick meeting house, west side of the creek, date not given.

Reuben Claypool, a licensed exhorter from Virginia, is credited with preaching the first sermon in Morgan county. This important event took place at the home of Barbara Whetzel in February, 1820. She lived near Waverly. In 1821 a Methodist class meeting was organized at White Lick. Early in 1822, Mr. Claypool preached in a cabin on the farm where T. B. Rooker and his mother now live. The White Lick Methodist church was the first one in the county. In 1822 William Cravens, a circuit-rider, as they were then called, was appointed preacher in-charge of the Indianapolis circuit. One of his appointments was at White Lick, preaching at William Rooker's.

In 1828 Eli Tansy and wife, Jesse S. Rooker and wife and Eliza Moore, being the only Methodists, met regularly and held a prayer meeting. Five persons, and yet enough to lay the foundation of the M. E. church in Mooresville. In 1829 Eli Tansy and wife had removed, but others had come in to take their places. William Cline was appointed class leader. His wife, Jarael Hunt and wife (his father and mother-in-law), Jesse S. Rooker, Candace, his wife, Polly Tansy Howell and Eliza Moore made the class—eight now, besides being a class. You see they were looking forward.

Jared Maxwell lived at Mr. Cline's and may have been a member but there is no record of it. If I had known the names of those devout women I would surely have given them, but I do not, so you see they are only the wives of their husbands. In 1831 or 1832 they were allowed to have preaching in the log school house.

Some of the Methodists were so noisy that some of the citizens wanted to have them taken up for disturbing the peace. The trustees feared that the house might be burned down, so the door was locked against them. But Mr. Cline's cabinet shop was open and they went there; it stood on the alley where Ham Jackson's livery stable now stands. The shop did not burn but the school house did. When the brick school house was built, the circuit rider was readmitted. In 1833 White Lick circuit disappears from the minutes, and Mooresville circuit takes its place. At that time the members here belonged at White Lick.

In 1828 John B. Birt was sent to Mooresville. In December of that year began what has always been called the big revival. At that meeting David Shanafelt, John Richards, William Carlisle, J. H. Thornburg, J. S. Kelly, Harris Bray and wife, Alexander Worth, Adeline Worth, Delilah Dorrell and Mary Ann Haase joined the church. A number of others also united with the church whose names I did not get, and I suppose all of them were soundly converted. After the revival the necessity was laid upon them of enlarging their quarters and arrangements were begun at once to build a meeting house.

April 23, 1839, lots three and four in block ten, Mooresville, were deeded by Samuel Moore and Eliza Moore, his wife to James S. Kelly, Daniel Day, William McClellan, William M. Black and John W. Richards, trustees, and their successors to erect a Methodist Episcopal meeting house thereon. The contract for brick work was let to Joseph Hiatt for \$665.70, the general carpenter work to William McClellan for \$577.80; for seats \$75 and pulpit \$24, to Barlay Burris, a total of \$1,341.50, ex-

clusive of some work subscribed and the lot, which was donated. The amount was raised by subscription; the following men headed the list:

James S. Kelly, \$200.
 Samuel Moore, \$200.
 Alexander Worth, \$125.
 Joseph Hiatt, \$50.
 Joseph Moon, \$50.
 Daniel Day, \$50.

These are all I could get. I tried to get the book having the subscription list but did not succeed. I am sorry, for those who gave small amounts are as much entitled to the credit of it as the others. I imagine it required more sacrifice on their part than it did for the others to give from their abundance, but I do not doubt but all gave willingly. I think it must have been at least twenty years after that the conference made it the duty of the presiding elder to look after the titles of the church property. Mr. Noble was our elder and at once began in his district. On going to Martinsville to look after the church here not a line was found on record. He went at once to pa to see if he had made a deed. Receiving an affirmative answer he explained the situation to him, asking him if he would make another if the deed could not be found. After a long search he remembered that a member (then dead) had said to him that he had some of the church papers. On going to his house the missing deed was found carefully stitched in a blank book. Comments are not needed.

The first Sunday school in the M. E. church was organized in October, 1835, by John Williams, now living at Bowling Green. Occasionally, some laughable things occurred. Once, during a protracted meeting and when the preacher had called for mourners, a woman, with not the best reputation, came forward. The preacher did not see her, as about that time he found it convenient to see something in another direction. A brother stepped forward, giving his coat a pull, and said: "That sister wants to join!" The preacher turned around and replied: "We have more fish of that kind now than we can string."

Another time a preacher was speaking of the children of Israel and was telling of Moses making the golden calf, when some one at his side whispered: "It was Aaron, Brother!" He turned around and said: "Well, I don't care—it was all in the same family, anyway!"

At a neighboring town the preacher became excited; at least, I suppose he did, as in his ranting he said something about the insane God. A merchant from Louisville was there. A few months afterward a mer-

chant went down to Louisville to buy goods. The merchant came forward saying, "Are not you from that town over in Indiana where God Almighty has gone crazy?"

In 1831 the little town had ceased to crawl and was demanding more room, so eight more blocks with seventy-six more lots were added. Recorded the 27th of September, 1831, George A. Phelps, Recorder.

Armstead Jackson was the tavern keeper in 1832. Among the residents here were the following: Samuel Moore, J. S. Kelly, Alexander Worth, merchants; Isaac Williams, saddlery and harness shop; Joseph Hiatt, P. H. Combs, cabinet makers; Solomon Hart, tinner; William C. Cline, cabinet maker; William W. Black, tanner; Barney B. Ball, potter; James Lasley, shoe maker; Solomon Dunegan, and his sons, Frank, Thomas, and Lemuel, blacksmiths; Thomas Viglini, unknown; Thomas Murphy, wagon maker; Daniel May and W. H. P. Woodward, tailors. They came in 1835. George Sheets and family, John House and family, Michael Rusie and family came here in 1836. Alexander Worth's carding mill was a very important industry. At first nothing but carding was done, but later spinning and weaving were introduced. Later on James Richardson and Joel Landrum came. They were hatters and made fur hats, Robert Carr, weaver. Then there was "Uncle Jimmy" and Katy Malloy. Joseph Moon built his mill in 1823. Same year Richard Day built a little mill on East White Lick; made a brush dam. Dr. John Heiner and his cousin, Dr. Jesse Heiner, were also among the early settlers. I could find no correct dates in regard to Mr. Kelly and Mr. Worth going in business.

Other early settlers were Richard Day, Levi Plummer, William Bales, Ira Mendenhall, William McPherson, Benjamin Thornburgh, Hiram Matthews, John Martin, James Martin, William Rooker, Wilson Rooker, Peter Monical, Samuel Jones, Andrew McNabb, Benjamin Mendenhall, Martin and Cary Beeson, John and Joshua Cox, Daniel Day, William Yarbrough, tailor; Robert Unthank, portrait painter; Fred Luster and Noah Housand, shoemakers; Charles Wilcox, hatter; James A. Marine, carpenter; Gabriel Coble, baker.

I have not mentioned A. B. Conduitt because I thought we would receive a letter giving an account of his connection with Mooresville, but have just seen his letter and he tells nothing. I can only say he was one of the first persons here and was an active worker in everything connected with the prosperity of the town.

Asa Bales was the first Postmaster. In 1831 Robert Worthington succeeded him, holding office a number of years. At that time the postage

was paid at the receiving office; postage was twenty-five cents for a single sheet, fifty for two and so on. The following is the only record I could find in regard to early mails:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.
OFFICE OF MAIL CONTRACTOR,
November, 22d, 1831.

Postmaster at Mooresville, Ind.,

SIR:—On Route No. 24, E. P. Johnson, Contractor, the Postmaster General directs the following schedule to be observed:

Should the contractor ever fail to comply with the same, you will please give immediate information to the Department; stating the cause, if known.

Leave Indianapolis every Wednesday at 1 p. m., arrive at Mooresville same day at 6 p. m.

Leave Mooresville every Wednesday at 6 a. m., arrive at Indianapolis same day by 11 a. m.

Please inform the Department if the contractor has not been running according to the schedule. Your obedient Servant,

D. B. BROWN,
Superintendent of Mail Contracts.

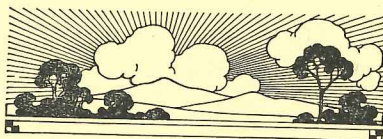
Times change. We did not have aristocracy in those days; we had quality. There is nothing like having the conceit taken out of you once in a while; now I thought that was only ignorance on their part, but on examination I find that it does mean superiority of birth or station. We did not have a Dr's office. We had an Apothecary's shop. About 1842 Mooresville was visited by the greatest fire it has ever known. Beginning with Pa's store there were ten houses and shops before the fire. Next morning there was Pa's store and our house left. The Dr's shop at the west and a dwelling house at the east were torn down to check the fire.

I was amazed to find there was scarcely a woman's name mentioned unless it was to say she was somebody's wife. Mrs. Deborah Chase was a good tailoress, so also was Aunt Betsy McNabb. Mrs. Jemina Combs was a school teacher. I think Solomon well describes the pioneer women:

"She seeketh wool and flax and worketh willingly with her hands. She layeth her hands to the spindle and her hands hold the distaff. She

looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. She stretcheth out her hands to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness."

If I could know their names I would willingly give them, but their names are recorded on a book that I cannot reach. "And a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord and that thought upon His name."



Ye Early Pioneers

Reminiscences of the Settlement of Morgan County

Erie, Colorado, June 23, '75.

Editors Mooresville Herald:

I propose sending you a few letters, transcribed from my old papers, and altered to suit the times, which you will be at liberty to dispose in any way you may think proper. * * * * Yours, etc.,

John Matthews.

On the first of April, 1820, we arrived at the bluffs about a mile above Waverly. The first human being we saw was an Indian, of whom there were several at that place. So you see the first citizen of Morgan county I saw was an Indian. One white man was then living there by the name of Christopher Ladd, and was then keeping the first tavern ever kept in Morgan county. In the spring of 1819, Jacob Whetzel, who was the first settler in Morgan county, built a cabin in the bottom on the present site of Waverly. That was the only cabin built by a white man that was then standing between the neighborhood of Spencer and Randolph county. There were, however, several Indian towns on the river numerous inhabited.

We crossed the river at what was then called Whetzel's ford. The river being high, we had to swim our horses over and take our wagon and loading over in a large canoe, having first taken the wagon to pieces. Swimming horses over the river and other streams in those days was an every-day occurrence, and thought so little of that the beaux would often swim to see the lasses, and many matches were made by swimming.

On the 2d day of April myself and another young man went to William Ballard's, who had then been living about two weeks in a cabin on the brink of the hill near where the Martinsville road from Mooresville goes down into the bottom. This was the first cabin ever built by a

white man on White Lick. Before the sun went down I saw Charles Vertrees stand in the yard and shoot a large wolf that stood at the foot of the hill. He wounded the wolf badly but did not get him. Two years afterwards I helped to catch and kill the same wolf near the mouth of White Lick, six miles from where he was shot by Vertrees, and took the bullet out of him, which was lodged against the skin on the other side. We stayed all night at Ballard's, and during the night our horses, which were tied to a tree (the new comer's stable), broke loose and went astray. In the morning we were much perplexed, as you might suppose a man to be under such circumstances, there being then but six houses west of White river, to the best of my knowledge, and scarcely, anything like a road in all the country, a wagon, up to this time, having never crossed White Lick, and the forest roundabout abounding with savages. But we had our horses to find. Consequently we took a stroll through the woods and passed, for the first time, directly over the ground where Mooresville now stands. The forest was then unbroken; not a stick bore the marks of the white man's ax, nor could the print of his foot be seen, and the deer tracks were thick in every direction. The moccasin track of the savage was also visible, as well it might be; for, on reaching the bottom of the little creek east of town, near where the depot now stands, we found a large party of Indians encamped where they had been making sugar some weeks before. They had made their troughs, both great and small, of linn bark. Now, I am aware that some of your readers would like to know how an Indian, or anybody else, could peel bark early enough to make sugar troughs. Well, on this subject I must confess ignorance, for I never found out the art of peeling any kind of bark at that season, in a manner suitable to make a trough water tight. But nevertheless, my ignorance of that branch of Indian ingenuity does not make it any the less true. The bark was as neatly peeled as any white man could do it in May; the end of each piece was shaved thin, then gathered up into a roll and tied, and so elevated that the water could not run out. Then a stick put across the middle to spread it sufficiently, and the trough was done. This is the plan on which bark canoes are made. I have seen that done, but not in March. It has always been a mystery to me how bark could be peeled so early as sugar making time, in a manner fit to make a trough; but that the Indians do it cannot be questioned.

On the 4th day of April, 1820, be it long remembered, I witnessed the sight of the first wagon crossing White Lick that ever did cross it, and I was in the wagon. William Dorman was the wagoner, and thinking the horses were about to swamp in the sand, he sprang into the creek

where it was waist deep to whip and encourage the team. This was at the foird below Clarke's farm. The wagon belonged to George Matthews, who was the first settler in Morgan county west of White Lick. He built his house on a sand ridge near Centerton, where his granddaughter, Maria Wall, now lives. He died in his 83d year, and was never engaged in a law suit, pro or con, and never had a fight or used profane language. On the 22d of April, 1820, one of our horses crossed White Lick with the determination of leaving us. In searching for him, I found his track and trailed him with as little difficulty as one can ordinarily track a horse in the snow. And now as you and many of your readers have often heard of Indians and early settlers of new countries trailing men and beasts with unerring certainty, and have always wondered how it could be done, I will let Old Ball go till I explain it to you. The soil being but little tramped, and being raised by the frosts of many winters, and much interwoven by the fine roots of the thick coat of vegetation which pervades all new countries, is so soft and so easily indented by the foot, that there is no difficulty in tracking in the spring; and after the thick coat of vegetation comes up, with which the whole face of a new country is covered, neither man or beast can get along without leaving a trail that can be seen several steps distant. All the rich land in this country in those days was covered with nettles (lolamooel in the Indian language), as thick as hemp usually grows, varying in height according to the strength of the soil. On the richest lands they grew from three to four feet high, and stung horses so badly that it was almost impossible to ride through them. On poorer soil they grew from fifteen to twenty inches high, frequently mixed with other herbage; and on the thinnest soil, the hills, etc., there were no nettles at all, but still there was a thick coat of herbage of some sort. In passing through the nettles, or herbage of any sort, either man or beast would of necessity trample down a part of it and overturn many of the leaves, the under side of which always look whiter than the upper side. Now, as a new country has in it but little stock, and but few people to make trails, I think the mystery of trailing must be sufficiently removed from you and your readers.

Now let us renew the trail of Old Ball. He is a good old horse, and we must catch him. He had crossed the creek and was wending his way to the bluffs, but having to pass near the cabin of old Major Stotts, who lived then very near where John Butterfield's widow now lives, he was perceived by the Major, taken up, and rode to the bluffs on a memorable and lamentable occasion, which will form the subject of my next letter.

As Old Ball was now out of my reach for this day, I returned

EARLY MOORESVILLE

home, and, in crossing the creek, I discovered a great many fish. So I will close this letter with a fish story. I went home and got a gig, returned to the creek and killed a buffalo fish that measured two feet and eight inches long and ten inches broad, and would probably have weighed twenty-five pounds. This was the first fish ever caught in White Lick by a white settler in Morgan county. White river abounded at that time with such fish in great numbers. I have seen acres of its bed covered with them. In those days White river and White Lick were so clear that the fish had no hiding places in them; the fish could be seen to the bottom of the deepest water. In 1828 I saw Christopher Ladd and Benjamin Cutler gig a large canoe load of the finest kind of salmon in twenty-one feet of water, a short distance above Cox's mill, two miles above Martinsville.

JOHN MATTHEWS.

