

87 years ago, the ground upon which you stand, was an unbroken wilderness.

The title to all your lands, goes back to the title held by the Indian tribes. The Red Man surrendered his title, when it became evident that he he would loose his possessions.

Indiana territory belonged to ~~what~~ was known as the North west territory. Our State will be 100 years old, in four more years. The first settlement of this County, was 87 years ago.

Delpni ~~is~~ 84 years old. There is but one person living who was here when this County was organized. That person is Rev. Cornelieus McCain, who lives at Kentland, and ~~was~~ too feeble to be here to-day. We have a few persons who came to this county in 1829. The Old Settler Roll has the names of 800 old Settlers, that Roll has been reduced to about 100.

It is unnecessary for me to tell you, what has taken place in this country, you can see the results on every hand. Do we fully appreciate the work and labor of our ancestors? Our population ca not realize the trials and privations enduered by the first Settlers. As legates and representatives of the pioneers, many of you delight to call up the memories of your ancestors, and plant roses on their graves.

The Wabash Valley has no ~~equal~~ for fertility in the State. You live in costly homes, have fine farms, fine schools, fine ~~own~~ churches, fine families, ~~was~~ ^{wear} fine clothes, live well, and attend Old Settlers meetings, in Automobiles.

Some of you will be coming to these meetings in the near future in flying machines.

Distance has almost been eliminated. It seems that we have not reached the limit of invention yet. In our progressiveness we have to contend with all kinds of vice and immorality, and the ablest and best men and women, are constantly waging war

against influences that threaten to destroy society, and destroy good government. Evils of great moment environ us, and nothing but public opinion directed by the ablest leaders of the public welfare will be able to to restrain the current of demoralization sweeping the country.

Let us preserve our liberties, at any cost. Let us save the youth of the land, at any expense of time or money.

Set your faces against dishonesty and corruption of every description, and see that you are honestly represented by public officials. A magnificent Nation, a beautiful country, abounding in wealth, with beautiful women, who are bound to soon walk side by side with husbands and brothers and sweet hearts, to the polls, and have a voice in the management of the affairs of government. Let politicians fight and fall out, the people must rule, and to do this, you must exercise the right to vote your sentiment, free from intimidation.

Pioneers can new out the way, but you must see that, that way is kept clear of obstructions.

You older people have been working hard all your lives for your children, you have made every sacrifice that your children may have a good education, may make happy marriages, and there has been some frightful domestic shipwrecks; divorces are too frequent and ruined households too often.

But these mesmarriages of life in some instances, should not discourage the people in weeding out the unworthy, for marriage is a Devine institution, and it should be encouraged by Parents, and young ladies and the boys, should not disregard the council of parents, if they have ^{not} reached the age of maturity.

There is such a thing as having too many laws. A law that is not respected by the people, had better be repealed.

The only safety for society is the rigid enforcement of

laws.

Now if this should be done, it might catch some of these Auto fellows who run beyond the speed limit.

It would catch others who meet in secluded places and take and hold up people and rob them.

We have a way of sentencing violators and turning them loose upon the country, to reform them. This is done to save building more prisons. Save your flowers for your friends in the City of the dead, and not for the prisoners in the jails.

Let us all be more social, do more shaking of hands, The pioneers shook hands whenever they met. It will do you good even if you should speak to a stranger and shake his hand.

This should be done in such away, that will not excite him, and make him think you are going to rob him.

There is a silver lining to every cloud, and I am an Optimist, and I believe there is more good in the world than bad.

If there was no bad in the world we would not know how good we are. The waters of the Earth permeate the soil and make it bring forth good fruit, and the example of a free people, guided by divine precepts, will bring forth fruits worthy of a noble ancestry.

J. L. Allen

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