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SCHOOLTEACHERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

TO THE 1917 CENTENNIAL OF

EVANSVILLE

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The following answers by Mrs. Lorain M. Cutler were made to the following questions put to her by J. E. Iglehart in a letter, January 27, 1919. The answers do not contain the questions, but refer to them merely by their numbers. The following copy includes the question in each case, together with the answer following the question, so that in a single paper the matter may be properly understood.

Question 1. I wish you would write a dozen lines or a page or two or more, describing this man Safford, where he came from, his appearance, age, his traits and his work so far as you knew it.

Answer. It is little that I can say of Mr. Myron W. Safford, having been employed by him only one school year from September 1852 to June 1853; as the opening of the Public Schools caused him to abandon his work here. My introduction to him, was through a brother of his, who lived in Fletcher, a small town in northern Vermont. That he was a Vermonter I know, and naturally inferred that the town mentioned was his early home; although no one ever told me so. A casual meeting would give one the impression of an educated gentleman; not strong in character; but a goodness of heart and conscientious endeavor to perform faithfully the duties of life, seemed to be revealed.

Was never a visitor in his school, but report said he found it difficult to control the conduct of young America even in those days. His wife, a sister of Hon. Oliver P. Morton, was literary to a high degree. (The last magazine must be read, before any other duty however pressing, although she was a house-keeper, and a Mother.) Two of her sisters (Misses Morton) were teachers in the Safford School before my coming to Evansville. A daughter named Laura grew to be a woman of note and influence;

taking up public work and delivering lectures to gathering of women, on what subjects, I do not know. While teaching under Mr. Safford's supervision, was a member of his family and can testify that he performed his part of family life admirably. Always pleasant, even tempered, and altogether a very agreeable person to be associated with, save when you wanted advice as to control in the school room; then his reply was - "Do as you see best". I believe he was a competent, faithful teacher, with a shrinking from collision with pupils. Age unknown, medium height, thin in flesh, in fact the typical schoolmaster of olden times; lacking the beligerant qualities of many.

Question 2. We have much data for Dad Knight, as we call him. I wrote his obituary for the Journal at special request. He stopped in Michigan Country, west and carried a surveyor's chain there - Was he here when you came? A short sketch of him in the beginning up to the time you quit teaching would fill a gap.

Answer. While a teacher, Mr. Knight was known to me only by name, and reputation as a severe disciplinarian; a conqueror of rebellious boyhood, but for those times, an average teacher. My personal knowledge came after my marriage and his also, when we gravitated to the same neighborhood. His one only child, a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Raser still resides in this city. Dates I do not recall.

Question 3. As to the early buildings for teaching when you came here. Was the little brick school house on the southwest corner of Third & Main still there? Was the Episcopal church school building near First and Chestnut used after you came? Was the old Medical College Bldg. (where Dr. Brose's office stands) in use when you came? Was the Lamasco building on Fulton Avenue in the Park used after you came? Was the little brick school house out on Main St. near where Hullman's buildings now are in use when you came?

Do you remember Dr. Broughton (a druggist in Stringtown later I think) teaching at the latter place? Do you remember old Tom McAvoy in Lamasco. I have a biography of him. Do you remember school held in the Vine St. Engine house?

Did Father Clute teach after you came, if so where? When was the Carpenter Building built? I went to the High School in the Clark St. Building on Lower Second St. in 1863. Was it used by the Public Schools from the time you taught in it till 1863 and till the Building on 7th and Vine Sts. was built?

Answer. Do not remember the little brick school house. Do not know about the Episcopal Church School building.

The old Medical College was the place in which I taught the first year of Public Schools 1853-54 as I remember the first public school which was opened.

Lamasco building on Fulton Avenue was unknown to me.

Have no recollection of the school house on Main St.

As apology for knowing so little of the town those days. No

means of conveyance, no time or strength to go further than from my own school to my temporary home, back and forth from day to day.

Dr. Broughton I knew as a strange gentleman (said to have come from England) suddenly appearing here. As my memory serves me, was a teacher for a short time. He had an illness and was cared for in the family of William Wood whose daughter, a young widow, looked after the welfare of the stranger, and he afterwards was married to her, settled in Stringtown, where he conducted a drug store. He was a man of dignified presence and of few words. There were two sons in the Wood family William Jun. and Luke a lawyer, who died here and his wife removed to California. Mrs. Mary Jordan, home from early girlhood, to her marriage, was with the Wood family. Regret that cannot give dates.

Tom McAvoy have often heard of but never saw. I simply heard that there was a school held in the Vine Street Engine house.

I did not hear of Father Chute, as then teaching, but as having taught years before. I was acquainted with his widowed daughter Mrs. Jenkins, and a younger daughter, Charlotte who married Judge Conrad Baker.

The date of your High School career in the Clark Street building was seven years after my school life in Evansville was closed and was absent from the city one year; on my return, did not pick up all the threads of my former occupation; but no doubt that building was used for educational purposes all that seven years and more.

Do not know the date of Carpenter St. building. In those days, I think every teacher followed her own plan as method. I was given perfect freedom and varied methods, with circumstances. Pupils girls from eight years to fourteen. One little circumstance I remember. As i reproved a girl for misdemeanor, she said "Oh! Miss _____ have you got eyes in the back of your head?" If the few facts recorded above are of service, I shall be glad to have delved into the (to me) long past.

Very truly,

LORAIN M. CUTLER

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A CONTRIBUTION TO THE 1917 CENTENNIAL OF
EVANSVILLE, FURNISHED AT THE REQUEST OF
JOHN E. IGLEHART, BY PHEBE WHITTLESEY HAMLIN.

Evansville School Girls of Sixty Years Ago.

In the latter part of eighteen forty, a private school was established near the Corner of 2nd and Main Streets, just south of the New School Presbyterian Church by a gentleman, Prof. Stafford. Two teachers were employed, Miss Abbot - since Mrs. Elount of Mount Vernon, had charge of the higher education of the young misses, and Miss Sarah Dean of the primary grade. The Public Schools were established about the same time, but had not yet become popular. All parents who could afford the tuition entered their daughters into the Stafford School. The rival school was the parochael school taught by the Sisters of the Roman Catholic Church

With the tenacity of childhood's memory to retain early impressions - I can at this late date recall nearly every one of the young misses who received their early training at these Schools. In the Stafford School were the three Jones girls - Mary, Julia and Alice, daughters of the Evansville Mayor, at that date, Martha Orr, Malvina Shanklin - destined to become a few years later the wife of a U. S. Supreme Judge. Helen Wilcox - daughter of a leading physician here, the Oakley girls - Eliza, Sue and Judith, Kate, Ann and Hattie Hones. The Hornbrook girls - Carrie, Lou, Julia and Bessie. Julia and Louise were twins so nearly alike, we never could tell them apart. Maggie Goslee, Mary Page - the beauty of the school. Lizzie Holf, Laura Moore, Lavinia Scantlin, Letitia Churchell, Mary Stockwell - afterwards Mrs. Preston, Maggie Allin, Edith Risley, Jennie Corples, Martha Hopkins - about this time there appeared in Gleason's Pictorial a poem entitled "Martha Hopkins in the kitchen making pies." How the girls did tease her about it. There were others - very charming girls whom I cannot recall just now. One incident stands forth with distinctness. Young C. K. Drew, a handsome Evansville gallant, would drive up in a dashing rig of a sunny afternoon and beg Miss Abbot for one of the two Marys to accompany him riding - She, dear lady, could never refuse. How we small girls did envy them. At a grand May day festival held in Foster's Hall Mary Page was the chosen Queen, and Julia Jones the crown bearer, attended by a long line of Garland bearers, maids of honor, pages, Cupids, - a very spectacular affair, attended by hundreds, and I

7.

doubt if Evansville has ever since witnessed a more charming display of youthful beauty.

My own entrance and introduction into this school was rather pathetic. I now smile at the impression I must have made on these young misses as I was led into the room by my sister and stared round eyed at the sea of faces before me. Dressed in a yellow calico (how I hated it) heavy shoes, long, thin hair braided in two pigtales - a little country girl, awkward in manner, and badly frightened. I must have made a sorry appearance - I didn't become a general favorite nor was I allowed to enter into the plays and pastimes at once, but when they found I could imbibe all their recitations, French, Latin and English with facility - I say imbibed, for I was never conscious of applying myself to my books, I was afforded a tardy recognition. Another incident stands out in memory, of my schooldays there, - lying between the church and school buildings, a plot of land had been laid off into beds - many of the girls cultivated these garden plots and beautiful flowers bloomed in them. I was passionately fond of flowers and wanted a plot too. Finding a deserted corner, I dug up the ground and planted it full of withered roses which I had found. How the girls did laugh at it and called Mr. Stafford in to see it. Of course he laughed at my futile efforts and remarked - "Well, she's the flower of the school anyway." I don't know whether it was said in derision or sympathy, but the title clung to me and I was unmercifully teased for being "the flower of the school".

It wasn't long before the Stafford School closed its doors and

the pupils drifted to other schools, or were sent abroad for the finishing process.

A private school had been opened by Miss Mattie Woolsey, in a small building on Chestnut Street. I was transferred to that school. The attendance was principally from the south end. The girls I remember were Mary Babcock, Annie Lawrence, Clara Woolsey and her cousin Anna Foulds from St. Louis. Tille Goslee, Lou Scantlin, the Poindexter girls, Mollie Davenport - a niece of the Hollingworths, quite a grownup young girl who also shared in young Cy Drew's later attentions and who caused a ripple of excitement on the tide of school affairs by coming in one morning, throwing down on the teacher's desk, a silver thimble given as a school prize and walking out again without saying a word. It developed later that some one had said she'd won it unfairly. Another of Miss Woolsey's pupils was Lora Johnson, sister of the, at that date, Governor of California, the wonderful golden State. Soon some of that gold drifted to her, her parents and her brother William to defray their expenses to his Pacific home, and she left us.

These are some of the Evansville prominent and promising young school girls in the late forties and the early fifties. Before the middle years of that decade the scenes were transferred to the Third Street public school house. The public school had become the standard of popular and efficient education, and the thorough drill, especially in Mathematics, I received in the first Third Street School house, aided greatly in furthering my success.

in life. The Grammar grade - as it was then called, was under the instruction of the Misses Fanny and Sadie Fisher. Some of the girls during my year there were Mollie Elliott, Annie and Sallie Hughes, Celia Hauley, Louise Carpenter, Sallie Jones, the Woodward sisters, Mattie Steele, Annie Archer, Libbie Jewell, Lottie Ladd, Mary Robinson, Sallie Bates, Fannie Hart, Kate Glover, the Allie Sisters, Amy and Lillie Hallock - the former died during the year - she was a lovely girl. Miss Fisher allowed us to attend her funeral in a body and as we stood around the tomb and cast upon it our flowers singing the beautiful hymn "Sister thou wert mild and lovely, Gentle as the summer's breeze . . ." a sweet, holy impression was left upon our youthful hearts, that must have lasted with all of us through life.

Mary Mitchel was our class poet. A wonderful poem she wrote, named "Miss Fisher's wreath" in which each of the prominent girls was described as a flower, we considered it equal to Alfred Tennyson's (who was then in the Zenith of his glory) "Queen, Rose of the Rosebuds Garden of Girls".

At this date Prof. Snow was principal of the Evansville High School in the same building and Miss Rebecca Clark his assistant. In after years she became of national renown for her story books on child life - many of the characters she depicted were drawn from our own school girls. If I remember aright, - she was a sister of Horatio Q. Wheeler - the first Evansville school Supt. - He was prime mover in establishing and advancing our excellent school system, ably aided by the old school veteran Mr. Knight.

The three following years of my life were spent at a distant college. When I again appeared in my own city, it was in the scholastic force of our school. I taught one year in the Lamasco School and two years more in the same old Third Street School house. This ended my association with the early schools and the girls who attended them - -.

I know but very little of their future careers, who have married, who have died. Scarce half a dozen of them came into my life in after years. Yes they are "Tho' lost to sight, to memory dear".

Historic names Places and Environment of the Old Evanville.

To one who has been born and spent the first twenty years of life in the early Evanville, and then transported back to it after a continuous absence of forty years, the effect of its growth and changes are startling. When I left it in the sixties, it was a town of a very few thousand inhabitants. Its graceful curve around the Ohio river, would have gained for it the cognomen of "The Crescent City", had not New Orleans preempted it. It was then a merchantile city, with dry goods stores and groceries predominating. When I returned it was an immense manufacturing center sending out its machinery to a vast part of the south and west - its suburbs extending for miles up and down the river, and towards all parts of the compass. When an expecting niece rescued me from being lost in its depths, I

couldn't recognize a single land mark till we reached the intersection of Main & First Streets, then I realized I was again in the home of my nativity. But what had become of the old Firms, Alis & Howes, Jaquess and Hudspeth, Bement and Viele, Hopkins and Jon, Nesbet & Co., Preston Bros.? Had the old, substantial business men too, passed away, as well as their business places? Alas, I found they had. I could find no trace of The Washington Hotel, The Pavilion Hotel, kept by the genial proprietor Cyrus R. Drew SR., The Sherwood House, the old Shanklin residence, The Half Corner toy store, kept by the widow and her daughters -- even the architecture of the old dwellings seemed changed. The wide halls, long straight stairs, commodious, high-ceiled rooms, An ell generally in the rear, had given place to a different style but I question whether a better style of architecture. Even the old Jaquess home, where many happy early years were spent, and that had claimed as guests half the shoppers of Posey and Gibson Counties, was remodeled into an up to date apartment house.

Not a trace was left of the old canal, that as early as eighteen forty six, sometime before the first railroad entered the city, and had connected the northern part of the state with Evansville, running through what is now fifth Street if I remember right, and seeking its outlet through the mouth of Pigeon Creek into the Ohio. Its high, curving bridge on their stone abutments, over which the thoroughfares passed, and which were ever a menace to skittish horses, together with the picturesque ferry boats that were propelled through its sluggish waters, were all gone. Even the long line of

steam boats that had tied up at the river's wharf had dwindled down to a scant half dozen. I looked in vain for some trace of the Parrot home that had stood at the south terminus of First Street. It had in the very old days been the home and farm of Father Parrot, one of the patriarchs of the town. The youngest daughter Eva had gone from its threshold to become the bride of Union Bethel of Newburgh, another daughter was Mrs. John Hopkins Sr. Many were the jolly good times we had there, and their echoes perhaps still linger about the spot. Nothing is truer than "the fashion of the world passeth away" and the old friends too.

In the days of the Civil War from Water Street to the river - east and west - and from the Robert Barn's residence to the city wharf north and south, were stretched the white army tents of the Union soldiers, awaiting transportation to the southern battle fields, and the rendezvous of the entire population it would seem, as the strains of martial music called them there night after night to hear patriotic speeches and sing the war songs - sometimes the bands even breaking forth in the catchy tune of Dixie, inadvertently of course.

My surprise was great to find on this hallowed ground a fine large park, beautifully laid out and with the appropriate name of Sunset park. The many shade trees were so grown up they might have stood there a century apparently.

When I passed down Main Street on my way out to the old Stringtown home, the changes grew upon me. Where was the little red brick school house at the foot of Main Street, where so many of

the early youth had learned their multiplication table under the instruction of Charles Broughten? Where was the commodious two story brick poor house? Where was the plank road leading to Pigeon hill with its toll gates, where were the County fair grounds - ? Even Pigeon hill, that mountain of ruts and hollow, was leveled to a very small incline and Brown's hill down its steep descent the old stage coach used to rattle on its way into town, the fearless driver blowing his mellow horn, was now as level as a hall floor. Pigeon Creek I had remembered as a swift little river, too dangerous to ford, and in times of storm, rising over the public road and threatening the foundations of the long bridge, roaring like a cataract over Negley's dam, was now but the thread of a stream. The old cemetery - graveyard we called it - on the banks of the creek, and where slept my ancestors, had been swept away, washed out by time and tide, no trace of a tombstone to mark the spot. In the early days some of the finest and best of Vanderburgh best Citizens had their homes on the border of this historic little stream. Deacon Negley with his four beautiful daughters the belles of the country, Mary - whose husband Crawford Bell, built Evaneville most elegant residence (Afterwards the home of Mr. Charles Babcock) of the early days, with a close second in the Williard Carpenter home - they, certainly had dwarfed in magnificence during my years of absence. Lucy the eldest daughter married C. R. Rudd, another representative Evaneville man. Another noted home on the banks of the creek was that of Deacon Olmstead, his daughter Mrs. Martin Vandusen and his

sons William, Laird and Charles, the latter was a captain in the Civil War and died a soldier's death in the battle of Fort Donaldson. These all had homes there, and were mill wrights, owning flour and saw mills, not a link was left in Stringtown to connect me with the past - save the home and family of Marshal Hessermer.

Another historic place in Evansville was the Salt Wells. It was the only early pleasure resort - save the Camp ground, that I remember. A man named Gifford was the Host therefor many years. A few years ago as a party of us were motoring through Southern California, on the summit of the Santa Cruz Mountains, we stopped at a small dwelling to ask some directions, a very old man came out to answer us. In the course of conversation he told us he was a native of Indiana, - had been proprietor of the Salt Wells at Evansville for many years, his name was Gifford. I told him I had been there many times when a child, had once picniced there with my father and mother, the McCalpine and the Echoles. These two families had emigrated to California soon after. The old man said he remembered the occasion and knew my parents well. Among others who had left Evansville for the Land of Gold in the early fifties, were the Cody brothers, Conway, Smith, Fairchild, Dr. Rucker, Kirkpatrick, Guthrie, Rose Linxwiler and Billie Brown, also Gov. Conrad Baker's son Billie, whose wife was Emily Lister. None of these ever returned to E. that I have heard. Two of them were killed in the Panama & Aspenwoll R. R. disaster. Another by the caving of a mine. During my long sojourn here, I have never met one of these early Evansvillian's greatly to my sorrow,

although I've known Mrs. Blake Alrerson, a noted singer on this Coast, who at the age of eighty years retains her marvelous voice and sings patriotic songs for the veterans of the Civil War. She lived when a young girl with Madam Flagler the Artist on the State road, near the northern boundary of Evanville. Many of Mrs. Flagler's oil paintings must still hand on walls of old homes there. Another charming old lady in the ancient days of E-- was Mrs. Walker, a milliner with a shop on First Street, who made all the stylish bonnets worn by the Elite there, hats for ladies were not in vogue in those days. Her twin sons, William and Welman Walker were large, handsome men of the old regame. She took my childish fancy, by always wearing a silk dress when at her work. Silk gowns were not for every day wear in those days.

More recently and yet over fifty years ago, Miss Fanny Barker - Afterwards she became Mrs. Ronald Fisher, owned a similar milliner's shop on nearly the site. Her assistants were the Misses Mary Kramer -(who became Mrs. Billie Caldwell) and Christina Kruse - Afterwards she married Phillip Guisler. They were charming young ladies and the Milliner's Shop was frequented by the lads of the town. The Hopkins boys, Tom Wheeler, DeWitt Lamphire, the Stockwells and Griffeths and Alex Foster - And they didn't drop in to buy hats either. In the Presidential election just before the Civil War, when Buchanan, Fillmore and Fremont were the candidates of their respective parties, the Evanville Journal and Enquirer pre-

anted white Satin Streamers with the name of the favorite presidential candidate printed in gold letters upon them, to the young ladies who would wear them at a grand ball to be given at Foeters Hall. Quite a number of girls wore the Filmore emblems, a fewer number those of Fremont, but only three, Christina Kruse, Mary Kramer and myself wore the Buchanan emblems. There were many democratic gentlemen present, and we three won out not only at the ball, but in the presidential election also. The figures danced at these old time balls were first, the cotillon, and Virginia reel, then for the round dances the valseurienne, masouka shottishe waltz and heel and toe polka. The popular card games in social circles were euchre and seven up.

The older and more dignified set of belles and beaux that held sway in these early days - as I remember - were the Lempke brothers, Blythe Hines, David Mackey, Will Whittlesey, George and Gill Shanklin, Messrs. Dalzell, Authes, Armstrong, Flemming, Clerdenning and Fileston. Those who took part in the political and military Arena were Charles Denby, John Foeter, James Shanklin and William Walker Junior - the last two were killed in the Civil War. Denby and Foeter were bright stars in the political sky during long and successful careers.

The belles of that day were the Misses Mary Mackey and Mary Hauley, Marcia Carpenter, Ella Lister, Nellie Warner, Sallie and Cornelia Hughes, Annie Half, Fanny Page and a score more

beautiful and accomplished young ladies.

(?) Perhaps One more incident will be of interest to the readers. In President Polk's Administration, the war with Mexico ended with an attack by Santa Anna on the hospitals at Pueblo. The Mexicans were driven off by Gen. Joe Lane. He returned to Evansville bringing with him the flags his men had carried in the war, they had been made by the ladies of Indiana. They were presented to the State, and are now valued relics in the State Capitol. I. Bolton, the Indiana, poetess, in a beautiful poem of which I can only remember the closing stanza

"Keep them keep them Indiana
Lay them on thy proudest shrine,
For a dim and distant future
No holier gift is thine.
Thy fair - thy peerless daughters
Wrought those stars of gleaming gold
And thy noblest sons fought bravely
Beneath each waring fold."

I end here my reminiscences of the early Evansville. They, probably are not of much value to any one but myself, and perhaps a few of the very old residents. Some parts may not be strictly accurate, but it's hard to think back sixty five years, and take up the exact threads in the net of life then woven by others. Perhaps not many are left to recognize the people, places and events I've mentioned in these papers. - but these same people were the the founders and early builders mental, moral and physical

of your magnificent City of today.

Early History of the Evansville Whittleseys.

John Whittlesey, the progenitor of the Whittlesey family of America, was born in Cambridge, England, Came to this country in 1635, with Robert Lord's Say & Seal Company, and settled at Saybrook, Conn.

His oldest son John, was an officer in the Indian wars of that period - proclaimed, and commissioned Colonel by the General Assembly - Colonial records of Connecticut - 1717.

In the early thirties of last century there came across the Allighanies and down the Ohio river to the then small town of Evansville, the families Dr. John Lindaley & wife and his stepson William Erastus Whittlesey & family, consisting then of six children. After looking about for a desirable location on which to settle, they bought property in the small hamlet of Mechanicsville, afterwarde familiarly known as Stringtown, three miles due north from the Evansville Court House. Dr. Lindaley soon became the leading physician for southern Vanderburgh Co. and continued in his profession until his death in 1860. He was a deeply pious man of Presbyterian faith - connected with New School Presbyterians of Evansville. This school had recently become detached from the former Presbyterians who styled themselves the Old School, and were under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Dodge. The N. S. built and worshiped in a new Church on 2nd Street, just south of Main. This Church Dr. Lindaley

attended until his death, He and his wife driving in in the old rig, every Sabbath morning, Accepting an invitation to dine, with some one of the leading Church families - then attending afternoon service, and returning home in the cool of the evening. This was continued with scarcely an interruption for thirty years. Rev. Mr. McCarrer, minister of the church, was his life long friend. Dr. Lindeley was one of the first elders of the Church. I am told his portrait still hangs in the parlors of the more recent Church edifice on Locust Street.

Mr. McCarrer was one of the ministers who made a lasting impression on my childish mind, I heard my mother say, he was "wonderfully gifted in prayer" - I knew what gifts meant, and I used to watch for them, whenever Mr. McCarrer prayed, and wonder why I never found them -- perhaps I found them in after years. The other Minister was old Father Wheeler. I would call him the Village Priest - but that he belonged to the Methodist persuasion. He lived in Evansville - but year after year through winter storms & under summer suns he walked the long three miles to preach the "word" in the little Stringtown Church - which was open to all the sects & creeds. I never knew when he passed away, but his spirit must still linger around that hallowed spot - for I understand the little old Church is still standing, but this is a digression.

The rambling old country home of the Lindsleys & Whittleseys, was long a favorite outing place of the presbyterian Church people. Dozens of them driving out from Evansville with their hampers enjoying the hospitable welcome, and making merry

under the grand old Cedars, that grew upon the lawn, which they named the "Cedars of Lebanon".

The other family who settled on this spot, and builded a continuation of the Lindsley homestead, was Mrs. Lindsley's son William Erastus Whittlesey, by her first husband - Captain of the Ship Mohawk, lost with all on board in a hurricane off the West India Islands in 1806. The son William E. married Catharine Gillespie, a direct decendent of Anaka Jans, and an heir to the disputed New York Trinity Church' Corporation's fame and fortune.

Mr. Whittlesey was a surveyor and civil engineer, and much of the land in Vanderburgh and surrounding counties was surveyed and staked off by him. Also many parts of Evansville proper viz. the Longworth tract and Lamasco. He was present when the name of the latter subdivision of the town was decided upon. Three prominent men who owned the major part of the land met to dicide upon an appropriate name, but couldn't come to a decision. Mr. Whittlesey suggested that they united the first letters of their own three names into a name for the new subdivision. After some little figuring they selected La - for Law, Ma - for Mason, and Sco - for Scott, forming Lamasco. This name was so well liked that many of the inhabitants wished to have the coming city re-named Lamasco as more appropriate for a city than the name Evansville - but that name had become too widely known to be easily changed for a whim of the people. Of Mr. & Mrs. Whittlesey's children eight in all, the two oldest

girls married Jonathan and Thomas Jaquess, brothers - of the old mercantile firm Merrit, Morris & Jaquess - later Jaquess and Hudspeth. The Jaquess families are so closely connected with the interests of the city in its formative period, and widely known. Although I could give many interesting events and incidents connected with them - this short paper will not admit of it. Doubtless they will be written up by an abler pen than mine.

The eldest son John L. Whittlesey enlisted in the Union Army of the Civil War - at the end of three years reenlisted for the war's duration.

William G. studied law with the Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks, was admitted to the bar and practiced in Washington D. C. He married Sarah Houston of that City, a niece of Gen. Sam Houston of Texas fame. The third son A. T. Whittlesey, was editorial writer for the Evansville Enquirer from 1854-61 -- practiced law several years, was Evansville's civil Engineer and Surveyor from '63 to '67, City P. M. from '67 to '69 - then Editor of the Daily Courier until his appointment as Secretary to Hon. T. A. Hendricks Gov. Indiana in 1877. In 1865 he was appointed Adjutant General of Indiana with rank of Col. and in 1873 completely broke up the White Cap organization without the aid of firearms.

Quite a number of the descendants of Wm. and Catharine Whittlesey have attained fame and notice in the Navy, Ministry, Army, Law, as teachers and by marriage, but these are of too recent occurrence to be classed as reminiscences of the old Evansville.

1920 Haste Street,
Berkeley, Alameda Co.,
California.

Respectfully,

Mrs. M. C. HAMLIN (Phebe Whittlesey)

A contribution to the 1917 Centennial of
Evansville

By Edith Reilly..

My acquaintance with Evansville schools began when I was a small child and attended a private school in a two-story frame building on Second Street where Strouse's store now stands. The teacher was Miss Rebecca Sophia Clarke, a sister of Mr. H. Q. Wheeler's wife. She was afterwards, under the name of "Sophie May", the author of a series of children's stories, the "Prudie Books". I suppose even then she was dreaming over the stories she was going to write, for we used to jump out of the window and, after playing a game of marbles, jump back, without her having missed us from the schoolroom.

My next teacher was Miss Caroline Abbott, who afterward married Dr. Blunt of Mt. Vernon, Ind. She was a lovely woman and a fine teacher. A Mrs. Tompkins came next. We thought her a very cross teacher, but I now know she was in bad health.

In 1853-4 the public school system was founded by H. Q. Wheeler, Miss Fanny Fisher and Miss Laura A. Dean being the first teachers of the grammar grade. At first there were only the primary, intermediate and grammar grades. The first school was opened in the old medical college which stood on the corner of First and Walnut where Dr. Brose's residence now stands.

In 1854 this so called Wheeler High School was founded, its first sessions being held in the second story of the little building where the private schools I have mentioned were

kept. The first principal was a Mr. E. P. Cole who was succeeded by a Mr. Green. Then the new Canal St. Building, now Mulberry St. having been finished, the High School was removed to the Third story of that building. By that time the school had grown so large that an assistant had to be employed, a Miss Mary Clarke, sister of Miss Rebecca Clarke, my first teacher. The school then occupied one large assembly room and one class room.

A succession of principals followed, most prominent among whom was Benjamin Poore Snow, who, one of my schoolmates said she used to think knew as much as God did; Mr. Chase P. Parsons, who married one of his students, Miss Hattie Howes, a sister of Mrs. James L. Orr; Mr. Samuel K. Leavitt afterward pastor of the Ninth St. Baptist Church of Cincinnati, and Mr. Charles H. Butterfield, afterward Supt. of Schools and Judge of the Corininal Circuit Court.

My connection with Evansville schools as a student ended in 1860 and I began teaching in Sept. of that year as assistant to Miss Caroline Rathbone, founder of the Rathbone Home in later years. This was in the intermediate grade.

The next year I assisted Miss Fanny Fisher in the grammar grade, and after her marriage to a Mr. Sawyer of Cincinnati, her sister Abbie Fisher, who afterward Married Mr. S. K. LEavitt, former principal of the High School. The third year I was promoted to the principalehip of a primary school, with Miss Martha Bell, afterwards Mrs. Canter, as my assistant, which was held in the old Cumberland Church on the corner of Second and Chestnut,

opposite the building now occupied by the Scottish Rite Cathedral/

On account of ill health I was obliged to quit teaching in June 1863 for several years, in fact did not resume teaching in the city schools until 1880. After one year in the fourth grade under Miss Stenbridge as principal I was given a position in the High School which I held until June 1913.

REMINISCENCES OF EARLY SCHOOL LIFE

IN EVANSVILLE, INDIANA.

After being repeatedly urged to record reminiscences of early days in the Public Schools of Evansville; especially in regard to the work of Horatio Q. Wheeler. I have gotten my consent to do so, although what I may say must necessarily be fragmental; as I have already given information to several others, engaged in this same duty to posterity.

H. Q. Wheeler as he was usually called, graduated from Bowdoin College; then read law in the office of John S. Abbott and John Tenny in Maine. He came to Evansville in 1846 like many another young man, to seek his fortune in the then far west. After carefully considering conditions here, resolved to make this his future home. Going back to his native town Chesterville Maine, he married Miss Harriet Clark, coming with his bride to Evansville. On arrival, Judge Matthew and Mrs. Foster, father and mother of our late lamented Hon. John W. Foster, took this young couple into their home until they could establish themselves as residents.

In the course of time, the Wheeler family consisted

of three children, two daughters and a son; the late Dr. Will Wheeler, who after several years service as surgeon in the army returned to the place of his birth and was associated in the practice of medicine, with Dr. Bray of well known reputation. Later going to Portland Maine, where he married and died in 1913. The younger daughter died in early girlhood, the elder, Mary married and went to California. As Mr. Wheeler saw his little ones, growing up around him, he became greatly interested in the school question; there having been a new law enacted permitting "Free Schools" to be established in the state of Indiana. His legal mind led him to agitate the subject. Just then the most prominent school was a private one, for boys taught by Mr. Myron W. Safford, and a school for girls, superintended by him, which after having had several teachers, was then in the hands of Miss Abbott from Maine and a young lady from Vermont. After gathering about him many friends, whom he interested in the problem and many meetings having been held, it was decided to organize the "Free School" system, which caused the disbanding, of the so called Safford private schools. At this juncture Mr. Wheeler took Miss Abbott into his own home where she passed through a serious illness. In the meantime, there came to visit her a young Dr. Blunt from Maine and they were married before her recovery; he going to Mt. Vernon Indiana to locate and practice his profession, later taking her there; where they reared a family of several children, and where they died, leaving some of them as residents of that place. Receiving and caring for this young lady, under the circumstances, showed conclusively

some of the noble characteristics of the man, who so laboriously and self sacrificingly won the title of "Father of the Free Schools of Evensville". Plans progressed for opening schools in 1853, which I think the present day teachers, would hardly regard as adequate to the business in hand. Through Mr. Wheeler's influence Misses Rebecca and Mary Clark, sisters of his wife, became connected with the band of teachers and made their home with them, the former becoming a writer of the "Prudy Books" and other stories interesting to adults as well as children; the latter married in after years.

Through him also came Misses Fanny and Abbie Fisher from Maine as teachers. Afterwards Miss Fanny became Mrs. Sawyer and settled in California. Miss Abbie married Mr. Leavitt a former principal of the High School. The Vermont young woman, from the Safford school, began work with them under Mr. Wheeler as superintendent. Soon it was thought best to open a school in what was then called Lamasco, in the old Baptist Church, corner of Second and Clark Streets. This building was put in charge of the Vermont teacher and her sister a later arrival, which eventuated in the Carpenter Street school of the present time. Mr. Wheeler had associated with him, the strongest characters and the finest men of the town. Among the first trustees were William Hughes, father of Reuben P. Hughes and the two fine women, we know as the Misses Mary and Louisa Hughes and Christian Decker one of several brothers who left large families many of whose descendents are still our citizens. It is the testimony of the teachers that when these

gentlemen visited the schools, it was to leave with them the impression that friends had called. Such sympathetic interest, and dignified commendation was offered as to preclude all unrest in their minds, and they could go on with their work, in a spirit of gladness.

Mr. Wheelers kindness of heart was ever manifested by a thoughtfulness for those who were strangers in the town, especially those connected with the schools and they always found a warm welcome awaiting them at the Wheeler home. Not alone to outsiders, did he show his benevolent disposition, His wife had always with her, some of her immediate family, father, mother and sisters and she usually went to Maine for the summer months. There came to the city Mr. and Mrs. Barnabus Perkins from Buffalo New York and through them another member was added to the coterie of teachers. Miss Christine Hooker also from Buffalo, a person of large experience in teaching and social qualities which rendered her a great favorite among them; Years after she opened a private school and together with Miss Rebecca Hough a half sister carried it on so successfully, that it became her life work. Doubtless there are many men and women living among us, who were trained under her supervision. She died April 25th, 1897 and was buried here.

Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, mentioned above, decided to keep a boarding house for teachers especially, although young business men, were often members of the family. To these people was given a daughter, whom they named Minnie. At the age of five years, she determined to go to school, although children

were not admitted until six years of age; she importuned her mother so much, that she said "Minnie you must ask Mr. Wheeler". The little girl without mentioning it to her mother again, told a little boy friend about her age, that they must go to Mr. Wheeler if they wanted to get into school. Hand in hand the little folks went to the business part of town, and after diligent search, found the office and presented their request. Mr. Wheeler wrote a permit for each of them saying, "If they were smart enough to find me, they shall not be denied their wish". Minnie proved unusual, even in early girlhood, became a fine teacher, and held a position in the schools for several years; then went with her family to Brownwood Texas, where she taught until her death. Mr. Wheeler was so genial in his manner that it was a pleasure to the teachers to see his bright face and laughing eyes enter the school room. None seemed to fear him, but all held him in profound respect. Nothing seemed to please him more, than for teachers to congregate at his home, for an evening of recreation and exchange of opinions on popular subjects.

At one of the social gatherings, the Vermont girl in relating an incident used an unfamiliar word, at which an elderly citizen, not a teacher, somewhat of a critic however, laughed loudly saying, "There is no such word in the English language". She replied "Very well, bring out Webster's unabridged. I accept that as authority, if you do not find the word which was used, with the implied definition attached, I surrender". The word

smudge was there meaning exactly what was related. Mr. Wheeler enjoyed that little episode and "Turning of the tables" immensely, as the Vermonter was vindicated.

Those who made Evansville their home in after years, were his abiding friends. With his sterling qualities was combined a rare wit all his own. Miss Rebecca Clark being some what absent minded; kept a scholar after school for discipline; but walked out and locked the door forgetting all about the child. Mr. Wheeler took good care, by his casual humorous allusions, that she never forgot it. He was by no means an unskilful lawyer but his mind had a wide range and when called to be President of the old "Canal Bank" he accepted. After two and one half years it was renamed First National Bank with the president unchanged, so for over six years he was the President of what is now the "The City National Bank". Those associated with him at that time, carried to their graves the remembrance of his kindness of spirit, combined with integrity in all business transactions, but still his wit remained. When he came to business one morning speaking to the Cashier he said "Well he came last night", Who came? "Oh the man Harriet (his wife) has been expecting ever since we were married", Who was he? "A burglar".

To the same man he said "I am willing to trust my wife under almost all circumstances and I believe she is a good cook but I will not eat even Harriets hash". I see now the mirthful but half perplexed expression on the face of his wife, when he indulged in some of his dry witticisms.

This same cashier who enjoyed so much his fun as well as his sober conversation, was taken suddenly ill, while his wife and children were away for a part of the summer; was taken to his own home and well cared for until he had recovered. No opportunity to do a friendly and benevolent deed seemed to escape him. Had he followed his own inclinations, I feel sure we could visit his grave in our own Oak Hill today, but his wife longed to spend her last days in her home state of Maine; so after twenty years of successful business life here he left for the east in 1866, leaving behind him a host of friends who deeply regretted his departure. Many of our people regarded him as a benefactor, a promoter, a man who did things, which tell for the advancement and improvement of any community.

Returning once for a visit, his stay in our home seemed to revive the days of old and awaken all his former love for the west; and he confessed that this was home to him. A few years after being with him in Portland for a day, he again remarked that "Evansville will always be home to me".

Failing health, sent him to California but the change availed nothing and he passed from earth in 1888 in the city of San Diego.

Giving the name of Wheeler to one of the largest School buildings was a small tribute of respect to a remarkable personage to whom Evansville owes much of her pride in her Public School System, because he "Laid the foundation and others builded thereon".

LORAIN M. CUTLER

Jan. 1919

In August 1912 Moses Ross, Asst. Post Master, arranged for a meeting of Professor Adams, known as "Squint Eyed Adams" by the boys in 1856, who taught a grade school in the Canal building, and all of the surviving scholars of his school who lived in Evansville were present at a banquet at the Acme Hotel on or about the 10th of September, 1912, at which Professor Adams presided, and at the request of Mr. Iglehart some time in advance read the following paper. A flashlight picture was taken at night of the party at the round table, which is a curiosity, a copy of which is held by Mr. Leal Igleheart, Mr. Tom Ross, and one was in the possession of the late Henry Reis, president of the Old State National Bank. The paper is as follows:-

Sept. 10, 1912.

Veteran scholars and friends:

I thank God that He has spared my life to this the 78th anniversary birthday, to mingle with you once more, as teacher in the days of yore; who taught when men's hearts quailed before the "cruel war was o'er". Allow me to congratulate you in your arduous efforts to make this reunion as pleasant, profitable and entertaining as possible.

Fifty-six years ago this fall I came from Wadesville to Evansville by recommendation of Hon. John B. Gardiner of Blairsville, to the solicitation of H. Q. Wheeler, President of the school board of trustees of your city - a man that I shall always revere - a man that did much to advance the interests of education to a high standard - a man that had no superior, and but few equals - a man I can safely say, had his whole heart and interest for the future welfare of this city, and the rising generations yet to come. He came from the state of Maine. The other trustees were William Hughes, a merchant who had a store on Main Street, and Philip Hornbrook, a grocerman on Water Street; good men in business, and whatever H.Q. Wheeler thought was best, was quickly sanctioned by them.

In a half an hour I was examined as to my qualification as teacher; received my license, soon was taken to the school, and commenced.

Evansville at that time (1856) was similar to Mount Vernon as it now is, except but a few large buildings in it. I could stand on the story and a half roof of John Shanklin's store, situated at the northwest corner of Main and First Street, and view all that could be seen in Evansville, in two minutes time, and that without the aid of a spy-glass. I could then see the marked division existing between Evansville and Lamasco, and Independence, just across Pigeon Creek, was only in imagination, and what is now called Howell and West Side was then in an unbroken forest; except the latter, a small place called Babytown/

I came very near buying a whole block, fenced off, but no buildings on it, situated in Independence, not far from the Marine Hospital, for \$500.00, which could not now be bought for \$40,000; instead of the 48 acres that I did buy in Center township, Posey County, for \$800.00.

Some of the largest buildings at that time were City Hall on Main Street; Washington House, corner of Main and Third Streets; Sherwood House, corner of Locust and First Streets; Barnes wholesale and retail store on Water Street; John Shanklin variety and produce, corner of Main and First Streets; Babcock and a few more that I cannot recollect just now. The two largest residences were Willard Carpenter that stood a half mile to the northwest, and Robert Barnes, that stood near the river about a half mile to the southeast from the center of Evansville. Carpenter and Barnes were considered the wealthiest men.

The school building which I taught in was nearly new. It was three stories high, and had five departments in it. It occupied a whole block, fenced in, surrounded by sycamore trees, which were about 40 feet apart. It fronted Canal Street, which was the sixth parallel east of Main Street, and near Mulberry Street. And opposite or south of the canal, as it took a bend to the north, and a bridge across the canal at that bend. The canal was used some then, and extended 30 or 40 miles from Evansville, and was the intention to complete it to Lake Erie. It failed for want of funds, and a new era of traveling by railroads had superseded canals; therefore in a few years it was filled in, and covered with buildings and streets, so that only a few citizens can trace where it once was. Now I will direct your minds back again to the school building.

I taught on the ground floor to the right as you enter the building. A Miss Street was my assistant. Miss Hooker taught the primary department, at the left 1st story of boys and girls. In the second story just above Miss Hooker, a Miss Fisher taught the girls Intermediate. I was not so well acquainted with that lady as with Miss Hooker, because Miss Hooker was my nearest neighbor, and quite intimate. Right above me in the second story, Prof. Knight, an old teacher with many years of experience, taught the grammar school. He and I did not agree in our manner of teaching -- he taught with fear; I tried to teach with love. But then he had some very rough, nearly grown scholars, and perhaps this way was best after all, with the scholars he had to deal with. Prof. Snow taught the High school, which occupied the whole of the third story. Two or three lady teachers taught primary schools down in temporary buildings, just as the trustees could rent for the time until they could do better. The whole number of teachers employed was twelve, beside some parochial schools which I knew but little about.

Methods of Teaching.

The alphabet was taught 70 and even 60 years ago to the little child first. They must master every letter in the alphabet forwards and backwards, and backwards and forwards before they were allowed to use words. Then spell and pronounce words of two letters, this way: - a-b, ab; e-b, eb; i-b, ib; o-b, ob; u-b, ub, etc.,

then words of three letters this way, b-a-t bat, c-a-t cat, f-a-t fat, g-a-t gat, h-a-t hat, m-a-t mat, n-a-t nat, etc., then words of four letters, thus, b-a-r-d- bard, c-a-r-d card, h-a-r-d hard, etc., even to baker, caper, maker, tiler, etc. They could say whole pages without looking on the book, in rhymical order. Later on the word method was taught by objects, pictures and the words printed and written beneath the picture thus; the object box was held in the hand, then the picture of a box was drawn on the black-board, then the word, both printed and script beneath the picture box, and so on with all familiar objects. Then short sentences were used, as for instance - The Box. It is a box. It is my box. Is it a box? The box is for me. It is for you. The cup. See the cup. The cup is for me. A fly is on the cup. Have them come to the board and point to the several objects and tell its name. Make the word in different places, so that they may know the name wherever they see it. Dismiss the class, take their seats, copy what they can on their slates, not over ten minutes at a time.

The next method, taught some years afterward was: Sentences at the first, and to the finish. I never practiced that much, for I soon saw that was too much for their little minds to grasp all at once, and that the words taught first, and then sentence building, little at a time, showing that a was different from o and e, i from j, g from y, b from h or d, m from n, v, from w, b-d-p-g in print being nearly alike, and the hardest for a new beginner to learn.

Gradation of Scholars.

Grades were given in those days by classes; and orally, instead of written as it is now. A class was drawn up and questions and answers were given orally to each one in that class and graded according to the question, rightly answered. The questions being given in that part of the study, the class had just been over and reviewed. The questions were made up by the teacher previous to the examination. Examination of a teacher for a license was also made and given the same way, orally. I remember a few foolish catch questions the examiner of teachers had in that day, and no more ludicrous than the questions they have in this day and age to test the real qualifications of a person to teach a school.

Question 1. Why does a cow sleep in the dusty road on August nights, in preference to the grass beside the road?

Question 2. Why is frost seen earlier on the grass beside than in the well-beaten path?

Question 3. When a cow lies down which feet and legs does she first put down, hind or fore legs?

Question 4. When a horse lies down which feet and legs does he first put down, hind or fore legs?

Question 5. When a cow wishes to get up, which feet and legs does she use first hind or fore legs?

Question 6. When a horse gets up which legs and feet does he use first, hind or fore legs?

Question 7. What does the initials L. N. T. stand for?

A teacher is supposed to know all these things in order

to teach... Sanctum Sanctorum. Another thing I will remind you that previous to A. D. 1856 a teacher should know how to make a good goose-quill pen. Steel pens had just come into use then.

I am with you to strike glad hands. Men of rank of good standing, men of wealth, esteem and of respect, men of different professions, yet all good citizens, who I can look square in the face and you will not flinch, for your good deeds go before you; men I am proud of, not a shadow of doubt in your dealings with your fellow men. Men who have the future welfare of our country sacred in their hearts, and I trust the fear of God before their eyes.

And as I extend my hand to each one of you, I sincerely hope your last days will be your brightest and best.

And I will say in conclusion that I have many many friends who are dear to me, and far better than riches, and that I have seen an end of hours, days, weeks, months and even the end of 78 years of my life, yet I have never seen an end of God's goodness and mercy, extended to poor fallen man.

Copy of paper furnished by Hon. John W. Foster, together with letter enclosing the same. This was furnished upon the suggestion and at the request of J. E. Iglehart, who procured Mayor Bosse to write a letter. The Mayor when requested to write the letter, smiled and said "What's the use, he won't do it". Mr. Iglehart answered him "You write the letter and leave it to me, and I will enclose it in a letter written by me myself". Mayor Bosse was greatly pleased, as well as surprised, when by return mail, I received from Mr. Foster notification of his acceptance of the invitation, a promise, which he faithfully kept, only a short time before he died. He was then in bad health.

1323 Eighteenth Street
Washington, D. C.
April 26-17

Dear Mr. Iglehart,

I have at last after much unexpected delay finished the promised Centennial paper, and send it herewith.

You will notice I have made no caption, as I understand it is to be a part of a book, and have to ask you to make such caption as you may think appropriate.

I also return the book which you kindly sent me.

Hoping what I have written may be in some measure what you want and meet your expectation, I am

Very truly,

JOHN W. FOSTER

I have been honored by Mayor Bosse with an invitation to attend the exercises being prepared for the celebration of the Centennial of the founding of the City of Evansville, and also to contribute an article to the forthcoming book which is to be an historical review of the growth of our City, of which we are all so justly proud. I regret that the state of my health will prevent me from being present and participate in the Centennial exercises, but I cheerfully contribute a chapter to the History of Evansville, which will constitute reminiscences of my old home during the

"forties" and "fifties" of the last century and some references to the Civil War.

THE LEVEE AND WHARF.

The first substantial evidence that the people of Evansville were cherishing an ambition to make their town a city of commercial importance was the construction of a levee and wharfage facilities on its frontage along the Ohio River. Doubtless the bluff banks of the River, which raised the lots in the original plot of the town above the periodic floods, which covered a large of the adjoining country, had much influence in fixing its location, but these bluff banks also proved a serious impediment to the growth of the river commerce. It was a time of much activity in the steamboat trade when New Orleans was the great entre pot of the commerce of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys. Boats were navigating the Wabash and White Rivers, as well as Green, Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, and bringing their products to Evansville to be thence transhipped on the larger steamers to New Orleans, and the latter on their returned voyages unloading merchandise and foreign products for distribution to the vast and rich territory dependent upon Evansville along the rivers named.

This work which was accomplished in 1848 was quite an undertaking for so small a community. Before it was begun only two roads had been cut through the bluff banks to the river landing, one at Main Street and the other lower down. It was a source of great interest to us youngsters to see the work going on, which cut down the bluffs and made a graded levee to the water edge covered with gravel and stone gutters. This work left the buildings then erected standing on an embankment which had to be cut down and a new story constructed under the buildings.

The work proved a great benefit to the commerce, and there are old inhabitants of Evansville still living who will recall the great activity at the levee, with its entire length almost covered with the products brought out from the adjoining rivers - corn, flour and pork - and the long line of steamboats unloading and loading their cargoes.

TELEGRAPH AND RAILROADS

It was a time of great prosperity for Evansville, but a new element in commerce was gradually being created, which was destined to almost completely destroy this flourishing trade. A year or two after the levee was constructed steps were being taken to build a railroad. But this was preceded by another important instrument of commerce, the telegraph. Under the encouragement of some local subscriptions for its support, a single wire was brought down the river valley from Louisville, and Evansville was placed in communication with the outer world by that then wonderful instrument, the telegraph. To the great envy of us boys our playmate, John Bingham, was chosen the telegraph messenger, a high honor in our estimation.

The erection of the telegraph was followed by the initial steps towards the construction of our first railroad, known as the Evansville & Crawfordsville, in 1849. At that time the only means of public travel and transportation was by the steamboats on the Ohio River and by a stage line to Vincennes, with the arrival of one coach a day. Other travel had to be made by private conveyance or horseback over roads poorly made and in bad condition. The first railroad constructed in Indiana was from Madison to Indianapolis. Members of the legislature and others

having business with Indianapolis often made the journey from Evansville up the Ohio to Madison and thence by the new railroad, rather than endure the hardships and inconveniences of the overland journey. When I first made the trip from Evansville to Bloomington to enter the Indiana University, I traveled in a one-horse buggy, with my trunk strapped on behind, and the journey required four days.

The funds for beginning the construction of the Evansville & Crawfordsville Railroad was raised by local subscription of stock by individuals and Vanderburgh County, and it was operated under the direction of local officials, the first president being Judge Samuel Hall of Princeton, who was soon succeeded by John Ingle, a lawyer of Evansville, under whose direction the road was carried through to Terre Haute and beyond.

When the road was constructed as far as Pigeon Creek, a distance of two miles or more, it was thought to be an achievement of sufficient importance to glorify, and a Fourth of July celebration was held on the banks of the Creek, and trains of platform cars were run from the town end of the track to carry the citizens to the celebration grounds. As an additional attraction the orator of the day chosen was Rev. William H. McCarer, the pastor of the "Church on the Hill", now the Walnut Street Presbyterian Church, who had recently arrived from the East, and for many years thereafter was a faithful clergyman of the city.

I, myself, claim a little mite of the credit for the construction of this first great enterprise of Evansville. My father secured me an appointment on the staff of the first engineer of the road, Mr. Bewley, a somewhat erratic Englishman;

and I traveled with him afoot through the fields and over the hills of Vanderburgh and Gibson Counties locating the line, having the duty of using the chain or carrying the theodolite, until I left the service to prepare myself for admission to college.

THE SCHOOLS.

At this time, (1850) the public graded school system had not been established. The old brick schoolhouse on a part of the Public Square, built by subscription of the citizens about thirty years before, was still standing but not in use. This building was erected for "father" Chute, a graduate of Dartmouth College, who taught in this building for twenty years, but at that time had retired. One of the most prominent schools was that of Mr. J. W. Knight (who later served in the graded public schools), but he taught only the "three Rs" and a singing method of geographical study which I had already mastered. For a little while I attended the German school held in the basement of the Catholic Church which so long stood on Second Street of which Father Deydier was for many years the respected and honored pastor. I received my chief inspiration for study from Prof. Myron W. Safford, of Vermont, whose wife was a sister of U. S. Vice-President Morton, who established a private school in the building erected by the Presbyterian church "on the Hill". He encouraged my desire to go to college and prepared me for all the required studies except Greek and Latin, for which he had no classes. I studied Latin under the tutorship of a young law student just from the East, reading law in the office of Conrad Baker, then the leading lawyer of the town - Thomas E. Garvin, who became one of our most prominent citizens and lived amongst us to a good

old age. Greek I had to leave till I entered college, conditioned to bring it up during the year. At that time there was only one student in college from Evanville, and he prepared by his mother who years before had come from New England as a teacher and married one of the leading merchants of the town. This young man, James M. Shanklin, I shall have occasion to refer to again/

The city public schools were not established until 1853, and their creation and success were due largely to Horatio Q. Wheeler, who came from Maine in "the forties", was a law partner of John Ingle, and proved one of the most useful of our citizens. It was owing greatly to his indomitable energy and careful training that the Evanville public schools became the chief pride of its people.

THE CANAL.

The fever for internal improvements which prevailed throughout the West about 1825 and for some years thereafter affected Indiana very greatly. Large schemes for the construction of roads and canals were entered upon, chief among which was the Wabash & Erie canal, which was to connect the waters of the Great Lakes and the Ohio River. In 1824 Congress made a donation of public lands to the State of Indiana to aid in the project and the State emitted a large issue of State bonds for the purpose, which in the end led to a serious injury of the financial credit of the State. Evanville was to be the southern terminus, and its citizens counted largely upon the influence of the canal in making the town a great commercial emporium. The canal was slow in its construction, the work beginning at Lake Erie and advancing to the South, and did not approach Evanville till near 1850.

But its citizens were not inactive in preparing for

the advent of this great work. A stock company was formed to build canal boats on a large scale. My oldest brother George prepared a large warehouse and office, to receive the immense quantity of produce anticipated from the north; Iglehart Brothers erected a large flour mill on the opposite corner of Locust Street and the canal; and other business houses were established along its banks ready for the coming trade. But the grand enterprise from which so much had been expected proved a failure. The canal had been badly constructed by the contractors, and it was difficult to maintain water enough for navigation. Little traffic was created. I recall an excursion I made to Petersburg on a canal boat with a political delegation to attend a congressional convention in 1854, but there was no packet trade established, and soon after that date it ceased to be used as a canal. The railroad was manifestly the coming means of travel and commerce.

THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

Evansville ceased to be a town in 1847 and was organized as a city under a special charter which remained in force for many years, notwithstanding the provisions of the State Constitution of 1852. The record of the city government for many years thereafter shows that it was managed by the most prominent citizens and that they were ready to serve without pay in the city council and minor offices. Among them are found the names of James G. Jones, the first mayor, and Conrad Baker, the two leading lawyers, prominent merchants, manufacturers and capitalists, as Samuel Orr, John S. Hopkins, M. W. Foster, Willard Carpenter, (the founder of the library) John Hewson, James F. Blythe, Philip

Decker, Thomas Scantlin, John J. Chandler, (for many years city clerk, a man of marked ability) and many others who might be mentioned. It will be well for the future prosperity and reputation of Evansville if its prominent and substantial citizens shall emulate the example of these worthy men and give their attention and services to the proper government of the city.

The most useful citizen which Evansville has ever produced was William Baker, a brother of Governor Conrad Baker, who was four times elected mayor and died in his work in the tenth year of his service.

CHARLES DENBY.

One day in 1853 a young man landed at Evansville from an upriver steamboat, walked up the levee carrying his carpetbag, and took up his residence, a friendless stranger. He was just out of college, and became a law student in the office of Conrad Baker. This young man, Charles Denby; within three years had so ingratiated himself into the confidence of the people that he was sent to the legislature, at Indianapolis; he there married an accomplished young woman, the daughter of U. S. Senator Fitch; and returned to Evansville, where for years he was recognized as one of the leading lawyers at the bar. When the Civil War broke out, though a native of Virginia, he accepted a commission in the Union army and served with distinction. He was sent as diplomatic minister to China and for thirteen years remained in that important post. Afterwards he acted as one of the Phillippine Commissioners, and full of honors returned to our City to finish his labors, one of the many citizens of Evansville who have made it respected at home and abroad.

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The merchants of the early years of the city were ambitious to have its commercial facilities known and to extend the area of its trade, and for some years before the Civil War a well organized Board of Trade was maintained. In 1857 my father, M. W. Foster, was its president, and at his request I undertook to compile a report, showing the character and volume of its mercantile trade, its manufacturing industries and its other varied interests. Again; ten years later, in 1867, I discharged the same task for the Board of Trade, reviewing the effects upon its trade of the Civil War, the changes wrought by it in the business of the city, and the bright prospect which seemed to open up an era of commercial prosperity, which happily has been in large measure realized.

THE MEXICAN WAR.

It remains for me to notice one other feature of Evansville life, the part borne by it in the wars in which our country has been engaged. Although it was a small town when the war with Mexico was declared, it promptly raised a company, which under Captain Walker marched to New Albany where Indiana's contingent was organized into regiments and moved to the seat of war. This company took part in the battle of Buena Vista, where its commander, Captain Walker, and a number of its men lost their lives. The most distinguished "hero" from Indiana in that war was General Joe. Lane. He was a citizen of Vanderburgh County, living on a farm a few miles above Evansville in Knight Township. He had won considerable celebrity in politics, being repeatedly elected to the

legislature, first in the House and afterwards in the State Senate. President Polk appointed him a brigadier general, and in the war he conducted himself so gallantly that when he returned home from the war, his fellow citizens of Vanderburgh County gave him a reception. A platform was erected on the vacant space now known as Sunset Park, and I as a participant well remember the enthusiastic demonstration and welcome of the great crowd there assembled.

Our hero was destined to still further celebrity. President Polk as a reward for his war services, appointed him governor of the territory of Oregon, and it is cited as an evidence of the imperfect state of travel of the times that it required six and a half months for him to make the journey from Evansville to Oregon. When this territory became a State General Lane was chosen one of its Senators, in which position he served for several years. In 1860 he was nominated for Vice President with Breckenridge on the pro-slavery democratic national ticket in opposition to the Douglas and Lincoln tickets. He may well be entered on the list of Evansville celebrities.

THE CIVIL WAR.

When Fort Sumter was fired upon in April, 1861, the people of Evansville responded as heartily as any other portion of the North to President Lincoln's call to defend the flag and preserve the Union. Indignation mass meetings were held and recruiting offices were opened, and from time to time regiment after regiment was rapidly organized and sent to the front. Among these largely composed of men of Vanderburgh County were the 24th Indiana infantry, commanded by Col. Hovey, the 25th commanded by Col. James C. Veatch; the 28th (or First Cavalry) Col. Conrad Baker; and the 42nd, Col. James G. Jones, Charles Denby, Lt. Col., and James M. Shanklin, Major.

The first of these regiments to be organized, sworn in, and equipped at Evansville was the 25th Indiana, which had its encampment at the Fair Grounds. As I was the Major of that regiment it may be permissible to give a brief account of its services in the early part of the War. Its departure for the field on August 22, 1861, was marked by a notable farewell ovation on the part of the citizens of Evansville. Its first four months of service were passed in Missouri, where it took part in the Fremont fruitless campaign against Price. In January, 1862, the regiment was transferred to Tennessee, and in February participated in the siege and capture of Fort Donelson, being warmly engaged in battle on the 13th and 15th with severe loss in killed and wounded, and it was the first to enter the enemy's entrenchments. This being the first decided victory the Union army had won, it threw the North into a great state of rejoicing, and by none was it more welcomed than by the citizens of Evansville, so near the scene of the battle. At once steamers were chartered, loaded with hospital supplies and delicacies, a large delegation of volunteer surgeons, the relief committees of Evansville, the Governor of the State, Oliver P. Morton, and his staff, and others, and were the first bearers of outside relief to the victorious soldiers. On their return voyage hundreds of wounded and sick soldiers were brought back on the steamers to Evansville, where they were cared for in improvised hospitals.

The regiment participated the next April in the battle of Shiloh, being the thickest of the fight all day of that terrible Sunday and again in the next day's final victory. The regiment which left Evansville 1040 strong eight months before, after the

battle of Shiloh had been reduced by battle and disease until it could muster for service only 387 men. The scene described above as to the part taken by Evansville after the capture of Fort Donelson, was repeated when the news reached our city of the bloody battle of Shiloh, so near and accessible by steamer, and a fleet of boats carried relief of men and supplies bountifully given by our patriotic people.

Not long after this battle, I was granted leave of absence to come to Evansville, bringing the dead body of my wife's brother, a lieutenant in the regiment. I had hardly reached home when Adam Johnson's raid on Newburg in July threw our city and all that section of the State into a fever of excitement and panic. The Governor ordered out the home guards and its commanding general established his headquarters at Evansville. I being the only person within early reach who had any experience in warfare, Governor Morton secured by telegraph an order from General Grant detaching me from my regiment, and I was directed by the joint action of Governor Morton and General Boyle, commanding in Kentucky, to establish myself at Henderson and assume command of home guards and such other hastily gathered militia as I could get together, and take measures for the protection of the border. For the next twelve months I was in command of Western Kentucky, with the duty of driving out the guerillae which infested that region and kept the Indiana border in a state of fear. Having my post at Henderson, I was frequently called to Evansville on military duty, among which was the command of a military funeral for my former playmate, James M. Shanklin, who while Major of the 42nd Indiana was captured and taken to Libby prison. He was soon exchanged, but just after his arrival at home was stricken

with a disease contracted in prison. He was a young man of marked talent and promise.

During my command in Kentucky, I was appointed Colonel of the 65th Indiana, a regiment composed largely of men from Evansville and adjoining counties, and which with the 91st, also raised in this locality, was sent to my command. In August 1863, I was ordered with my regiment to join General Burnside's expedition then being organized to relieve the Union men of East Tennessee. The 65th Indiana, having been mounted in Kentucky, to more effectively chase out the guerillas, was assigned to a cavalry brigade of which I was put in command. It constituted the advance of Burnside's army, and had the honor of capturing Knoxville and receiving a great ovation from its inhabitants. The remainder of the year was spent in active campaign in East Tennessee.

In the Spring of 1864, when Sherman was preparing for his campaign upon Atlanta, the President called upon the Western States for the formation of a large force of volunteers, for 100 days' service to take the place of the trained soldiers then guarding the railroads and lines of communication, and by this method to enable Sherman to greatly increase his aggressive army. Evansville very promptly formed a regiment of One Hundred Days' men, the 136th Indiana, and I was asked by the Governor to command them. This regiment represented the very best elements of our citizenship, as it was composed largely of our business men, who were not able to enlist for the long term, but could leave home for the short period, and were thus enabled to render an important service to their country. With this contingent to the war Evansville closed an honorable and generous contri-

bution towards the preservation of the Union. The fall of Atlanta, the March to the Sea, and the Surrender at Appomattox followed each other in quick succession, and our city and country entered upon a new era of prosperity and happiness.