

*A milestone has been reached,
acknowledged, and accounted for with
a true American spirit.*

*Not often does this milestone fall
twice in a lifetime; therefore, it is exceedingly well
that we exert ourselves to the cause.*

We are proud that we launched our new
business on the dawn of a new century.
We look to a future whereby men remain
in excellence; their people exalt all aims.

The TROY Publishing Company

WILLIAM TROY HENSLEY
NELL MONAHAN
PATRICIA LAIRD
LESLIE B. RAINS

THE CONVERSE JOURNAL
THE INDIANA NEWS-ZINE

THE GREAT FOREST

When explorers first saw America, they were amazed at the hundreds of miles of great forests. In this timberland lived a new race, the red man. They led a primitive existence, hunting and fishing, disturbing very little the trees or the wild life. There was plenty of forest for them. It took about a thousand acres to support one of their families.

In Europe, forests were jealously guarded by kings and nobles, and swift was the punishment of any un lucky man to cut any tree or kill any game.

In this vast, new country, the humblest black slave could get all the game he wanted and all the firewood far in excess of his needs, which even the king and the noble in the old country could not have.

These explorers and those who followed were oftentimes criminals who came here to escape the savage laws, and others were good men who had run afoul of the law through no fault of their own.

In this part of North America, now the United States, this great forest was in the settler's way. They did all sorts of things with the timber so as to make homes for themselves.

From Maine to Georgia, cabins and fine houses had fireplaces built large enough to take two-foot logs. A man's firewood for the winter would often be larger than his house or cabin. He delighted in using all the wood he could.

We are using for number one lumber now, timber that the early settler wouldn't look at.

The tools of the pioneer were

his rifle or gun, his axe and knife.

The world has never seen a more expert group of axe-men than was developed by this, the great forest of North America. The pioneer could, with his axe alone, build a good cabin, and make the many necessary things.

As more settlers came in, more and more tools were used.

As we look back now, it would seem as if in those centuries, that these settlers were actually fighting his timber.

As the forests disappeared, the red inhabitants were pushed farther and farther west.

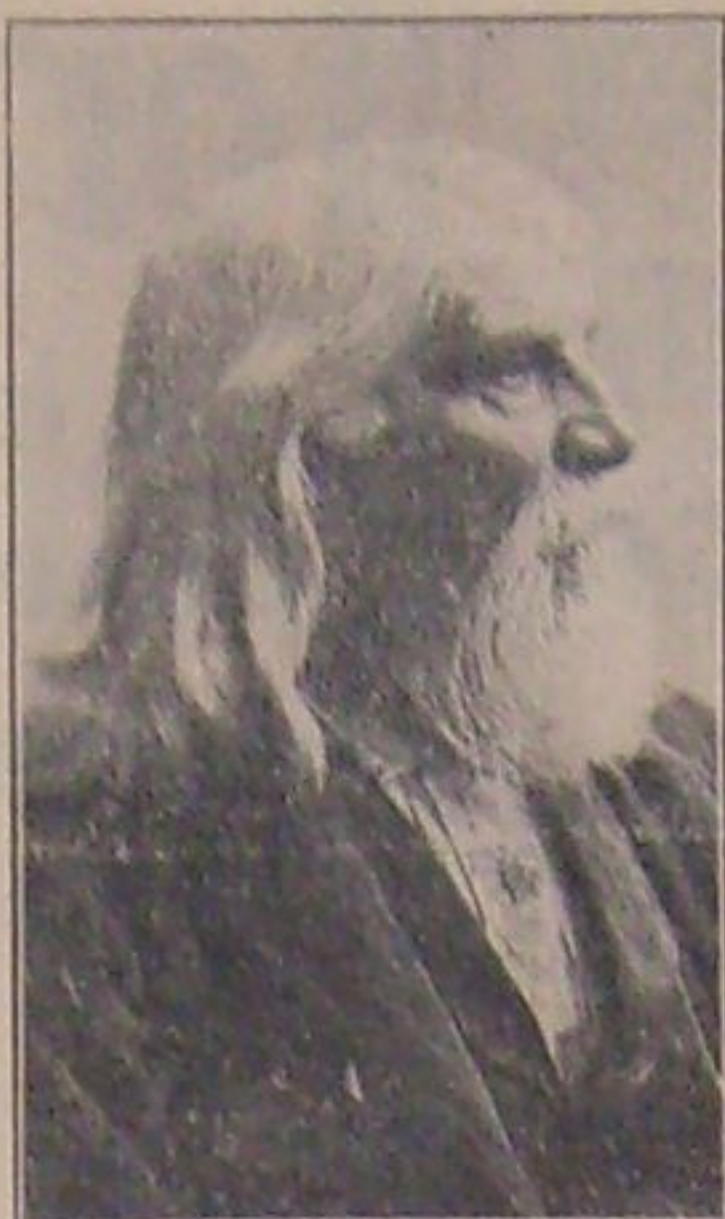
White man's diseases, white man's vices and white man's economics took a great toll of the red men; much greater than their bullets. The border was always a scene of constant skirmishing except at times when the white men killed off some tribe. Much of the trouble between the Indians and whites was caused by the renegade and greedy whites taking advantage of the Indians.

The red man was a kindly disposed person until taught to torture and maim their prisoners by the masters of that art, the Spaniards, and to scalp their enemies by the English and the French.

In this, our territory called in early times, the Northwest Territory, the Indians, under Little Turtle, defeated two white armies sent against them. However, Washington sent General Wayne against them and Little Turtle was defeated. This opened up Ohio to the white settlers. Again there were Indian troubles, as more settlers began coming onto

Indian lands. But General Harrison at Tippecanoe broke the power of the Indians, giving them the territory around in this part known as the Great Reserve. Thus, in a short time, the Indians here were surrounded on all sides by whites.

However, the Indian wasn't left in peace very long, for Miami County was created out of this territory before the final treaty with the red men in 1840, for this, their last great holding.



Chief Gabriel Godfroy, Chief of the Miami. More people have seen this Indian than any other one, a feature attraction of Wallace Hagenbeck Circus.

THE CONVERSE JOURNAL THE INDIANA NEWS-ZINE

(Copyright applied for)

The Converse Journal November 3, 1948

The Converse Journal (The Indiana News-zine) is an
Independent Republican
newspaper pub-

lished every Wednesday and Saturday by the Troy publishing Company of Converse, Indiana.

WILLIAM T. HENSLEY, Pres. and Sec.
NELL MONAHAN, Vice Pres. and Treas.
Entered as second class matter at the Post Office of Converse, Indiana under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Opinions expressed in special features, syndicate articles, and letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the staff of this newspaper.

STAFF

WILLIAM T. HENSLEY,.....Editor in Chief
NELL MONAHAN,Assistant Editor
Patricia Laird,.....Social Editor
Jack Martin,.....Art Director
Josephine Melton,.....Feature Writer

FIRST MEETING OF TOWN BOARD

(From Town Records)
"Dec 22nd 1869

Board of Trustees of Xenia Corporation met. The following officers present. F. Sparks of Ward No 1, Jno W. Eward of Ward No 2, S. A. Murphy of Ward 3, W. Mendenhall of Ward 4, Jno Ralston of Ward 5, R. K. Robinson Clerk and Treasurer, D. M. Coppock Marshal and Assesor. On motion of M. Mendenhall. J. W. Eward was nominated for President and Ayes and Nays being called for, he was declared elected president for the year ending May 1, 1870 and until his successor as duly elected and qualified.

Motion was made and seconded that the Bond of the Treasurer and Marshal be \$2,00.00 each, question was called for which was carried.

Motion was made and taken by consent, instruction the clerk to communicate with different Book houses and see if Books and corporation seal could be procured in Indiana on sixty days time, no further business, the council adjourned to meet at A. K. Robinson, Wednesday night Dec. 29th at 7 o'clock P. M.

R. K. Robinson, Clerk."

"2nd Meeting, Wed., Dec. 29, 1869.

Trustees of Xenia Corporation met. President in the Chair, Roll of officers called, no absentees. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Jno. W. Eward and R. R. Robinson was appointed a committee to draft ordinances. No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. An ordinance prohibiting improper conduct within the corporation limits of said town."

Ordinance No. 1
Shortened Form

Section 1. Be it ordained by Pres. and Board of Trustees of the town of Xenia that

No unnecessary disturbance shall be made by swearing, using vulgar language, quarreling or collecting in the streets or alleys or on sidewalks in a riotous manner.

Section 2. No public intoxication. Fine \$1.00 to \$10 for each of the above misdemeanors.

Ordinance No. 2

Section 1. Forbidden to discharge firearms within Corporate limits of Xenia.

Fine \$1.00 to \$10.00.

Section 2. No one to have a fire in any street or alley or lot after 8:00 o'clock.

Section 3. No one shall drive in any vehicle on the streets faster than a trot.

Section 4. Unlawful to let any horse or mule, standing in the streets or alley without hitching to a secure place. If you leave them untied you must first take the vehicle loose from them, Fine \$1.00 to \$10.00.



RES OF JAMES C. HAIR
SEC 23 JACKSON TOWNSHIP MIAMI CO IND



RES OF OFFICE OF DR A D KIMBALL
COURT STATION & JEFFERSON STS XENIA MIAMI CO INDIANA

RES OF SOLOMON FIAT
SEC 3 JACKSON TOWNSHIP MIAMI CO IND

FOR OVER A
QUARTER of a CENTURY
BLY'S REXALL DRUG STORE
HAS SERVED THE PEOPLE OF
CONVERSE with dependable drug
products

BLY'S REXALL DRUG STORE

for 52 years

*we have transacted business in
Converse. Thanks to my many
customers I am indeed grateful for
your support in the past.*

Charles L. Sullivan

Jeweler
Converse

May We Offer Our
Best Wishes to
Converse and her
People on their 100th
Anniversary

Converse Motor Co.
your Ford farming
Headquarters

Fowler E. Macy
Phone 87

R. S. Troyer
Converse

FOR ALMOST A
QUARTER of a CENTURY
We Have Been a Business
Firm of Converse

INTERNATIONAL - HARVESTER
Trucks — Tractors — Implements
Genuine Parts
Dependable Shop Service

John C. Malott



IMPLEMENT SALES

Phone 120

Converse

*The Davis Snack Bar —
extends their best wishes
for a glorious Centennial*

*I am thankful to my many
customers in the past*

Morris Crist

4 Point Pkg. Store

Welcome to all Celebrators!

Tom and Dale Windsor

Painters and Decorators

Phone 28

Converse

Happy Centennial from the

Conley Modern

Laundry and Dry Cleaning

Hail To Converse

Recreation Parlor

Pastime Cardgames and Pool

*May we add Best Wishes for
this and the next century*

MARK'S CLEANERS

Phone 130

Martha Lou Riley, Mgr.

Dear Converse:

Thanks for a swell place to
live and transact business for
nearly half a century---may the
next half century be as prosper-
ous and pleasant.

WARNOCK APPLIANCE CO.

D. E. Warnock

Velma Warnock

XENIA-CONVERSE

A CENTURY

OF PROGRESS

HOWARD'S SERVICE

STATION

*Time Marches On!
Enjoy Living Today
May Converse continue to
grow and prosper.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Leland DeWitt
and family*

*Congratulations to every-
one who took part in prepar-
ing the Centennial celebra-
tion.*

*Thanks to our many
customers for your patronage*
Converse Locker Plant

Walla Walla, Wash.
October 24, 1948.

To my friends and relatives
in the "Old Home Town":

I have been asked to write some-
thing for the Centennial Edition
of the "Journal."

Now if I could have "Betsy"
Edward or Elick Keyes, Henry
Ransman or George Rider here to
help me, I might do something
about it. But they have gone to
their reward.

My first memories are of living
at "Sicamore Corner," where I
knew the families of Perry Hol-
lingworth, Mike Thompson, Uncle
Johnny Cates, Mode Cramer, Seth
Nation, Stoke Maxwell and Mr.
Baldwin (father of Melissa and
Lilly Wimmer). Lilly was my best
friend.

When I was three weeks old my
mother, sister Laura and myself
were moved to live with my moth-
er's father and mother while my
father was in the Civil War. He
returned from the war in 1866 and
practiced medicine until February,
1871, when we moved to Xenia,
Indiana (now Converse) to care
for my paternal grandparents,
Seth and Mary Summers. For two
years I went to school at the Pence
schoolhouse, a couple of miles from
where we lived. Then we were
transferred to Xenia where our
school was in the new brick build-
ing. My first teacher was Mint
Eviston, then a Mr. Coldren and
Sanford Bowman (who married
Emma Mendenhall).

I spent my early childhood in
this locality. In June, 1879, I was
married to Jacob P. Buroker. We
lived near Converse until 1882
when we came to Washington Ter-
ritory, settling near Walla Walla.
Here we engaged in wheat farm-
ing. I am the mother of ten chil-
dren, eight of whom are still liv-
ing. I have twenty-three grand-
children, thirty great-grandchildren
and one great-great-grandchild.

After we quit wheat farming we
bought a fruit ranch and lived
there until after my husband
passed away in 1926. Then I sold
the place and bought a home in
Walla Walla, at 363 S. 2nd Ave.,
where I now reside with my
daughter, Ethel.

India Summers Buroker.

Thomas Creviston settled in
Jackson Township in 1842; then
the son James owned the farm.
When I sold this year, one of his
(James') two sons was living on
this farm, it having been in the
possession of the family 106 years.

ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

In 1893, when the gas boom
was about at its height, Frank
Macy built the first electric light
plant in Converse (Xenia). It
was a steam plant and the engine
ran two systems; a low-voltage
for arc lights and a high-voltage
for carbon filament lights. The
first lights were turned on April
20, 1893.

The poles for the wires were
red elm and the bark was peeled
off these poles on a lot now
owned by the C. & O. Railroad.

The arc lights were used most-
ly for street lighting, but Lamm
& Gift's drug store and two or
three of the saloons had arc
lights. These arc lights required
the carbon tips to be replaced
every day.

In spite of the competition of
gas for lights, the electric plant
paid, and in addition to that,
there was a panic in 1893.

Mr. Macy sold out in the fall of
1895 to Elmer Leeson; then the
plant was sold to a Mr. Bowers
and later to Lewis and Oscar
Barger.

The county seats around here
had electric lights but Xenia was
the only small town having them,
the plant at one time being as
large as the Marion plant.

Mr. Macy, the first owner of
the electric light plant, is 83
years old and still lives in Con-
verse.

This electric light plant was
located on the north side of state
road 21 near the county line,
where Wm. Warnock has his ser-
vice station.

THE OLD SAW MILL

A saw mill of early days is well
worth seeing about, in 1891 a man
named Deck Hurd came to Con-
verse and put in a saw mill by the
railroad tracks east of the elevator
and did a tremendous business.

Logs were brought in from all
over the country. He had four big
log wagons with steel tires, four to
six inches wide. The hubs of these
monsters were almost a foot and
a half in diameter. Four mules
were hitched to these huge affairs
and as many more as necessary.
Sometimes when the roads were
soft, ruts would be in the street a
foot and a half deep. In dry
weather, dust would be four to
six inches deep in the street.

The late Ben McDaniel, black-
smith, says he used to "set" the
tires of these wagons. They would

slide on the wheels and it was
difficult to get the tires off. The
"riveting" was done by hitting
stones, logs, chunks, etc.

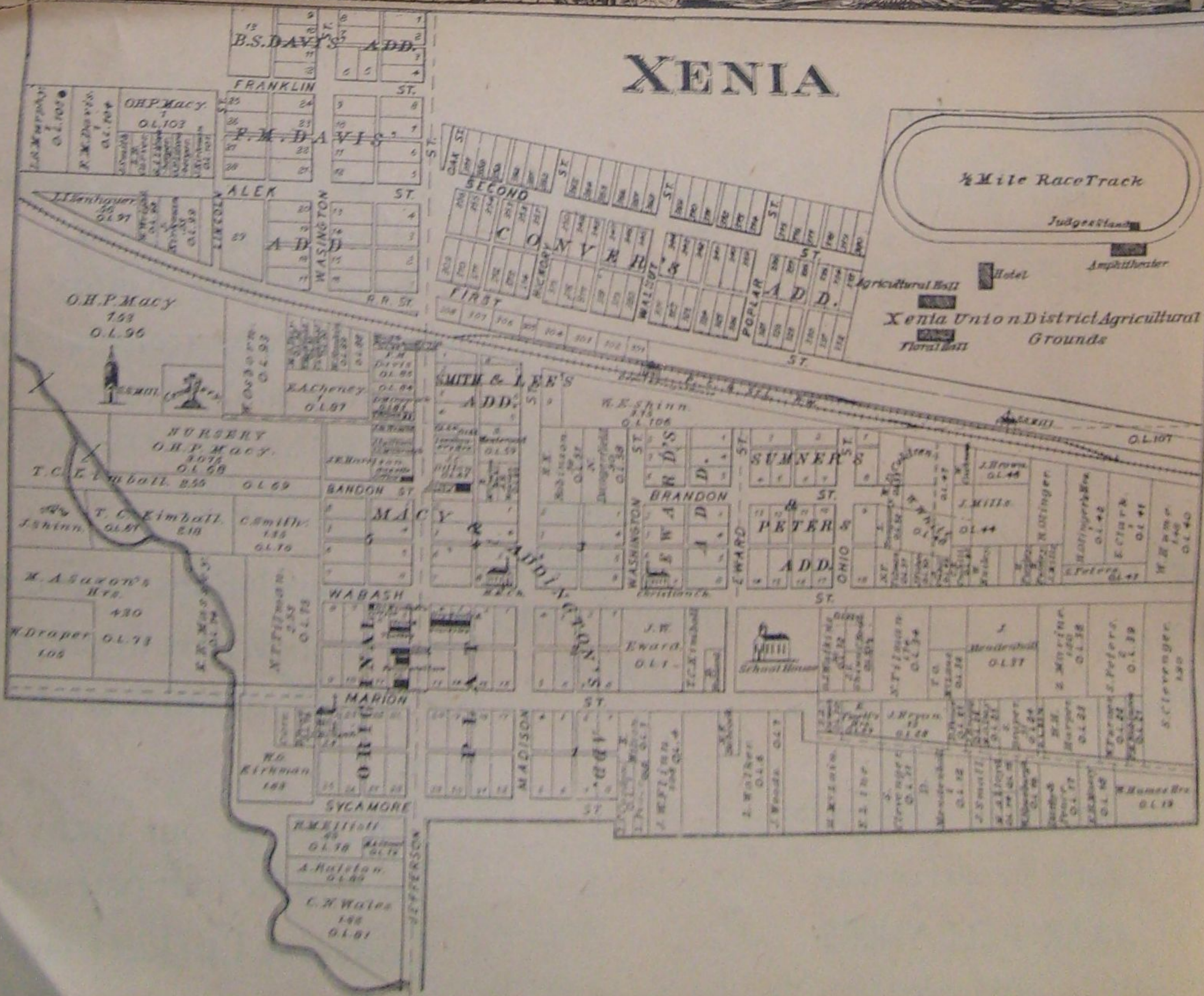
His own wagons could not take
care of all the timber needed, and
he hired many farmers during their
slack season.

The large wagons were much in
demand at political gatherings,
platforms were put on them, and
bands, political speakers rode on
them. One of these wagons was
for years, at Amboy, southeast of
the depot.

This mill had the largest circular
saw in the United States, and spe-
cialized in sawing ship ribs from
white oak, which were shipped to
Scotland and used in the ship
yards. It took a whole log for one
of these timbers. The logs from
one big tree had to be cut in ten-
foot lengths. There were so large
that a man standing by, could not
see over them.



XENIA



We have grown up with our town and
wish her a long, prosperous existence.

L. G. MURPHY

Happy Birthday CONVERSE
May your future be long and bright

Mayne Market

"ONE OF THE FINE STORES IN CONVERSE"

SINCE 1885

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

FIRST-FARMERS NAT'L BANK

CONVERSE, INDIANA

THANKS, people of Converse for a
swell reception and may we face the
new century together in
the same spirit!

BOZELL FARM SUPPLY

See the difference PURINA makes
We Deliver Phone 114 Converse

THANKS for Your
Wonderful Support and Together May We
Look to the New Century With
GREAT EXPECTATIONS
Our Milk Is On Sale At
HODSON'S GROCERY
and
MAYNE MARKET
LEN HAVEN FARMS
Dairy Products
Ice Cream

Congratulations To
CONVERSE
On Her 100th ANNIVERSARY
Gift's Pharmacy
W. J. Gift

Best Wishes To
CONVERSE
On Her 100th ANNIVERSARY
May Her Future Be Bright!

HARPER'S MOBIL SERVICE



Fred Harper, Prop.

THANKS, People Of Converse For Your
Wonderful Patronage And Cooperation During
These Past 15 Years. Let's Face The New
Century Together.

**ALLEN KLING
INSURANCE**

Phone 67

Converse

**Congratulations
Converse
on
Your 100th Anniversary**

**Citizens of
AMBOY**

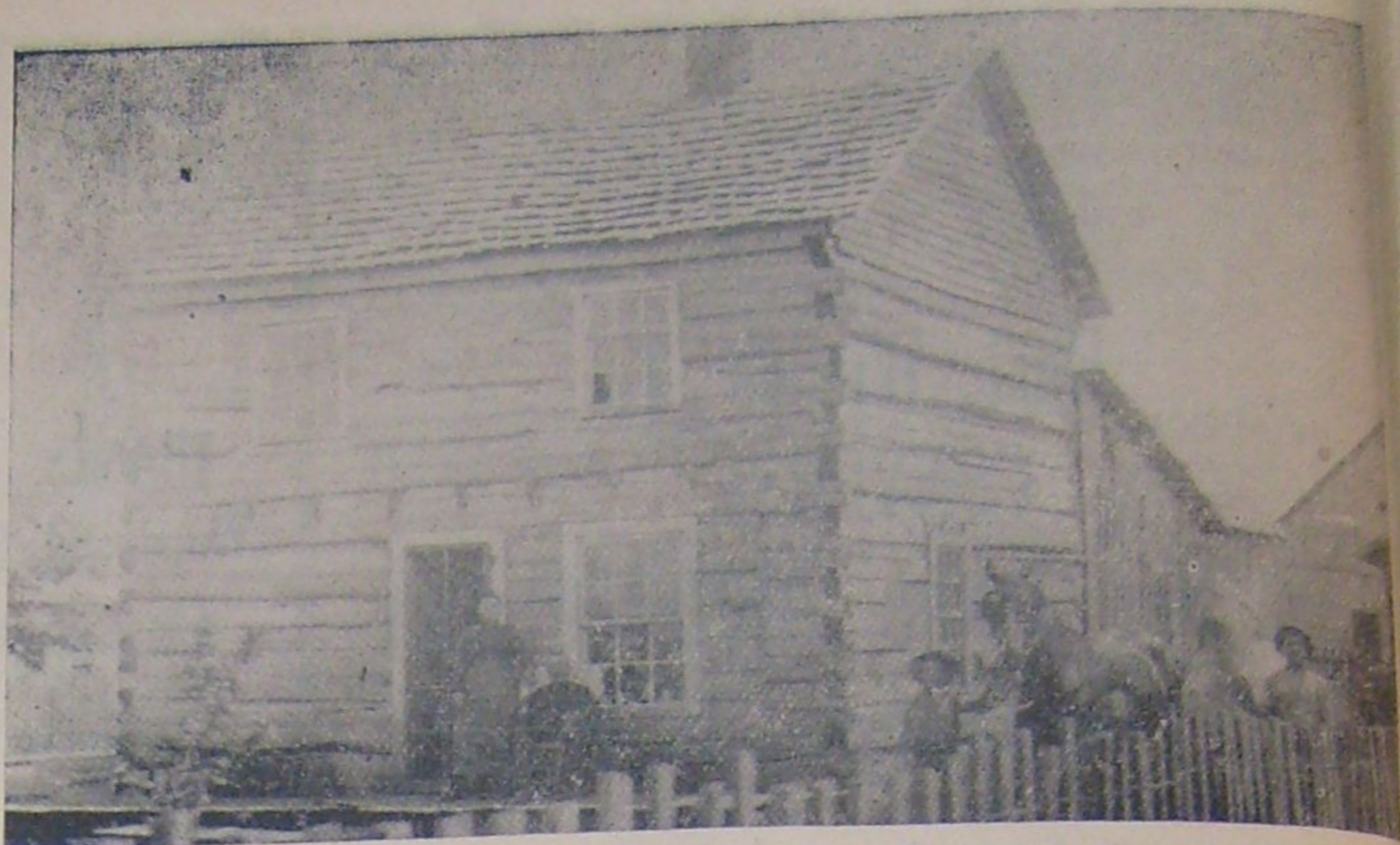
It Has Been a Pleasure To Serve The People Of
Converse And Vicinity For The Past Decade And
May We Continue To Serve You In The Same Spirit.

**For free pickup and
delivery in Converse
Phone 109**

**ANDERSON Dry Cleaning
and Laundry Co.
HAROLD E. TALBERT
Laundry and Dry Cleaning
Delivery Service**



Anderson and Polly Elliott Lamm at the time of their wedding. Anderson (born 1826—Died 1876) married Polly Elliott in 1850 in Grant County. He bought 80 acres in Jackson Township in 1854. A part of his farm he laid out in lots and sold; this is called the Lamm addition to Amboy.



Hewed log cabin built about 1859 by Anderson Lamm whose family lived here until 1877 when a brick house was built. An Amishman, Moses Miller bought the cabin and reerected it in Harrison Township on a forty acre farm in June 1884. This farm was sold to Ira and Alice Lamm Larrison who lived in it for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Larrison with their family and horse appear in the picture. Mr. and Mrs. Larrison lived in Converse for some years.



Line of flats in Converse. Kathleen Trook, Lilian Baldwin, Edith Meyers, Edna Macy, Angelin Trook, Frances Wales.



Scene of railroad accident, underpass of C. & O. and Pennsylvania, where 12 men were killed. Converse, June 7, 1923.



Oldest house in Converse, south of library. Picture taken in 1885.



Benja. B. Lamb Family

Benja. B. Lamb came to Jackson Township, Miami County, in 1846 or 7 from North Carolina. He married Susanah Thomas in the Id Mississinewa Friends Meeting House, April 25, 1849 and brought his bride to his farm east of Amboy which he had already entered. He received his deed for this 160 acres in May, 1849. To this couple were born nine children, two of which survived. Walter H. lives in Amboy and S. Harvey on the old home farm.



Horse and spring wagon.



Keyes store building, about 1896. Wm. Lancaster in doorway of his

**We have served you
for 40 years and
will continue to do
so.**

PRICE FERTILIZER COMPANY



THANKS to the centennial committee and all who helped in making this celebration possible. We are happy to take part in this event. We are confident that the new century holds much for us all.

Goodrich Bros.

Ralph L. Shine Harry Prickett Lee Smith Betty Jones Bob Olinger

Historical Pageant Climaxes Centennial Celebration

We of Converse proudly present "Time Marches On", a historical pageant depicting incidents and individuals that have combined to make Converse the community that it is today.

Let us first give homage to the nation in which we live and have grown. We pause in memory of the many citizens of this community that have served in the armed forces of the nation during the past hundred years.

The scenes and persons presented in this pageant are chosen to represent glimpses of actual history. We realize that it would be almost impossible to give each event as it actually happened. These scenes, in many instances, are a combination of several events, constructed for your pleasure and information.

The first century of its existence has seen Converse develop from a crossing of Indian trails to a town of paved streets and highways; from a small cluster of homes to a large residential area; from a log cabin to a flourishing business district. We give you Converse, Converse for a hundred years.

SCENE I

Symbolic of the land are our children. Our children who are the future of Converse. We see the land at peace. The river flows lazily through the plains and forests; little flowers peep laughingly out of the grass; the large trees are bending in the wind. God is good to us. The land is fertile—land of Converse—land of the Miami Indians.

We see the gathering of Miami Indians in the 18th century. A messenger enters, telling of the arrival of Deleware who bring a beautiful White Rose. They found her many moons ago—far away, wedding ceremony as it could have happened, uniting Captain Brouillette to Nancy, the oldest daughter of Frances Slocum. As was the custom at that time, Captain Brouillette brings furs and other gifts to Chief She-po-co-nah, father of the bride. (Captain Brouillette was converted under the missionary leadership of William Cooley, grandfather of Mrs. Roy Lee.)

SCENE III

With the establishment of treaties with the Indians, the territory became open for settlement. In 1824, Miami County became distinct political organization.

Here come the early settlers: Frances became a favorite of many chiefs. Little Turtle and and Frances Gortroy were her trusted friends. One day she found a wounded warrior lying helpless in the forest. She cared for him and he later became her husband — She-po-co-nah, Miami War Chief. They made their home at Deaf Man's Village near Peoria by the Mississinewa.

SCENE II

The most popular man of his time on this country was Captain Brouillette, the son of a French trader and an Indian Mother. He inherited the desirable characteristics of both parents and commanded the respect of both the white and Indian peoples. The first post office, located near the present site of the toy factory was named for him by L. H. P. Macy, the first postmaster.

We take you to the home of Frances Slocum. You shall see a O. H. P. Macy, the first resident of Converse; the Thomas Addingtons; the Willis Elliotts; the Henry Overmans; the James Motes; the Clayborne Wrights; and Christian Life. They seem to be gathering for a social meeting. Sure enough; they're lining up for a square dance.

Oliver Macy was appointed postmaster of Burriett (the spelling of the post office name was based on the common pronunciation of Captain Brouillette) on the 21st of January 1847. The first birth occurred in 1844. The first marriage was performed on the lot now occupied by Mrs. Mendell (which sold originally for \$177.) The town was laid out September 23, 1848 for Macy and Elliott by the County Surveyor and was named Xenia by Mr. Macy after his home town of Xenia, Ohio.

The early settlers are gathering for the sale of lots. Let us listen.

SCENE IV

Religious life and leadership have been an integral part of our community life through out the century. The first church in the original plat was Wesleyan Methodist founded in 1851 on lot 24 where Marks Gordons house stands. This it was a gift of Yllus Eilers. We see a service in that first church.

SCENE V

The first store, the forerunner of the "fine stores of Converse", was located on lot 13 where the Shell station stands. A cabin was erected in February, 1851, with a lean-to at the back. Shopping has changed—to put it mildly.

Scene VI

A local newspaper is a barometer of community growth. Converse has had a weekly paper since her early history. Here comes the editor, Mr. Charles Thew.

Scene VII

Early transportation was a very important factor in the town's growth. Is it accessible? The early railroad tracks were laid on logs and in many instances right on the ground. Listen! Here come some of the track men from the "M. & L."

The first tracks were laid on the ground, many times without grading or ballast. The engines were "wood burners" and ricks of wood sometimes extended a quarter of a mile from the station. The Marion and Logansport was leased, and later sold, to the Pennsylvania. The Chicago, Indiana & Eastern, extending from Converse to Muncie, was built in 1898. When the Cincinnati, Richmond & Muncie extended to Chicago, The C. I. & E. had no further need for existence.

Scene VIII

When the Pennsylvania leased the M. & L., the towns of Xenia in Ohio and Indiana were served by the same schedule. Let's witness a regularly recurring scene: An elderly couple arrive, expecting to meet friends living near Xenia, Ohio.

The Xenia residents petitioned the County Commissioner that the name of the town be changed to Converse, and the new name became official August 1, 1892.

Scene IX

The children of Xenia first attended school organized in 1848 and held in a building on the Francis Davis farm (area covering the northwest section of town as present.) They later attended a school held a short distance west of town and a friend's school organized as a part of the Pipe Creek (Quaker) meeting in 1851. The first school in Xenia was erected in 1872 on the site of the present building. Then, as now, boys were boys, and the schoolmaster had his problems.

The school became a commissioned High School in 1895. The present building was erected in 1902; the gymnasium in 1926. In 1946 the school became a joint corporation with Jackson Township, and in 1947 was transferred to a township organization serving the entire community.

Scene X

And it's Hi Ho! Come to the Fair. The first Xenia fair was held in 1871. Another Fair Association was formed in 1901. The present Association dates back to 1908.

Scene XI

Fire! Fire! Another fire! It's 1894—a large section of the business district extending from Gift's store to the Mayne Market is burning. Here come the members of the first Fire Department with their Little Giant Fire Engine. Several of the original membership of 22 could not find their hats and have not yet arrived. The water is supplied by cisterns, and they are empty.

Scene XII

Now we see the banker and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spencer. The directors withdrew their money, and the Xenia Bank lasted one year.

The Exchange Bank was established in 1885; the Farmers State, in 1907. The First National was built in 1920, and it merged with the Farmers State to become the First Farmers National Bank in 1946.

An electric light plant was put in by Frank Macy in 1893.

Scene XIII

The first natural gas well was drilled in 1886. The Xenia Gas & Pipe Line Co., was incorporated in 1887. A large section east of town was soon built up with the following industries: Glass factory, Foundry Machine Shop, Malleable Steel, Woolen Mills, Hoosier Canning Company, and the Chandelier Company. With this gas boom came recreation parlors. We look in on the Red Steer Saloon and see a scene symbolic of this period.

Scene XIV

Those Gay, Gay Nineties live again in our memories and imaginations. Tonight Miss Frances Wales is entertaining. Let's join the party!

Scene XV—Finale

Time Marches On! We pay tribute to those persons who have made Converse what it is today—the settlers, professional and business men, the laborers, founders of homes and tradition for their children.

We introduce the Centennial Queen and her court. The ladies

have been residents of Converse for fifty years or longer. The crown is placed upon the brow of the Queen of Tomorrow. Symbolic of our youth, she carries the hope of our future. In you, Miss Converse, we find our hopes and dreams for the future. We pledge the allegiance and support of our homes, churches, school and business to build together a greater Converse. The Queen, Mrs. Mary Moren, has been a resident of Converse for over three-quarters of a century. The Lord bless thee and keep thee;

The Lord make his face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

The organizations that make a community great pass in parade: The home, the school, the Church, our many social and service organizations; Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, Rebeccas, Knights of Pythias, Sunshine Girls, Burriett Club, Department Club, Lions Club, 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Town Board, Marshal, Xenia Home Economics Club, Farm Bureau Organization, Business Men.

May we ever go Marching Along Together!

Written by Dorothy Mayne and Mack A. Ralston.

Directed by Dorothy Mayne.

Narrated by P. E. Eviston, Hilda Eviston, Marjorie Ralston, and Mack A. Ralston.

Members of the Cast:

SCENE I

Flowers

Beverly Lee
Nancy Kling
Nancy Tibbits
Vianna Shenebarger
Linda Beth Miller
Beth Ann Myers
Shirley Bridenthal
Joyce Bartrum
Dorothy Whorl
Pauline Hogan
Betty Lou Cunningham
Marilyn Sample
Beverly Clevenger
Ruth Ann Hamilton
Sandra Uphaus
Marjorie Sharp
Dianna Cunningham

Earth

Rebecca Carvey
Nyle Fox
James Stambaugh
Joe Givens
Dee Curtis
James Brown
Marvin Mooneyhan
James Hogan
Howard Mayne
Lloyd Jennings
William Mobley
Roger Reed
Ray Kling
Joe Gift
Burr Maith
Fred Hogan
Michael Sample

SCENE II

Indians

Robert Beal
Howard Francis
J. E. Fraley
Dale Middlesworth
Howard Clevenger
Howard Bozell
Gene Hamilton
Wm. Shanneman
Lester Brown
Sam Swan
Runner—Don Powell
Alice Bozell
Ruth Clevenger
Betty Francis
Maxine Graham
Mary L. Shanneman
Carol Blake
Marybelle Hobbs
Reathel Pearson
Jean Brown
Myrna Swan
Mary A. Beal
Little Frances Slocum
Claudia Bozell

SCENE III

Home of Frances Slocum

She pa can mah..... J. E. Fraley
Frances Slocum..... Mrs. H. Lawson
Nancy..... Mrs. C. Green
Jane..... Mrs. D. Middlesworth
Captain Brouillette..... Kenneth Hayes

William Cooley..... Wm. Bridge

SCENE IV

Settlers

Chairmen—Mrs. Cleo Howard,
Mrs. Izzie Niccum, Mrs. Lizzie Nation,
Mrs. John Dailey,
Caller..... Jack Harper
Music—Wild Cat Ramblers.

SCENE V

Sale of Lots

Mr. and Mrs. O. H. P. Macy
Mr. and Mrs. Fowler Macy
Mr. and Mrs. Willis Elliott
Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Warnock
Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Poulson, Mr.
H. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur
Clair, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell
Gift, Mrs. Carlene Rich and
Mrs. Martha L. Riley

Crier..... Wilbur Clair
Dr. Frazier..... Delmar Graham

SCENE VI

Store

Henry and Evaline Overman
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Slusher
Children..... Jimmy, Jean Ann and

Library..... Mrs. Von Friermood
Janet Slusher; Don Larrison and
Linda Larrison; Tommy and
Beth Ann Riley.
Customers..... Mr. and Mrs. Orville
Larrison, Wm. Warnock, Delmar
Graham, Marie Carey, Lizzie
Nation.

SCENE VII

Church..... Wesleyan Methodist
Congregation

Minister..... Rev. John Reed

SCENE VIII

Newspaper..... Wm. Hensley

Railroad Men..... Jackson Quartet

SCENE IX

Depot

Travelers..... Mr. and Mrs. Ben Pence

Station Agent..... Mr. James Williams

SCENE X

Banker

Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Whitmire

SCENE XI

School

Teacher..... Mr. Wendell Lamb

Pupils..... Don Larrison, Peggy
Malott, Kenneth Hunter, Rich-
ard Kling, Phyllis Hale, Wilma
Harlen, Max Fraley, Jerry
Fager.

SCENE XII

Fair

Arranged by Mrs. Wendell Gift
and Eastern Star

Visitors..... Mr. and Mrs. Richard

Slaughter, Mr. and Mrs. Howard

Francis, Mr. and Mrs. Mark

Swingle, Mr. and Mrs. Benny

King, Mr. and Mrs. Don Shaw,
Mr. and Mrs. John Rennaker,
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Losure, Mrs.

Hubert Drook, Mrs. Wendell Gift,
Mrs. Glen Ballard, Miss Donna
Bocock.

SCENE XIII

Fire

Firemen..... D. E. Warnock, Clair

Howard, C. N. Towse, Merrill

Brown, Bill Warnock, Harry

Prickett, Jr., Orville Larrison,
Roy Lee, Mark Malott, Robert

Bly, Charles Magee, Allen Kling,
John Keyes, Herbert Hodson,
Fred Harper, Verlin Howard,
Harry McDaniels, Delmar Gra-

ham, Harvey Howard, Ott

Sample.

SCENE XIV

Red Steer Saloon

Arranged by Harriett Carey

Bartender..... Morris Crist

Red Zinnia..... Harriett Carey

Dancers..... Golda Slaughter, Betty

Francis, Lois Rennaker, Bea

Olinger.

Piano Player..... Bill Bagley

Jack the Ripper..... Fred Boesing

Men in the Saloon..... Jackson

Quartet, Ken Mayne, Wm. War-
nock, Orville Larrison, Jim

Slaughter, Guy Losure, Lloyd

Slusher, Dwight Miller, Richard

Slaughter, Mark Malott, Allen

Kling.

SCENE XV

Gay Nineties

a. Bicycle

b. Beach

Beautiful Doll..... Phyllis Haynes

Singers..... Jackson Quartet

c. Frances Wales' Party

Hostess..... Mrs. Bruce Haycock

Guests..... Mr. and Mrs. Guy

Losure, Mr. and Mrs. Fowler

Macy, Mr. and Mrs. Walter

Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight

Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell

Gift, Mrs. Albert Hayes, Delene

Snyder, Rosemary Williams.

Attendants..... Phyllis Sawaash,

Jean McCallum, Susanne Blake,

Betty Lenon, Virginia Bly, Phyl-
lis Thompson, Carolyn Blake.

SCENE XVI

Time Marches On

Centennial Queen..... Mrs. Mary Moren

New Queen..... Miss Reta Kline

Flower Girl..... Richard Malott

Court..... Jennie Lou Warnock

Max Fraley, Bob Fisher, Leon

son-in-law of Frances Slocum,

hunter, trader, trapper and minis-

ter of the gospel. A French In-

dian, who had charge of Frances

Slocum's business for many years.

ham, Harvey Howard, Ott

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Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight

Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell

Gift, Mrs. Albert Hayes, Delene

Snyder, Rosemary Williams.

Attendants..... Phyllis Sawaash,

**Here's to a glorious
CENTENNIAL
HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONVERSE!**

Carey's Restaurant

We are happy to have served you for 40 years, and
hope that we may participate in the next birthday
party for Converse

**100 HURRAHS
for the old hometown
We cheer Converse
— FOR A CENTURY WELL SPENT —**



Warnock's
MARATHON SERVICE
PHONE 93 CONVERSE



Histories of the Various Organizations of Converse and Vicinity

BURIETT CLUB

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: August 5, 1931.
FIRST OFFICERS: President, Mrs. Nina Myers; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Bertha Carvey; Secretary, Mrs. Lulu Ryder; Treasurer, Mrs. Ethel Poulson.

CHARTER MEMBERS: Mrs. Nina Myers, Mrs. Ethel Poulson, Mrs. Emma Bly, Mrs. Onda Dice, Mrs. Rowena Garton, Mrs. May McKensie, Mrs. Ollie Macy, Mrs. Bess Merriam, Mrs. Julia Vincent, Mrs. Bertha Carvey, Mrs. Lulu Ryder, Mrs. Eva Darby, Mrs. Lola Friermood, Mrs. Martha Gordon, Mrs. Vera Lore, Mrs. Alvena Malott, Mrs. Florence Marburger, Mrs. Clara Wales.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: For literary research and promotion of civic projects.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Civic — To its members. Planting of Blue Spruce tree on library lawn. Book each year to library. Sponsoring girl scouts—Teen age canteen. Bringing outstanding speakers to community. Sponsoring Red Cross and war time drives.

Christmas baskets to needy. National and State Federated. PRESENT OFFICERS: President, Mrs. Fred Malott; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Philip Evison; Secretary, Mrs. J. H. Hatfield; Treasurer, Mrs. Reva Slusher.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS—25.

NOAH'S DOVE REBEKAH LODGE NO. 85

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: June 19, 1872.

FIRST OFFICERS: Names lost by fire on November 21, 1879.

CHARTER MEMBERS—15: Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Zeek, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Eward, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Cates, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Albright, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. James Armstrong, J. Clark.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: Betterment of humanity.

PRESENT OFFICERS: N. G. Cleo Howard; V. G. Ruth Cleveland; E. S. Norma Windsor; Financial Sec. Marie Cary; Treasurer Helen Lawson; COMMITTEE: Zadie Zook, Mary Moran, Mrs. Geo. E. Wilson, Lizzie Nation, Lavina Daily.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS—115.

DEPARTMENT CLUB

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: April 1947.

FIRST OFFICERS: Same as present.

CHARTER MEMBERS—73.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: To work together for a better community.

PRESENT OFFICERS: President, Mrs. Xen Mayne; Vice-Pres. Catherine Zappen; Secretary Mrs. Huber Lawson; Treasurer Mrs. Errett Carvey.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS—93.

CONVERSE LODGE NO. 601

F. & A. M.

Date compiled from yearly reports to the Grand Secretary of the most worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Indiana, from Xenia Lodge No. 267, Xenia, Indiana.

A dispensation to hold lodge meetings was granted September 17, 1858 by the Grand Master of Indiana; this dispensation was continued by Grand Lodge in 1859 and a charter was granted May 30, 1860.

The first Worshipful Master being Milton D. Frazer, other charter members were: Harvey M. Stewart, Moses Kimball, Enosh McFarland, James B. Ward, J. Ross, Boyd Ladd, Elias J. Fisher, Evan Houser, John Shackelford, Jonathan Small, J. L. Stewart, Clever W. Ladd, B. E. Webb, John I. Hazen, Jonathan R. Wright, N. D. Shackelford, Stephen Peters.

This lodge steadily grew from these 18 members in 1860 to a membership of 73 at the end of the year 1871, including such well-known names as: Miller, Roby, Wood, Boswell, Powell, Cope, Pearson, Overman, Beall, Friermood, Wiggs, Boyd, Bond, Pence, Mayman, Smith, Stillwell, McKinney, Morris, Street, Darby, Coppock, Pearson, Small, Zimmerman, Summers, Rees, Anderson, Eward, Nation, Phillips, Thomas, Wright, Reeves, Lucas, Douglass, Hays, Fisher and Williams.

Starting with 1872 the membership began to drop until February 16, 1880, the few members left, decided to surrender their charter and a note was sent to the Grand Secretary. The charter was cancelled by Grand Lodge May 26, 1880, the last Worshipful Master on record being Joseph Boswell.

The original and only Lodge Room used by this lodge, so far as is known, was located in a two-story building on the S. E. corner

of Jefferson Street and State Road 18 and 21.

Again in 1894 a group of men got together and began to talk Masonry. They were granted a dispensation to operate for a period of 1 year with the following list of Charter Members: W. E. Alexander, C. M. Blue, J. S. Boswell, L. A. Comer, Wm. Friermood, Kenton Garrison, C. W. Hunt, J. S. Martin, Enos Pearson, J. J. Sumpster, C. N. Wales, P. McKinney, W. E. Anderson, James Brown, C. D. Burhaven, Geo. W. Day, Morton Garrison, James Hatfield, Alex. Keys, S. M. Reeves, J. R. Phillips, Mark Tully, A. A. Wood.

In May, 1895, the lodge received its charter and present No. 601. The lodge has prospered in many ways, now owning its own building, with a present membership of 250 members.

The present officers are: Worshipful Master, Herbert Z. Lyons; Senior Warden, Milo Artherhults; Junior Warden, Bernard Douglass. Appointed officers are: Newell Peterson, Vern Warnock, George Wilson, Merrill Brown, Dwight Miller.

XENIA HOME ECONOMICS

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: December 14, 1945.

FIRST OFFICERS: President, Reathel Pearson; Vice-Pres., Helen Hyman; Sec.-Treas., Norma Hacker; Publicity Chr., Irene Brookshire.

CHARTER MEMBERS—17: Irene Brookshire, Louise Durkes, Norma Hacker, Helen Hyman, Winnie Hyman, Mary Lewellen, Virginia Tibbits, Mary Sample, Ann Uphaus, Georgia DeWitt, Mabel Graf, Mildred Haynes, Ruth Hyman, Lettie Johnson, Reathel Pearson, Bertha Sullivan, Iota Ford.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: To plan and make our homes and community a better place to live.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Civic — To its members.

We feel that we have had a fellowship that has brought about a better understanding and help toward one another. We have also enjoyed two very fine tours; one to Cincinnati and one to Chicago in which we visited many interesting projects and stores.

PRESENT OFFICERS: President, Irene Brookshire; Vice-Pres., Lettie Johnson; Sec.-Treas., Ruth Cleveland; Publicity Chr., Marie Carey.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS—31.

HOBBY ARTS CLUB

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: June 15, 1948.

FIRST OFFICERS: President, Mrs. Fowler Macy; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Gladys Plotner; Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Ethel Whitmire.

CHARTER MEMBERS—12: Cleve McCay, Mrs. Russell Grubb, Mrs. Gladys Plotner, Mrs. Frank Miller, Mrs. Mary Hodson, John Miller, Mrs. Ethel Whitmire, Mrs. Sally Dingaman, Richard Malott, Omer Highley, Mrs. Georgia Uphaus, J. E. Fraley.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: The object of the club is to encourage an interest in the fine arts and to help each other.

PRESENT OFFICERS: Same as above.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS—26.

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

The Converse Wesleyan Methodist Church was organized February 19, 1932, by the Rev. W. L. Thompson, then president of the Indiana Conference.

The Rev. Hazel Rose was the first minister. The officers elected at the first business meeting were: Elva Hatfield, quarterly meeting secretary; Evelyn Lucas, treasurer; Gertrude Reed, class leader; Elizabeth Lucas, pianist; Ruth Brook, Chorister.

The church was organized with twenty members: Edith Coniff, Ruth Brook, Elva Hatfield, Verla Henderson, Elizabeth Lucas, Irene Marley, Fern Miller, Lee Tilden, Luella Tilden, Louis Trimble, Opal Dingman, Gerald Guerin, Glen Haven, Thelma Henderson, John Lucas, Robert McKinley, Gertrude Reed, Naomi Tilden, Lila Hatfield, Evelyn Lucas, Roy Patterbaugh.

This church started at first as a mission church. The congregation worshipped for two years in an uptown hall. In the spring of 1934 a basement church was completed under the leadership of the Rev. Charles Cowan and was dedicated by the Rev. W. L. Thompson. In the spring of 1938 the superstructure of the church was completed under the leadership of the Rev. Robert Kendall, and dedicated by the Rev. E. J. Pitts, the Conference president. Rev. Ralph Pritchett and Rev. Everett Wilson have also served as ministers of the local church.

The Rev. John W. Reed is the present minister. Other officers: Elva Haines, class leader; George

Smith, treasurer; Forest Hutchens, S. S. Supt.; Lella Antrobus, pres. of Women's Missionary Society.

The present number of members is 39.



Francis Godfrey ran a trading post at Peru, Son of James Godfrey and an Indian mother. War chief of the Miami. Took part against the whites in battles of Fort Wayne, Tippecanoe and Mississinewa. Was a shrewd trader, respected alike by Indians and white men.

HI YI CLUB

SOURCE MATERIALS—Materials sent by the Hi Yi office of Indiana.

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION—October, 1947.

FIRST OFFICERS: President, Merrill Davison; Vice-Pres., Dale Artherhults; Secretary, Clarence Bricker; Treasurer, Bob Smith.

CHARTER MEMBERS—9: Merrill Davison, Bob Smith, Dale Artherhults, Bobby Fisher, Claude Davison, Bob Miller, Clarence Bricker, Eddie Fagan, Gene Roberts.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: The purpose of this organization is to create, maintain and extend throughout the school and community high standards of Christian character.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Civic — To its members.

We have had several meetings of the members of the club and have attended the District meeting.

Bob Miller took part in the District Meeting and I represented the Converse Club in the election of new district officers for the ensuing year.

PRESENT OFFICERS: President, Eddie Fagan; Vice-Pres., Claude Davison; Secretary, Gene Roberts; Treasurer, Bobby Fisher.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS: Present number of members is four. We hope to bring in several new members in the near future.

PYTHIAN SISTERS

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: May 7, 1902.

Rathbone Sisters, Converse Temple, No. 260.

FIRST OFFICERS: P. C. Sister Dona Walker; M. E. C. Julia Roby; E. S. Nellie Agness; E. L. Effie Pence; Manager, Mrs. Reeves; M. of R. & Co., Alice Boswell; M. of A., Josephine Carter; P. of T., Mrs. Lucas; G. of O. T., Pearl Walker.

CHARTER MEMBERS: Effie Pence, Mrs. H. H. Ballinger, Pearl Walker, Dona Walker, Mrs. Jacob Brook, Daisy Pollis, Mrs. Noah Mallot, Mrs. E. E. Dunn, Alice Boswell, Nellie Agness, Ida Brook, Gertrude Barnes, Mrs. N. J. Reeves, Mrs. Al. Morgan, Lizzie Lucas, Susie Golding, Josephine Carter, Julia Roby, Emma Sellers.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: For the purpose of instituting Converse Temple No. 260.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: For the betterment of the community.

PRESENT OFFICERS: P. C. Louise Durkes; M. E. C. Ruth Hyman; Manager, Gretchen Grimm; Excellent L. Gladys Thompson; P. of T. Irene Brookshire; G. of O. T. Bernice Tibbits; M. of R. C. Reathel Pearson; M. of A. Lettie Johnson.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS—48 ladies, 7 men.

H. H. CLUB

The first club was organized in 1927 with Reathel (Haynes) Pearson and two others enrolled.

1927 with Reathel (Haynes) Pearson and two others enrolled.

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teacher, Verne Dunn. Purpose of Club—Motto: "To make the best, better." Work follows state and national rules and regulations.

The last four years, the 4-H Club has had the name, "The Lucky 4-H Club," and has had from 25 to 40 members each year.

Officers the past year were: President, Carolyn Judd; Vice-Pres., Wanda Jean Clevenger; Sec.-Treas., Rosemary Williams; Song Leader, Jeanette Clair; Recreational leader, Reta Kling; Health leader, Vonda Bundy; News Reporter, Gladys Brookshire.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: John Powell Log Cabin, Jackson Township, Miami County, 1846; Xenia about 1850, '51, '52.

FIRST OFFICERS: First minister was John Powell.

CHARTER MEMBERS: John Powell and family, Joseph Powell and family, Louisa Kimball, Shadrack Elliott and family, Jessie Elliott. Later in Xenia were Dr. Pope, Dr. Frazier, Christian Life and wife.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: These are set forth in The Articles of Religion, the General Rules, Special Advice and Social Creed of the Church, all of which may be found in detail.

The Discipline of the Methodist Church.

The Kingdom of God.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Building of churches; participating in civic affairs.

PRESENT OFFICERS: Minister, Ralph E. Davison; Sunday School Supt., Wayne Powell; Sunday School Sec., Harry Stites; Sunday School Treas., Lloyd Hainlen.

Trustees of the Church: Herman Darby, Allen Kling, Wayne Powell, Ed. Vinnedge, George Wilson, Phillip Evison, Dale Middlesworth, Harry Stites, O. M. Whitmire.

President Board of Stewards, Dale Middlesworth.

Church Secretary, George Wilson.

Church Treasurer, Xen Mayne.

President W.S.C.S., Mrs. Verla Jacobs.

Secretary W.S.C.S., Mrs. Harold Smith.

Treasurer W.S.C.S., Mrs. Dee Rich.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS—337.

LIONS CLUB OF CONVERSE

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: Chartered May 27, 1929.

FIRST OFFICERS: Chairman, E. G. Aubrey; Secretary, Dr. Reginald Way.

CHARTER MEMBERS—20: E. G. Aubrey, F. J. Bly, V. V. Friermood, B. F. Hodson, Clyde Rich, Von L. Snyder, C. A. McGuire, Don Miller, O. M. Whitmire, D. W. Zook, Jay Burk, H. M. Elliott,

have State Highway Commission to install stoplight at intersection of Jefferson Street and State Road 18-21.

7-20-37—Started movement to obtain a hard surface road from State Road 22 north through Converse to the McCum Trail.

1-11-38—Sponsored WLS show at High School Gym. There were a total of 39 projects sponsored from 10-27-35 to and including 8-27-46.

PRESENT OFFICERS: President, Rev. R. E. Davison; Secretary, James Williams.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS—42.

BOYS 4-H CLUB

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: May 5, 1948.

FIRST OFFICERS: President, Jr. Slaughter; Vice-President, Harley Ralston; Secretary, Wayne Sherriek; Treasurer, Richard Rogers; Health, Tom Smith; Song Leader, Bob Murray; Recreation Leader, Tom Pearson; Reporter, Harold Berglan.

CHARTER MEMBERS—31: Jackie Clair, Donald Maggart, Tom Smith, Harold Berglan, Harley Ralston, Patricia Hallinger, Jerry Fager, Mark Garber, Dick Malott, Morris Overman, Phil Howard, Richard Johnson, Leon Olinger, Kermit Warren, Dale Stambaugh, Gene Bowman, Bill Green, Jr. Slaughter, Oral Overman, Bob Murray, Jerry Arlick, Donald Dennison, Max Fraley, Thomas Gray, John Miller, Tom Pearson, Cecil Hyman, John Judd, Dean Robers, David Kroft, Russell Bowman.

PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: Purpose of the club is to train Heart, Health, Hand and Head.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Those who exhibited in County 4-H Show at Peru, Aug. 4-7: Bill Green (Shorthorn Steer) 1st place; Tom Smith (Angus Steer) 2nd place; Jackie Clair (Hereford Steer) 2nd place; Dick Rogers (Angus Heifer) 3rd place; Russell Bowman (Spotted Poland China Gilt) 1st place.

Converse Fair 4-H Exhibitors: Aug. 24-28, 1948. Bill Green (Shorthorn Steer) 2nd place; Tom Smith (Angus Steer) 2nd place; Jackie Clair (Hereford Steer) 2nd place; Dick Rogers (Angus Heifer) 3rd place; Tom Pearson (Entomology) 1st place and (Gardening) 2nd place; Kermit Warren (Gardening) 3rd place; Patricia Hallinger (Entomology) 2nd place; Max Fraley (Entomology) 3rd place; Phil Howard (Gardening), Cecil Hyman (Gardening), Richard Johnson (Gardening), Leon Olinger (Gardening), Dean Rogers (Gardening), David Kroft (Gardening).

FUTURE FARMERS OF

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: May 4, 1948.

First F. F. A. Chapter ever formed in Jackson Township, Miami County.

FIRST OFFICERS: President, Russell Bowman; Vice-President, Clarence Bricker; Secretary, Jack Frank; Treasurer, Robert Miller; Reporter, Harry Newell.

CHARTER MEMBERS—Russell Bowman, Jack Frank, Harry Newell, Elmer Johnson, Harley Ralston, Tom Smith, Fred Boasting, Phil Howard, Lynn McClain, Tom Pearson, Clarence Bricker, Bob Miller, Dick Rogers, Bob Murray, Jr. Slaughter, Harold Berglan, J. R. Hodson, Donald Maggart, Oral Overman, Kermit Warren.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: To promote interest and understanding in vocational agriculture through actual farm projects.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF IOOF

DATE OF BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION: Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Beacon Lodge No. 320, chartered May 19, 1868.

FIRST OFFICERS: Noble Grand, J. M. Runyan; Vice Grand, Henry Thomas; Secretary, R. K. Robinson; Treasurer, J. W. Eward.

CHARTER MEMBERS—9: J. W. Eward, T. M. Reeves, R. K. Robinson, J. M. Runyan, C. Thompson, T. A. Morris, F. M. Keeler, A. Zecke, Henry Thomas.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: The practice of the grand principles of Friendship, Love and Truth.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Civic — To its members.

I. O. O. F. Building in Converse, 1879. Cost \$2,000.00.

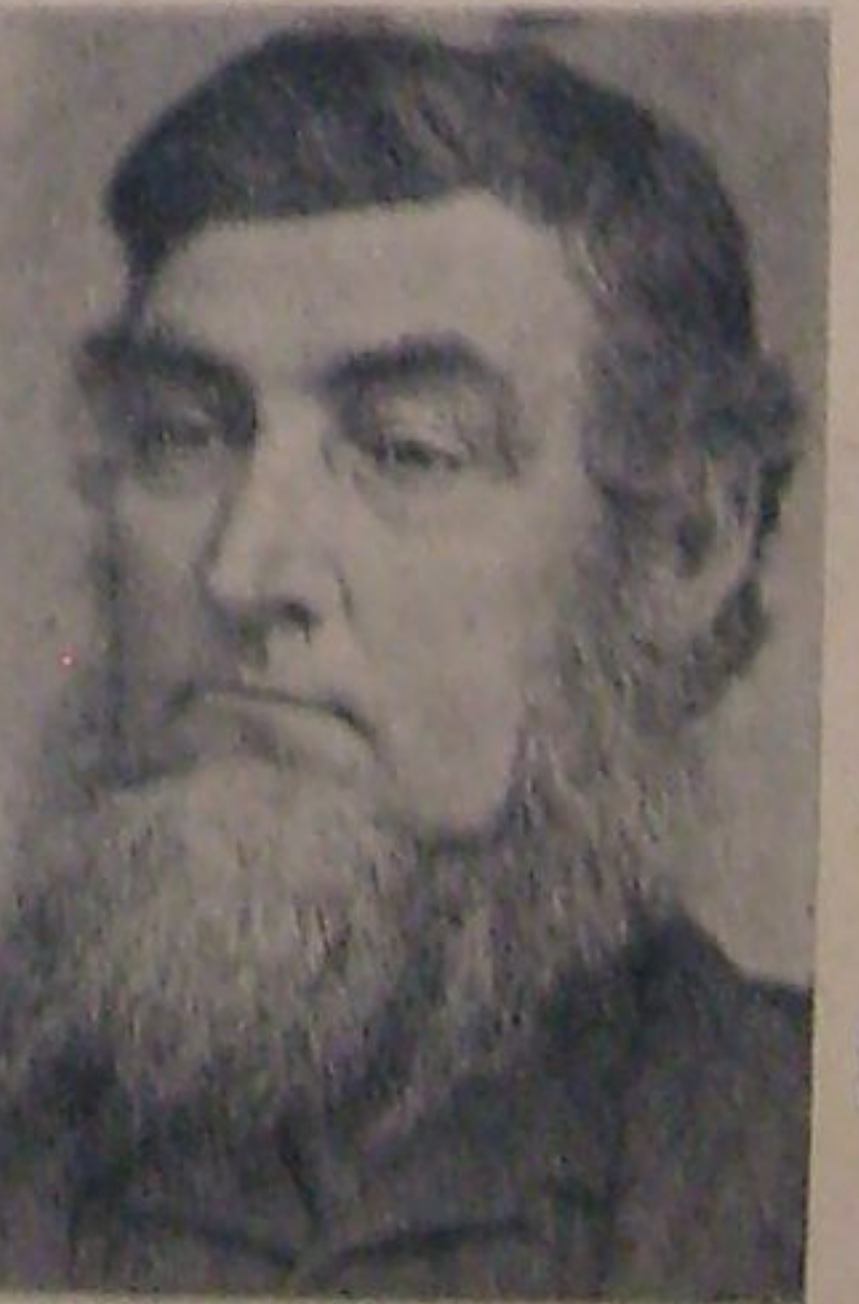
I. O. O. F. Cemetery laid out, 1872. Cost \$2,000.00.

PRESENT OFFICERS: Noble Grand, Eugene Hamilton; Vice Grand, Wm. N. Grim; Secretary, Allen Kling; Treasurer, Alva Stauffer.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEMBERS—44.

12-17-35 Sponsored action to have a new highway bridge at the end of South Jefferson Street.

8-4-38 Sponsored movement to



John Ralston, one of the members of the first Town Board in 1849. Built house where O. M. Whitmire lives.

Glenn Gartin, E. L. Kling, Samuel Stugel, Guy Swartz, L. W. McClurg, H. H. Parks, Reginald Way, H. O. White.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION: To form a body of men thoroughly representative of the business and professional interests of the city.

To unite its members in the closest bonds of good fellowship.

To promote a closer business and social union among them.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 12-17-35 Sponsored action to have a new highway bridge at the end of South Jefferson Street.

8-4-38 Sponsored movement to

CLUSTER LODGE No. 338
DATE OF BEGINNING OF OR-
GANIZATION: Instituted at
Xenia, Indiana, December 28,
1881.

FIRST OFFICERS: Chancellor
Commander, C. M. Blue; Vice
Commander, Frank Linn; Master
of Exchequer, W. W. Minor;
Master of Finance, John Frame;
Inner Guard, Wm. R. Rhodes;
Keeper of Records and Seals,
C. S. Life; Outer Guard, E. A.
Fisher; Preceptor, James Chapman.

CHARTER MEMBERS—30: D. R.
Michals, W. W. Minor, E. A.
Fisher, C. W. Hunt, Jr., Ricketts
Walters, Jr., L. W. Riggs, Chas.
R. Wintz, J. R. Zook, Monroe
Pence, Charles P. Rhodes,
Ricketts Walters, Sr., F. P. Mc-
Kinley, J. L. Sullivan, James
Chapman, Chas. N. Wales,
Thomas R. Walters, Edgar A.
Smith, Frank Linn, T. J. Saxon,
Wm. A. Fisher, C. S. Life, C. E.
Conner, Wm. W. Draper, Harry
Hodson, Wm. R. Rhodes, Joseph
Slack, H. E. Rees, L. D. Lamm,
John O. Frame, Phillip Fox, Eli
O. Pence, C. M. Blue.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF OR-
GANIZATION: The aims and
purposes of this lodge is to cre-
ate a fraternal spirit of brother-
hood among its members and
mankind at large, point the way
to a higher and better standard
of manhood, seek to develop and
maintain character, realize our
own frailties and weaknesses and
learn to overcome them, to prac-
tice Friendship, Charity and
Benevolence.

PRESENT OFFICERS:

Chancellor Commander
Elmer Sullivan
Vice Chancellor Joe Woods
P. Weldon Cunningham
M. A. Xen Mayne
Master of Works Lewis Durkes
Master of Finance Robert Troyer
Keeper of Records and Seals
Delmar Graham
M. E. E. R. Judd
Inner Guard J. C. Harper
Outer Guard Fremont Moore

MEMBERS—45.

THE ORDER OF EASTERN

DATE OF BEGINNING OF OR-
GANIZATION: Converse Chapter
No. 334, O. E. S. Chartered
April 22, 1906.

FIRST OFFICERS: Worthy Ma-
trons, Mrs. Elma Kimball; Wor-
thy Patron, Mr. Arthur Loran;
Associate Matron, Miss Lucella
Wright; Secretary, Miss Myrtle
Boswell; Treasurer, Mrs. Mary
Kelsay; Conductress, Mrs. Sylvia
Therese; Associate Conductress,
Mrs. Therese Royce; Chaplain,
Mrs. Rebecca Foward; Marshal,
Mrs. Marie Loran; Organist,
Mrs. Nellie Kelsay; Adah, Miss
Faye Hatfield; Ruth, Miss Elva
Rennaker; Esther, Mrs. Jane
Woods; Martha, Mrs. Ada Alex-
ander; Electa, Mrs. Elizabeth
Day; Warden, Mrs. Ella Hatfield;
Sentinel, Mr. Joe Boswell.

CHARTER MEMBERS—30: Miss
Edna Rennaker, Mrs. Jennie
Carter, Miss Lucella Wright,
Mrs. Jane Wood, Mrs. Ella Hat-
field, Mrs. Emily Boswell, Miss
Elva Rennaker, Mrs. Rebecca
Edward, Mrs. Lillian Shinn, Mrs.
Rose Stephens, Mrs. Thertie
Royce, Mrs. Mary Kelsay, Mrs.
Myrtle Hartsfield, Mrs. Marie
Loran, Mrs. Lena Hatfield, Mrs.
Mollie Mart, Mrs. Rose Jardine,
Mrs. Fannie Anderson, Mr. Ar-
thur Loran, Mr. Joseph Boswell,
Mr. M. C. Kimball, Mr. Lee
Hatfield, Mrs. Elizabeth Day,
Mrs. Elma Kimball, Miss Faye
Hatfield, Miss Dora Hunt, Miss
Nellie Kelsay, Mrs. Sylvia Ther-
ese, Mrs. Nellie Wood, Mrs.
Ada Alexander.

AIMS OR PURPOSES OF OR-
GANIZATION: The purpose is
beneficent, the teachings moral,
the lessons Scriptural.

PRESENT OFFICERS:

Worthy Matron Mrs. Inez Lyons
Worthy Patron
Mr. Kenneth Hayes
Associate Matron
Mrs. Mabel Snyder
Associate Patron

Secretary

Mrs. Faye Gift
Treasurer Mrs. Almira Malott
Conductress Mrs. Florence Jacob
Associate Conductress

Mrs. Mary Francis

Chaplain Mrs. Gladys Plotner

Mrs. Carol Blake

Organist Mrs. Mary Bissan

Adah Mrs. Goldie E. Slaughter

Ruth Mrs. Maxine Warnock

Esther Mrs. Beverly Hudson

Martha Miss Virginia Brock

Electa Mrs. Myrtle Knox

Warden Mrs. Elizabeth Francis

Sentinel Mr. Rex Snyder

PRESENT NUMBER OF MEM-
BERS—225.

FEDERAL CENSUS

In the recapitulation following

the value of all real estate in

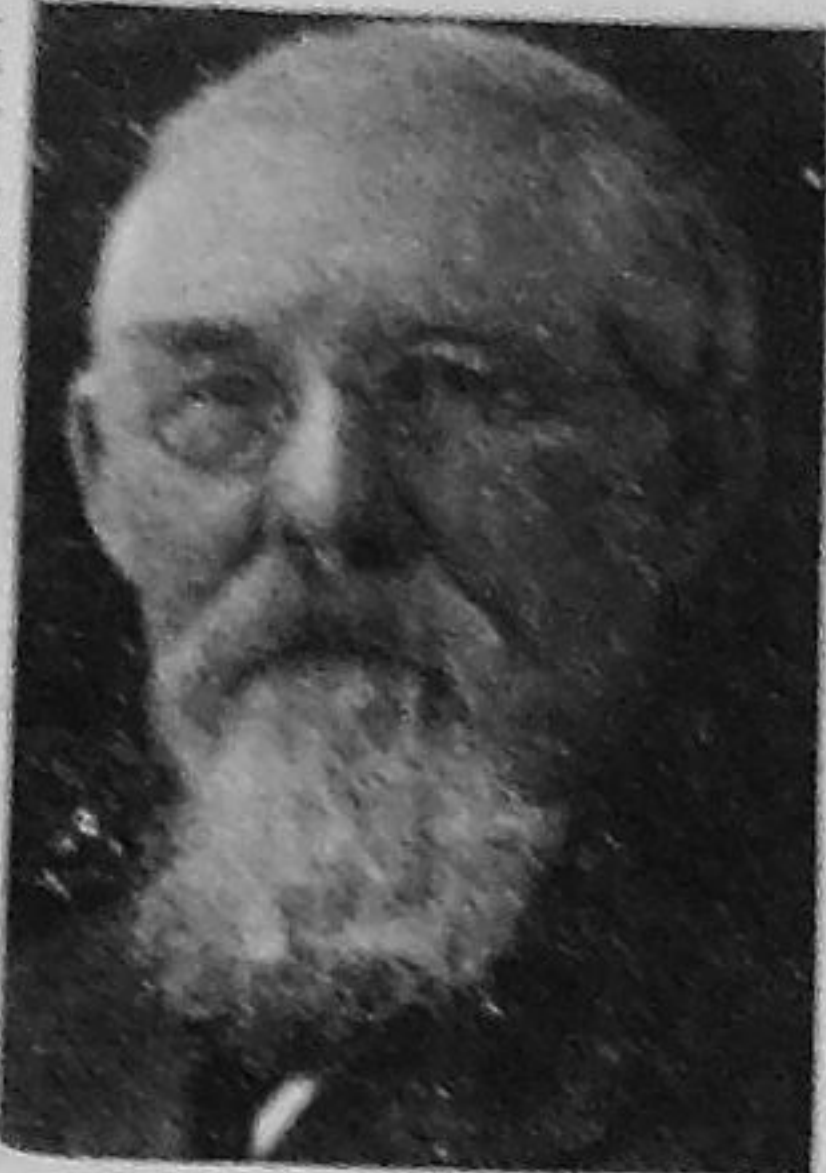
the township is given as \$2,700.

Five couples were married dur-
ing the year.

Twenty-five attended school.

Seventy-six individuals over 20
years of age could neither read
nor write.

There were 90 families listed
in 1864—No. 1875 and 666 Indi-
viduals.



John W. Eward, president of first
Town Board representative.

Hon. John W. Eward, the author
of the history of Jackson township,
a native of Decatur county, In-
diana, was born September 6, 1836,
and is the fifth son of a family of
seven children, of whom James and
Dorcas Eward were the parents,
both natives of Nicholas county,
Kentucky, the former born in 1803
and the latter in 1806. They were
married in their native county,
and in 1831 removed to Decatur
county, Indiana. The father who
was a farmer was also engaged in
the manufacture of flax-seed oil,
and in 1845 he removed to Marion,
Indiana, where his death occurred
a year later. He was an honored
citizen, and was connected with the
Christian church from boyhood.
The mother still resides at Marion.
John W. received a thorough, ordi-
nary education in the public schools
at Marion, Indiana, and while yet
a boy, began learning the tanner's
trade, at which he worked during
the winter, and during the sum-
mer worked in the printing office
at Marion, continuing in the latter
until 1860, when he began teaching
school, and was thus engaged for
two years. He then went into part-
nership with Judge Kelly and pur-
chased the Grant County Union,
which partnership existed until the
fall of 1862, when Judge Kelly was
appointed Provost-Marshal. He
then became associated with Judge
Wallace of Marion, who in the fall
of 1863, was appointed paymaster
of the army, and Mr. Eward con-
tinued to manage the Union until
the return of Judge Wallace, which
was in 1864. They then purchased
the Marion Journal, consolidating
it with the Union. The Journal was
a Republican paper, and was pub-
lished by the above named gentle-
man until 1865, when Mr. Wallace
retired. Mr. Eward continued its
publication one year, when he dis-
posed of his interest and came to
Converse, where he has since re-
sided, identified with the best in-
terests of Miami county. Upon
coming to Converse he was, till
1870, engaged in the mercantile
business with J. W. Flinn & Son.
He then began the practice of law,
and as a Republican, was in 1872
elected to the State Legislature
from Miami county, and served in
the special session of 1872 and the
regular session of 1873, proving a
wise and acceptable legislator. In
1876 he was elected justice of the
peace of his township. He was one
of the organizers and stockholders
of the Xenia Agricultural Society,
of which he has been secretary
many years. He also assisted in or-
ganizing the Old Settlers' Associ-
ation, of which he was president
for eight years, and is a member
of the I. O. O. F. and Masonic frater-
nities, and the Christian church.
He was married in 1865 to Miss
Rebecca York, by whom he is the
father of one living child, Edgar
D., living in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Livestock was allowed to run
loose in the streets of Xenia and
hogs were scavengers and were
also pests.

One of the duties of the marshal
was to gather up the dead hogs
and bury them. His usual fee was
25 cents. One marshal brought in
a bill for 24.25 of which the town
board refused to pay until they in-
vestigated.

To our forefathers brave who the way
did pave,
Just a hundred years ago,
We owe a debt which is unpaid
yet;
I am certain th's is so.

From the tangled mass of the wil-
derness
These men, with heart and hand,
Carved out a spot and rested not
Till they cleared the timbered land,
Toiled with a will and used their
skill

Till the virgin earth was shorn,
And with honest pride they were
satisfied
When our village fair was born.

Now their minds were quick and
their muscles slick,
And their strength was a thousand-
fold;

They tilled, they hoed, they horse-
back rode
As they went on their journeys
bold;

Their faith was strong and their
whiskers long,
And they dressed in their coarse
blue jeans;

They would not care for our dainty
fare;
They ate cornbread and beans.

No autos there to split the air
At seventy miles or more;
No airplanes grand that were apt
to land

Just a few feet from your door;
They had oxen teams and wooden
beams.

And their light was candle power;
Their wool they spun, yet they had
their fun
As they lived each precious hour.

Today we're fed on fine sliced
bread,
No fireplace cooking found;
Commercials flow from the radio,
The New Look's come around;

So let's pause a spell and ponder
well
The comforts these years have
brought,

And with thankful heart let us do
our part
To cherish what Grandsire
wrought.

By MRS. OVID DOAN,
Converse, Ind.

JAMES L. SULLIVAN

Jeweler and Gunsmith

James L. Sullivan came to Xenia
in 1842 and started a jewelry store
in connection with the manufac-
ture of guns. He first started busi-
ness in the building where the li-
brary now stands.

He would buy the barrel with
a hole in it and then with a tool,
he would rifle the barrel by hand.
These barrels were made of
Swedish steel. The rest of the gun
he would manufacture himself; the
stocks, the locks, and other parts.
He even inlaid some of them. He
made his last gun February 15,
1883.

He liked to do fine work, and
make all sorts of little gadgets.
One invention of his was a twin-
striking mechanism for clocks. This
was patented September 20, 1887.
Nearly all clock makers in the
country use this.

For a sign in front of his store,
he made a large double-faced watch
in 1875. This was about 22 inches
across and was installed on a pole.
People depended on this to tell the
time of day.

Among some of the things he
made for recreation were some tiny
scissors, miniature pocket knife
that would open, combination lock
padlock and others.

While the gas boom was at its
height, he made a model of the
gas well drilling outfit, run by
clockworks. This was complete
even to the bolts and screws on
the engine. This model was about
two feet high.

On February 12, 1896, Sullivan
died, leaving his son, Charles, to
carry on the store, which he has
done until the present time; the
business having been in that one
place for 72 years, the oldest busi-
ness in Converse.

For the centennial celebration,
Charles took the big watch out of
storage where it had been since
1894. He cleaned and overhauled
the timepiece and it is now ticking
away gaily in the store as it did
fifty-four years ago as a sign in
front.

JEREMIAH S. KELSEY, M. D.

He was born November 29, 1842,
in Dayton, Ohio, where he received
common school education and com-
pleted his college course.

He began the study of Medicine
at Delphi, Indiana, under Dr. E.
W. H. Beck, attended Medical De-
partment of State University of
Michigan in winter of 1863-64. He
entered Ohio Medical College at
Cincinnati, graduating March 15,
1866.

He began his profession in Car-
roll County and in March, 1866,
he came to Xenia. He went in part-
nership with Dr. A. B. Kimball.

He was married June 23, 1870,
to Mary Koutz. There are three
living children: Thomas W., Glen-
nor R., Julia R.

FAIRMS IN JACKSON—
50 years or more of family
ownership

In the following text the bold
face name is the present owner,
followed by the relationship to the
first owner, then the name of the
first owner, and the number of
years of ownership.

One of the first actions of the
town board was to order sidewalks
built by residents in certain sec-
tions of the town. There being so
much timber, board sidewalks were
their only thought. Residents were
allowed later to use stone, gravel
or brick.

The typical board sidewalk was
made with 4-inch square oak tim-
bers laid lengthwise and cross
boards of 1 1/2-inch oak nailed to
them. For a wider sidewalk, more
timbers were laid down and longer
boards nailed on.

The residents did not like to con-
struct them. Boards constantly
rotted out.

One of the constant expenses of
the town was repair of these side-
walks.

The crossings of 2 1/2-inch oak
were laid across the street at dif-
ferent places for the pedestrians.

One of the difficulties of the
teamsters was pulling their heavy
loads over these crossings.

A man now living in Converse
says he has gotten stuck in the
mud on Jefferson Street in front
of the bank.

These sidewalks were not al-
ways as they appeared on paper.
On Jefferson Street, one property
owner might have a nice sidewalk
in good condition; the next prop-
erty owner would only have boards
laid lengthwise in the mud.

Folks who went barefoot would
often stump their toes. They were
not only children but grown men
and women, especially grown men.
These men had to be careful or
they might be arrested for saying
things.

The citizens became tired of the
expense of board sidewalks and in
1902 when concrete came into gen-
eral use, cement sidewalks were
made. Five years' work of cement-
ing sidewalks was done in two
years.

S. H. Lamb, son, Paula H. Lamb,
30 years; Lu Yona McKay, daugh-
ter, Stroud McKay, 26 years;
Kiley Vadey, grandson, James
Lamb, 24 years; Chester E. and
Velva S. Bandy, grandson, Ed-
mond Lamb, 27 years; L. I. Hallin-
get, L. J. Pence, 74 years; Marie
and Ruth Powell Walker, grand-
daughter, Lewis Powell, 27 years;
Chester Purkes, son, Lewis Purkes,
62 years; Pearl Beall, son, William
Beall, 22 years; Leo and Lu C.
Herd, children, Charles Boyd, 20
years.

Family or Organization Ownership
30 years or more
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The past century has been well
expended and our 14 years in Converse
has found us many friends to be
cherished in the coming century.

May we add our thanks to everyone who helped
make this celebration possible!

Zook and Larrison Funeral Home

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Larrison

Whether it be
service from our store or the
aid in a local celebration, you
will find us cooperative.

Hodson's

CONVERSE

Chronological History of Xenia - Converse, Indiana

1774

Northwest territory captured February 24 by Gen. George Rogers Clark acting under orders from the state of Virginia. Main town was Vincennes.

1787

Organization of Northwest territory October 5. This territory includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin. Gen. Arthur St. Clair was appointed Governor. Ordinance of 1787 prohibited slavery forever. A certain percentage of land was dedicated to Education.

1800

Territory of Indiana organized by Act of Congress May 7. Wm. Henry Harrison appointed Governor. Slavery forever prohibited.

1816

Indiana became a state April 16. Before it was Indiana territory. President signs bill creating state.

1834

Miami County became a distinct political organization on March 1. It took three acts of Legislature to accomplish this:

Act 1—February 1, 1832. Defined boundaries.
Act 2—January 30, 1833. Took a strip of Cass county and gave to Miami.
Act 3—January 2, 1834. Starting of the new counties with new officers.

1840

Last Indian Treaty was held at the "Forks of the Wabash," a short distance south of Huntington, place called Treaty Ground, on November 28. Treaty of Wabash with Miami Indians opened this an Indian Reservation to white settlers. This includes southern parts of Miami and Wabash County, most of Howard and west of Grant.

1842

Thomas Creviston first settler in the township.

1843

O. H. P. Macy settled on his farm where Xenia was laid out.

1844

First birth in Township in May: Susanah, daughter of James C. and Delilah Poulson, born in a cabin in northeast quarter of Section 13.

1846

First death on site of Xenia: Infant child of Thomas and Mary Addington; buried in graveyard in Xenia where Dr. G. M. Reynolds lives. (Ben McDaniel property). Thomas Addington came in 1842, and died approximately 1846.

Jackson Township was organized in 1846. O. H. P. Macy circulated a petition and every one signed but two for they wanted to keep "two and order out as long as possible." Mr. Macy then walked to Lima and presented it to County Commissioners. Settlers wanted it named Liberty but Commissioners named it Jackson. First election in township, cabin of James Poulson.

1847

O. H. P. Macy was appointed first postmaster of Burriet, now Converse, on January 21, 1847; took oath of office on February 19. Postmaster general was Cave Johnson.

1844-7

First doctor was Dr. Frazier; later Dr. Pope; M. D. Ellis; A. C. Kimball; T. C. Kimball; Geo. Egbert; Dr. Snodgrass; R. K. Robinson.

1848

Marriage before 1848. Samuel Draper and Elizabeth Ballinger "got license in Miami County but bride lived in Grant County." Wedding party with the advice of the minister walked across the line into Grant County and were married there in the dense forest.

A marriage in 1848 was Chas. Marine and Maria Ballinger. He bought lot 16 of Oliver Macy, where Mrs. Malott now lives. He bought lot for 1831 in November 21, 1851.

Xenia was laid out September 22, 1848, by Geo. Goodrich, County

Surveyor, for O. H. P. Macy and Willis Elliott; 4 squares, 32 lots; center of which is where the stop light is. Macy didn't get his deed for the 160 A. until May 1, 1849.

First township school on farm of Francis Davis, west side of Converse. A small school was on the east side. School directors were Samuel Draper, O. H. P. Macy and Thomas Mason. Early teachers were Thomas Reece, Mason Sharpe, Elizabeth Cook, David Stanfield and Harvey Cooper.

War with Mexico ends.

The Gold Rush to California.

1850

First lot, No. 21, sold to Olive Phinn on October 23. Lots were 4 rod wide and 8 rod deep. One-fifth of an acre. Price \$15.00.

1851

First store; proprietor was Henry Overman and Eveline Overman. Bought lots 13-14-15 for \$35.00 of O. H. P. Macy, February 1, erected a cabin with lean-to at back on lot 13, where Shell Filling Station is located.

First frame house in Converse (Xenia) was erected by Thomas Davis, grandfather of Martha Brazington Cox and Mrs. Emsley Cox of Amboy.

First church in original plat, Lot 24, where Martha Gordon lives; gift of Willis Elliott, August 5, 1851. In June 30, 1855, not having clear title, trustees paid Mr. Elliott \$30.00 for lot and he gave them back the money. The church flourished greatly until after the civil war and the property was bought by U. B. Church in 1870.

1852

First hotel, Cabin of James Mote who bought lot No. 21 of Willis Elliott for \$25.00 February 17, 1852, where Frank Bly now lives. Mote bought lot No. 22 April 18, 1852, price \$45.00. Claybourne Wright later ran the same place. James Mote was carpenter.

1853

People built homes on their lots and paid for them later, no mortgage or security being taken by either party. James Mote built the two-story part of house where Frank Bly lives; oldest house in Converse.

1855

Second hotel, Claybourne Wright was manager. Same place as first hotel.

Methodists erected house on Wabash Street. \$500.00-\$600.00.

1856

Second addition made to Xenia March, 1856, by O. H. P. Macy and Thomas Addington. 40 lots.

1857

R. R. right-of-way cleared through dense forest; called Marion and Logansport railroad.

1860

Xenia Masons Lodge No. 267 P. and A. M. organized before 1860.

1861-65

April 12, Fall of Ft. Sumpter. Civil War. Many boys went and when returned, started up in business.

1862

Benja B. Lamb almost lynched because of his outspoken anti-slavery attitude.

Dr. Ellis, physician at Xenia was active in recruiting Co. C. 87th Indiana Infantry with the doctor as 1st Lieutenant. Many Xenia boys were in this company. Battle at Gettysburg.

1863

Oliver Macy as sheriff of Miami County.

1864

Coldest day in the century, January 1. Forty degrees below zero. A man from Cary walked from there to Marion and back, going through Xenia both ways. This man was Joseph Ratliff.

1865

Abraham Lincoln shot April 14, died April 15.

1866

About 1866, a frame school house, the second school, was built across creek west from Waterworks on high ground near Mrs. Cook's house on north side of State Road 21. George W. Harvey was teacher two years.

1867

Marion and Logansport R. R. came through in 1867. Right-of-way was cleared before the Civil War. Engines were wood-burners, had to take wood on frequently. Pennsylvania R. R. leased road later.

Third addition to Xenia platted by Frances M. Davis. 29 lots.

1868

Christian Church organized by Henry Olinger. First house erected in 1872.

Converse (Xenia) incorporated, taking in the Phinn addition west across Hole Pipe creek and with it the school.

Regular Hotel erected on Jefferson Street south of R. R. by George Wood. Burned in 1884.

Phinn addition to (Xenia) Converse, platted.

First newspaper in Xenia, called the Xenia Gazette. Second in county. Chas. P. Town issued the

Gazette for two years; sold out to R. K. Robinson, who published until 1874 when the office was destroyed by fire. Was a six column quarto.

I. O. O. F. Lodge No. 320 chartered March, 1868. Hall erected in 1879, cost \$4,000.00. Cemetery laid out in 1872, at cost of \$2,000.00. This is located west of Converse. School Incorporation of Xenia (Converse). First teacher then Dr. Scrambling.

1869

J. W. Eward laid out the 4th plat in the town of "Xenia." It was called the Eward addition.

1869

Fifth plat in Converse (Xenia) laid out by J. N. Converse. 77 lots. First meeting of Town Board, Dec. 22, 1869, after incorporation.

1870

Presbyterian Church at Converse organized November 12, 1870. In 1893 house erected at corner of Marion and Washington Streets. Later they gave up the organization. School held in church at two different times.

First jail built at Xenia.

1871

First Converse Fair (Xenia) September, 1871. Land was leased from 1872 to 1892. The Union Agricultural Society was organized in 1871. Officers were: President, L. M. Reeves; Sec'y-Treas., R. K. Robinson; Treasurer, J. W. Eward; Supt., J. M. Wright. Original stock was 80 shares. Buildings erected.

First town school trustees selected.

1872

Noah's Dove Rebecca Lodge, No. 85, was organized in Xenia. Received their charter June 19, 1872.

Masonic Lodge building burned with all equipment.

New school house on present ground—purchased for \$600.00.

House cost \$7,000.00, interest, grounds and all. This was a two-story brick building with four rooms. An addition was later added for two more rooms.

1873

Origin of name Converse, Miami County Auditor directed the surveyor of county to lay off all irregular lots in town north of railroad so they could be listed for taxation. Survey made, plat filed, that part of Xenia, known as the plat of Converse, after the man who owned the land, J. N. Converse.

This was in addition to lots laid out in 1869 by J. N. Converse.

Old school house offered for sale.

1873

Summer's and Peters' addition to (Xenia) Converse. 18 lots.

1874

Masonic Lodge started again. Belinda S. Davis, addition to Converse, 13 lots.

1877

Disastrous fire in Xenia. Thirteen buildings burned. \$22,000 loss.

A fire engine and company came from Logansport on the train. This fire of April 4 started by an incendiary.

1878

Masonic Lodge building burned again, with all equipment. Surrenders charter.

1879

Second newspaper, Xenia Times, started by Cleveland Reynolds.

1881

Ward and Frank lease Journal, published 9 months, removed shop. Mr. Frame brought his press from Peru.

1882

Grand Army of Republic (G. A. R.), Civil War Veterans, John R. Summers Post No. 59 was organized April 12 with 28 members and in 1889 had a membership of 28.

Xenia Times discontinued.

Town Marshal ordered to keep children off the streets and trains.

1883

Third newspaper, Xenia Journal, was started December 12, 1883, by A. L. Lawshe and Roscoe Kimple.

A. L. Lawshe purchased his partner's share in one year and published paper for many years. When name of town was changed, the name of paper was changed to Converse Journal.

First free gravel road in Miami County, from Santa Fe to Helm's bridge.

1884

Burglar escapes from Marshal.

First bank, Xenia Bank, was established June, 1884, by Robert Spencer, Geo. W. Webster, and Burr Dean. Operated one year.

John Balston builds house of brick south of Canal and R. R. This was a prize as most beautiful house in the district.

Gravel road from Helm's Bridge completed to lumber yard in Xenia. "Xenia and Peru Turnpike."

1885

Third public well made.

Second bank established in spring of 1885, was called Mark Tully's Exchange Bank.

First Fire Department was organized July 1, 1885, with membership of 22. Little Giant Engine purchased, a house 14-ft. by 50-ft. was built.

1886

Xenia Cornet Band was organized September, 1886. 15 members.

First gas well drilled in Converse (Xenia) by concrete bridge west of Converse on east bank of Pipe Creek. Second gas well drilled where Mrs. McDaniel lives, furnished gas for the whole town.

1887

Xenia Gas & Pipe Line Co. was incorporated January 25, 1887. Capital stock \$50,000, 5,000 shares.

Sweeney & Co., of Kokomo, drilled first well to 937 feet deep. The company drilled 8 wells inside city limits of Converse.

Smith and Lee's Addition laid out; 9 lots.

1888

People getting used to gas.

1889

Xenia Real Estate Co. (Gas Co.) drilled wells, first well in 1889 and East Converse grew from 1889-1900. The following industries flourished: Hoop Works; Peerless Glass factory; Foundry and Machine Shop; Malleable Steel Works; Woolen Mills; Hoosier Canning Co.; Chandelier Co.

1891

K. of P. Custer Lodge No. 339 organized at Xenia. 33 members.

1892

Name of "Xenia" changed to Converse August 1, 1892. One of the directors or promoters of the railroad (Marion and Logansport) owned land north of the present R. R., named the building Converse. Xenia was constantly being confused with Xenia, Ohio.

Second Masonic Lodge, No. 601, received charter May, 1892.

1893

First Electric Lights turned on April 20. First electric plant built by Frank Macy. Was as large a plant as Marion had.

The talk of a new railroad—C. I. & E.

Disastrous fire of business houses. Burned from toy factory to gifts store inclusive. Fire fighting apparatus was inadequate.

1894

Water system put in. Well drilled, finished September 20, 1895. Preliminaries started in 1894.

Converse High School became a commissioned High School.

A barkeeper killed a man, hid the body under the floor in a shallow grave; found years afterward in East Converse building. Red Steer Saloon.

1896

Strong talk about proposed railroad to Muncie.

1898

Chicago, Indiana & Eastern Railroad finished. Known as the C. I. & E.

Spanish-American War, from April to August 12.

First home telephone system in Converse, connecting Red Bridge, Somerset, Sweetser, Mier, Amboy.

1899

Clinton Buchanan disappeared.

1901

Second Converse fair, 1901 to 1903. Unofficial census of Converse 2500.

Three rural mail routes were started from Converse.

1902

Brick school burned with all contents, March 5, 1902. There was \$4,000.00 insurance on building and \$1,000.00 on contents.

Present school built. \$13,000.00 borrowed of Peru man. \$5,000.00 insurance on old building.

1902-03

C. & O. Railroad built through the town, cutting through fair ground.

1903

Wide concrete sidewalks put in on Jefferson Street in the business district. Fisher & Lynch, contractors. Chas. Rhyder one of workers.

1903

Wilbur Wright flies first airplane December 17.

Largest high school graduating class in history of school up to that time, June 12, 1903.

Main sewer in Converse surveyed about April 10, 1903. Goes up through the center of Wabash Street.

1904

Alva Dean and Wade Endsley discover mastodon bones on Alva Dean's farm July 29, 1904.

1906

Converse Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, No. 334, chartered April 23.

Jefferson street paved with brick. Contractor L. C. Lillard. Dave Poulson said it took him ten years to pay his assessment.

1907

Farmers State Bank incorporated. Capital stock of \$25,000.

1908

Boyle Fertilizer Factory established.

Third Converse fair from 1908 to present time. Land leased of Lucile Shaw at that time.

1908

Plans for double track on the Pennsylvania.

Water tank on the C. I. & E.

R. B. Burns. Had a fire under the tank to keep it from freezing and it got too hot.

1910

Work on the double track, giving employment to a great many local people.

1911

Miami County Courthouse dedicated April 6.

1914

Wabash Street paved with brick. First ship goes through Panama Canal.

1915

E. C. Carvey started the first H. S. band and orchestra. Clyde Lucas changed it entirely into a band.

1916

Library plans started. Indiana is 100 years old.

1917

Omer Hamblen house finished. Most expensive house in town.

Declaration of war against Germany, April 6.

1918

Library opened December 26. Armistice Day, November 11.

1919

18th Amendment to the Constitution ratified.

1920

First National Bank building built.

1925

On June 7, twelve men were killed on the C. & O. R. R. in the underpass under the Pennsylvania R. R. in a terrible freight train wreck.

1926

High School gymnasium constructed.

1927

Second Wesleyan Church organized February 19 by L. W. Thompson.

1928

Start of the great depression. Break in the stock market.

1929

May 27, Converse Lions Club organized.

November. Attempted kidnapping of O. M. Whitmore, cashier of First National Bank. He escaped by burning one man in the face with his cigar.

1933

State Auto License Bureau established here.

Converse High School Band wins second place in National High School Band contest at Evanston, Illinois. Was recommended to go in 1935 and 1937. A band of 41 pieces was chosen from student body of 20.

State Road 21 paved.



HERE'S TO A ROUSING

CENTENNIAL

May the Celebration Echo for Years



Our Christmas Toy Room Will Be Open Thursday, November 4

**Presenting a Complete Line of Toys
Featuring This Special During Centennial Only!**

**Miamicraft Piper Cub 15c
Manufactured In Converse**

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You're Always Welcome to Come in and Look Around At Any Of Our Stores

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**CONVERSE—GREENTOWN—GAS CITY
ALBANY—LA FOUNTAIN**

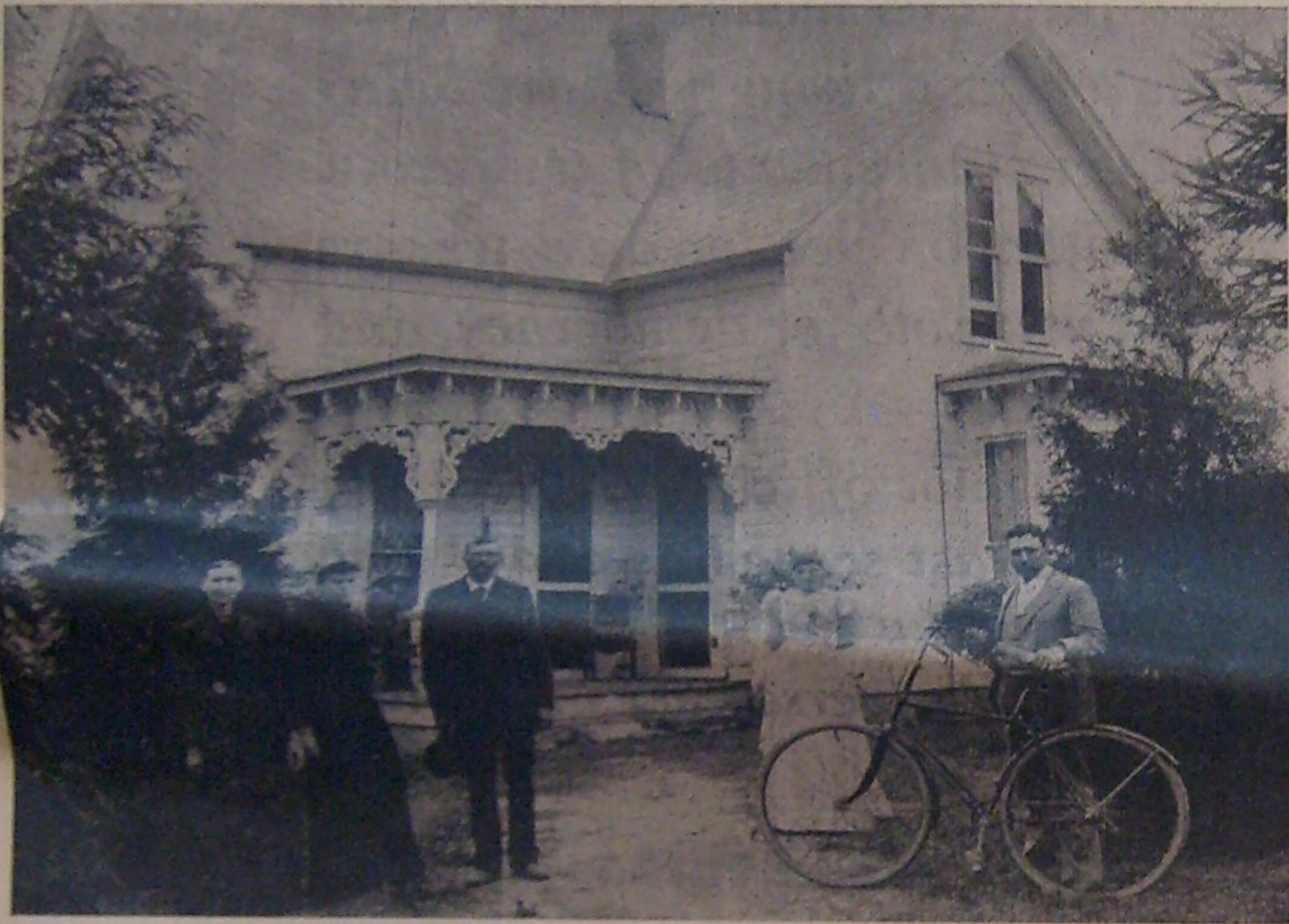




Converse High School graduating class.



Dr. Meredith Kimball family.



William Zimmerman homesteaded in Jackson Township $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Amboy. Picture was taken in June 1886. Reading from left to right: Louisa Symon, Lenna and William Zimmerman; Sally Symons Modlin, and Elias Eundy, one time attorney at Marion.



W. E. Anderson, known as Billy. Lumber dealer in Converse for many years. Has a daughter, Marie, and a sister, Mrs. George Wilson, living here.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Overman. Mr. Overman built what is now the Agness brick building (a part of outlot 66) after the fire of 1894.



Eri Hich Family, who lived from 1870-1887 on farm 1 mile north and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of Converse where Perl Beall now lives.

Someone started a poem with "Tell Me Not in Mournful Numbers". So we are not using Converse's number of "100" or our personal family number of "102" in a mournful sense. Rather, it is used in a plan of jubilation that Converse was solidly enough founded and carefully enough shepherded through the years to be what it is today—an ideal place to spend a lifetime.

I know that those who live here during the next "100" will see a far better mode of life fostered by those standards of good living we have today and enhanced by the improvements of tomorrow. Since this is being written on election day, we are moved to suggest that you vote for democracy and work for yourself.

Our celebration has not officially started but I am sure that when the last scene has ended and the final curtain dropped, that all will say, "It was a good job, well done!" Converse takes its course **FORWARD!**

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CONVERSE.

INDIANA

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY MACY

A Biography of an Early Xenia Pioneer

Written by Irene Macy Strieby
with Corrections and Additions
by Frank Macy

Directly associated with our town since its beginning until his death on September 20, 1898, was Oliver Hazard Perry Macy. He was born near Jacksonburg in Wayne Township, Butler County, Ohio, February 11, 1820, one of a family of five girls and three boys. He was a son of Reuben Folger and Letitia Smith Macy. Reuben Macy's forefathers had come to Massachusetts in the first years of English settlement there. The immigrant, Thomas Macy, an original settler of Salisbury, was one of a group of ten men who purchased the Island of Nantucket in 1659 for thirty pounds and two beaver hats. (In his honor John Greenleaf Whittier wrote a poem of sixty stanzas, telling the story of "Goodman" Macy who left the mainland in protest to persecution following his act of harboring Quakers, a violation of colonial law).

Several generations of the family lived on the Island until incidents with England at the beginning of the Revolution caused their whaling business to decline. Several dozens of the Island families emigrated to North Carolina where they intermarried with those whose families had been living there for more than a century, as well as with descendants of those who had originally come to Pennsylvania with William Penn, all having the common bond of the Society of Friends.

From Guilford County, North Carolina, Reuben F. Macy came to Ohio and in 1811 married Letitia Smith, daughter of Ephraim Smith who had come to the neighboring county of Preble from Union County, South Carolina, then a part of the old Ninety-Six District whence came so many of Indiana's early settlers—many of whom, and others simply seeking more fertile land. At the time of their death, they lived in Middletown, Ohio.

Oliver Macy spent his boyhood in the corner of Ohio through which many of the pioneer settlers passed on their way to Indiana as various parts of the state was thrown open to settlers. He heard many tales of the Miami Country, and the home of numerous Indians.

O. H. P. Macy first came to this part of the country as a drover, driving cattle from Butler County, Ohio to Marion, Indiana, in 1839. He then went back to Butler County, remained there a while and came back to Miami County in 1842.

He married Mary Ann Addington on February 15, 1843, whose death occurred a year or so later. Her relatives had come to Miami County as early as 1842 and it is likely that Oliver Macy selected his land there at the same time or soon thereafter.

South of Converse, and near the creek, he made a temporary three-sided shelter, one side of which was a huge uprooted tree. They lived in this until a cabin could be constructed, and later land was cleared.

On March 25, 1846, Oliver Macy married Elizabeth Hockett, a Grant County subscription school teacher, who was born in the northern part of Wayne County, March 24, 1824.

The Hockett family came to Grant County in 1830 with the

Overmans. Elizabeth's mother was a leading spirit in the Mississinewa Meeting of Friends. Her second husband was Clarkson Willcutts and it was possibly in their home, midway between Roseburg and Marion, that Oliver Macy and Elizabeth Hockett were married. In April of the same year of their marriage, they came back to his cabin and lived in the forest clearing.

O. H. P. Macy was determined that his wife have better medical attention, so when their child was expected, he took a high wheeled wagon (these wheels were about six feet high with narrow, steel tires) and piled it high with straw. They went to Marion, wagon being drawn by an ox-team; this being the first maternity trip of Jackson Township to the hospital, so to speak. This child, named Mary, died of scarlet fever when she was about five years old.

Mr. Macy had been to see a sick child who had the scarlet fever, and the weather being cold, he wore an overcoat. Coming into the warm room of his cabin, he opened his coat and took Mary on his lap, the child thus getting scarlet fever germs.

On February 19, 1847, Oliver Macy was commissioned by Cave Johnson, Postmaster General, to act as postmaster of Burdett,

Indiana. It happens that the first name of Converse was spelled as the pioneers were in the habit of pronouncing the name of J. B. Brouillette, a son of a French trader father and an Indian mother, who roamed the hills of the Wabash Valley as a minister of the gospel in his later days. He was known and respected by our first village postmaster and is buried in the Slocum Cemetery beside the graves of his two wives, the second one of whom was a daughter of Francis Slocum.

The story of the organization of Jackson Township and the part played in it by Oliver Macy is told in early county histories. He secured title to the land which he had located some years earlier by walking to Fort Wayne to make payment. Land office records give the entry date as April 7, 1843; received deed May 1, 1849, and it is described as lying in the N. E. found the family in Peru where Mr. Macy served two terms as sheriff. In 1870 he is listed as a sawmill operator with the children mentioned above, excepting Mary who died before 1860, and in addition, three more sons, Clarkson W., Frank, and Charles E. His timber business was not confined to Jackson Township for, on page 562 of Brant and Fuller's History, there is this note concerning Clay

Township, Miami County: "A steam saw mill was brought to the township several years ago by Messrs. Macy, Darby & Smith. His first saw mill is said to have been operated with Henry Overman and erected in 1852 in Miami, later moved one mile south of Converse.

When the Federal Census of 1880 was taken, Oliver Macy is listed as the owner of a nursery. This same census record indicates that two more deaths had occurred in the family in the preceding two others, Caroline Lightfoot, widow of William Lightfoot, and Rebecca, with her husband, George Mitchell, were living in Converse in 1880. Jonathan Pearson, who was here and gone before 1850, had a daughter Rachel, who married Jonathan Macy, a brother of Oliver. Their son, Taylor Macy, lived near Galveston. Many other relatives were in Grant and Howard Counties, and one Smith family in Wabash.

Oliver Macy and his wife, Elizabeth, are buried in the Converse Cemetery. Two of their daughters are buried here: Sarah Jane and Lucinda, wife of Jesse Kirkman. The Kirkmans had one daughter, Myrtle Rice, and a granddaughter, Milton D., the oldest surviving son in 1880, married Mary O. Hunt in 1890. They are survived

by four children, M. Wales, Oliver Wendall, John Milton, and Irene Elizabeth, four grandchildren and two great grandsons. Clarkson D., Quarter of Section 32, Township 25, Range 6, a part of this land is now occupied by town lots of Converse which was platted as Xenia. Thus Oliver Macy was listed as a farmer in the Federal Census of 1850, where he is listed with his wife and two children, Mary, aged three and William, aged one.

He built a two story hewed, log house on the site of the Dee Rich brick home, at the south side of Converse and East of 513.

In 1852, he erected a two story frame building on Lot #12 at the corner of Marion and Jefferson Streets, the site now occupied by the Carnegie Library. It was here that he lived when three more of his children were born, Lucinda E., Sarah Jane, and Milton D. On page 625, of Brant and Fuller's History of Miami County, 1887, we read that he "carried on a general mercantile business for three or four years. He had previously sold goods with Quincy Baldwin and was one of the first substantial merchants of the town" until elected Sheriff. There were two business rooms and a doctor's office at the side of this frame building. His brother-in-law taught subscription school upstairs over one of the business rooms.

The Federal Census of 1860 decade: the names of Charles E. and William (who died with appendicitis) were missing. The graves of both are in the Old Friend's Cemetery northwest of town. Their mother was a member of the Pipe Creek Meeting one-half mile east of town, to which many of the Carolina pioneer families brought their certificates.

Thus we have unfolded the useful life of a versatile man—a man who used his many talents to serve his community in several ways. These we have noted have been postmaster, county officer, farmer, merchant, nursery owner and saw mill operator. Many of these occupations were carried on simultaneously by one who was also able to supplement his livelihood, when either necessity or opportunity made it advisable by hunting, and the selling of lots.

To the budding community, this family attracted many of their relatives, including the Addingtons and Overmans noted above. Oliver Macy's uncles already mentioned, Jesse, William Isaac, and Thomas Smith, lived in the township between 1850 and 1870. A sister, Maria, and her husband, Andrew Dine, came soon after 1850. Another sister, Lucinda Orr, a widow, married John Sponsler, and lived nearby in Washington Township, a former auditor of Miami County, married Lou McEldowney and had two daughters, Goldie and Hallie, and three grandchildren. The only surviving son of this pioneer family is Frank Macy, who married Edna B. Fowler, has one son, Fowler, and a grandson.

Of his father, the latter said: "My father affiliated with no organization, sect or creed except the Democrat party and his democracy far transcended political beliefs and party names. He was a democrat rather than aristocrat in both principle and practice."

Why don't his sketch appear in the Miami County Histories? The promoters wanted to charge him double what others paid, so he would have none of them.

ABRAHAM I. BEALL

Abraham I. Beall was born in Clark County, Ohio December 27, 1829. His parents were John and Martha Ingham Beall.

Mr. Beall spent his boyhood days on the farm; received a fair education in the public schools and when he was twenty, the family came to Miami County, and in 1858 settled on the farm where he now resides.

He was married in 1855 to Pauline Jump of Cass County. She was the daughter of Charles and Mary Hopkins Jump. To them were born nine children: Marietta, (Mrs. Lewis Powell) Charles J., Henry, Becky, William M., Pearl, Willard, Frank M., and Nora.

Mr. and Mrs. Beall were members of the M. E. Church of Converse.

Mr. and Mrs. Beall by 1887 were the possessors of a 200 acre farm.

JOHN W. EDWARD

He was born in Decatur County, Indiana September 6, 1837; the son of James and Doreas Edward of Kentucky.

He went to the public schools in Marion and started to learn the tanner's trade and during the summer worked in a printing office. He then taught school a while, went in partnership with Judge Kelly and purchased the Grant County Union, a newspaper.

Edward and Kelly purchased the Marion Journal and made one paper. In 1866 Mr. Edward sold the paper and came to Xenia.

His first business was with J. W. Flinn and Son. He then began the practice of law. In 1872 he was elected to the state legislature. In 1876 he was elected Justice of Peace of Jackson Township.

He was one of the organizers and stockholders of the Xenia Agricultural Society, later the Converse Fair. He helped organize The Old Settlers Association of which he was president for 8 years.

He was married in 1855 to Rebecca York. Their four children were Mrs. Jessie Lee, Edgar D., Fred and Elbert.

JOHN O. FRAME

He was Justice of Peace. Was born in Huntington County, Indi-

ana. He was married February 26, 1866 to Ellen Miller. To them were born five children: Elsie, Lila, Nellie, Charles, and Earl.

He learned the blacksmith trade. He was township trustee for two terms.

He was married to Hester Morgan of Ohio in 1869. To them were born two children: Daniel R. and George R.

His grandson now lives in Converse.

AARON MICHAEL

A township trustee. He was born January 27, 1842 in Delaware County, Indiana. He is the oldest son of David and Martha Brenner Michael.

He learned the blacksmith trade. He was township trustee for two terms.

He was married to Hester Morgan of Ohio in 1869. To them were born two children: Daniel R. and George R.

His grandson now lives in Converse.

RUBEN W. SMITH, M. D.

He was the son of John and only son, born in Henry County, Indiana November 29, 1831.

His early education was obtained in common school and finished his education at Indiana University.

At the age of 22, he began the study of medicine, at Wabash, Indiana under Dr. Holloway.

He attended Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati in 1855-56. In 1858 he located in Xenia.

He attended medical college at Indianapolis 1870-71, graduating in 1871.

He married Matilda E. Franklin, descendant of Benjamin Franklin of Henry County, Indiana. To them were born five children: Edgar A., John E., Benjamin F., Jennie and Madge.

He built the house between the Town Hall and the Garage.

CHARLES N. WALES

He was at one time, postmaster of Xenia.

He was born in Union County,

Indiana August 15, 1845; son of James and Jane Haynes Wales.

In 1873 he came to Miami County, located in Xenia and was engaged in the Hardware business for one year and had a lumber yard for a number of years.

On March 4, 1885 he was appointed postmaster. Later he was in the Hardware business for a number of years.

He was married in September, 1870 to Clara Kimball. They have one living child, Fannie, who is Mrs. Bruce Haycock of Converse.

MR. MACY WAKES UP

Camping out one night O. H. P. Macy made a fire under a tree on a creek bank south of town. When he laid down and went to sleep by his fire, he was suddenly awakened during the night by fire and ashes flying on him. He jumped up to find out what was the matter. A small, brown eagle and a hawk were fighting. They fought in and out of the fire, scattering it thoroughly and singed themselves badly; finally fluttering out into the bushes.

He rebuilt the fire and went to sleep again.

Hail! Hail!
The gang's all here
WE, TOO, WISH CONVERSE AND
HER PEOPLE A SUCCESSFUL
CENTENNIAL

G. S. Suppiger Co.

CONVERSE IS CELEBRATING
a great event . . . her 100th year as an established
community. We join her and her people in
commemorating this event

CARVEY FURNITURE CO.

CONVERSE SCHOOL HISTORY

The first school to serve the small settlement of Rurielt, soon to be Xenia, stood on the west side of the present town of Converse, on what was then the farm of Francis Davis. This was a small log building which could accommodate all the students. It was built about the year 1848 and was a township school. The school directors were Samuel Draper, O. H. P. Macy and Thomas Mason. Teachers were Thomas Mason, Mason Sharpe, Elizabeth Cook, David Stanfield and Harvey Cooper. There was also a small school on what is now the east side of Converse in Grant County. This school accommodated the students until 1866 when a frame structure was built west of the library, across the creek on high ground near Mrs. Cook's house. This served until 1872, still being a township school. In 1872 the town of Xenia acquired the present school grounds. On this lot was erected a two story brick building 32 by 72 feet containing four rooms and costing \$8,000.00. Two rooms were added when the school became crowded in the late 1880's.

The first graduate of Converse High School was S. M. Newby in 1884, this being a three-year high school course. There were no more graduates until 1890 when there were three in the class: Clara Kuglier, Nell Frances and Edna Fowler (Mrs. Frank Macy). The year 1891 was missed and in 1892 only one, Nellie Walters (Mrs. Rudolph Agness) graduated. Years 1893 and 1894 had no graduates, but 1895 is outstanding for Converse became a commissioned high school. There were five graduates and the second young man, Merle Agness, graduated. There were students in 1896 and 1897 but no graduates; in 1898 there

were no graduates because four years were required for graduation from then on.

On March 5, 1902, this school house was burned with all the contents, including the children's books. There was \$4,000 insurance on the building and \$1,000 on the contents. After a few days, the children were distributed among churches and lodge buildings for classes.

Immediate plans were started for rebuilding. \$13,000 was borrowed of a Peru man and with the \$5,000 insurance gave them a good start. An act by legislature was required to insure the payment of the \$13,000 by the school town. The next session approved this act.

By May, the foundation was in and the cornerstone was laid in June. The entire building was completed and occupied by Christmas, at a cost of \$25,000. The trustees were J. J. Sumpter, President; C. S. Smethurst, Secretary; and Kenton Garrison, Treasurer. The architect was B. L. French and John E. Barner & Son were the contractors.

The first graduating class in the new building had ten in it. In 1916 there were 17 graduates; in 1924, 20 graduates; in 1931, 25 graduates; 1936, 28 became alumni; and in 1948 again 28 were graduated. Between these high marks the numbers dropped down and would rise again. A total of 706 students have received diplomas from Converse High School, including the lone graduate of 1884.

Extra-curricular activities (outside the prescribed courses of study) have increased with the years until they take as much time as the studies. This has made experiences of the student richer, and has kept many promising students in school when otherwise they would quit. These activities

are band, plays and sports.

One of the main activities is the band. Instrumental music was introduced in the fall of 1914 by E. C. Carvey, an orchestra consisting of eight pieces. The students in this orchestra were Lionel Maple, Ada Ross, Fowler Macy, Naomi White, Joe Harper, Doris Smith and Burton Jardine. Clyde Lucas, the teacher the following year, changed instrumentation so it could be called a band. C. A. McGuire followed Von Snyder as instructor. Under "Doc" McGuire the band of 41 pieces achieved wide recognition and they participated in the national band contest at Evanston, Illinois, in 1933. They placed in 2nd division of class C Bands. The band was recommended to go to the national contest in 1935 and 1937. A saxophone sextette participated in one National. The band won a number of Indiana State Contests. Mr. Eddie Shore followed C. A. McGuire. At the present time Mr. Mack Ralston is the Director of the band.

Athletics have occupied a prominent part in the high school. From 1900 to 1905 high schools went wild on football. Games were played between many high schools. They had regular schedules as in basketball. Due to the roughness and injury to so many players, football ceased to be a high school sport, except in the larger high schools. Rules were changed, making it a safer game. After this basketball became prominent.

Before the gymnasium was built in 1926, basketball was played outdoors from the beginning of the school year until cold weather. They often played in the snow and mud. Visiting teams would come on the trains or drive horses and buggies. Some enthusiastic players used snow banks for back stops. Many are the

stories told of teams' experiences such as driving the chickens out so the boys could dress in their basketball suits—and suits they were, for they couldn't be called "thinly clad". Visiting teams, if victorious, would get showers of rocks instead of shower baths as they attempted to slip out of town. If there were enough rooters with the team, every one was safe enough except for bruised knuckles and black eyes.

One of the outstanding teams was the one for the years 1944 and 1945 which won every scheduled game and were defeated only in the Regional. Another team was the recent one of 1947-48 which won all of the scheduled games but one.

A story is due here about the building of the gymnasium. Plans were made for same, bonds were issued by the town, and the school board was wondering how they would ever sell so many thousands of dollars' worth, when one man bought all of them.

One great accomplishment was the raising of \$2,500 for 50 band uniforms which were worn the first time on October 31, 1947 at a "thank you" festival on Halloween.

When the Amboy school house burned in February, 1945, and no other place was available, the two schools were merged in the fall, thus making a large school. In the same year Converse became a joint school with Jackson Township, and on August 4, 1947, Jackson Township assumed entire control and the school town of Converse was dissolved.

The stability of any organization depends on the long time of service of its personnel and so it is with a school. Teachers who are noted in this way are Ovid Doan, beginning his 23rd year of teaching; Philip Eviston is begin-

ning his 22nd year of teaching and Mrs. E. C. Carvey is beginning her 27th year of teaching, 24 of which are consecutive; and Miss Odo Bryan is beginning her 23rd year of teaching.

Due to the crowded conditions, the annex made of cement blocks, was built in the fall of 1946.

So the school goes on, ever forward, turning out students who take their places in the world, doing their part in making this a better place in which to live, not thinking of themselves alone, but of others.

XENIA CEMETERY

The first person buried in this cemetery was the infant child of Thomas and Mary Addington. It was the first death in Jackson Township, about 1846.

This cemetery was located on the land of Francis Davis. It was a rather high, dry place which, of course, the pioneers always chose. It was 10 rods wide and 11½ rods long, and at present, the house of G. M. Reynolds occupies the site.

A large number of people were buried there until 1864, when the Friends made a cemetery north-west of town.

In 1872, the Odd Fellows laid out the large cemetery east of town. After this, the first cemetery was no longer used.

This cemetery stood for years, covered with graveyard moss and in the summer, high weeds. Large evergreens towered above everything until 1907, when Ben McDaniels cleared off everything and built a white brick house on the site.

In digging a cistern, he ran across two coffins which were made of walnut and as solid as new timber.



RES OF JOSEPH B. MILLS
SEC 32 JACKSON TWP MIAMI CO. IND.



RES OF JOSEPH M. DARBY
SEC 14 JACKSON TWP MIAMI CO. IND.

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**MARBURGER HARDWARE
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Mrs. Lew Marburger Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy C. Lee

To all of you,
from all of us,
a Centennial worthy of our efforts
Brown's Hatchery

Everyone Enjoy the
Celebration
... We Are



Sample
Shell Service

**Here's to the old home
town, long may she live.
CUNNINGHAM'S
GROCERY**

Deed Record of Xenia

Miami County Recorder's Office
Deed Record C. April 1848 to
June 1848
Page 460

Xenia
This town is situated on the west half of the Northwest Quarter and the west half of the north quarter of Section N. 32 Township N. 25 North of Range 4 East. A stone marked Jefferson is placed at the center of the town. The town is bounded by Jefferson and Marion Streets, this street is thirteen chains and ninety links south of the North q. Section Post of Section 32 Town and Range as above. Willis Elliott Esq. as above. Oliver H. P. Macy, Proprietor, Surveyed 22 September A.D. 1848, by George W. Goodrich C.S.M.C. (County Surveyor of Miami Co.) The alleys are 16 1/2 ft. wide and the lots are 4 rods wide and 6 rods deep. Jefferson Street is due North and South Wabash Street runs due East and West. The right angles to Jefferson Street are 66 ft. wide each. Miami County State of Indiana. I certify the within to be the original plat and description of the town of Xenia and as such it is my desire to have it recorded pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.

Willis Elliott

Seal

Lots were 1/5 acre)

State of Indiana
Miami County

Personally came before me William C. Buchanan Recorder of the said County Willis Elliott the above named proprietor and acknowledged the signing and sealing of the within to be his voluntary act and deed for the purpose there in expressed. Given under my hand and seal this 7th day of April A.D. 1849.

William C. Buchanan-Recorder (Seal)

per Joseph Jeffry D.R.

State of Indiana
Miami County

I hereby certify that the within plat and description of the town of Xenia is correct and desire the same to be recorded pursuant to the Statute in such cases made and provided this 31st day of October 1849.

Oliver H. P. Macy (Seal)

State of Indiana
Miami County

Personally appeared before me the subscriber Recorder for said County Oliver H. P. Macy and acknowledged the foregoing certificate to be his voluntary act and deed. Witness my hand this 31st day of October 1849.

William C. Buchanan-Recorder

By Joseph Jeffry D.R.

Filed for Record

Apr. 7, 1849.

At 10 o'clock A.M. Fee \$2.50

Xenia

Original plat of Xenia was laid out Sept. 22, 1848 by George Goodrich, County Surveyor for Oliver H. P. Macy and Willis Elliott 32 lots.

2nd addition by O. H. P. Macy and Thomas Addington in Mar. 1856. 40 lots

3rd addition by F. M. Davis laid out in 1867. 29 lots

4th Plat or addition laid out by J. W. Edward in 1869

5th Plat laid out by J. N. Converse in 1869. 77 lots

6th Smith and Lee's Addition or plat laid out in Sept. 1887.

9 lots

7th B. S. Davis addition. (Belinda S.)

1874, 13 lots

8th Summer's and Peter's Addition 1874 18 lots.

Commissioners Miami Co. to change the name of Xenia, Miami Co. to

Converse

Name Changed August 1, 1892

State of Indiana, Miami Co. S. S. Commissioner's Court

June Term on the 8th day being June 14, 1892, the following proceedings were had and entered of Record to wit:

Comes now

Abraham Lawshe and 214 others by the Auditor and presents petition to change name of town of Xenia to Converse as follows:

To the honorable Board of Commissioners of Miami County, Indiana, we, the undersigned qualified voters, do hereby respectfully petition your honorable body to change the name of the town of Xenia to Converse so as to conform to the name of the R. R. station. Our reason for asking the change is that the R. R. running through said town has ever since built called the station, Converse, for the reason the Xenia, Ohio is on the line of their road and to avoid confusion to shippers, called the station at Xenia "Converse" in counter distinction to Xenia, Ohio, and whereas the name of the station and town being entirely different has caused and does cause conflict and annoyance to both shippers and traveling public, we have deemed it to the interest of all concerned to change the name of said town from "Xenia" to "Converse."

Affidavit from D. W. Bohn et al showing that the petition is signed by more than half of the legal voters of the town, which affidavit is in the words and figures.

And the board after due examination thereof and being fully advised in the premises, find that the petition is signed by the required number of legal voters of said town of Xenia as shown in the foregoing affidavit, and there being no objection thereto, the name of the said town of "Xenia" is changed to the name of "Converse" said change to take effect on the first day of August, 1892; and the auditor is directed to give notice of this change by publication in the "Xenia Review" of Xenia, Indiana, who shall record the same as required by law and the auditor is directed to make this change on the tax duplicate for 1892, and it is further directed that said town of Xenia shall pay all costs of the proceedings.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the said board of County Commissioners at Peru, Indiana this 25th day of June, 1892.

Recorded June 25, 1892 in Miscellaneous Record H, Page 83 and 84.

CHANGE OF NAME FROM "XENIA" TO "CONVERSE"

August 1, 1892

Converse came from the name of a man named Converse who owned land north of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Abraham Lawshe who published the "Xenia Journal" beginning 1859, headed the petition with 214 others for changing the name of the town.

The 214 persons were considered

to be more than half the voters of Xenia.

This petition was to the county commissioners.

The railroad (Pennsylvania) called the name of the station "Converse" because there was an older town in Ohio on R.R. line which was already named Xenia.

Much confusion resulted for passengers; goods and mail being sent to the wrong place. This happened even after the R.R. named the station "Converse." So Xenia, Ohio being the older town, Converse decided to change her name, this being feminine privilege.

Filed in court June 14, 1892.

Acted on June 25, 1892.

Change to take place August 1, 1892.

Recorded June 25, 1892 in Miscellaneous Record H, Pages 83 and 84 at Recorder's office at Peru.

Town of Converse to pay all costs of Court proceedings.

CAVE JOHNSON,

SEAL OF UNITED STATES

Appointment of O. H. P. Macy

as

Postmaster of Burriett

Postmaster General of the United States to all who shall see, present greeting:

Whereas on the 21st day of January 1847, Oliver H. P. Macy was appointed Postmaster of Burriett in the county of Miami, State of Indiana and where as he did on the 19th day of February 1847 execute a bond and has taken the oath of Office as required by law.

Now know ye, that confiding in the integrity, ability and punctuality of said Oliver H. P. Macy—I do commission him a postmaster authorized to execute the duties of that office at Burriett, aforesaid according to the laws of the United States and the regulations of the postoffice Department, to hold said office of Postmaster with all the powers, privileges and emoluments to the same belonging during the pleasure of the Postmaster General of the United States.

The testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the post office department to be affixed at Washington City the 25th day of March in the year of Our Lord, 1847, of the independence of the United States seventy-first.

ABRAHAM L. LAWSHE

Abraham L. Lawshe was editor and proprietor of the Xenia Journal; he was a native of Wabash County, Indiana, born in Somerset October 6, 1860. His father, Henry D. was born in New Jersey; his mother was Hester A. Burgett of Richmond, New York.

Abraham received a good education in the grade school at Somerset. At the age of 17, he apprenticed himself to learn the printers' trade in the office of the Wabash Courier. He was there two years and finished his apprenticeship in Indianapolis at the office of Randall and Fish.

He came to Xenia in December, 1884 and with Roscoe Kimple founded the Xenia Journal. He bought his partner's interest at the end of the year.

October 18, 1882 he married Miss Ann Sweetzer, daughter of James and Mary Lowman Sweetzer.

Abraham was editor of The Journal for many years. He later sold out to another party, Myers and Company.

He served the United States Government in several capacities; one being auditor of the Philippine Islands, another being the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

This story is about a traveling salesman who became disgusted when he couldn't get transportation out of Converse just when he wanted it.

He said to a Converse resident, "I would rather be in Hell than in Converse."

The resident replied, "You can get out of Converse."

THE CONSTANT LOVERS

When Clayborne Wright was keeping a hotel in old Xenia, a young man by the name of Dick Flinn boarded there.

Wright had four daughters; one of them, Mary by name, was a beautiful girl. She and Mr. Flinn fell in love with each other and planned to get married. His father, for some reason, finally broke up the engagement.

Dick never married.

Mr. Wright and his family went to California. Miss Wright married out there. Neither could forget the other. They started correspondence which lasted fifty years, sometimes writing to each other as often as once a week.

Her last letter came on the day of his funeral. The letter was received by Clark Macy. On being informed of his death, she didn't live long after.

Xenia In 1865

By C. Edward Ward

Sixty years ago, Xenia was a little inland hamlet, stuck down in a mudhole between swamps and creeks and miles of native forests of beech, oak, ash, poplar and hundreds of varieties of timbers, black walnut being as common as any. Miles of rail fences were built out of walnut timber and log houses, barns and other buildings were constructed out of the finest timbers which today would be worth millions of dollars.

Thousands of acres of massive trees which would now be of inestimable value were cut and rolled into great piles and burned in order that the land might be made ready for farm purposes.

The very finest of these giant trees were selected and handled in drags and great piles of them were built at the various homes for fire wood when winter approached. Millions of feet of timber is being cut and made into first-class lumber now that would not have received consideration for fuel fifty years ago.

Sixteen miles from Peru, eighteen from Kokomo and Wabash, and twelve miles from Marion with no railroad, with the crude manner of travel in those days, Xenia was isolated from the rest of the world and made and cast her own fortune. Ox teams and horseback or a team of horses to the big wagon were the modes of travel in those days and the condition of the roads were such that only a few miles could be traveled in a day. The best improved roads of that time were called "corduroy" and were constructed by placing timbers crosswise of the road and were soon buried in the mud and supplied the bumps for the traveling public.

Foot travel was preferable in those days and it was not uncommon for men to walk as far as Fort Wayne, Indiana, and many other points rather than splash through the mud on horseback, and then again, it is a fact that there were seasons of the year when it was impossible to travel even on horseback in this country.

FOOTWEAR OF THE PIONEERS

The white man who lived in the forest close to the Indian used moccasins. As soon as the country became thicker settled, the boot and shoe maker came in. The tan yard was one of the industries of the early village, providing leather for all pioneer needs.

The pioneer shoemaker made boots for men who wore them about nine months of the year. These boots were made heavy except on special order.

Having no nails, these boots had pegged-on soles. As the sole wore down, the pegs kept coming through inside. Each man had to have a last, to pound down the pegs. Soles were put on the boots as long as they would hold pegs.

These boots were worn in all kinds of weather with alternate wetting and drying. When the man came to his fireside at night, it was with great difficulty that the boots were removed, which was done with a bootjack, sometimes taking the whole family to remove the boots. The only way a person had protection against cold was to wear heavy socks. The feet of the pioneer would often freeze.

Later, of course, metal shoe nails were used and shoes came more into general use.

Small wonder it is then that men and boys were glad to go barefooted. But oh, what a time they had when they put their boots and shoes on again!



Mrs. Emma Pettit on the right and her sister Mrs. Charlotte Borring of Marion on the left. They are pictured as young ladies.



Mrs. Emma Pettit as she looks today

Mrs. Emma Pettit was a Converse resident for 82 years, she is now nearing 91 years old.

Mrs. Pettit moved from Noblesville, Indiana with her parents in 1865 to a cabin 3 miles south of Converse at the age of 7 years, where her father owned and operated a saw mill. In 1868 they moved to town when she was 9 years of age and lived here all her life until a little over a year ago she was forced to sell her home to live with a daughter Edith in Indianapolis on account of sickness. She now is living on Freedom road, Spencer, Indiana with a daughter Alice Ledford Garner Thursday after Easter, in a place owned by the daughter.



Orville Larison and Harvey Howard

Hail Converse!

Bowland's Service and Groc.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

In the spring of the year 1868, this church had its beginning through the efforts of Elder Henry Olinger. He was one of the Pioneer preachers of the Restoration Movement. Their aim was to restore New Testament Christianity; hence they went everywhere preaching the New Testament as the only source of authority and the only rule of faith and practice.

The church was organized with 11 members. This organization was made in the old United Brethren church which stood on the lot just east of where the water works now stand. These eleven members marked the beginning of the church of Christ in this community.

The names of the charter members are Mrs. Elizabeth Howe, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. T. Sanger, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Whitrow, Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Hayworth, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Olinger.

Shortly after the organization, the doors of the United Brethren church were closed against them and the group went to the old school house that was located across the creek—where they met for a while. The opposition soon deprived them of the use of the school building. They came back to town and rented an upper room in the Saxon Hotel, which stood where the Library now stands. They continued to meet in this rented room until the hotel burned. After this they met in the homes of the brethren, gathering each Lord's Day to observe the communion and to preach the word. Most of this period in the home of Elder Hayworth.

In the year of 1871, a lot was purchased of John W. Eward and Rebecca J. Eward; the present church building stands on this lot. The first building of the church of Christ was erected in the years 1873 and 1874. Following the day of dedication an Evangelistic meeting was held, resulting in 80 additions to the church. Elder Platt was the Evangelist and Elder Traylor was the minister. In 1887, this building was destroyed by fire; immediately they began the work of rebuilding and in 1898, a new building was dedicated. This building served the growing congregation till the year 1918 when the present building was built. This building was dedicated by Elder Charles Nelson Scoville. The church has had a steady growth since through the years and is now filling a real place in the life of the community.

During the 80 years, several strong ministers have occupied the pulpit; several Evangelistic meetings have been held; many home love meetings all have contributed in the churches growth.

During the past 61 years there have been 20 ministers who have served the church. The present minister, R. S. Grubb, has served the church for 24 years.

The purpose of the church is to restore New Testament Christianity and in seeking to do this, the church has no creed but Christ, no book but the Bible. The Lord's Supper is observed each Lord's day; they wear no name but Christian.

The officers of the church are Elders and Deacons. Each church is a unit of itself. There is no ecclesiasticism in the church. It is

democratic in form of government. Minister, R. S. Grubb; S. S. Supt., Willard Riggs; Primary Supt., Mrs. R. S. Grubb; S. S. Secy., Richard Maule; S. S. and Church Treasurer, Paul Hock; Pres. of Church Board, Ray Bester; Clerk of Church, Miller Winegardner; Pres. of Ladies' Aid, Mrs. Wilbert Riggs; Treas. of Ladies' Aid, Mrs. Eddie Smith; Sec. of Ladies' Aid, Mrs. Edna Malott; Trustees of Church, Earl Johnson, John M. Hlesworth, Harley Taylor.

THE RAILROAD AND THE POST OFFICE IN 1897

By John M. D. Reeves

The Union and Logansport railroad was completed through the village in the fall of 1897. My father had been appointed and had a commission as mail clerk on the new railroad; but Joel R. Converse, who was superintendent of the road and for whom the station (and now the town) was named, owned a farm of three hundred and fifty-one acres adjacent to the village, persuaded him to take charge of the farm and he did so.

Father had the contract for furnishing the bridge timbers and the switch ties for the railroad from Union City to Marion. On the completion of this contract, father removed his family, except the eldest son, Lewis, from Mill Grove to the farm referred to. That was the second railroad ride within my memory. The trip of some thirty-six miles required the entire day. The train that carried was a mixed one. The track had not yet been well bal-

lasted, and the train left it once or twice that day. We arrived at Xenia about dark.

At that time the railroad accommodations were somewhat limited. The depot which stood about two or three rods west of the present crossing house, was a de-mounted bus car. It answered for telegraph office, ticket office, express office, passenger room and freight house. The telegraph office was equipped with very primitive instruments; one of which was a "register" resembling somewhat a miniature threshing machine; this instrument recorded the messages by indentations in a strip of white paper.

At that day the post office was kept in a private dwelling house. The postmaster was George W. Hayworth, a tailor by trade, and Squire Hayworth of later days. There were no lock boxes in the office, nor individual boxes of any kind. There was a sort of cabinet or case containing some eleven or twenty pigeon holes. These holes were not numbered, but were lettered instead; thus: A, B, C, etc. and mail placed in box "A," etc. and so on through the alphabet.

PIPE CREEK MEETING

The first Friends "Quakers", who established their homes near and in Converse, first met at the home of Wm. Ballinger. They held their meetings there for some time and finally it was organized and called Pipe Creek Preparative Meeting 12th month, 21st day, 1851.

When the road one-half mile west of Converse was made, the land on both sides was divided into many small plots. This was called the

Quaker road. They elected a fair sized meeting house about the center of that main road. Not only these along the road attended church there but a great many residents of Converse. In this church, twelve Quaker weddings took place in which no civil license was secured, but the church gave them permission to marry. Then some meeting day, these two married themselves; the recorder of marriages filling out a certificate to which the witnesses added their names.

This little Quaker church never had a selected minister or a pulpit but depended on local ministers who made their own living some other way. This church had a partition which was let down from the ceiling so men and women's business meetings could be held separately. Among these ministers were Edna Stanley, Mary Malott, Priscilla Draper, Ephraim Allen, Eliza Draper and visiting ministers.

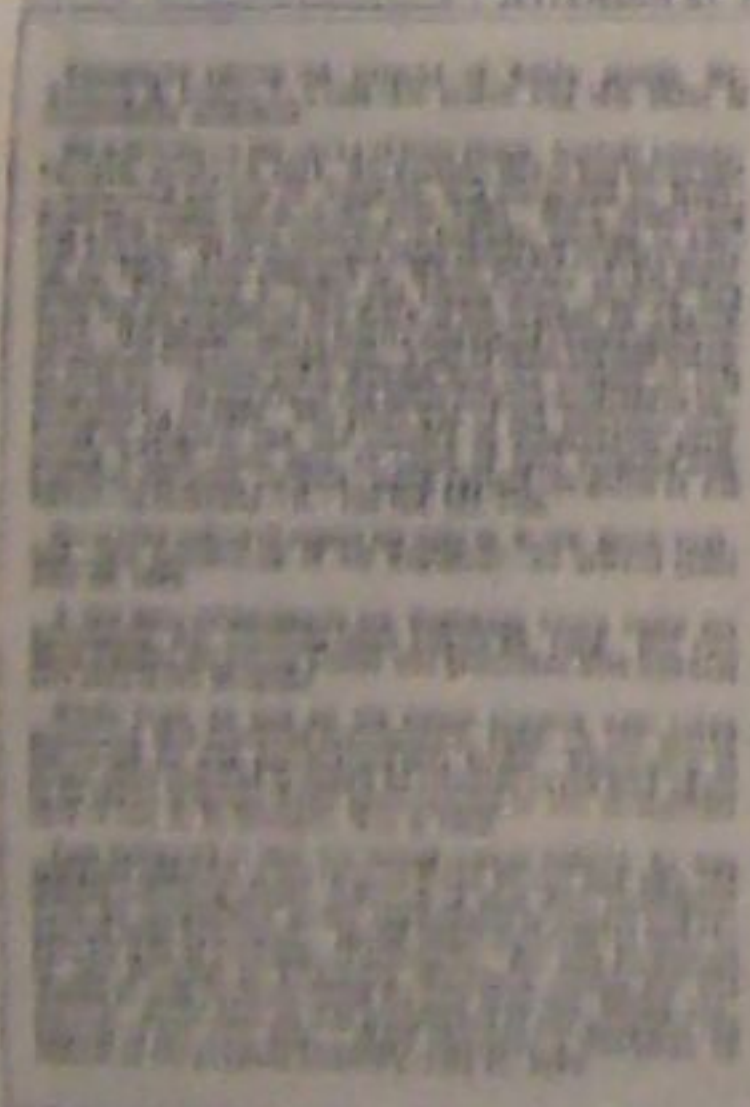
When the church was first built, school was held here three months in the winter to which all the children of the neighborhood and many children from Converse came. These schools were conducted for many years.

The small land holdings along the road were bought by outsiders and the meeting was discontinued in 1896 and the property sold 12th month, 5th, 1896. Heskiah Nation bought it for \$200.00 and he in turn sold it to Harry Garber who reared his family in it.

The remaining members went to other churches in Converse and to Amboy and South Union Quaker churches in western Jackson township.



Res. of A. B. Fisher
DETROIT, MICH. U.S.A.



A. B. Fisher
XENIA, IND.



Mrs. A. B. Fisher
XENIA, IND.



WAREHOUSE & LUMBER YARD OF A. B. FISHER
XENIA, MICH. U.S.A.

DETROIT, MICH. U.S.A.

THANKS

Converse, for a wonderful reception
and may our futures be prosperous
together

CONVERSE ELECTRIC CO.

Your Norge Dealer

PHONE 19

CONVERSE

THANKS to the people
of CONVERSE and surrounding
communities for planning and
perfecting this celebration.

OUR PORTION OF THIS CENTURY
has been small but may our portion of
the coming century be large and
abundant with good will

Mart's Restaurant

**May the coming century
hold peace and prosperity
for us all. Many**

THANKS

**to the people of Converse
who are making our stay
here successful.**

RARICK'S

DRIVE - IN RESTAURANT