

MOORESVILLE HISTORIC HOUSES #2

Photographer Jarvis P. Calvert (1842-1917) captured several homes in and around Mooresville, Indiana during the 1880s. Here are a few. The handwriting on the photographs is Calvert's. (Images courtesy of the Morgan County History & Genealogy Association & Mooresville Public Library.)



- **V. K. Thompson house**, 103 East High Street, Mooresville. Side-hall plan, Italianate style, built *circa* 1875.



- **S.M. Rooker house:** Samuel Moore Rooker (1824-1900) (a captain in the Civil War; hence the caption, written by photographer J.P. Calvert on the photo) is shown in front of his first house (prior to 1877) at 30 West Harrison Street in Mooresville. Rooker was the first Caucasian baby born in Mooresville and was named after the town's founder. Rooker's first house burned down and was replaced in 1877. The 1877 house still stands and was owned by Rooker's granddaughter, Helen (York) Cook and her husband, Claire Cook. [Rooker's obituary](#) is available in our Legacy Links database.



- **D (?) Pearce house:** Various members of the Pearce family were born and raised in Gregg Township (near Wilbur) in Morgan County during the mid to late 19th century. Many are buried in the Pearce family cemetery there (see our Legacy Links online obituary database). Some lived in Martinsville. Photographer J.P. Calvert has written the surname on the picture, but the first name initial is unclear (it looks like a cursive D). (The [Pearce family's obituaries](#) are available at in our Legacy Links database.)



- **Dr. G. B. Mitchell house:** Giles Beford Mitchell, M.D. (1822-1878) settled with his family in Martinsville in 1833. In 1837 Mitchell began studying medicine in Martinsville under Dr. Barnard, entering Ohio Medical School in Cincinnati in 1838. Mitchell practiced medicine in Martinsville until 1847, when he began practicing in Mooresville (until 1857), when he returned to Martinsville to enter the mercantile business. After three years, he became dissatisfied, and, selling out his mercantile establishment, returned (in 1860) to Mooresville to resume medical practice until his death in 1878. He was particularly well regarded in his treatment of acute diseases. He helped found the Farmers Bank in Mooresville, serving as its president. [Dr. Mitchell's obituary](#) (with its misspelling of his middle name) is available in our Legacy Links database.



- **G. W. Bass house:** George W. Bass standing in front of his home (ca. 1880s). Bass owned a drugstore at the southeast corner of Indiana and Main Streets (3 East Main Street) in downtown Mooresville. He built a one-story drugstore (ca. 1880--see photos in this [online handout](#)) and then replaced it with the two-story brick building (ca. 1890) that still stands there today. Learn more from this [online handout](#).



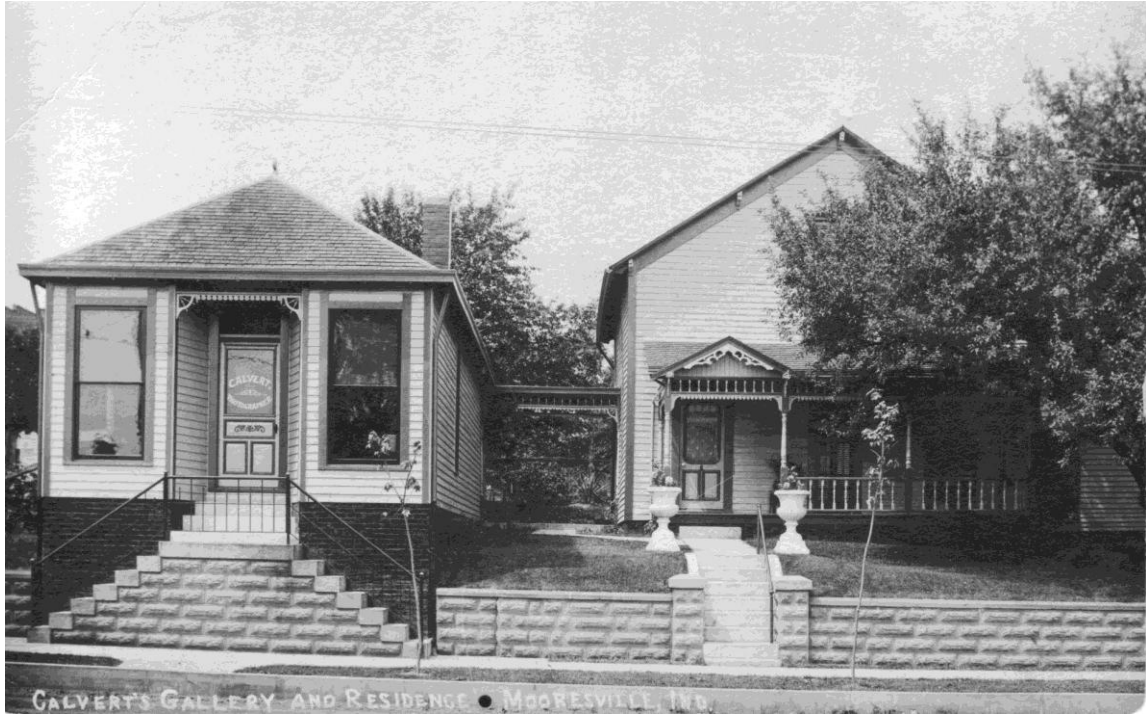
- **B. F. Jones house:** Shown here in front of his home, Benjamin Franklin Jones (1846-1923) was a carriage- and harness-maker in Mooresville. A Civil War veteran born in Ohio, Jones moved to Mooresville in November 1870, working initially for Dorland & Gregory, hardware and agricultural implement dealers. B.F. Jones began his trade as a harness-maker and carriage-trimmer in January 1873 and started his own business in 1876. Starting in 1879, he manufactured horse carriages and buggies.



- **J. H. Rusie house:** John Henry Rusie (1834-1923) came to Mooresville from Virginia with his family in 1836. He married Mary Jane Olleman in 1857. A Civil War veteran, Rusie co-owned a hardware & tin business in Mooresville (Rusie & Richardson, established in 1865, general dealers in stoves & household furnishings, tin and sheet iron wares.) In the 1880s through the early 1900s, Rusie & Richardson also were engaged in the furniture making and undertaker businesses. Rusie's [newspaper obituary](#) appears in our Legacy Links database, as does his [biographical sketch](#) from 1884.



- **J. P. Calvert house:** Jarvis P. Calvert's home and photography studio sat on East Harrison Street in Mooresville next to the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church. This photo (ca. 1880) shows Calvert's house without the front porch it later had (in the 1910 photos, next page). Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley, when he worked in a paint store in Mooresville during his youth, used to hang out at Calvert's photography studio. Mooresville Public Library has the only known copy of Calvert's Civil War memoirs in existence ([available on our website](#)). [His obituary](#) is found on our Legacy Links database.



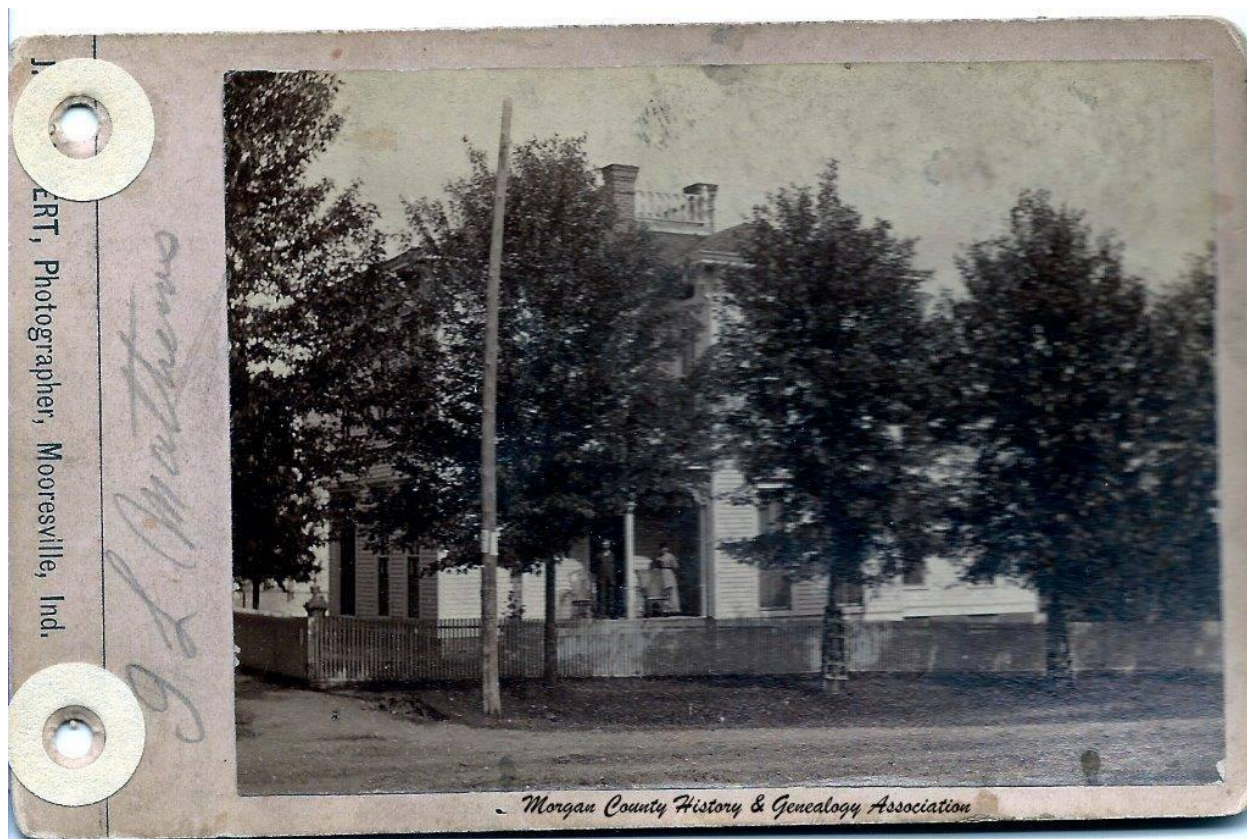
- J. P. Calvert's photography studio and residence on East Harrison Street, just east of the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church (ca. 1910).



- J. P. Calvert standing outside his home on East Harrison Street (ca. 1910).



- **A. T. Manker house:** Allen Trimble Manker (1827-1902) moved to Morgan County in 1845, settling in Mooresville. In addition to being a contractor (carpenter & builder), he owned a grist mill (in Montgomery County, 1854-55) and was manager of Magnolia Mills in Mooresville (1874-1880). He also engaged in the livery trade in Mooresville (1856-57). Manker built many of Mooresville's houses and business structures from the 1850s through the 1890s. In 1852, Manker "bull-whacked" across the Great Plains from Iowa to Portland, Oregon (along the Oregon Trail) and returned to New York by ship via the Isthmus of Panama. [His obituary](#) is available in our Legacy Links database.



- **J. L. Matthews house:** James L. Matthews (1844-1919) was a banker and farmer. When he arrived in Mooresville in 1878, he engaged in the lumber business. He built his house (shown in this ca. 1880 photo) on the southeast corner of Harrison and Indiana Streets in Mooresville, which later became Harvey Funeral Home (in 1925). The building is now the site of Family Video. [Matthews' obituary](#) is found in our Legacy Links database.



- **J. H. Mills house:** John Hadley Mills (1843-1923) co-owned Mooresville Carriage Works with his brothers, Charles Mills, A. H. (Richard) Mills, Oliver H. Mills, and Amos H. Mills. [John H. Mills' obituary](#) is available in our Legacy Links database.



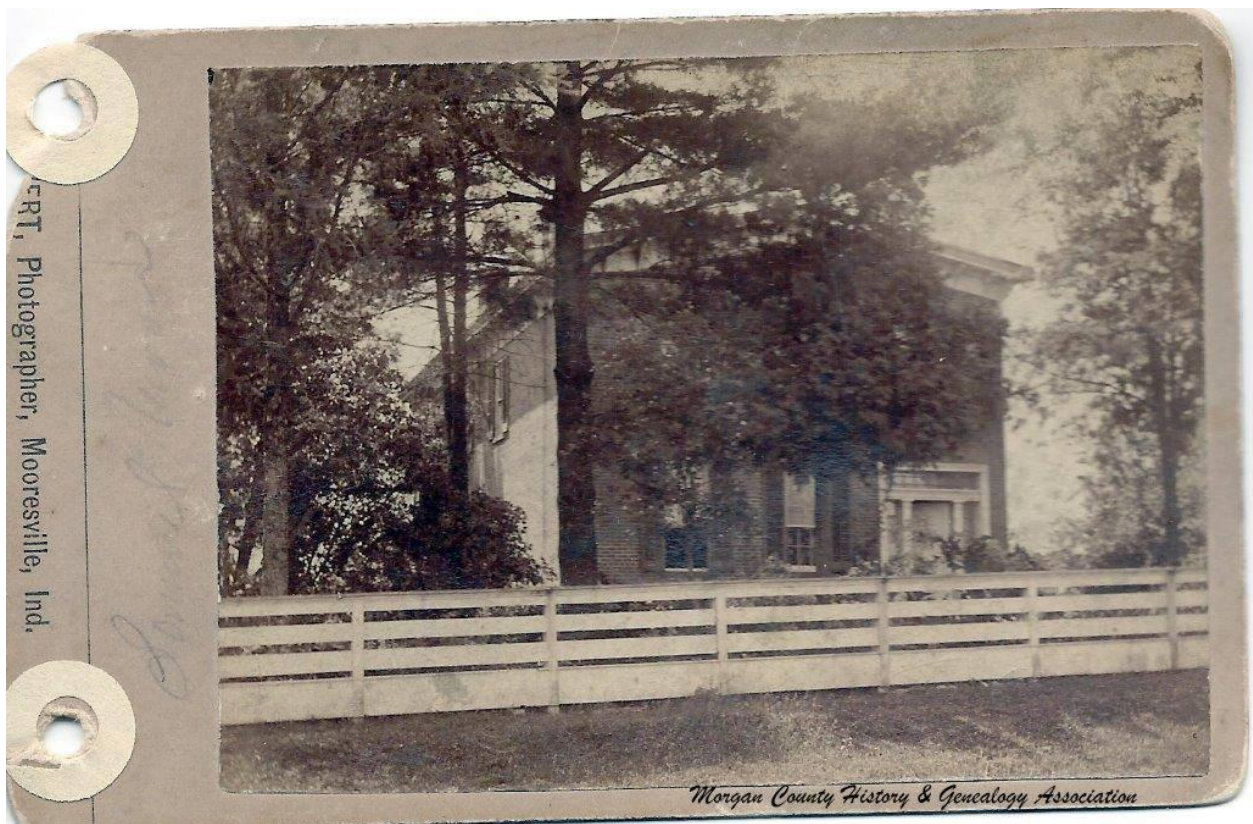
- **Elizabeth Chandler Cox house:** J.P. Calvert noted that this was the home of "Mrs. Cox," by whom he probably meant Elizabeth Chandler (1823-1899), who married Paul Cox (1808-1876) in Morgan County in the Fall of 1846. They had seven children. When Paul died in 1876, he left his farm to Elizabeth, who continued to manage the property "with skill," all while raising four of their children who were still minors after Paul's passing, as noted in [Blanchard's biographical sketches](#) (1884). [Elizabeth's obituary](#) is found in our Legacy Links database.



- **W. D. Overton house:** William D. Overton (born 1852 in Northampton County, North Carolina) left home during the Civil War (due to his anti-slavery position) and came to Morgan County in winter, 1874, where he farmed near Monrovia until 1882. He then clerked in the hardware store of Hobbs & Johnson in Mooresville. He bought Mooresville Grain Elevator in July 1883. [Overton's obituary](#) is available in our Legacy Links database.



- **Dr. A. W. Reagan house (?):** Although J.P. Calvert appears to have written the letter D (in cursive) as the subject's first name initial, he may have meant "Dr.", in which case this might be the residence of Dr. Amos Wilson Reagan (1826-1907), who was a longtime physician in Mooresville. Dr. Reagan built the Redman Lodge building at 11-13 East Main Street in downtown Mooresville. [Dr. Reagan's obituary](#) is available in our Legacy Links database. Reagan has an extensive biographical sketch in Blanchard's *Counties of Morgan, Monroe, & Brown: Historical & Biographical* (Chicago: Battey & Co., 1884), available in our [Evergreen Indiana catalog](#).

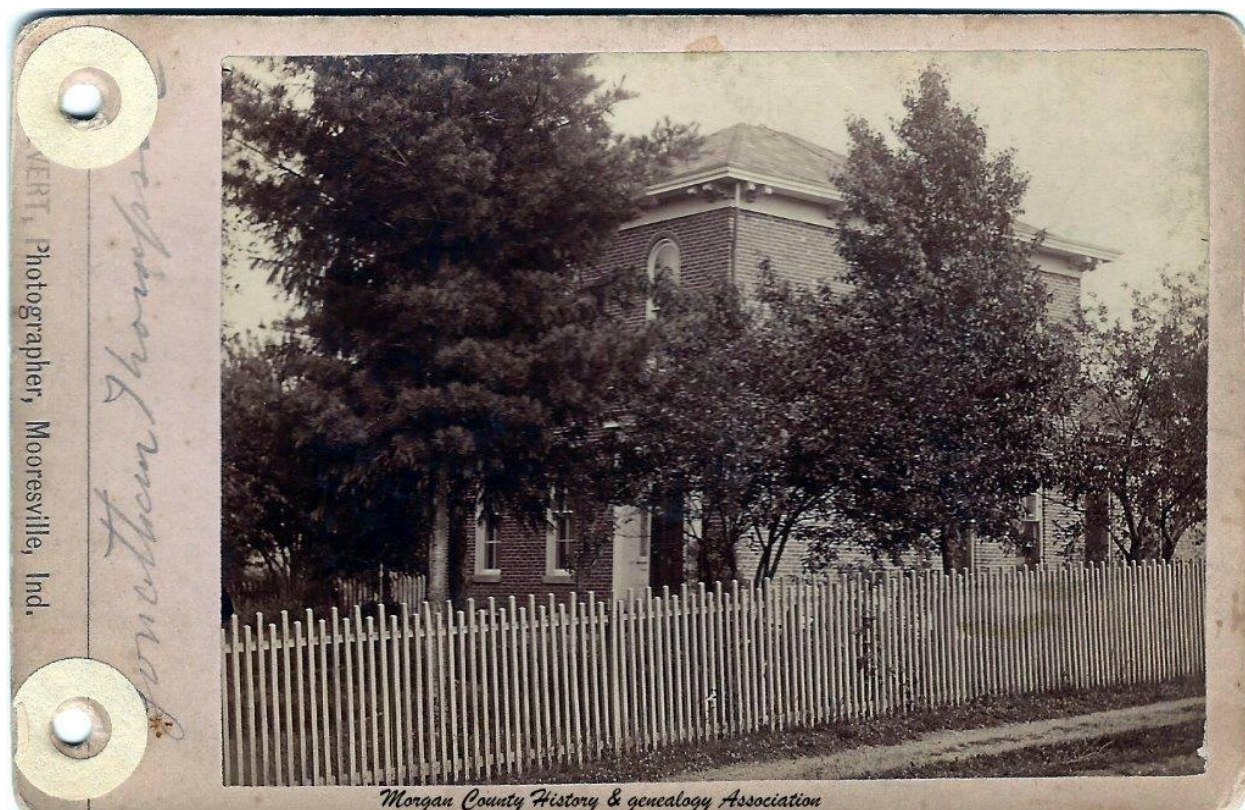


- **Washington Conduitt-Samuel Moore house**, 35 West High Street in Mooresville. In 1852 Samuel and Eliza Moore gave their daughter, Mary M. (Moore) Conduitt, two lots on West High Street to build her home with her husband, Washington Conduitt. In late 1852-early 1853, Washington Conduitt constructed a 12-room, gable-front, Greek revival style house (with three halls and pantries) at 35 West High Street. Due to the steep slope at the rear of the property, a large cellar was built with a laundry furnace, vegetable bins, and storerooms. The couple had only lived in the home a short time when Mary died of pneumonia (October 13, 1853). Washington had been to Cincinnati to purchase goods for Samuel's general store, where he also purchased a beautiful parlor clock as a house-warming gift for his wife. She died just as he returned. Heartbroken, Washington decided he could no longer reside there, and so Samuel and Eliza purchased and moved into the home in late 1853-early 1854, focusing attention on landscaping the property (to ease the pain of the recent family deaths—Mary in October, 1853, as well as Samuel and Eliza's daughter, Jane M. [Moore] Newby, who died, along with her newborn son, Frank Newby, in

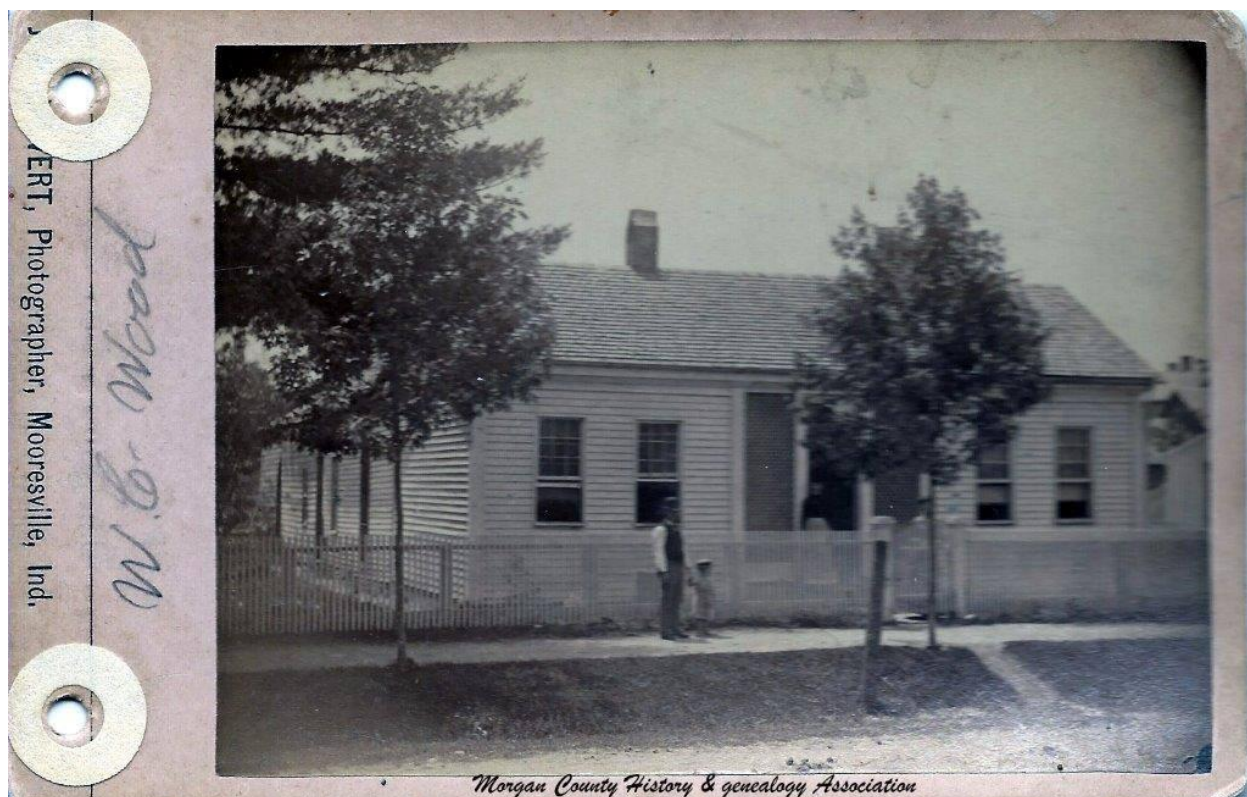
August and September, 1853, respectively). The house walls were thick, with yellow poplar trim and hand-made bricks. Samuel and Eliza lived there until their deaths (1873 and 1889, respectively). Thereafter, their daughter, Margaret “Maggie” (Moore) Fogleman, her husband, David Fogleman, and their daughter, Mary Ida Fogleman, occupied the residence. Ida Fogleman sold the property in 1950 due to declining health. The house is the only former Moore home that still stands today. Learn more about Samuel Moore on our [“famous Mooresvillians” web page](#).



- **T. C. Sumner house:** Thomas C. Sumner (1837-1905) had his family home on West High Street in Mooresville. [His obituary](#) is found in our Legacy Links database.



- **J. H. Thompson house:** Jonathan Hadley Thompson (1816-1884) came to Morgan County in 1845, living four miles west of Mooresville. Between 1847-1867 he lived in Tipton County, until changes in county lines placed him in Howard County, to which he apparently objected. He returned to Mooresville in 1867 and rebuilt the second-oldest brick house in town. He opened Thompson & Son dry goods store in Mooresville in 1867, which his son, James O. Thompson, continued following his father's death in 1884. [Jonathan's obituary](#) is found in our Legacy Links database.



- **W. C. Woods house:** William C. Woods (1857-1936) was a lifelong Morgan County resident. He was a barber for 56 years, living at 25 East Main Street in Mooresville. His obituary information may be found in the Indiana Room obituary card files at Mooresville Public Library.



- **W. F. Hadley house:** William Foster Hadley (1855-1923) was born in Brown Township, Morgan County. At age 12, he was placed in charge of the M. & M. Gravel Road Toll Gate, just west of Mooresville (on the Monrovia road--now state road 42). At age 15 he joined R.R. Scott in his grocery business in Mooresville and studied pharmacy at J. Edwards' drug store the following year. He became a telegrapher for the Indianapolis & Vincennes Railroad in the Fall of 1872. He was named cashier at Mooresville's Farmers State Bank in 1881. In 1882 the citizens of Mooresville elected him as town treasurer, but he declined the position. He also worked in the firm of A.W. Hadley & Brothers, who manufactured drainage tiles, and he also held interests in grain and coal businesses. [His obituary](#) is found in our Legacy Links database.