

HISTORIC HOUSES AND PERSONS OF CENTERVILLE

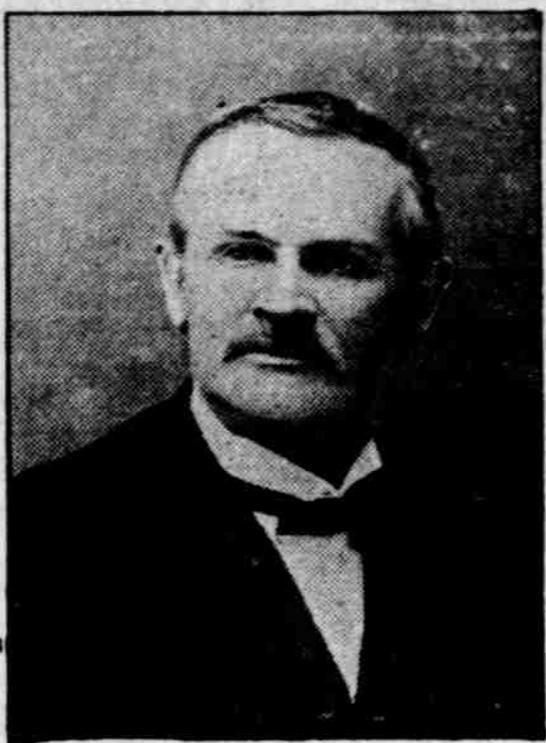
(Continued from Yesterday.)

The quaint old house, now the home of Mrs. Jennie Savage, was in the old time, the Doughty home. Samuel Doughty was a merchant. His store was where Jacob Wolfe's is now. Mr. Doughty had his home in Richmond in later years, and died there about a year ago.

The large white brick house on North Main Cross street, known as the Pritchett property, was built by Judge Williams, or rather the south end was, Judge John S. Newman built the north end. This was a grand mansion in its day. Judge Newman was a Quaker lawyer and for ten years a partner of Jessie Siddall. He was of the Hoover stock. His wife was Eliza, daughter of Samuel Hannah; his daughter, Gertrude, married Ingram Fletcher, of Indianapolis. He was the first president of the Indiana Central railroad, and held many other responsible positions. He removed to Indianapolis.

thread of the story runs through that period when Indiana had a prohibitory liquor law, which was declared unconstitutional by Judge Perkins of the Supreme Court of Indiana.

James Rariden, one of the eminent men of his time, lived where Mrs. James M. Hill now lives. The grounds included the lot where the Christian church now stands. A summer house, covered with vines and flowers and shrubbery gave the spot an air of rural retreat. But this lovely spot was too much retired and Mr. Rariden moved into a brick house on West Main street. It was in this house that Mr. Rariden entertained Henry Clay when he made his tour through Indiana. A reception was held in the evening for the great Kentuckian. The children as well as the older people attended. Mr. Clay was very fond of children and kissed them all. Mrs. E. Slev was then little Sarah Hamm and remembers being kissed. Mr. Clay said to



ISAAC H. JULIAN

Once a resident of Centerville, now of San Marcos, Texas.

nah. James Forkner improved it and occupied it until he removed to Richmond. It is now the property of C. L. Porter, and the home of Thomas Clark. On the east of this is the mansion built by Daniel Stratton. He was a tanner by trade and a prominent citizen. Beautiful for

situation is the fine old mansion south of the railroad, built by Jacob B. Julian.

It was the family residence previous to his removal to Irvington.

On the west of Mr. Seaton was the home of Jesse Stevens, a pioneer of Centerville. Mrs. John Paige, of Richmond, and Mrs. Henry Noble, of Indianapolis, were daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Stevens. The house is now the home of Mrs. Nichols. A large brick house on the south side of Main street, is now the home of Mrs. Nichols. A large brick house on the south side of Main street, the home of Jesse Brumfield, was built by Martin Horash, a shoe-maker and a prosperous citizen. Judge Stitt lived

where H. H. Peele now lives, and next, on the east, was the home of Judge Jesse Siddall.

Farther east on Main street is a substantial brick house built by George W. Julian, which was the family residence for many years previous to removal to Irvington. Dr. Silas H. Kersey bought the property, and made it his family residence for several years. It was in this house that Dr. Kersey died.

It is now the residence of L. L. Houck.

Opposite, on the north, on the site of the residence of George Sanders, stood one of the oldest houses of Centerville. Mrs. Rebecca Julian lived there at one time. Her husband, Isaac Julian, died and left her a widow with a family of children.

She was a sister of Judge David Hoover, a pioneer of Wayne county, and the mother of George W. Julian.

Across the street to the east is the brick house that was long the home of Dr. William F. King, deceased.

He was an eminent physician and prominent citizen.

The house is now the residence of his daughter, Miss Emilie King.

Northeast, on the same square is an old frame house

one of the oldest now standing in Centerville. It was the residence of James B. Ray, afterwards governor of Indiana. C. Cooney now resides there.

On West Main street, where H. C. Means now lives, was the residence of Martin M. Ray, a brother to Governor Ray. He was a lawyer and a merchant as well. His store was in the corner building occupied now by Tillson's drug store. Frederick Snider, a merchant, had his store where Mr. King now has a restaurant.

On West Main street where Bert Horner now lives, is the house built by Thomas Gentry, a tanner and one of the substantial citizens. Lot Bloomfield built the house where Isaac Jenkins now lives. He was a merchant of the place.

His wife was Elizabeth Talbot, a sister to Mrs. Hamm and Mrs. Dr. Pritchett. The Simon McConaughy home was built by Dr. Pritchett, who occupied it before he bought the Judge Newman place.

The old house with dormer windows, now the residence of Alfred Lashley, in the old time was the residence of Henry Beitzell.

The old Burbank home was on the south side of Main street opposite the court house.

The house was partially destroyed by fire in later years. Mr. Burbank was a merchant. The parlors and family apartments were up stairs over the store. The Burbank young people were well educated and were prominent in social circles.

It was in this home that Oliver P. Morton was married to Lucinda Burbank.

Ambrose Burnside, afterwards a lawyer at Liberty, Union County, and a General of renown in the Union army worked at the tailor trade in a building adjoining, and on the site of Dr. Gable's residence and office once stood a large hatter's shop where the boy, Oliver P. Morton, learned his trade.

Morton was born at Salisbury.

He was left an orphan and brought by his aunts to Centerville

when a child, where he learned the trade with an elder brother.

Early in life he attended the seminary here and Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, and was always a profound student.

The early years of Morton's married life were passed in a frame house on the northeast corner of South Main Cross street.

The homestead known as the Morton mansion, on West Main street, was built by Jacob B. Julian. Mr. Julian was a tree planter, and his lawn was a landscape garden, where nature was permitted to rule.

When Mr. Julian built his stately home near the railroad he sold this Eden spot to Oliver P. Morton.

Here a liberal and unostentatious hospitality was dispensed by Morton and his amiable wife.

It was while living in this house that Morton was elected Lieutenant Governor on the ticket with Henry S. Lane, Judge William A. Peele bought the Morton mansion after his term as Secretary of State expired.

Judge Peele died there on July 1, 1902.

The house is now the home of his daughter, Miss Martha L. Peele.

Judge Charles H. Test lived on Main street where the town hall now stands.

Mrs. James Rariden was his sister.

It was considered that Judge Test, while eminent as a lawyer, was by nature preeminent and unequalled.

He bore off the palm as the homeliest man in Indiana.

Adjoining the school house campus on the east is the old homestead of Stephen Crowe, one of the early blacksmiths of the place.

Mr. Crowe sold the house to John Peele, an old settler, and Samuel Boyd, a retired farmer, bought the place from Mr. Peele and passed the remainder of his days there.

The property is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Lashley.

The house on the east, now the residence of J. A. Commons, was the home of Sylvester Johnson, now of Irvington, and a well-known horticulturist.

Many do not know that the substantial brick building on the northeast corner of Main street was, in the palmy days of Centerville, the court house of Wayne county.

It is now the business house of T. G. Dunbar, while the extension on the north where Mr. Dunbar resides, was once the sheriff's house and jail. The extension on the east was the county offices.

In 1860, Dr. Pritchett bought the house of Judge Newman. It was the Pritchett homestead for many years.

Here Dr. Pritchett and his estimable wife passed their declining years. The house was inherited by the daughter, Miss Mary Pritchett.

Opposite the Pritchett house, on the east, is a frame house where Jeremiah Wayne Swafford lived the last thirty years of this life, and where he peacefully died last summer, at the age of eighty-four.

Mr. Swafford was a pioneer of Wayne county and Justice of the Peace nearly all his life and up to the time of his death.

He was widely known as a business man in Wayne and adjoining counties.

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