

"History of Middletown"
6 October 1987
Dwight Hoover
E.B. Ball Center

- R.G. DUNN Records from mid 19th Century
- TOWNS developed mainly by Promotion - goal to make money
- Rebecca Hackley Reserve (Site for Muncie) APPROX 672 acres
 - Created by TREATY of St. Mary's
- Some abstracts in this area are signed by President - J.P. ADAMS
- Goldsmith Gilbert
 - Yankee - had Trading Post on mississinewa^{SP} River near Eaton - Indian Trader - He was burned out by Indians and filed claim against Fed. Govt - TOOK This money and bought the Hackley Reserve - built Trading Post near Present site of American ~~Legion~~ Legion.
 - His daughter was first White Person born in Delaware County
 - Donated land for Courthouse and church
 - 1827 Samuel Watson and Kirby were here
 - 1 APRIL 1821 MUNCIE incorporated as COUNTY seat of Delaware County
 - Had jail, courthouse and stray Pen (stray cattle)

Charkey Family

- Life of David Charkey in SPECIAL collections - BSU
 - B. 1775 BRUSSIA - APPRENTICE CARPENTER - 1796 came TO U.S.
 - Made cottins - He was NOT religious man - Lived in Philadelphia, Then came TO Ohio in 1800 - 1820 came TO MUNCIE
 - Partner w/ JACKSON
 - BUILT SAWMILL - BOUGHT 327 acres of land in MUNCIE area
 - Stayed in MUNCIE Part of year ^{Summer} PORTSMOUTH other times ^{Winter}
 - GAVE SON Sawmill and 100 acres - he refused it.
 - Much disention Among Charkey and his family
 - Problem With Sawmill - Sank 4' and was ruined - Sold out TO JACKSON and returned TO PORTSMOUTH, Ohio
 - Reported he had a mineral Springs in MUNCIE. That he Claimed cured many of his ills including A Liver complaint in 1836

Gharkey CONT'D

- 1836 - buys a printing press in Portsmouth and takes it to Muncie
first Muncie newspaper - "MUNCIE TONING" 1837
- 1840 Goes to Missouri and buys land
- 1841 back in Muncie - sells printing press to Muncie resident
- Expresses desire to be buried in Muncie, but he dies in Portsmouth in 1848
at 73 yrs old - he dies of Cholera
- 1846 Description of Muncie by Gharkey
 - 600 inhabitants, Courthouse, Jail, Seminary (Academy), Postoffice,
Point Shop, Two churches, flour mill, saw mill, wool carting and
folding, four taverns, eight mercantile and drug stores, two groceries
AND various mechanics
- MOST businesses that failed were groceries
- Characteristics of Muncie from 1850 census
- median age - 18 today - 31 57% of population under 18
- 52% male, 48% female
- NO unskilled laborers listed
- 85% of workers are skilled - Carpenters, Painters, Blacksmiths,
Cabinet makers, millers (all connected with a rural economy)
- 15% semi-skilled - Carter, well digger, mill wright
- 33% NOT manual workers - owned businesses, doctors, etc.
- 96% natural born Americans - most being born in other states
- 45% born in Indiana
- 99.5% white - 1 black family in Muncie - 4 members = .5% (Scott)
- 93% Literate
 - def.: ability to either read or write
- 28% were attending or had attended school in the past 12 months

Neeley Family

(3)

Thomas Neeley (his diary appears in "Our Neighborhood" column)

- Born 1811 in Pennsylvania - Apprenticed to a blacksmith - moved to Miami Co., Ohio; Then to Troy, Ohio; Then to Muncie in 1839. He married his wife Matilda in Pa. before coming to Muncie. He has two daughters who had been born in Ohio.
- His impressions of Muncie: Two stores - Willard & Kirby and Jack & Russey
- Opened grocery store ran it for 6 months
- Became a blacksmith - Partner of Whiteside - Lasted for 4 years They split up and opened separate shops - Later sold Neeley his land and business
- Moses (brother of Thomas) comes to Muncie with Thomas and opens dry goods store and has other businesses (drug store)
- Blacksmith shop was in downtown area
- Religious services were routinely held in courthouse - listed as deacon in Presb. church
- ~~13 Jan 1832~~ Sells he is actively engaged in selling land on routine basis
- 1850 census reports his worth at \$1900 on tax duplicate
- Enters construction business - helped build Seminary (located where Jefferson school stood) His brother Moses was also involved in this venture and it took them five years to construct - The seminary was a boy school
- 1852 Neeley and Davis Hardware - Davis had a tavern in part of the building ("Joseph Davis House"). - By 1853 Hardware out of business
- Dec 1858 GOT contract to build jail (2nd one) and Sheriff res.
- 1842 Elected to County Commissioners served for 6 years
- He is responsible for bringing first railroad to Muncie to bring iron for his blacksmith shop from Cincinnati.

Thomas Hecley cont'd

- 1850 County commissioners collect money to build school in district 9 - Elected director of the school
- 1858 Board of Education - Built schools with Adams
 - Gives up blacksmithing and opens Muncie's first photo gallery at corner of main and Mulberry

• Census 1860 for Hecley

- Photographer / \$8,000 Real Estate / \$1000 Personal Property
- 2 apprentices living in his home from New York State (brothers - Abbey 23 yrs old and 26 yrs old)
- 3 Children listed: Martha - b. Ohio (Jenny) she writes diary by 1860 she is 22 yrs old and teaching school in Muncie

Mary - b. Ohio 1852 married - Watchell (merchant family from 1850's to World War one)

Thadeus 18 years old

ALONZO (LON) or Leonodus 14 yrs old later married woman from Grand Rapids, Michigan and was partner in photo business

Thadeus 18 years old

- Went to Civil War
- 1872 starts Lumber Co. (Brown and Hecley) Credit reporter from DUND skeptic about them - Thomas Hecley reported to be worth \$50,000
 - Brown leaves partnership by 1874, business fails by 1875
 - opens boot and shoe store with partner Cyeman - sells his share to Whipple after 2 1/2 years
 - 1878 Thad and partner Cornelius (from Portland) open roller skate factory in Portland.
 - Held PATENT ON "The Muncie Roller Skate"
 - 1879 move factory to Muncie, 1880 buys out Cornelius

THAD NEELEY CONT'D

(5)

- MUNCIE ROLLER SKATE COMPANY SELLING 40-50 THOUSAND SKATES ALL OVER U.S. AND IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES - GOLD PLATED SKATES \$25.00
25 employees - ROLLER SKATING CRAZE IN MUNCIE - ONLY 4 SKATE COMPANIES IN U.S. - THOMAS CLAIMED HE WAS SELLING 25% OF ALL SKATES SOLD IN U.S.
- 1894 MUNCIE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS: FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, TENNIS, AND POLO (PLAYED ON ROLLER SKATES) "MUNCIE POLO TEAM"
- 1884 WORTH \$10,000; 1885 - \$20,000
- 1888 - PARTNERSHIP KIRBY / _____ MUNCIE CART CO

KIRBY

- GEORGE, SON OF THOMAS CAME TO MUNCIE IN 1830 AS A PADDLER
- HE BECAME A RICH MAN
- FORMED STORE WITH A PARTNER - KIRBY & WILLARD LOCATED WASHINGTON & HIGH ST.
- BECAME A FARMER - WAS A PRESBYTERIAN - TOWN PROMOTER
- PROPRIETOR OF MUNCIE TO MIDDLETOWN TURNPIKE
- BUTCHED(?) - LATER MUNCIE CART CO. - LASTED 1 YR - END JULY 1888

LON NEELEY

- ~~THE~~ DUNN REPORT 1872
 - AGE 26 - BORROWING MONEY - CREDIT REPORTER NOT IMPRESSED
 - DESCRIBED HIM AS "WITHOUT MUCH SMARTS."
 - PARTNER IN FATHERS PHOTO BUSINESS
 - WORTH ONE TO TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS
- 1885 BOUGHT BOOT AND SHOE STORE (LITTLE AND NEELEY)
- WILLIAM LITTLE
 - HAD ALL ABSTRACTS OF ALL PROPERTY IN DELAWARE CO.
 - GOT MONEY FOR STORE FROM MOTHER-IN-LAW
 - MONEY, PROPERTY IN WIFE'S NAME

10/13/81

CANALS

- Whitewater & Central never built
 - Neither made it too much
 - Small towns buying electrical power from later urban lines
- BOOK The Social Order of a frontier community JACKSONVILLE, FL

"Conflict in the Community 1900-1920"

- 1893 Police force formed
- Red light area: South of RR on Walnut St.
- Division between wet & dry

Symbolic fight - Who is going to control the town

Republican town since Civil War

Daisy Barr
Doc Bunch

1890's Turkey was mayor Democratic Party (1895-1900)

- 1905 Republican adm. move toward Prohibition tries to prohibit
cigarettes - were for more stringent rules against anything going on
on Sunday "blue laws"
- 1909 Democrats sweep elections

DAISY DOUGLAS BARR

B. Jonesboro Ind 1878 - Friends minister - active in
Republican Party - Vice chair of Rep Party - Queen of Gold

most - in serial engravings of Klu Klux Klan

1st minister Esther ^{Frame} (Friends Church)

many Hordard helped start First Friends Church

- 1878 Frame returns & held revival
 - Social Purging - Edifying Prostitutes,
- 1895 - Ind Leg prohibition law - as county could vote
itself dry
- 1905 - law to all voters to make entire county dry

Mar 1909 Del. Co. Election Voted COUNTY Dry - TOWNS NOT DRY
 Spring 1911 Mrs Barr (Preacher at Friends Church) - organizes the "Dry League"
 4/7/1911 Election set to vote on going wet or dry

- Wet women in cities; Townships in county went dry
- ~~1000~~ 65 Saloons / 1000 votes - 30 saloons would be legal
- Most of saloons located in Business district

1911 • 4th of July - Pres. Taft in Muncie
 • Muncie to have YMCA
 • YMCA developed by Mrs. Barr in Muncie
 • Mrs Barr argues that Blue laws should be more stringently adhered to.

• become involved in politics esp election 1913

— • Citizens Party - split off of Republican Party
 • led by Joe F. Goddard - Frank Baal - Kimbrough

1913 • Winner of election Doc Bunch - Doctor - St. John's Mennonite Church member -

• Human Soc Powerful Political group
 • Barr - President

• 1st Al Freda Naer first Policewoman in Muncie - Democrat, wet
 • INTERSTATE AUTO mobile first car to be mfgd in Muncie
friendly TWP for fallen women (ex prostitutes)
 • lectured 3 WKS

3/4

1914 election DRYs won - BUT LOTS of Problems

- Barr book of sermons in Ind. State Library
- dies auto accident 1938
- Went to Ill 1925 ran for congress - unsuccessful

Rolland 6.

Doc Bunch (West Faction)

B. 12/12/1881 Geneva, Ind - father doctor - moved to Desoto
attended Muncie Schools - Culver military school - Grad first
in his class at medical school - married Ruth Racer from
Hartford City - 1904 arrived Wm into his father's office -

• Boxing "Kid Bunch"

• Coach 1906 Muncie football team

becomes member of sporting groups & saloons

1905 first run for city council loses by only 18 votes

1909 wins city council seat

1913 becomes political promoter runs for Mayor

• beats Tubey in election

• 5 candidates running

1913 Election	• Harry Kirtleman (Progressive Republican)	1367	1367
			1367
	(Citizens Party)		

• Wm T. Jancy (Republican Party)

Bunch (Democratic Party) 2200

(Socialist Party)

• Bunch removes Fred Pucker from Police force

• Set up City Market (Cheaper prices for goods)

• opened municipal coal yard (Cheaper coal)

• free medical clinic for city poor

• Continued medical practice during his Mayor term

• Bunch was rumored to be involved in Taxes, etc

MAR 29, 1915 • indicted by Grand Jury for conspiracy to allow slot
machines in the town. NOT convicted

MAR 29, 1916 Wet/Dry election - Wets win by 55 votes

1917 Election

Bunch Won Primary
Republican Charles Shafter - Sust for Hill Clay Pot Co.

- Women formed support groups for Shafter
- Bunch won by a landslide

1919

Bunch indicted of using mails to defraud (Federal charge)

Convicted 3 yrs of Fed Penit in Atlanta

1919 lost Mayor race to Doc. Quick

1931-1934-38 Mayor again

Died 1948

1927 obtained Presidential Pardon

• Leo Vasant secretary & Chauffer to Bunch

Beacat Jr. Drive-in on 12th St between Walnut & High

- owned by Bunch

10/20/87
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"My Grandfather's Middletown"

- Singers Bakery
- Hackley St. Airport

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Muncie as Middletown

"Small City Study"

Helen Lynd

Grad Wellesly

Master at Columbia Univ.

~~the~~

Robert Lynd

B. 1892 New Albany, Ind

1914 Grad Princeton

1918 - Army

- obtained Presby. minister
- never had regular church

1924 - 1925 Lynds were in muncie

1926 - study finished

Lynds left nurse 1925 back to NYC

Nelan taught Social Philosophy

Robert taught at Columbia Univ

Robert back to nursing 1935 Summer ^{Middletown} Middletown in transition

Middletown in transition
1 ch on religion 5%

Middletown
4 ch 20%

4.5 mtg on govt

1/5

20% on leisure

10%

Religious chapters not very good

Life mag squad on Middletown

Margaret Burke White Photos. 1937

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

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SCHOOL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION
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(formerly The Minnetrista Center)
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you for your check to cover registration in the
program identified as follows:

History of Middletown, USA Oct. 6, 1987 7 - 9 pm

We believe you will enjoy and receive many benefits
from your participation in the program.

E. B. BALL CENTER NON CREDIT PROGRAM

By: Helen Heath 9/21/87
date