

INDIANA, The Early Years

Commerce, Trade, & Agriculture



East Market, Indianapolis, by Christian Schrader. Courtesy Indiana State Library.

BROADSIDES

The town market was an important institution in early Indiana. Most towns and villages set aside an area for local farmers and townspeople to sell surplus food and goods. The first market in Indianapolis was located on the Circle in 1822. [Esarey, *History of Indiana*, 221] In December, 1832, an Indianapolis ordinance restricted market days to Wednesday and Saturday for two hours after daylight. In 1833 a market house was built on land set aside on Market Street between Delaware and Alabama Streets. [Sulgrove, *History of Indianapolis*, 110-111]

Christian Schrader, the artist, was born in or near Indianapolis about 1840. Schrader operated a china store on Washington Street. He drew and painted from his childhood memories of early Indianapolis. After his death in 1920, his daughters donated many of his sketches and paintings to the Indiana State Library.

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Introduction

Furs and Indian Trade

Long before Indiana became a state, French and British traders exchanged rifles, gunpowder, and blankets with the Indians for skins from beaver, deer, and muskrat. After the American Revolution, the United States Congress established a system for trading with the Indians which they hoped would maintain peaceful relations by providing quality goods at cost in exchange for furs. This system prohibited the trading of liquor and established government trading settlements throughout Indian territory. Such a settlement, called a factory, was established at Fort Wayne in 1802, but it was burned by the Indians in 1812. The factory system was not effective in controlling the liquor trade with the Indians because private traders licensed by individual states and territories continued to provide liquor to the Indians. Although the factory system disappeared, the federal government continued to attempt to control the fur trade through agents appointed in various states and territories.

There are no early statistics to indicate the volume or values of Indians furs, but many traders acquired fortunes which they used to buy land and settle in Indiana. Permanent settlement encroached upon the fur trade, which began to decline after its peak in the mid 1830s. The removal of the last Indians from northern Indiana in 1845 banished the Indian trappers, but the settlers who remained continued trapping for furs—down to the present day.

The Traders

The traders were a fascinating lot—often dishonest—and they have been variously described. Charles B. Lasselle, a member of the well-known Indiana trading family wrote the following nearly 130 years ago:

In point of time, they were among the first, if not themselves the first, of the explorers of the country, and are known to have visited and traded with the Indians within our borders about a century previous to our Revolutionary War. They have always occupied a prominent position in the early historical events of the country, as a controlling medium in the relations between the whites and Indians. But although—whether French, English or Americans—they have generally been men of education and general intelligence, yet such have been the peculiar nature and vicissitudes of their calling, that they have left us very few records of their experience. ["The Old Indian Traders of Indiana", *IMH*, 2:1]

Hugh McCulloch, who lived in Fort Wayne and knew many of the traders, recorded a more critical view:

As for licensed traders, it can be safely said that they have been the reverse of what they ought to have been. Nor has dishonesty in trade with the Indians been confined to the licensed traders.

There has been a good deal of trade outside of the agencies in which the Indians have been cheated. Nothing surprised me more, as I became acquainted in the manner in which this trade was carried on than the fact that men who had the reputation of dealing fairly with white men did not hesitate to practice the most shameful impositions in their dealings with the Indians. I have known many men who were engaged in the Indian trade, but I cannot remember more than two or three who dealt with them with perfect fairness. [*Men and Measures*, 102]

Trade with the Indians has been reserved in BROADSIDES for the Politics chapter (see especially Early Years Documents 50 and 51), but it sets the stage for the development of commerce in Indiana in this early period.

Commerce

Many of the traders who first grew wealthy buying furs from the Indians continued to prosper in commerce with the rapidly growing population of white farmers and craftsmen. These merchants and others newly arriving in the state played very important roles in advancing Indiana's agricultural economy while providing the pioneers with goods and services vital to their own success.

At first storekeepers provided settlers with life's necessities in exchange for extra produce or work. As farmers progressed and crops and livestock increased, storekeepers took on more responsibility for marketing large quantities of farm produce; they also served as credit agents for farmers wanting to buy more imported and manufactured goods and groceries. William Conner was just such a merchant: "Merchants like Conner became produce vendors, import-export jobbers, retailers, wholesalers, credit agents, and moneylenders in their tireless search for ways to exchange the surplus of the frontier for the products and services of civilization." [Larson and Vanderstel, "Agent of Empire," *IMH* 80:322] The authors continue their description of typical pioneer operations:

Each spring—and sometimes again in the fall—the merchant called in his accounts, collected his money, and went east to purchase "a stock of goods." When the merchandise arrived, the storekeeper advertised it for sale "at the best prices." Ideally the goods were sold for cash, but most merchants took produce in trade and extended book credit to regular customers. In this manner the merchant accumulated the small change of the country as well as the surplus of the small farmers. [Larson and Vanderstel, "Agent of Empire," *IMH*, 80: 323]

Wages and Prices

In the period 1816 to 1850 hard cash money was scarce. Barter and store credit were the generally accepted means of carrying on one's business. Virtually the only workers assured of receiving their wages in cash were those working for the state or national government. By the same token, only taxes and government land purchases had to be paid in cash.

Store credit and barter can best be explained by a fictitious example:

Farmer Jones hired farmhand Smith to help him clear land at 50 cents per day. The farmhand worked for 5 days and Jones owed Smith \$2.50. Farmer Jones was saving his cash money to pay off his land so he gave farmhand Smith \$2.50 credit at Adams General Store. Mr. Adams credited Smith's account, and Smith was able to buy goods or reduce his own debt. Mr. Adams debited Farmer Jones' account \$2.50. When Storekeeper Adams called in his debts, Farmer Jones took 5 bushels of wheat to Adams to pay off his debt since wheat was selling for 50 cents a bushel.

In the Supplemental Information is a list of prices and wages for the period that has been compiled for use in exercises from various articles printed in the *Indiana Magazine of History*. Keep in mind that these prices changed from season to season and were subject to the same effects of inflation and depression that we are familiar with today.

Merchants who became wealthy frequently enhanced their fortunes through land speculation and helped to finance Indiana's pioneer industries. Manufacturing, like commerce, was in its infancy before 1850 and was rooted in the household processes of the earliest settlers. Soon, however, manufacturing included numerous trades and crafts; the emergence of shops, mills, and small factories quickly followed. Pork packing was probably the largest single industry in Indiana at midcentury with important locations along the Ohio at Madison, Lawrenceburg, and Aurora; Fort Wayne, Logansport, Lafayette, and Terre Haute along the Wabash and Erie Canal also had packing plants. Other important industries included saw, grist, and tanning mills; iron foundries; distilleries; brickyards; and cotton and woolen factories. [Barnhart and Carmony, *Indiana*, 1:360, 365]

Money and Banking

The availability of money and the rise of banking had an immense effect on Indiana's economy. This topic is dealt with in some detail in the discussion with Early Years Document 13P in this chapter.

Agriculture Characteristics

As the fur trade peaked in Indiana, so did sales of cheap government land. The pioneers who purchased these lands came to make farms out of the southern forests and the northern prairies. Geography and history played a part in how these farming settlements were established. The first transportation routes, through the Cumberland Gap and along the Ohio River, led settlers from Virginia, the Carolinas, and Tennessee to the southern half of Indiana. This hilly country, heavily forested and cut by many creeks and streams, was familiar to the southerners who patterned their small farms after the ones they had just left. By 1840 new routes of transportation along the National Road and through the Great Lakes brought a different group of settlers to the northern part of Indiana. These farmers came from New England, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, and they began making farms on the wet, treeless prairies and flat lands of the north. These conditions and "Yankee" cultural traditions created a farm culture different from the southern part of the state.

While the cultures were in various ways dissimilar, the products of their farms were generally consistent. A foreign traveler, David Baillie Warden, in 1819 published the following commentary:

Agriculture.—The soil is well adapted to maize, wheat, oats, rye, hemp, and tobacco. On the best lands the average produce of Indian corn is said to be from fifty to sixty bushels *per* acre; that of wheat about fifty, the bushel weighing fifty-eight pounds. In many places the land is too rich for this grain . . .

. . . All European fruits, apples, peaches, pears, cherries, currants, gooseberries, melons, &c., thrive well. Cotton and the sweet potatoe are cultivated in the southern parts. The country is admirably fitted for rearing cattle and swine, having great abundance of acorns and roots on which they feed. The animals which are most injurious to agriculture in this prolific country are squirrels, moles, and mice. [As quoted in Lindley, *Indiana As Seen By Early Travelers*, 230]

Corn

Corn was generally the first crop to be planted and harvested because it provided food for both family and livestock. Hogs were also early additions to new farms. They were allowed to roam until just before going to market when they were fattened on surplus corn. These two products became the backbone of Indiana's pioneer economy. Surplus corn was either fed to hogs or distilled into whiskey at a local distillery. Fattened hogs were driven to local markets live and then butchered, pickled, and packed in barrels to be shipped to farther markets. Throughout this time period, 1816-1850, transportation problems hampered settlers' attempts to ship their products to market. Before the construction of canals, railroads, and passable roads, natural waterways were the best means of moving produce. Tons of corn, pork and farm products left Indiana by flatboat for New Orleans. On the Wabash River, one of the primary avenues to the Ohio River, for example, in the spring of 1826, 152 flatboats were counted passing Vincennes carrying 250,000 bushels of corn, 100,000 barrels of pork, 10,000 hams, 2,500 cattle, 10,000 pounds of beeswax, 3,600 venison hams, and hundreds of tons of miscellaneous produce. [Buley, *The Old Northwest*, I:531]

The technology used to produce this abundance was primitive, and the human demands were enormous. Simply clearing the southern hills and valleys of the dense forests seemed to be an unending task. Most early farmers planted corn around tree stumps, only gradually increasing their cleared area. The first plowing was the hardest; roots and rocks often broke the wooden plows that were in use until the mid-1830s. Even when cast iron plows were available in the mid-1840s, they were not universally accepted. Some farmers believed that the cast iron would poison the soil. [Latta, *Outline History*, 64] Planting was done by hand. Women and children usually planted individual grains of corn in hills; small grains, such as wheat and oats, were broadcast. Mechanical planters came into existence in the 1840s although many were home made.

Harvest

If the growing crops survived the ravages of squirrels and birds, drought, rain, and hail, harvest brought additional challenges to the farm families. Wheat, harvested in midsummer, required brief intense labor and many hands. It was cut with a sickle and laid on the ground to be gathered in a later operation. After the grain was gathered and bundled, it had to be threshed. Throughout most of this early time period wheat and other small grains were separated from chaff by beating it with a hand flail or using horses or oxen to trample it. Even with later improvements, such harvests often became community efforts moving from farm to farm.

Around 1825 the grain cradle became available. This tool cut the grain allowing it to fall in the cradle and made the laborer's job less strenuous by catching the stems in a bundle. Mechanical reapers, invented in the 1830s, did not spread into Indiana until after 1850. Portable and stationary threshing machines had reached Indiana by the late 1840s. [Latta, *Outline History*, 56, 108]

The corn harvest took place in late fall. It was generally carried on at a more leisurely pace, because corn would not spoil on the stalk. Some farmers simply turned livestock into the cornfield to feed. Otherwise the ears needed to be cut off; the stalks were then put into shocks for fodder. Both processes required much labor and a special corn knife. Corn to be sold at market also had to be

husked. This work provided the opportunity for a husking party including lots of food, drink, and dancing as well as hard work.

The other staple of the pioneer economy was hogs. These skinny razor-backed swine roamed the forests searching for food until two or three weeks before time to go to market—usually in the spring. Although feeding on corn fattened the animals, the drive to market often reduced the weight again. Walking a herd of pigs from Indianapolis to Cincinnati usually took about three weeks and the drive required several persons to keep the pigs together.

Hogs

Despite the hard work, the misfortunes of weather and health, and the lack of a viable transportation system in Indiana, most Hoosier farmers succeeded in their endeavors, mainly because of the rich lands to be exploited. In 1850, with only 5,047,000 acres cleared and cultivated out of almost 23,000,000, Indiana ranked near the top in agricultural production of corn, hogs and wheat—fourth among all the states in corn, third in hogs, and sixth in wheat. [Barnhart and Carmony, *Indiana*, I:351, 356]

Conclusion

The period from 1816 to 1850 was one of great transition in Indiana's economy. The fur trade gave way to agriculture as the primary source of wealth. Over the span of thirty-four years, the care and cultivation of grain and livestock also changed. Primitive hand labor began to give way to animal powered technology. Farmers gradually took responsibility for replenishing depleted soils and improving seed and livestock strains. The beginning of Indiana's manufacturing base was in place at midcentury needing only time and demand to mature. Indiana's economy had grown quickly from one of survival and self-sufficiency to an entity ready for competition in national and worldwide commercial exchange.

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The most important business in pioneer Indiana was farming. The most important products of early farms were corn and hogs. Other businesses and industries that developed in early Indiana usually served farmers in some way. For instance, railroads and canals were built so that farmers could transport their products to market more cheaply and efficiently. Blacksmiths made and repaired farm wagons and plows for the settlers. Distilleries made whiskey from their extra corn.

Merchants and storekeepers played important roles in pioneer Indiana by supplying farmers and

craftsmen with cloth, groceries, tools, and other necessities that they could not produce themselves. These merchants also helped early settlers by letting them pay for supplies with products from their farms and homes instead of with money which was very scarce, this practice is called barter.

Indiana's first state banks were organized during these early years. Pioneer farmers and craftsmen did not use banks as we do today for checking, savings, and loans. Pioneer banks did help settlers by controlling Indiana's supply of money making it more trustworthy than some money from other states.

Document 1 is a broadside advertising the new town of Monroe being developed in 1816 by Mr. Benjamin Turman. It lists many good reasons to buy property in the new town and tells how the lots would be sold.

scite — common 19th century English spelling of

“site” meaning “the position of a place”

proprietor — owner

contiguous — bordering

salubrious — healthy

pecuniary — of which money is the object

viz — abbreviation of Latin word *videlicet* meaning “that is to say”

bond of conveyance — mortgage

deed in fee simple — deed giving absolute possession of property

Document 2 is a broadside advertising a new store in 1824 located on a busy road near Washington. It lists some of the goods that the store offered and tells how settlers could pay for the goods.

Queensware — a kind of stoneware dishes

allum salt (alum) — a whitish transparent mineral used in dyeing, medicine, and preparing animal skins

cotton and wool cards — hand held wooden paddles faced with sharp pins and used to comb raw wool and cotton before they are spun into yarn or thread

tow linen — fabric made from flax fibers, usually homemade cloth and often scratchy

Document 3 is a page from a storekeeper's account book. The page shows what Nathan Kanes bought in 1835 and how he paid for it.

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cotton factory — a cheap unbleached cotton cloth made in eastern textile factories

drachm (dram) — 1/8 fluid ounce, a small drink of liquor

contra — a bookkeeping term which indicates the credit of the shopper

“To” — used in account books to indicate a shopper's purchases or debts

“By” — used in account books to indicate a shopper's payments or credits

Document 4 is a page from a diary written in 1839 by thirteen year old Timothy Ball. Timothy lived on a farm in northern Indiana and worked very hard helping his father with the farm.

meeting — a gathering of people for purposes of worship

wed — weeded

dropt (dropped) — planted

cherry stones — cherry seeds

harrowed — a farm process that follows plowing, a harrow is the equipment used.

Document 5 shows four examples of the great variety of paper money that circulated in Indiana because metal currency was scarce. Paper money was hard to come by, and it was often not worth the amount printed on it. As you can see, paper money called scrip, could be issued by banks and companies.

note — a bank note or promissory note used as money

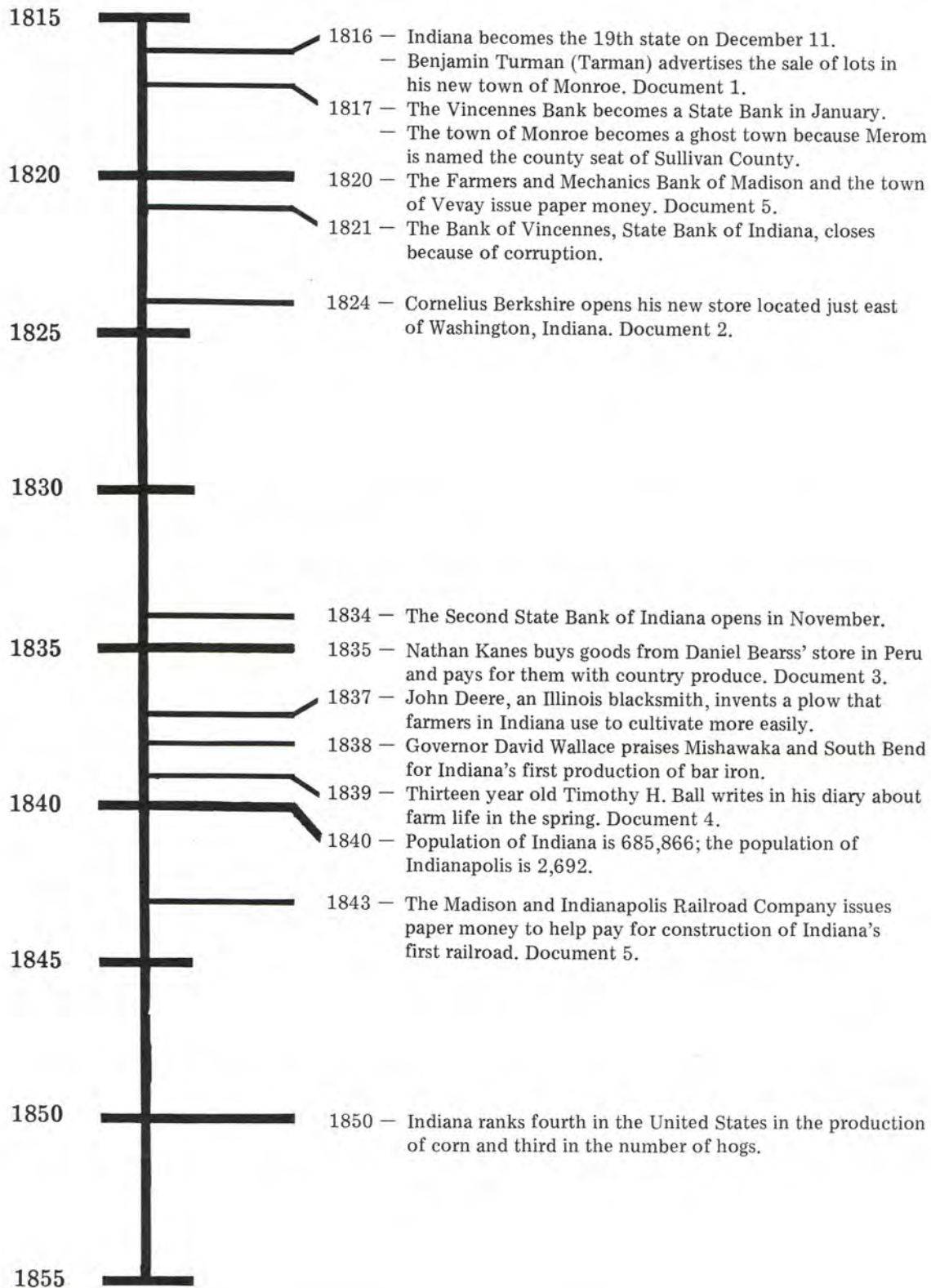
bearer — the person holding a check or an order to pay money

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TIMELINE





INDIANA,
The Early Years.

Commerce, Trade, & Agriculture

BROADSIDES

- Discuss the illustration with class. Compare the drawing to a modern grocery. Discuss the differences and how those differences might affect food purchase, preparation, and consumption, for example, lack of refrigeration.
- Try to locate a farmers market in your area and encourage students to visit on a market day.

Introductory Discussion

Discuss with class the information in the introduction. Include new vocabulary or map work that will aid in understanding the topic.

- Discuss the history of the fur trade in America—when and how did it develop? Locate the area in America first explored and settled by fur traders.
- Discuss agriculture in the United States. Because of the size and diverse climate and terrain of the United States an infinite variety of crops are grown in this country. Discuss how this affects our lives and economy.
- Discuss the development of commerce in your locale by tracing generally the transition from a wilderness to an agricultural community to an industrial or commercial area. Why (or why not) does this occur?. Relate the effect of natural resources, transportation routes, and manpower.

Additional Things To Do

- Make a map of the fur traders/explorers conquest of America including dates and nationalities of the early traders.
- Conduct experiments illustrating the effects of climate and soil on agriculture. Using beans planted in paper cups, subject plants to a variation in soil types, temperatures, light (or lack of), and moisture.
- Make a products map of the United States that illustrates the diversity of goods and agricultural products of the United States.
- Have older residents involved in area agriculture visit class to talk about the changes in farming since World War II.

Early Years Document 1P

Packet Document 1 - Broadside - Town of Monroe, Sullivan Co., 1816

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss the points Benjamin Turman lists as benefits of the new community. Why are they benefits, and how do they compare to modern times?
- How are houses or lots purchased today? Compare and contrast to the terms set forth in the document.
- Note the printer, location, and date of the document. Why are these of significance?
- Using the map of Indiana in 1816, locate the approximate site of Monroe. What was this area like in 1816? (See Maps)

Additional Things To Do

- Study the history of your county seat. Has it always been in the same location? What factors might have influenced its location? Has its name changed?
- Using the verbal description of Monroe, draw the town as you think it might have appeared.
- Study the concept of city planning. Look at how great cities have been built in the past—such as walled cities, ancient Greek and Roman cities, cities within cities such as Peking, fortress cities, and “planned” cities such as 19th century Paris or Reston, Virginia, in the 20th century.
- Use David Macaulay’s *City* to study a fictional town’s growth and compare/contrast this to the development of towns in your county.
- Plan your own town of the future. Justify why you include the buildings and facilities and explain your town layout.
- Collect some modern “prospecti” (advertisements for retirement communities, condominiums, apartment complexes, vacation resorts, etc.). Compare them to each other. How do the selling points vary with the buyers the developers are targeting?
- Are there any early towns in your county that have disappeared over the years?

Early Years Document 2

Map - Ralston Plat, Indianapolis, 1821

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss town planning in your community, including how land is used, zoning for land usage, etc.
- Study the planning and building of Washington, D. C. Compare it to the Ralston Plat map of Indianapolis.
- Study the Ralston Plat and compare it to a map of modern Indianapolis. Try to locate Ralston’s “mile square” on the current map. Discuss what influences have affected its growth patterns.
- Discuss the placement of Indianapolis in the center of the state. Relate the location of each of Indiana’s three state capital sites to the settlement patterns of the time each was capital.
- Study an Indiana map that includes county divisions and county seats (See Maps). Discuss placement of county seats within each county. What might have influenced the placement of each (population center, transportation routes, geographic center of county, etc.)?

Additional Things To Do

- Locate an early county atlas that includes plats of towns and compare to existing communities. List factors that appear to have affected their growth or demise.
- Make a plat map of the area surrounding your school or home.
- Invite a town or county planner to speak to the class concerning town growth, how it is regulated, and what concerns county government has for future growth.
- Find examples of different kinds of towns in Indiana, for example, planned community — Indianapolis and New Harmony; fortress towns — Fort Wayne; transportation center — Madison, New Albany, Michigan City, etc.

Letter - Calvin Fletcher to Nicholas McCarty, Porter Company, June 9, 1836

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss land speculation in early Indiana. How did speculation affect settlement as well as economic growth? If Calvin Fletcher were doing business today, what would he invest his money in, for example, stock market, futures market, etc.?
- Is there land speculation in Indiana today? Think of fast growth areas of state, county, or local community and how that growth may have affected land value.

Additional Things To Do

- Study the stock market and how it operates. Learn to read the market reports. Follow the stock of an Indiana based company on the New York or American Stock Exchange.
- Do a math exercise built around the cost of various parcels of land within your county. Compare the cost of land in various locations in your largest city to various parcels in a rural area. Compare the cost of land with recreational use (lakefront, etc.) to land of agricultural, commercial, and residential use.

Packet Document 2 - Broadside - New Store, Daviess Co., July 1, 1829

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Locate the road where the town of Fairview was probably situated. (See - Maps)
- Why would Mr. Berkshire accept rags, tow linen, etc. as payment for goods purchased?
- Discuss items listed for sale and why so many fabrics are listed. Try to stress life without disposable paper and plastic as well as without ready made clothing.
- Discuss the term "general store" (from the term general merchandise store). Why were these businesses referred to in that way? What kind of modern stores are most like Mr. Berkshire's?
- Note the last paragraph of the broadside. Discuss the needs of "movers" on the arduous trip west. In 1829 where was the American West (Southern and Central Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri)?

Additional Things To Do

- Note the varied spellings of articles for sale. Make a list of Mr. Berkshire's spellings and then list the modern dictionary spellings.
- Using the spelling list above find out what these things are, how they were used, etc.
- Write a story about Mr. Berkshire's store either as a local shopper, a traveller, or a member of Mr. Berkshire's family.
- Write a paragraph describing the Berkshire store.

Early Years Document 5

Bill of Lading - W. G. and G. W. Ewing, Fort Wayne, from Suydam, Sage & Company, New York, October 23, 1838

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss each of the items on the order, what each was, where it came from, or how it was made, and the cost.
- Discuss whether all of these items were necessary to maintaining life in the West. Are any of these items considered luxuries today?
- Note the containers in which these goods were shipped. Discuss the problems of shipping goods in the days before refrigeration, preservatives, plastic and paper shipping materials, and fast dependable transportation.

Additional Things To Do

- Using a map of the United States and modern transportation routes, plot different ways these goods could be transported to Ewing and Ewing in Fort Wayne from New York.

Early Years Document 6

Inventory - Ewing, Walker & Company, Logansport, July 1, 1839

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Locate Logansport on a map of Indiana and calculate the distance from the Ewing headquarters in Fort Wayne.
- Find out what all the animals listed look like. What were the skins used for? Do these animals still live in the Indiana area? Do we have a fur trade in Indiana today?

Additional Things To Do

- Study the tanning process and illustrate the steps. Have students bring in pieces of leather or fur for a display. Using the information you learn about processing skins, try to decide why Ewing, Walker and Company were shipping these numbers of skins in the summer.
- Study the food chain in the forest and how man has interrupted it.
- Have a state Conservation Officer visit class to discuss trapping in Indiana and what laws protect fur-bearing animals.
- Contact Project WILD for information and material concerning Indiana wildlife activities (see Finding Aids).

Early Years Document 7P

Packet Document 3 - Account Book - Daniel Bearss Store, Peru, 1835-1836

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Read through the account and see if the class can draw any conclusions about Nathan Kanes from the items he purchased and from the items he brought in payment. What might he have done with his purchases? Can any conclusions be made concerning winter activities for farmers (hunting, processing honey, etc.)?

- Look at the prices listed for items purchased and brought in for payment. Draw some conclusions as to what was valuable.

Additional Things To Do

- Add both debit and credit columns. Find the storekeeper's mistake and correct it. (Total in "by" column is actually 14.79 not 14.89.)

Early Years Document 8

Account Book - Tousey, Vaughn and Test Store, Lawrenceburg, June 9, 1835

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Compare prices on this account with those in Early Years Document 7P. Do they differ? Compare and contrast the types of purchases made. What impact does the differing locations of these stores have on the types of purchases made (rural vs. urban, established community vs. newly settled, etc.)? On the prices?
- Reading through the list of purchases, can any conclusions be made concerning the lives, occupations, or wealth of the purchasers?

Additional Things To Do

- Write a story about one of the customers using the purchases as clues to his life or as the topic of the story.
- Illustrate the story.

Early Years Document 9

Account Book - Lasselle Store, Logansport, January 10, 1839

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Study purchases closely; note the two purchases made by someone other than the account holder (entries 21 and 36). Discuss the fact Mrs. Hart had to have her husband's permission to make a purchase. Relate this to lack of women's rights as demonstrated in Early Years Document 58P.
- Entry 37 has Conrad Martin listed as "surety." Discuss the idea of signing notes of payment and why the storekeeper might have demanded a cosigner for this credit.

Additional Things To Do

- Entry 39 has an account payment made with baskets, split and straw. First find the error in the storekeeper's arithmetic when he credited Mr. St. Clair's account. Then using the value of 20 cents per straw basket and 12 cents per split basket, find how many baskets of each type one would need to pay each account listed.
- If your school has a school supply store, keep a day book account of what the class spends there in one week.

Packet Document 4 - Diary - Timothy Ball, Cedar Lake, Lake County, May - June, 1839

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss the things young Timothy writes about and compare and contrast these 1839 activities with those of today's students.
- Timothy writes daily of the weather. Discuss the importance of the weather in the lives of farmers in 1839.
- Compare and contrast Timothy's life with Ebenezer Sharpe (Early Years documents 17, 29, 30 in Daily Life) and James Fletcher (Early Years documents 34P, 35, 36 in Education).

Additional Things To Do

- Illustrate the two weeks of Timothy's life documented in the diary excerpt with a series of drawings.
- Using the background information and diary entries have the students write an "autobiography" as if they were young Timothy Ball. Try to encourage the students to put themselves in Timothy's place, to imagine how he might have felt about his life.
- Keep a diary, paying attention to the kinds of information the students might want their great-grandchildren to know about them.
- Have each student make a scrapbook and begin collecting those things the student would like future generations to see.
- Have the county extension agent or a member of Future Farmers of America visit the class to discuss modern farming.
- Have an older or retired farmer and farm wife speak to the class concerning changing experiences through their years of farming. Have them bring photographs, if possible.
- Establish a class weather station. Learn how to use a thermometer, barometer, rain gauge, etc.
- Keep a weather diary. Record such things as temperature and barometer readings, weather activity, precipitation amounts, etc.

Early Years Document 11

Newspaper - Market Prices, Indiana Farmer, Indianapolis, October 6, 1838

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss the items listed, why some things are there and some not (corn is listed but not wheat etc.). Why are there blank spots next to some produce, etc.?
- Bring in several listings of the Commodities Index from the newspaper and compare the goods listed there with those in the document.

Additional Things To Do

- Find out what products listed in the Commodities Index come from your area. Watch their progress through a month long time period. Note how time of year, economy, and weather may affect the prices.
- Do a week long series of math lessons using the document. Develop story problems concerning a farmer's sale of grain or livestock, a housewife purchasing food for the family, what it would cost to stock a store with the items listed (set amounts to be purchased for store, then figure cost).

Bill of Lading - M.D. Lacroix, Memphis (Shoals), May 12, 1848

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Compare the value of corn in 1838 (Early Years Document 11) to that given per bushel in this document. Discuss why the value might have been lower ten years later.
- Discuss river travel and its importance in the 19th century. Look into the kinds of boats used for river travel and try to decide what type of boat Mr. Lacroix used for the trip to New Orleans.
- Discuss the term "to stove" as used in the document. Talk about other colorful, descriptive terms that might be used in your area. (See also Marvin Carmony, *Indiana Dialects in Their Historical Setting*.) Discuss expressions for activities or descriptive phrases that might be lost because of our changing world. Ask older relatives or friends if they recall expressions they used as youths that are no longer common today; make a glossary of them.
- Specialized vocabularies develop around occupations, activities, etc. Discuss how words come and go as these activities come and go.
- Study paintings and drawings of 19th century river travel, especially works by George Caleb Bingham.

Additional Things To Do

- Using the values of products listed in Early Years Document 11 figure the value of Mr. Lacroix's cargo.
- Read and learn about Abraham Lincoln's trip to New Orleans in 1828. Try and discover who he worked for, who accompanied him, why he went, what his experiences and recollections were.
- Do a dictionary lesson that illustrates the variety of specialized dictionaries.
- Make lists of occupations/activities around which special vocabulary has developed and some vocabulary words. Use dictionaries to determine meaning, root words, language sources, etc.
- Write a story of river travel in 1848.
- Keep an imaginary diary account of a river trip in the first half of the 19th century.
- Make a list of words and phrases used by young people today and define them.

Packet Document 5 - Currency - Indiana Institutions, 1819, 1820, 1843

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss the lack of standardization of money and a national currency in the 19th century. Have students examine the problems this could and did create.
- Look at the denominations of the money. Have the students speculate as to why there was currency valued under a dollar.
- Have students discuss coin vs. paper money and why coins were accepted by merchants more readily than paper. Try to get the students to think about the law of supply and demand, i.e., hard coin (gold/silver) kept or increased its value, people hoarded it, it became more scarce and thus more valuable.
- Locate the towns where these bank notes were issued.

- Discuss the design of the money. What do the designs and pictorial scenes have to do with the money?

Additional Things To Do

- Study the history of money. Begin a list of all the things that have been used as legal tender.
- Design currency, both paper and coin.
- Have a banker visit the class to discuss banking and currency valuation.
- Collect expressions connected with money, e.g., coin of the realm, cold hard cash, cash on the barrel head, etc. Have the students choose one and write a definition or explanation of how the term came to be used.

Early Years Document 14

Letter - Cornelius Pering to Mr. Edwards, Bloomington, 1833

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss the necessity of money in our economy. Speculate as to the consequences of the removal of our currency from use.

Additional Things To Do

- Study the United States Treasury and the history of United States money.
- Have a coin collector visit the class with examples of money from the past.

Early Years Document 15

Newspaper - Bank Note Table, Indiana Farmer, October 6, 1838

Document Introduction

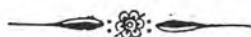
Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Bring in a Rate of Exchange Table from the newspaper. Using the modern example of exchanging United States money for European currency and the daily fluctuation of the exchange rate, explain the concept of "discounting" currency. Be sure to discuss the term "par."
- Continue the discussion of discounting paper money as illustrated in this 1838 news account. Since the size of the discount usually reflects the distance of the bank (the farther away the bank issuing, the greater the discount), speculate as to why money from the Farmers Bank of Canton, Ohio, is discounted at a greater rate than Tennessee, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Additional Things To Do

- Continue to watch the rate of exchange over a month. Try to note what has an impact on the rate, e.g., economy, world events, etc.

THE TOWN OF MONROE.



THIS Town has recently been laid out upon the North west quarter of Section twenty five Township eight North, in Range eleven west, near Turman's creek, about half way between Vincennes & Terre Haute, and upon as liberal a plan, in point of elegance, convenience & health, as any Town heretofore laid off in the western country. The Site is elevated and clear from Ravines & sinks—the lots are of the usual size of town lots—the Streets are from sixty to eighty feet and the Alleys sixteen, and a liberal appropriation has been made for Public uses.

THE Proprietor observing from his long residence, the advantageous situation of this spot in regard to Vincennes and Fort Harrison as a resting place to the traveller, and viewing the many natural advantages and inducements, such as the fertility of the adjacent and surrounding country—the almost inexhaustible quantity of prime timber, and Lime Stone and on the east interspersed thro' a fine Woodland country. The quantity of STONE COAL immediately contiguous, in amount and quality sufficient for the requisites of all fire operations in a town—and the number of fine springs affording at all seasons, the most salubrious water—besides its proximity to the Wabash (being about one and a half miles east of it) and that beautiful stream, called Turman's creek, in its skirts or suburbs. In addition to the above, there is a SAW-MILL within half a mile; now on the way and which its contemplated will be in operation in the course of six weeks, and from which Plank and scantling may be obtained, at a fair price, sufficient for all the uses of the Town.

Plurality of towns should not be any more censured than a plurality of Schools—for both are conducive to sociability and refinement in manners—and the Proprietor, more from Patriotic than pecuniary views, now offers for sale the Lots in *MONROE*, and upon the following liberal terms Viz :

1st. The Lots will be sold at Public auction to the highest bidder, on Monday the 23d of December now ensuing.

2d. Purchasers shall give Bonds and security payable in three equal Instalments ; the first on the 23d December 1817, the second on the 23d September 1818, and the third on the 23d June 1819.—At the time of executing which Bonds, the Proprietor will give his Bond of conveyance ; and when the last Instalment is paid, the Proprietor will execute to the purchaser a Deed in Fee simple.

3d. In case of failure of payment, the Bonds will bear interest from the day of sale.

4th. A Discount of ten per cent will be made for prompt payment at the time of purchase.

BENJAMIN TARMAN,
Proprietor.

November 1816.

ELIHU STOUT, Printer, Vincennes Indiana.

CH-1816
22

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THIS Town has recently been laid out upon the North west quarter of Section twenty five Township eight North, in Range eleven west, near Turman's creek, about half way between Vincennes & Terre Haute, and upon as liberal a plan, in point of elegance, convenience & health, as any Town heretofore laid off in the western country. The Site is elevated and clear from Ravines & sinks—the lots are of the usual size of town lots—the Streets are from sixty to eighty feet and the Alleys sixteen, and a liberal appropriation has been made for Public uses.

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BENJAMIN TARMAN,*
Proprietor.

November 1816.

ELIHU STOUT, Printer, Vincennes Indiana.

Early Years Document 1P

Description

The Town of Monroe broadside measures 8" x 11 1/8", its edges are ragged, and it is stained. Tiny holes along the left side of the sheet indicate that it was, at one time, bound together with other documents. In this case the documents are all a part of the extensive Lasselle Collection at the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library; the Lasselle family lived and worked in Vincennes and Logansport. The penciled date in the upper right hand corner was added by library staff for cataloguing purposes.

Elihu Stout, the printer listed at the bottom of the document, was the first newspaper publisher in Indiana. To supplement his income from paper subscriptions he took in job printing such as this broadside. Many early publishers found this procedure necessary in order to stay in business.

Background

As the Old Northwest became more settled, towns became more necessary. Towns generally fell into three categories: ● those planned as a county or state center of government; ● service centers providing food and rest for migrating travelers; and ● communities of like-minded peoples, held together by family or religious ties. [Rohrbough, *The Trans-Appalachian Frontier*, 361] Most of those towns did not spring spontaneously from the Indiana forests and prairies but were planned by promoters and entrepreneurs. The new towns typically were promoted via newspapers and advertisements like the Monroe broadside.

Speculation in town founding was very attractive to many land-owners in the Old Northwest, mainly because it offered possibilities of large profits with little initial capital. Many farmers dreamed of exchanging the back breaking agricultural environment for the role of proprietor and landlord. Morris Birkbeck, traveling through Indiana in 1818, best described the fervor of early speculation:

On any spot where a few settlers cluster together, attracted by ancient neighbourhood, or by goodness of the soil or vicinity to a mill, or by whatever cause, some enterprising proprietor finds in his section what he deems a good scite for a town: he has it surveyed and laid out in lots, which he sells, or offers for sale by auction.

The new town then assumes the name of the founder:—a store-keeper builds a little framed store, and sends for a few cases of goods; and then a tavern starts up, which becomes the residence of a doctor and a lawyer, and the boarding-house of the store-keeper, as well as the resort of the weary traveller: soon follow a blacksmith and other handicraftsmen in useful succession: a school-master, who is also the minister of religion, becomes an important accession to this rising community. Thus the town proceeds, if it proceeds at all, with accumulating force, until it becomes the metropolis of the neighborhood. Hundreds of these speculations may have failed, but hundreds prosper; and thus trade begins and thrives as population grows around these lucky spots; imports and exports maintaining their just proportion. [Quoted from Lindley, *Indiana As Seen By Early Travelers*, 183]

Benjamin Tarman (or Turman). Monroe's founder, came to Indiana in 1806 and at one time owned over 2,500 acres. The town he founded (named after President James Monroe) was located in what is now Turman Township, Sullivan County; it was one of the hundreds of Indiana towns that for one reason or another failed to

grow and prosper. In spite of Monroe's advantageous location near water, coal, timber, limestone, and mills, the town was vacated. The Vincennes *Western Sun* on June 28, 1817, carried a notice from Turman advising lot owners that the county seat had been located elsewhere (Merom); he offered to release them from further debt upon payment of their first installment. [Wolfe, *History of Sullivan County*, 1:23]

The fourth session of the General Assembly in 1820 passed a law dealing with the common occurrence of town vacating. Any town, incorporated or not, could be vacated by a voice vote of three fourths of the qualified voters of the town. This vote was to be taken only after at least ten days notice was given in the nearest newspaper. If voters elected to vacate, election officers gave the results and the legal description of the vacated town to the county recorder to be entered in the deed book. The recorder's fee for this transaction was one dollar. [*Laws of Indiana*, 1820, pp. 34-38]

In spite of Turman's failure at town founding, he stayed in Sullivan County. As late as 1982, Turman descendants apparently continued to own acreage in Turman Township. [*Standard Atlas, Sullivan County Indiana* (1982), 40-41]

Supplemental Documents

Early Years Document 2

Early Years Document 2 is a plat map of Indianapolis published in 1821. The map shows the original plan for the capital city. This plan was adapted from designs for Washington, D. C., and Versailles, France. The survey for Indianapolis was conducted by Alexander Ralston and Elias P. Fordham. Ralston had also assisted with the survey of Washington, D. C. The map covers a square mile in area. The boundary streets which were added at a later date are present day North, South, East, and West streets. In 1821 none of the men involved with planning the capital city ever dreamed that it would grow beyond these boundary streets. [Dunn, *Greater Indianapolis*, I: 28-31] This document is from the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library, and is printed in many sources.

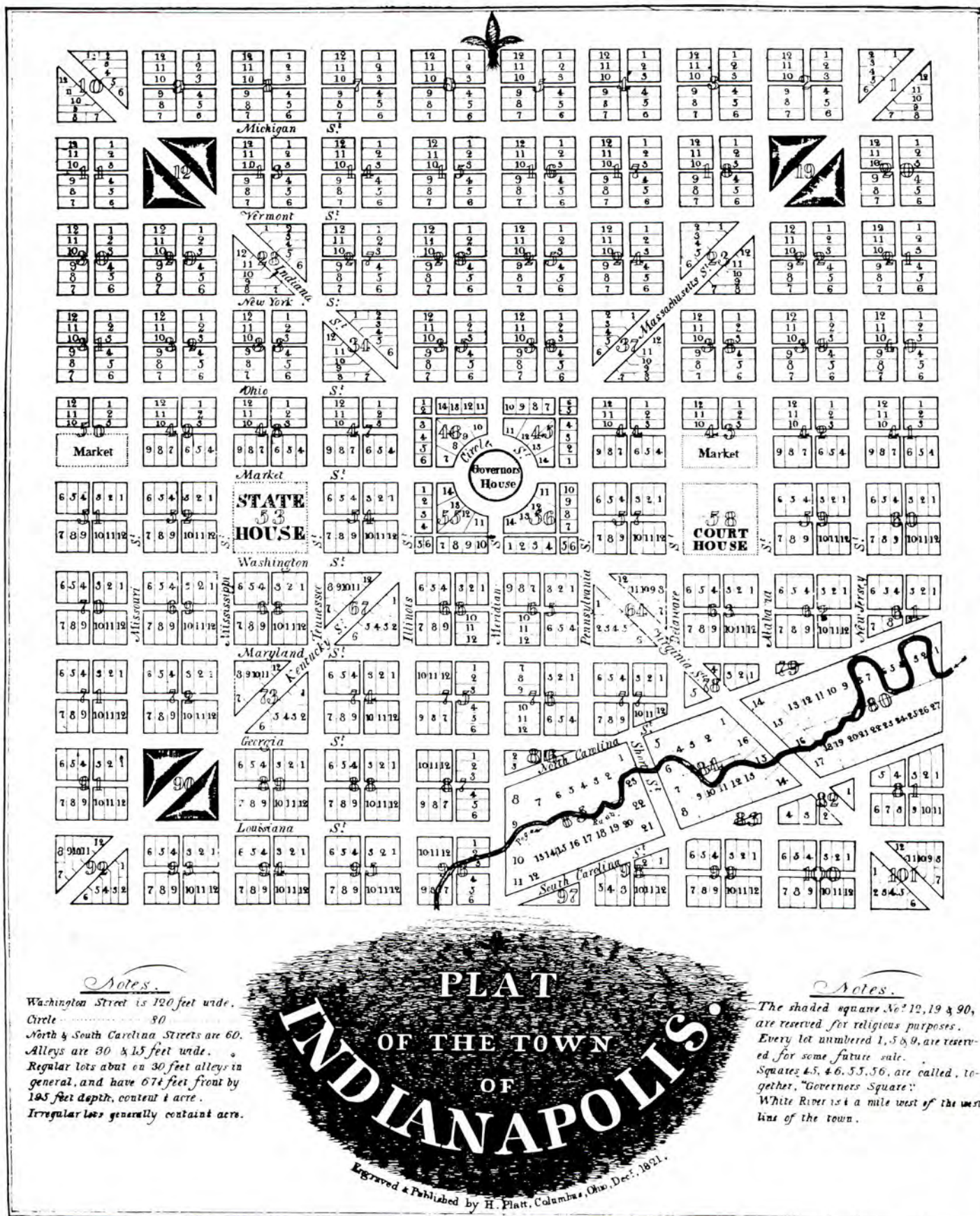
Early Years Document 3

Early Years Document 3 is a letter written by Calvin Fletcher in 1836 to a business partner, Nicholas McCarty. The letter describes Fletcher's business activities on a trip to northern Indiana. Fletcher and several others were platting a town site in Porter County near present day Flint Lake. They hoped this site would be chosen as the county seat of Porter County. Even though this site was not chosen, it appears that Fletcher and friends owned land near or adjoining the chosen county seat which is present day Valparaiso. While Fletcher and his group seemed to accept the decision to locate the county seat elsewhere, this was not always the case. Many very heated arguments and political battles raged throughout the state over the locating of county seats. [Shockley, "County Seat Wars." *IMH* 10: 1-46]

Quick and substantial profits provided the impetus for Fletcher, his partners, and many others to speculate in frontier towns and farms. In January, 1836, Fletcher wrote in his diary that he had invested fifteen to twenty thousand dollars in real estate in the last year. [Fletcher Diary, 1:296] He did make money from speculation. For example, in December, 1835, Calvin Fletcher bought a lot in Indianapolis on the southeast corner of Ohio and Illinois streets

for which he paid \$210.00; he sold the lot six months later for \$450.00. [Fletcher Diary, 1:270n]

Fletcher's business partners mentioned in the letter were all prominent Hoosiers. Nicholas McCarty moved to Indiana in 1823 at age twenty-eight. He was a storekeeper, land speculator, and railroad investor. McCarty also owned the first steam flour mill in Indianapolis. He won election as a Whig to three consecutive terms in the Indiana Senate. [Biographical Directory, 1:245] Judge William Polke, a veteran of the Battle of Tippecanoe, served in the Indiana Senate from 1816 to 1821. He also served as a judge in Knox County's Circuit and Probate courts. Polke was appointed commissioner for the sale of Michigan Road lands; later he was superintendent of construction for the Michigan Road. [Biographical Directory, 1:316] William Sheets, a Whig, was elected by the General Assembly to the position of Indiana Secretary of State in 1832. In 1838 he began operation of a successful paper mill in Indianapolis. [Fletcher Diary, 1:198-99n] William Teel (Teall) was from LaPorte, Indiana. He and a partner, early in 1836, had purchased much of present day Michigan City as trustees for the Michigan City Land Company. [Fletcher Diary, 1:274n] For more information on Calvin Fletcher, see the Background Information for Early Years Document 34P.



Lapwala June 9th 1836

495

Dear Sir,

The County seat was located yesterday on a tract adjoining our lower half of Judge Polk - & near several tracts in which we have an interest. The Court here had part of the town on the land we have an interest in but Sheets was absent & we did not feel disposed to act in his absence or to give a donation - Town property must soon become what is said of original sin, more you have got the worse it is - Every person is going to lay off towns & lots & fear Michigan city will be ruined this way. I have been in company for the last 4 days with Mr. Lull the plat order agent of the State. I have learned many of their little dirty tricks from him - I shall lay off 80 in lots as soon as possible - Shall write you next week. I have felt of Paster entering into partnership in buying land but have concluded not to urge the matter - I believe we best sell - not buy. Town property unless in a very few towns must fall -

Yours &c

C. H. Fletcher

P.S. I have requested Palmer to buy Sheets interest but in lands we now have I have not mentioned your name - so say nothing about it - He have some very valuable mill privileges near the County seat -

Transcription

Topenaba June 9^h 1836

Dear Sir,

The county seat was located yesterday on a tract adjoining our land bought of Judge Polk— & near several tracts in which we have an interest We could have had part of the town on the land we have an interest in but Sheets was absent & we did not feel disposed to act in his absence or to give a donation. Town property must soon become what is said of original sin, more you have of it the worse it is. Evry person is going to lay off towns & lots I fear Michigan City will be ruined this way I have been in company for the last 4 days with Mr. Teel the great owner of that city &c I have learned many of their little dirty tricks from him. I shall lay off 8 a[cres]* in lots as soon as possible. Shall write you next week I have put off[f] P as to entering into partnership in buying land but have concluded not to urge the matter. I believe we best sell— not buy Town property unless in a very few towns most fail.*

in haste yours &c
C Fletcher

P.S. I have requested Palmer to buy Sheets interest out in lands we own here I have not mentioned your name. So say nothing about it— We have some very valuable mill privileges [?] near the county seat—

*In comparing this transcription and the original document, please note that Calvin Fletcher's handwriting allows for more than one interpretation.

NEW STORE.

THE subscriber has just opened at his house, eight miles east of Washington, on the main road from St. Louis to Louisville, a general assortment of

Spring, Summer & Fall GOODS,

Consisting in part of the following, viz:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3 4, 7 8, and 4-4 Calicoes, Barage, Batticu and Gingham, fine and splendid patterns, | Flannels, |
| 3 4, 5 4, & 6 4, Cambric, Book, Jaconet, & Mull Mull Muslin, | 3½ and 4 Point Blankets, |
| Fine Jaconet & Book Muslin Robes, plain and figured, | Superior Russia Drillings, |
| Plain and fancy Nankeen and Canton Crapes, | Ladies Prunella, Morocco and Leather Shoes, |
| Damask, and Bird Eye Silk & Bandana Handkerchiefs, | Boys, Misses and Childrens Shoes, |
| Silk, Gauso and Dress Handkerchiefs, | Hosery, of all sorts, |
| Scarfs and Vails, elegant, | Superfine, Fine, and Common Leghorn and Straw Bonnets and Bonnet trimmings |
| Real Worsted, Merino, and Imitation Shawls, | Wool, Roram, Caster, Beaver and Beaveret Hats, |
| Cotton Shawls and Handkerchiefs, a great variety, | Combs, of all sorts, |
| 3 4, 7 8, 4 4, 9 8, & 9 4 Brown & bleached Shirting & Sheetting, | Hardware and Cutlery, |
| 3-4, 4 4, and 5 4, Domestic Plaids and Stripes, | China, Glass, and Queensware, |
| Apron and furniture Checks, | Nails, assorted—Juniatta hammered Iron, |
| Elegant Counterpanes, | American & English Blistered Steel—Allum Salt, in sacks, |
| Angola Casimer, superior, | Tin ware, great variety—Groceries and Liquors, |
| Valentia, Swansdown, and Mersailles Vest-patterns, all sorts and colours, | Spices and Dye stuffs. |
| | Cotton & Wool Cards, all Nos. &c. &c. &c. |

All of which will be sold unusually low for Cash, Rags, Tow Linen, dried Deer-skins, Feathers, &c.

C. BERKSHIRE.

Fairview, July 1st, 1829.

C. BERKSHIRE, keeps entertainment for travellers, and Grain by the bushel, and Hay by the hundred—movers can be supplied with Flour, Bacon, Butter, and such other articles as they may wish to render them comfortable.

(7-1-1829) (3)

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Spring, Summer & Fall GOODS,

Consisting in part of the following, viz;

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3 4, 5 4 & 6 4, Cambric, Book, Jaconet, & Mull Mull Muslins, Fine Jaconet & Book Muslin Robes, plain and figured, Plain and fancy Nankeen and Canton Crapes, Damask, and Bird Eye Silk & Bandana Handkerchiefs, Silk Gause and Dress Handkerchiefs, Scarfs and Vails, elegant, Real Worsted, Merino, and Imitation Shawls, Cotton Shawls and Handkerchiefs, a great variety, 3 4, 7 8, 4 4, 9 8, & 9 4 Brown & bleached Shirting & Sheetting, 3-4, 4 4, and 5 4, Domestic Plaids and Stripes, Apron and furniture Checks, Elegant Counterpanes, Angola Casimer, superior, Valentia, Swansdown, and Mersailles Vest-patterns, all sorts and colours,

Flannels,
3½ and 4 Point Blankets,
Superior Russia Drillings,
Ladies Prunella, Morocco and Leather Shoes,
Boys, Misses and Childrens Shoes,
Hosery, of all sorts,
Superfine, Fine, and Common Leghorn and Straw Bonnets and Bonnet trimmings,
Wool, Roram, Caster, Beaver and Beaveret Hats,
Combs, of all sorts,
Hardware and Cutlery,
China, Glass, and Queensware,
Nails, assorted—Juniatta hammered Iron,
American & English Blistered Steel—Allum Salt, in sacks,
Tin ware, great variety—Groceries and Liquors,
Spices and Dye stuffs,
Cotton & Wool Cards, all Nos. &c. &c. &c.

All of which will be sold unusually low for Cash, Rags, Tow Linen, dried Deer-skins, Feathers, &c.

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INCHES

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Description

The New Store broadside measures 8 1/2" x 11 3/4". Its edges are very ragged and uneven, and there are several spots of discoloration. Tiny holes along the left side of the document indicate that at one time this document was bound together with other documents. This broadside is from the Lasselle Collection, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

Background

This broadside was printed to announce the opening of a new store in 1829, located east of the city of Washington in Daviess County. Cornelius Berkshire, the store owner, lived in Daviess County as early as 1822 when the county commissioners' Record Book shows that he was appointed in May to serve as an election inspector in Washington Township. Apparently sometime in 1825 Berkshire moved to Barr Township which is just east of the county seat, Washington. He received \$2.00 for making returns for the 1825 Barr Township elections. In July, 1829, the county commissioners ordered Berkshire to pay \$10.00 for a license to vend merchandise for one year. In July, 1830, the record shows that Cornelius Berkshire paid \$12.00 for a license to sell goods. No further record of annual licenses was found though references were made to his continued appointments as election inspector. [WPA, Daviess Co., *Commissioners Record Book B 1820-1832*]

An 1886 *History of Knox and Daviess Counties* [634] lists Cornelius Berkshire as an associate judge for the Circuit Court from 1836 to 1845. Fulkerson's *History of Daviess County, Indiana* [258] also lists Berkshire as a charter member of the local Masonic lodge, which was organized in 1825. The 1830 Daviess County Census lists Berkshire as the head of a household of two adults, male and female aged 40 to 50, with seven other household members ranging in age from under 5 to 20. The 1840 Census shows one adult male, aged 50 to 60; one female, 30 to 40; two females, 20 to 30; and six other household members from 5 to 20 years of age. This record also shows that two persons in this household were employed in farming. Cornelius Berkshire is not listed in the 1850 Census, but an Eliza Berkshire and a John Berkshire are both listed as heads of households.

An extensive search for information about the Fairview listed on the broadside yielded no information. If this town actually existed at all, it was not apparently recorded, or the records were subsequently lost in either of the two fires at the Daviess County Court House.

The typical store building of the time was made of logs, chinked with lime and clay. It consisted of two rooms—one for a salesroom and the other for storage—each about twenty feet square. The salesroom had shelves on all four walls and a long counter to divide the room. Money was kept in a drawer under the counter; usually a small hole was cut in the counter as a convenient method to allow the storekeeper to drop money into the cash drawer. [Atherton, *Frontier Merchant*, 49] Merchants usually secured their stores with locks and bars—something that most settlers worried little about.

The manufactured goods and groceries that are listed in this broad-side were probably purchased by the owner on his annual spring trip to the East. Such trips usually took six to eight weeks depending on the weather because the merchant accompanied his freight on the return trip. Before the middle of the century, most manufactured goods were imported from Britain, France, or China. Stoneware, brass, and iron as well as fine cotton and wool cloth came from Great Britain. Fine china and fancy silks were imported from France and China. Many grocery items were also imported. Coffee came primarily from Brazil; tea came from China via Britain. Spices like pepper and cinnamon came from the West and East Indies. Rum was made in the Caribbean, wines came from France and Portugal, while whiskey and beer were generally made locally. Salt came down the Ohio River from the Kanawha Valley of what is now West Virginia. Lead for shot and bullets was mined around present day Galena, Illinois, and shipped via the Mississippi River.

Naturally, storekeepers accepted cash from local farmers for their goods. Most settlers, however, had to reserve any cash for land payments or taxes—for which only cash was acceptable. As this storekeeper indicates, he was most willing to accept other commodities in barter for his goods.

Rags were hauled to the nearest paper mill for manufacture of a mediocre cotton paper. Tow linen was resold to make cheap clothing. Feathers were used to fill bed ticks and pillows. Produce—such as grain, bacon, butter, and eggs—brought in as barter was often sold to travelers who needed to restock before moving farther west. Many merchants also served local farmers as commodities brokers selling their harvested corn and pork dressed or on the hoof.

Supplemental Documents

The supplemental documents are both from the Ewing Collection, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library. The Ewing family settled in Fort Wayne as fur traders and merchants, gradually securing vast amounts of land and becoming very wealthy.

Early Years Document 5

Early Years Document 5 is a list of manufactured goods bought from a New York mercantile firm for the Fort Wayne store. This page lists a wide variety of articles and gives wholesale prices. Sperm candles were made from spermaceti, a fatty substance in the head of a sperm whale; the substance was also used in various medicinal preparations. Loaf sugar was hard refined sugar shaped in a molded conical mass. The white lead and linseed oil were mixed—often with additional coloring—to make paint.

Early Years Document 6

Early Years Document 6 is part of a listing of furs shipped to New York in 1839 by the Ewing, Wallace & Co. firm of Logansport. As the rest of the document shows, this total shipment—the second in 1839 by the firm— included seventy-four packs of furs; twenty-two of the packs sent contained a total of 13,900 muskrat skins.

A vertical ruler with a white background and black markings. The word "INCHES" is printed at the top left. The ruler is marked from 1 to 12 inches. Each inch is divided into four smaller units, likely quarters of an inch. The numbers 1 through 12 are printed along the right side of the ruler.

Bo. of Leyden, Aug. 26.

237.49

New York October 23^d 1838

* 100% of this per V. Loring

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \frac{6}{10} \\ 13 \\ 70 \\ \hline 239 \\ 17 \end{array}$$

Bill of Lading, October 23, 1838.
(Indiana Historical Society)
Early Years Document 5

BROADSIDES
Indiana, the Early Years
Commerce, Trade and Agriculture

Transcription

Messrs W.G. & G.W. Ewing

Bot. of Suydam, Sage & Co.

6 Kegs English White Lead 25 lbs ea. 150 lbs	@1/.	18.75
10 Galls. Lamp Oil (sent with Mr. Sweetser goods)	@8/6	10.63
1 BBl Linseed Oil... 37 Galls	@9/.	41.62
10 Galls. Cognac Brandy In Keg 1 of	@11/.	15.
1 Doz Champagne	@11/	11.
2 Bottles Mustard	@2/	0.50
1 Bottle Pepper Sauce	@2/6	.31
1 Box Bunch Raisins	@22/	2.75
32 lbs Almonds in Keg 2/6	@15c	5.12
1 BBl 3/ Soda Crackers 50 lb	@10c	5.38
1 BBl [?] Mackerel	@13c	13.00
1 BBl 3/ Loaf Sugar 150 18 132	@14 1/2c	19.52
1 Keg 2/6 Rice 50 lb	@5 1/2c	3.06
1 Box Havanna Sugar 416 62 354 *	@9 3/4	34.51
1 Box 2/ Variegated Soap 30 1/2 lbs	@ 16c	5.13
1 Box 2/ Sperm Candles 29	@36c	10.69
1 Qr. Box Frincippi Segars	@21\$	5.25
1 BBl 2/6 Java Coffee 156 37 119 G.W.E	@16c	19.35
1 Box 13 lbs. Young Hyson Tea do	@62 1/2c	8.13
30 lbs Loaf Sugar In Keg 2/6 do	@15 1/2c	4.96
31 " Rice do	@5 1/2c	1.70
Cartage		<u>1.13</u>
		<u>\$237.49</u>

New York October 23d 1838

July 19, 1839

A list of Furs & Peltries sent forward by
Ewing Walker & Co. of Logansport, in July
1839

No Packs	Sheer	Recom	No Packs	Sheer	Recom	Other	Mink	Fish	Bear	Fox	Wm Cats
153	2	200	wp	48	4800						
154	2	200	177	2	200						
155	2	200	178	2	200						
156	2	200	179	2	200						
157	2	200	180	2	200						
158	2	200	181	2	200						
159	2	200	182	2	200						
160	2	200	183	2	200						
161	2	200	184	2	200						
162	2	200	185	32							
163	2	200	186	36							
164	2	200	187	11		32	93				
165	2	200	188	11			500				
166	2	200	189	60							
167	2	200	190	32							
168	2	200	191	32							
169	2	200	192	32							
170	2	200	193	32							
171	2	200	194	32							
172	2	200	195	32					20		
173	2	200	196						20		
174	2	200	197	32							
175	2	200	198	32							
176	2	200	199	2						93	48
	48	4800		472	6400	32	593	1	20	93	48

Courtesy Indiana State Library.

1830 Nathan Kanes

To 1 Drying pan	1/2	50
To 33 yds Cotton panting	1/2	63
To Balance on flannel	2	96
To 1 side up. Lather 1/2	2	23
To 1/2 doz Bees	3/4	24
To 5 lb Baplee	2 3/4	1
To 1 fine - Cambr	1/2	15
To 1/2 yds Calico	2 1/2	47
To 1 lb rice	1/2	15
To 2 lb nails	1/2	38
To 1 Bake oven 25	1/2	13
		<u>174</u>

The Continued
 To 7 yds blue Calico 2 1/2 1 75
 To 1/2 dozen Hines 1/2 2 25
 Wm. Davis 1/2 3 75

Contracted

By 6 Chickens	1/2	75	2
By 14 3/4 lbs honey	1/2	2	21
By 4 lbs Beeswax	2/3	1	20
By 7 1/2 lb Butter	2	2	87
By 6 lb Butter	2 1/2	1	80
By 5 deer hams	2 1/2	1	90
By 5 Chickens	1/2	1	20
By 4 deer Skins	4 1/2	2	25
By 5 1/2 lb Butter	2	1	87
By 1 lb doz Eggs	1/2	1	80
By 1 deer skin	4 1/2	1	80
		<u>14</u>	9

174 8/10

14 89

2 59

Jan 21st By 1/2 doz Eggs 1 75
 By 1/2 doz Eggs 1 75
 Jan 21st By 3 doz Eggs 1 75
 By 7 1/2 Butter 1/2 87
 Jan 21st By 4 doz Eggs 1 75
 Jan 17th To Balance 13 75



Description

The page reproduced as Packet Document 3 is from an account book which measures 6 1/8" x 15 1/2". An actual page measures 5 3/4" x 15 3/8". Leather covers the spine of the book, and printed paper decorates the cardboard covers. This account book is in fair shape and is located in the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

Blank books of this size and description were fairly common items used by farmers, craftsmen, and merchants to keep track of their finances.

Background

Document 3 shows two facing pages from an account book belonging to Daniel Bearss of Peru, Indiana. Storekeepers usually kept two sets of books: a daily book, into which the daily business transactions were recorded at the time of purchase, and a ledger book, into which daily transactions were posted by the name of the debtor or creditor. This document is from a ledger. The left page indicates what kinds of items were purchased by Nathan Kanes from Bearss' store in Peru in 1835 and how much these items cost. The right page shows how Nathan Kanes paid for the items that he purchased.

Money in coin or currency was very scarce in Indiana throughout the 1830s, which forced settlers to pay for store purchases with products from their farms and the forests. Settlers who were not yet able to produce more food or goods than they needed were often able to pay for store purchases by hiring out themselves or their children to chop wood, hoe corn, or clear forests. This work was then credited to the farmers via the storekeeper's account books.

Such stores played important social roles as well as business and commercial roles. Farmers and their families generally made a trip to the store into an all day event—especially if they had to travel much distance at all. In addition to selling his produce and purchasing needed goods, the farmer caught up on local gossip, learned about national events, and visited with friends and neighbors.

The store usually opened at dawn and closed late in the evening after the last customer had been satisfied. Most early stores carried products ranging from groceries to cloth to hardware. Settlers purchased a wide variety of goods, not just the basic necessities. Silk handkerchiefs, fancy china, and imported teas were available alongside the salt, calico, and nails. Storekeepers' profits were affected not only by the amount of available cash but by adverse weather and bad crops. Daily sales at a western store, according to one study, averaged from \$20 to \$40. [Atherton, *Pioneer Merchant*, 56] The storekeeper made his profit on the manufactured goods that he sold and not on the farm produce that he bought and later resold.

Daniel R. Bearss, the owner of the account book from which this document was excerpted, was born in 1809 in New York state. In 1811 his family moved to Ohio, then in 1815 to Detroit. He lived on a farm and was educated in a log school. In 1828 he became a clerk in a store run by the Ewings of Fort Wayne. Bearss ran a branch store in Logansport for the Ewings until 1832 when he went into

business for himself in Goshen. In 1834 he moved to Peru with his new bride and started a mercantile business with his father-in-law. In 1841 and 1843 Daniel Bearss served as a state representative; in 1855, 1857, 1861, 1863, 1875, and 1877 he served as a state senator. He was a Clay Republican. In 1849 Bearss sold his interest in the store to concentrate on his vast real estate holdings in agriculture and business. Before Bearss retired, he was the second largest taxpayer in Peru. He died in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1884. [*Biographical Directory*, 1:19; Brant & Fuller, *History of Miami County*, 296, 394]

Bearss was typical of storekeepers of the time. He moved west with his family making several stops along the way. He learned his trade working for someone else before branching out on his own. He was active in politics following the Whig, and later Republican, ideologies of most in his profession. He invested both time and money in land and ultimately became one of the most successful men in Miami County.

While there was a great deal of information available about Daniel Bearss, the search for Nathan Kanes proved unsuccessful. Nathan Kanes (Canes, Cains) was not listed in the 1820, 1830, or 1840 census indices, nor was he mentioned in any Miami County histories. Perhaps Kanes settled in the area briefly between decennial enumerations and was simply never counted in Indiana, having moved farther west.

Supplemental Documents

Two additional pages from account books from other areas of the state are included as supplemental documents. Early Years Document 8 from the mercantile establishment of Tousey, Vaughn, and Test in Lawrenceburg provides a look at storekeeping in a thriving river town in 1835. Kanawha salt got its name from the location along the Kanawha River in present day West Virginia where it was obtained from deposits prior to refining. A roundabout was a short, close-fitting jacket. Bobt refers to bobbinet, a kind of machine-made cotton net originally imitating the lace made with bobbins on a pillow.

Early Years Document 8

Logansport in 1839 is the setting for Early Years Document 9. It is a reproduction from the extensive Lasselle collection. Both items are located in the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library. See the Politics chapter following for more information about the Lasselle family in Indiana (Early Years Document 54).

Early Years Document 9

Transcription

5th	31			Contra	[?]
18[35?]	Nathan Kanes				
	To 1 Frying pan 4/	50		By 6 Chickens 1/	00 75
	To 33 yds Cotton factory 11/	3 63		By 17 3/4 lbs honey 1/	2 22
	To Balance on flannel	2 86		By 4 lbs Beeswax 2/	1 00
	To 1 Side up leather 18/	2 25		By 9 1/2 lbs Butter 2	2 37
Nov 30th	To 1 pr Boots 32/	04 00		By 6 lbs Butter 2/	1 50
	To 5 lbs Coffee 20/	1 00		By 8 deer hams [?]	1 70
	To 1 fine Comb 1/	13	Dec 22	By 8 Chickens 1/	1 00
	To 1 1/2 yds calico 2/6	47		By 4 deer Skins 4/6	2 25
	To 1 lb rice 1/	13		By 5 1/2 lbs Butter 2	1 37
	To 9 lb nails — 3/	38		By 1 1/2 doz Eggs 1/	13
Feb 15	To 1 Bake oven 25 lbs 8	<u>2 13</u>		By 1 deerskin 4/	<u>50</u>
		\$17 48			14 89
					17.48
					<u>14.89</u>
					2.59
			June 4th	By But & Eggs	1 75
			June 23	By 5 doz Eggs 1/	62
				By 7 lbs Butter	83
			July 7th	By 4 doz Eggs 1/	50
			July 17th	To Balance	3 75
					3 75
	Dr Continued				
	To 7 yds blue Calico 2/	1 75			
	To 1 drachm Wine 6/				
	Sundries	<u>\$2 00</u>			
		3 75			

Tousey, Vaughn, and Test Store Account Book, July 19, 1835.		Tousey, Vaughn, and Test Store Account Book, July 19, 1835.	
22	George Smith	22	George Smith
23	William Smith	23	William Smith
24	One Dollar	24	One Dollar
25	David L. Carter	25	David L. Carter
26	Samuel L. Carter	26	Samuel L. Carter
27	One Dollar	27	One Dollar
28	One Dollar	28	One Dollar
29	One Dollar	29	One Dollar
30	One Dollar	30	One Dollar
31	One Dollar	31	One Dollar
32	One Dollar	32	One Dollar
33	One Dollar	33	One Dollar
34	One Dollar	34	One Dollar
35	One Dollar	35	One Dollar
36	One Dollar	36	One Dollar
37	One Dollar	37	One Dollar
38	One Dollar	38	One Dollar
39	One Dollar	39	One Dollar
40	One Dollar	40	One Dollar
41	One Dollar	41	One Dollar
42	One Dollar	42	One Dollar
43	One Dollar	43	One Dollar
44	One Dollar	44	One Dollar
45	One Dollar	45	One Dollar
46	One Dollar	46	One Dollar
47	One Dollar	47	One Dollar
48	One Dollar	48	One Dollar
49	One Dollar	49	One Dollar
50	One Dollar	50	One Dollar
51	One Dollar	51	One Dollar
52	One Dollar	52	One Dollar
53	One Dollar	53	One Dollar
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56	One Dollar	56	One Dollar
57	One Dollar	57	One Dollar
58	One Dollar	58	One Dollar
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62	One Dollar	62	One Dollar
63	One Dollar	63	One Dollar
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65	One Dollar	65	One Dollar
66	One Dollar	66	One Dollar
67	One Dollar	67	One Dollar
68	One Dollar	68	One Dollar
69	One Dollar	69	One Dollar
70	One Dollar	70	One Dollar
71	One Dollar	71	One Dollar
72	One Dollar	72	One Dollar
73	One Dollar	73	One Dollar
74	One Dollar	74	One Dollar
75	One Dollar	75	One Dollar
76	One Dollar	76	One Dollar
77	One Dollar	77	One Dollar
78	One Dollar	78	One Dollar
79	One Dollar	79	One Dollar
80	One Dollar	80	One Dollar
81	One Dollar	81	One Dollar
82	One Dollar	82	One Dollar
83	One Dollar	83	One Dollar
84	One Dollar	84	One Dollar
85	One Dollar	85	One Dollar
86	One Dollar	86	One Dollar
87	One Dollar	87	One Dollar
88	One Dollar	88	One Dollar
89	One Dollar	89	One Dollar
90	One Dollar	90	One Dollar
91	One Dollar	91	One Dollar
92	One Dollar	92	One Dollar
93	One Dollar	93	One Dollar
94	One Dollar	94	One Dollar
95	One Dollar	95	One Dollar
96	One Dollar	96	One Dollar
97	One Dollar	97	One Dollar
98	One Dollar	98	One Dollar
99	One Dollar	99	One Dollar
100	One Dollar	100	One Dollar

Transcription

				125
	Lawrenceburgh	June 19 1835		
		Amt brot forwd		314 61
<u>123</u>	Richard Harding Daughter			
	For 1 Pr Shoes			1 40
<u>157</u>	Eli Smith			
	For 1/2 lbs Tea			37
<u>250</u>	Edmund Colden			
	For 1 Life of Marion		63	
	" 1 Silk Hdkf		87	
	" 1 pr Suspenders		13	
	" 1 Hymn Book		<u>25</u>	1 88
<u>276</u>	John Colden			
	For 1 Twilled Bag		56	
	" 10 lbs Sugar		1 00	
	" 3 " Coffee		<u>50</u>	2 06
<u>120</u>	Benjn Stockman			
	For 1/3 lbs Impl Tea			56
<u>110</u>	Geo. G. Jackson			
	For 4 oz Indigo		50	
	" 10 lbs 3 oz Cotton Yarn	33 1/3	3 40	
	" 1 Grind Stone		88	
	" 1 Scythe		<u>1 12</u>	5 90
<u>132</u>	John Sarver			
	For 1/4 lb Tea			19
<u>70</u>	Francis Worley			
	For making & trimg Roundabout			63
<u>158</u>	Charles Dashiell			
20	For 6 Yds Saco	30	1 80	
	" 20 " Ticking	30	6 00	
	" 31 " Muslin	12	3 72	
	" 1 BBl Old Salt		1 00	
	" 6 4/50 Bus Kan Salt	37 1/2	2 29	
	" 1 Pitcher		63	
	" 3 Tumblers		25	
	" 1 Scythe		1 12	
	" 2 Doz Buttons		<u>13</u>	
			16 94	
	By 37 Yds Linen	22		
			<u>8 14</u>	8 80
30	Edwd. F. Test			
	For 1 Yd Bobt		85	
	" 10 " " Footing	4 1/2	<u>45</u>	<u>1 30</u>
				337 70

4 January 8th 1839

210	Wase Spray	Dr	
oil Bush	To 5 th Sugar	100	
"	2 th Coffee	105	
"	2 th Tea	75	
"	1 th Cinnamon	66	
"	1 th Glass Tumbler	13	3 11
"	Co By Cash	100	
"	H Lasselle Jr By Dave Dr		
"	To 2 th Candles	50	
1	Thomas Cummings Dr		
"	To 1 th Candles	25	
		11 39	
	Cash Dr		
	To Merchandise	350	
		350	11 39

January 9th

34	James Thompson Dr		
"	To 1 th Ex Handle	19	
28	H Lasselle Jr Dr		
"	By H Lasselle Jr by Dave 88,00		
1	James Jr Adair Dr		
"	To Cash	3,00	
6	H Lasselle sum Dr		
"	To 2 th Byrdell cornmeal	38	
"	38 th Byrdell Oil	1,12	1 50
35	Lasselle & Wilson by Adair		
"	To 1 Bar Soap	18	
24	Robert Wilson Byson		
"	To 2 th Candles	13	
35	Lasselle & Wilson by Adair		
"	1 th Candles	25	
	Cash Dr		
	To Merchandise	400	
		400	2 25

January 10th 1839 4

21	H Lasselle Jr By Dave Dr		
"	To 20 th flour	1 80	
36	Owen Hart Dr mfr Dr		
"	To 2 th young Hyson Tea	75	
"	2 th Tobacco	12	88
37	William Martin Dr		
"	To 1 Hat Payable mfr	4 00	
"	Conrad Martin Surety		
38	John R Wright Dr		
"	To 2 th Rice	15	
"	1 Pair Small shoes	1 25	
39	Joseph Atclair Dr		
"	To 8 th Calico	2,00	
"	2 th Tobacco	50	
"	2 Spools thread	25	2 75
"	By 13 straw Baskets	120,00	on com
"	1 split Baskets	112	
"		373	
8	H Lasselle sum Dr		
"	To 24 gallon Molasses	1 12	
"	Cash Dr		
"	To Merchandise	250	
		250	11 80
19	James At Kintner Dr		
"	To 1 Pair small shoes	1 00	
40	Abner Mattabough Dr		
"	To 10 th Coffee	2,00	
"	2 Abnunches	13	2 13
21	H Lasselle Jr By Dave Dr		
"	To 2 th by Tumbler	1 50	
41	Elyah Hodge Dr		
"	To 1 Pair Boots By order of Hodge	4 25	
42	John Cochran Dr		
"	To 13 th flour	4,00	
"	2 th Sugar Bush	40	1,40

Transcription

	January 10th 1839		4
21	H Lasselle Sr By Dave	Dr	
	To 40 lbs flour		1 80
36	Owen Hart Pr Wife	Dr	
	To 1/2 lb young Hyson Tea	75	
	1/2 lb Tobacco	12	88
37	William Martin	Dr	
	To 1 Hat Payable June 1st		4 00
	Conrod Martin Surety		
38	John N Wright	Dr	
	To 2 lbs Rice	25	
	1 Pair Small Shoes	1 00	1 25
39	Joseph St clair	Dr	
	To 8 yds Calico	2 00	
	2 lb Tobacco	50	
	2 Spools thread	25	2 75
	Cr		
	By 13 straw Baskets @20	2 60 on Com	
	9 Split Baskets @12	<u>1 13</u>	
		3 73	
8	H Lasselle senr	Dr	
	To 3/4 Gallon Molasses		1 12
	Cash	Dr	
	To Merchandise	<u>7 50</u>	
		7 50	11 80

17th May. 11. June.
Friday. Dr Whitcomb went from here this morning he is going to N. York Mother sent some flower seeds to Uncle Wm by him Some of the people from Laporte came this ~~evening~~ ^{from} for the meeting, warm place
18th Saturday, very pleasant meeting to day at the school
19th Sunday very warm meeting continued a good many people came, George Taylor was buried ~~this evening~~ ^{last night} he died
20th Monday, pleasant in the fore noon in the afternoon cloudy Mr Waggoner took the oxen to plough his lot.
21st Tuesday. Mr. W. planted corn pleasant Mrs Lillie's sale was to day Father went to it I got Mr Westbrooks pony
22^d Wednesday, fair and warm Jacob Northley planted corn and Mr Morner part of the day Wind South.
23^d Thursday, very hot, there was a hard thunder shower last night we weeded the garden this morning my popcorn has come up.
24th Friday pleasant there was a thunder storm last night Mr W. and Jacob planted corn some of the corn has come up.
25th Saturday, very warm Jacob went home last night it rained some Mr W. and Father planted corn I dropt we finished planting by night.
26th Sunday, showers in the fore noon towards night the storm ^{soon} cleared off it was cool all day it became cloudy again and rained.
27th Monday, it rained in the night and showers most all day Mother began school Mr W. and Father planted potatoes
28th Tuesday, it rained last night and showers some to day Mother planted plums and cherry stones I went to school Mr Lasse went to Chicago
29th Wednesday, it cleared off, pleasant Father ploughed Mr Waggoner went home
30th Thursday, pleasant we ploughed Mr. W. set stakes. 31st Friday, quite warm I harrowed some, we planted some potatoes, Mr. W. planted white beans.
1st of June, Saturday, in the fore noon it was pleasant in the afternoon it was cloudy and cool Father and me went to see the mill and to see some wheat which

Early Years Document 10P

Packet Document 4 is a page from a diary kept by Timothy H. Ball. The diary is homemade using paper sewn together without a binding. It's folded size measures 3 7/8" x 6 1/16". The last several pages have been cut off. The front page is inscribed:

Description

Diary No. 1st
Began Feb 16th 1839
Timothy H. Ball
Ended Sept. 6th 1847
8 years, and some more.

This diary is located in the William Henry Smith Memorial Library of the Indiana Historical Society. The page has been enlarged 150 percent for easier use.

Most of the settlers who came to Indiana during the period 1816 to 1850 were involved in some way with agriculture. Most settlers' first attempts at growing crops and raising livestock were efforts simply to feed their families. Only after these needs were met did farmers continue the work of clearing land, planting, cultivating, and harvesting to bring money into the family coffers.

Background

Corn was generally the first crop planted by settlers because it did well even on partially cleared land. The methods of cultivating corn as well as its uses were learned from the Indians early in the settlement of North America. Corn was planted in hills along with beans and squash. When harvested it was used to make hominy and succotash, ground into meal, it made corn bread, Indian pudding, and Johnny cake—all staple ingredients of a pioneer diet. In addition, corn fattened hogs for market; its husks filled bed ticks and made mats; the cobs worked nicely as pot scrubbers or pipes. [Buley, *The Old Northwest*, 1:169]

Farming was generally a family affair. After the land was cleared, rough plowed, and furrowed, corn seeds were dropped (planted) in hills often by children. Calvin Fletcher described his corn planting practice in his diary in 1836: "*Apl. 29. . . . We this day planted the N. West field on the McF. place. Gentry furrowed out. Michael Mrs. F. [letcher] Martha Elijah Calvin & Miles planted.*" [Fletcher Diary, I:335; Elijah, Calvin, and Miles were three of CF's eleven children.]

Huge blackbirds often raided the corn even before it had a chance to sprout. Once sprouted, the corn faced other tests—including cutworms, woodpeckers, and raccoons. The worst injury was done by squirrels after the grains had formed on the cobs. Some years the squirrel visitation was worse than others, but all were bad, and farm families tried hard to protect their fields. Children went to the fields with noisemakers, traps were set, and guns became constant companions. Fletcher's diary mentions the problems in 1839: "*19 August. Pleasant morning. Elijah got up early & went out to Uncle Michael's to kill squirrills.*" Again, "*Saturday [Aug.] 24. . . . Elijah & Calvin have killed 12 or 14 grey & black squirrills which abound & are emigrating south. Calvin has shot two. Everybody is killing them.*" [Fletcher Diary, II:118, 119]

Cultivation of corn depended on the individual farmer. Some allowed weeds to grow around the stalk; others, such as Timothy Ball's father, put his son to work hoeing the fields soon after the corn came up. Harvesting corn was hard work for the pioneer family, but it did not have to be done all at once. Timothy Ball helped his father pick corn which subsequently had to be husked. Later the corn stalks were cut to be used for fodder. [Ball Diary, August-October, 1839; see Barnhart & Carmony, *Indiana*, I:351-353 for more detailed information on corn.]

Once harvested the farmer took what he needed for his family and livestock: some to be ground into meal at the local mill, the rest put in a crib to fatten hogs for market. Excess corn was sometimes sold to merchants who transported it by flatboat to New Orleans. Early in this time period many farmers took upon themselves the responsibilities of transporting and selling their crops in New Orleans.

As more land was cleared, farmers generally also planted wheat and oats. More crops demanded more labor, which was a scarce commodity in the West. Young boys were often a solution to the labor problems. They were hired out by their fathers at wages of between \$3 and \$8 per month, approximately half of what an adult farm laborer received. The boys usually worked six months out of the year. Large farms with hired hands also provided employment opportunities for young girls. They helped farm wives cook and wash for all the hands. Young women also helped in gardening, milking cows, and taking care of children. [Schob, *Hired Hands and Plowboys*, 173-208]

Timothy H. Ball, the author of the diary, was kept busy on his father's farm performing the tasks of planting, hoeing, and harvesting. He was thirteen years old when he wrote the page reproduced as Document 4. He was born in West Springfield, Massachusetts, and moved to Cedar Lake in Lake County in 1837. Timothy attended Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana, and graduated in 1851. In 1855 he became a Baptist minister and returned to Lake County where he remained until he died in 1913. Ball married in 1855 and had two children. He was very interested in local history and authored several books about the history of northwestern Indiana.

Supplemental Documents

Early Years Document 11

Early Years Document 11 is reproduced from the October 6, 1838, Indianapolis *Indiana Farmer*, a newspaper. The table lists the wholesale market prices for farm produce at both Indianapolis and Cincinnati. The periodical is from the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

Early Years Document 12

Early Years Document 12 is a copy of a bill of lading for a flatboat shipment of farm products which were grown in the White River valley in southern Indiana. M.D. Lacroix, the shipper, was going to deliver the farm products to New Orleans himself as captain of a flatboat. No information was found concerning the success of this trip. One year later, Lacroix opened a general store in Vincennes, eventually becoming a prominent businessman there. Memphis, Indiana, the point of embarkation, was located on the White River in Martin County. Memphis was also known as Halbert's Bluff and Shoals Station. In 1844 Memphis became the county seat. Its

name was changed again in 1877 to Shoals. [Holt, *History of Martin County*, 68] This document is located in the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library. Stove, the past participle of stave, means to break a hole in a boat. For further information about flatboating, see Carmony, ed., "Wabash Valley Merchant and Flatboatman," *IMH*, 67:335-363.

Transcription

May. 11. June.

17th Friday. Dr Whitcomb went from here this morning he is going to N. York. Mother sent some flower seeds to Uncle Hiram by him Some of the people from Laporte came this ((evening)) for the meeting, warm planted ((corn.))
18th Saturday. very pleasant, meeting today at the school ((house))
19th Sunday very warm, meeting continued a good many people came, George Taylor was buried this evening he died ((last night))
20th Monday. pleasant in the forenoon in the afternoon cloudy Mr Waggoner took the oxen to plough his lot.
21st Teusday. Mr. W. planted corn pleasant Mrs Lilley sale was to day Father went to it I got Mr. Westbrook's pony
22d Wednesday. fair and warm Jacob Nordyke planted corn and Mr Horner part of the day Wind south.
23d Thursday. very hot, there was a hard thunder shower last night we wed the garden this morning my popcorn has come up.
24th Friday pleasant there was a thunderstorm last night Mr W. and Jacob planted corn some of the corn has come up.
25th Saturday. very warm Jacob went home last night it rained some Mr W. and Father planted corn I dropt we finished planting by night.
26th Sunday. showers in the fore noon towards night the sun shone & come out cleared off it was cool all day it became cloudy again and rained.
27th Monday. it rained in the night and showers most all day Mother began school Mr.W. and Father planted potatoes
28th Teusday, it rained last night and showered some to day Mother planted plums and cherry stones I went to school Mr Lasse went to Chicago
29th Wednesday. it cleared off, pleasant

Father ((and me)) ploughed Mr Waggonner went ((home.))

30th Thursday, pleasant we ploughed

Mr. W. set Stakes. ((The wheat is [sprouting] out))

31st Friday. qhuite

warm I harrowed some, we planted some

potatoes, Mr. W. planted white beans.

1st of June. Saturday. in the forenoon it was pleasant

in the afternoon it was cloudy and cool Father and

me went to Mr. [?] and got some flour.

Market Prices,
Indianapolis *Indiana Farmer*,
October 6, 1838.

(Indiana State Library)

Indianapolis Market.

CORRECTED WEEKLY.

Beef	lb.	4-6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pork	"	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Mutton	"	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Veal	"	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bacon Hams	"	8-10
— sides	"	8
— Shoulders	"	8
Butter	"	18-25
Lard	"	8
Tallow	"	10 to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chickens, piece		12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Turkies	"	—
Geese	"	—
Ducks	"	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eggs doz		10
Flour, 100 lb.		\$3,00
Hay tun		\$7,00
Corn bu.		37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meal	"	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	"	25 to 31
Apples	"	75-100
Potatoes	"	75-100
do Sweet	"	1,50-200
Turnips	"	—
Onions	"	—
Beans	"	—
Beets	"	—
Pumpkins piece		—
Cabbage	"	—
Honey lb.		18 $\frac{1}{4}$

Cincinnati Market.

Flour	bb.	5,50
Bacon hams	lb	12 13
— sides	"	10
— shoulders	"	9
Lard	"	8-9
Pork	cwt.	—
Corn	bu.	50 62
Wheat	"	1,00
Oats	"	50

GROCERIES.

Coffee Rio	lb.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
— St. Domingo	"	14
Sugar	"	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Havana white	"	16
— Loaf	"	17 19
Molasses Plantation	gl.	50
— Sugar house	"	60

M.D. Lacroix Bill of Lading, May 12, 1848.
(Indiana State Library)

Received of S. D. Darnhard 700 bushels of
corn at 20 cents a bushel for which I am to
pay him in 2 months from date. M. D. Lacroix
Memphis May the 12th 1848.

Received of S. D. Darnhard to sell for him
14 barrels mess pork
4 barrels lard
8 Hogs lard-
2 barrels pump pie & joles
8 barrels of wheat
for all of which I will settle with
him at my return from New Orleans if
the boat don't get there - M. D. Lacroix
Memphis May the 12th 1848

BROADSIDES

Indiana, the Early Years
Commerce, Trade and Agriculture

Transcription

Received of [?] 700 bushels of
corn at 20 cents a bushel for which I am to
pay him in 2 months from date. M.D. Lacroix

Memphis May the 12th 1848

Received of [?] to sell for him

14 barrels Mess pork

4 barrels lard

8 Kegs lard —

2 barrels rump pieces & joles

8 barrels of wheat

for all of which I will settle with
him at my return from New Orleans if
the boat dont get stove[.] M.D. Lacroix

Memphis May the 12th 1848

12½ cents 12½ cents 12½

This Note for
TWELVE and a HALF Cents,
will be received in payment of debts, or on deposit
in the
FARMERS & MECHANICS
BANK of INDIANA,
at their office in
Madison, April 1st 1820.

Cashier.

6¼ Six & a quarter Cents. 6¼

This note for
Six and a quarter Cents,
will be received in payment of debts due the
CORPORATION OF VEYAY.
Vevay, May 9th 1820.
William C. ... Chairman.
Attest,
... Clerk.

FIVE



V

BY AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF INDIANA



(THE)
MADISON & INDIANAPOLIS RAIL ROAD
Will receive the holder for **FIVE DOLLARS** in the entire payment for any tract of land belonging to said Company.

John Roberts *N. D. Palmer*

FIVE



V

V

THE BANK OF VINCENNES

The President & Directors of the State Bank of Indiana

promise to pay on demand at their Office in **BANK** *of*

Five Dollars to the Bearer

Vincennes April 7 1819

Cashier *...* *Pres.*

5



Photograph of Currency Issued by Indiana Institutions.

BROADSIDES
 Indiana, the Early Years
 Commerce, Trade, and Agriculture

Description

This document consists of four examples of currency issued in Indiana. The first two items are from the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library. The other two items are in the Indiana Historical Society Library.

- Farmers & Mechanics Bank of Indiana at Madison, 1820. This piece of fractional currency measures 3 7/8" x 2 7/16". It is printed in black ink on white paper. It is unsigned; and there is nothing on the reverse.
- Corporation of Vevay, 1820. This is also a piece of fractional currency, and it measures 3 1/4" x 2 1/2". It is also printed in black ink on white paper. This note has been signed. There is nothing on the reverse.
- Madison and Indianapolis Railroad, 1843. This bill measures 7" x 3 1/8" and is printed on very thin and fragile paper. Its edges and corners are in good shape, but a piece of the bottom center is missing, and the edges are discolored. Signatures and numbers were handwritten in black ink which has faded to brown. The designs, scenes, and portraits are all printed in black ink on ivory paper. The reverse is blank.
- Bank of Vincennes, the State Bank of Indiana branch of Vevay, 1819. This note measures 6 5/8" x 2 3/4" and is printed on thin paper. The edges and corners are worn. The signatures and blanks have been signed by hand in black ink which has faded to brown. The printed designs, pictures, and terms are in black ink. The paper has faded to a beige color. The reverse is blank.

Background

The monetary system of the first half of the nineteenth century was a terribly confusing one involving both foreign and American coins whose values varied from state to state. Currency was also in circulation, but its soundness depended on the stability of its varied sources and their locations. Banks, both state and private, railroad and canal companies, city corporations, and large mercantile establishments could issue their own currency. Western bank notes were viewed with disfavor in the East. Yet, there was so much counterfeiting that western farmers and merchants distrusted unfamiliar eastern currency. Most newspapers listed various currencies and their fluctuating values at a particular location. Very often lesser known or suspect currencies were worth less than face value.

The first banks in Indiana were chartered by the Territorial Legislature in 1814: the Vincennes Bank and the Farmers & Mechanics Bank of Madison. In 1817 the Vincennes Bank became the first State Bank, which established branches in Brookville, Corydon, and Vevay. However, the State Bank at Vincennes was forced to close in 1822, amid accusations of fraud and embezzlement. [Buley, *The Old Northwest*, I:596] The bottom item in Early Years Document 13P shows an example of the currency issued by this state institution.

The middle item in this document was issued by the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad Company, a private corporation that took over

the construction of Indiana's first railroad during the state's financial problems following the Panic of 1837. Lands belonging to the railroad company provided the security for this currency.

Besides the profusion of paper money, there was also a wide variety of coins, although the quantities were less. Gold coins were minted in the U. S. in one dollar, five dollar, and two and a half dollar denominations. Silver U. S. coins included the half dime, dime, quarter, and half dollar. Copper U. S. coins were in half cent and whole cent denominations. There were various problems created because of the overvaluing of gold in 1834 in the U. S. In addition, foreign coins in circulation and the practice of shaving off parts of coins led to such practices as weighing coins to determine their value.

Because of their scarcity, coins were often cut into pieces to make change. For example, half dollar coins could be cut into four pieces or bits worth 12 ½ cents each. This scarcity of coins or hard money prompted the printing of scrip. The top examples of Early Document 13P are currency issued by the Farmers & Mechanics Bank of Madison, a private bank, and the town of Vevay. These issues were printed to alleviate the problems caused by the lack of coins.

The settlers of the early nineteenth century were variously affected by the currency and coinage problems of that time. Pioneer merchants were especially aware of currency discounts because of the large numbers of immigrants traveling through with out-of-state notes. Local farmers had little occasion to worry about currency except when paying off their land or settling county tax bills, both of which required state currency or other legal tender for payment.

The state banks which were chartered in 1817 and again 1834 seldom touched the lives of these settlers. They did not use the banks for savings nor did they request loans. These banks existed mainly to facilitate the merchant trade between East and West and to capitalize internal improvements and other investments.

Supplemental Documents

Early Years Document 14

Early Years Document 14 consists of excerpts from a letter written by Cornelius Pering, a recent immigrant to Bloomington, Indiana, in 1833. His letter describes his impression of life in the U. S. to friends in England. The excerpts describe the money situation in the West. This letter is from the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

Early Years Document 15

Early Years Document 15 is a Bank Note Table which appeared in the October 6, 1838, Indianapolis *Indiana Farmer*. It lists the notes on the left and their rate of discount on the right. Note that the only notes circulating at face (par) value are those from banks in Kentucky and Indiana. All others circulated with discounts from 1 ½ to 35 percent. For example, a \$20.00 note from a bank in Mississippi would be worth only \$14.00 to \$17.60 if used to purchase goods or services in Indiana at this time. Generally speaking, notes originating a great distance from Indiana were discounted the most. This practice was common because poor communication prevented merchants and farmers alike from knowing about the soundness of banks or other institutions issuing money at that time. The *Indiana Farmer* is available from the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

I will commence with our Circulative Medium, which are dollars and cents ; one hundred of the latter, as the name implies, making one of the former. The dollar is worth 4/6 English, it is nearly as large as your 5 shilling piece, the cent is about as large as the English half-penny but worth rather more. We passed several English half pence as cents but they would not take a penny for two cents. Four dollars and forty one cents are the worth of the English Sovereign but the exchange varies. Money is as marketable a commodity as anything else, and at New York we get four dollars and seventy-five cents per Sovreign; sometimes it is more; (our people got \$4.85) and at others it is difficult to get more than \$4.50, that is about the average price the banks will give in the interior.

There is a good deal of Spanish money in circulation and we have their silver coins of 50 [cents], or half dollars; .25, .12 1/2, and C 1/4 which is somewhat smaller and thinner than the English 6 pence. Trades people continue to sell their goods at these prices and their combinations per yard, lb, etc. as there are few copper cents, for change, to be met with in the West; and if at any time there should be a few cents over or under they are not regarded; as people say, "any one must be poor indeed to mind a few cents."

The French government are constantly sending out coin on decimal principles to do away with the Spanish money, and we have 5 cent, 10 cent, and 20 cent pieces, according to the following table,— 10 mills one cent, ten cents one dime, ten dimes one dollar, ten dollars one Eagle, which last is a gold coin.

In this state we have principally silver and United States Notes, there being as yet no Bank in this state, but it is expected there will be one chartered at the next legislature, as the United States Notes will soon be withdrawn from circulation, in consequence of the President's Veto on the Bill for rechartering the bank....

Money is scarce in this State, at present, but the people are looking forward to their State Bank which is to make it plenty enough....

Bank Note Table,

ABRIDGED FROM THE CINCINNATI GAZETTE.

Ohio.		Disct.
Farmers Bank of Canton		35
Manhattan		1½
Post Notes of Clinton Bk. Columbus		5
All other Banks par except small notes, which are		1½
Kentucky.		
B. Kentucky and branches		par
do Louisville		par
Indiana.		
All branches of S. B. of Indiana		par
Illinois.		
State Bank and branches		1
Bank Ill. Shawneetown		1½
Tennessee.		
Banks in Tennessee	12 to 13	
Louisiana	5—6	
Mississippi	12—30	
Alabama	12—13	
Michigan.		
Michigan State Bank		4
B. of Michigan \$5 and upwards		do
“ River Raisin		6
Far. and Mechanics B. of Mich.		4
Others doubtful.		