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*Switzerland, Ind. High School, Class of 1913*

# BRIEF HISTORY OF SWITZERLAND COUNTY, IND.

PREPARED BY THE SENIOR  
CLASS OF 1913, V. H. S.



CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR  
1813---1913

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*The History of Vevay and Switzerland Co.  
see Indiana Magazine of History Sept. 1913  
Published at Bloomington, Ind.*

## PREFACE

This little pamphlet is the outgrowth of an effort to study briefly our own local history in connection with the regular History and Civics work of the High School. The suggestion was made that a committee be appointed by the senior class of 1913 from among its membership to gather material relating to the history of Switzerland County and report to the class.

As the plans for the celebration of our one hundredth anniversary matured, the purpose of the pupils in arranging this brief history broadened somewhat. The committee conceived the idea that while they were being helped by the effort involved they might produce a work that would be a fitting souvenir for the Centennial Celebration to be held during the week of August 18--24, 1913.

No doubt many errors and imperfections will be found in this little book—imperfections in language, probably inaccurate statements and overlapping of material. It is hoped and believed, however, that the reader

will look beyond these faults, whatever they may be, and see the zeal, the sincerity and pleasure of the boys and girls in preparing this work.

The following committee gathered and arranged all of the material: Harold Curry, Elizabeth Porter, Perle Johnson, Eugene Scudder and Elmer Brown. They were greatly aided by many of the high school pupils and especially by the children from the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. An effort has been made throughout the pages to indicate the source of the data, by marginal references. Acknowledgment should be made here to The History of Switzerland, Dearborn And Ohio Counties, to Miss Julia L. Knox for an article written by her a few years ago and appearing in the "Indianian," to the local newspapers and to the "History of Indiana and Its People" by Robert J. and Max Aley, and to Mrs. S. O'N. Pleasants. All of these have been helpful to the pupils.

RALPH N. TIREY, Supt. of Schools,  
Vevay Indiana, July 28, 1913.

## CHAPTER I.

### Geographical Factors.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century when the extent of the vast North American territory began to be realized by our forefathers, growth in the East was checked for a time while men with their families made a mad rush for the West.

Had it not been for the perseverance of our sturdy ancestors they might never have reached this side of the Allegheny Mountains, but they were dauntless and after many hardships were able to reach Pittsburg whence the way was practically easy down rivers on boats or rafts, according to their financial condition, and across the intervening land in large canvas covered wagons drawn by horses or oxen.

After the settlement of Cincinnati, immigration moved southward reaching Lawrenceburg in 1795. A year later the first settlers set foot on Switzerland county soil.

The fertile river valley, guarded from winds and storms by the majestic hills, attracted Heathcoat Pickett to make a home near Vevay where he was soon joined by other progressive colonists.

(Notes of Perret Dufour)

As the rainfall was not regular, our forefathers were obliged to resort to their "water wands" which consisted of a forked peach limb that inclined toward the ground where water was supposed to be found.

(History of Three Counties)

Early settlers were also influenced to make their homes in this part of the country on account of the heavy timber which covered the land out of which they built substantial homes and stockades against the Indians and wild beasts which at first proved

hostile to the white men. Among the latter mentioned were deer, bear and wolves which in savage fierceness howled over the carcass of their latest victims—the fox, panther and racoon. The ground hog's shrill whistle might also be heard in these woods while wild turkeys and native song birds added to the natural atmosphere of Switzerland county.

They also were anxious to settle where they could ship their products out easily and the Ohio river afforded this possibility. Heathcoat Pickett's first flat-boat was the beginning of river traffic in this section.

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## CHAPTER II.

### Early Settlers and Settlements

(History of Indiana)

History is nothing more nor less than a record of past events and that of Indiana began July 4, 1800, but many settlements were made however as early as the first half of the eighteenth century, the first one being at Ouiatanon, on the Wabash river about 1720.

Many more settlements were made and finally some were made in Switzerland county.

(History of Three Counties)

A colony of Swiss settlers crossed the Allegheny Mountains, and coming down the river made settlements along the banks of the Ohio. They made their first settlement at Lawrenceburg but were not content to settle permanently until they reached the beautiful hills of "New Switzerland!" Gradually they pushed their way down the river and made some settlements in Switzerland county.

(Material brought by Paul Coleman)

The first one in this county of which any record can be found was made by Heathcoat Pickett in the year 1795; he erected a cabin about three miles



SWITZERLAND COUNTY COURT HOUSE



"HORSESHOE BEND" JUST BACK OF VEVA

*Switzerland County  
Switzerland, Ky.  
1897*





AUNT LUCY DETRAZ

The First White Child Born In Switzerland County  
Born October 11, 1806—Died May 18, 1903

from Vevay near Plum Creek, and lived there many years.

(Paul Coleman and Mabel Brindley)

The family consisted of the father, mother, two sons and one daughter. They endured many privations and often narrowly escaped the tomahawks or scalping knives of the Indians. The country was very wild at that time and there were wild animals as well as wild Indians.

Mr. Pickett made the first flat-boat on which he made twenty trips to New Orleans, and as he was a good pedestrian he walked back after selling his boat each time.

(Dorothy Campbell)

In 1798 the Cotton and Dickason families came to this section of the country and settled on Indian Creek, a few miles back of the Ohio river.

(Merriam Protsman)

William Cotton lived in a large sycamore tree until his cabin was built. He took an active part in the politics of Indiana and was the first Justice of the Peace. He received his appointment from General Harrison, then Governor of the territory.

In 1814 he was made Associate Judge and in 1816 was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention which framed the constitution of Indiana. He was a member of the first Senate after this state was admitted to the Union.

(Irene Babcock)

John Rayl, another settler, came here in 1798. He settled at the foot of the Vevay Island.

In 1799 Robert Gullion settled in the Ohio river bottom along the mouth of Log Lick creek.

(Harold Curry)

In the following year an act of congress affected the settlement of Vevay. This act stated that anyone

who would settle in the Ohio Valley and spend his time cultivating grapes would be given the tract of land between which is now Plum and Indian Creek. The Swiss took advantage of this opportunity and began the cultivation of grapes. In their own country the grapes thrived better on the hillside, so they decided to make the little valley in which Vevay is now situated look like their own home town of Vevey, Switzerland, by clearing the hills and leaving the valuable timber of stately poplar, beech and walnut.

This group of Swiss settlers came from the Canton Dewaird in Old Switzerland where Vevey is the chief city. Among the families were the Mennets, Bettens and Morerods. Soon the Schencks and Thiebauds came, and later the Gaudins.

(Mabel Brindley)

Another family among these was that of John James Dufour. They had located in the big bend of the Kentucky river, a place chosen by Mr. Dufour in the spring of 1796 when he first came to this country.

(Lillian Gleason)

In 1802 they made preparations for a settlement in this country by clearing the land. In 1813 the first house was put up by Samuel Butler and his family.

In the same spring Joshua Jones floated a set of house logs from Grants Creek and built a house on the lots now owned by James Bristow

(Anonymous)

In 1816 the Detraz family came to Vevay. Only a short time after his arrival Mr. Detraz was drowned while bathing in the river. His body was found at Madison and interred there.

About this time Frederick L. Grisard Sr. came with his brother-in-law

and settled below Indian Creek. He was a blacksmith for several years. When his son-in-law who was a shoemaker, moved to Louisville, Mr. Grisard came to Vevay.

(Lillian Gleason)

In 1817 John James Phillip Schenck with his wife and son, Ulysses P., came here and settled on a farm on the hill back of Vevay, the Thiebaud farm. Mr. Schenck was a tinner by trade and as there were no tanners in Vevay he did all the mending of tinware and also making of new utensils. He came to town once or twice a week and got together all of the tinware to be mended.

His son commenced business at Louisville and stayed there until 1837.

(Dorothy Campbell)

In 1817, what is known as the Dutch settlement was made in Pleasant township. A few years later they supplied Vevay with butter, eggs and chickens during the summer, and pork, venison, oats, wheat and flax in winter. They organized a church soon after they came and built a log meeting house.

Some Scotch people settled back of what is now Moorefield, among whom were the Dows, Taits and Allens.

(Mabel Brindley)

In 1817, 1818 and 1820 several families settled on Long Run. Among them were Neil McCallum, John McCallum, Donald Cowan and the Malcomsons. These people were Seventh-day Baptists and always held Saturday as their sacred day.

(Court House)

Lamb was settled by an Irishman whose name was Macintyre. He called the place Erin.

Florence was called Little York, after New York, which was a thriving city at this time. It was surveyed by

Benjamin Drake in the year 1816.

The population at this time was less than seventy. Some of the most prominent citizens were William Campbell, John Drake, John Gibson, Geo. Hutchins and Martin Adkins.

(Court House)

Patriot was named after "Troy." This town, Florence, Center Square and Vevay contended for the honors of being the county seat. Center Square was originally intended for the county seat, but finally it was settled by a vote of the people and Vevay came out victorious.

### CHAPTER III.

#### Pioneer Life.

In discussing the life of the early settlers of Switzerland county, one must remember the proverb "that there must be pioneers" in everything.

Some one has to overcome the obstacles that the following generations may enjoy the life laid out for them by their forefathers.

Going back to the earliest time in our local history, we find that the pioneers came from the eastern and southern states. These large, hardy, industrious settlers whose manner and speech were so unpolished but whose hearts were so warm, did not realize what foundation they were laying for the future Switzerland county.

After landing and selecting a place for his home, the pioneer had to live the best he could until the house was built. Among the early settlers who experienced such hardships was William Cotton, who crossed the river from Kentucky in 1798 and while erecting his log cabin, lived in a sycamore tree on Indian Creek.

A few of the old log cabins that were built at the settling of the county are still standing. These were



quaint houses built of hewn logs and roofed with clapboards, standing like monuments to commemorate the pioneer times.

When a house was being built all the settlers would help in the "house raising" and the builder to show his gratitude, helped his neighbors in the vicinity in return.

The household and kitchen furniture at that time was very crude. The gourd, the wooden bucket, heavy copper kettles and pewter knives and forks composed the kitchen utensils. The beds were made by stretching skins over poles. The chairs and tables were made by sawing blocks off of logs and putting legs on them.

In some instances when the family was "well off" the heavy walnut furniture was brought from the mother country. They cooked over a large fire place which was kept ever burning by the roaring back logs.

Their dress was made from tanned skins sewed together by the sinews of animals. The pioneer in this odd looking suit was just as happy as the society man in his full dress suit.

The pioneer planted and harvested his crops of corn, wheat, potatoes and flax in the summer time and extended his clearings in the winter. There was a great rivalry in the raising of crops between the settlers. The story is told of the contest between Hiram Ogle and Mr. Dickason in the raising of corn. It seems that Mr. Dickason had been growing more corn than Mr. Ogle and the agreement was made that neither was to shave until he had harvested more corn than the other. One autumn day Ogle was in town and was asked: "Mr. Ogle, who raised the most corn this season?" "I did," Ogle replied. "Don't you see I have shaved?"

The women were equally brave and self-sacrificing. They became so ac-

customed to being exposed to the dangers of wild beasts and Indians that the sense of security would almost have made them lonesome. They not only performed their own household duties, but spun the wool and flax, wove the cloth and did the family sewing, tailoring and knitting. The food consisted of potato cake, corn-bread and wild game. Coffee was a rare article indeed. The story is told in the notes of Perret Dufour, that coffee was used only on Sundays. On other days the family was only permitted to smell the sack, because of the cost.

Our forefathers had many prevailing forms of recreation, such as house raisings, dances, quiltings, sleigh and hay rides, corn cuttings and apple peelings. All of these forms of diversion are more or less kept up by the descendants of the early settlers. Edward Eggleston in his books describing the traits of the Hoosiers, gives to the natives of Switzerland county many fond pictures of early sports, such as "Three Hole Cat," "Black Man" and "Hat Ball."

The first school taught was by Lucien Gex, the only study being French. Nathan Peak was the next, teaching on the farm owned by Wm. R. Protsman. James Rouse taught school in a log cabin on Ferry street near where the Russell homestead stood. A great many children of the early settlers of New Switzerland went to school in the house on lower Main street. This building is of brick and is still standing. In the early schools the furniture was equally as crude as that of the household. The benches were made by splitting a log in half and fastening legs on it. The teacher was well versed in the art of using the rod and the three R's—"Readin', Ritin' and Rithmetic." The pupils generally commenced school

after finishing the "fall work" and quit at the beginning of the "spring ploughing."

The churches were made on the same principle as the schools. In some localities the buildings answered the same purpose. The preacher generally had a number of appointments to make. He usually rode horse-back and was a very welcome guest on account of the news he brought from neighboring places

(Irene Dufour.)

The people of Switzerland county have had many strange customs. Among them is the reading of the ninetieth Psalm at the death of any member of the Dufour family or their descendants, and the Mardi Gras on New Years eve.

When the first band of Swiss started for this country the father of the Dufour family being unable to come with them on account of his extreme age, read the ninetieth Psalm and asked them to read this at the death of any of the family if a preacher could not be procured. This custom is still practiced by those living of the Dufour family.

Switzerland has one custom which we are proud to say is not practiced by any other country, and that is the "Mardi Gras." On New Years eve the inhabitants meet on the streets of Vevay and parade, dressed in all kinds of grotesque costumes. We are unable to find where we got this peculiar form of amusement.

In speaking of the queer things connected with the history of the county, one must not forget the first wills recorded in the Court House. Among these is the will of Jean Daniel Morerod. This will is very unique on account of his belief in burial. He requests that he be "buried in a pine box the cost of which is not to exceed

one dollar and a half." The difference between the cost of the modern burial and his was to be invested in the best wine to be served out to those who found it to their benefit to attend his funeral. It is needless to say that there was a large attendance. If one could shut his eyes and imagine he was back in those good old pioneer days, he would be astonished at the change that has taken place between 1813 and 1913.

Instead of the modern house of today he would see the quaint old log cabin with its rock chimneys and clap-board roof. The ox cart would look like a relic of barbarism when placed beside the large six-cylinder autos of today. The deer-skin clothing is now replaced by the fine clothes of the modern tailor. Instead of the farmer using the hand-rake, scythe and cradle to harvest his grain and hay, he has the modern binder, mowing machine riding rake and plough. The old fashioned corduroy roads have given way to the splendid "metal pikes" for which Switzerland county is noted.

Judging from the progress made from 1813 to 1913 one can hardly predict what will be the conditions of life in another hundred years.

Switzerland county is better adapted to agricultural pursuits than to any other industry. She was the leading hay county of the union at the time when the farmer labored with his hands only. The future prospects are bright because the people have ceased to depend on hard work alone, but have combined it with science to save labor and insure better results.

#### CHAPTER IV.

##### Modes of Travel.

The early inhabitants had many more difficulties to overcome in their traveling than we do today. Although

our modes of travel and transportation are none too good, they far excel those of that time.

The Indians traveled on foot and in canoes and dugouts. As birch bark for making canoes could not be obtained here, they sent either East or North for it, or else made them of hickory bark or elm bark, turned inside out. The dug-outs were made from trunks of large trees hollowed out by burning or chopping.

The white settlers upon their arrival brought with them horses and introduced the flat-boat. They used about the same overland trails as the aborigines. Along these the produce was carried on horseback to the creeks or the Ohio river, where it was loaded on flat-boats and taken to New Orleans. These boats, as the name implies, were large and flat and were shaped like scows, sometimes having a shed over the center. They were propelled by side oars and guided by a long steering oar at the stern. The boats could not be made to move very swiftly and it has often been said that they managed to keep up with the current going down stream. Upon the arrival at New Orleans, the product was sold and supplies for the neighborhood were bought. These were either taken back in the flat-boat which was cordelled up the river or the flat-boat was sold and they were taken up in row boats. When no provisions were to be bought the boat was sold and the merchant walked back.

It took about eight or ten weeks to make the trip. On the down trip the load consisted of corn, cattle, horses, pork, venison, hickory nuts, and walnuts and required almost a month to make it. The return trip took about four weeks. The load

consisted of sugar, tobacco, rice and dry goods.

After while, lines of flat boats were established by companies which made regular trips up and down the river. They carried not only produce, but also passengers.

The coming of the steamboat was a great event. The first one that passed down the river was in 1811. It was built at Pittsburg by a relative of ex-President Roosevelt and made the trip in fourteen days. Another early steamboat was the "Orleans" which passed along in 1812. This was built at Pittsburg by Fulton and Livingston. It was furnished with two masts and a stern propelling wheel. Her capacity was one hundred tons. Some of the other boats were the "Comet" a vessel rated at twenty-five tons which passed in 1812, the "Vesuvius" in 1814 and the "Enterprise" a vessel of seventy-five tons in the same year.

In 1816 the "Washington" a boat of a different type passed. She had two decks where the others had only one and her boilers were placed on deck instead of in the hold. The "Washington" was the first steamboat to make the return trip. With her return trip historians date the beginning of steam navigation in the West.

Although the steamboat was the fastest way of traveling and much safer from the attacks of the Indians, it had its own perils. Probably one of the worst accidents which happened along the Ohio river was the burning of the "America" and the "United States." The "America" was making an excursion trip down the river; on board were many passengers, mostly women and children. They were dancing and the pilot, who enjoyed this pastime, had left the boat in charge of a young man who was an

inexperienced pilot, but in whom he had great confidence. Between eleven and twelve o'clock at night when but a short distance above Florence, Switzerland county, the United States steamed around the bend. The pilot on the America became excited and getting his signals mixed, held to the right instead of the left as he had signalled. A collision could not be avoided and the crash came.

On board the United States was about six hundred barrels of kerosene and gasoline. In some way this caught fire and before the boats could be separated both were in flames. The people ran to the back end of the America and as the fire came closer they jumped into the river. Many were drowned, and those who reached the shore were taken to the home of Mr. Rayl where they were cared for until their friends or relatives came for them. This accident caused laws to be passed which secured better pilots and made it unlawful to carry certain explosives on a passenger boat.

While improvements were going on in regard to traveling by water, the improvement of land routes was not neglected. The trails were widened so oxcarts and stage coaches could pass through. The oxcart took the place of horses to a great extent in the transportation of produce or merchandise.

The lawyers, doctors, preachers and other men who were compelled to travel about a great deal, rode on horseback. The invariable outfit of such a traveller was a pair of saddle bags used for carrying his wardrobe and papers. He wore a pair of heavy leggings made of green baize cloth and in wintry weather a buffalo overcoat.

Horses gradually took the place of

oxen for hauling produce and doing all other kinds of work and the road wagon replaced the oxcart.

At this time the roads were owned by companies and as they charged toll for the use of them, were known as toll roads.

The road wagon as a means of traveling was much better than riding on horseback. Perhaps Mr. Riley, our "Hoosier" poet best represents the people's appreciation of the road wagon in the following lines:

"Of the times when first we settled  
here, and travel was so bad,  
When we had to go on horseback and  
sometimes on Shank's mare;  
And "blaze" a road fer them behind  
that had to travel there.  
And now we go a trodden long a level  
gravel pike,  
In a big two-horse road-wagon, jest  
as easy as yo like:  
Two of us on the front seat, and our  
wimmen folks behind,  
A settin in theyr Winsor churs in per-  
fect peace of mind."

The toll house with its 'pole and sweep" has disappeared, all the roads being owned by the county.

The spring wagon which largely replaced the "two-hoss road wagon" with its jolly crowd, is almost a thing of the past and we now have the buggy and the automobile as our chief means of traveling.

Our county, we regret to say is a little behind our sister counties in her mode of inland travel as we have neither the steam railroad nor inter-urban lines. Our nearest approach is the present auto bus lines which connect with the nearest railroad points.

We have now traced the modes of traveling through the many years since the settlement of our county, beginning with the canoe, dugout and ox-



cart and ending with the modern steamboat and automobile. We feel glad that we live at the present time with all its modern improvements instead of in that early period when Indian and beast were to be contended with.

## CHAPTER V .

### Famous Men and Women of Switzerland County.

No history of Switzerland county would be complete without mentioning some of her distinguished sons and daughters. Since it would be an endless task to mention all of her worthy men and women, we will take only the deserving ones who have passed away into the home of everlasting tribute.

(Notes of Hon. B. S. Barker.)

Mrs. Julia L. Dumont ranks among the first of Indiana's early educators because of her never failing ability as a schoolmistress. While yet in her youth she established the first school in Vevay, and this proving a success, she found time to wield a graceful pen, and her poems and essays were widely published at the time. "She is entitled to be called the mother of Indiana's educational advance as well as of Indiana's literature," says Mr. Parker. Her first home and schoolhouse are still standing and may be seen by sightseers who visit our little city. One of the most prominent literary clubs in Vevay has honored this "Mother of Literature" by naming their society the "Julia L. Dumont Club."

(Jane E. Zimmerman, a sister of Edward Eggleston.)

Perhaps Vevay's most boasted writer is Edward Eggleston, whose Main street home still remains a place of

interest to visitors. His "Hoosier Schoolboy," "The Circuit Rider" and others of his works are well known all over the country, and although some of the characters have passed away, a number of them live in and near Vevay. His first school days were not creditable but after he reached the age of ten years he was unexcelled in his studies. He spent some time in Minnesota where he was obliged to go for his health and was much benefitted by "roughing it."

(Reveille 1893—Notes of Vevay.)

Upon his return he traveled in Indiana as a junior preacher. He was a great Sunday School worker and never lost interest in his church—the Methodist. Besides his Indiana stories he published a "History of the United States," "The Transit of Civilization," Tales of his life in New York, and others of interest.

(Home Monthly '98 Waldo F. Brown)

"Aunt Lucy Detraz," as she was called by our townspeople, was one of the earliest inhabitants of Vevay, and perhaps the longest lived. She obtained the best of her education in Louisville, Ky., where she attended school for a period of eight months. She was interesting and cheerful, a great worker in the Presbyterian church of which she was a devoted member. The author can remember her telling of how she and her parents were obliged to hide from the Indians many times, and how, when the redskins found that the family could speak French, they pledged themselves to be lifelong friends. "Aunt Lucy" figures prominently in Eggleston's "Roxy" and nowhere else is her character so truly depicted.

She lived to be ninety years old and retained all of her faculties to the

last, although her hearing was slightly defective.

Space does not permit even the slightest reference to the many men and women who have gone out from our peaceful little city and made some valuable contribution to society. We shall have to satisfy ourselves in bringing this chapter to a close with the thought that Switzerland County is yearly turning over to society at large men and women who are helping to solve the great problems of the day in all fields of endeavor.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### CITY OF VEVAY.

The history of the County Seat of Switzerland County is connected with many legends and stories concerning the beauty of its environment. Situated as it is among the vine clad hills on the banks of the beautiful Ohio, whose waters flow serenely from the Allegheny mountains to the Gulf of Mexico, it has a location envied by many towns and cities in the United States. Its scenery is excelled by only a few places in this country. To us it is common; we who live here do not appreciate its beauties, while the visitors are struck by the picturesqueness of the country surrounding us.

One hundred years ago the pioneers from Switzerland, that sturdy little republic across the sea, came here and founded what was to be a new Vevay in a new Switzerland. This year we celebrate the anniversary of this founding, and remember with pride swelling our hearts, the hardships these people endured that they might find a home beneath the clear heavens where they could cultivate their vineyards and make from the grapes the wine for which they are justly famous.

When the question of a county seat for Switzerland County came up, there were four applicants; namely, Vevay, Little York (Florence), Troy (Patriot), and Center Square. The last named being nearer the center of the county, was seriously considered for a time, the people of that place going so far as to lay it out as such and to get the ground in shape. Finally, it was decided to make Vevay the capitol of the County. As we do not know the minds of our forefathers, we cannot say why Vevay was selected, but if we were to hazard a guess we would say because of the geographical location and consequently better facilities for transportation and better opportunities for people to come and go. So much for the beginning of Vevay. Now let us look for a short time upon her progress, both material and social.

About the first public buildings erected here were the taverns, kept by Thomas Armstrong, Phillip Averil, William Cooper, Samuel Fallis and others. Under the law of the time anyone desiring to sell liquor in small quantities had to sign a contract guaranteeing to have so much stable room and so many beds—a queer law judged by present standards.

In 1814 Bazilla Clark came to Vevay and established a nail factory at the northwest corner of Main and Walnut Streets. The machinery was run by the then modern method of horse power. The nails when made sold for 25 cents per pound.

The first brick building put up in Vevay was the Court House. Begun in 1815 and finished for the October term of court in 1816.

The present Court House was completed in October, 1864. The bids for its construction were as follows: Temperly and Woodfield, \$31,000; Haw

thorne, Melcher & Eblin, \$28,000; Joseph Peelman, \$28,000; Samuel Coplinger \$28,952; John Haly, 26,132.40. The contract was given to Haly by J. R. Harris, William Anderson and Luther Hotchkiss, who were commissioners and was entered by H. W. Gordon who was Auditor, September 22, 1862. The old Court House was sold to Haly for \$200. The total cost of the construction was \$29,724.90. The present County Jail was begun in 1853 and finished in 1855. Joseph Peelman was awarded the contract by Jacob Shull, J. S. Ferguson and John Weaver, commissioners at the time. It cost \$8,675 and is 20 x 37 feet, built of good brick.

The early settlers did not forget the educational side of life. As early as 1810 Lucien Gex had a school near Vevay where he taught French only. In 1814-15 Mrs. Julia L. Dumont taught here. By her essays, editorials and poems she became the pioneer champion of better education in this county and state. She not only taught what could be found in books, but also helped her pupils in the up-building of character.

After Vevay was laid out, two sections belonged to the "Vevay Seminary" which stood where the National Bank now stands. In 1811-12 a man named Buchute came here and taught a grammar school. Being of a poetic turn of mind, he wrote the "Empire of Bacchus" in Latin. This was the first poem ever written in this county.

In 1873 the Legislature of Indiana passed a law requiring the trustees to appoint a County Superintendent, whose duty it was to care for the schools and see to their improvement. Many able minded men have filled this office. Since its establishment it has

changed from an appointive to an elective office.

In early times teachers were good and the enrollment was large, as is shown by the report of the State Superintendent for years 1883-84:

"There are 77 buildings pertaining to education and valued at \$69,543, having an enrollment of 4,467 with an average daily attendance of 2,115 and only 26 per cent of all the children of the county are enrolled.

This record is one to be proud of, because, taking into consideration the hardships the pioneer children had to endure, it is remarkable that such a large percentage attended.

Today we have better buildings and books. Teachers now are more efficient than those years ago, but they could not be more willing to help educate the coming generation than those early forerunners who braved the dangers of a frontier life to give the boys and girls an education. Since that time Indiana has made wonderful strides in education and today we are proud to say she ranks among the first in the United States.

The zeal for religion was never allowed to flag by our Swiss ancestors. Before the church was established, Daniel Dufour read a chapter from the Bible and preached a short sermon to them each Sunday. The first Sunday School, which was the prelude to the religious sects here, was started in 1817 and kept up until all the different churches had separate Schools.

The Presbyterian was the first organized church in Vevay. On January 28, 1828, the people favorable to this sect founded a church here by popular subscription—the amount being \$270. Daniel V. Dufour gave them the lot on which the present church stands. They worshipped in their

old building until 1837 when the structure was considered unsafe and torn down. From this time until 1844, they had no church. In 1844 they reorganized and the present building was erected.

The Methodist church was organized in 1816 by Rev. Allen Wiley and Russel Bigelow—these ministers belonging to the Lawrenceburg circuit. In 1823-25 it was reorganized and ordained as a station. In 1837 a brick church was erected where the present Ruter Chapel stands. Previous to this their meetings were held in the old Presbyterian church. In 1858 the present building was erected and dedicated by the Rev. Thomas Bowman.

The Baptist church of Switzerland county was organized in 1833. Mr. Dufour gave them a lot and a building was erected. Here the Baptists worshipped until 1873 when they occupied the imposing edifice which stands on the corner of Main Cross and Pike streets.

The Universalist church was founded January 1, 1852. In 1862 they built a building next to the Odd Fellows Hall. The church now belonging to this sect is of comparatively recent construction.

The Christian church was organized in 1842 by Rev. John M. Holton. Their first meeting was held in the Court House. In 1882 the old Baptist church building was bought and furnished for them by J. W. Wright.

The Catholic church dates back to 1854. The first member was Mrs. S. Pleasants, Father Shaw being the priest. Frank Dufour and wife united with the church in 1857 and a chapel was erected at his house. In 1862 they rented a room in Perret Dufour's building and worshipped here

until their present church was built in 1875.

Many old fashioned revivals were held in the early history of our town, but space permits only a slight mention. The principal evangelist, Lorenzo Dow, came here many times and exciting incidents are recorded. He preached where the old chair factory stood. One day while preaching he heard whispering among his congregation and desired to know who the offender was. He was told that it was some one translating the sermon to a young Swiss who did not understand his English. This appeared to him to be sufficient excuse for whispering so he went on with his sermon which was only two hours long—at that time considered short. How the times have changed.

The newspapers of the county from the first issue of the "Indiana Register" in 1816 down to the present time, have played an important part in shaping the destinies of the county. William C. Keen came here in 1815 and one year later started the publication of the "Indiana Register". It was published by various editors until 1832, when Thomas Berryman bought the shop and started the "Weekly Messenger" which he continued until 1836. In this year Isaac Stevens commenced the "Village Times" which ran until 1840. Charles Horton bought him out and changed the name to the "Ohio Valley Gazette." Four years later he sold out to Waldo who again changed its name to the "Vevay Reveille." All of its editors have been high minded men who have kept its morals above those of the average newspaper. In 1869 the "Vevay Democrat" was established and has been published ever since under the name of the "Switzerland Democrat." It has a large circu-



lation and has had a successful career.

One of the early taverns was erected by William T. Huff on the site now occupied by the LeClerc House. One of the earliest blacksmith shops started was that of T. J. Siebenthal in 1814. For early shoemakers we had Blaney, Kelly, Chaudet and Johnston. About 1825 Charles Thiebaud came to Vevay and started a shoe business which, upon his death was continued by his sons. In the harness business the first was Joseph Malin. Others who followed the trade were, Miles Mendenhall, J. W. Cole, J. N. Malin, J. Kern and George Kessler & Son. Tanning was begun in 1815 by T. S. Lindley.

The first silversmith and watch maker was William Paxton who came in 1816-17. Later William Norisetz established a shop here. These were not permanent and in 1857 Frederick Boerner opened a jewelry store. He was succeeded by Sieglitz and Robenstein in 1881.

In 1819 Dr. J. Welsh started a drug store. J. L. Thiebaud opened a store in 1847. Later Golay & Stevens started a partnership which was later dissolved and each started separate businesses.

In 1817 the Branch Bank of Vevay was organized and continued until 1820, when owing to a fraud the bank and all equipment was handed over to J. Blackford the receiver, by J. L. Dufour, the President.

The First National Bank was organized in 1864 with a capital of \$100,000, which was later increased to \$150,000 and then reduced to \$50,000, with a surplus of \$20,000.

We have been unable to find the exact date of the founders of the dry goods business here, but in 1840 U. P. Schenck Sr. ran a large store of this nature on the corner of Pike and Fer-

ry streets. The taverns named above were the first hotels as nearly as we can learn, and the LeClerc House, which stands at the corner of Main and Ferry streets, was the first large hotel. About 1840-70 it was considered one of the best hotels between Cincinnati and Louisville.

Many historical buildings are still standing. On lower Main street stands the white brick school house immortalized by Edward Eggleston in his "Hoosier Schoolmaster" and "Hoosier School-boy." Some three blocks above it on the same street stands the house where Eggleston was born. The first hotel is still standing on its original site, but the houses erected by the first settlers have all been stricken down by time and only the hallowed ground on which they stood remains to tell the tale of the hardships of the occupants. Not until after the close of the Civil War did the manufactories of Vevay get a start. In 1865 the Vevay Furniture Company, with a capital stock of \$38,000, was organized. The annual output was about \$50,000.

The year 1868 saw the establishment of the Vevay Woolen Mills by a Mr. Schofield. Capital \$30,000. Annual product \$40,000.

A steam carriage factory began in 1873, capital \$5,000; yearly product, \$8,000.

A chair factory was established in 1872 with a capital of \$12,000; annual product \$45,000.

The Union Furniture Company was established in 1874, capital \$40,000; annual product \$53,000.

Mayer's Cigar Factory commenced in 1867, capital \$8,000; product \$35,000.

At the end of the year 1876, Vevay was a prosperous and peaceful little city, carrying on an extensive busi-

ness with other places and lending all possible aid to enterprises which would bring prosperity to the community.

### LATER HISTORY.

After speaking of the Early History of Vevay, let us glance for a short time at the present places of religion, education and business. On the corner of Main Cross and Pike streets stands the imposing Baptist church, rearing its steeple Heavenward in the midst of Godfearing men. It has a large membership and attendance and the Sunday School is doing excellent work under the leadership of Mr Walter Cotton. The pastor, Rev. Bowman, is an excellent talker and a man beloved by all.

The Christian church, one square below on Pike street is also worthy of consideration. Among its members are some of Vevay's most prominent citizens. Although the pastorate is now vacant the outlook for a minister at an early date is good.

On Main street stands the Methodist church. Its pastor, Rev. Asher, is a man liked by all people. He takes a lively interest in all movements pertaining to the welfare of his members and the city at large.

At the intersection of Main and Market streets stands the Presbyterian church. The pastor, Rev. Barrett, is especially liked for the interest he takes in the young people and their work. Having been here but a short time, his reputation among the townsmen is an enviable one.

Two blocks below stands the Universalist church. The edifice is a model of architectural beauty. Although the membership is not large, it includes Vevay's best citizens. At

present no services are held by this denomination, but the United Brethren, under the leadership of Rev. Todd hold weekly services here. Rev. Todd is an earnest and zealous worker for the cause of religion and the church has at present a large and active membership.

On upper Ferry street stands the Catholic church. Its membership is also small, but the people are revered by all in the city. The present priest is Father Guerdon, of Madison.

Now let us notice the Public School System. We have a common school building containing eight grades with a most efficient corps of teachers. Taken from one to eight, inclusive, they are: Misses Fannie Shadday, Citha Gordon, Hazel Richards, Mary Hall, Laura Lamson and Mr. Ernest Gray. The building is situated in the midst of a large playground equipped with the modern apparatus for the healthy amusement of the pupils. It has an enrollment of 205. The High School building stands about sixty feet to the northeast and has four grades. Mr. R. N. Tirey is at present Superintendent of the schools, and he and the other instructors are both willing and able to help the students in every way possible. Not only is the learning of sums in Arithmetic, propositions in geometry, etc., looked carefully into by them, but also the proper shaping of the characters of those intrusted in their care. The assistants of Prof. Tirey are Miss Julia Knox, Principal; Miss Grace Stepleton, Miss Frances Culbertson, Mr. Clayton E. Tanke and Mrs. Loubelle Gougar. The building is large, well lighted, and ventilated. The equipment is good with an enrollment of 120. We have a High School of which all are justly proud.

The schools of Vevay have about 600 alumni, many of whom have gained

almost world wide reputation in their chosen line of work.

Through the untiring energy of the school trustees, Wm. O. Protsman, W. D. Cotton and P. D. Pleasants, the coming generation is to be benefited by a large and spacious assembly hall which is being erected adjoining our present High School Building, and by a complete overhauling of the old school plant. We have felt the need of these improvements and are happy that we are to get them.

Today we have six groceries, four dry goods stores, two clothing stores, four shoe shops, two drug stores, two confectioneries, one jewelry store, four hotels, three livery barns, two hardware stores, two furniture stores, three blacksmith shops, two large automobile garages, two meat markets and two tin shops. These are all owned by wide-awake business men, who are courteous and accommodating in every respect.

In a professional line we have five lawyers and seven physicians, all men of high ability.

Engaged in manufacturing we have two flour mills, one furniture factory, ice plant, creamery and planing mill.

The city boasts two weekly papers, the Vevay Reveille and the Switzerland Democrat. The former is, and has been edited by Mr. W. O. Protsman, a man of great energy and ability, for twelve years. It is published in a building situated on Pike street and built in 1906. It is constructed along modern lines and contains machinery for an up-to-date bindery and catalogue office. Some excellent work has been put out by the workmen here and we, as Vevayites, are very proud of this establishment. The latter is published by Mr. J. F. Patton, a man true to his principles and a friend

of all classes. Both papers have a large circulation and are well patronized at home and abroad.

The Vevay Deposit Bank has capital of \$50,000, with a \$25,000 surplus and profits. It carries on business in one of the most beautiful and up-to-date buildings in Indiana. Mr. James M. Scott is President, with Mr. F. S. Stucky as Vice President, Mr. C. C. Shaw, Cashier, Mr. H. B. Shaw Asst. Cashier, and Misses Leila Thiebaud and Afra Brindley as Bookkeepers. It has a large business and has for its depositors, some of Vevay's and Switzerland County's best men.

The First National Bank has a capital of \$50,000 and a surplus of \$30,000. Mr. C. S. Tandy is President, Mr. A. J. Porter Cashier, and Mrs. Isolene K. Mills bookkeeper. It has done business for many years and has gained the confidence of all classes of people.

Between Vevay and Ghent, the pretty little town that is situated just across the Ohio, runs the Ferryboat, "Eva Everett" owned and operated by the Graham brothers. It is large and comfortable. The owners are courteous and accommodating. It carries on a good business and is one of the most valuable assets to Vevay's material growth.

So much for the business side of Vevay, now the social side. We have two literary clubs, the "Julia L. Dumont Club" and "Eggleston Club." Both have a large membership and are doing good work along their respective lines.

There are many beautiful residences in Vevay. The Schenck mansion on the hill back of Vevay is one of the most attractive for miles around. The homes of Mr. Wm. O. Protsman on upper Main street, Mr. A. B. Shaw,

Mr. W. W. Fry, Mr. Dudley Craig, Mr. C. S. Tandy and Mrs. Laura Craig on lower Market street, are examples of modern architecture.

We have been exceedingly fortunate in the selection of city officers. At present the politics of the city are Republican and the officers are as follows: A. V. Danner, Mayor; Mr. James M. Scott, Mr. Hugh Cole, Mr. Warren Sullivan, Mr. Chas. Kincaid and Mr. Harry Seifert, Councilmen. Mr. Chester Kiesel and Dr. L. H. Bear are City Clerk and City Treasurer, respectively. The city is blessed with an electric light and water plant, municipally owned and operated. It is of modern structure and one of the most efficient in the state. Water under high pressure can be had at all times, thus making ample fire protection. River water is used, it being pumped into a large reservoir situated upon one of the hills back of the city.

Such is the brief review of the history of Vevay. We are all proud of

our little Swiss city and what it has done. The fair pages of its life have few dark blotches of political or social scandal to spot it. There have been times when there was more business here, but never since its founding has it been so clean morally and religiously. Other towns larger and more populous can offer more advantages to the laborer, but remember, as size and population increase the vice and corruptions likewise increase unless carefully watched and held in check. The gift of prophecy has been denied the human race and consequently we cannot accurately predict the future of the town, but, if we were to venture an opinion, we should say "give Vevay a railroad connecting with one of the great systems of the United States and in a few years she will offer to the workingmen of all professions and trades, places to work, homes to live in and a place to rear their children free from the contaminating influences of an illegally and corruptly managed metropolis."





HIGH SCHOOL BLDG. VEVAY, IND.



VEVAY HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING  
Undergoing Extensive Repairs At Present

VEVAY DEPOSIT BANK



VEVAY DEPOSIT BANK



EARLY HOME OF  
EDWARD EGGLESTON



FIRST NATIONAL BANK



STEAMER CITY OF LOUISVILLE  
The Fastest and Largest Passenger Steamer On The Ohio River



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