

By
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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE TOWN OF PATRIOT

The following is a part of the history of the little town of Patriot gotten together from the History of Switzerland County; from items appearing in The Vevay Reveille-Enterprise, and from facts told to the writer by his grandfathers, father, William Rea, Major and Fanny White and others, who kindly aided.

First Settlers

What now comprises the present town of Patriot, and the adjoining country, both north and south along the Ohio River, was first occupied by a lawless set of inhabitants drawn from Kentucky. These men, driven across the river by the terrors of the whipping post, which at that date was Kentucky's method of defense against undesirables and law violators, cultivated small tracts of land but subsisted mainly by what they gathered from the woods and river, and were not constructive settlers of the virgin soil.

The two first townships of Switzerland County, Town 1, Range 1, East and Town 2, Range 1, East are not generally known to lie east of the principal meridian line which runs due north and south from the mouth of the Great Miami river, and is the boundary line between the states of Indiana and Ohio.

It was these two tracts, just north of town, and the most easterly portion of the state that were the first lands entered in the neighborhood.

John Hopkins entered Town 1, Range 1, East on July 2, 1801 containing 322 acres. Town 2, Range 1, East, Section 31 and fractional sections were entered April 26, 1804 by Patrick Donahue of Ireland and contained 1412 acres.

Oliver Ormsby in 1806 and John Andrew in 1808 also entered neighboring tracts in what is now Mexico Bottoms.

Donohue made some improvements on his land and after he had felled many of the trees it was locally known as "Donohue's Deadening," but that of Ormsby remained a wilderness long after the remainder of Posey Township was settled.

Judge McClure, Charles Campbell, John Camp, Joab, James T., and John Truesdell settled in Egypt Bottom, just below what is now Patriot in 1810. These bottoms were naturally selected for their broad and fertile lands in the interests of farming but some of the other pioneers preferred the lands back of the line of hills as these elevated situations were freer from the ague and malaria that infested the lower lands. Among the earliest settlers in the hills west of town were Reuben Searcy, Henry Wallick, John Houze, Moses Searcy, William McNutt, Samuel Jack and William Cunningham.

Most of Posey was settled between 1817 and 1820 by emigrants principally from New York State and New England and for years the citizenry was practically solid Anglo Saxon and Celtic, transferred by covered wagons and flat boats from the Atlantic seaboard and New England

mountains to the Ohio river shores and the green hills of Posey Township.

Thus the little town of Patriot begins, and I fear, ends with two distinctions - firstly by being the most easterly town in the state; and secondly by having attained what neither New York nor Chicago has - her full growth.

In 1812 Elisha Wade purchased the tract between Mexico and Egypt Bottoms and in 1820 together with James Herrick laid out the town of Troy. The name was later changed to "Patriot" and ever since have the citizens, in times of stress and war, sent forth, with all the name implies, their patriotic sons; their moral aid; and more financial help than could naturally have been expected from them.

Additions were made to the original town by Joshua Hicks (the writer's great-grandfather), Bela Herrick and Martin R. Green, making a village seven blocks long and four wide with the numbered streets, from First to Seventh running from the River and with Front, Main, Plum and Columbia paralleling it.

James Herrick built the first school building in 1816 but schools were taught prior to this date. Judge McClure served as one of the first circuit judges and in 1816 suffered the loss of his wife, son and a grandchild by drowning in the Ohio, so at this early date the stream was demanding tribute from a people for whom it was doing so much by bearing them on its broad bosom in their home seeking adventures, and later transporting the fruits of their toil to market and returning necessities for factory, fireside and field.

In 1822 Patrick Donhaue laid out the town of Montgomery on his tract just north of Patriot but caused it to be vacated. While his selection was excellent for agriculture it would not have made a good town site as the river channel at that point is on the Kentucky side and in the early days the harbor of a town was all-important. Along the full thousand mile flow of the old Ohio can be observed that where there is low bottom land on one side there is surely hill land coming down on the opposite side of the stream, and as the river channel invariably hugs the hills it was at these good harbor points that the early settlements were made. The founders of Patriot used good judgment in this matter for the harbor was always good, and true to form the hills have pushed their feet closely to the shorts leaving scant room for the village that has clung to their skirts for well over a century.

The post office was established in 1824 with Bela Herrick as first postmaster and the town incorporated in 1848.

Before laying out the town Elisha Wade farmed the lands where the village now stands. He came across from Kentucky to perform his work, his wife refusing to move, fearing the Indians. In the fall of 1812, however, he settled with his wife (Nancy Watts) in their new Indiana home. Mr. Wade was a mechanic, millwright, carpenter, blacksmith and gunsmith and this all-around man built the first hand mill, horse mill and water mill in Patriot. Previously the nearest mill had been ten miles away in Kentucky. By his versatility he made his own stone buhrs, one of which lay on the banks of Wade's Run for many years after the destruction of the mill.

After the hand mill was operated a water mill was erected on Wade's Run but upon objections of Robert Gaston, who owned land above and suffered from overflowing of land from the mill dam, it was abandoned and a horse mill operated.

Joshua Petty was one of the first settlers. He owned land in Section 12, was a Universalist preacher, Justice of the Peace, but uneducated and very eccentric. In ordering justice and judgment he frequently made corn, potatoes and produce a legal tender in payment of fines.

Joshua occasionally took produce on flat boats down the river and it was intimated that the wild hogs that made up his cargo of pork were not at all times altogether his property. He subsequently was trying a man on a charge of stealing a hog valued at \$1.25. Just as he was about to render a verdict of "grand larceny" someone in the court suggested that the value was too small

for "grand larceny" and should be changed to "petit larceny." Mistaking the word "Petit" for his own name, "Petty" the squire shook his fist, swore, spit and vowed that he had never stole a hog in his life.

The first store was conducted by a Mr. Lodwick in 1827 at Front and Fourth Streets in a cabin, and William Williams built the first storeroom and conducted the first store of consequence in 1828. The second mercantile building was erected and the business ran by Peter Rogers and Erastus Moore across the alley from the old Globe saloon on Front Street, and this building was later destroyed by fire. Henry Van Pelt and Louis Resler also operated one of the early stores.

In 1836 Sylvanus Howe erected a three, story brick store building at Third and Front and the business was conducted by Sylvanus and Wm. Howe under the firm name of S. Howe & Co. They were followed by D. Smith. E. Case. Wells and others and in 1869 the business was again known a S. Howe & Co. with Silas Howe, Silas Q. Howe and Wm. T. Pate comprising the firm members

Reuben and Christopher Coffin were among the early merchants, beginning in 1834 and later admitting William Gibson into the firm.

In 1853 Eliphalet Case opened a mercantile business and started the wine growing enterprise in this section of the county. He planted eleven acres on the hills back of town after having terraced them to prevent erosion and these terrace walls of native limestone are still to be seen looking like breastworks thrown up to protect the village, down upon which they look.

Case came from Lowell, Mass. where he was mayor in 1836. He had also been publisher of the "Eastern Argus" in the East and was said to have edited the Cincinnati Enquirer at a later date. This man was energetic but very egotistical and it has said been also that in a speech made by him while a candidate for the state senate he used the personal pronoun "I" no fewer than seven hundred times. Case, a man of learning and of no little accomplishment, lies in an unmarked grave in the old grave yard in Patriot and the writer learned from one of the old citizens that some years ago a representative was sent by the Cincinnati Enquirer in an endeavor to locate his last resting place in order that it could be marked out of sentiment and respect for services rendered that great paper so many years ago, but Time, the eraser of all that is mortal, has overgrown with myrtle and ivy his lost grave.

Business Houses About Civil War Period

Beginning at First and Front Streets the plant of W.T. Pate & Co., comprising distillery, flouring mill, bonded warehouses, cattle yards and pens, corn cribs, stables and cooper shop, which extended along First to Main and east to corporation line, the next place of business was at Fourth and Second and was that of Pat Fortune's tin shop. Down Front at corner of the alley still stands a two story brick that had some age to its credit at that date and through the century of its existence it has housed many kinds of business and today, with all modern improvements, is the comfortable residence of the writer's mother. At the period of which we are speaking it was used for meat packing, whisky rectifying and as a grocery. Next-door was Houston's confectionery; adjoining a saloon, and at corner of Third Street was Gazley's dry goods store.

Across Third on Front was the large three-story building of Wells & Co., and next door Hobb's shoe store. Next and abutting was a three-story brick housing Bennett's hotel, in the front of which was Dr. Watt's book store. Next to the hotel was Monley's tailor shop and adjoining this Olcott's drug store.

At the corner of the alley in a three story brick was Gibson's dry goods establishment with Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges on the third floor. Across the alley still on Front Street was Schilling's bakery, while at Front and Fourth was R.A. Driver's grocery. Directly across Fourth

from Driver's in a two story frame building, locally known in later years as "The Bee Hive", was Beckwith's drug store, where the first soda fountain in town served the boys and girls of the thriving village, and where my father, when not serving the entrancing draughts from the old goose neck apparatus, might be found in the cellar making the soda water from marble dust and sulphuric acid to produce the water "that tastes like your foot's asleep."

At Main and Second, where Rev. Lowe now lives Thomas Hickman ran a wagon shop. In the middle of same block where Couch's tin and hardware store now is, Wagner's Pork Barrel Cooperage was conducted and at the corner of Third and Main where McHuron's store stands was Ralph Platt's Blacksmith shop. Across Main where Wickman's Drug Store now is was a pork packing house and in the same building now occupied by Orr's store was Bazley's warehouse.

At the south-east corner of Third and Main where the Alien building now stands was a large, rambling two- story frame store building occupied by Scranton & Dibble's general store. This structure was destroyed in the early 90's by fire.

On Third half way between Main and Plum near where Mrs. Orr lives was Milton Watt's Flour Barrel Cooper Shop.

On Main at the corner of the alley where Brown's grocery and meat market is now conducted, Benjamin Yarnell, sixty-five years ago, like-wise catered to the populace for their wants in meats and groceries.

At the corner of Fourth and Main was Bennett's saloon where he also did plain and fancy writing in a way that was said not to be at all times strictly lawful and of which we shall hear more later.

Business Homes In The Early 70's and Early 80's

In 1871 William M. Green opened a mercantile store and was succeeded in 1881 by William Gockel. Later as Green Bros., William, with his brother Richard Green, operated a dry goods and shoe business in a building on the site of the present Emerson Bros. general store. William Gockel operated his store for more than forty years and was succeeded by his son, Fred W. Gockel, shortly before his death.

J.W. Love, in 1873, began his commercial life with a small stock of goods in connection with his duties as postmaster, and later ran a prosperous business in the building now owned and occupied by The Patriot Deposit Bank.

Dr. W.A. Olcott erected a two-story brick building at 3rd and Main in 1875 and moved his drug store to the new building from his Front Street location. He continued the practice of medicine while the pharmacy was successively and successfully operated by three pharmacist sons, Elsworth, Charles and Otis, and only at the death of the latter did the store pass from the family name to the ownership of Mrs. Julia Wickman.

In 1876 Silas H. Van Houten succeeded James Stevenson in the store formerly operated by Scranton •& Dibble. It is interesting to know that Mr. Stevenson still lives in Indianapolis, to which city he moved from Patriot, and he is now still active and in good health at the age of 95.

Edw. Pfeiffer opened a harness and saddle shop in 1878 and manufactured all products in his line of business.

In 1880 Lemuel H. Emerson (the writer's father) was postmaster and began merchandising much in the same way as did J.W. Love. For some years he was out of business but about thirty years ago established in business again and successfully conducted until a few years before his death, when he was succeeded by two of his sons, Edwin and Lucian, who continue as Emerson Bros.

T.O. Bonnell established a tin and roofing business in 1869 and was succeeded by A.L. North, who later operated the Ohio Valley Roller Mills with his brother Edwin E. North. S.E. Couch & Son are successors and present operators of the business.

James W. Abbott succeeded Howe & McNutt in the grocery business and operated a store for some years.

S. Howe & Co. were succeeded by Howe & Haig, who were in turn succeeded by Foster & McHuron. Charles E. Foster, the senior member, sold to S.V. McHuron, the junior member, who has successfully conducted the business for more than thirty years, first at Third and Front, then in the modern building erected by the Patriot Mercantile Company at Third and Main, and then after its destruction by fire, in the building formerly occupied by Wm. Gockel & Son.

William Coffin operated the leading hotel for many years as "The Coffin House" but I assure you there was nothing gruesome about his hostelry as the name might imply, for in his parlor and at his table only friendly spirits met and in their cheery smiles and happy conversation one was assured that his guests were very much alive.

In 1876 the village had 550 inhabitants with 8 dry goods and grocery stores, 1 drug store, 2 saloons, 1 flour mill, 1 distillery, 1 school, 2 churches, 2 tin shops, 2 shoe shops, 1 saddle and harness shop, 3 blacksmiths, 2 wagon shops, 3 carpenters, 2 cooper shops, 2 stone masons, 2 milliners, 2 lawyers, 2 physicians, 3 notaries, 1 justice of the peace, 1 butcher, 1 barber, 2 job printers, and 6 secret societies.

Distilling

Coffin Brothers built a steam flour mill in 1834 with a capacity of 25 barrels per day. It was purchased in the early 40's by Eliphalet Case who added to it a distillery of 600 gallons per day but it was burned by an incendiary in 1851.

In 1852 this enterprising Case, with Sylvanus Howe erected a much larger distillery near the site of the first one and it reached its zenith during the Civil War. It first had a capacity of 2700 gallons per day and was built at the cost of \$20,000.00. Case & Howe operated it for two years and then S. Howe & Co., until 1859, when it was purchased and operated by W.T. Pate and Jas. W. Gaff as W.T. Pate & Co., until 1878.

This distillery, together with the industries that were allied with it, flour milling, cooperage, cattle feeding and corn boating were necessarily the business life of the town, and naturally when it was sold and operation suspended the decline of the village began, and while it did not succumb it has never recovered from the blow and manages to fill a place as a trading point for the rich farms surrounding it, in Kentucky as well as Indiana.

In 1868, the U.S. Government notified the distillers of the country that a revenue of \$1.10 per gallon would be demanded of them at a near future date but gave them permission to manufacture, tax free, until the stated date. Naturally all that could be made up to the time of taxing automatically increased in value by the amount of the tax, or more than \$50 per barrel. The plant was operated night and day and was never allowed to cool down. The bonded warehouses were filled to capacity as was all available space in the company's buildings and yards and even the streets of the town were piled high with barrels of spirits under the watchful eyes of guards.

In 1877 Silas Q. Howe purchased the plant and sold it in 1878 to C.H. Davis of Cincinnati, who closed it and placed it in the pool. This distillery always did a good business and for one period of six years was never allowed to cool. At this period the November revenue of one year amounted to a quarter of a million dollars. The output was about 700,000 gallons annually and furnished an excellent market for corn raisers for many miles around.

Wine Growing and Silk Culture

As previously stated E. Case was the original wine grower of the community and through all his business activities, success and final failure, he remained true to his vineyards and made wine to the last. His wine press was on upper Third Street where Wm. Humphrey now lives and next to the Methodist church. This many sided man must have had a way with him even though his wife did not accompany him west from Massachusetts nor did she come on during his years of residence here, but even though his influence seemed nil with her he was successful in obtaining permission from the Methodist church to store his wine in the church basement. As no records show that this was in any way considered sacramental in character I maintain that this man had ability in selling of his ideas if the church in those days had any of the present day views toward the "cup of family disturbance."

John David Mottier, a Frenchman and one of the famous Marquis de LaFayette family started a vineyard on his farm at the edge of town and for many years made a good grade of wine that found a ready market in Cincinnati.

In the early 40's a Mr. Huxley introduced what was an entirely new; venture in the state and possibly in the United States-that of silk culture. He planted mulberry trees on the surrounding hills and erected a two story-frame feeding and hatching building at Sixth and Plum. In this building the silk worms were fed on the branches from the mulberry trees and he produced silk but the venture was not a financial success and was discontinued. This building stood and was used as a dwelling until a few years ago when it was razed.

Milling

Following the first primitive mills making mostly corn meal the first steam mill was conducted in conjunction with the two distilleries as stated before. William Emerson (a great uncle) was the miller in the later years, and there the writer's father worked many hard hours a day as a boy "scratching cobs" from the corn shelling machines. Years later a flour mill was operated on same site by R.O. Wickman until sold and moved.

In 1881 North Brothers built a large three-story flour mill on Main Street with a capacity of 100 barrels a day and a year later the roller process was adopted.

The North mill was later dismantled and then reopened as a smaller mill by Buddenberg Bros., who operated it until it was consumed in the big fire of 1924. On the site of the mill they rebuilt a two-story brick building in which they carry on a good business in coal, building materials and farm machinery.

Brick

Bela Herrick operated the first brick yard in the early 30's and manufactured the brick used in the construction of the Universalist church, which still stands firmly after almost a century.

Later yards were operated by Samuel Fisk and Squire Fletcher, one of which was on Main Street on the property where the writer was born and lived as a boy and owned by Edwin Emerson now. The evidence of an early brick yard was continuously cropping up in the form of brick bats as my hoe would strike them on the occasions when I was unable to beg off from working in the garden, a thing I was usually quite proficient in doing, being a good talker and my father being a man unusually kind of heart.

Cooperage

In this day of specialization one is not surprised at the highly specialized businesses and professions, even unto the story of the, oculist, who refused to care for the left eye of a man because he specialized in right eyes; but one would hardly believe that in the early days of Patriot there were specialists in barrels.

These containers were manufactured here in three varieties - whiskey, flour and pork barrels.

Adam Brixner was the first whiskey barrel cooper. For years Andrew Schafer ran a large shop making some kind of barrels at First and Plum and operated a steam stave bucker making his own staves and heading.

Pasquelle La Hreta operated a flour barrel cooper shop at First and Main in a shop on the site of Wm. Martin's present home, and John Houston one of the same nature years later at Second and Plum. Milt Watts was also one of the early flour barrel coopers and had his shop on Third between Main and Plum.

Wm. Wegner was the early pork barrel cooper and from his Main Street shop came the barrels that took many hogs in the form of pork to meet the beans in the kitchens of myriads of southern plantations. Of all the old coopers William Lukie is the only remaining one and as neither whiskey nor flour is any longer made here nor pork packed, he has turned his attention to metal containers, and many are the cans of cream he handles through the cream station of the Merchants Creamery Co., which he manages.

Cattle Feeding and Pork Packing

In conjunction with the distilling interests large cattle yards and pens were maintained on upper Main Street. These pens flanked both sides of the street starting a short distance east of First Street and running nearly to the east corporation line, also extending along Wade's Run toward the river.

Boatloads of longhorn Texas cattle were brought up river to these yards to be fed on the slop and mash after the alcohol had been distilled off and quite frequently either in loading or unloading these steers they would become unmanageable and as they ran amuck the streets of the town were left to them undisputed until they were corralled. Many hogs were also fed here and while most of them were shipped to city markets after fattening some were used for local packing. Pork packing was carried on to some extent in the earlier days before the large centralized plants came into existence and practically all of it was sent south in flat boats.

Whiskey Rectifying

Whiskey rectifying was carried on more or less. I never quite understood just what this was unless it was making two barrels of whiskey out of one and reducing the quality in at least the same proportion. Some of the component parts in the process being pepper and natural leaf tobacco with proof spirits, this concoction no doubt offered a brand of "lightning" for the palates of those that the purer but milder distilled spirits did not satisfy. This liquid refreshment would probably be received with open mouth by the present day drinkers of canned heat.

Saw Mills

For many years quite a busy saw mill was operated on the river front above the corporation line on the property of William Gockel by Harvey Elliot. Later Perry Warner ran a mill and today Stockdale's small mill represents about the only power industry in the village.

Creamery

In the early 90's Henry Schroder, who for many years had been in the butter egg and poultry business and at one time also operated a general store, built a modern creamery on Third Street between Plum and Columbia and manufactured a high quality of butter but the plant was destroyed by fire shortly after being put in operation and was not rebuilt.

Carpet Weaving

For many years and up to within my memory Miss Matt Herrick wove carpets and rugs on a big foot power loom. She kept at work weaving her memories of a happier period into the work that became labor too heavy for her aching body, and in her passing a noble old lady of a cultured pioneer family was lost to the community.

Boots and Shoes

Hosea Herrick, a brother of the weaver, and Petit Baxter, brother-in-law, made by hand the footwear for the town and country for miles around and both were artists at their trade. As factory-made footwear came into vogue this business degenerated into repair work but still Mr. Herrick put nothing but good workmanship into the work that came to him and as a boy his shop was one of my favorite loafing places as it was interesting to watch him work as he related to me interesting stories of earlier days. John W. Shirley was also a shoemaker.

Tobacco Prizing and Marketing

In the past large quantities of tobacco were prized and compressed into hogsheads. At various times John Reed, Edw. Gregory, Oscar O'Brien and Jacob Smith conducted warehouses but the advent of loose leaf markets put the hogshead market into the discard as so many older methods of doing business have been in recent years.

Canning

About twenty years ago the Patriot Canning Co. was established in one of the old distillery buildings. This company canned and found a ready market for its tomatoes for which Indiana has become famous but enough growers could not be found to supply the plant so after a few years operation the plant was forced to close.

Furniture and Baskets

John D. Mottier introduced the growing basket willows into this vicinity years ago and they have been grown ever since, especially by Wm. Rea, who has supplied Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis markets with many styles of baskets for many years, among which is a type not usually thought of - dead baskets - for the use of morgues and ambulances. Mr. Rea, with his son Clarence, under the firm name of Wm. Rea & Son, still operate their establishment at Main and Second Streets, and beside making baskets they manufactured all types of reed and willow porch and sun-room furniture.

Banking

Prior to forty years ago most of the banking was done in Cincinnati which was quite a handicap to business men and farmers, so when in 1891 the Patriot Deposit Bank was organized it filled a long and much-felt want, and from the date of inception this bank has been strong in character and able and willing to finance local projects and needs.

The bank opened in the frame building now occupied by The Patriot Restaurant with Hosier J. Harris, President; Silas Q. Howe, Vice-President; and Wm. F. North, Cashier. After a few years it purchased and remodeled the Lowe building at Third and Main where a modern steel vault and exceptionally good fixtures for a rural bank were installed. Some years after organization Wm. F. North resigned as cashier to take up the same duties with the Rising Sun Deposit Bank and John W. Johnson succeeded him. Mr. Johnson has faithfully and conscientiously performed his duties from that time until a few weeks ago when he was most unfortunately stricken with a heart attack while attending Odd Fellows Lodge, passing away in the lodge room. Rev. Johnson, who was an ordained Methodist minister and had filled the pulpit of the Patriot M.E. church as well as churches at other points, never ceased to be a minister at heart though he was a banker for years, and this man never overlooked an opportunity of doing good and passing on a word of cheer.

The writer recalls when the bank safe was landed from the boat and what a task it was to get it up the riverbank, but the crew with blocks and tackle secured to a large tree in front of the hotel and with the power from the captain drew it slowly up the paved levee grade. This levee finally and for once, at least, served a purpose, for before nor since in its years of existence has it been of any use due to steepness of grade. The levee was built by public subscription for civic service in the days when steamboating was in its prime and might have been of service today had the engineers made the grade climbable.

The bank has recently installed modern electrically operated bookkeeping machinery and is well equipped in every way to carry on a modern banking business.

The present officers are Lucian Harris, President; William Miller, Vice-President; Adolph Siekman, cashier; Lucian Harris, William Miller, William Fletcher, Albert L. North and Lucian H. Emerson, Directors; Mrs. Perle Johnson, bookkeeper.

Schools

Mr. Fordice taught the first school in a log cabin with greased paper used in lieu of glass or windows. The building stood on the bank of Wade's Run opposite the old Van Houten ice house and in the school year of 1813 and 1814 accommodated eighteen pupils.

The first building erected for school purposes was built in 1816 by James Herrick and it stood in Samuel Fisk's pasture above the brick yard. The number of pupils averaged between fifteen and twenty-five with a tuition of \$ 1.50 per pupil per quarter.

Thomas Ayres, a Revolutionary veteran, was one of the early teachers of the young settlement. It was his regular custom to take a nap each afternoon and just as regularly the pupils took advantage of the situation to catch flies and toss them into the open mouth of the instructor.

In 1830, Capt. John Hicks opened a school on Front Street back of where Dr. Olcott's drug store later stood and in 1831 -32 Henry Brown taught in a log house built by Elisha Wade.

In 1834 a one-story brick school house was built on Main Street next to where Mrs. Mary Kent lives. The narrator vividly recalls this building, used some forty years ago as a carriage painting shop, and a street scene that someone in past years had penciled on the white plastered walls. Whoever the artist was he left a picture that greatly impressed my young mind.

The basement of the Universalist church was fitted up in 1845 for a school and later Mrs. Vienna Herrick Wood refurnished it and for years taught Young America there. However this private school did not sufficiently relieve the crowded condition of the public school so some of the good citizens, who were very much interested in education, by strenuous exertions built in 1868-69 the present three-story brick building on Columbia Street that houses grade pupils. This building was erected at the cost of \$10,000 by public subscription and the leaders in the movement and most generous donors were Dr. W.A. Olcott, John Watts and W.T. Pate, who together with many other generous citizens made possible the beginning of the excellent schools this village has enjoyed for the past sixty years.

This new school was opened January 25th, 1869 with T.J. Charlton (a graduate of West Point Military Academy and later the superintendent of the Indiana Reform School for Boys) as the first principal; May Latham, intermediate department and Alice Emerson (my aunt) primary department. In 1876 the pupils numbered 173 and the first class was graduated from high school in 1884 under Prof. Sherman and made up of four graduates - Rev. W.T.S. Lowe, Prof. David Mottier, Morton K. Houston and Alma Lucas.

In 1919 a movement was started to consolidate the town and township schools and to the credit of the entire community this was the first school in southern Indiana to accomplish this forward movement and at present is the only school in the county with both high and grade school consolidation. The grade school at Quercus Grove is also operated as part of the consolidation and the auto busses are required to transport pupils to and from school.

By the bringing together of all children in the township the grade congestion was caused in the available space and a new building was necessitated, so in 1924 a high school building was erected at the side of the older structure at the cost of about \$13,000. The present school is in a flourishing condition and offers a course one would expect of a small city rather than of a small rural village. The school at Patriot has 251 pupils, 91 –of which are in high school and 160 in the grades.

Patriot High School Alumni Association was the first organization of its kind in Switzerland County and has for years aided and continues to help in improvements of school buildings. This association almost annually gives plays the proceeds of which are used for this purpose and among improvements installed are placing of metal ceilings in classrooms, wiring for lights, redecorating of walls and building sanitary drinking fountains. The Alumni players were the only producers of "The Hoosier Schoolmaster" which was dramatized by Miss Fanny White, a most loyal member and for years a valued teacher in the local school.

The present school board is comprised of Silas Hickman, Milo Hanna and William Cunningham; and the corps of teachers are as follows: O.M. Given, Superintendent; Guy S. Harris, Principal; Howard Cook, and Eva Smith in High School with Bessie Peabody, Thelma Bradford, Dorothy Olcott, Marie McKenzie, Miss Culbertson and Mrs. Edwards in the grades.

Back in 1849 Francis Jackson, with his wife, who was a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, built a fine three-story seminary on the hill just outside the southern corporation line of town. It was a select boarding and day school to accommodate 100 pupils but not more than half that number attended at one time. This school was in a beautiful location with terraces and wide stone steps leading from the lower road. Local boys and girls attended as day pupils while the boarding pupils were made up of young ladies mostly from the South.

The school burned in February, 1860 and was not rebuilt. Ever since this tract of land has been known as Seminary Hill and until a plow share cut into its sod for the first time a few years ago it was the pasture for most of the village cows. Many and many a cool morning would the compiler of this village history have gladly breakfasted without milk rather than bring the family cow, but by coercion the cow driver was routed out and in due time the milk supply was delivered.

But for picnics, chicken soups and egg roasts this old hill was made to order. The old foundations still remain and no place offered a better spot for a furnace fire than the cellar where the nearby brook, sparkling through margins of spearmint, furnished the water for making the soup of the unsuspected old hen, that had probably been surreptitiously lifted from some neighbor's roost.

Churches

The Universalist Society of Patriot was organized in December 1835 by George Rogers. The constitution was signed by John Flicks, Joshua Hicks (my great-grandfather), Bela Herrick, David Budd, Aribet Gazley, John Mellon, Ruben Coffin, S.A. Buck, Daniel Howe, Hagarman Tripp, Roderick Moore, James A. Trainer, Elizabeth Flicks, Clarissa Hicks, Amy K. Budd, Elizabeth Gazley (a great aunt), Polly Coffin, Harriet Dibble, Eliza Hicks, Sarissa Smith, Vienna Herrick, Luna Moore, Vienna Herrick, 2nd; Nancy Beckwith, James Buck, Uranta Buck, Pheobe Mellon and Catherine Trainer. In 1872 the constitution was amended and the word "church" substituted for "Society" so that admission might be gained to the general convention of Universalists.

Reuben Coffin built the church in 1838 for which Bela Herrick made the brick in his brickyard, and the bell, which is of unusually beautiful tone, had much silver cast into it for the purpose of adding a liquid quality. The organizers gave the silver, my great-grandfather Hicks donating fifty silver dollars. In 1881 the church had 211 members but as they older families moved or passed away the membership declined until the congregation finally disbanded. The building still stands and is now owned and occupied by the Wade II. Williamson Post, American Legion.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1838 and the first church edifice erected in 1843 on land donated by Sylvanus Howe. There is a question as to whether or not a deed was ever given to the church but as it has held the land for almost a century there can now be no doubt as to established ownership. At the time of building the first church Martin R. Green, W. T. Pate, Jacob R. Harris and John Vauter composed the official board of trustees.

As some of the old records seem to have been lost it has not been possible to find a list of the ministers prior to the building of the present edifice but among them were Reverends R.W. Robertson, M.B. Hyde, J.W. Alien and F.A. Guthrie.

The present church building was constructed in 1889, the corner stone being laid on January 13 of that year. The church was dedicated November 10, 1889 by Rev. D.H. Moore, D.D., Editor of The Christian Advocate, assisted by Rev. E.H. Wood, Presiding Elder, and Rev. J.W. Alien, a former pastor.

The structure cost \$6,000.00, and the furnishings \$700.00, this latter amount being raised and donated by the Ladies Aid Society.

The following ministers have served since the building of the present edifice:

E.S. Wimmer, 1890-92

J.W. Galvin, 1893-94

J.W. Johnson, 1894-96

J.W. Perry, 1897

John Clouds, 1898-99

E.E. Hester, 1900-02

E.D. Keyes, 1903

W.P. Bender, 1904

W.C. Watkins, 1905-07

Homer Manuel, 1908-09

J.H. Meredith, 1910

John F. Edwards, 1911-12

J.F. French, 1913-14

Rev. Harbinson, 1915-16

C.P. Hurt, J.R. Ferguson, E.E. Young, J.W. Murray, A.L. Howard and the present minister,
Rev. W.F. Crane

The Ladies Aid Society has ever been a large factor in the maintenance and modernizing of this church building and parsonage. Besides completely furnishing the present church during the presidency of Mrs. W.A. Olcott, the Aid has later assisted in the purchase of a new piano, bought new carpeting, remodeled and repaired damage to the parsonage caused by the tornado of some years ago, and lately have paid off the remaining debt of \$200.00m thus leaving the church entirely clear of any indebtedness.

At present the membership is 136 and is ministered to by Rev. W. F. Crane assisted by trustees Daniel Kinman, A. L. North and Harry Schroeder.

Baptist church was organized in 1887 and used the Universalist Church until their building was erected. The edifice was completed 1889 and dedicated in October of that year. The building Committee was made up of Rev. W.T.S. Lowe, Charles Dibble and Harvey Elliot. Among the original members Charles and Elizabeth Dibble, Amelia Dibble, Edward and Lena Mellon, Mr. and Mrs. John Brown, Cora Richards, Rev. and Jennie Lowe, Harvey and Nan Elliott's names appear.

The organizing minister was Rev. J.A. Turpin and the following ministers have served the congregation: Carpenter, Adams, Haynes, O.M. Huey, W.E. Morris, W.T.S. Lowe, Frank Hammel and the present pastor, Rev. Robert McNeely.

On September 17, 1927 this church celebrated an event in honor of one of its members which does not often fall to the lot of either church or communicant. On this date the centennial of the birth of Mrs. Elizabeth Dibble was fittingly commemorated. Main Street was roped off from 2nd to 3rd and the day spent in paying honor to the only citizen of the village whose life has spanned a century.

At the table of honor with Aunt Betsy at its head, were other venerable citizens. Louisa M. Lowe, mother of Rev. W.T.S. Lowe, and who lived just across the street from the church, sat with ninety-seven winters having frosted her hair; near her Mrs. America North, who ninety-two years before had been born on a neighboring farm to the birthplaces of both Mrs. Dibble and Mrs. Lowe, broke again the bread of years of friendship; across the table was Mrs. Charles Carpenter, who likewise had lived ninety-two years. There was a younger lady at the feast, Mrs. Robert VanDorin, but she had ninety years of living to her credit, while to keep the ladies from feeling lonesome and to see that their plates were kept well filled Mr. Newton Buck sat at the age of ninety- three.

At the next table reserved for the youngsters sat fifteen who had passed the eighty year mark, while the whole town and countryside assembled to pay their respects to the guest of honor and her venerable friends. Would this not suggest that the salubrious air of the Posey hills is conducive to longevity?

Lodges and Societies

Patriot Lodge I.O.O.F., Golden Rule No. 9, was instituted by C. Bucher, April 22, 1841 with the following officers: Daniel Kelso, William Howe, Garret Kelso, Robert Kelso, and Baxter J. Butler. Their hall was on Front St. in the third story of the Cramer building, the lodge owning their portion of the structure. On April 17, 1868, this building was destroyed by fire but the organization had funds to purchase half of the third floor of the then new school building, and continued to meet there until 1924, when they built the second story of the Alien building, where

they now have an exceptionally large and beautiful hall. This lodge has always been in a flourishing condition.

Belle River Lodge No. 327, F.& A.M., was organized May 24, 1865, with B.C. Mead, W.M. Dr. R.R. Ruter, S.W.; and John S. Bonnell, J.W. This lodge met in the Odd Fellows hall until its destruction by fire when unfortunately all its records were burned. After the fire the Masons purchased the remaining half of the school building third floor, where they still maintain a home that is a credit to the fraternity. Belle River No. 327 has , an enviable record for a small town Masonic lodge with a membership of 143, Morning Star of Quercus Grove having consolidated with it a few years ago following the loss of their hall by fire. There is probably no Masonic lodge in the state with as large a membership per capita.

Patriot Division No. 2, Sons of Temperance, was formed in 1846 and their hall was built in 1847. It suspended during the Civil War; was reorganized in 1867; suspended in 1873 to be reorganized in 1875 but has been defunct for many years.

Tippecanoe Tribe No. 9, I.O.R.M. was organized June 21, 1866. After operating for some years it suspended but was reorganized and still maintains a lodge home.

Posey Lodge No. 361, L.O.T.G. was organized in 1873 but is now defunct.

Morning Star Grange No. 798 was instituted in 1874. It later disbanded but was reinstated in later years. At present I believe it is dormant.

Purity Lodge No. 366 K. of P., was instituted July 19, 1892 by Messrs Russe and Herrick of Lawrenceburg, assisted by Vevay and Rising Sun lodges.

The charter members were Arthur Abbott, James Abbott, Denton Cunningham, Gilbert Couch, Andrew Cook, George Cook, Theo. Douglass, Lemuel H. Emerson, Harry Edrington, John Eubank, Wm. Humphrey, A.E. Haigh, Robert Goff, H.J.Q. Howe, Geo. Huston, Dr. Robert A. Jamieson, John W. Lacock, W.M. Longstitich, R.T. Neal, Ezra Palmer, Elmer Palmer, Muzzey Scranton, Garry B. Wade, Perry Warner and Louis Wilson.

The first officers were as follows: John W. Lacock, P.C.; A.E. Haigh, C.C.; R.T. Neal, V.C.; G.B. Wade, Prelate; Dr. R.A. Jamieson, M. of E.; H.J.Q. Howe, M. of F.; M. Scranton, K.R.S.; Elmer Palmer, M. of A.; Harry Edrington, L.G.; Denton Cunningham, O.G.

The first K. of P. Lodge room was in what is now the Red Men's Hall and they later moved to the Patriot Bank Building, where they remained until they purchased and remodeled the North Building, making an exceedingly nice hall. This building was lost in the fire of 1924 and was not rebuilt so this thriving fraternity now shares the new Odd Fellow's lodge rooms. Present membership is 106.

Cemeteries

The first village cemetery was at the south end of Front Street in what for years later was known as Dibble's orchard. When founded the town had a wide thoroughfare in Front Street, which was the main business street, with buildings on the river side, but unfortunately the swift current of high water has long since undermined these so that they no longer remain and for half the length of the street it is now impassable for vehicles. It was this caving of banks that necessitated another burial ground, even in the early days, and when the ends of the coffin began to protrude through the caving clay a new location was selected far from the river's encroaching grasp. If the boys of those days were anything like the writer was in youth they probably relieved when in coming back late from swimming they were not forced to pass those gruesome reminders of the sleeping pioneers, for well do I recall how brisk my walk became when going to home after dark for a building where the undertaker kept his hearse must needs be passed. In the light of day this place did not intrude

itself so much on one's consciousness but in the wraithy shadows of night "Lucase's Hearse House" was a point well passed, even as was the bridge for Ichabod Crane.

The next location for a cemetery was at First and Columbia and it is now known as the "The Old Graveyard." Here almost obscured by mosses, furrowed and worn by the winds and rains of winters; and cracked and crumbled by summers' suns, old markers feebly give forth the names of those who came into being in the late 1700's and early 1800's. Here lie veterans of the Revolution, here sleep soldiers of the War of 1812, one of whom was my paternal great-grandfather; here are many flattened mounds above the remains of Civil War heroes, as well as some marking the resting place of boys, who followed the flag to Cuba and the Philippines. Next to and merging into it is the Odd Fellows' cemetery and though a separate God's Acre the two are now in a general way thought of as one.

Those brave lads who gave their all in the World War, sleep their last sleep in beautiful East View which crowns the sloping knoll just east of town and just over Wades Run. Wades Run - a little stream that meandered past the first cabin; the little brook that washed the pioneer mother's clothes; the busy creek that ground the first settler's meal - becomes the River Styx to the present day inhabitant, as his work is finished and his remains are bourn over its waters on the last trek to the green lawn of East View.

Military

Patriot has had citizens that have fought in every war waged from that of the Revolution to the late World War. It was in the Civil and World Wars, however, that she gave almost to the last available able bodied man of military age, and this of course also applies to the whole of Posey Township.

In the Civil War the town and township sent forth five companies:

Co. D. 18th Indiana Vol. Infantry, 3 years

Captains: R.R. Ruter, W.F. Davis, John J. Dibble, J.J. VanHouten, Wm. Kellen

First Lieutenants: Wm. W. Sheperd, Francis A. Lakin, Jno. J. Dibble, J.J. VanHouton.

Second Lieutenants: W.F. Davis, Francis A. Larkin, Jno. J. Dibble, Henry Sutton.

Co. C., 83rd Indiana Vol. Infantry, 3 years

Captain: Benj. North

First Lieutenants: Benj. North, Ernest North

Second Lieutenant: Thomas Shehane

Sergeant: Ernest North

Corporals: Wm. H. North, John J. Douglass, John D. Sams

Co. C. 93rd Indiana Infantry, 3 years

Captains: Wm. J. Sheperd, Samuel B. Davis

First Lieutenants: Samuel B. Davis, William H. Bonnell

Second Lieutenants: John K. Baster, Joel B. Davis

Co. E. 140th Indiana Volunteer Inf., 1 year

Captain: Joshua M. Scranton

First Lieutenant: William Rowan

Second Lieutenant: William Pate

Co. H. 2nd Calvary, 41st Reg., 3 years

Sergeant: O.H. McNutt, John F. Akers

Corporals: John A. Douglass, Samuel W. Houze

It is with regret that space does not permit the listing of all the brave men in the ranks of the abovementioned companies but their efforts in saving the Union are recorded in a more imperishable place than in this poor narration.

The local Post of G.A.R. that had 84 members now has less than is required to maintain one - two surviving members - and both fine old gentlemen. They, in the past, have told me much that is here recorded and the writer is proud of having been their friend since boyhood. The remaining patriarchal veterans are Major R.I. White and Harvey Dibble, the former now 91 years of age and the latter nearly 90.

Major White enlisted as a private in Company C., 93rd Vol. Infantry, rose to captain and later acted as major of colored troops. In early days he was associated with the renowned Charles Brush of Cleveland, Ohio, inventor of the arc light. Later he went to Mexico City and built the first electric light plant in that nation. He was presented a gold pen and gold knife in 1887 at the City of Mexico by Sir Spence St. John, representative of Queen Victoria in Mexico, in compliment in lighting the city for her Golden Jubilee. Later Major White went through most of the countries of South America to look over the fields for installation of electric light plants but foreign interests had so thoroughly implanted themselves at points of advantage that he returned to Patriot and has since lived here. He was at one time superintendent of the local school and his daughter Fannie followed his footsteps by teaching the youth for many years here and entrenched herself in the hearts of both old and young. To Fanny White the author is indebted also for many of the facts here set down, as he is to Mrs. Frank Hickman, Dr. Daniel Scudder, and Wm. Fletcher.

Spanish-American War

When President McKinley in 1898 needed volunteers to avenge those that lost their lives in the sinking of the Maine, the requirement from each locality was not nearly so great as it had been during the Civil War or was to be in the World War, but true to form the little town on the Ohio was ready with some of her youth to answer the call, and among the boys who saw service were Robert Scranton, Theodore Lamkin, Leonard Wade, Halleck Burner and Martin Abbott, the latter being the only one now alive.

World War

While it might be said that no one part of any state in the nation gave or did more toward winning the war, as the army was recruited by selective draft, yet one can not but feel that Switzerland County was in the fore. No section probably gave more sons or daughters per capita; from no place came more willing or qualified service than that rendered by soldiers, sailors and nurses of this section, and it is certain that this county did not have the evaders, abductors and objectors that some cities and even some rural sections had to admit having.

As all honor for service promptly and well done is due to the county, just so is it due in proper proportion to Patriot and its immediate vicinity, but it is the same sad fact here as anywhere, that the honors of war do not fill the vacancy left by those who made the great sacrifice, nor do they offer much toward healing the wounds or relieving the pain and suffering that some of our boys have been forced to bear.

Three native sons are numbered among the heroic dead. Forrest Hughes was killed in action in France on August 3, 1918. Not until twenty days later were his parents notified and it is understood that his remains were not recovered. Previous to the war he had seen service in the regular army.

Perl Kite was born in Patriot but inducted into the army from Kentucky. He gave his life in the line of duty and was finally given a soldier's burial in his native village.

W. Hampton Williamson died in France November 27, 1918. As he was an engineer on one of the steamers of the Louisville & Cincinnati Packet Co., and necessary to the transporting of war material he would probably not have been drafted for some time but he saw his friends leave one by one his desire to be with them and to do his bit caused him to persuade another to give him his place in line so he entered service as a volunteer long before it might have been necessary. His comrades have paid him the honor due him by naming their local American Legion Post for him.

Many of the boys were wounded, gassed or suffered from illness but the following are among those suffering in greater degree:

Samuel Huff was gassed in the summer of 1918 but has fortunately recovered his health.

George Platt Jr., while on scout duty on the Argonne Forest in the fall of 1918, was shot through the body by a machine gun. He suffered for months from this serious wound but has recovered to a great degree.

Ermon Brown, in a charge that broke the German line in September 1918, was shot through the leg. After giving first aid to himself, he resumed fighting only to be shot a few hours later through the jaw, tongue and other cheek. By the miracle of plastic surgery he not only recovered but the wound left little or no scar.

Robert E. Smith, with four comrades was doing scout duty in France when in the latter part of August 1918, he was seriously wounded by bursting shell. All four of his companions were killed but he has recovered.

Fred W. Humphrey was seriously shell shocked while in France and it is much regretted that he has not recovered his health.

May these sacrifices never again be necessary, but should they be. Young America in future will no doubt say as in the past, with Stephen Decatur, "Our Country! In her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong."

Professional

A Dr. Campbell was the first physician to practice in the settlement but he lived in Kentucky. The first resident practitioner was Dr. Wm. Chamberlain in 1820, followed by Drs. Jessup and Brooks practiced here, the latter having quite a reputation as an oculist later moved to Cleveland, Ohio. Following were Drs. R. R. Ruter, W. A. Olcott (1861) and R. A. Jamieson (1868), who continued here until their deaths.

Drs. Pryor and Benedict were contemporaries of the two latter but both moved to Oklahoma. Later Drs. Benj. Searcy and Condy Beck until their removal to Rising Sun. Until recently Dr. Shaw practiced, he now being in Cincinnati, and at Present Dr. Wilbur Houston has offices in the building so long occupied by Dr. Jamieson.

Dentists that have practiced here are Drs. DeShazo, Given, A. B. Cunningham and Theo. Douglass.

Dr. Edmonds was the pioneer Veterinarian. Dr. Chas. Palmer practiced here until his removal to Shelbyville, Ky., while Dr. Daniel Scudder represents this profession at the present time.

Attorneys that have practiced are Thomas Edrington, John Houston, and Lucian Harris.

Pharmacy was practiced by a Mr. Beckwith, Silas Howe, Dr. W.A. Olcott, Elsworth Olcott, and Otis W. Olcott.

River Activities

In the early days many flatboats were loaded here for lower river ports. These were of several kinds: potato boats, hay boats, those with whiskey and pork cargoes and boats carrying general merchandise.

It was due to Jesse Hunt of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, that it became possible to ship hay south at a profit. He, in 1819, conceived the idea that there should be a good market along the Mississippi as little or none was raised there, and as he had increased his meadow land until he cut more hay than could be sold locally an outlet seemed a necessity. The dilemma was that hay being so bulky a boat could not carry sufficient to make the voyage of one profit. He knew a man in Hardintown by the name of Morrison, who was looked upon as a "universal genius," so he sent for him and presented his problem, and after a few weeks the first hay press was invented. Due to these two men Indiana ports were the first to supply baled hay to the south and to the world.

My grandfather, Samuel M. Emerson, was a flatboat pilot and knew the river channel from Cincinnati to New Orleans. I have heard him tell of one trip when many boats were hung up on bars due to the extremely low water and of the great efforts that were being made to get, at least, a few boats through as the market prices were always at a premium when boats making the trip were scarce. At one place, Granny's Gut, (not an elegant name but nevertheless the accepted one) other pilots hailed him saying not to attempt passage as it was impossible but grandfather hailed back that it was possible if one knew exactly where to steer and he slipped smoothly through with the first boat for weeks to be greeted by eager buyers. On another trip with a store boat when he had taken his young wife he was awakened one night as they were moored alongside a plantation by hearing the hatch being stealthily removed. Upon arising and going into the cabin where the goods were carried he saw a huge young slave dropping through the hatchway intent upon helping himself to things that no doubt his simple mode of living had never favored him with. Grandfather, a just man, was also austere when he felt it necessary, so grabbing a blacksnake whip he began laying it on the back of the black young giant not ceasing until the little lady, who was to be my grandmother, begged of him on her knees to desist. The poor slave had learned a dear lesson at the expense of his back but yet escaped with fewer stripes only through the intercession of the weeping bride. As my father became old enough he would make the trips with grandfather and one trip was gladdened for him by a cub bear that they caught in Arkansas. This little fellow became a great pet but a she developed a penchant for pulling up the fish lines that were thrown out from the boat each night, and an incurable complex for throwing every nail he could find overboard it was deemed necessary to get rid of him much to father's disappointment. Among those operating flatboats the names of Pate, Howe, Dibble and Eaton are recalled.

One of the early but now extinct projects carried on at Patriot was the loading of boulders on Big Bone Island, two miles above town, to boulder boats and delivering to Cincinnati and Louisville where streets were paved with them. Only this summer (1930) there appeared in an issue of "The Castle," a publication by the engineers' employees composed of crews of the various U.S. Government boats on the Ohio, an article by Captain Hensler of the "Indiana, on this old business. It stated that though many streets of these two cities have been paved with Big Bone boulders he felt there were still enough left there to pave half of New York and all of Chicago. The "Indiana" was dredging Big Bone channel and while all season previous to this work his boat had held the record for fast dredging the boulders of the island slowed them up to a walk. Now can't some local thinker figure out a present day use for these "nigger heads" and bring his town back to prosperity?

During the heyday of distilling in the village, corn boats gave much employment as the distillery consumed many thousands of bushels of corn each year. Pate & Co., operated these boats bringing corn for miles from both Indiana and Kentucky ports.

On the writer's desk is now an old journal picked up one time from a trash heap of old papers discarded. Among the entries, and all pertain to the old distillery, is one of Nov. 17, 1868.

"Bought of T.H. Stephens & Co., 1500 bu. Corn at Rabbit Hash, Ky. To send boat in next two weeks.

Price .50 per bu. Solon Stephens & I.W. Scott."

This old journal has entries of wide scope. It gives dimensions of all the mash tubes, receiving cistern stills and chargers, of all the 24 fermenting tubs, and following is the notation of the buildings:

Size of mill. Built of brick entirely.

Mill 123 feet front.

Mash room 50x38, 2 stories high.

Main mill 31x56, 3 stories high.

Corn room 42x24, 2 stories high.

Grain elevator 76x30, 2 1/2 stories high.

Warehouse, situated Lot No. 40, 85x40.

Brick office 18 1/2 x 28 1/4 1 story.

Cribs 60 1/2 x 60 1/2, 1 story.

Carpenter Shop 19x30, 1 story.

Cistern room 24x28 (Burned).

Frame building 13x18, 1 1/2 story.

Another notation is of pens and cattle yards:

Dec. 31, 1868.

766 Hogs in pens, actual count.

11 M.T. Barrels used for grease during months.

2 barrels salt to put in slop.

Many other notations as to permissions from commissioner of Int. Rev. Dep.'s; others as to loss of hogs and cattle by death appear, and there is even the warning note:

"Refuse all \$50.00 bills on First National Bank of New Jersey at Newark, as the plate has been stolen. The bills are genuine but the signatures are forged."

Within the memory of the writer the big lower country boats carried much hay and straw from this port and it was a gala event when they docked for hours at the hay warehouse of Robinson & Wickman and we boys could watch the bales go down the chute often with a happy "rouster" riding a bale that occasionally bucked like a bronco as it hit the stage or deck to throw the deckhand heels over head to our delight.

My maternal grandfather, Alvin M. McHuron, was a steamboater for thirty-five years, either in the New Orleans or Memphis trade. Many is the time I have drawn him from his paper or almanac to tell me of those days that were so fascinating to my young mind. He always carried peppermint drops so one was necessary before the store began and of course that meant one for me, and as we munched these before the fire we would voyage again the Ohio and the Mississippi, he in memory of years ago and I in make believe.

Grandfather's parents came from New York in the early 30's and bought a farm two miles south of town. They had only become nicely settled when it was found the deed was not valid, an Indian having figured in it in some manner, so they lost their home. This loss was a sore one so an older brother, Alonson, went on the river to help support the family. When grandfather became 12 years old his brother offered to take him as a cabin boy, he being a steward on one of the lower river boats out of Cincinnati, but as the boat was not going to land at Patriot the little fellow walked barefoot 12 miles to Rising Sun to begin his adventures.

It was in the days when cholera raged along the Mississippi and the new cabin boy had a fear of it that greatly worried him. Strange as it may seem he felt that he could breathe the air of the boat's cabin with impunity but that one breath from the guards meant sure and terrible death, so

when it was necessary for him to go outside the poor little chap would hold his mouth and nose and long to get back where he felt safe from harm.

How interesting it was to hear of the three boats he had been on when they burned and of the two that had sunk. Time and again must he recount the names of the thirty-three steamers he had run on, and today I can recall many of them - the Thompson Dean, Alice Dean, Telegraph, Cons Miller, Golden Crown, Golden Rule, Reuben R. Springer among them. Then, too, would he have to tell how General Morgan captured and burned the Alice Dean at Brandenburg after using her to ferry his army over the river. He was not aboard at the time but his brother, Silas, was, and he lost about a thousand dollars in silver that he had with him.

Several small local packets have had Patriot as their home port on the end of their run in the past. In 1883 S. Howe & Co. operating a department store equal to many in larger places, ran the Tug Tom Ross from North's Landing to Sugar Creek, primarily to bring custom to their store, and later to Vevay. The Florence ran for years from Patriot to Warsaw, and for a time Wm. Rowan operated the Iron King and Capt. Watts and Kate French.

In the early 1900's Capt. R. K. Akin ran the Steamer Swan in the Patriot and Aurora trade. R.O. Wickman for some years ran the Carolyn in towing trade, until unfortunately he was killed when he became entangled in the boat's machinery. This vessel was later operated by Wm. Rea & Son in towing on the Ohio and Kentucky rivers. For a time the Lee H. Brooks ran in the Cincinnati and Patriot trade and no sprucer little bottom ever plied western waters than she.

The wharfboat has been operated by many owners but for the past quarter of a century it had been under the ownership of R.O. Wickman until his death, following which his widow, Mrs. Julia Wickman, as ably conducted the business and continues to do so at the present time. At the time of Mr. Wickman's passing he was one of the most progressive business men of the town. In addition to his water interests he operated a flour mill, produce business, and was at one time junior partner of Robinson & Wickman in a general store. The Patriot wharf was one of the last to be kept afloat along this section of the river but at present is beached and used to store freight.

Flood, Tornado and Fire

As the blood stream is the life of the body so has been the Ohio river to the territory through which it flows, and as hypertension of the arteries frequently occurs to the detriment of the human economy likewise has the old river from time to time become unruly and changed its beneficent nature to action of uncontrollable force and destruction.

The first recorded flood was in 1778 to be followed by another in the next year. Then the next two destructive ones of earlier years of the town's settlement were in 1832 and 1847. These inundations were followed by others in '82, '83 and '84, the last of which will long be remembered for its height and destruction.

In later years both 1907 and 1913 saw the waters far out of banks and covering much of the lands and properties adjacent to the river.

Patriot in the main lies comparatively low and most of the town was flooded in each of the last seven floods mentioned above. These were times of stress when the inhabitants were forced to live in churches, schools, upper stories of business houses or be taken in by neighboring farmers in the highlands west of town. Business was naturally done under great difficulties and many of the sufferers were forced to look to the government, which sent boats with supplies to take care of their immediate needs. It is always the hope of each resident as spring approaches that none of these calamities will be repeated.

On the night of November 11, 1911 a tornado coming from the southwest struck the village and destroyed much property though fortunately no lives were lost. The Geo. Cook residence, the old Shirley house and a residence on Fourth St. were destroyed. The front of the Methodist parsonage was blown out and great damage was done to poles, wires, trees and chimneys. The wharfboat broke her moorings under the force of the wind and was blown to the Kentucky shore.

Fires

The town has suffered much loss from fire and until after the big fire of 1924 had no adequate protection, depending on hooks and ladders.

Of the fire losses of earliest days there seems to be no record but it is recalled that the old bakery on Front stand 2nd Alley was consumed by flames, and in 1868 across the alley the Cramer building, a three story brick, burned. This was replaced by a two story brick and while housing Graham's saloon it again burned some years later. This was again replaced by a one story brick which still stands. About 1890 the large two story frame mercantile building at Third and Main, together with a two story abutting, were consumed. The brick was rebuilt to be again burned when occupied by Henri Rabb's hardware store, and for the third time was burned when occupied by Emerson Bros. The site of the large frame was vacant for years but later the fine modern brick structure of the Patriot Mercantile Co., was erected and later burned while occupied by S.V. McHuron.

The first distillery burned shortly after being built but was replaced by a much larger plant. Schroeder's creamery was destroyed by fire and was not rebuilt, and while Buddenberg's flour mill site was rebuilt it was not again operated as a mill.

A few years ago the old three apartment building at Front and Fifth Sts was destroyed by fire and has not been replaced.

On the night of August 2nd, 1924 the worst conflagration ever suffered in the county visited Patriot and destroyed sixteen buildings in the business section of the town, leaving only three structures standing in the block. The fire started at Third and Front in Stewart's garage and spread to and totally destroyed the residence of Mary Marsh, the old Fisk building occupied by Cushard's barber shop, the Beatrice Creamery Co., the Patriot Theatre, Couch's barber shop, the Merchant's Creamery Co., Emerson Bros., S.V. McHuron's store, Mercantile Warehouse, J.E. Brown's residence. Brown's meat market, Buddenburg's garage, Buddenburg flour mill, L. Scudder & Co. hardware, and the K. of P. lodge hall and the old post office building.

For a time it looked as though the village was doomed but by the heroic work of all citizens aided by the fire departments of Vevay and Rising Sun, that rendered valiant service, the fire was confined to one block, except for one building across the street where Emerson Bros., carried what goods they could save from their store. Due to intense heat this building, too, ignited with complete loss of goods salvaged from first burning building.

The loss was heavy as many did not carry any sufficient insurance due to the prohibitive rates on account of hazard from lack of fire apparatus, but with the unusual Hoosier pluck all places of business re-established and all sites were rebuilt except the K. of P. building, the Marsh residence and the old Fisk hotel property.

As unfortunate as this terrible fire was for the little town it did impress upon the citizens the absolute need of some protection so the corporation bonded itself and purchased a modern motorized fire truck and established a fire department, that gives much more peace of mind and assurance than could formerly be enjoyed by the inhabitants.

Accidents and Tragedies

The outstanding tragedy of the community was in 1868 when the United States and America collided below town near the mouth of Bryant's Creek. The south bound steamer carried a wedding party and many passengers while in addition to a large passenger list the north bound boat carried a cargo of petroleum. After the collision fire broke out and as the crushed oil barrels let loose their inflammable contents the surface of the river became an inferno. Those not burned to death aboard jumped to as certain a death in the water until the toll taken mounted to the hundreds, though the exact loss of life was never determined. For years after the ribs of the old hulls could be seen in low water, ever a sad reminder of the terrors of that night.

Another river tragedy was that of the Steamer Pat Rogers. She was lost up river and the writer's uncle, Theo. Bonnell, was a passenger and one of the survivors. Years ago he told of how, while trying to swim ashore, people in their agony would beg to be saved and how one lady on her knee implored that someone save her baby if not her. For years he said the memory haunted him for he saw many go to their death in the catastrophe including the baby and the brave mother.

What might have been a serious accident was the bursting of a cannon being fired from the bank in front of what is now my mother's home during the celebration of Lincoln's election. The cannon had been rammed with a trouser leg soaked in salt water, and when fired, burst, sending one piece of metal weighing 5 pounds hurtling for two blocks when it came down cutting through a tree and burying itself in the ground.

Some thirty-five years ago the Steamer Buckeye State, a lower river boat, upward bound, burst her main steam line while abreast town. She made shore on the Kentucky side and sent for help as many of the crew were scalded and several dead. The writer recalls watching the accident and what is quite a odd incidence is that he was told of years later by a gentleman here from Cleveland, who was a passenger aboard at the time.

In 1865 James Connell and Ben Faulkner became embroiled in a fight on Front Street. Connell drew a knife and cut the throat of Faulkner, killing him, for which he served three and one-half years.

On Christmas eve 1888 Marshall Smith Rice in the performance of his duty in arresting Chas. Whitson, was shot down by the latter, but even in his seriously wounded condition the officer drew and killed Whitson. Marshall Rice, wounded in the abdomen, lingered for a few weeks had finally dies. Due to this trouble, Whitson's friends in Kentucky became enraged and threatened to attack the town so all G.A. muskets were loaded with buckshot and carried by guards while patronizing the river front. Fortunately however no further trouble developed. Other town officers who have been forced to kill men while performing their duties were James Kite and Jacob Smith.

In 1866 William Tait was killed while attending a dance in Donohue Deadening above town. Some differences arose between him and some men from Kentucky when he was unfortunately shot by one of them.

Robberies

In 1865 the safe in the office of the distillery of W.T. Pate & Co. was blown and \$8000.00 stolen. The culprit was never captured. The old safe with its doors blown off is still in the office, or was some few years ago.

During my father's early manhood he was employed by S. Howe & Co., who conducted the express agency in connection with their store. This company handled much money, especially from the distillery, and among father's duties was that of taking express to the wharf each night for the messengers on the mail boats.

One night he took several thousand dollars to the wharf and as the boat was late he called the wharf master, Mr. Kennedy, father of the present ferryman, and showed him where he was putting it under some sacks of wheat. Upon arrival of the down boat Mr. Kennedy went to get the money only to find it gone, which put both him and father in rather an unenviable light. Detectives from Cincinnati worked on the case and finally caught a local young man in Cincinnati, who confessed that he had lain on the outer guard and watched where the package had been placed. He later secured it, stepped aboard as the boat landed, went to Louisville and then by train to Cincinnati. For his act he served a sentence in the state penitentiary.

Mystery and Counterfeiting

One of the unsolved mysteries of the village is the disappearance of a Mr. Terwillegar, a fruit tree salesman. This man had come to town driving a fine team of horses and was last seen one night with two local men who did not bear the best of reputations. The horses were taken to Cincinnati and sold apparently without authority, and though the unfortunate man's relatives came on and did all in their power no trace was ever found of, what was generally suspected to be, the victim of foul play; nor did the state ever take any action in so far as tradition records it.

Some seventy or more years ago there lived here a man who was quite a character. Abijah D. Bennett was a salesman for E. Case and a bookkeeper for several of the business firms of that period. His entries for whiskey on his books never used the name of the popular commodity but showed such names as "red eye," "corn juice" and "family disturbance." This man was an expert penman and could imitate any style writing, and in fact could write almost equally as well with his toes. At certain times strange men and women would get off the down mail boat, call upon him and after mysterious actions in private with him they would leave on the up boat, and it was generally suspected that his ability to write in diverse manners was "the mouse trap that caused them to beat a path to his door."

An elderly citizen now dead once told of a local man, who had come from a late night boat and in the passing a building where Bennett worked, noticed a light through the shutters. He could see that paper money was being worked upon so hailed Bennett and was admitted, whereupon the worker asked him if he wanted some money, at the same time signing the name of another local man as president of the bank that he was particularly interested in at the moment. And it was said this paper passed as money without question,

Bands

Some fifty years ago the village had a brass band that enjoyed more than a local reputation as they played in neighboring towns and cities and won several competitions. Not many of the members are known to the writer but it is recalled that Chas. E. Foster, now of Chicago, but a prominent business man of Patriot for years, was one; Frank Emerson and Martin Stogdil were others.

In those days a band of standing must have a band wagon and this organization was the proud possessor of one that had been made to order. It was somewhat on the stage coach order and a work of art with a painted view of the town on either side, one as seen from the Vineyard Hill and the other as viewed from the river.

About thirty-five years ago the musical talent of the town organized the Patriot Marine Band of probably twenty pieces and they made rather a brave showing in their white duck sailor uniforms and rendered music pleasing to the ear. The compiler of this saga had a terrible itch to be a member but being entirely destitute of musical ability it seemed hopeless, however on several

occasions he was permitted to play the cymbals and by closely watching the bass drummer he managed not to make too many errors unless the drummer made a false move.

Sports

The youth of Patriot, just as in every hamlet, town and city the country over, has played baseball from the date of its inception and many credible teams have been developed there. Much rivalry existed between nearby towns but probably none more keen than between Patriot and Burlington, Ky. at the period of about thirty years ago. Burlington played good ball but the local boys were of the opinion that they now and then carried players that were not native to that village, so were themselves willing and anxious to welcome players from anywhere in order to strengthen their team.

As coming as a gift from the Gods one day two young men hove to at the landing in a house boat and in course of conversation made it known that they were ball players of no mean ability. It did not require much of a tryout for the management to see that their statement was no idle boast for Berry and Campbell had just finished the season in the New England League and naturally they would be sensations on any team for miles around. They were willing to remain for a time if furnished their find and keep, so a cottage was rented and they became the heroes to everybody in town. Every attention was given them and pound parties were staged with every one attending, bringing eatables, and I am sure that each household that claimed a schoolboy donated pies, crullers, fruit or canned goods whether the housewife knew it or not. So with Berry pitching and Campbell at short or third, with earnest support from the best the team afforded, the Patriot team not only defeated their old Kentucky rival but every other town that had the temerity to book a game. Some years later the writer saw Campbell in Detroit in rather a down-and-out condition, but he hopes it was only temporary for the sake of the yeoman service he gave to the old ball team.

The same ability to play ball seems to be with the boys of the village today for they have just recently finished the season by winning the championship of Switzerland county.

The village has an outstanding record for High School Basketball achievement also. This record being all the more deserved due to the fact that the school has no gymnasium or indoor court. They brought the first district high school championship to Switzerland County in March of 1926. The following comment is taken from The Indianapolis Star of March 11, 1926:

Rushville, Ind., March 10 - The Patriot High School basketball team, winner of the sectional tournament at Madison, demonstrated that clothes do not necessarily make the man, or at least

basketball players. The Patriot boys, handicapped throughout the season by the lack of an indoor gym, went to Madison without uniforms and without colors. They borrowed suits from the Vevay players, turned them wrong side out, took the floor and won the sectional.

For good luck they are expected to wear the same uniforms in the regional Saturday Local officials have assigned them colors of red, white and blue, which will be included in the decoration scheme of the gym. The Patriot cagers train their basket eyes by shooting at hoops behind the village church. The population of the village is 289. It is located on the Ohio River.

The team of that year, called the "Wonder Five" was composed of Henry, Henry, Lamkin, North and Kent, and three former players deserve much credit by their coaching and advice. These were Russell Lee, Paul Lamkin and Raymond DeHart, all former outstanding players on teams of former years.

Switzerland County won five of the eight places on the all-star sectional team of that year, three of them being Henry Jr., Lamkin and North of the Patriot team.

The school has continued to put good teams on the floor since, not only represented by the boys but by the girls too, and if the little town could offer them equal opportunity enjoyed by competing schools of larger towns it is not impossible that the fighting spirit might bring home even the State championship.

Prominent Native Sons

Daniel Wait Howe was born in Patriot in 1838 the son of Daniel and Lucy (Hicks) Howe, and died in Indianapolis, Nov. 2, 1921. He was president of the Indiana Historical Society from 1901 to 1920, becoming honorary president for life. For fourteen years he was judge of the Superior Court and was a former president of the Indianapolis Bar Association. He was the author of "Puritan Republic" and "Civil War Times."

Silas Howe, who for years was a leading merchant of Patriot, later moved to Chicago and became associated with Gibson & Parish, which later became William Gibson Co., of which he was president at the time of his death. This company was one of the largest manufacturers of springs in the country and made Mr. Howe probably the only millionaire the hamlet has produced. There is an interesting anecdote connected with him during his service in the Civil War. He was on furlough and visiting his mother, who lived at Sugar Creek, Ky., when one night he heard horsemen drew up in front of the house. Upon looking out he saw they were Confederate soldiers and there was no doubt that they were intent upon his capture. He dropped out of a back window, crawled down a creek bed to the Ohio and though the river was full of ice, he swam to the Indiana shore and reached Patriot in an almost frozen condition.

David Mottier, a local boy and a member of the first graduating class of Patriot High School, has held the chair of botany in Indiana University for many years and is still the professor of that branch of study. Beside his education gained in state universities he has studied in Bonn, Germany, thus giving him an enviable reputation in his line of endeavor.

Omar and Walter Cunningham, brothers and graduates of the local school and of Purdue University, each selected the same course of study, that of agriculture. Omar is now professor of that department in the University of New Mexico, while Walter fills the same chair in the University of Arizona.

Dr. Emerson A. North, a graduate of the local high school; Purdue in pharmacy; and University of Cincinnati in medicine; now is a professor of psychiatry in the latter institution and director of the Mental Hygiene Clinic of that city.

Elwood Mead is doubtlessly the most widely and nationally known man to come from the community as the following excerpt from the Indianapolis Star will show:

In the little town of Patriot, in Switzerland county, Indiana, 72 years ago, there was born to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Mead a son, named Elwood Mead, who is now known throughout the United States and in foreign countries as one of the outstanding civil engineers of the day. Some men begin to think of easing up their activities at 70. Mead looks and acts like a man who is just starting.

No wonder he looks and acts that way. The biggest task of his career faces him. He is to build the Hoover Dam in the Colorado river, the largest dam ever conceived in the United States. The job falls to Mead because he is U.S. commissioner of reclamation. When the dam is completed there will be displayed on the structure a brass plate reading: "Elwood Mead, engineer in charge."

This man, who spent his boyhood and youth in southern Indiana and got his education at Purdue University, can look on monuments to his engineering skill in many places. In 1907,

when Australia had a serious water problem, the Australian commission asked him to solve the problem and he devoted eight years to that work.

The United States reclamation service was in need of help and one day Mead got a note from Calvin Coolidge asking him to take hold of the service and straighten out the tangles. Mead has since been at the head of the reclamation service. Mead entered Purdue University in 1878, and four years later was graduated.

For years Elwood Mead occupied a chair in the faculty of Leland and Stanford University and he was the authority called upon and sent to determine the cause of the great dam break disaster in California a few years ago.

There are many sons and daughters who have gone out from the old town that are not recorded in "Who's Who" and who may not be considered among the prominent, but they are taking their places among the workers laboring for a better country and happier times, and where ever they may be the majority will acquire themselves with credit.

Town Officials

The present town government represented by Frank Hickman, President; Lydia Couch, Treasurer; C.S. Eakins, Clerk; John Miller, Robert Couch, Frank Hickman, William Miller and Roy Stephenson, councilmen; Dr. Wilbur Houston, Head Officer and Jacob Smith, Marshall. Hobart Lamkin is Post Master, Albert Lowe, Mail Carrier; Edward Gregory, Squire.

Business and Professional

The town's business and professions are represented at the present time as follows:

Patriot Deposit Bank, Adolph Siekman, Cashier

S.V. McHuron, general merchandise

Emerson Brothers, general merchandise

Katie Orr, general merchandise

John Brown & Son, meats, groceries

J.E. Wickman, drugs, sundries

L. Scudder & Co., hardware

Couch & Broadwell, stoves, tin hardware

Buddenburg Bros., builders supplies, coal and feed

Wm. Rea & Son., manufactured wicker and willow furniture, baskets

Beatrice Creamery Co., Frank Hickman, mgr.

Merchant's Creamery Co., Wm. Lukie, mgr.

Buddenburg's Garage

Hopper's Garage

Patriot Restaurant

DeHart Hotel.

Patriot Theatre, Wm. Martin, prop

Hobart Lamkin, Furniture

Dr. Wilbur R. Houston, physician

Dr. Daniel Scutter, veterinary surgeon

Ohio River Telephone Co., Edw. Carpenter, mgr.

Julia Wickman, wharfage and steamboat agency

John Kennedy, ferry

John Stockdale, saw mill

Wm. Humphrey, undertaker
Clarence Hopper, blacksmith
O.M. Cushard, barber
Elza Couch, barber
Meri Alien, drayage
Robert Bunger, trucking
Lafe Rider, trucking
William Lukie, shoe repair
Oscar Cushard, shoe repair
Benj. Long, Carpenter
John Miller, stone and cement work
W.T.S. Lowe, minister
Robert McNeely, minister
W.F. Crane, minister
Roy Stephenson, foreman state road maintenance
William Miller, gardening and fruit raising, dairy
William Martin, electrician
Edw. Newbold, bus and mail carrier

William Martin built, and operated the Patriot Electric Co., until its consolidation with the Switzerland County Utilities Corporation. The plant was dismantled and machinery moved to the new power house near Markland, where light and power is now generated for most of the county and where he is the operator.

In Conclusion

So with these few facts jotted down concerning the little town that grows smaller, as do all country towns that are drawn upon by the ever growing cities, it may be pertinent and fitting to give credit to the village and her citizens for the efforts they have made and the results accomplished. What they have done is especially commendable in that funds have not been available and has necessitated private donations to a great degree in order that Patriot might be credited with:

The first consolidated school in the county and one of the first in southeastern Indiana.

The first high school alumni association in the county.

The first town or city in the county to build hard surfaced streets.

The first motorized fire department in the county.

The first Boy Scout Troop in the county to gain membership in the Hoosier Hills Council,

and

The first high school basketball team to win the sectional championship.

Following is an editorial taken from the December 15, 1930 issue of The Cincinnati Times-Star, attesting not only to the outstanding quality of Switzerland County courts but to the bravery and quick thinking of the Patriot men capturing the bandits:

WINGED JUSTICE: The leisureliness of American criminal procedure is so notorious that we salute the swift justice meted out the other day to a pair of bank robbers in Indiana. The pair held up bank at Florence and escaped with the funds via the only road out of town. The cashier watched them leave and telephoned to Patriot, eight mile away, where a barricade was hastily erected across the highway. The criminals were caught thirty minutes after the crime, the next day pleaded guilty and were sentenced, and the following day began ten-year terms in the reformatory. Justice could scarcely move on swifter wing in England, Canada, or any other country where the law's delay is habitually reduced to the minimum. It is a pity that the Indiana incident is so distinguished by its novelty.

Patriot, my old native town,
With stilly streets and fields close by,
With the Old Ohio coursing down
And encircling hills rising high;
You offer welcome quiet and peace
And friends to talk the time away,
So before the end of this life's lease
May I come again and with you stay.

Finis:

Rev. Harry Smith of Vevay Methodist church is assisting Rev. R.W. Pritchard in a series of meetings at the Patriot Methodist church. They will continue up until Thursday evening this week.

Rev. Robert C. McNeely is assisting in a series of meetings in the Baptist church at New Marion, Ind.

Jimmie Harris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Harris, fell while riding on a bunch of brush at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Harris and broke a bone in his right leg.

(October 31, 1940)

Commencement Exercises At Patriot On May Ninth (1939) Fifteen Boys and Girls To Receive Diplomas; Class Smallest In Several Years

The forty-seventh annual commencement exercises for the Patriot High school will be held in the school auditorium on Tuesday evening, May 9, 1939 at 8:00 o'clock. Rev. John Edwards of Detroit, Michigan, will deliver the address, using as his subject, "Life is an arrow." The music will be furnished by the Hans Steinman orchestra of Seymour, Ind.

This year's graduating class is the smallest for several years, numbering fifteen in all. Those who will receive diplomas are Jean Ascherman, Beryl Boone, Richard Brown, Georgina Chapman, James Chaskel, Marie Detmer, Mardelle Edwards, Lester Eichler, Lorayne Ford, Lorraine Gullion, Thelma Harlow, Russell -E. Koons, Marjorie Lee, Harry Renyer and Orville Strautman.

The following members of the Junior class have been selected as ushers for commencement: Opal Strautman, Anita Markland, James Seymour, James Rider, J.C. Krall, Lillian Rider, Janet Craig, Mildred Uhlmansiek, Gerald Scudder and Harold Schroeder.

Those who will act as ushers for the Sunday night services are Harold Hill, Howard Kelley, Ray North, Harold Patterson, Juanita Ralston, Ivan Ravencraft, Robert Santmire, Christella Smith and Robert McAlister.

Patriot-Posey schools will close on Wednesday, May 10th.