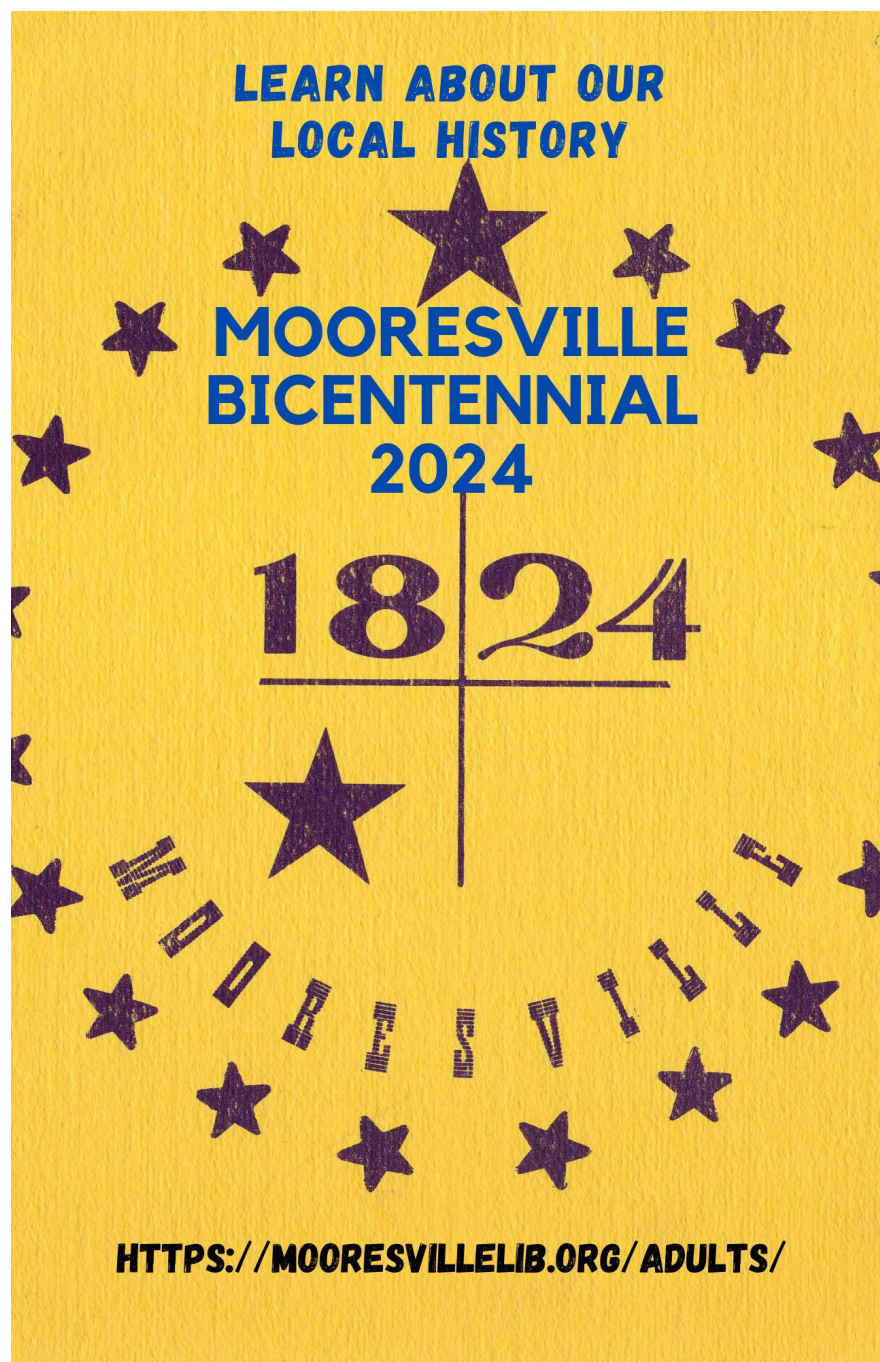


A HISTORICAL TREASURE TROVE OF MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

A Bicentennial Celebration (1824-2024)

By William R. Buckley



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To learn more about the history of Mooreville, Morgan County, Indiana and vicinity, please contact or visit the Indiana Room at Mooreville Public Library, 220 West Harrison Street, Mooreville, Indiana 46158. Phone: (317) 831-7323; Fax: (317) 831-7383. Website: <https://moorevillelib.org/>.

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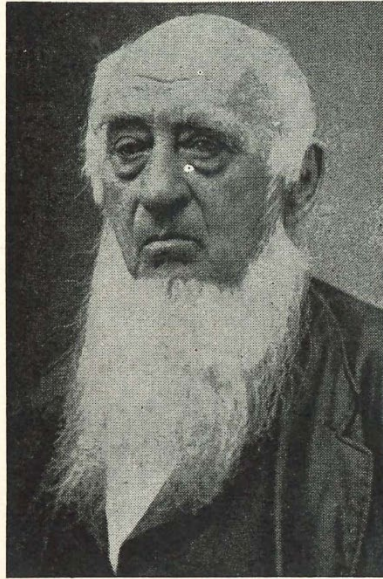
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PREFACE

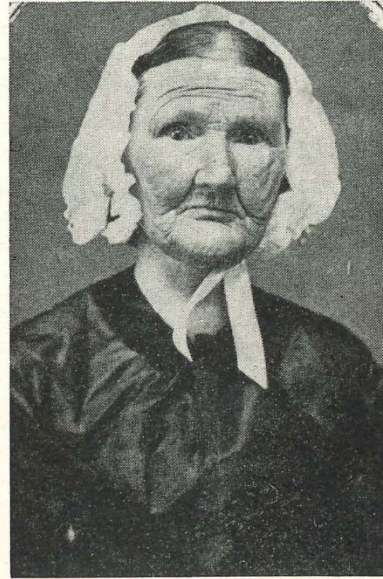
Wanda Potts, longtime Indiana Room librarian (1966-2002) at Mooresville Public Library, wrote a weekly newspaper column in the *Mooresville-Decatur Times* in 1999 commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Moore, founder of Mooresville, Indiana. She called the column “Mooresville Moments” because each installment was a moment in the town’s history. Wanda carefully selected snapshots of the community’s past, focusing upon the people, places, and events in the common local collective consciousness. These were stories her readers—neighbors and townsfolk—would recognize and savor. Mooresville was a close-knit community where people knew and cared about one another. That is what makes its “moments” such a delight to exchange.

Shared memories are especially enjoyable, and this book will attempt to tell some that you may already know; others may be fresh; hopefully, they will all be interesting. Mooresville, like all small communities in America, is a “treasure trove” of historical tidbits. It would be impossible to write an exhaustive history of the town—in any event, others have already done that, as you can see in this book’s bibliography—but “nuggets” from the past are readily available. Obviously, due to considerations of time and space, much has been left out; a trip of the Indiana Room at Mooresville Public Library can complete those gaps readily enough. My goal is to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Mooresville (1824-2024) by selecting historical glimpses from that “treasure trove.” Walk with me through the past and, for the moment, recapture some of those treasures. The rewards are well worth the reading.

PART ONE: Founding Treasures



MR. SAMUEL MOORE
Founder of Mooresville



MRS. ELIZA WORTHINGTON
MOORE
Founder of Mooresville Methodist
Church



CHAPTER ONE

Samuel Moore, Founder of Mooresville, Indiana



Town Plat of Mooresville, Indiana (1825)

Mooresville, Indiana was founded in 1824 by Samuel Moore (1799-1889), whose Quaker family moved from North Carolina in 1818 to Washington County, Indiana, settling near the town of Salem. The Moore family found slavery inconsistent with their religious beliefs and moved north to escape the practice. Samuel moved away from his family and settled in Brown Township, Morgan County, Indiana, in 1822.

Samuel Moore was not the first European-descended settler to homestead in Morgan County or Brown Township. Jacob Wetzel became the first white settler in Morgan County (1818), and William Ballard settled in Brown Township in 1820. Moore established the first trading post in Brown Township in 1822. It was situated atop a hill approximately where today's [V.F.W. Post #1111](#) now stands on South Indiana Street, a few hundred feet east of White Lick Creek. Moore made no distinctions based on color, race, or national creed; he traded with Native and European-descended Americans alike. Customers paid for his goods in silver, as well as barter items (primarily deer and raccoon skins, ginseng, bees wax, and buck horn).

As his business flourished, in 1823 Samuel Moore purchased 20 acres of land (at \$2 per acre) atop a hill east of White Lick Creek and about a half-mile north of his trading post. He platted the town in 1824, which consisted of four five-acre blocks, with each block

containing 16 lots (see original plat above). The plat was recorded on Feb. 21, 1825. The town, however, dates its origin to 1824, which is the historically accepted date.

Asa Bales constructed the first cabin in Mooresville, and the first wood-frame business structure was built by Samuel Moore on the northeast corner to the intersection of Main and Indiana Streets. Moore conducted business there for 44 years. His goods travelled by wagon and boat across southern Indiana and even as far away as Boston and New Orleans.

In 1828, Samuel Moore married Eliza Worthington, who later founded the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church in Mooresville. Mooresville Public Library has portraits of the couple on display in its Indiana Room.



Samuel Moore & Eliza Moore (circa 1850)

Eliza Moore passed over on December 10, 1873, and Samuel Moore joined her on March 1, 1889. Mooresville Public Library has the original copy of [Samuel Moore's last will and testament](#), executed July 21, 1888, and filed for probate in Morgan County Circuit Court on March 15, 1889.

A Portion of the Last Will & Testament of Samuel Moore (1888; probated 1889)

ESTATE OF

Sam'l. Moore

Deceased.

PROOF AND PROBATE OF WILL

Recorded in Will Record

3

Page

25

Filed

Mich. 15, 1889

David Nelson Clerk.

By

Deputy

In the name of the Benevolent Father of All

I Samuel Nove of the Town of Newville Morgan
County Indiana do make and Publish this my last
Will and Testament

I then first give and devise to my beloved daughter
Margaret ^M Fogelman The Wife of David Fogelman
of the Town of Mooresville Morgan County Indiana
all the land that is Embraced that I now own Except that
that is laid out in Town Lots to the Town of Mooresville that
I now own. So much of East half of South West quarter
of Section thirty Six Town Fourteen Range one East
Lying West of the Rail Road South of the Town of
Mooresville containing Fifty Two acres more or less

Then Second, I give and devise To my Grand
Son Samuel, Me, Newly a part of the North West quarter
of the South West quarter of same section and range
as above described containing Twenty Eight acres and
a half more or less running up North to the Town
line of the Town of Mooresville Indiana

Their Third I bequeath to my Grand daughter
 Mary Idia Fogelman Lots one and Two in Block
 Sixty five Lots one and Two in Block Sixty six Lots
 one and Two in Block Sixty seven West of Indiana
 Street in the Town of Moundsville Morgan County Indiana
 and all the balance of my lands and Town Lots be
 Equely divided betwene, that is not disposed of at my
 death ^{Mary Idia} ~~Mary Idia~~ Fogelman my ~~Grand~~ daughter
 and Samuel M. Newby my Grand son to be divided
 of by them as they may deem best

What would Samuel Moore think of the town he founded if he could see it today? He would be pleased to find hard-working, conscientious people committed to providing a good life for their families.

Visit the Indiana Room at Mooresville Public Library to learn more about Samuel and Eliza Moore and the pioneers with whom they settled, lived, worked, and socialized.

CHAPTER TWO

Family Tree of Samuel & Eliza Moore & Their Descendants

Samuel Moore (Born January 21, 1799, near Albermarle Sound, Perquimans County, North Carolina; Died March 1, 1889, Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana)

Eliza Worthington (Moore) (Born June 18, 1803, Georgetown, Pennsylvania; Died December 10, 1873, Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana)

- **Marriage:** Samuel Moore & Eliza Worthington were married on April 15, 1828, in Madison, Indiana.

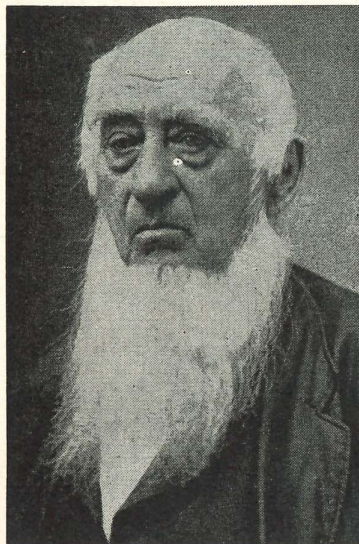
Descendants: Samuel & Eliza Moore had five children: Jane M. Moore (Newby); Mary M. Moore (Conduitt); Margaret Worthington Moore (Fogleman); Joseph W. Moore; Elizabeth Moore. They had three grandchildren: Samuel Moore Newby; Frank W. Newby; Mary Ida Fogleman. They had (by adoption) one great-grandchild: Mary Ellen Simmons (Richhart). They had (by adoption) two great-great-grandchildren: Norman R. Richhart, Jr. and Gerald R. Richhart.

- **Jane M. Moore (Newby)** (Born June 22, 1829, Mooresville, Indiana; Died August 24, 1853, Mooresville, Indiana)
 - Marriage: On June 16, 1850, Jane Moore married **Robert Barclay Newby** (Born July 21, 1827, Salem, Washington County, Indiana; Died September 11, 1890, Morgan County, Indiana). R.B. Newby came to Morgan County in 1845 and was a business partner of Samuel Moore.
 - Children: Jane & Robert Newby had two children:
 - **Samuel Moore Newby** (Born March 1851, Mooresville, Indiana; Died March 17, 1913, Wenatchee General Hospital, Washington).
 - **Frank W. Newby** (Born August 13, 1853, Mooresville, Indiana; Died September 3, 1853, Mooresville, Indiana). Frank died a week after his mother, Jane.
- **Mary M. Moore (Conduitt)** (Born January 15, 1831, Mooresville, Indiana; Died October 13, 1853, Mooresville, Indiana)
 - Marriage: In 1853 Mary Moore married **Washington Lafayette Conduitt** (Born June 1, 1825, Trimble County, Kentucky; Died August 27, 1861—buried in Old M.E. Cemetery on West Washington Street in Mooresville, Indiana)
- **Margaret (“Maggie”) Worthington Moore (Fogleman)** (Born May 22, 1833, Mooresville, Indiana; Died August 12, 1907, Mooresville, Indiana)
 - Marriage: On December 30, 1869, Maggie Moore married **David Fogleman** (Born July 17, 1828, Guilford County, North Carolina; Died, December 5, 1906, Mooresville, Indiana)

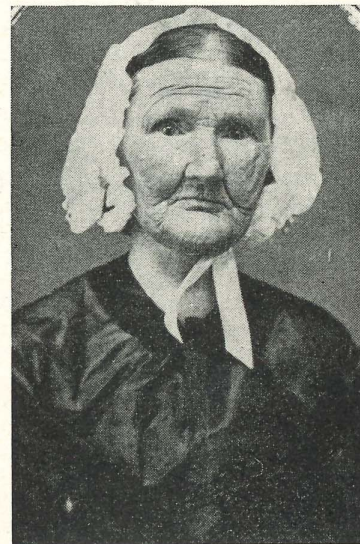
- Children: Maggie & David Fogleman had one daughter:
 - **Mary Ida Fogleman** (Born November 25, 1872, Mooresville, Indiana; Died October 21, 1953, Mooresville, Indiana).
 - Foster Child: **Mary Ellen Simmons (Richhart)** (Born May 15, 1908, Hobbs, Indiana; Died June 24, 1929, Mooresville, Indiana). At age 6 years, Mary Simmons came to live with Ida Fogleman on June 26, 1914. She was a 1926 Mooresville High School graduate.
 - Marriage: Mary Simmons married **Norman Richhart, Sr.**
 - Children: Mary & Norman Richhart had two sons:
 - **Norman R. Richhart, Jr.** (Born 1927; Died October 3, 1990)
 - **Gerald R. Richhart** (Born June 1929)
 - Norman Richhart, Jr. owned Richhart Pharmacy at 3015 S. Holt Road in Indianapolis from 1955 to 1985; he opened Richhart Value Plus Pharmacy in Mooresville in 1964, next to the IGA on North Monroe Street.
- **Joseph W. Moore** (Born August 16, 1835, Mooresville, Indiana; Died July 24, 1836, Mooresville, Indiana)
- **Elizabeth (“Lizzie”) Moore** (Born January 10, 1839, Mooresville, Indiana; Died November 10, 1843, Mooresville, Indiana)

*Photographs of Samuel & Eliza Moore; Their Daughter Margaret Fogleman;
and Granddaughter Ida Fogleman (from the book, A Brief History
of the First Methodist Church in Mooresville, Indiana [1950])*

This Book is Dedicated to
MRS. ELIZA WORTHINGTON MOORE
Founder of the Methodist Church in Mooresville
and Her Granddaughter
MISS IDA FOGLEMAN
Last Surviving Member of the Moore Family



MR. SAMUEL MOORE
Founder of Mooresville



MRS. ELIZA WORTHINGTON MOORE
Founder of Mooresville Methodist Church



MRS. MARGARET FOGLEMAN
Daughter



MISS IDA FOGLEMAN
Granddaughter

CHAPTER THREE

Miscellaneous Facts About Samuel Moore

TRADING POST LOCATION: When Samuel Moore started his trading post in 1822, it was a log cabin previously used by the blacksmith, Charles Vertrees. The structure was situated on the brow of the hill (approximately where today's V.F.W. Post 1111 now stands on South Indiana Street). In 1823, Samuel Moore built himself a log cabin home just east of the trading post, on land he owned that is south of today's South Street. In the historical record, the trading post has been described as being situated near White Lick Creek, a few hundred feet (some sources say yards) north of the railroad bridge. There was some speculation that the trading post stood where today's Kroger stands, but this was probably storage facilities used in Samuel Moore's mills that were nearby along White Lick Creek.

MERCHANT'S LICENSE: Samuel Moore received his merchant's license from George Beeler, Morgan County Clerk, in Martinsville, on April 3, 1824.

SURVEYOR DECLINED LAND AS PAYMENT: William Hadley was the surveyor who prepared the original plat of Mooresville for Samuel Moore. When Moore offered Hadley a lot in the new town as payment for his services, Hadley declined, preferring instead \$4.50 in merchandise from Moore's general store.

EARLY STREET NAMES: On the original town plat of Mooresville (recorded February 21, 1825, in the Morgan County Recorder's Office), some street names differed from their modern counterparts. Harrison Street was called York Street; Clay Street was called Hendricks Street; Jefferson Street was called Adams Street. Washington, Indiana, and Main Streets remained the same. The other streets were probably renamed during the 1840s.

OLD TOWN PARK DONATION: Samuel Moore donated Old Town Park to the citizens of Mooresville at the Town Board of Trustees meeting on October 8, 1877. He concluded his donation "with my very best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the citizens of the Town, I remain truly your friend, Samuel Moore." He also requested that no baseball playing, horse racing, gambling, or alcohol should be permitted or carried out on the premises, as Moore believed these would be objectionable to women and children. Moore also stated that the annual Old Settlers picnic should be held there—a tradition that was carried out until 1995, when size constraints compelled the Old Settlers Festival to be moved to Mooresville's larger Pioneer Park on Indianapolis Road.

NEWSPAPER DESCRIPTION OF SAMUEL MOORE (SEPTEMBER 1871): "The founder and proprietor of Mooresville, was born near Albemarle Sound, Perquimons¹ [*sic*] county in the State of North Carolina, on the 21st day of January, 1799, and was the son of Joseph Moore, who

¹ Correct spelling is Perquimans County, North Carolina.

was a farmer and also had a fishery where Shad and Herring were caught in large numbers, and afforded fine sport for Samuel in his boyish days.

“In the year 1818, Joseph Moore, the father of Samuel, with his family, emigrated to the west, and settled near Salem in Washington county, Indiana. The father being a weakly man, his son Samuel remained with him until 1822, and performed labor on the farm, having been raised to that kind of employment. In August, 1822, he determined to seek a new home and start in the business of life on his own hook. Bidding his parents and relatives farewell, he set out and soon found himself settled on the lands where Mooresville now stands [. . .], and since that time has continued a resident of the place [. . .]

“Mr. Moore was married to Miss Eliza Worthington of Madison Indiana, on the 15th of April 1828, and the two have lived a long and happy life together and still live [in 1871, when this account was written] to enjoy the fruits of their honest toil. All their children have departed this life except Maggie [Margaret W. Fogleman], who was recently [1869] married to David Fogleman, but who still remains at the old homestead to console and care for her venerable parents in their declining years.²

“Mr. Moore was engaged in the goods trade in Mooresville forty-four years [1823-1867]. He bought his first stock of goods [in 1823] in Louisville, then bought in Louisville and Cincinnati up to the year 1833, and from thence bought his general stocks in Philadelphia and New York. He sold the first bill of goods that were retailed at Danville, Indiana, to William Hinton and Samuel Wick, and the first bill of goods that were retailed at Kokomo, Indiana, to David Foster.

“When Mr. Moore first commenced business at Mooresville, the principal currency was silver, deer skins, coon skins, ginsang³ [*sic*], bees wax, and some times buck horns; and among the prominent articles of merchandise [he sold] were pewter plates, pewter spoons, iron skillets, etc.

“Mr. Moore, since his retirement from the mercantile business, has turned his attention to Agriculture, and throughout his entire business life, public and private, has been recognized as a benefactor, always ready to administer to the wants of the poor, and in the erection of churches and school houses; and but a year ago [1870] appropriated, for a term of ten years, a beautiful grove of sixteen acres to be used by the Mooresville District Agricultural Society and for picnics and other public gatherings,⁴ and to his credit be it spoken, that during his stay of near fifty years

² In 1871, Samuel & Eliza Moore lived in the house at 35 West High Street, which still stands today. The house was constructed by the Moore's son-in-law, Washington Conduitt, in 1852-1853. When Conduitt's wife, Mary, who was Samuel & Eliza Moore's daughter, died in October, 1853, Washington decided he did not wish to live there, as he had built the home for his wife. Instead, Samuel & Eliza Moore moved into the house in 1853, moving from their previous home on Madison Street (just south of High Street), which was demolished in 1968, and which was situated where Pioneer Pointe shopping plaza now stands. After Samuel's death in 1889, the High Street house passed to Samuel & Eliza's daughter, Margaret W. Fogleman, and, after her death in 1907, to Samuel & Eliza's granddaughter, Mary Ida Fogleman. Ida Fogleman (as she was known) lived there until August, 1950, when the property was sold due to her failing health. Ida died in 1953.

³ Correct spelling is *ginseng*.

⁴ This land became Old Town Park on South Street, which Samuel Moore donated to the Town of Mooresville on October 8, 1877. It was used from 1870 onwards for agricultural fairs and the annual Old Settlers picnic, which

in the community where he now resides [i.e., 1822-1871, when this article was written], and having business transactions of some character with almost every person in the community, he is without an enemy.

“In personal appearance Mr. Moore is of medium height, well proportioned figure, handsome features and a countenance at once expressive of intelligence and generous benevolence. His whole life has been so identified with the history of [Morgan] county, that few men are more generally known, and no man has ever lived that has enjoyed the confidence of the people to a greater extent. Liberal and charitable to all, still he has been through life a man of positive principles, both in politics and morals; in the former he always supported the candidates of the old whig party; more recently he has been an ardent Republican; in the latter, with his family, he has adhered to the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, worshipping in its congregations, contributing freely of his means and influence to the support of its ministers and institutions.”⁵

SOURCES:

- “Mooreville: Its Past, Present and Future; Historical, Descriptive and Personal—Samuel Moore.” Unnamed newspaper clippings, most likely from *Morgan County Republican*, September, 1871, *reprinted in* Likely, Indiana E. (Parker) (1973). *Mooreville, Morgan County, Indiana Scrapbook: Clippings from the Mooreville Enterprise and other papers of the 1870s and Later*, pp. 75/93-76/92. Dayton, OH: Harmon House.
- Original Plat of Mooreville, Indiana (1824, recorded February 21, 1825, Morgan County Recorder’s Office), MPL Indiana Room display.
- Samuel Moore vertical files, MPL Indiana Room.

began in 1870. Between 1870-1877, it was commonly known as the Mooreville District Agricultural Society’s fairgrounds, but the name was formally changed to Town Park (now called Old Town Park) in 1877.

⁵ When Eliza Moore first established the Mooreville Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church (*circa* 1828), Samuel was not a member. He had been raised a Quaker but left the Friends Church after his marriage. It was noted in contributors’ records in 1839 that Samuel Moore donated \$200 toward construction of the M.E. Church on West Washington Street but was “not a member.” Sometime thereafter, however, he became an active participant in the Mooreville M.E. Church.

CHAPTER FOUR

“Moore” Facts About Mooresville & Samuel & Eliza Moore

(From Fogleman, Margaret W., 1884, *Early Mooresville, 1824-1924*)

- Great Fire of 1842: “About 1842 Mooresville was visited by the greatest fire it has ever known. Beginning with Pa’s [Samuel Moore’s] store there were ten houses and shops before the fire. Next morning there was Pa’s [Samuel Moore’s] store and our house left. The Dr’s [doctor’s] shop at the west and a dwelling house at the east were torn down to check the fire.”

(From Blanchard, Charles. *Counties of Morgan, Monroe & Brown, Indiana: Historical & Biographical* (F.A. Battey & Co., 1884)

- Length of Samuel Moore’s general mercantile business: 44 consecutive years (1823-1867). “He was the leading business man of his day in the northern part of [Morgan] county.”
- First Settlers in Brown Township: William Ballard (probably the first to settle), Hiram Matthews, Benjamin Cuthbert, Charles Reynolds, Thomas Lee, Samuel Barlow.
- Brown Township Settlers between 1820-1823: Asa Bales, William Bales, Thomas Ballard, Samuel Barlow, John H. Bray, Harris Bray, Edward Bray, Barclay Burris, R. G. Burris, John D. Carter (then a child), Joshua Carter, Nathaniel Carter, Richard Day, Joel Dixon, William Gregory, Eli Hadley, James Hadley, Eli Harvey, Samuel Jones, Henry McCracken, William McCracken, Thomas McNeff, William McNeff, William McPherson, William Matlock, Ira Mendenhall, Joseph Moon, Samuel Moore, Levi Plummer, William Reason, I.W. Rooker, William Rooker, Benjamin Thornburg, Charles Vertrees, Benjamin White, John Wilson
- White Lick Creek, first corn mill: “Richard Day built a small corn cracker [mill] on the [White Lick] creek as early as 1822.”
- Raccoon skin tall tale: “It is told on the venerable Samuel Moore, that, on one occasion, a coon skin was traded him for a drink of whisky. He threw the skin up on the loft and resumed his place behind the counter. Some thirsty fellow took it down unnoticed by Mr. Moore, and traded it to him a second time for a drink. The crowd assembled caught the idea, and the cheat was repeated again and again until Mr. Moore imagined he had a loft full of fine skins. It is quite likely that the fellow who told this story had been reading the life of David Crockett, and had borrowed the tale to tell at Mr. Moore’s expense. Mr. Moore bought and traded for coon skins, however, but he recollects nothing about finding

his loft full of emptiness. The tale is a myth. How foolishly credulous some persons are, and how many will base fact on fiction!”

- Wildlife in Brown Twp. In the 1820s: “Mr. Moore says that when he reached the township in 1823, wolves, bears and numerous herds of deer were almost every-day sights where Mooresville now stands.”
- Brown Twp.’s Productivity: “The settlers were so intelligent, moral and thrifty that the north part of [Morgan] county was not surpassed by any other portion in general advancement and excellence.”
- Mooresville Populations:
 - 1831: Over 200
 - Late 1830s: Over 300
 - 1850: About 500
 - 1920: About 1,200
- Mooresville Founding: 1824
- Mooresville Incorporation (as a town under Indiana law): March, 1831, by majority of citizens’ votes (24 of 32 in favor of).
- 1824 Plat: Four blocks of 16 lots each (64 lots total).
- 1831 Addition: 140 lots added and for sale.
- 1831 Town Trustees: Samuel Moore, Asa Bales, W.C. Cline, J.S. Kelley, and James Bradshaw.
- Town Jail: First built in the late 1830s.
- Town Ordinances: Published in the Mooresville *Chronicle* (1846-1851; T.J. Worth, editor)
- Wool Fulling Mills & Cards, & Cotton Bales: “John H. Bray started the first [wool] fulling mill in the central part of Indiana. It was located a short distance west of Mooresville, and commenced operation a year or two before 1830. It was a rude affair, but it served the purposes of the neighborhood. He did not even card. The settlers were obliged to do that themselves by hand. They bought their cards of Samuel Moore, who purchased them in the East with his goods. Mr. Moore also brought in huge bales of cotton, which were purchased and transformed into cloth by hundreds of wives for miles around. A calico dress at 37-1/2 cents per yard (only four yards), was then regarded as the most stylish costume in the woods.”

[From Hadley, Almira Harvey. *A Brief History of Mooresville and Vicinity* (1918).]

- “Far West” / Port Royal / Waverly: Near present-day Waverly, on the Bluffs along the White River, was situated Port Royal, “but pioneers called it Far West.”
- William Ballard as first Brown Twp. Settler: “We have reason to believe that Whetzel trace was continued this side [i.e., west] of the [White] river at least as far as Mooresville, for our fathers have always told us that William Ballard built the first cabin on the brink of the hill in the south edge of town on the Whetzel trace, and later opened a tavern there in

1820.” [This would be approximately where Day’s Hill was located, or where today’s Wendy’s restaurant is situated.]

- Wildlife in Morgan County: “[The county] seemed to be a favorite rendezvous for bear, panther, wild cats, wolves, and herds of deer.”
- Eli Hadley homestead: “Very early in our history, Eli Hadley, father of the late Ann H. Dakin, came and entered the land now owned by J.W. Miles on the Plainfield road.” [This would have been on the northeast corner of East Washington and North Indiana Streets in Mooresville. The Jeff Miles house, still standing, was built in 1865.]
- Panthers just north of town: [In the early 1820s, at the home of Eli Hadley], soon after they were settled in their new home he made a trip to Orange county and one evening during his absence Mrs. Hadley heard the screams of panthers, and after dark some of them came and climbed onto the cabin roof and made the night hideous with their cries, and she was compelled to sit up all night long and keep a blazing fire to prevent them from coming in by way of the big mouthed stick and clay chimney.”
- Moore’s charitable gestures toward settlers: “In 1836 the Sheets, House and Rusie families were on their way from Virginia to Illinois traveling in covered wagons. When the caravan reached Indianapolis they were out of bread stuff but could obtain neither flour nor meal there. They had no better success at Bridgeport and were in a dilemma, until some one directed them to the [Moore] mill at Mooresville. When they arrived here the children were very hungry and Mrs. Moore gave them all the bread she had baked that day. As winter was near, and the cold increasing, Mr. Moore prevailed upon them to remain at least until spring. When spring came, they had no desire to go farther and they have been identified with the interests of this locality ever since. Michael Rusie was a plasterer and, although long since dead, much of his work remains in good condition. John H. Rusie, who has lived in Mooresville longer than any other person, was a small boy then and the only one of the original number left.”
- Banner Mills & Moore’s son-in-law: “The old part of the present [1918] Banner Mills, now greatly enlarged and owned by A.L. Wheeler was built in the spring and summer of 1868 by Captain S.M. [Samuel Moore] Rooker and David Fogleman [Samuel & Eliza Moore’s son-in-law, who married their daughter, Margaret “Maggie” Moore, on Dec. 30, 1869; Fogleman’s first wife, Mary M. Conduitt, whom he married on Feb. 14, 1857, died in Oct. 1867. David & Maggie Fogleman’s daughter was Ida Fogleman, the Moore’s granddaughter. Samuel Moore Rooker was the first Caucasian baby born in Mooresville in 1824. Rooker built the Cook house on West Harrison Street]. The I. & V. railroad was in process of construction but could only bring freight to the road crossing at Tanglewood and in order to be ready for harvest they had all their machinery hauled from that point. The first year they handled fourteen thousand bushels of wheat and elevated all of it in bags to the third story by a hand turned windlass. The first passengers over the I. & V. boarded the cars from a room in the southeast corner of the [Banner] mill until a station was built.”

- Margaret Moore's schooling: [In the 1830s], a brick [school] building was erected [on East Washington Street] at a cost of six hundred dollars. It is pretty certain that Willis Conduitt taught the first school in this building. John Williams who later moved to Bowling Green, was a pioneer teacher. Mrs. Margaret Moore Fogleman, daughter of the founder of our town, attended her first school when Mr. Williams was teacher. She completed her education in a school for girls only, taught by Miss Ruth Hunt in James Kelly's parlor."
- Power of faith vs. selling alcohol: [In discussing the Mooresville Methodist Episcopal church], Harris Bray had been operating a distillery east of town that added materially to his income. After his conversion [to Methodism] he emptied the contents of the still on the ground, but another problem remained to be solved; he had done quite an amount of credit business and his books represented a goodly sum. After musing awhile the books were burned and not a penny collected."
- Mooresville Methodists were a noisy lot: "[During the early 1830s], all the Methodists were so noisy they were refused the use of the school house, fearing they would set it on fire and they returned to Cline's Cabinet shop to worship. [This was before 1839, when the M.E. Church was built on West Washington Street.] In time the schoolhouse burned, but through no fault of the Methodists, and when the brick school house was built they were re-admitted. Rev. Hiram Griggs was one of the early ministers."
- Tolling the M.E. Church bell for Samuel Moore's death: "The last interment in the old cemetery was that of Samuel Moore, who lived to be ninety years old and was buried March 1, 1889 beside the wife and children who had preceded him to the grave many years. The bell that calls the children to the Mooresville schools is the one formerly used in the old [M.E.] church. When our beloved founder realized the time of his departure was near, he said to his daughter, Mrs. Fogleman, "Have them toll the old bell, Maggie." This was done alternately with the church bell, but who can tell the flood of memories that filled the soul of the dying man when he made the request!"
- Underground Railroad in Morgan County: "Eli J. Sumner was the first man to make an anti-slavery speech in this community. These were the days of the so-called underground railway, when fugitive slaves would be taken from station to station and hidden until they could safely be furthered on their way to Canada. An old log house near Monrovia road on John Edwards' farm [west of Mooresville] was one of these hiding places, and it is said two or three colored children were buried there. The next station was east of the Watson farm [. . .] Friends were especially active and all who were interested were law abiding citizens in all things except their fight against the traffic in slaves. This was certainly a charity in which the right hand had no desire to boast to the left of what it was doing, and great care and tact had to be exercised. I cannot remember the name of the party, but I do remember distinctly that on one occasion, especially, a clever ruse was resorted to to assist a run-away slave. The problem was solved by some Friends in the vicinity of Monrovia deciding to attend a meeting in Hamilton county. The weather was sufficiently cool for the women of the party to wear shawls and heavy veils over their plain bonnets. The

fugitive was dressed like the Quaker women and rode in the carriage with them to the next station [in Hamilton County] in safety. This practice continued at intervals several years, or until Lincoln, the great emancipator, by a masterful stroke, liberated the race.”

- Post-Civil War Growth in Mooresville: “After the [Civil] war, and with the coming of the I. & V. railroad, Mooresville began to take on new life and other enterprises located here. A number of new houses were built and older ones remodeled and improved and a general air of prosperity prevailed.”
- Mooresville Enterprise Newspaper: “In 1872 [Benjamin] Dakin and E.H. Dorland launched the Mooresville Enterprise.” [We have some pages on display in the Indiana Room.]

[From Potts, Wanda. “Mooresville Moments.” *Mooresville-Decatur Times* (1999).].

- “Bells for Founder”: [See March 24, 1999 article]
- “Mooresville Remembers Town Founder”: [See Feb. 17, 1999 article]
- “Upright in Character Seen as Desirable Inhabitants”: [See Feb. 24, 1999 article]
- Marriage of Samuel Moore & Eliza Worthington: [See March 3, 1999 article]
- Eliza Moore: [See March 10, 1999 article]
- “Mementos Honored Samuel Moore”: [See march 17, 1999 article]
- “100 Facts About Mooresville”: [See April 7, 1999 article]
- “Methodist Church bell Fondly Remembered”: [See April 14, 1999 article]
- “Miss Ida”: [Mary Ida Fogleman, granddaughter of Samuel & Eliza Moore]: [See April 21-28, 1999 article]
- “Mooresville Sustains Serious Fire Damage”: (Including discussion of the Great Fire of 1842 and the July 8, 1881 fire that destroyed the first I.O.O.F. Building, where Samuel Moore’s general mercantile store had been located): [See June 23, 1999 article]
- “Moore Donates Land for Old Settlers”: [See Aug. 4, 1999 article]
- “The Old Bell”: “A tribute to Samuel Moore, founder of Mooresville, by Sarah K. Marine.” [See Sept. 22, 1999 article]
- “Sarah Marine was Mooresville’s Earliest Writer”: [See Sept. 15, 1999 article]

CHAPTER FIVE

The Homes of Samuel & Eliza Moore

Samuel Moore lived in four houses in Mooresville during his lifetime (1799-1889)—three of which he occupied with his wife, Eliza Moore.

- **1823 Log Cabin:** Samuel Moore's first home was a log cabin he built just east of his first trading post, another log structure Samuel began using in 1822 that had previously belonged to the blacksmith Charles Vertrees. The trading post was situated upon a hill approximately where today's VFW Post #1111 now stands (on South Indiana Street), and Samuel's log cabin homestead was on a hill a few hundred feet due east, on land that is south of today's South Street. Before constructing his cabin home, Samuel boarded with another early pioneer, Asa Bales, Mooresville's first postmaster and co-founder of Westfield, Indiana.
- **Main Street House:** In 1824, Samuel Moore constructed his general mercantile establishment, which was the first wood-frame, brick business building in Mooresville, on the northeast corner of Main and Indiana Streets, where Paul Hadley Memorial Park now stands. He used the profits generated from his trading post between 1822 and 1826 (\$3,000) to build and improve the structure and enlarge his inventory. Around the time of his marriage to Eliza Worthington (April 15, 1828), he built a wood-frame house on the north side of East Main Street, next to his general store, approximately where Sam Wade constructed the local post office in 1909 (10 East Main Street). Samuel's general store and home were the only surviving downtown structures following Mooresville's Great Fire of 1842. A physician's office to the west, and a dwelling to the east, were torn down to check the fire spreading.
- **Madison Street House:** Sometime after the Great Fire of 1842, Samuel & Eliza Moore moved their family to Samuel's farm on Madison Street, just south of East High Street. They built a single-story, wood-frame house approximately where today's Pioneer Pointe shopping plaza now stands. Built before the Indianapolis & Vincennes Railroad came through town, the structure contained a long north room (30 feet-by-12 feet) and a middle room, with east, north, and west windows, and a solid door with a glass transom on the north side. The lot was 100 feet wide with a 20-foot wide alley running along the entire west side (this became Madison Street, connecting with High and South Streets). This plot became part of Mooresville's third addition (May 23, 1849). Samuel and Eliza lived in this house until moving into the Conduitt-Moore home at 35 West High Street in late 1853-early 1854 (see below). Elwood Lawrence bought the property from Samuel in 1884.

Subsequent owners included Jabez Comer, H.C. Scarce, Nancy Manker, Alonzo Wheeler, Robert McKee, and Paul Farmer. The house was demolished in 1968.

- **West High Street House:** 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.

SOURCES:

- *Morgan County Scrapbook, Volume I* (1985) (Becky Hardin, editor). Mooresville, Indiana: Dickinson Publishing Co., p. 277.
- Hanna, Agnes M'Culloch. "Old Conduitt-Moore House Built By Pioneer Family in Nearby Town," *Indianapolis Star Sunday Edition* (October 25, 1931).
- Fogleman, Ida. (1950) "The Story of the Wife of Our Town's Founder: A Tribute to My Grandmother, Eliza Worthington Moore, Parts I-II," *reprinted in The [Mooresville] Times*, August 1, 1984, p. 11A (Becky Hardin, editor).
- "Mooresville—[Miss Ida Fogleman] Will Sell Home," *Mooresville Times*, August ____, 1950.
- Fogleman, Margaret W. "About Mooresville: Many Facts Gleaned From Records and Good Memories" (1884), *reprinted in Early Mooresville: Centennial Souvenir, 1824-1924*. Mooresville, Indiana: Town of Mooresville (1924).
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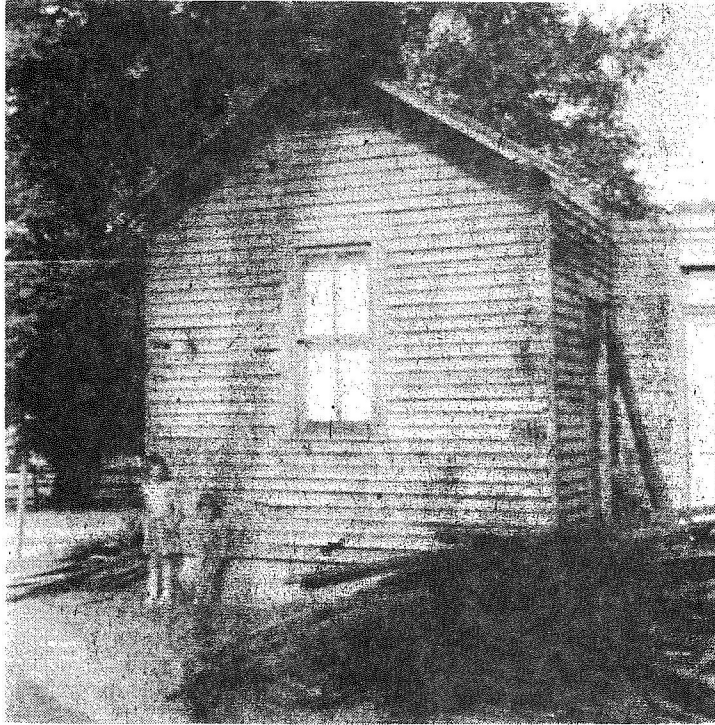


Figure 1. Samuel & Eliza Moore's home (constructed circa 1843) on Madison Street, between East High and South Streets, approximately where Pioneer Pointe Shopping Plaza stands today. The structure was demolished in 1968. The Moores moved into the house sometime after the Great Fire of 1842 destroyed most of downtown Mooresville, sparing only the Moores' general store and house on East Main Street.



Figure 2. The Conduitt-Moore house at 35 West High Street, which is the only Moore home still standing today.



Figure 3. The Conduitt-Moore house at 35 West High Street as it appeared in 2009.

PART TWO: Historical Downtown Treasures

TOP: Mooresville High School students assemble at the intersection of Main & Indiana Streets
in downtown Mooresville on February 22, 1922 (2-22-22)

BOTTOM: The same intersection forty years earlier--Downtown Mooresville during the early
1880s (looking east on Main Street near the Indiana Street intersection)



CHAPTER SIX

A Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Mooresville



PRIMARY & SECONDARY SOURCE MATERIALS:

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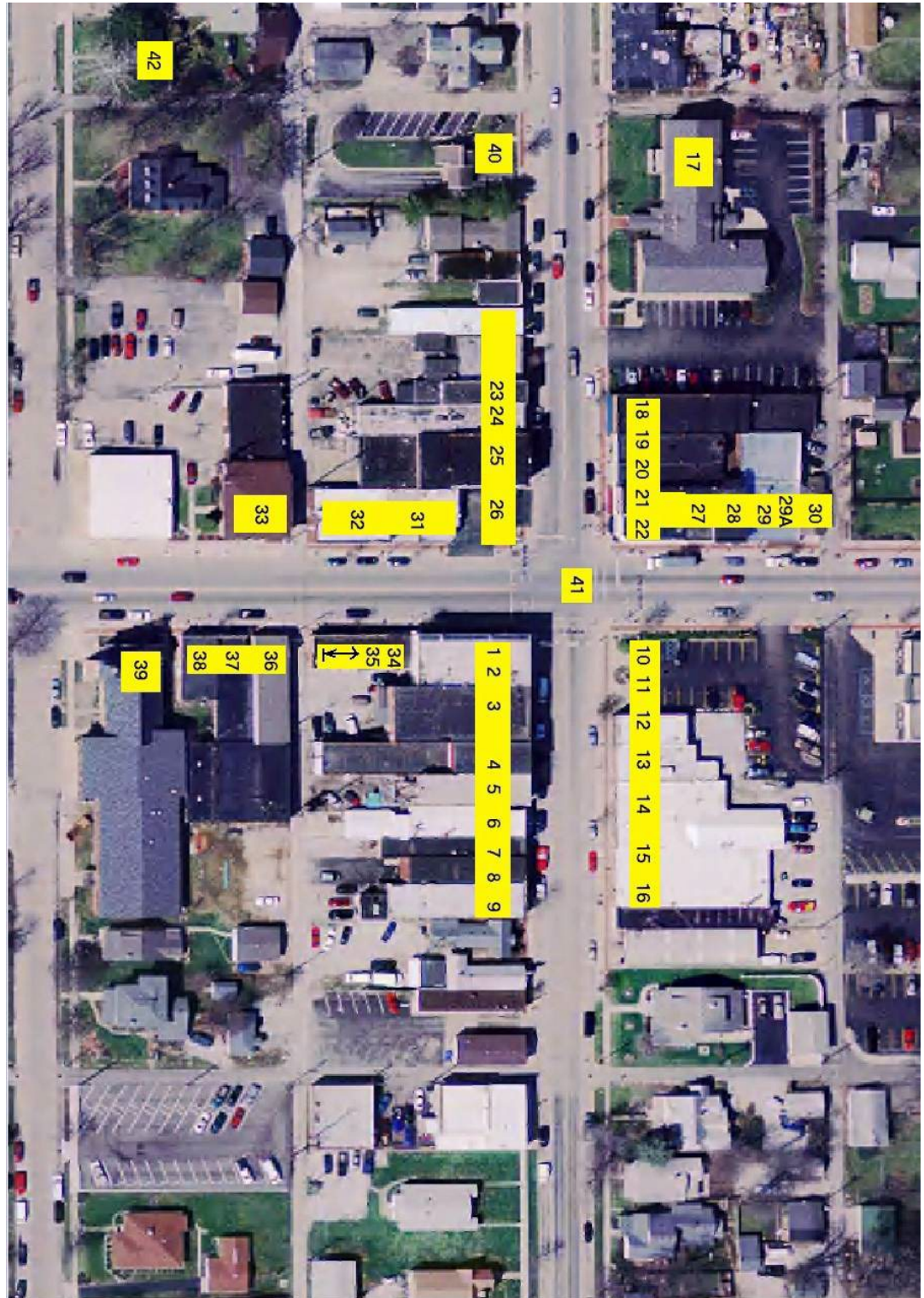
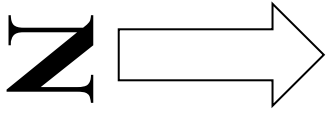
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Stuttgen, Joanne Raetz, and Tomak, Curtis. Morgan County (Postcard History Series). Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2007.

Downtown Mooresville, Indiana (Aerial View)

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1 & 2**3 East Main Street**

One-Story Frame Building (ca. 1880-1890s)

- Built by owner, George W. Bass, ca. 1880
- G. W. Bass Drugstore (ca. 1880-1890s)

Two-Story Brick Building (ca. 1890s-2022)

- Built by owner, George W. Bass, ca. 1890
- Basement
 - Barber Shop (ca. 1902-1920s)
- First Floor, West Half (*shown as [1] on aerial photo*)
 - G. W. Bass Drugstore (1890s-1920)
 - First National Bank (1920-1927)
 - Mooresville State Bank (1927-1930)
- First Floor, East Half (*shown as [2] on aerial photo*)
 - Burch Grocery (1890s-1920)
 - George Allison's Grocery (1920s)
- First Floor, Both Halves
 - Citizens Bank (1931-1966)
 - [Clothing store] (1966-1970s)
 - Movieland USA (1990s-2000s)
 - [Mattress store] (2000s)
- Second Floor
 - Town Hall/Opera House (1900s-1910s)
- Building damaged by tornado (April 8, 2020)
- Building demolished (Sept./Oct. 2022)

3**5 East Main Street**

Residence (on rear of lot) (ca. 1843-1870s); Business Storeroom (1880s-1907)

- Built ca. 1843 by Alexander Conduitt as single-family residence
- Storeroom for G. A. Keller Hardware (1880s-1907)
- Torn down in 1907

One-Story Frame Building (built before 1885) (on front of lot) (ca. 1885-1907)

- G. A. Keller Hardware (ca. 1885-1907)
- Moved to 155 West Main Street (1907-1910); Single-Family Residence (1910-present); Rear Addition (in 1957).

G. A. Keller Building (1907-present)

- Built by G. A. Keller (1907)
- G. A. Keller Hardware (1907-1922)

West Half (divided 1922—reunited with East Half, 1960s)

- Townsend's Market (1922-1930s)
- Voelz & Son Grocery (1930s-1948)
- Gibb's Ace Hardware (1960s-1980s)
- Stevens Upholstery (1980s-?)
- Dickinson Printing (c1985-2000s)

East Half (divided 1922—reunited with West Half, 1960s)

- Wilson Bros. Hardware (1930s)
- Marvin Jones Hardware (1944-1956)
- Gibb's Regal Market (after 1956-1960s)
- Gibb's Ace Hardware (1960s-1980s)
- Stevens Upholstery (1980s-?)
- Dickinson Printing (ca. 1985-2000s)

Second Floor

- Keller Hall (Mooresville High School basketball "home games") (early 1900s-1921)
- Keller Hall (roller skating rink) (after 1921)

4 9 East Main Street

Conduitt Building (1870-present)

- Built by Allen Conduitt (1870)
- Conduitt's Dry Goods (1870-1880s)
- G.R. Scruggs Dry Goods (1891-1918)
- Sellars & Bellows Dept. Store (1918-1929)
- Bellows Dept. Store (1929-1938)
- Bellows & Jones Dept. Store (1938-1950)
- Jones Dept. Store (1950-1960s)
- Merle Sears Heating/Plumbing (ca. 1967-1980s)
- Hession Heating/Cooling (ca. 1989-1990s)
- Spotlight on Stars Dance Academy (2000s)

5**11-13 East Main Street***Redmen Lodge Building (1904-present)*

- Built by Dr. Amos Reagan (1904)
- G.R. Scruggs Dry Goods (1904-1918)
- Redmen Lodge (upstairs) (1904-?)
- Burnstein's Scrap Store (1920s)
- Watson's Drugstore (1930-1940s)
- Brown's Rexall Drugstore (1940s-1970s)
- Ward's Apparel (1970s)
- [ceramics shop, small publisher, computer store, antiques store] (1980s-1990s)
- Zydeco's 5 Restaurant (2000s-present)

6**15 East Main Street***Two-Story Frame Building (Before 1920—replaced by current building)*

- Burnstein's Grocery (Before 1920)

Single-Story Concrete Block Building (ca. 1920-present)

- A & P Grocery (1926-1942)
- Voelz & Son Grocery (1942-1948)
- Western Auto Parts Store (1950s)
- [used appliance store] (1980s)
- [karate/martial arts] (1990s-2000s)

7**19 East Main Street***Single-Story Building (ca. 1910-1920 to present)*

- G.A. Boatright Grocery--constructed between 1910-1920
- Dale Sheet's Appliance Store (1940s)
- Mental Health Association in Morgan County (2000s)

8**21 East Main Street***Jake Mann Building (1919-present)*

- Built by Jake Mann (1919)
- Boatright's Market (1919-1920s)
- Voelz's Grocery (1940-1948)
- Gibbs Regal Market (1948-1956)
- Brown's Regal Market (1956-1965)
- Dr. G. Pfau (dentist) (1970s-1980s)
- Dr. G. McGowan (dentist) (1987-1990s)

9**23 East Main Street***Jake Mann Building (1919-present)*

- Built by Jake Mann (1919)
- McCarty's Dreamland Theatre (1919-1921)
- Clark's Idle Hour Theatre (1921-ca. 1930)
- Allison's Ritz Theatre (1932-1951)
- Town Theatre (1951-1960s)
- Mooresville Times (1970s-2017)

10**Northeast Corner of Intersection of Indiana and Main Streets***Single-Story Frame Building (1824-1850s)*

- Built by Samuel Moore (1824)
- Samuel Moore's General Store (1824-1850s)
- Replaced by I.O.O.F. Building (1859)

First I.O.O.F. Building (1859-1881)

- Burned down in 1881
- Samuel Moore's General Store (1859-1870s)
- I.O.O.F. Morgan Lodge #211 (1859-1881)

Second I.O.O.F. Building (1881-1960s)

- I.O.O.F. Morgan Lodge #211 (1881-1920s)
- Pleas Mills Dry Goods (before 1902-1930s)
- [5 & 10 Cent Store] (ca. 1902-1930s)
- Kroger Grocery (1940s)
- Tompkin's Jewelry (1950s)
- [Pool Hall] (1960s)
- Building partially demolished in mid-1960s
- Warren Insurance (until 1989)
- Remainder of building demolished (April 1989)
- Hadley Memorial Park (1990-2017)
- Mooresville Bicentennial Park (2017-present)

11 **8 East Main Street**

Building (Adjacent to I.O.O.F. Building, Immediately East) (ca. 1870-1960s)

- Built ca. 1870
- Gro. & Queensw. (merchants) (Before 1902)
- Thompson Dry Goods (ca. 1902-1920)
- Shirley/Merriman 5 & 10 Cent Store (1940s)
- Hundley's 5 & 10 Cent Store; Beauty Shop (1950s-1963)
- Building demolished in mid-1960s
- Hadley Memorial Park (1990-2017)
- Mooresville Bicentennial Park (2017-present)

12 **10 East Main Street**

U.S. Post Office Building (1909-present)

- Built by Sam Wade (1909)
- U.S. Post Office (1909-1941)
- Western Auto Parts Store (1940s)
- Habig's Clothing Store (1970s)
- Dickinson Printing (1970s)
- Mayfield Insurance (1990s)

13 **12-14 East Main Street**

Brick Buildings (1946-present)

- Built by Sam Wade (1946)
- Biff's Pioneer Bakery (1950s-2010s)

14 **16-18-20 East Main Street**

Brick Buildings (1927-present)

- Built by Sam Wade (1927)
- Ralph Storm's Bakery (1927-1930s)
- [Bakery—Helfenberger, Stevens, Kelly Poe, Charles "Biff" Hornaday) (1930s-1940s]
- Biff's Pioneer Bakery (1950s-2010s)

15 **22 East Main Street**

Brick Building (1925-present)

- Built by Sam Wade (1925)
- Kroger Grocery (1925-1930s)
- Jessup & Sons Hardware (1930s-1940s)
- Kroger Grocery (1948-1962)
- Western Auto Parts Store (1960s)
- Buffalo Gal Antiques (1990s-ca. 2010)

16 **24 East Main Street**

Sam Wade Building (1917-present)

- Built by Sam Wade (1917)
- Sam Wade's Plumbing (1917-1968)
- Western Auto Parts Store (1960s-1970s)

17 **30 (later, 32) West Main Street**

Carnegie Building (1916-present)

- Mooresville Public Library (1916-1988)
- Mooresville Savings Bank (1990s)
- First Indiana Bank (2000s)

18 **12 West Main Street**

Single-Story Building (ca. 1906-present)

- Built by H. W. Lindley (ca. 1906)
- Lindley & Widner Hardware (ca. 1906-1910)
- Lindley & Jessup Hardware (1910-1920s)
- H. W. Lindley Hardware (1920s-1944)
- Nelson & Son Hardware (1944-1981)
- [Hardware Store, Pet Shop] (1981-1980s)
- Tri-County Sports (1980s-present)

19 **10 West Main Street**

Single-Story Building (1890s-present)

- Built in the 1890s by Manker & Cooper
- [Grocery/Hardware Store] (Before 1902-1910s)
- [Drugstore] (1920s)
- Francis Photography (1920s)
- Ad Sellars Dept. Store (ca. 1930-1933)
- Leon Adler's Dept. Store (1933-1967)
- Yellow Moon Antique Mall (1990s-present)

20 **8 West Main Street**

Single-Story Building (1890s-present)

- Built in 1890s by Manker & Cooper
- [Harness & Buggy Shop] (Before 1902-1920)
- Boyd's Market (1926-1947)
- Hinshaw's Market (1947-1953)
- Harold Moore's Market (1953-1967)
- Ward's Apparel (1970s)
- Yellow Moon Antique Mall (1990s-present)

21 **6 West Main Street**

Two-Story Building (ca. 1906-present)

- Built by Al & Fred Cooper (ca. 1906)
- Cooper's Drugstore (ca. 1906-1950s)
- Hayes Drugstore (1960s)
- Tri-County Sports (1970s)
- Main Street Photography (1982-2000s)

22 **2 West Main Street**

- Buildings located on Northwest Corner of Indiana and Main Streets

Two-Story Brick Building (ca. 1883-1904)

- Farmer's State Bank (ca. 1883-1904)

Renovated Two-Story Brick Building (1904-present)

- Farmer's State Bank (1904-1931)
- Reeve's Shoes & Clothing Store (1940s)
- Federal Savings & Loan (until 1952)
- Anderson Real Estate (1950s)
- John Mills, Attorney at Law (1960s)
- Roscoe Stovall, Attorney at Law (1990s-2000s)

23 **15 West Main Street**

Two-Story Building (1896-present)

- Built by John Taggart (1896)
- Taggart's Bakery/Restaurant (1896-1913)
- "Dinty" Moore Bakery (1913-1930s)
- Hadley Restaurant (1930s-1940s)
- Head-In Restaurant (1940s)
- Pat's Tavern (until 2000s)

24 **11 West Main Street**

One-Story Building (Before 1902-present)

- Built before 1902
- Pace Thompson Dry Goods (ca. 1900-1920)
- Thompson Auto Supply (1920-1952)
- Carl Crowe's Appliances (1989-2008)

25 **9 West Main Street**

Holman Johnson Building (ca. 1895)

- Built by Holman Johnson (ca. 1895)
- Holman Johnson's Dry Goods (until 1895)
- Renovated in 1895

Carlisle & Gilbert Building (1895-present)

- Carlisle & Gilbert Furniture & Undertakers (1895-1948)
- Mooresville Furniture Co. (1948-1970s)
- Harris/Currens Law Offices (1980-present)

26 **1 West Main Street**

Frame Building (1870-1905)

Lindley Block (1905-1925)

- Built by H. W. Lindley (1905)
- Burned down on Dec. 27, 1925
- Similar to modern “mini-malls”
- House of Hadley (drycleaning/tailors) (Before 1918-1920)
- The Toggery Shop (tailors) (1920-1925)
- Fred Cooper’s Jewelry (replaced by Mrs. Lyon’s)
- Other Businesses (until 1925):
 - Wadley Creamery
 - Milhon’s Watch Shop
 - Mrs. Lyon’s Millinery
 - Bill Woods’ Barbershop
 - Kroger Grocery
 - William Moore’s Pool Room
 - Nick Banos Candy Shop

Fenced Vacant Lot (1926-1938)

Single-Story Building (1938-present)

- Built by Harry Wilson, Sr. (1938)
- George Park’s Pure Oil Station (1938-1940)
- Brewer & Son Gas Station (1940s)
- Selke’s Pure Oil Station (early 1950s-1955)
- Dale Richardson’s Pure Oil Station (1956-1959)
- Paul Mason’s Pure Oil Station (1959-1960)
- Lightle’s Gas Station (1960s)
- Marathon Oil Station (until 1974-75)
- Rogers Coffee, Tea, Potpourri (ca. 1985)
- [Jewelry Store] (1990s-2000s)
- Edward Jones Investment Firm (2008-ca. 2017)

27 **8 North Indiana Street**

Two-Story Building (1918-present)

- Built in 1918
- Farmer’s State Bank (1918-1928)
- Paul Carson (1928-?)

- [Real Estate Firm] (ca. 1974)
- Roscoe Stovall, Attorney at Law (1990s-2000s)

28 **10 North Indiana Street**

Two-Story Building (ca. 1902-present)

- Built by Al & Fred Cooper (ca. 1902)
- E. W. Day's Grocery (ca. 1902-1909)
- [Dry Goods Store] (1920s)
- Lusty's Electrical Shop (1920s)
- Edith Shirley's Ladies Clothing & Millinery (1930s-1940s)
- Guido's Pizza (2000s-2007)
- [Card Shop] (2007-2008)

29 & 29A **14-16 North Indiana Street**

16—North Building (Single-Story) (ca. 1902-present)

- Built ca. 1902 by W. L. Tresslar
- [Butcher Shop] (ca. 1902-1910)
- Wadley Feel Co. (1920s)
- U.S. Post Office (1941-1960)
- Bob & Don's Barber Shop (1960-present)

14—South Building (Single Story) (ca. 1902-present)

- Built ca. 1902 by Shelley & Morrison
- [Blacksmith Shop] (ca. 1902-1910)
- [Offices] (1920s)
- Dake's Tavern (1940s-1960s)
- [Tavern] (1960s-2000)
- Indiana Farmer's Insurance (2000-present)

30 **18 North Indiana Street**

Single-Story Building (ca. 1874-present)

- Built ca. 1874
- Savings Bank of Mooresville (1874-1880)
- Dr. Clark Robbins (medical practice) (1880-1900)
- [Drugstore] (ca. 1902)

- [Dry Goods Store] (ca. 1910)
- Wadley Feed Co. (1920s)
- Henderson's Jewelry (1960s)
- Haught Insurance & Realty (est. 1972)
- Alexander Insurance (1980s)
- Autumn Whispers (2000s)

31 **16 South Indiana Street**

Two-Story Building (Before 1902-1970s)

- Built Before 1902
- [A. H. Sellars Dry Goods] (ca. 1900)
- Ross Moore's Restaurant (1910s)
- Sumner Sellars Toggery (tailors) (1920s)
- Franklin Ice Cream Store (1934/35-?)
- Copeland's Appliances (1956-1974)
- Second story removed (1980s)

32 **18-20 South Indiana Street**

A. H. Sellars Building (ca. 1880-present)

- Built ca. 1880 by A. H. Sellars
- A. H. Sellars Dry Goods (1880s)
- York & Overton Dry Goods & Hardware (1890s)
- Britton's "Cash Store" Grocery (ca. 1900-1929)
- Smitherman's Hatcheries (1935-1950)
- Copeland's Appliances (1950-1974)

33 **26 South Indiana Street**

Municipal Building (1932-present)

- Built by Jake Mann & Sam Wade (1932)
- Housed town government offices, fire department, police department, and jail (1932-2006)
- Second story added in 1980

34 **17 South Indiana Street**

One-Story Brick Building (ca. 1890-present)

- Built ca. 1890
- U.S. Post Office (ca. 1890-1909)
- [Doctor's Office] (ca. 1902)
- [Jeweler] (1910-1920)
- Gray Bros. Cafeteria (1950s-1969)
- Graben's Paint Center (1970s)
- [Clothing Store] (1980s)
- State Farm Insurance (Present)

35 **19 South Indiana Street**

One-Story Building (before 1902-present)

- Built before 1902
- E. W. Day Grocery (1909-1920s)
- Allison's Grocery (1927-1936)
- Gray Bros. Cafeteria (1944-1969)
- R. K. Neilson, CPA (est. 1994-2012)
- Robert P McGauley, CPA (2012-present)

36 **25 South Indiana Street**

Building (ca. 1865-present)

- Originally built as two-story structure (ca. 1865) by Dr. B. H. Perce
- Oldest extant business structure in Mooresville
- Third-story added in 1869
- Upper two stories removed—now single-story structure
- [Carriage & Paint Shop] (ca. 1865-ca. 1900?)
- Masonic Lodge (2nd-3rd floors) (1869-1920s)
- [Harness, Tin, Plumbing Shops] (1st, rear 2nd floors) (1902-1920)
- Dr. White, M.D. & Dr. Park (D.V.M.) (1920s)
- Telephone Exchange (1st & 2nd floors) (1920s-1960s)

37 **27 South Indiana Street**

Single-Story Building (ca. 1910-present)

- Built by Judy Crowe (ca. 1910)
- Ford Car Dealership (1910s-1930s)
- Rushton Tire Center (1960s)
- Churches in Mission (Present)

38 **31 South Indiana Street**

Single-Story Building (before 1904-present)

- Built before 1904 by Dr. William L. Thompson
- Bryant's Marble Works (before 1904)
- Dr. William L. Thompson, M.D. (1904-1925)
- Dr. Magenheimer, M.D.; Dr. Stangle, M.D. (1930s)
- Dr. Bivin, M.D. (1950s-1960s)
- Drs. Beaver, Van Brocklen & Bryant, M.D.s (1970s)
- Benge Washer & Dryer Service (1980s)
- Nichols Insurance (Present)

39 **Northeast Corner of Intersection of Harrison and Indiana Streets**

Church Building (1882-present)

- Built in 1882
- Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church (1882-1995)
- Mooresville Government Center (2006-present)
- Church Annex added in 1940
- Church Classroom Annex added in 1957

40 **23 West Main Street**

McCracken House (ca. 1870-1951)

- Built ca. 1870
- Hotel and restaurant operated by Wilkinson & Sarah McCracken for 45 years, followed by their daughter, Eliza Crawford
- Demolished in 1951

41 **Intersection of Main and Indiana Streets**

“Silent Policeman” (Late 1910s-1920s)

- Police Tower (“Silent Policeman”) sat in the middle of this intersection
- Police officers used tower to direct traffic during busy periods

42 **36 West Harrison Street**

Bucker Monument Works (1874-ca. 2015)

- Mooresville Marble Works started in 1874 by John Bucker
- Longest continuously-operating family business in Mooresville

CHAPTER SEVEN

Bass Drugs

The end of a 130-year-old landmark in downtown Mooresville came suddenly in the night without warning.

One of the many tragedies of the [tornado](#) that devastated downtown Mooresville, Indiana on April 8, 2020, was the second-story collapse of the [Bass Building](#), constructed circa 1890 on the southeast corner of the intersection of Main and Indiana Streets.



*The Bass Building at 3 East Main Street
after the 4/8/2020 tornado
(photograph © 2020 by Andy Hendricks)*



Structural Support to the Bass Building (July 2020)
(photograph by William R. Buckley)

George W. Bass (1842-1924) was a Civil War veteran who moved to Mooresville in 1878. Around 1880 Bass built a single-story, wood-frame building to house his drugstore. The original structure was "a one-story, Greek Revival, gable-front frame building with Doric columns supporting a portico over the sidewalk," according to architectural historian Joanne Raetz Stuttgart.



*(Circa 1880 photograph by J. P. Calvert,
donated to Mooresville Public Library
by Bonita Marley, October 23, 1968)*



(Circa 1885 photograph by J. P. Calvert showing East Main Street —
Bass Drugstore is on the right)



*George W. Bass' house in Mooresville
(circa 1880 photograph by J. P. Calvert)*

Around 1890, George Bass decided to upgrade his wooden structure, replacing it with a two-story brick building.



E. Main Street, South Side, Mooresville, Ind.
*The South side of East Main Street in downtown Mooresville
(Bass Drugstore is on the corner)
(circa 1910 postcard photograph by J. P. Calvert)*



1931 Photograph shows the Bass Building (far right) when it housed Citizens Bank (courtesy of Citizens Bank)



The Bass Building as it appeared in October 2007 (Photograph by William R. Buckley)

Compare the 1885 picture (below) with the 1920 picture (further below) to see the difference between the single-story and two-story buildings. Both photos were taken from atop the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church steeple, facing north. Local photographers J. P. Calvert and Manley Brown took the 1885 and 1920 photos, respectively.



(1885 J. P. Calvert photograph courtesy of the
Mooresville Times, August 8, 1974)



7. 2nd St. Mooresville 1920
(Photograph by Manly Brown, 1920)

The second floor consisted of a stage and large meeting room, which was used for town hall meetings, plays and musicals. It was commonly called the "Mooresville opera house" around the turn of the 20th century.

The basement was the location for many businesses, including a barbershop (1890s-1920), tavern and pool hall, (1920s), and, most recently, a video store (2000s). When it was a pool hall, it was a favorite hangout of Mooresville's most notorious citizen, [John Dillinger](#).

The first floor of the building was divided into two halves, which housed:

- West half:
 - Bass Drugstore (1890-1920)
 - First National Bank (1920-1927)
 - Mooresville State Bank (1927-1930)
- East half:
 - Burch Grocery (1890s-1920)
 - George Allison's Grocery (1920-1927)



Burch Grocery occupied the east half of the Bass Building. Burch used horse-drawn wagons to delivery groceries (circa 1908 photograph by J. P. Calvert)



Burch sold out to [George Allison](#) in 1920. Allison operated his grocery there until 1927, when he moved to South Indiana Street (circa 1920 photography by Manley Brown)



Interior of George Allison's grocery (George is standing on the right) in the east half of the Bass Building (early 1920s photograph)

In 1931, the separating wall was removed, allowing the entire first floor to be used by Citizens Bank, which operated in the Bass Building until 1966, when it was replaced by a clothing store (into the 1970s).



*1931 Photograph shows the Bass Building (far right)
when it housed Citizens Bank
(courtesy of Citizens Bank)*

(Below) Advertisements from the 1955-1968 Wagon Trails, Mooresville High School's yearbook

CITIZENS BANK

Mooresville, Indiana

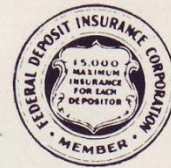
Member of
Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

CITIZEN'S BANK

Mooresville, Indiana
Good
Luck
Seniors
of
'57
Member of
Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.



CITIZEN'S BANK



Phone 2

East Main Street

Mooresville, Indiana



CITIZENS BANK

Phone 2

EAST MAIN STREET

MOORESVILLE, INDIANA



CITIZENS BANK

Phone 2

East Main Street, Mooresville, Indiana



Valla McComb and Martha Dorsett watch as Sharon Dye opens an account at the Bank.

CITIZENS BANK

East Main Street Phone: VE 1-0110
Mooresville, Indiana



Mr. Giffin explains the loan service to Diane Adams.

CITIZENS BANK

Phone: VE 1-0110

3 East Main Street

Mooreville, Indiana

CITIZENS BANK



Phone: VE 1-0110 3 East Main Street
Mooreville, Indiana



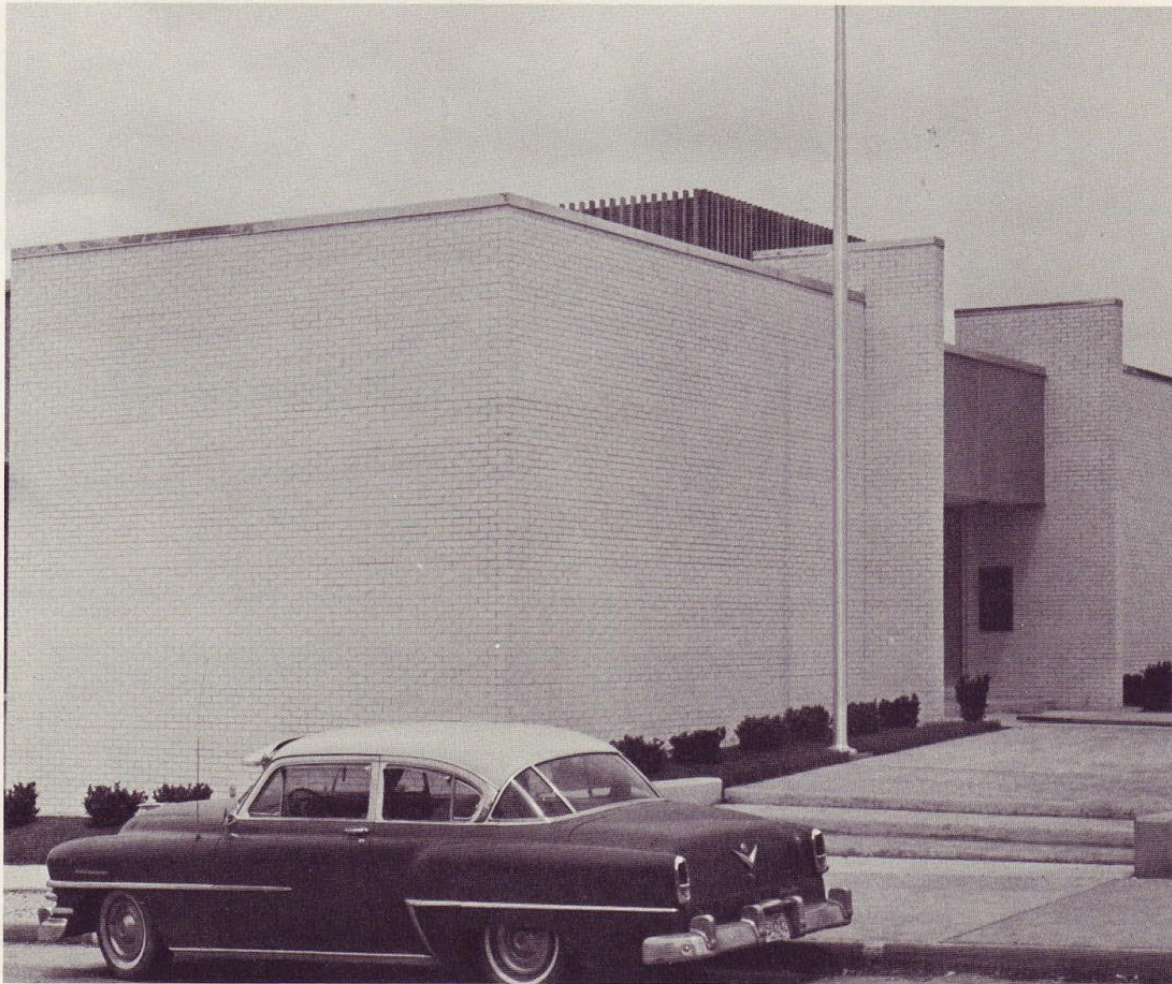
CITIZENS BANK

Phone: VE 1-0110

3 East Main Street

Mooresville, Indiana

The New
CITIZENS BANK



Citizens of all ages will take advantage of the modern conveniences at this new location.

Phone: 831-0110

North Indiana Street
MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

CITIZENS BANK



Jim Ellis, Bruce Kirkendoll, and Raymond Hayes. Making a deposit?

Brooklyn
831-2110

Mooreville
831-0110

Monrovia
694-2250

CITIZEN'S BANK



Patti Hinshaw, Pam Perry, and Debbie Summerlot depend upon Citizen's for complete banking service.

Brooklyn
831-2110

Mooreville
831-0110

Monrovia
694-2250

Those last three advertisements show Citizens Bank at its current location on the east side of North Indiana Street downtown.

The Bass Building had been an important part of Mooresville history for well over a century. Sadly, following the tornado's destruction, restoration was impossible, but at least we can honor its place in our hometown community story.

Demolition of the Bass Building began in September, 2022 and was completed in October, 2022.



(Photos by William R. Buckley)



CHAPTER EIGHT

Farmers State Bank

Farmers State Bank, 2 W. Main St.

(1873-1930)



Figure 1. Farmers Bank of Mooresville at 2 West Main Street (on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Indiana Streets), as it appeared during the 1880s until 1904, when the building was renovated. (The renovation, which still stands today, is shown in Figure 2.) Notice the wooden “guards” around the tree trunks to protect the tree bark from hungry horses.

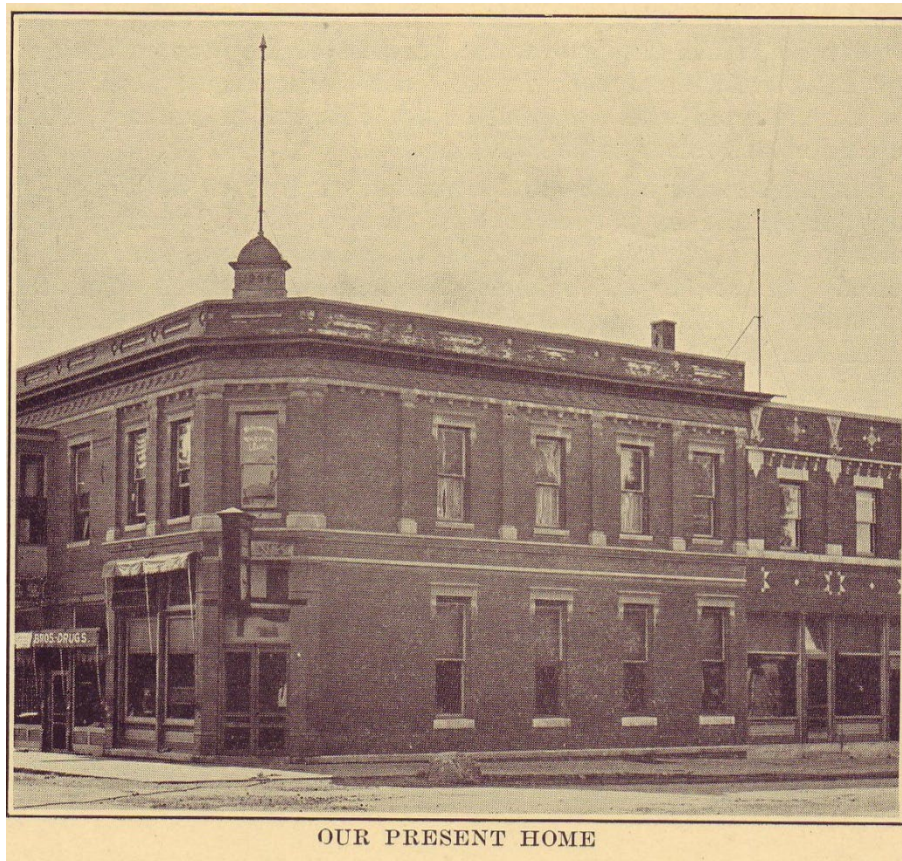


Figure 2. In 1904, Farmers Bank renovated their building, which still stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Indiana Streets in downtown Mooresville. Note the chime clock above the main entrance, which appeared in a 1917 advertisement (see Figure 12), thereby dating this photo between 1917-1923 (when the golden anniversary pamphlet, from which this photo was excerpted, was printed).

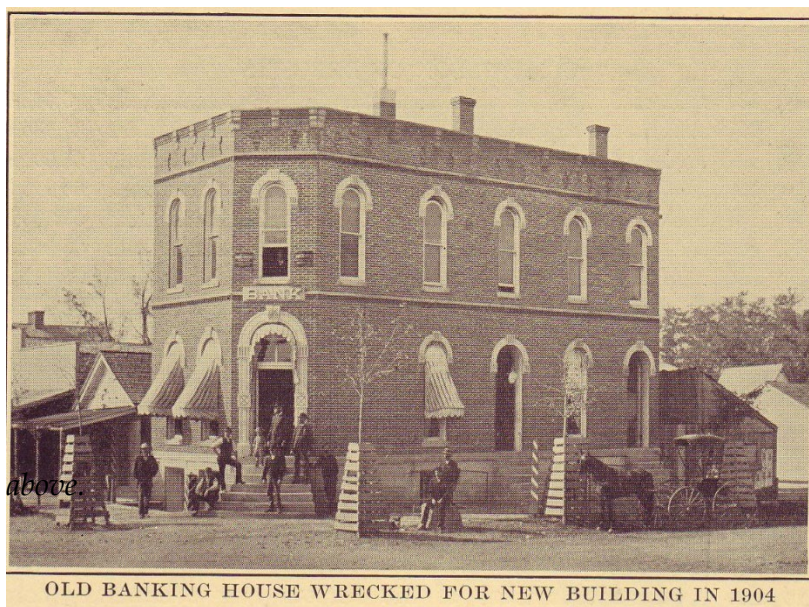


Figure 3. Another view of Farmers Bank (circa 1885) before the 1904 renovation shown in Figure 2

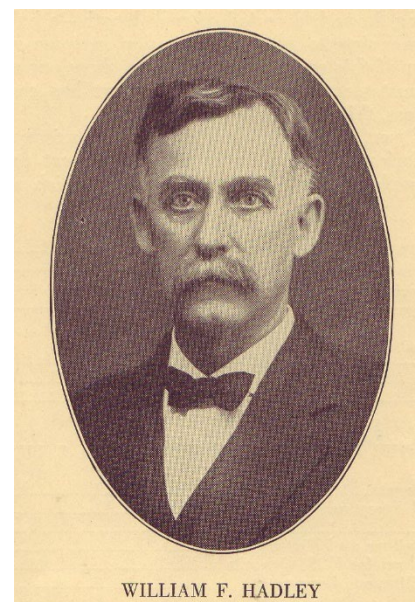
The Farmers Bank of Mooresville, Indiana was established on July 7, 1873, taking over the business of the Mooresville Savings Bank, which had existed since Aug. 16, 1872. Farmers Bank had an initial capital fund of \$30,000, and this was raised to \$50,000 by Jan. 1874 but was reduced again to \$35,000 in Dec., 1881. On June 20, 1913, the bank's name was changed to Farmers State Bank.

In *A Brief History of Mooresville and Vicinity* (1918, p. 34), Almira Harvey Hadley stated that Farmers Bank "occupied a small brick building on North Indiana street ten years before building on the present site [*i.e.*, northwest corner of Main and Indiana Streets]." This suggests that the bank's original home was a smaller structure than those shown in *Figures 1-3* above and was located north of the Main/Indiana intersection somewhere on North Indiana Street. Furthermore, when Hadley refers to the bank's "building on the present site" 10 years later, she undoubtedly refers to the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Indiana Streets, upon which the structures shown in *Figures 1-3* were situated (and the 1904 renovated building still stands today). Accordingly, we may surmise from Hadley's account the following time line for Farmers Bank's location:

- 1873-ca. 1883: "Small brick building on North Indiana Street."
- Ca. 1883-1904: Two-story brick building shown in *Figures 1 & 3*.
- 1904 onward: Renovated two-story brick building shown in *Figure 2*.

The first board of directors of Farmers Bank was comprised of Woolen S. Webb, Dr. A. W. Reagen, Joseph Pool, Lot M. Hadley, Eli J. Sumner, Allen Hadley, Daniel Sheets, Dr. Giles B. Mitchell, and Jonathan L. Moffett. Mitchell was the first president; Alexander Worth initially held the post of first cashier, but he was succeeded by John A. Taylor.

Figure 4. William F. Hadley, who served Farmers State Bank for 43 years – Cashier (1881-1916); Vice President (1916-1919); President (1919-1923).



In 1876 Charles Reeve was elected bank president, a position in which he served until 1881, when H. Satterwhite was elected to succeed Reeve. William F. Hadley was elected cashier in 1881 and served until 1916. During this time, bank presidents included Satterwhite, J. L. Moffett, Lot M. Hadley, Robert R. Scott, and J. L. Mathews. E. F. Hadley replaced William Hadley as cashier in Jan., 1916. William remained with the bank as vice president and served as president from Sept., 1919, when Mathews died, until 1923, when William died. E. F. Hadley then became president (in Jan. 1923). William R. Parr was promoted to cashier.



Figure 5. Counter checks used at Farmers State Bank during the 1920s.

Farmers Bank weathered the Panics of 1876, 1881, 1893-96 and 1907-08, when depositors "panicked" due to declining economic conditions and made "runs" on the bank to withdraw their funds. During these periods of distress, "the bank established a reputation for soundness and good management," according to a 1923 golden anniversary commemorative pamphlet published by the bank. The pamphlet related the situation and how the bank officials calmly addressed its customers:

"An interesting story is told in connection with the panic of 1870 [sic--should say 1876] during the directorship of Charles Reeve and H. Satterwhite. There being a rumor circulated that the bank was short of funds, the people gathered to draw their money. Naturally a condition of this kind always finds a bank in an embarrassing position, for a dividend paying institution must have its funds in use. Due to the thoughtfulness of Reeve and Satterwhite the bank was saved from any stress whatever, for while Satterwhite entertained the impatient customers, Reeve visited a few of his friends in the immediate neighborhood from whom he secured enough cash to pay those who would not listen to reason. Upon Reeve's return, Satterwhite offered to pay all those who still wanted their money, but upon such an offer as this very little money was withdrawn."

[*Our Golden Anniversary: Farmers State Bank, Mooresville, Indiana, 1873 – July 7th – 1923* (Thornton-Levey Co., 1923)].

This story recalls the scene from the Frank Capra movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, in which depositors made a run on the Bailey Building and Loan (on the eve of the Great Depression), and George Bailey and his new bride, played by James Stewart and Donna Reed, saved the day by "loaning" their own money to the customers who wanted to close out or reduce their accounts.

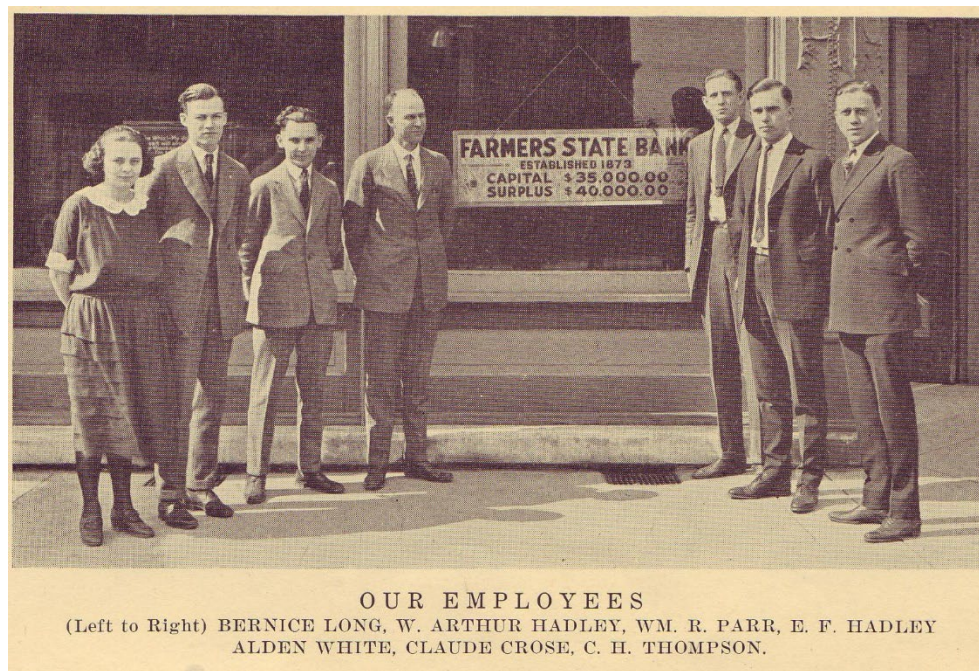


Figure 6. *Farmers State Bank employees in 1923. Miss Bernice Long was bank stenographer; Claude Crose, Alden White, William Arthur Hadley, grandson of William F. Hadley, were bookkeepers; E. F. Hadley was president; William R. Parr was cashier; and Chelsie H. Thompson was assistant cashier.*