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*Mooreville's Treasure Trove #9 (July 2008)*

*Bill Buckley, Indiana Room Librarian*

*Then . . . and Now*

**Historic Mooreville, IN Scenes and Places**

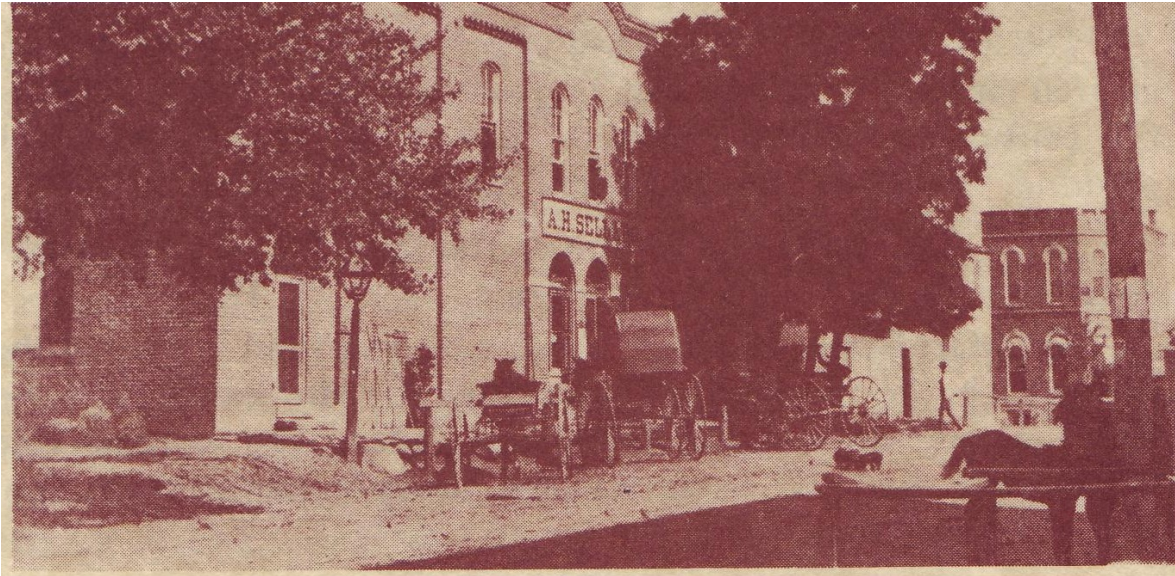
**Taken from the Past and Brought into the Present**

**Then... York & Overton Store, 20-18 (?) South  
Indiana Street (1890s)**



*Figure 1. York & Overton store, 1890s, probably at 20-18 South Indiana Street.*

In the 1890s the *York & Overton* store (see sign on building for order of names, contrary to the picture caption, in *Figure 1*) was located along South Indiana Street in downtown Mooresville. The exact address was not indicated on the photograph, however, but, upon closer inspection, the likely location was 20-18 South Indiana Street.



*Figure 2. A. H. Sellars dry goods store, 1880s, at 20-18 South Indiana Street. Reprinted from Richardson, Clara S. History of Mooresville, 1824-1974 (Dickinson Printing Co., 1974), at p. 23.*

During the 1880s A. H. Sellars operated a dry good store in this two-story building (at 20-18 South Indiana Street). As can be seen in the photograph (*Figure 2, above*) taken from the *Martinsville Daily Reporter*, Dec. 8, 1972, two of the three tall front windows, with the semicircular, sunrise-style windows on top, are visible, and the vertical indentation in the brick to the left of those windows plainly appears. This line can just be seen in the photo from page one (see *Figures 3A-3D*).

The two-story building at 20-18 South Indiana Street was constructed *circa* 1880, probably by A. H. Sellars. In the 1890s York & Overton apparently ran their combination grocery/dry goods/hardware store there. Advertisements from the *Mooresville Guide* in December, 1893 and January, 1894 discussed some of York & Overton's product lines (see *Figures 4A-4B*).

In 1900 J. H. Britton's "cash store" (see *Figure 5*) began selling groceries at this location. Britton ran the business here until his death in 1929.





Figures 3A & 3B. Indentation showing the brick setback in the 1890 York & Overton store photo (left), which corresponds to the setback visible in the A. H. Sellars 1880s photo (below, right).





*Figures 3C & 3D. Notice the concrete lintel running horizontally from the windows to the brick setback, which matches in both pictures*





**Holidays are past.**  
 But we are still in business at  
 the same place.  
 We are prepared to furnish the  
 public with everything in the Gro-  
 cery line. Also Hardware, Stoves  
 etc.  
 N. B. Making and repairing tin-  
 ware a specialty. Give us a call.  
**YORK & OVERTON**

Figures 4A & 4B. Advertisements from the  
 Mooresville Guide, Dec. 22, 1893, p. 4,  
 and Jan. 5, 1894, p. 4, for York & Overton.

Note that no address is given. In a small  
 town like Mooresville in the 1890s, everyone  
 knows where everybody does business. An  
 address would have been considered an  
 extravagant, superfluous advertising expense.



**STOVES!**

Well, you consult us before you  
 buy, we have got or can get any  
 kind you want and can save you  
 money.

From our stock of Hardware  
 we can supply most any want in  
 this line.

Our stock of groceries is com-  
 plete with the latest and best  
 We handle glassware, queensware  
 and tinware

**York & Overton,**

**MOORESVILLE, INDIANA**



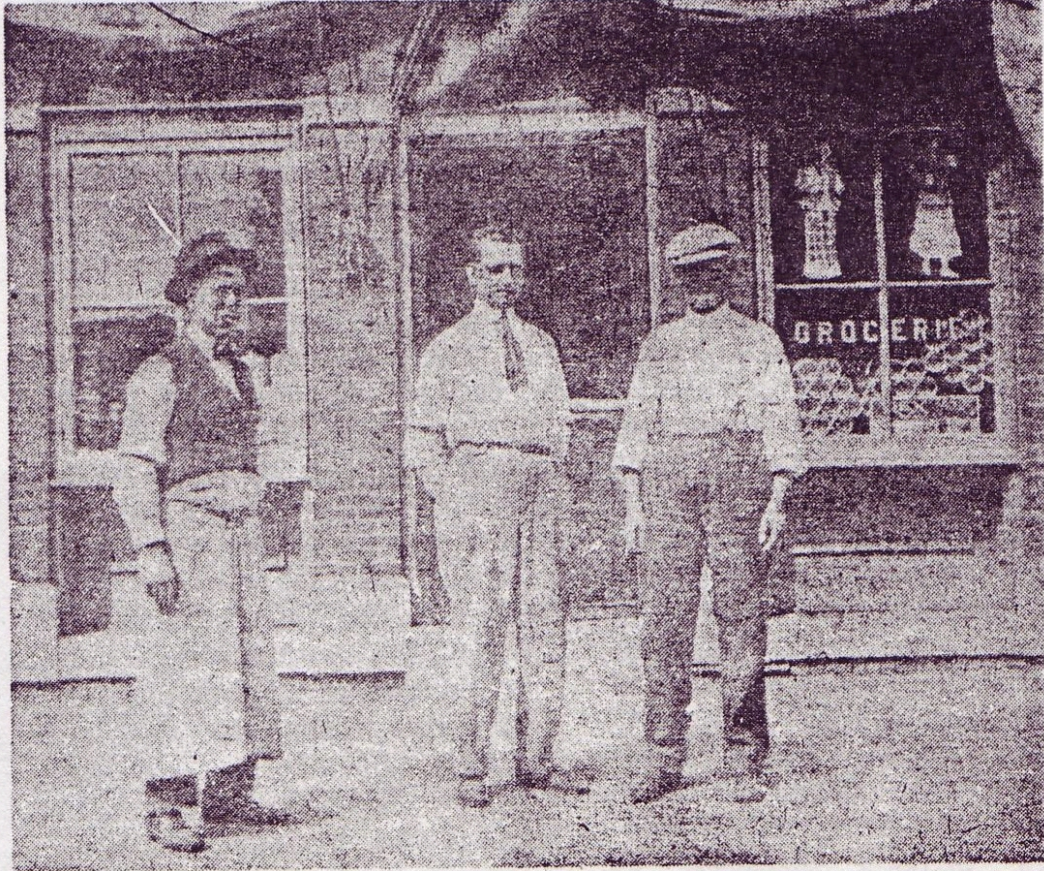


Figure 5. Britton's "cash store" grocery (1900-1929). J. H. Britton (right) stands with son-in-law Horace Hadley (center) and brother Robert Britton (left), who helped J. H. with the store. Horace ran Hadley's restaurant, which was located two buildings to the north in the Lindley Block (on the corner of Indiana and Main Streets). The Lindley Block was destroyed by fire on December 27, 1925. Photo excerpted from Hardin, Rebecca. *Morgan County Scrapbook, Vol. 1 (Morgan County History & Genealogy Association, Inc., 1985, reprinted 1996)*, at p. 297.

After 1929, Walter Smitherman's Hatcheries occupied the building at 20-18 South Indiana Street. In 1950, Harold Copeland purchased the site. Copeland also owned the building next door (to the north) at 16 South Indiana Street, and he removed the interior walls separating the two structures and combined the space for his appliance business, which operated there until 1974 (see Figure 6). Thereafter, the building was converted into office space. When Copeland conducted business there, 16 South Indiana Street was a two-story structure; sometime between the late 1970s and 1985, the second story was removed (compare Figures 6-7).





Figure 6. Copeland Appliance Store (circa 1970) at 20-18-16 South Indiana Street.

## Now... 20-18-16 South Indiana Street (May 2008)



Figure 7.  
20-18-16  
South  
Indiana  
Street  
(May  
2008).

*Figure 7* shows the current appearance of 20-18-16 South Indiana Street. Notice that today's one-story building at 16 South Indiana Street was a two-story when Copeland Appliance Store was there between 1950-1974 (*see Figures 6-7*). Notice, too, the white star between the first and second stories of the building (left side, near the brick setback) (*see Figure 7A*) and compare that with the 1890 York & Overton photo (*see Figure 7B*).

## **PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS:**

All black-and-white photographs courtesy of Mooresville Public Library, Indiana Room historical photograph collection, except as otherwise noted.

All May, 2008 and Oct. 2007 color photographs taken by William R. Buckley.

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Figures 7A & 7B. The current building (left) shows a white star in relation to the brick setback, concrete lentil, and window, which was changed during renovations when J. H. Britton owned his "cash store" (1900-1929). In the 1890 York & Overton photo (below, right), the star, brick setback, lentil, and window show the same positional relationship to one another.

