

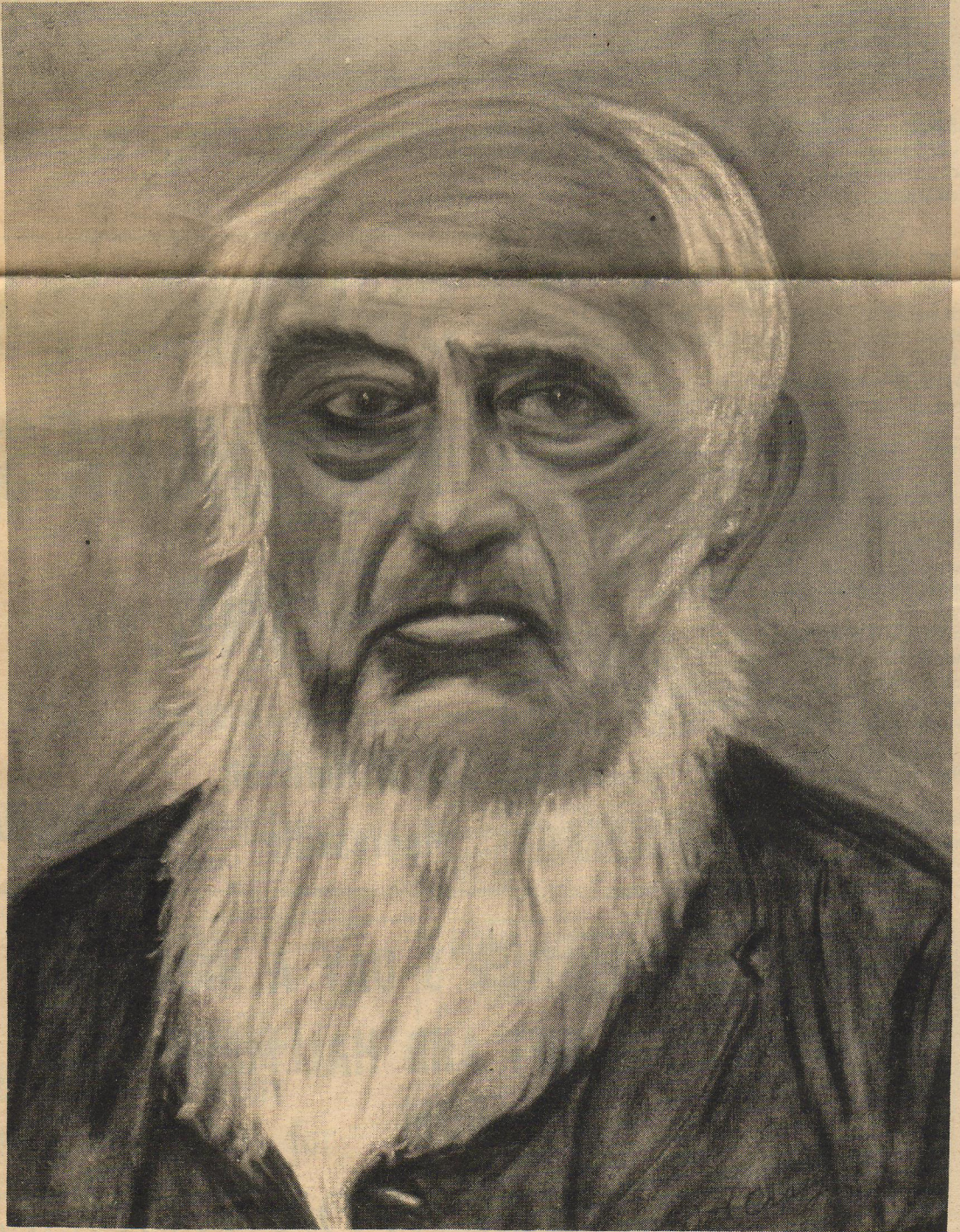
MOORESVILLE WEEK



APRIL 16—23, 1966

Sam Moore's Dream
Becomes Mooresville

Special Supplement to
The Messenger
Monday, April 11, 1966



SAMUEL MOORE

Samuel Moore, founder of Mooresville, was born in North Carolina on January 21, 1799. He came to Washington County and settled near Salem in 1818. He came to this locality in 1823. He married Miss Eliza Worthington of Madison, on April 15, 1828 and they lived a long and happy life together. He has no living descendants.

Sam Moore's Dream Becomes Mooresville

By Wanda Potts

The history of Mooresville properly begins in 1823 with the arrival of a young man into an undeveloped territory in the northeast corner of a six-year-old county near the central part of a seven-year-old state.

According to the recorded memory of one settler, John D. Carter, "Sam Moore came up here from Blue River in Washington County, in the summer of 1823 and bought about \$400 worth of store goods and got a cabin that was used for a blacksmith shop which stood on the land near the bluff of the large bottom land south of where the town stands now. My father and Uncle Joshua fixed up shelves and Sam Moore commenced selling commodities and bought ginseng, coonskin, beeswax etc. There were a few Indians camped up the creek and they came and traded with Moore".

"In the Spring of 1824, Samuel Moore bought 160 A. of land and laid off a town on the hill and called it Mooresville".

Little is known of the hopes and dreams or of the character of his background and education which would prompt so young a man to undertake the immensity of building of a town.

What ambitions he had for a large and prosperous city are not known either, but he started his town with vision and ingenuity, choosing a location with plenty of water yet safe from flood, surrounded by good agricultural land and with the foresight to limit its early inhabitants to sturdy upright stock.

Hesitating about the size of his proposed project, he first considered beginning with 10 acres but finally took the advice of two friends who insisted that it "would take twenty acres to make a first class trading post".

Four blocks were laid out consisting of five acres each, each block containing sixteen lots, the centering line of the four blocks still the main intersection of the town.

The first road opened from Indianapolis to Terre Haute passed through Mooresville and the first frame house built between those two points was the storehouse of Samuel Moore on the northeast corner of the square where his town began and where he sold goods for 44 years.

Fifteen years passed after the platting of the town before lots were sold to the public and during this time Moore discreetly chose those he wished to be his citizens, often giving away lots and sometimes houses. In this selective way, he was able to lay the foundation for a community of strict principle, morality and industry, accommodating only those who were upright, honest, moral, industrious and sober.

When Indianapolis (whose natural advantages were no better and whose early prospects were not so good) was chosen as the state capitol, Mooresville relapsed. In 1867 the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad was secured and helped infuse the town with new vigor and prosperity.

The cause of the Union had been bravely defended by a company of Mooresville men, one hundred volunteering in one day, and during the three following wars she sent her share to foreign fields and sacrificed more than her fair share. She proudly honors her heroes both living and dead with a permanent monument on the Newby School campus and with Memorial Field for athletics behind the school.

In 1871, to the astonishment of Moore and those who doubted the propriety of his squandering 20 acres of choice land for the building of a town, the town had grown to cover over 300 acres of land, containing 167 blocks, 364 lots and 1,000 inhabitants; still the cry was "more room".

Death took the respected founder of the town on March 1, 1889 at the age of 90. It was written at that time: "To his credit, be it spoken that during his stay in this community, having business transactions of some character with almost every person here, he is without an enemy."

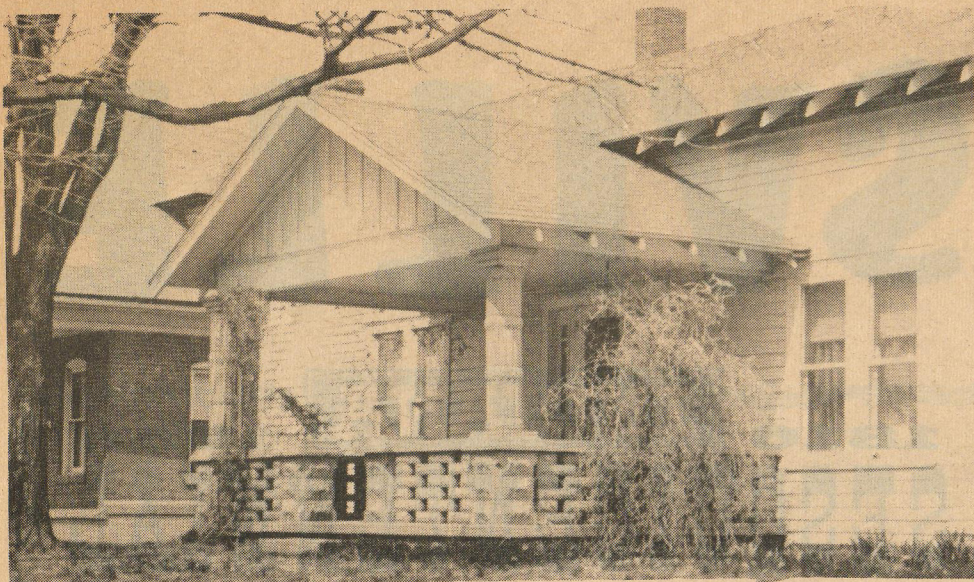
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In 1924, Mooresville celebrated her 100th birthday with a two day gala party -- "A Centennial Celebration, given as an expression of appreciation of those who made a pathway here".

The depression took its toll -- the furniture factory which had been its main industry and then the traction line -- and the roll of history and automobile wheels began an influence that eventually evolved the town into a residential suburb of Indianapolis, with most of her people employed in the "City".

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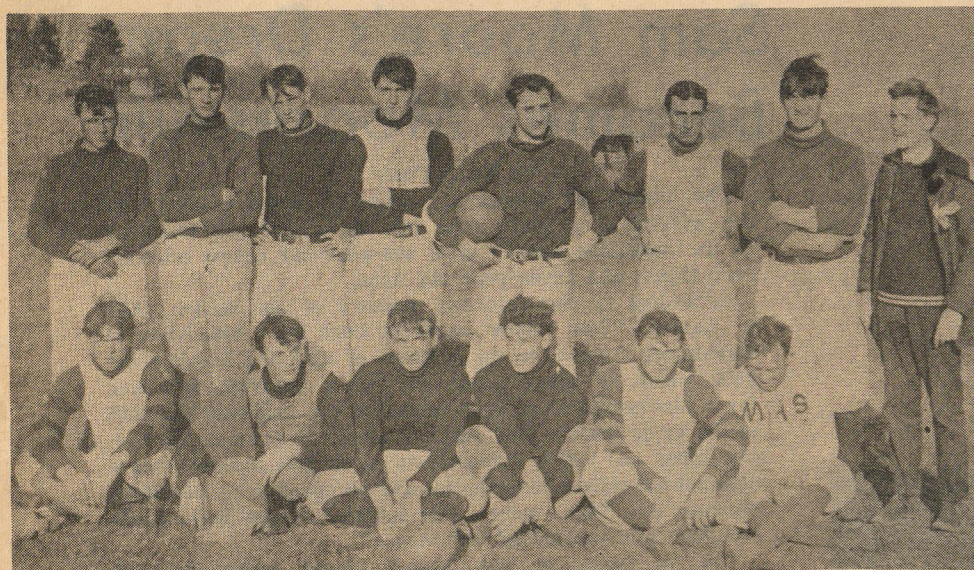
FIRST SCHOOL SITE

The Fred Rushton home sits on the site of the first school building in Mooresville.



NAMED FOR FLAG DESIGNER

The Paul Hadley Junior high school was named for the designer of the present Indiana flag who lived in Mooresville.



FIRST FOOTBALL TEAM

The picture of the 1902 Mooresville football team was loaned by Mrs. Frank Housand, widow of one of the players. Players are (left to right, standing) Jess Richardson, Frank Fields, Don Alders, (deceased) Frank Housand, Homer Jessee, George King, (deceased) Tilden McNeff, Percy Calvert (deceased), (front row) George Reynolds (deceased) Charles Comer, Mearl Parks, Elem Duffy, Carl White, Frank Bain.



OLDEST SCHOOL IN USE ?

The Old Academy Building, built by Friends in 1861, is believed to be the oldest school building in the state, still in use. Citizens hope to preserve it and use it as a museum.

We've Grown

- In Education
- In Population
- In Industry
- In Retail Trade

**BUT YOU AIN'T SEEN
NOTHING YET!**

Mooresville Chamber of Commerce

Alumni Banquet Plans

Two sesquicentennial exhibits will be part of the Mooresville High School Association festivities in Mooresville on Saturday, April 23.

An exhibit by the Brown Township sesquicentennial committee will be featured in the Old Academy Building and will be open to the public.

In the new high school, an exhibit prepared by the history department under the direction of Miss Robbins will be on display. The English department is building a model house; each room to portray a scene from a book by a famous Indiana author. The geometry classes are working on a display dealing with the expansion of the boundaries of the town, another on the different types of architecture. Other departments are preparing special displays.

Registration for the Alumni affair will begin at 3 p.m. in the new high school building and all buildings of the school will be open for inspection until 5:30. Members of the 1966 graduating class will act as guides to show visitors through the buildings.

The banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a dance and social time for visiting.

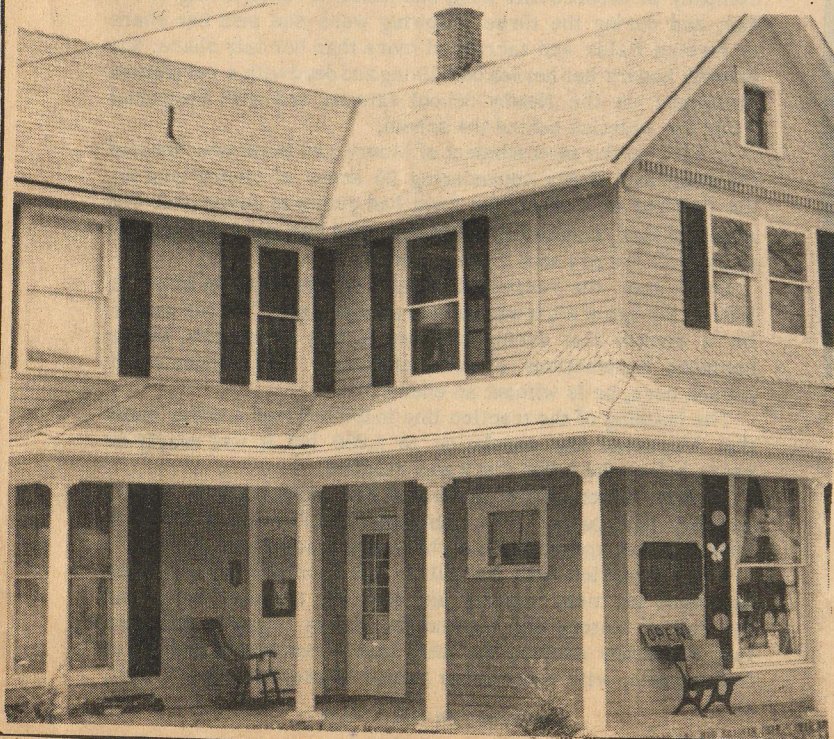
Representative William Bray is scheduled to speak to the gathering.

Mrs. Kenneth Kitchen is chairman for banquet reservations and Mrs. Rebecca Hardin is taking care of dues. Annual dues for membership in the association are \$1.00.

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1910 HORSE SHOW

For the horse show, most of the town turned out for the big day. The picture looks west on Main Street from intersection of Main and Indiana Streets about 1910.



PRESENT DAY MAIN STREET

Present day main street as compared to the first picture has changed quite a bit.



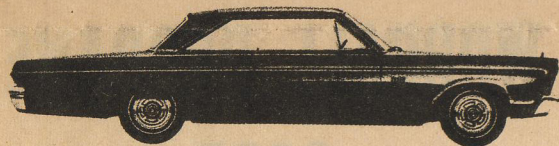
NEWEST BUILDING

The new bank not yet opened has changed the look of downtown Mooresville.



ONE OF THE OLDEST

This building, occupied by Copeland Appliance, is one of the oldest business buildings.



CHRYSLER — PLYMOUTH
VIP — VALIANT

TOM BAKER MOTORS



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831-1821

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Bells for Founder

Near the end of his own allotted 87 years, Ed J. Nelson (who lived at 6 East South Street, Mooresville and died in 1962) recalled for a newspaper his experience as a lad, when he was awakened by his father to toll the church bell to inform the town that Samuel Moore was dead.

Besides hurrying from a warm bed into a cold night, the young Nelson's troubles had just begun. The bell rope broke; he climbed into the belfry to grasp the broken end of the rope and scared the roosting birds; the birds fluttered and blew out his lantern. Climbing a ladder on to the top, he found no rope left and had to ring the bell by hand, nearly freezing his fingers and bursting his ear drums.

Ninety three times he clanged the bell as was the custom -- once for every year of the deceased's life.

The night was deeply engraved on Nelson's memory, but either Mr. Nelson was mistaken or he wasted three rings, for records show that Sammy Moore died at the age of 90.

Nevertheless, the townspeople knew from the solemn and continuous tolling of the bell that their patriarch had passed away.

Nelson's memory was clean on other details and of the funeral he recalled, "It was the largest ever held in town. The grave included a sort of homemade vault made of huge pieces of sandstone placed at both ends, both sides and at the top of the casket. These stones were taken from a quarry east of Mooresville."

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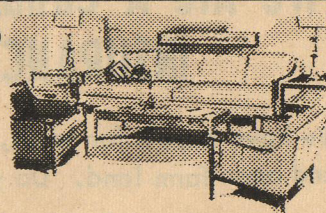
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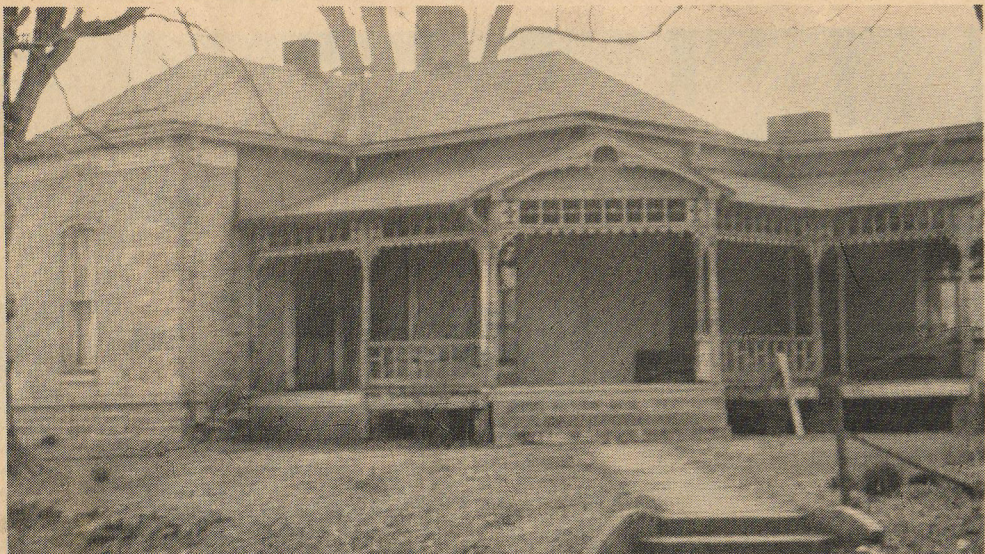
Corner of Ind.
& Main

831-4965



FOUNDERS HOUSE

Known as the Old Samuel Moore Home, it was built by Wash Conduitt who was married to Samuel Moore's daughter. When she died, Conduitt sold it to his father-in-law who lived there until his death.



ONE OF THE OLDEST HOMES

This brick house west of Old Settlers' Ground is one of the older homes built about 1877 by Stewart Corner, now the residence of Ralph Peck, a distinguished artist who has done work in Indianapolis and assembled the mural in the State Office Building.



FAVORITE SPOT

The McCracken House (Old Hotel) once a favorite spot in Mooresville, was located on West Main Street (south side) about where the Omar Park Agency now stands.



FIRST CHURCH

The Old Methodist Church, Mooresville's first church, stood on West Washington Street. It was torn down when the present M.E. Church was built.

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DRUGS

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MOORESVILLE
INDIANA**

Sam Moore's

Continued from Page One

A year of notorious newspaper headlines ended at the Harvey Funeral Home one summer night in 1934 and a small town sorrowed and wondered where they had failed a young man in his formative years.

A sensational fire or two, a quickly solved bank robbery, marriages, births and deaths and the routine of making a living kept the little town busy until World War II was over and it was not until the '50s that her growth and expansion grew to problem proportions.

Today she shares with many small towns the crises of providing living and educational facilities for an undreamed of influx of suburbanites wishing to partake of her small town luxury, the quiet cleanness of her air, the aristocracy of her moral constitution and her friendly persuasion yet expecting all the cosmopolitan improvements of a large and tax wealthy metropolis.

Like all human foundations, she may have some faults, but today nearly 5,000 people elect to call it Home. A small handful of those are descendants of the early settlers -- probably less than half were born here -- but for the most part they share the final judgment of a venerable man, who shortly before he died looked out over "his town" and concluded: "When I look back to what this country was in 1823 when I came here and what it is now, and feel that I have taken an active part in its development, I am filled with gratitude and thank my God that I have lived to see the present time. I have planted the tree and lived to eat the fruit therefrom."

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