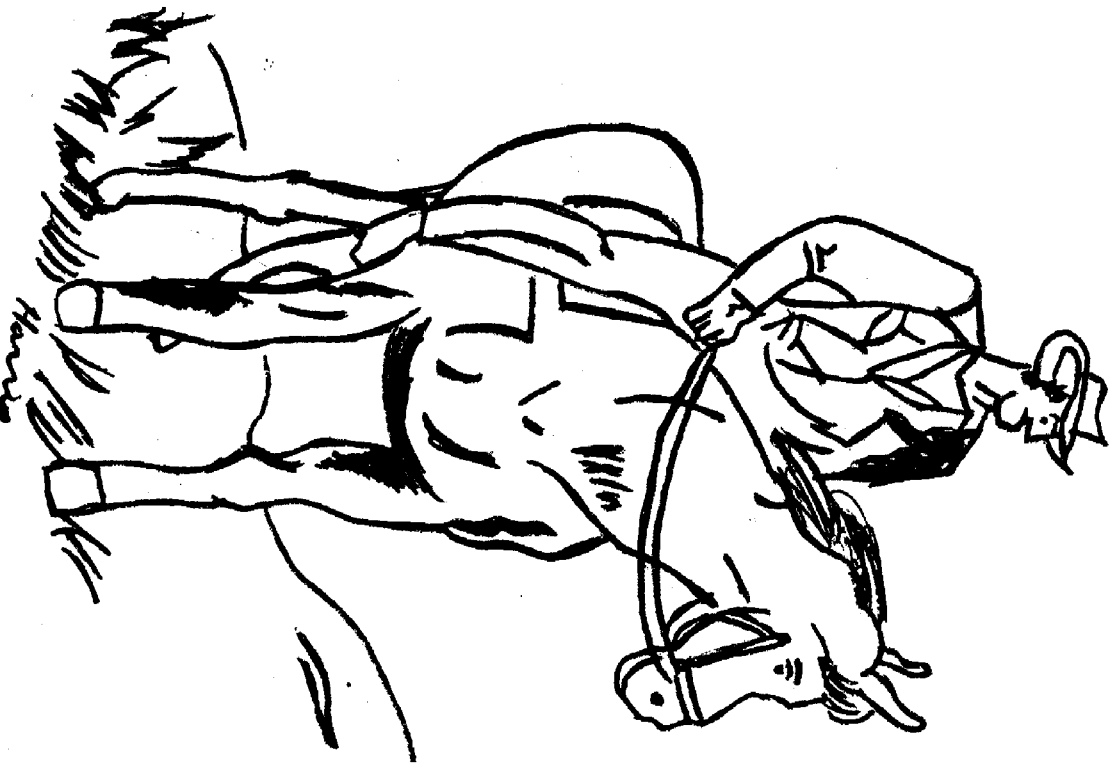


A  
Trip to the

Upper Wabash

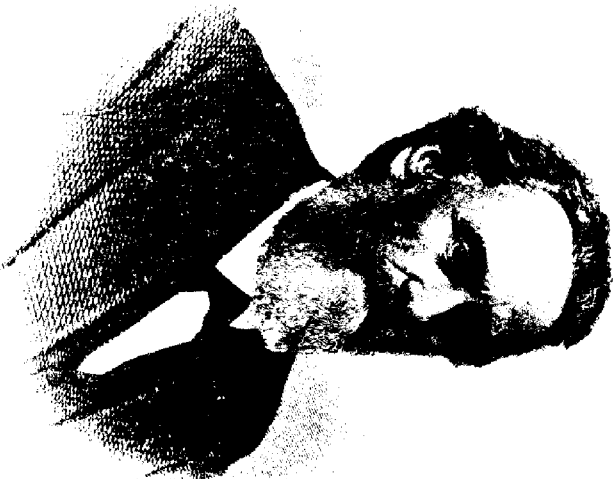


A TRIP TO THE UPPER WABASH  
FROM THE JOURNALS OF  
ELIJAH HACKLEMAN

Edited By  
Ronald L. Woodward

A Publication  
of the  
Wabash County Historical Society  
Wabash, Indiana  
1978

For Ted and Marjorie Blackledge  
from second cousin Marvin Nixon



Elijah Hacklemann, father of Amanda, who married

W.E. Blackledge, parents of Olma and Kate

Hacklemann Blackledge. Kate married Bernice  
Kaetz, parents of Kate Hacklemann Blackledge, Bernice  
(Stellborn), Richard Henry Blackledge, Charles

was her maternal grandfather. Henry Kaetz  
was for his maternal grandfather. Henry Kaetz  
who lived to be 93, vigorous and sprightly all of his  
long lifetime. He was a contemporary of Elijah  
Hacklemann, each coming to Wabash County in the 1830's,

## INTRODUCTION

Among the prominent figures of Wabash County history stands foremost the first historian of the county, Elijah Hackleman. From 1835, until his death in 1901, Hackleman's life was deeply interwoven with the history of Wabash County. At first he was nothing more than an observer traveling through the county looking for good land to buy. Later, he served as county surveyor, clerk of the Wabash Circuit Court, and as senator to the State legislature. Perhaps his most lasting service to the county was his recorded observations of the events and personalities of Wabash County left to us in his journals.

Elijah Hackleman was born in Franklin County, Indiana, on October 18, 1817. His parents were Abraham and Margaret Tyner Hackleman. In February of 1821 the family moved to Rush County and settled on the banks of Little Flat Rock River about three miles from present day Rushville. It was here that Elijah Hackleman spent his formative years.

In 1835 the family again moved westward, this time to Morgan County, Illinois. Hackleman, with an older brother, Abner Hackleman, journeyed even further west into the present state of Iowa in search of land to settle on. In 1836 Hackleman received a letter from his brother, Dr. James Hackleman, describing the environs of Wabash County. He was so impressed that he determined to visit his brother and see the area for himself. Iowa had not impressed him sufficiently to settle there.

Accordingly, in May of 1836, Elijah Hackleman left his family in Illinois and began "A Trip to the Upper Wabash."

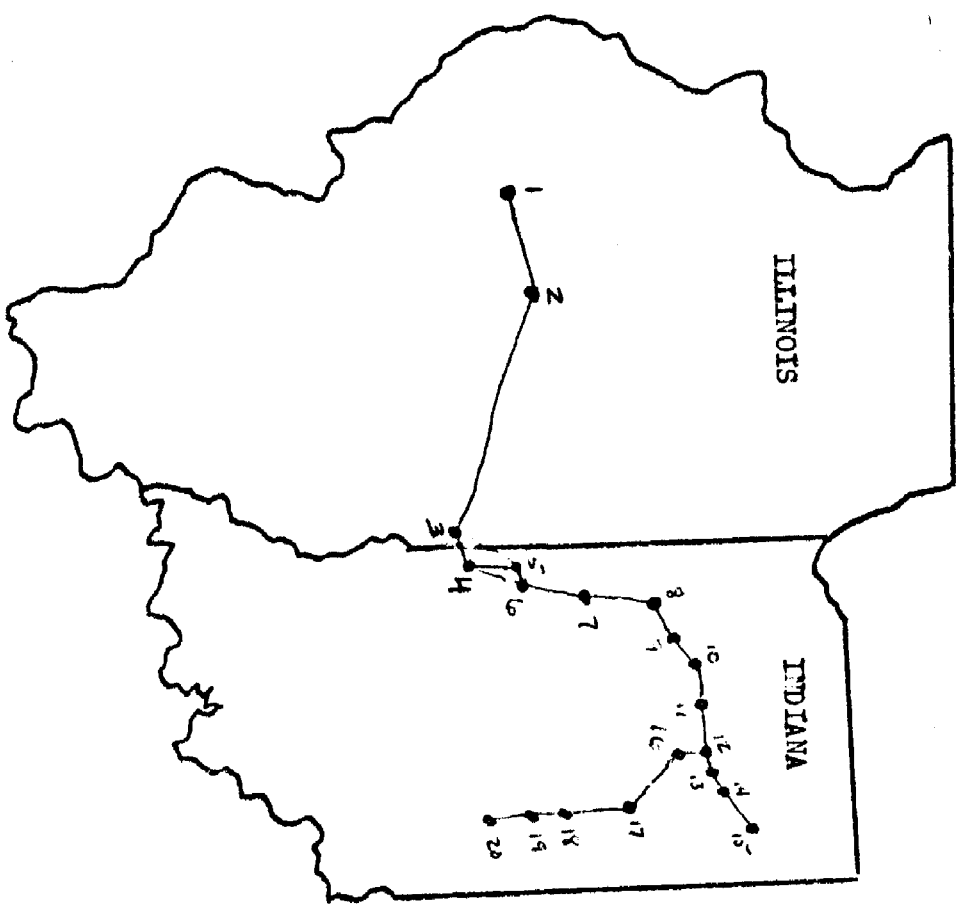
It is this journey to the Upper Wabash which is the subject of this pamphlet. Although Hackleman made several journeys to the Upper Wabash, it was his first which he most faithfully recorded into a diary. Later Hackleman edited his diary and combined it into a journal. "A Trip to the Upper Wabash" is taken from this journal. Hackleman's journal encompasses several volumes which have been preserved in the Wabash County Museum. Much of his Journal became the nucleus for Helms' History of Wabash County in 1884.

The editor, in an attempt to regain what the actual journey was like, has taken the liberty of re-moving portions of the Journal which were obviously added at a later date. The original spelling and punctuation have been retained.

Ronald L. Woodward  
Editor

MAP OF ELIJAH HACKLEMAN'S  
"TRIP TO THE UPPER WABASH"

Hackleman's trip began in Morgan County on May 3, 1836, and was concluded May 22, 1836, at Rushville, Rush County, Indiana.



A TRIP TO THE UPPER WABASH

LOCATIONS MENTIONED ON MAP

1. Panther Creek, Morgan County, Illinois
2. Springfield, Illinois
3. Paris, Illinois
4. Clinton, Vermillion County
5. Armysburg, Parke County
6. Rockville, Parke County
7. Crawfordsville, Montgomery County
8. Lafayette, Tippecanoe County
9. Delphi, Carroll County
10. Logansport, Cass County
11. Miamisport and Peru, Miami County
12. Wabashtown, Wabash County
13. Lagro, Wabash County
14. Huntington, Huntington County
15. Fort Wayne, Allen County
16. Marion, Grant County
17. Muncietown, Delaware County
18. New Castle, Henry County
19. Lewisville, Henry County
20. Rushville, Rush County

Sometime in October in the year 1835, Dr. James Hackleman a Brother had moved from Comersville Indiana to Wabash Town on the Upper Wabash River. And having recently received a letter from him, Giving us a very flattering account of the quality of the Land in his locality. My Father expressed his Opinion that some of us, had better visit that Region of Country, before changing our present Temporary Location, accordingly on

Tues. May 3rd 1836

John Hawkins and myself mounted our horses, and left our Homes on Panther Creek Morgan County Illinois, for a trip to the Upper Wabash in Northern Indiana.

Our best, and almost only Road at that time was by the way of Springfield and Paris. We found the Roads much improved. Since I last traveled over them a few Weeks before. But yet very bad.

We made Springfield the first day and put up at the Tavern of our old Friend, Arch Herndon, who formerly lived in Brookville Indiana, my native Town.

We were exceedingly glad to find our Friend the Tavern keeper, So popular among the People.

He had already served one term in the State Senate of Illinois, and was at that time a candidate for ReElection, and we afterward learned was Elected.

He was the Father of William Herndon, who in after years was the law partner of Abraham Lincoln.

The next morning we struck out on the Furrowed-Road for Paris, distant 102 miles, stopping at night north a Mr. Smith. And the next night at Mr. Grewels. And the next evening (May 6th) We reached Dills Tavern at Paris, in Edgar County Illinois.

This far, we had traveled over the same ground that we traveled in moving out.

Sat. May 7th 1836

As the Country over which we will now have to

travel will be new to us, I will therefore make my notes more extensive.

Our landlord had a contract to carry the mail from Paris to Clinton on the Wabash some twenty miles distant, and his son would make the trip to day. We concluded to accompany him. And at an early hour we were on the Road. Which led us out an Eastern direction, following the main traveled Road, for about two miles their turning to the left and taking a bridle path. Zig Zaging between farm, around sloughs, through thickets, Over Hills, across valleys, crossing the State line into Indiana about 11 OClock, into Vermillion County. Where in a few minutes I caught sight of a fine Poplar tree, which made me feel like I was approaching Home.

And very soon we entered into the Wabash Prairies with pleasant groves of Timber consisting of Hickory, Ash Walnut, Elm, Poplar, Sugar tree, &c.

In order to keep up with our Guide (the mail carrier) we were compelled to travel at a pretty brisk rate of speed, making Clinton at 1 OClock. This town is situated on the West, or Right Bank of the Wabash River, and contains probably not more than 150 Inhabitants.

Our stop here was short. We ferried the River here, which is about two or three hundred yards wide and resumed our journey up the East Side of the same. Some four or five miles to Armysburg.

We found the Bottoms on this side of the River to be low, and Subject to overflow in high water.

We left the River at Armysburg and took the Road for Rockville. Which place we reached late in the evening, and put up at Bradlys Tavern.

This town is the County seat of Parke County, and is 7 or 8 miles East of the Wabash River, and the Country between the two places is very heavy timbered Lands.

Rockville was first settled in 1823 by Gen. Patterson and Judge Hall, and contains some four or five hundred inhabitants.

Sun. May 8  
We left Rockville this morning at 9 OClock and took the Road for Crawfordsville, distant some twenty five miles. Our Road led us about a North East direction through a heavy timbered Country, and in at some future day when the farms are made, will be a good farming Country.

And this was a very Pleasant day and we enjoyed the ride very much, and at 11 OClock we passed a very large assembled Congregation in the Woods near a school, or meeting House, where a minister was Preaching.

Continuing on we reached Crawfordsville about 3 OClock and stopped there but a short time. This is the county seat of Montgomery County, and is situated on the south Bank of Rock River a Tributary of the Wabash. Crawfordsville was laid out in the year 1822 by Ambrose Whitlock and Williamson Dunn, and contains at this time probably 800 inhabitants.

The Wabash College is situated in this town. The College was fully organized last fall (1835) and its first Session has just closed under the direction of Elihu Baldwin as President and John S. Thompson, E. A. Hovey and Caleb Mills as Professors.

From Here we struck North for the Wabash River at Lafayette, distant twenty Seven miles, after traveling ten miles we stopped with a Gentleman by the name of Pottes. The Country along our rout this evening consisted of what might be termed "Oak Openings."

Mon. May 9  
Resuming our Journey this morning, for four or five miles out through "Oak Openings" and then through very beautiful Prairies, on the Shawnee, on the Flint, and on Wea Creeks.

The Wea-Plains had been noted for their beauty, and fertility, by the french, and Indian Leaders for the last one hundred and fifty years, as being a perfect "Paradise" for Buffalo, Elk, Deer, and Indian Ponies.

And near the mouth of Wea Creek in 1705 the French erected a Fort called Ouatatanon, which was a Terror to the surrounding world for three quarters of a Century...

It had successfully withstood the Siege of Seveal Indian Wars, and was finally Taken by Gen. George Rogers Clark in 1779. We were told that there were no remains now to be seen of this Old Relic of French and English times, being finally destroyed by Gen. C. Scott in 1791. We crossed Wea Creek some two or three times before reaching Lafayette, which was some time in the afternoon.

This town is the County seat of Tippacanoe County, and is situated on the south Bank of the Wabash River, and was laid out in 1824 by William Digby. At the time we passed through the Town contained probably 900 Inhabitants.

Continuing on our Journey up the left Bank of the Wabash crossing Wild-Cat River at about three miles then entering timbered lands, and when ten miles up we stoped at Mr. Cox's.

Tues. May 10

Started early Continuing up the South Bank of the River through a heavy timbered Country. A few miles brought us to Delphi. County seat of Carrol County.

This town is situated on the North side of Deer Creek near its confluence with the Wabash, and was laid out in 1828 by William Willson and others, and contains a population of 200, or 300.

From Delphi We continued on up the River through the same kind of Country that I have already described, without anything worthy of note. Meeting however a traveling Gentleman, from the Western Reserve in Northern Ohio, and upon hearing our description of the Western Country, He concluded to go no farther for the present, and turned back and traveled with us for the next three days.

In many places this day, We could see the hands at work on the Canal on the opposite side of the River.

Passing through Tiptonsport some distance we came up to the Michigan-Road opposite Logansport, and crossed over the River into that Town. The Wabash is not so large here as where We crossed it last at Clinton.

Logansport is the County seat of Cass County. And is situated in the forks of Eel River and Wabash.

was laid out in 1829 by Gen. Tipton and contains a population of 600 or 800.

In order to give my estimate of its favorable situation at that time, I will give a short extract from my Diary of that date.

After giving the advantages of water communication, through the two Rivers, also the facilities of the Canal, I find this further reason in my Diary to wit:

"The Great Michigan Road runs square across, all of these, passing through the Center of the Town."

This you must recollect was before the days of Railroads and it was then supposed that this Enormous mud Road one hundred feet wide, without any Bottom would Build up any Town through which it might pass. Such was life at that day. Leaving Logansport late in the evening and Continuing our Journey up the Wabash, when a few hundred yards out Town, We passed one of the finest Springs I have ever seen. And nine miles up the Canal We stoped for night with a Gentleman whose name I have almost forgotten. But I think it was Lewis Boyer.

Wed. May 11

So far as we were now advised, We had again arrived at the border of Civilization, for our pocket Guide (Mitchels map published last year) only located two more towns between here at Fort Wayne, to wit, Miamisport and Canalsburg. Both of which towns have long since been numbered in the past.

We found the farms and log cabbins of the Pioneers to be "few and far between."

A new Road had lately been located up the Wabash River. But not yet made passible.

We found however a broad and commodious Road zig-zaging up the Bottoms of the River. Which had been made by the constant travel by the Indians, and French and English Indian Traders for the last two hundred years.

But this Road had been almost ruined by the location of the Canal, which crossed the Road about every two or three hundred yards. Which made it almost impossible to travel.

About a mile out this morning, we passed a newly laid out town, the name of which I did not learn. In our days travel, we found hands at work on the Canal on almost every alternate Section. At one place, we witnessed our first Exhibition of real Irish Riot.

Some distance a head of us, at a shantee there began to be heard loud and boisterous talk.

The canalers instantly quit their work and run for the shantee. And the noise and confusion made, I have never heard surpassed.

We stopped a few minutes to witness the Exhibition. But clubs and other missiles began to fly so freely that we were compelled to leave the Road and go some distance around to regain the same, and left them still quarreling and fighting.

Shortly after this we met a dozen fine looking Indians. Who rode past us at full speed. I was rather anxious that they might reach the place of disturbance in time if they wished to take part in the same.

Passing Miamisport, a very small village, and then a mile farther we passed Peru a newly laid out town containing probably a dozen Residences, mostly of the Primitive Style, that is log cabbins.

Continuing on we passed Canalsburg a small village consisting mostly of Irish Shantees. We were soon across into Wabash County, and in passing a Double Log Cabin, we happened to see our Old Friend Judge Daniel Jackson, whom we had known in Fayette County Indiana.

Of course we stopped and partook of his hospitalities. He had must come from town and had seen Dr. Hackleman.

We spent an hour very pleasantly with the Judge, whose farm was two miles west of Town now known as the Tobias Beck farm. Late in the afternoon we continued on to Town, surprising our Brother and family very much, as they had no intimation of our coming.

Having now reached our destination I will endeavor to give a short sketch of

#### WABASHTOWN

This town is situated on the North Side of the Wabash River at the Treaty Ground. The town was laid out in the spring of 1834 by Col. Hugh Hanna, and Col. David Burr.

The sale of Town Lots took place on the 4th day of May 1834. The first lot enclosed was Lot No22 by Col. William Steele and Alen Smith.

The first House built was on lot no 63 by George Shepherd. The first Tavern was kept by Andrew Murphy on lot No 37. The first settlers in the Town were Geo. Shepherd, Col. Wm. Steele senr, Alen Smith, Alpheus Blackman, Jacob D. Cassette, John Smith, Zarah Sutherland, Michael Duffy, Andrew Murphy, Dr. Jonathan R. Cox, Col. Hugh Hanna, David Cassett, Dr. Isaac Finly and Dr. James Hackleman.

At the time of my arrival the Town was built principally on one Square, to wit, Between Canal and Market streets, and between Alen and Huntington Streets, and then there were a few scattering houses on the North Side of Canal Street opposite the Canal lock.

And according to my recollection, there was not more than one Dozen Families living within the limits of the Town.

The first Post Office was established in 1830 at the Treaty Ground, and was called Treaty Post Office, and David Burr was appointed the first Post Master.

#### Treaty Ground

(And as I may have occasion subsequently to refer to this particular location, I will give a short sketch of the same, as I then saw it.)

At this place was held a Treaty with the Miami, and other Indians on the 23rd day of October 1826 by Gov. Ray, Gen. Cass and Gen. Tipton. This place was selected by Gen Tipton &c on account of a fine Spring called "Paradise Springs" by the Indians (king-com-ong) (interpreted) the Water spouted out, a few feet up the side of the Hill, furnishing sufficiently pure water for the Occasion.

A square platt of ground was laid out, at the foot of the hill probably 150 feet to the Side, with a little rivulet from the spring running through the same.

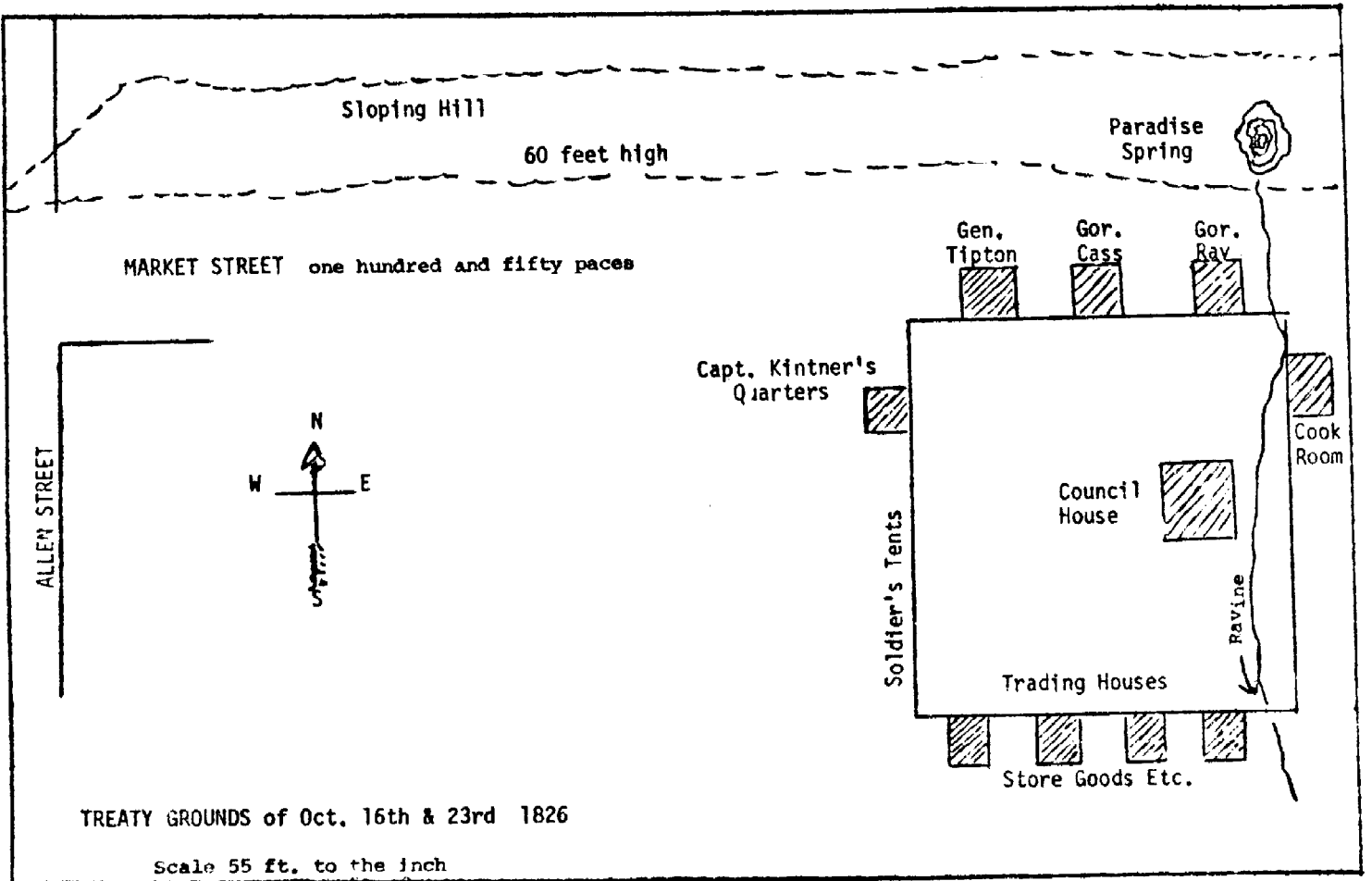


Three log cabbins were built on the north Side of the Square. Some thirty or forty feet apart for the use of the Commissioners. One on the West line for the use of Capt Kentner and four on the South line for store or Trading Houses. All of these Cabbins were on the West side of the Ravine. Council House within the Square.

And the Cook House was built East of the ravine. The Indians to the number of several Hundreds were encamped on both sides of the Wabash River, And here on this platt of Ground was held the Treaty of 1826. Which was designated on the face of the Instrument as being held "near the mouth of Mississinawa River."

Some years ago when gathering up Historical Material, I received a note from James H. Kentner of Logansport, informing me that He was present when the location was made and helped to build the Cabbins.

When these Houses were subsequently used as Residences. Some changes were made, and when I visited the place, there were two cabbins on the North, three on the South, and one on the West line of the Platt. The Council House had disappeared & the cook House was used as was transformed into a milk-house for the use of Col Burr. A hundred & 50 paces East from the Corner of Alen and Market Streets Will bring you up to the Head quarters of the Commissioners. But how changed? For instead of finding the flag staff of the Governor with stars and stripes fluttering in the breeze, You find yourself entangled with the Lumber yards and side tracks of the Cincinnati, Wabash and Michigan RailRoads. And there is nothing now left to point out the Side of Treaty Ground except the Spring King-com-a-ong or Happy Hunting Ground, that still continues to flow out of the side of the Hill. I here produce a platt or Map of the Treaty Ground Oct 16th and 23rd 1826.



Sometime previous to my arrival a dam had been made across the Wabash opposite the Treaty Ground, and a mill had been built about half way between where the Canal and River Bridges now stand.

Such was Wabash at that time.

At the time of our arrival Dr. Hackleman lived on the South Side of Market Street, two or three lots west of Allen street. And Col Steele, one of the most popular men of the County. Holding both of the offices of Clerk and Recorder, lived in the same block at the corner of Canal and Huntington Streets.

#### Thursday May 12

Having learned that Isaac Fowler, my old School master lives two or three miles north of Town. We concluded to visit him this morning. Which we did, accompanied by Dr. Hackleman. Ascending the bluff which is some sixty feet high immediately entered the level Country, which is tolerably well timbered. Crossing Charley Creek, a pretty little stream named after an Indian Chief who owns a section of land at its mouth, adjoining Wabash town on the west.

Arriving at our friends who owned a very beautiful tract of land, with a few acres cleared, we found Mr. Fowler to be well acquainted with the location of all the vacant land yet subject to entry. He told us that the vacant land out north was rather flat to suit him, unless we wished to go as far as Eel River which would be that we had better go to the New Settlement, called the Grant Settlement. Some ten miles south east is Wabash town and if we did not suit our selves there, then come back and he would show us the Country out north.

Mr. Fowler was at that time the Surveyor of the County. But the business their consisted mostly of showing the vacant lands to new Settlers.

After an hours pleasant stay, we returned to town. And in the afternoon we concluded to go down to the Dam on the River, and try our hands at fishing.

On starting, I noticed that Dr. Hackleman took a wheel barrow along with us, and before reaching the River, I asked him "what was he going to do with the Barrow?"

He said he "calculated to bring it home filled with fish."

I laughed at him pretty merrily at the idea. But when I came up to the River and took a survey of its water, and found the same to be literally teeming with the finest fish I had ever seen. I told him that I would "take it all back." For it only took a good fisherman to spear and take them out.

Yet so far as I was concerned. I only captured three fish, one of them however being a six pounder.

#### Wabash town Friday May 13th 1836

My Brother James Hackleman agreed to accompany John Hawkins and myself through a part of the Reserve, and pilot us to the new Settlement on Grant Creek, as indicated yesterday by Mr. Fowler.

We crossed the River below the Mill-dam, and then ascended a steep bluff to an Indian village directly south of Town, containing a few rude cabins and bark-wigwams.

The site of the village is now occupied by the Residence of the late Alen Smith.

Here a dozen hungry dogs of the village made a dreadful onslaught upon us, which took for a time as though the dogs would be victorious.

But about the time that the melee was becoming interesting, a Gaunt looking Indian came out of the door of a wigwam blanket and gave two or three loud Hiss-Sing Sounds as I supposed was encouraging the canines to greater exertions. But to our relief they all stopped and sneaked around behind the wigwams where we heard no more from them.

During this disturbance I came very nearly riding over an Indian that was, (either drunk or fast asleep) lying on the ground among some High weeds, but the noise did not awake him.

A few moments stay in the village without making any acquaintances, we continued on a South East direction to the vicinity of Grant Creek following no road--the distance being some 8 or 10 miles, from Wabashtown, then turning to the East passing two or three Wigwams through a fine country of land arriving at the House of William Grant about noon, the whole of our ride being through a splendid country.

Mr. Grant was the first settler of this part of the County, coming here in the fall of 1834.

His double log cabin was situated on the east side of the Boundary line about one hundred yards north of the present Christian Church in Lafontain.

I had known Mr. Grant in Fayette Co. this state, in the evening Dr. Hackleman returned to Wabashtown, and Hawkins and myself went to Jesse D. Scotts, who lived a little more than one mile North East of Mr. Grants.

Mrs. Scott was a relative of mine, and they were much surprised in meeting us, and Mr Scott said, He supposed we were not nearer than a thousand miles. We spent an agreeable night with our friends, who gave us much information in regard to the new Country, assuring us that there was abundance of good land within a few miles not yet taken up, in fact there was 120 adjoining Mr. Scotts farm on the North that was

yet vacant, this land afterwards composed part of the town of America.

But as the tract was not large enough, we concluded to go out farther East.

Saturday May 14

After an Early Breakfast, we procured the services of Mr. Grant as a Guide who led us out South East about four miles into Huntington County where found some tolerably good land being the finest timbered of any we had seen. Spending the Day in this vicinity, we concluded to return to the settlement and give a further look to morrow, which we did, arriving at Mr Scotts late in the evening.

And next morning Mr Grant was on hands very Early, and Mr Scott and Elihu Garrison concluded to accompany us also, and by 10 o'clock we had arrived in the vicinity of our yesterdays explorations.

After spending the day in this locality we selected a section of land lying in the South West corner of Huntington County. We did not like the Political location being the extreme distance from all the County Seats of the three counties that corner here.

But neither of us being Politicians, we concluded that "Distance might give enchantment" and if ever we were needed at the County Seat there were always plenty of idle fellows that might be employed to give us word, so we finally concluded that this was not a very great objection.

We returned to the Settlement in the evening.

#### The Grant Settlement

At the time of our visit to the settlement, we found but a few families along the Boundary line, and some places a mile back from the same might be seen a new Clearing.

As already Stated William Grant was the first Settler. Having built and moved to his Cabbin September 1834, which stood on the North Bank of a Beautiful Creek almost large enough for mill privileges which was named by the Early Settlers Grant Creek.

This cabbin formed the nucleus near which other cabbins were built.

Malow Pearson a Tennessean arrived at Mr Grants November 9th 1834, and built a cabbin two miles North East. About the same time Daniel Grant came out from Fayette County and added another cabbin which now began to assume the proportions of a settlement.

The wolves being very numerous and making a considerable noise of night, The Grants concluded to build a wolf trap, which they did, on the creek about 100 yards West of Boundary-Line and during the winter took in two or three wolves. When at Mr Grants, I visited the Trap to see its workings.

A few years after this Mr. Grant laid out a new town, on the site of the

#### Wolf Trap

Which he called Ashland, after the name of the Residence of Henry Clay, whom Mr. Grant was a great admirer. The town is now called Lafontain.

And if I were called upon to give the name of the first House that was built in Ashland, I would say it was the Wolf Trap.

Early in the spring of 1835 New Settlers began to arrive, among them Elihu Garrison from Rush County. Jesse D. Scott and Jonathan Scott from Fayette County who built Cabbins about a mile North East from Mr Grants, The next were William R Hale and Henry McPherson from the same County who Built Houses on the Boundary Line North.

Then came William and Jeremiah Garrison, Brothers of Elihu, who settled a little distance

East of Mr Grants, and also Thomas Kiser and some others who names I cannot now recall.

At that time there no Public Roads made, But each settler cleared out his own bridle path, or Waggon Road to suit his own convenience in whatever direction and on whatever ground He chose.

There was However a waggon Road or Trace from Conner Mill on the Mississinawa River to Lagro on the Wabash. Which was known by the name of "Conners mill and Lagro-Trace."

I think however that the Road had been made by private Contribution to accommodate the Patrons of the mill from Lagro.

The Road was on a section line one mile West of the Range line dividing Ranges 7 and 8, and passed through more Swamps and bogs than any other section line in that Part of the County, and although extensively used by all travelers of that day has long since been abandoned.

I might add however that there had been lately cleared out, or at least partially cleared a Public Road along the Indian Boundary line from Mr Grants cabbin to Lagro a distance of ten miles which was not being used. These are among some of my observations at my first visit.

#### Monday May 16

We (Hawkins and myself) started this morning for the land office at Fort Wayne.

We concluded that we would try the New Road up the Boundary line from Scotts. We went out West a mile to Williams R. Hales who lived on the New Road, then on North passing the cabbin of Henry McPherson, and one or two others before reaching Lagro, Crossing the Wabash River below the Feeder Dam that was then being erected, a few hundred yards below the mouth of the Salamonie.

The Town of Lagro is situated on the north Bank of the Wabash River. Here was originally

the village of Lagros, an Indian chief who resided in a Brick House which had been built by the United States Government, especially for him.

The Town had been laid out, about two years previous to our arrival by Gen. Tipton; and beside a few Indian wigwams and canal Shantees, it contained not more than a Half Dozen Houses.

From here we traveled up the Wabash, and a mile and a half above town passed the clearing of Levi Bean. Who settled here in 1834, with whom I had been acquainted in Fayette County, this State.

We stopped an hour with Mr. Bean, and found him to be well acquainted with the Geography and Topography of this part of the county.

He was at the time one of the Commissioners of the County having been Elected the year previous. From Mr. Beans on we found but few settlers, and continuing up the River to the Forks of the Wabash.

Where we left that River and proceeded up a beautiful little stream called Little River.

Where we presently came up to the New Town of Huntington the County seat of the County of the same name.

This town I think had also been laid out by Gen. Tipton. It contained but a few Houses and among the principle men of the place was Capt. Murry, and I believe one or two of the Herbys.

Passing Huntington It was considered that our best route would be up the tow path of the canal at least for a part of the evenings travel.

We found the Country to consist of a low level, and I might say a swampy land, and in some places Oak opening and irregular plains.

The Country was made more gloomy in appearance by the continuous drizzling Rain during the afternoon making traveling exceeding laborious.

We soon began inquiring of the French and

Indians whom we met, where we could be accommodated through the night and were informed that we would have to make Vermiliars Tavern, where we arrived some time after dark.

We found Mr. Vermiliars Double Log House to be pretty well filled by travelers before our arrival. But we were "cold and hungry and he took us in."

We found him to be a very clever gentlemanly Hoste.

#### Tuesday May 17th

An early start, still following the Canal line, and to our right lay the low Prairie Lands of Little River, and to our left, were Oak openings, north occasional thickets of under brush.

Ten miles from Vermiliars Brought us to the St. Marys River. On the opposite Bank of which stood Fort Wayne. The canal was finished from Huntington to Fort Wayne a distance of Twenty Six miles and so level was the Country, that there was only one or two Canal-Locks in that distance.

We forded the St Marys a hundred yards above where the Canal crosses the River, and rode up to the principle Hotel in the town. But by who kept I failed to note in my Diary, and whose name I have now forgotten.

We found the town full of strangers on the same business that we were, that is selecting Houses in Northern Indiana. And the business at the Land Office was so crowded that a temporary office was kept in an adjoining Room, where all the names of applicants were Registered, and whose names were called in their Regular Order, and then every mans business was attended to in its regular turn.

We were informed that our names would not be reached before late in the afternoon. Which gave us plenty of time to take in the Town.

We found that this place was still the cen-

ter of Indian traffic. As Indians and French traders could be seen on every corner.

We visited the site of the Old Fort which was some two or three hundred yards, east or south east of Our Hotel, not far from where the St. Joe and St Marys Rivers unite and form the Maumee.

The Out lines of the Old Fort could be dimly traced by its embankments and a few rotten pickets and palisades protruding above the ground.

There was still standing within its limits a rude solid log House which we were told had seen service in former days.

In the evening I met a young man Robert Brackenridge who was about my age. Whom I had not seen for several years. We were both natives of the same town (Brookville Ind)

He was clerking in the land office of his uncle Capt. Robert Brackenridge.

At the time of Our arrival at the Hotel, the same was filled with strangers, and conspicuously among them was a tall man of about fifty years of age, prominent Features, red Hair, with a long Cue, from the back part of his head.

And who was attracting more attention than any one present, upon inquiry I found him to be no other than Gen Duncan McArthur Ex Governor of Ohio, who was then on same business of the rest of us, looking after a tract of land.

And at noon there rather an informal Reception given to make the acquaintance of the General. Among those present was Cap Brackenridge Register of the Land office And at one time, in absence of the General from the Room, Cap Brackenridge related the following incident of Gen McArthur that took place at surrender of the North Western Army by Governor HULL, which I noted down in my Diary at the time, as related

by Capt Brackenridge, an extract of which I now produce to wit "At the time of HULLs Surrender, said Capt Brackenridge the Brigade of Gen McArthur was some distance away, But was included in the surrender

"A Courier was immediately dispatched to Gen. McArthur notifying him of the Surrender and to Stack his arms and turn over the Soldiers to the British Officers.

"Gen McArthur immediately became furious with rage, dismounting his horse in front of his soldiers, drew his sword, plunged it into the Ground, breaking it into two pieces, and then throwing the Broken hilt which he held in his hand upon the Ground,

"Exclaiming at the same time, If the British want my sword D--m them, let them come and pick up the fragments."

Having finished Our business by the purchase of one half section of land in the south west corner of Huntington County.

In the evening we returned to Vermillion, and the next day to Wabash, by the same Road as- ready described.

When on the Road a mile above Wabash I met my Old School Teacher Isaac Fowler for the last time, as already stated in these Reminiscences.

In the evening we again spend a short time fishing with Dr. Hackleman and Wm H. Combs.

#### Thursday morning May 19 1836

Having now accomplished the purpose of our Trip to the Upper Wabash we concluded to return to our Illinois Home by the Way of Rushville this State and make a short visit to our former Homes in Rush County.

Accordingly we left Our kind Friends in Wabash and went over to the New Settlement on

Grant Creek, and partook of the Hospitality of our Friend Jesse D. Scott for the night.

Friday May 20 1836

Shortly after sun-up we were in our saddles and bidding our Friend "good by" turned our face to the South, taking the bridle path for Conner's mill on the Mississinawa River. A mile out and we were in, to us, a new Country, with new scenery at every step. After crossing Josina Creek, we diverged to the right following an Indian path in order to visit

Col Campbells Battle Field

On the Mississinawa River. But being without a Guide our visit was not very satisfactory.

We crossed the Mississinawa River but a few Rods East of the Indian-Boundary at Conners-Mills. At these mills David Conner has had an Indian-Trading House, for some years. In fact, I believe He claims to be an Indian-Chief, or at least, exercises some authority among the Indians.

He has been a life-long-Indian Trader, First coming into notice at Fort Greenville in 1811. And then three years afterwards He kept a small establishment at Fort Recovery, and a few years later removed over into Indian Territory to a place afterwards known as Deerfield, on the Mississinawa River, and thence shortly afterward continuing down the River to where Wheeling now stands and from there to his present Residence.

Mr. Conner wields quite an influence over the Indians in this vicinity, and at the time of our visit at his Trading House, there were five or six hundred Indians encamped along the Bottoms of his beautiful River. At the place where we forded the River, it is probably two hundred yards wide.

Continuing up the River, three miles farther, we came to the Town of Marion County seat

of Grant County, situated on the South Side of River, containing two or three dozen houses. It has been settled about five years. David Branson and Martin Boots, being the first settlers as we learned.

On the Bottoms of this River we saw some of the finest land in this part of state.

From this place we took the Muncietown-Road following for eight or ten miles a long the South Bank of the River, then through Oak openings across marshy prairies, and some places flat timbered land, and twenty miles from Marion we stopped at Wm McCormacks Esq. who had living here a few years. We had been acquainted with him in Fayette County this State. His father being one of the Early Residents of that County, and an Older Brother, John McCormack and George Pogue being the first settlers of Indianapolis. We spent a very pleasant night with Mr McCormack.

Saturday May 21st 1836

Got an early start, and our road from here to Muncietown being through almost one continuous Swamp or thirteen miles, with but a few Cabins on the Road side, and no farms yet made. The outlook not being very cheering to the Pioneer Settler.

Crossed White River a mile or so before Reaching Muncietown.

This town is situated on the South Bank of the River and contains but a few hundred Inhabitants. Our stay being so short, that I failed to take any particular note of the place. I learned that on the opposite side of the River, was situated the site of the Munsee village which for a long number of years, had been headquarters of the Delaware Indians, and which to-

cation, was well known to every pioneer settler, who had crossed the Ohio River for the last fifty years.

From here our course was almost directly south to New Castle distant fifteen miles, with much of the Country such as we had already passed through, being heavy timbered land, with now and then Oak opening, interspersed with glades, along the Branches of Blue River, which we crossed before reaching New Castle.

We took but a passing notice of this place and would suppose there to be some three or four Dozen houses in the place with however a good outlook in the future.

Had no time to take notes, and continued on and four miles out stopped for night with a Quaker Gentleman, whose name I did not note at the time, and since had forgotten it, which I regret, as he, and his lady, were among the most hospitable people I ever met.

#### Sunday May 22nd 1836

We were on the Road by Early dawn being very anxious to reach our Old Settlement by noon. We crossed the national Road at Lewisville, then down through Rush County our old native place. Reaching the Christian Church on the farm of Rev John P Thompson just at the close of the morning Service, and right glad were we to meet our friends, after a North Western Ramble of several hundred miles, and which was looked upon by the people of the age, with as great interest, as a voyage around the World would appear at this time (1884).

We had crossed the Wabash and traversed the Great Mississippi and explored the great prairies of Illinois--had crossed the Great Mississippi and explored Black Hawk's purchase--had reached the last House (a Mr Sprance) twenty

miles North West of Burlington--Had traveled along Buffalo Roads--Seen Black Hawk.--Had slept in the Indian Wigwams--had come back by way of the Upper Wabash, and was now on the Old Stamping Ground--Surrounded by Friends who were looking on us as mighty Travelers.



