

BRIEF REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF 97 YEARS AGO OF CARROLL COUNTY.

I invite you to accompany me on a journey, starting in the year of 1825, viewing this country, becoming acquainted with the early settlers of the territory, now Carroll County. If I prove a good escort, I will earn your approval, otherwise your disapproval. You are entering into a wilderness, which had recently prior thereto, been the happy hunting grounds of Indian tribes. Our roads are the Indian trails, The first impression you will have, is the vastness of the country, the heavy forests spread out in a broad expanse before you, the creeks and rivers ploughing their way to the Gulf. You are introduced to the first white settler, Henry Robinson and his three sons and their wives. His Cabin erected in the first days of the year 1825, on the south bank of Deercreek, was a typical pioneer home, where hospitality was measured out to all comers. You find this Old Virginia family, the strictis of their religious faith, who it was said by irreligious persons, penned up their chickens on Saturday night, so as not to disturb the rest of the Sabbath; also, it was irreverently said, that they drew out the sugar spiles on Saturday night, to prevent flow of sugar water on the Sabbath, thereby, on Monday they would not be gathering the sap run on Sabbath day.

You learn from this brave and good man, that he was a mechanic, of education, and an indomitable to succeed. You learn that in a year or two, he built a saw mill, a Corncracker. and later on erected a large flouring mill, which in after years was known as the 'Red Mill.'

You are now meeting many new pioneers, who are locating on lands purchased of the Government, at Crawfordville. You observe that they came from the eastern states, and some from Kentucky and Tennessee. Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia You find them social and industrious. You now observe, that the pioneer homes are much alike, and the timber was cut and rolled into great log heaps, and corn and vegetables were grown in the rich virgin soil.

You observe that the pioneers attend church, and conduct private schools. You learn that the books were few,

You enjoy a n old fashioned singing school, where the buck-wheat, were in fashion, and when you came across a lot of old settlers and their wives, and Austin Williamson, standing as

leader, you heard what you never hear again, the sweetest and most melodious singing. You may stumble into a quilting bee, or a corn husking, or cider boiling, and you will observe the old and young in the fullest enjoyment of the occasion, and every pioneer Mother was there to see that her daughters were not only there, but conducting themselves as becometh a maiden, who sooner or later, would become wives of pioneer sons. You now visit the Cabin of Daniel Baum, down in Deepcreek bottoms, where the first Courtwars held, in 1828 and 1829. You will admire the new log school house on the lot now owned, by Henry Wilson. You are now walking the laid out streets of Delphi, using much care to keep from running against stumps. A log jail is pointed out to you, on the north side of the public square, and you wish to be excused from visiting it, as you have made prior pressing engagements. This was in 1830. You admire the location for a county seat, and feel very gracious to William Wilson for donating 100 acres as and for a seat of Justice. You now are going into the new court house, which was eight years in building, being commenced in 1832. before entering you quench your thirst at the well on the South east corner of the public square, being near the Soldiers' monument. The court house was two stories, the court above, and the county offices below. You meet Daniel F. Vandevanter, the first Clerk and Recorder of Carroll County. You learned that the Court House cost \$3,500. You noticed a stage coach from Lafayette, bound for Logansport, pass along through Delphi, changing horses. The pioneers expected mail on these stage coaches. You are now on your way to the tavern, at the foot of west Main street, built in 1837, by Mr. Richardson. This was the first tavern in all the country, it contained 45 finished rooms in popular and walnut. At that time the Wabash & Erie canal was being built, and this splendid tavern, was intended to at the head of the canal, and take care of the traveling public. You met Dr. Samuel Grimes, an educated man, who believed in building up the town, and he erected a tavern, or started to do so, when a storm threw down the structure. He moved it over the north bayou, and built it, but never completed it. It got the euphonic name, 'Grimes' Folly.' On your return, you found this building, owned by George Harley, torn down.

During your journey, which may have been somewhat tiresome, partly on account of having a bad guide, you come up to the year 1852, when Indiana got a new Constitution. You observe wonderful advancement along all lines of enterprise. You notice old wooden buildings in the town, now a city, had given away to three-story buildings. You observe that fine school buildings, splendid churches in great number all over the county.

You dropped into an Old Settler meeting in Lenons grove, in 1882, you saw ten thousand people assembled. The old pioneers you met back in 1825, and down to 1850, were few indeed. And as we march along, hearing the whistles of industrial plant the whistling of rail road engines, and meet thousands of Automobiles, we believe the return home, escaping the Motors and flying machines, is the happiest event of our lives.

Our guide deserves credit for his tenacity and determination, to get and hold fast to historical events, of which approve from long experience in a survey of 97 years of Carroll County History.