

One Hundred Facts  
about  
Mooreville and Brown Township  
Morgan County, Indiana

References

A. From Notes--Compiled by

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Mooreville, Indiana 1924

Note:

The notes were prepared by Miss Scott for use during the Centennial Celebration of Mooreville, 1924; and it is obvious that many items refer to conditions existing in Mooreville at that time.

R. H. Storm.



ONE HUNDRED FACTS  
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MOORESVILLE and BROWN TOWNSHIP

Morgan County, Indiana

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9th District

Morgan County, Ind.

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1. William Ballard who came to this vicinity in 1819 is regarded as the first settler.
2. He built the first cabin on the brink of the hill at the south edge of town and opened the first tavern there in 1820.
3. Samuel Moore came to Brown Township in 1822.
4. He fitted up a store room in the blacksmith shop which had been built by Charles Vertrees, an early settler, and sold goods there for about two years.
5. In 1823, Samuel Moore, bought for \$2.00 an acre, the land now occupied by Mooreville.
6. Mooreville was laid out and founded by Samuel Moore, from whom it took its name, in the year 1824.
7. The ground was surveyed by William Hadley, the compensation for the work being \$4.50 for which Mr. Hadley was given the choice between a desirable lot and merchandise to that amount; he chose the latter.
8. Twenty acres were devoted to the site, this being



## Mooreville (Cont.)

divided into four blocks of five acres each, with two blocks east of Indiana Street and two blocks west of Indiana Street, each of which was divided into sixteen lots.

9. Asa Bales built the first house in Mooreville on the south side of East Main Street, near the center of the first block. - 1824
10. Samuel Moore Rooker, born May 22, 1824, was the first white child born in Mooreville and was named for and by the founder of the town.
11. The first frame building on the road between Terre Haute and Indianapolis was built by Samuel Moore, on the Northeast corner of the public square, in 1824, and used by him for a general merchandise store.
12. The carpenter work on this building was done by Joshua and Natty Carter and the Masonry by Samuel Harryman, who built the first brick chimney in Indianapolis.
13. The first stock of goods was bought by Mr. Moore in Louisville, Kentucky.
14. Up to the year 1833, goods were bought in Louisville; Madison, Ind; or Cincinnati, Ohio; later Mr. Moore bought his general stock in Philadelphia and New York.
15. Mr. Moore sold the first bill of goods that was retailed in Danville, Ind. (Hendricks Co.) to Wm. Hinton and Samuel Wick.
16. He also sold the first bill of goods that was



## Mooreville (Cont.)

retailed at Kokomo, Indiana, to David Foster.

17. The principle currency in 1824 was silver, deer-skins, coon-skins, ginseng, bees-wax and sometimes buck horns.
18. In 1826, Alexander Worth and Company opened the second store and also built a woolen mill on the south side of Main Street.
19. This mill was destroyed by fire about 1840 and reopened in what had been a pork house on West Washington Street.
20. James Kelly operated a tan yard and pottery. He was also a pioneer merchant, being in partnership with Alexander Worth. Other pioneer merchants of a little later period were Daniel and Fred Sheets and Holman Johnson. The latter established a dry-goods store on West Main Street in 1847 and had charge of it until his death in 1882.
21. In 1823, Joseph Moon built a water power grist mill by White Lick Creek south of town.
22. The first brick house in Mooreville was built by James Kelly on West Main Street. It is still standing (18 W. Main St.) being the property of Bertha Moon Sawyer.



## Mooreville (Cont.)

23. In 1831, a large addition of 140 lots was laid out and offered for sale, with many buyers.
24. Mooreville became an incorporated town in 1831. ✓
25. The first town Trustees were Samuel Moore, Asa Bales, W. C. Cline, J. S. Kelly and James Bradshaw.
26. Dr. Curtis G. Hussey, who came in 1825 or 6, ✓  
was the first physician to locate in Mooreville. Other early physicians were Dr. John Heiner and his brother, Jessie, Dr. David Hutchinson, Dr. Giles B. Mitchell and Dr. Amos W. Reagan.
27. John H. Bray and John B. Hadley made the first brick kiln in this section.
28. In 1829 or 30, Mr. Bray built a fulling mill, being the first mill of the kind built in the country. Another industry was the linseed oil mill owned by William Cline.
29. Jacob Combs and Joseph Hiatt were among the early cabinet makers.
30. Daniel May and W.H.P. Woodward, who came in 1835 were the first tailors. Woodward later becoming a dry-goods merchant.
31. Jacob Feazle, Simon Lashley and Beth Scott were early pioneer shoe-makers; James Richardson and Joel Landrum were hatters of the period.



## Mooreville (Cont.)

32. Asa Bales was the first Postmaster in Mooreville.
33. By 1830 a route was established by which mail was brought from Indianapolis each week, unless the carriers were detained by high waters.
- 34/ White Lick Monthly Meeting of Frinds was established in 1823.
35. The White Lick Meeting House, the first brick church in Morgan County was built on a site one mile west of Mooreville near the junction of White Lick and McCrackens Creeks. This was in 1827.
36. James Hadley, who came to this section in 1820, was the first recorded Minister of the Friends Church.
- 37/ The first Methodist Episcopal service ever held in the immediate vicinity of Mooreville was when the Rev. Reuben Claypool preached at the house of John Martin in 1821, in East White Lick neighborhood.
38. The Methodist class at Mooreville was founded in 1828 by Eliza Moore, wife of Samuel Moore, Eli Tansey and wife, Jesse S. Rooker and wife, Joseph Hunt and wife and William G. Cline and wife.
39. Rev. Hiram Griggs was one of the early ministers.
40. Samuel Moore and Eliza Moore gave two lots on West Washington Street on which to build a Methodist church and leave room for a cemetery.
41. This brick church was erected in 1839, being the



Mooreville (Cont.)

first church building in Mooreville.

42. It was dedicated by Samuel P. Jones, without public appeal for money.

43. Rev. John Williams organized the first Sunday School in the Mooreville Church in 1835.

44. In 1881, a number of members withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church and founding the Methodist Protestant Church in the building on East Washington Street, that had been erected by the Lutheran class early in the history of the town.

45/ The Christian Church of Mooreville was organized during the forties and their church was built soon after 1850.

46. Elder Urban G. Brewer, noted as the "boy preacher", was one of the early ministers.

47. The present Friends Church building in Mooreville was completed in 1872.

48. The present Methodist Church building was dedicated by Bishop Bowman in January 1883. It was erected at a cost of \$3,500; Joe Woods --Contractor; an annex being built in 1924.

49. The present Christian Church building was dedicated in 1904.

50. Grant Stafford taught the first school in the



## Mooreville (Cont.)

township near the home of Judge Hiram Mathews, during the winter of 1821-22.

- > 51. Asa Bales taught the first school in Mooreville in his own cabin.
52. The first School Society in Mooreville was organized in Samuel Moore's store in 1828.
53. The first school board was as follows:  
Willis Conduitt, President; Asa Bales, Secretary;  
D.G. Worth, Alexander Worth and Joel Dixon, Trustees.
- ✓ 54. Late in the twenties, a brick, one room school house was built by the society at a cost of \$600.
- ✓ 55. This house was also used for religious meetings and as a debating and lecture room.
- ✓ 56/ This house was destroyed by fire sometime in the thirties and was replaced by a two-room, frame house, at a cost of \$800, which is still standing just west of the M. P. Church on East Washington St., and is used as a residence.
- > 57. In 1861, the Society of Friends established a school and built a two-room, brick building on the present school campus, at a cost of \$4,500. In 1867, two rooms were added on the west side of the original building.



Mooreville (Cont.)

58. John Harlan Stewart was the Superintendent, and Ennise Stewart, the Principal.
59. After three years of service, Mr Stewart was superceded by Joseph Pool, a very talented teacher who had had ten years of teaching experience in the Bethel School, three miles south of town.
60. In 1870, the town became an Independent School District, whereupon the school-house was purchased for \$5,000 of the Friends.
61. A large front addition to the building was constructed in 1884 at a cost of \$4,000.
62. A Commodious school building was erected on the same campus in 1907-08 at a cost of \$22,000; and a large Community building and gymnasium was erected and opened in 1921, having been built by private subscription.
63. A Library association was organized in Mooreville in 1855.
64. The Cooperative library later received a gift from the William McClure fund and became known as the "Howey and Workingmen's Library Association".
65. A tax-supported Public Library for Mooreville and Brown Township was organized June 21, 1912.
66. A gift of \$10,000 was procured from Andrew Carnegie



## Mooreville (Cont.)

to build a Library building which was dedicated January 27th, 1916. This library now have 8,386 volumes and 120 registered borrowers.

67. The first newspaper published in town was the "Mooreville Chronicle," edited by Thomas J. Worth from 1846 to 1851.
68. In 1871, "The Morgan County Vindicator" was published by J.G. Weil and edited by S. H. Lang. This Paper was taken over in 1873 by Benjamin Dakin and E. H. Dorland, the name being changed to "Mooreville Enterprise".
69. The "Enterprise" was published from 1873 to 1875 the subsequent editors being: Albert W. Macy, J. H. Burke, Riggs and McNichols.
70. The "Mooreville Herald," was published in June 1874 by Burke and Handiboe.
71. In 1875, James H. Burke became editor, and sold to E. F. Tennant in 1877.
72. In 1881, "The Mooreville Monitor" was established by Albert W. Macy and William A. Hunt. Hunt soon took over the paper and remained its editor for several years.
73. The "Monitor" was followed by the "Mooreville Guide" edited first by Levi Ballard and then O. H. Mundy.



Mooreville (Cont.)

74. In November 1893, William H. Sage bought this paper and changed the name to "The Mooreville Times.", which name still persists to the present time.
75. A Mooreville Literary Society was organized in 1828.
76. The Addisonian Literary Society flourished in the sixties. This paper, kept by the Society, the "O.K." being named by Conwell Sumner.
77. At present, in Mooreville, there are five Literary and Study Clubs: Likely, Bayview, Art, Delphian, and Woman's Club.
78. The Likely Club is the oldest, having been organized in 1890.
79. The Svings Bank of Mooreville, was established in August 1872, the first officers being: A. W. Reagan, President; Allen Hadley, Vice-President; Alexander Worth, Secretary and Cashier.
80. On July 7th, 1873, the organization of the Farmers Bank of Mooreville, was made complete, having taken over the business of the Mooreville Savings Bank. On June 20th, 1913, the name was changed to Farmers State Bank by which it has since been known.
81. The capital stock was \$30,000, but in January 1874, this was raised to \$50,000. The present capital stock is \$35,000 with a surplus of \$40,000.



## Mooreville (Cont.)

82. The first president was Giles B. Mitchell; the first cashier; Alexander Worth.
83. William F. Hadley, was elected Cashier of this bank, May 16, 1881, and held the position until July third, 1916. He then became Vice-President, and at the death of J. E. Matthews in 1919, he became President, and which position he held until his death January 10, 1923, having given forty-three years to this bank.
84. On September 1st, 1903, The First National Bank was organized in Mooreville with a capital stock of \$25,000. The First President was G. B. Scruggs, and the first Cashier, H. H. Leathers. The present capital is \$35,000 with a surplus of \$40,000.
85. The first steam railroad---The Indianapolis and Vincennes--was built through Mooreville in 1867.
86. The Electric Trolley Interurban Line between Indianapolis and Martinsville, passing through Mooreville, was constructed in 1902.
87. The first electric light plant of Mooreville was built by A. B. Calvert in 1893. The residence of T. E. Lawrence being the first in which lights were installed.
88. The water works plant was constructed by Benjamin Hubbard---. The first sewer was laid in 1924.



Mooreville (Cont.)

89. The Public Service Company was organized, with an enlarged plant in 1904.
90. The first telephone Company was organized March 31st, 1900, the franchise being secured April 3rd of the same year.
91. During the Civil War, Mooreville furnished her full quota of Soldiers.
92. Dr. Thomas H. Dryden, William H. Dryden, Robert Gilbert and John T. Harvey, all Brown Township boys were the first to enlist in Morgan County, the event occurring April 29, 1861.
93. Company E. 12th Indiana Volunteers was organized August 13, 1862, the one hundred men having enlisted in one day. Samuel M. Rooker was Captain, Thomas N. Rooker, first Lieutenant and Caleb Day, Second Lieutenant.
94. Three weeks after the Company left with its regiment, the disastrous battle of Richmond, Ky. occurred, in which many of the boys lost their lives.
95. Soon after this, Capt. Rooker resigned because of physical disability, and Peoples became Captain. When he and Day died in the service, Robert R. Scott was promoted to the rank of Captain and John H. Rusie to that of first Lieutenant, both serving to the close of the Rebellion.



Mooreville (Cont.)

96. In the Spanish American War, 1898, Mooreville was represented in the service by Percy Calvert, Harvey Hutton, Guy Bucker, and Earl White.
97. During the World War, Mooreville and Brown Twp. sent their full quota of soldiers, did their share of Red Cross work and went over the top of all the Liberty Loan Drives.
98. In all of its hundred years of history, Mooreville has never tolerated a saloon for any length of time.
99. Mooreville has the oldest "Old Settlers" Association in Indiana, it having been organized in 1870, and annual meeting hve been held ever since that time.
100. At the close of the Century, <sup>(1924)</sup> Mooreville has a population of 1800 inhabitants, and a propety evaluation of \$1,428,354. It is a thriving business place, with many happy homes, shaded streets and well kept homes. Its citizens are progressive and alive to the best interests of their community.

May we, who are permitted to celebrate this Centennial Anniversary of the founding of Mooreville, always hold in grateful memory the pioneers who cleared the wilderness and laid so firmly the foundations of our town.

May We Continue to Build Wisely and Well.

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