2022

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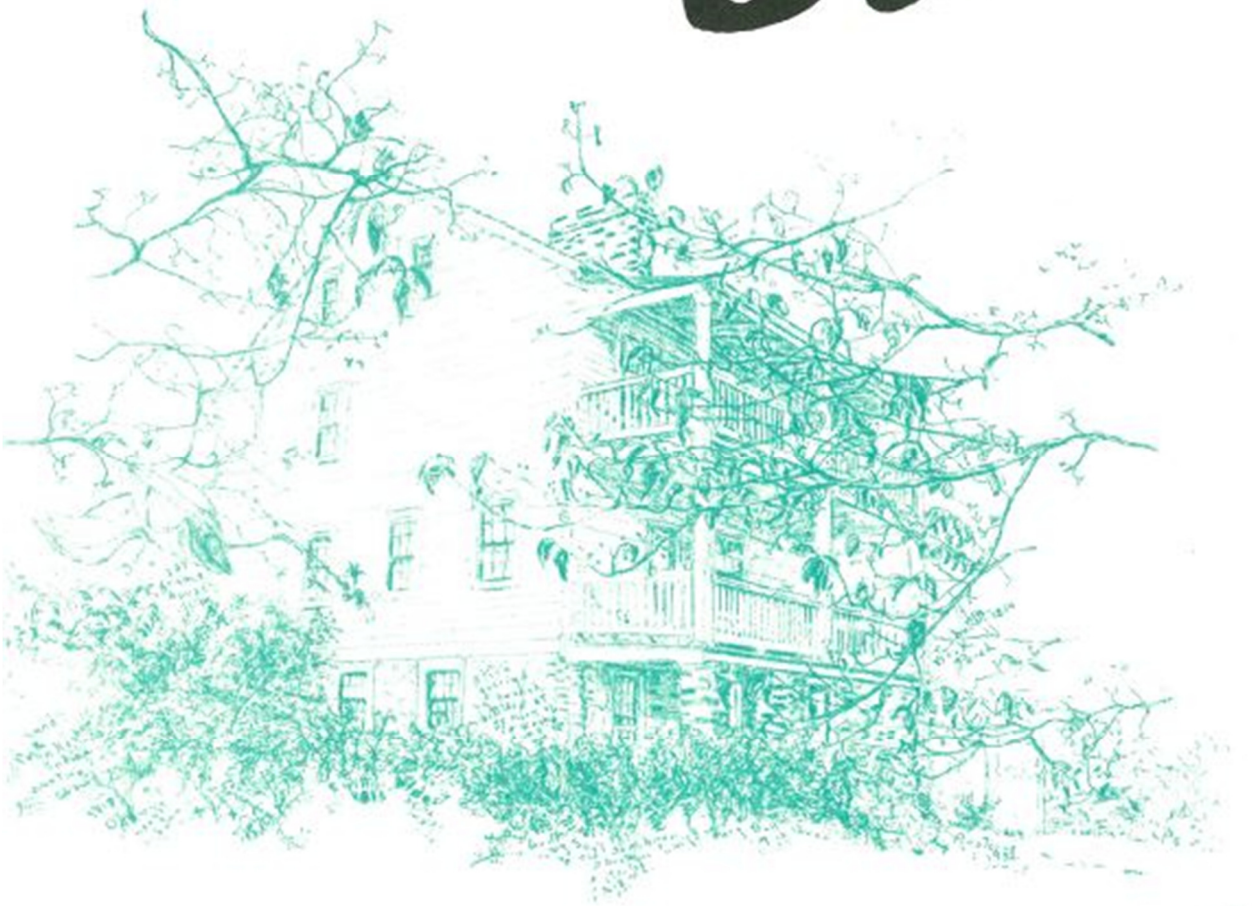

Community

Nestled in the hills of southern Indiana along the Ohio River, Floyd County abounds in beauty and history. The Floyd County Historical Society hopes you will enjoy and appreciate this booklet on the varied and fascinating history of Floyd County and New Albany.

David C. Barksdale, President
Floyd County Historical Society
(https://fchsIN.org)

The Society also wishes to thank the following local artists
for permission to use their works:

Robert Applegate
Toni Eisenhaur
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Printed by Highway Press

Special thanks to:
David & Debra Barksdale, Vic Megenity, *Pamela & Curt Peters*,
David Ruckman, Cathy Sterrett, and Don & Carol Watson
for 2022 financial support

Major Supporters and Donors

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New Albany Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation

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Indiana / Floyd County

Compiled From

The Story of Floyd County - 1971
This is Your Community - 1998
This is Your Community - 1966

Materials of the New Albany Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation

New Albany on the Ohio - Betty Lou Amster

A brief History of New Albany and Floyd County - Ella Strassweg

Historic Series of New Albany

History of the Ohio Falls Cities and their Counties, Vol II - 1882

Materials of the Floyd County Library - Indiana History Room

Published by the Floyd County Historical Society
for use by Floyd County Third Grade Students
2022

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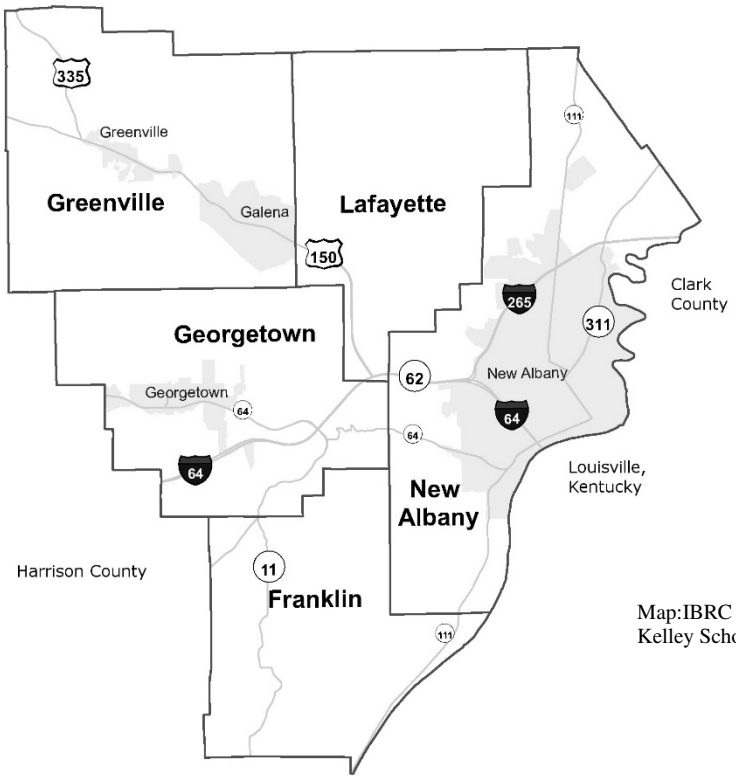


Map:IBRC at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business

Geography of Floyd County

Floyd County is one of 92 counties in the state of Indiana. It is in the southern part of Indiana across the Ohio River from Kentucky. In 1819 part of Clark County and part of Harrison County were combined to form Floyd County. The county was named after Davis Floyd, an early settler and later the first judge in the county.

Floyd County is the second smallest county in Indiana. It contains 149 square miles. The county is divided into five townships. The county seat is New Albany which is in New Albany township. The city of New Albany contains about one-half of the county population of 77,000.

The eastern border of New Albany and Franklin townships is the Ohio River. New Albany is located just downriver from the Falls of the Ohio. A vast sea once covered Indiana (over 400 million years ago). The fossils in the Falls area lived in that sea. Gradually, the land rose and pushed the sea away.

The Ohio River is now about 380 feet (120 m) above sea level below the falls. New Albany is about 50 feet higher. Floyds Knobs rise sharply to the west. This is some of the hilliest country in Indiana. The highest point is in the eastern Knobs, overlooking New Albany. South Skyline Drive and North Skyline Drive are just over 1,000 ft (300 m) above sea level.

Other than the Ohio River, none of the streams of Floyd County are navigable. Silver Creek is the largest creek in the county and is part of the boundary with Clark County. Other creeks include Falling Run, Big Indian, Little Indian, Richland, Slate Run, Muddy Creek, Knob Creek and Jacobs Creek. There are no natural lakes in Floyd County.

Floyd County Timeline

(1671) Simon de Saint-Lusson claimed most of the area for France.
(1728 - 1732) Vincennes established on Wabash River by France, first European settlement in area.
(1752- 1753) Smallpox epidemic devastated local Indian population.
(1763) England gained control of Vincennes and Indiana area; Proclamation of 1763 forbade settlement west of Appalachian Mountains; British sent Indian war parties to attack settlers who disobeyed the proclamation.
(1772) General Gage ordered France to leave settlements in Wabash Valley, demanded land deeds.
(1774) British Parliament passed Quebec Act, French settlements, including Indiana, were included in province of Quebec.
(1777) British encouraged Indians to attack settlers in Indiana.
(1778) Colonel George Rogers Clark's expedition captured Fort Sackville at Vincennes; Indiana became part of Virginia; British Governor Henry Hamilton overtook Fort Sackville. In 1779 Clark recaptured Sackville(Vincennes).
(1781) The state of Virginia authorized **Clarks Grant** on January 2, 1781, providing land for the soldiers and officers who fought in the Illinois campaign. The land was allotted in 1784.
(1783) Treaty of Paris gave modern-day Indiana and other lands east of the Mississippi River to United States.
(1786) All of the lands of Clarks Grant west of Silver Creek (now Floyd County) were assigned to individuals by 1786.
(1787) Continental Congress created the **Northwest Territory**; territory to be governed by a governor, three judges; laws prohibited slavery, encouraged public education, guaranteed religious freedom and civil rights.
(1792) Squire Boone, the brother of Daniel Boone, came to nearby Harrison County.
(1801) Clark County formed. This encompassed all of the current Floyd and Harrison Counties. The northern boundary went as far as what is now Muncie Indiana.
(1803) Lewis & Clark expedition formed in Clarksville.
(1804) Indian Treaty establishes a line between Indian and white lands.
(1804) Robert LaFollette and his family moved into what is now Franklin Township, Floyd County on November 4, 1804.
(1807) Settlement in Georgetown area by **Patrick Shields**, a Virginian who became prominent in early Indiana affairs.
(1810) John & Nancy Chew settle in present day Lafayette Township.
(1811) The New Madrid earthquake shakes the Midwest. The 7.5–7.9 magnitude quake near what is now Memphis, TN on December 16, 1811, followed by a magnitude 7.4 aftershock on the same day were felt in Floyd County and beyond. Aftershocks continued until 21 Apr 1812.
(1812) America declares war on Great Britain in December (War of 1812).
(1812) John Paul sells much of what is now southern Floyd to the Scribners.
(1813) New Albany founded.
(1814) Scribner House completed.
(1816) Indiana becomes the nineteenth state.
(1817) New Albany incorporated as a town in Clark County.
(1819) Floyd County formed from Harrison and Clark Counties. New Albany becomes the county seat.
(1820) Floyd County's population is 2,776.
(1820) Census reports eight **African-Americans** living with Whites as slaves or indentured servants. The 1816 constitution prohibits slavery.
(1820) First covered bridge in Indiana built over Little Indian Creek near what would become Floyds Knobs.
(1820) A Mr. Foyle began the first stagecoach line in Indiana on the buffalo trace from New Albany to Vincennes. Settlers continued to stream into what had been a wilderness.
(1824) State capitol moved from Corydon to Indianapolis.
(1830) First canal built allowing traffic around the Falls (on the Kentucky side of the river).
(1830) Floyd County's population is 6,361.
(1830) Census reports 180 free **African-Americans** living in Floyd County.
(1840) Floyd County's population is 9,454.

(1845) Mexican War begins. Many Hoosiers go to Mexico to fight. Five Indiana regiments were formed at Camp Whitcomb (near Spring Street and Beharrell Ave.) in 1846-1847 for service in the Mexican War.
(1847) New Albany & Salem Railroad established.
(1850) Floyd County's population is 14,875. New Albany is Indiana's largest city.
(1851) Second constitution of the State of Indiana adopted. Contains racist elements. Some protection of women.
(1853) Scottsville platted. (northern Floyd County)
(1853) New Albany High School opened, the first public high school in the state.
(1854) New Albany & Salem RR completes service to Michigan City, Indiana.
(1857) Floyd County Fairgrounds created near the site of the current Fairmont Elementary School.
(1860) Floyd County's population is 20,183.
(1861) Civil War begins. Camp Noble established at Floyd County Fairgrounds.
(1861) 23rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry formed at Camp Noble. 1st service Sept. 61 at Paducah Kentucky.
(1865) Civil War ends.
(1870) Floyd County's population is 23,300.
(1880) Floyd County's population is 24,590.
(1880) African-American High School, **Scribner High School**, opens (closed 1952).
(1881) Railroad Tunnel connects New Albany/Floyd with the west.
(1883) Flood disrupts commerce, drives residents from their homes.
(1886) K&I Bridge built between New Albany, Floyd County and Louisville. It included a single track and two wagon ways allowing wagons and other animal powered vehicles to cross the river other than by ferry.
(1898) Floyd County's population is 29,458.
(1898) United States goes to war against Spain.
(1900) Floyd County's population is 30,118.
(1913) New Albany Centennial Celebration is held.
(1913) K&I Bridge rebuilt to handle heavier loads and automobile traffic.
(1913-14) Edwin Hubble, taught at New Albany High School and coached basketball. He is regarded as one of the most important astronomers of all time.
(1917) Massive cyclone (tornado) hits Floyd County causing damage and death in New Albany.
(1917) United States enters the war in Europe on April 6, 1917.
(1918) Spanish Flu kills 675,000 Americans, more Americans than died in World War I.
(1918) World War I ends. Thirty-four Floyd Countians die in the war.
(1930) Floyd County's population is 34,665.
(1932) During the Great Depression, unemployment exceeded 25% statewide. Southern Indiana was hard hit, and unemployment topped 50% during the worst years.
(1937) Flooding devastates entire Ohio River valley. New Albany downtown underwater.
(1937) New Albany Housing Authority began providing affordable housing to New Albany residents.
(1940) Floyd County's population is 35,061.
(1941) Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. United States enters the war against the Axis Powers.
(1948) Army Corps of Engineers completes flood wall between New Albany and the Ohio River. Flooding still occurs in other parts of the county.
(1949) President Harry S. Truman appoints Floyd County native, NAHS and IU grad, **Sherman Minton** to the U.S. Supreme Court.
(1949) WNAS-FM started by New Albany High School. Oldest High School radio station in the nation.
(1956) New Albany & Salem Railroad officially becomes the **Monon**.
(1957) Grantline Elementary School opens in 1957.
(1960) Floyd County's population is 51,397.
(1961) Construction begins on the **Kennedy Bridge**.
(1961) New Albany - Clarksville Expressway opens (**Brown Station Rd**).
(1963) Sherman Minton Bridge opens connecting West Louisville with New Albany, Floyd County.
(1963) New Albany Sesquicentennial is celebrated.

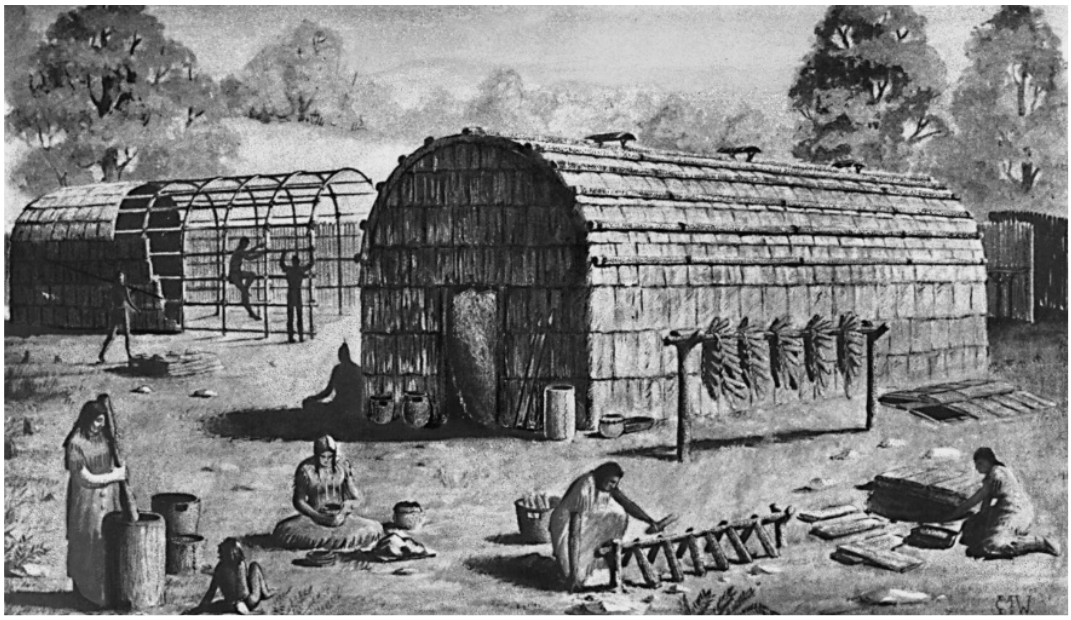
(1964) Interstate 64 opens.
(1967) Floyd Central High School built. Originally a Junior-Senior High School.
(1967) Georgetown Elementary School opens in the 1825 Georgetown Township School building.
(1970) Floyd County's population is 55,622.
(1971) Monon Railroad merged into Louisville & Nashville RR
(1973) Indiana University Southeast moves to Floyd County.
(1975) New Albany swimmer **Camille Wright Thompson** wins gold medals at the Pan-American Games. The water park on Daisy Lane was originally named after her.
(1975) New Albanian, **Billy Herman** is elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame.
(1976) Swimmer **Camille Wright Thompson** and 3 others on relay team win silver medals at the Montreal Olympics.
(1976) New Albany's Culbertson Mansion, saved from being demolished in 1964, becomes a State Historic Site.
(1977) Interstate 265 opens connecting I-65 in Clarksville with I-64 at the foot of the Knobs.
(1979) K&I Bridge closed to automobile traffic.
(1979) Fuzzy Zoeller, New Albany native, wins the Masters Golf Tournament.
(1980) WNAS TV begins broadcasting from New Albany High School.
(1980) Floyd County's population is 61,169.
(1981) New Mt. Tabor Elementary school opened. Original Mt. Tabor school was built in 1928.
(1990) NASA launches the **Hubble Space Telescope**.
(2000) Floyd County's population is 70,824.
(2008 - Nov 4) Barack Obama elected first Black president in US
(2010) Floyd County's population is 75,431.
(2012) Series of powerful storms and tornadoes past north of Floyd County, left 13 dead in Clark County.
(2013) New Albany celebrates its Bicentennial.
(2014) Russia occupies Crimean Peninsula, seizing Ukrainian territory
(2014) Floyd County's population is 75,594.
(2016) Indiana Bicentennial (1816-2016)
(2016) Town Clock Church steeple restored. In 1915 the steeple was hit by lightning.
(2017) New Albany Housing Authority provides housing for 970 families.
(2018) Floyd County's population exceeds 77,000. 52% female, 48% male. 90% white, 5.4% African-American, 4.5% other.
(2018) New Green Valley Elementary School Opens.
(2019) Floyd County Bicentennial (1819-2019)
(2019) New Slate Run Elementary School Opens.
(2020) Floyd County's population is 80,484, a gain of 7.9% over 2010.
(2020) Corona Virus Pandemic. Schools and businesses shutdown. Over 50 Floyd County residents die. Coronavirus cases pass 21 million worldwide. Over 172,000 die nationwide, 3,200 in Indiana.
(2021 - Jan 6) Rioters/insurrectionists attack the US Capitol building.
(2021) President Biden sworn in.
(2021) First African-American, South Asian, first woman, Kamala Harris, sworn in as vice-president of the United States
(2021) Corona Virus vaccines become available.
(2021 – Aug) US withdraws troops from Afghanistan.
(2021) Corona Virus Pandemic continues. Deaths in Floyd County top 208.
Worldwide coronavirus cases pass 229 million. Over 688,000 die in the US, 15,157 in Indiana.
(2022) After claiming no intention to invade, Russia attacks Ukraine on **February 24th.**
(2022) Ketanji Brown Jackson becomes first black female justice of the supreme court.
(2022 – June) Corona Virus Pandemic lessens. Deaths in Floyd County top 305. Worldwide coronavirus cases pass 531 million. Over 1,008,000 (>1 million) die in the US, 23,740 in Indiana. "Normal" schooling resumes. Gun fatalities on the rise.

Native Americans

The land that is now Floyd County and the nearby areas were used by different tribes at various times for hunting and fishing as well as for growing their crops of corn and root vegetables. The Shawnee, Piankeshaw, Wyandotte, Miami, and Chickasaw were among those tribes. They often settled in villages and found that this area was good for meeting all of their basic life needs because of its lush woods and abundant animal life including deer, bison, bear, and much more. This region, therefore, contains many Native American burial grounds and artifacts of their tools, pottery, and weapons. There was a strong and broad presence of Native Americans here for several centuries. Their life included special ceremonies, dances, and games enjoyed by adults and children. Some of the artifacts found here date back to several thousand years before Christ. Wherever your home is in the county, at one time Native Americans lived or walked there.

Typical Shawnee family dwelling when the white men came to Indiana

The earliest contacts Native Americans had with Europeans were with French traders and Spanish missionaries about 300 years ago. Those contacts did not threaten the Native Americans with the loss of their basic life and activities. But the later movement of English-speaking settlers into the region a little over 200 years ago was different. Unlike the traders and missionaries, they often brought their families, and they wanted to have farms and houses that they would own.



Shawnee long-house within a fort.

Native Americans did not see land as something that could be owned by people and that could be bought or sold. Rather, they saw land as well as the trees, animals, and lakes as there for all to use – much as we see air as usable by everyone. To the settlers, this made no sense, and they tried to own plots of land. To further this, new leaders such as William Henry Harrison, the first Governor of the Indiana Territory (1801-1812) and the ninth President of the United States (1841), tried to make deals or treaties with Native American leaders to gain title to large areas of land that could then be sold or given to incoming settlers. The deals that were struck often used gifts such as guns, tools, and trinkets, but sometimes liquor was also offered, and this was harmful.

The result was that Native American tribes had to move from the lands and had to go further west in order for each tribe to stay together and to survive. It was a very difficult period for the Native Americans.

One famous Shawnee leader, Tecumseh, believed this was wrong and tried to fight to keep the land here. The Native American tribes were not used to working together on things, but he talked to many of them wanting them to come together and to stay in Indiana. But in 1811 at a famous battle at Tippecanoe, about 150 miles north of Floyd County, an army led by William Henry Harrison defeated these Native American tribes, and Tecumseh's effort failed.

There are now very few Native Americans living in our area, but it is important that we honor and protect their gravesites and artifacts. Some of those artifacts can be seen at the Padgett Museum in New Albany and many more at the *Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art* in Indianapolis.

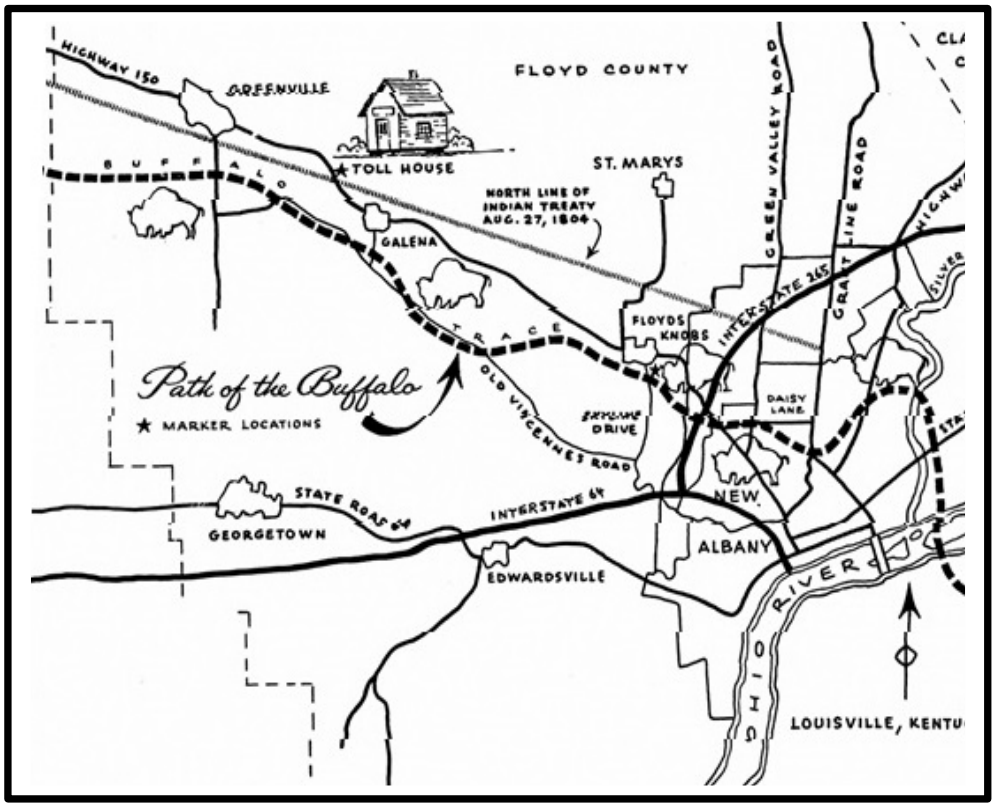
The Buffalo Trace

Although you have probably seen pictures of the buffalo that used to roam in herds over the western prairies, buffalo traveled across Indiana every year right through Floyd County on their way to Kentucky. Like all animals, buffalo needed salt to stay healthy. Since there was no salt in Illinois where they lived, they came to Kentucky to springs with salt which the buffalo could lick. In addition, the buffalo could eat grass in Kentucky in the winter while the grasses in Illinois were covered with snow.

The buffalo walked the same path each year, gradually making a trail through the forest. The Buffalo Trace went through Floyd County and crossed Silver Creek at Gutford (the good ford) at Old Ford Road. The Ohio River used to be very shallow at certain times of the year. During these times the buffalo could wade across. In the winter of 1790, this region had intense cold and deep snow all winter long. Because several feet of snow covered the grass, many buffalo starved. Large piles of bones covered the grounds around the salt licks. Never again did the buffalo come to this area in large numbers. The last buffalo were seen along the Buffalo Trace in 1799.

Even after the buffalo stopped traveling the trail, the pioneers used the trail for a road. In Floyd County the trail went along where U.S. 150 runs through Floyds Knobs, Galena, and Greenville. It passed in front of the main entrance to Floyd Central High School. Even today a few trees in Floyd County have ruts made in their roots by wagons traveling on the buffalo trail. People used this important route to travel to the territorial capital at Vincennes. Later the state built a better road, which went as far as Paoli.

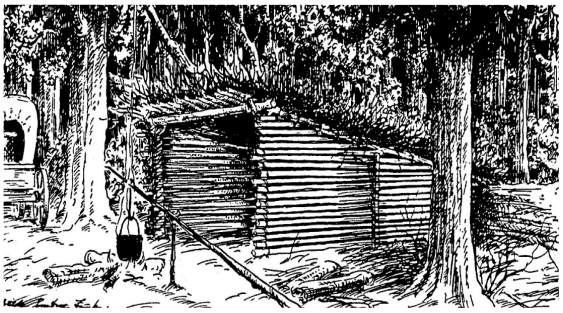
During the War of 1812, when the United States and England were at war, the pioneers in this area were afraid that the English might persuade the Indians to attack them. To be prepared, the pioneers built a log blockhouse (a small fort) along the Buffalo Trace. The blockhouse was built where the trail crossed Little Indian Creek near the present location of Floyds Knobs. The Indians never attacked, and the blockhouse was never used.



The First Settlers

In Colonial times the British didn't want the Americans to settle beyond the Appalachian Mountains. Hungry for land, the colonists went anyway. During the Revolution the British encouraged the Indians to fight the settlers. The Americans fought back against Indian attacks. George Rogers Clark and others obtained the rights to all the lands east of Mississippi for the new nation. The Clark Grant was given to the men who fought in the west to secure these lands. Kentucky continued to be settled, followed by much of Ohio. Indiana remained a battleground. Only two areas in what was to become the state of Indiana were open to white settlers – the Clark Grant at the Falls of the Ohio and a large tract around Vincennes. On August 27, 1804, William Henry Harrison, governor of the Indiana Territory, negotiated with the Indian tribes a treaty opening to white settlement the whole area lying between Clarksville and Vincennes. It is widely accepted that Robert LaFollette and his wife built the first cabin in Floyd County in Franklin Township in late 1804, making them the first settlers in the newly opened land. However, all of the lands of Clarks Grant west of Silver Creek (now Floyd County) were assigned to individuals by 1786. There may not have been permanent settlers in this area prior to 1804, but one account has a John Carson living at the mouth of Silver Creek in what is now Floyd County. John died in 1804, the year the LaFollette family settled in the treaty lands.

Robert LaFollette and his wife didn't have it easy. They had to create a shelter, clear the land and plant crops and occasionally battle the Indians. They didn't have neighbors. To get things they couldn't make or grow themselves Robert had to go across the river into Kentucky. A little later Patrick Shields and his family from Virginia crossed the knobs and settled near the present location of Georgetown. Other early settlers were George Walts, Clement Nance, James Mitchell, and a Mr. Trueblood. The settlers came by foot, by wagons pulled by oxen over widened animal trails, and by flatboats down the Ohio River. The early pioneers came here looking for a good place to build a home.



Half-faced Camp, simple shelter built by pioneers.

Often the early settlers built half-faced cabins, three sided shelters with sod roofs. This wasn't very comfortable in the winter. Robert Lafollette quickly built a single room log cabin. There were no windows. Glass was not available on the frontier.

Very soon after 1804 communities began to form. Neighbors came together to help one another and for defense against the Indians. Roads were built. Mills for the grinding of corn were built by falls in creeks. Blackiston's Mill was on Silver Creek. Cook's, Smith's, and Engleman's Mills were on Little Indian Creek. Trueblood's Mill was on Falling Run Creek. At the mills, settlers learned the news and socialized.

Single room log cabin.

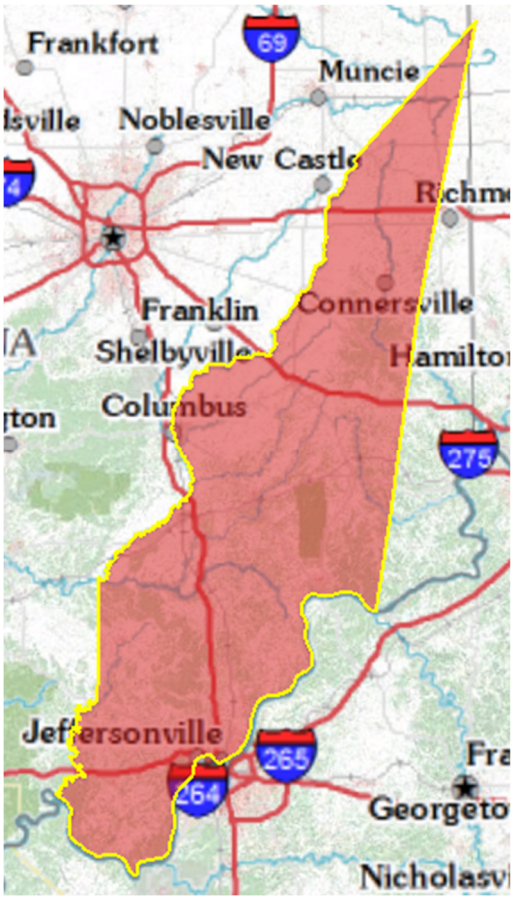
These pioneers worked hard, but they had good times, too. A wedding was always a time for a party, as was a house raising. The women had quilting parties, and the men played games that showed how tough and strong they were. Spelling bees and square dancing were also enjoyed. As the years passed, life became easier. More land was cleared, and more food was raised than a family could use generating cash for manufactured goods.

The Founding of Floyd County

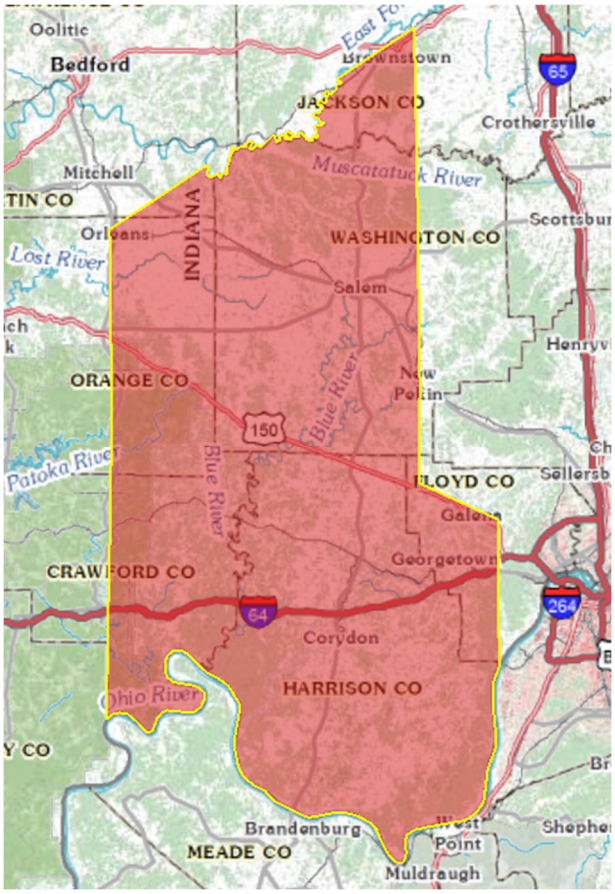
The Continental Congress created the Northwest Territory on July 13, 1787. Hamilton, Knox, and St. Clair counties were formed as original counties of the Northwest Territory. Hamilton County encompassed what would become the southwestern corner of Ohio. Knox County encompassed what would become west-central and northwestern Ohio, the entire state of Indiana, western Michigan, and eastern Illinois and Wisconsin. St. Clair County encompassed southwestern Illinois.

The Indiana Territory was created from Northwest Territory in 1800. Those parts of Knox, & St. Clair counties that were not in the newly formed state of Ohio became part of Indiana Territory. Knox County then included all what would become Southern Indiana from the Wabash River eastward to Cincinnati.

On February 1, 1801, Clark County was formed from Knox County. On December 1, 1808 Harrison County was formed from Clark and Knox counties.



Clark County - 1801



Harrison County - 1808

Indiana became the 19th state on December 11, 1816.

On January 2, 1819 Floyd County was formed from parts of Harrison County and Clark County.

In 1859 Newton County was the last county created in Indiana.

Indiana currently has 92 counties.

Events Leading to the Formation of Floyd County

New Albany was founded in 1813 by Joel, Nathaniel, and Abner Scribner. New Albany was located in Clark County. The community grew quickly in size and wealth, yet the political power remained upriver in Clarksville and Jeffersonville.

In the winter of 1818-19, some citizens of New Albany sent Nathaniel Scribner, one of New Albany's founders, and John K. Graham, a surveyor who laid out New Albany's first streets, to Corydon to lobby the Indiana State Legislature for the creation of a new county. At that time, Corydon was the state capital of Indiana. The legislature at Corydon agreed, and Floyd County was established in early 1819.

At the first meeting of the Floyd County Commissioners on February 8, 1819, the county was divided into three townships: New Albany, Greenville, and Franklin. Lafayette Township was formed on May 5, 1828. Georgetown Township, formed November 6, 1837, was the fifth and final township established in Floyd County.

Competition occurred between Greenville and New Albany concerning the location of the county seat. Some people felt Greenville was more centrally located and should be the county seat. However, New Albany was chosen as the seat of government of Floyd County, in part, because the Scribner brothers said they would donate a parcel of land for the construction of the courthouse and a gentleman by the name of Seth Woodruff, a Justice of the Peace in New Albany, said he would donate a bell for the steeple of the new courthouse. Another important reason that New Albany had the honor of becoming the county seat of Floyd County was its location on the Ohio River. This made New Albany a great outlet for transportation, commerce, and industry.

The return trip from Corydon to New Albany on horseback cost Nathaniel Scribner his life. The cold weather made him seriously ill, and he stopped at the home of a man named Richard Watson, who lived two and a half miles away from New Albany. It was in the Watson home that Nathaniel Scribner died. He didn't live long enough to see the results of his work, the founding of Floyd County, become reality.

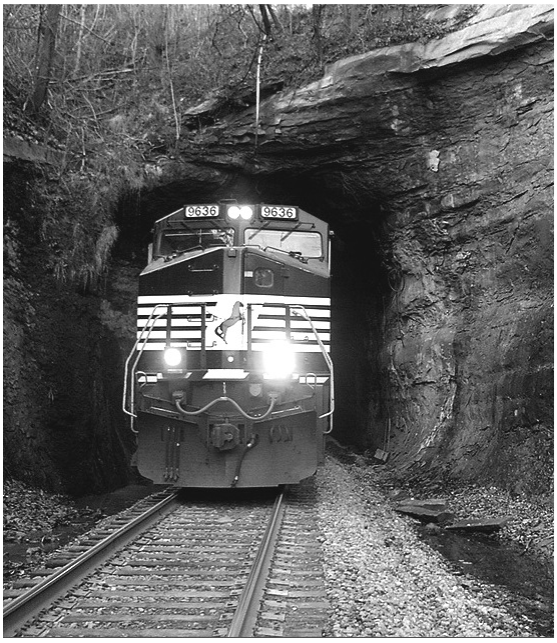
Floyd County Communities

Indiana didn't become a state until 1816. Floyd county wasn't established until 1819. Early settlers came into the Indiana Territory seeking land to farm and live on. Soon crossroad communities were established with a church or store or a mill for grinding grain. Roads were not developed and travel to a major trading center was difficult. In the years following the 1804 treaty with the Indians which allowed settlement in the area, these communities were many and important. With the development of New Albany on the river and improved transportation these small communities ceased to exist. Today, there are six towns and cities in Floyd County with significant commercial development in other areas.

Edwardsville

Edwardsville was first inhabited about 1810 by Charles Paxson. Early settlers included Mr. Paxson, Mr. Nelson, Isaac Bowman, and Samuel Tresenriter. Jacob and Elizabeth Yenowine settled nearby in 1816. The small village was very rural in nature until Henry Edwards platted the town in 1853 with the help of James Burris, a surveyor. The Corydon Plank Road, was established in 1856 and came through Edwardsville. Although the town has never grown much beyond a village, it is known for its wonderful views of rugged, steep hills.

The first blacksmith shop in Edwardsville was established by Jake Miller, and the first cooperage (barrel making) was started by Frederick Gehlbach. George Foreman started a grocery and post office and operated a tollgate for the plank road from New Albany to Corydon.



Southern Railroad exits east end of the Edwardsville tunnel.

View from Edwardsville

In 1856 a school was built. It was replaced in 1879 by a two-room school. In 1900 a three-room structure was built; the third room was the high school.

The railroad came to Edwardsville in 1881. A 4,295-foot tunnel was cut through the limestone rock of the knobs and is still used today.

In the early years of the 20th century, people from New Albany would spend some of the summer boarding at Edwardsville to enjoy the fresh country air.

Tavern/Lodging/Livery Stable built in the 1890's.

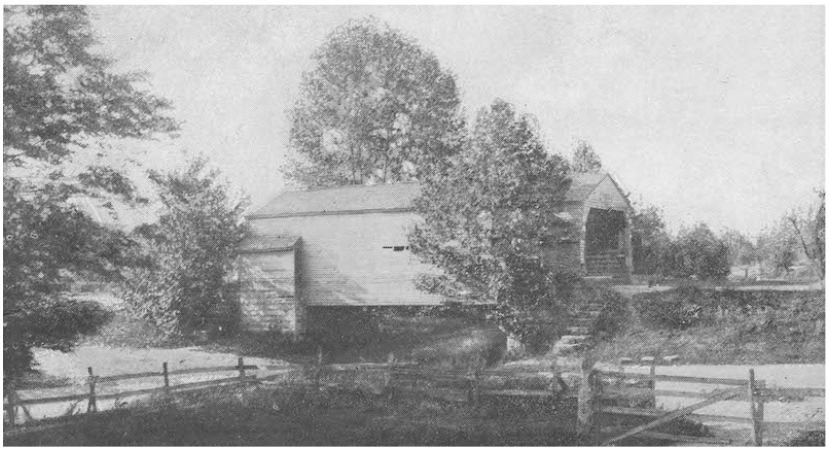
As it appears today in Edwardsville..

Floyds Knobs

Floyds Knobs is a combined rural and suburban community located in Lafayette Township two miles northwest of New Albany.

The first covered bridge in Indiana was constructed over Little Indian Creek in 1820 in the community today known as Floyds Knobs. St. Mary of the Knobs, the oldest Catholic Church in Floyd County, is located in Floyds Knobs. Many church members today are ancestors of the early Irish, French, and German settlers in the community. Father Joseph Louis Neyron served the parish from 1836 to 1854.

In the early nineteenth century, the community of Floyds Knobs was known as Mooresville. Mooresville was named for James Moore, a man from New York, who purchased land and founded the community. In 1852, a post office was established in Mooresville, but that name could not be used. Another town called Mooresville already existed in Morgan County, Indiana, so the people of Mooresville in Floyd County needed a new name for their community. When the post office was established, the name Floyds Knobs was used to identify the community. It was named for a settler named Floyd who had lived here along with the Moore family. In 1893 the apostrophe was dropped from "Floyd's Knobs".



First covered bridge in Indiana was at Mooresville (Floyds Knobs) in 1820, crossing Little Indian Creek.

Floyds Knobs is today a suburban community with many new subdivisions and high-end homes. Floyds Knobs remains a desirable place to live. Many people now commute to work in Louisville, Kentucky and New Albany.

Galena

When the New Albany to Vincennes Road became a turnpike about 1835-36, Galena came to life. It was first called Germantown. A post office was established as Galena in 1843.

It was laid out and platted by George Sease in 1837. Mr. Sease owned the land and hoped to make his fortune selling lots on the new turnpike.

From the 1859 map of Floyd County by P. O'Beirne & Co. (Library of Congress website)

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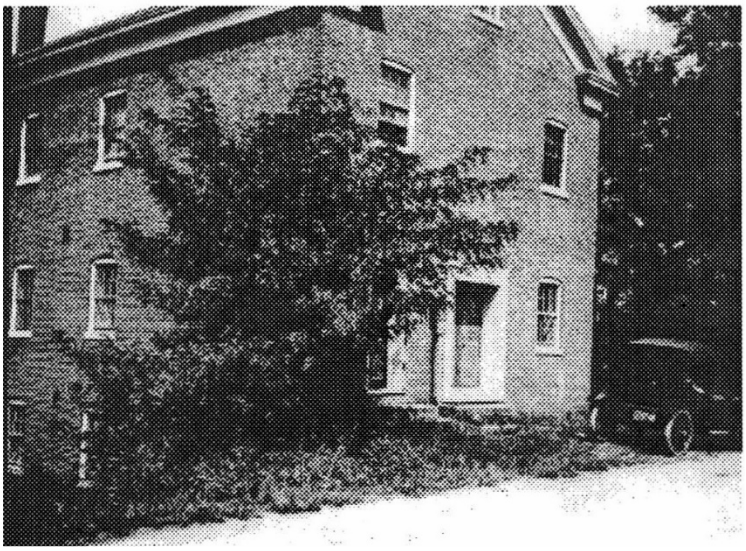
This house is believed to have been built in 1843. It is referred to as the Belle Schillings home. It was once used as a post office.

Now a Floyd County Library branch!

The first merchant was Isaac Parks who owned a store and later built a home here. Charles Frederick had a hotel or tavern.

There was a mill, a blacksmith shop, and two cooperage establishments. The old mill is still standing along the highway. It was built in 1857 and was a steam-powered flour mill.



This building was an early flour mill.

Early service station on U.S. 150

Galena once had a high school just west of town on Highway 150. The Morton family ran the toll house when Highway 150 was a toll road. The local 4-H club restored the toll house in 1966, but the tornado of 1990 destroyed it.

Georgetown

The town of Georgetown is the oldest in Floyd County. It was founded in 1807, six years before the Scribners founded New Albany. The first residents of the area were the Patrick Shields family, who arrived from Virginia in 1805. Mr. Shields had been a neighbor of Patrick Henry for whom he had been named. Two years later, the George Walts family arrived from Pennsylvania. Mr. Walts is given credit for laying out the original town, promoting it, and giving his name to it. He spread the word of the good fertile soil and described the beauty of the area. Mr. Walts did much to create pioneer industry: shops, mills, and blacksmithing.

Groups of people began to arrive around 1820, and by 1833 the community was thriving. However, the town never grew very large because it was not located on a river and therefore lacked a means of transportation. When the Southern Railroad was built, there was great hope that it would bring new growth to the town. Unfortunately, it failed to do so.

Many of the early homes still stand, although they have been remodeled. The oldest home, that of Patrick Shields, stood at the site of the Optimist Club House. In 1848 a large fire destroyed much of the business district, but the citizens soon rebuilt it. Today the I-64 Highway has brought a change to Georgetown, because people can get to jobs in the cities more easily. As a result, several new subdivisions have been built for those people who want the peace of quiet country living.

Georgetown's most famous citizen, and indeed one of Floyd County's most famous people, is Justice Sherman Minton, a judge on the United States Supreme Court. In 1950 a historic marker was placed on his birthplace. Later, the new bridge from New Albany to Louisville was named for him: the Sherman Minton Bridge.

Residence of Sherman Minton

Greenville

Greenville is located about 12 miles northwest of New Albany on U.S. 150. Andrew Mundle, a school teacher from Kentucky, bought 160 acres of land, and Benjamin Haines bought some adjoining land. In 1816 they decided to lay out a town and call it Greenville. The exact reason for the name is not known.

The very earliest settlers in the township of Greenville were the Bostons who came in 1805. Some of their descendants still live in Greenville.

The town of Greenville was a stop on the stagecoach route to Paoli. It boasted a post office and several hotels. It was a thriving community with stores, mills, blacksmith shops, and cooperage shops.

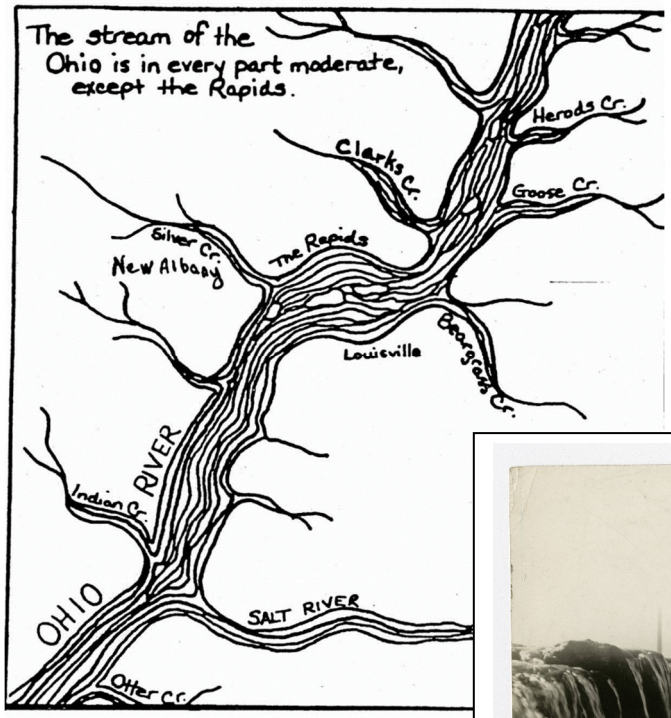
The New Albany-Paoli Stage as it stopped at Greenville.

Thursday, March 26, 1908, was a most fateful day for Greenville. A woman was ironing with flat irons heating on a stove. She had a hot fire which caused the flue to catch on fire. The brisk wind carried the flames from one building to the next. Everyone tried to help fight the fire, even the school children. When it was over, the school house, 24 houses, their barns, and other buildings had gone up in flames. Sixteen families were homeless. Greenville never fully recovered from that loss.

1893 picture of the National Hotel and buggy shed, owned by Frank and Phoebe Goss.

New Albany

As you know that the Ohio River flows past New Albany. Without the river New Albany may have never been founded. Long ago when New Albany was started, there were no railroads, automobiles, trucks, buses, or airplanes. The only means of transportation was canoe, horse and wagon, flatboat, or foot. Towns were built by rivers so that people could transport their goods to market by water. When New Albany was built, boats could land at the wharf and load freight and passengers to be carried up and down the river.



New Albany's position below the falls meant that there was a direct connection down river all the way to New Orleans.

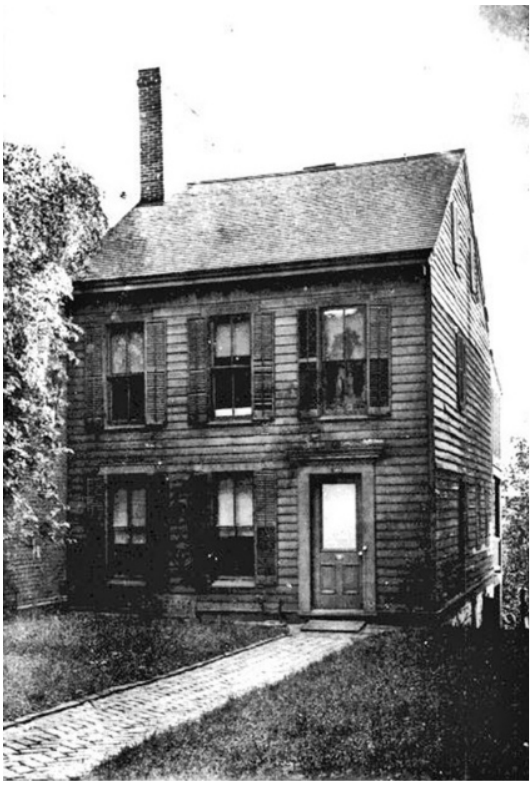
Sending freight up river was difficult. The falls were only navigable during high water. The construction of a canal meant that steamboats could also go all the way to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

New Albany was founded in 1813 by three brothers from New York, who were named Scribner. Their first names were Joel, Abner, and Nathaniel. The brothers bought 826 acres of land for $8,000 from Colonel John Paul of Madison. On March 2, 1813, the Scribners began cutting timber for a double log cabin. In the summer the town was laid out, and the first lots were sold in November. Since the Scribners came from New York state, they named their town New Albany in honor of the capital of that state. In 1814, Joel Scribner built a frame house for his family at the corner of State and Main streets. Today, you can still visit this oldest house in New Albany, owned by the Piankeshaw Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who host all third graders on a tour of this charming home.

In 1820 a man named Epaphras Jones started a town called Providence, upriver from New Albany. At this time New Albany had just a few streets near the downtown area. Jones thought that starting a ferry across the Ohio River would help his town grow.

He talked someone into building a sawmill and sold land to a few people to build log cabins. Because Jones was unhappy that his town was not growing faster, he decided to build a road from Providence to the Vincennes Road coming from Clark's settlement. Jones hired men to cut down trees to make a road. They cut a 60-foot-wide path through the forest. Mr. Jones stopped the men after they had gone about two miles. No one knows why. People used the clear space for a road. Since it was planned as a way to reach Vincennes, it was called Vincennes Street. Jones built his house on a hill, now called Dewey Heights, overlooking the Ohio River. Today the town of Providence is a part of New Albany, but the only way you can tell is by the sharp curve in the streets at East Tenth Street. This was caused because Vincennes Street was not built parallel with the streets in downtown New Albany. The cross streets did not meet perfectly; therefore, there had to be a jog in Spring, Elm, Oak, and Culbertson. The next time you travel these streets and make this curve, remember that this is where New Albany and Providence joined to become a single town.

In downtown New Albany, at the corner of State and Main streets, is the oldest house in New Albany. Scribner House is a tall, narrow, white house with a fence which has a gate leading into the front yard. Much of the furniture which Joel Scribner brought with him in his covered wagon across the mountains of Pennsylvania and by flatboat down the Ohio River is inside the house. The Scribner House was the home of one of the men who started New Albany, Joel Scribner. The house was built in 1814, one year after the Scribners founded the city.



Scriber House needing paint

Joel Scribner was born in Connecticut. He and his brothers lived in New York before they came west to go into the leather business in Cincinnati. With his family and belongings in a covered wagon, he made a hard, long trip across the Allegheny Mountains. When he got to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1811, he bought a flat boat and floated down the Ohio River to Cincinnati. There was no danger from Indians because they had been driven away from the banks of the Ohio River by 1811 and had settled farther north in Indiana.

After Joel Scribner arrived in Cincinnati, he heard about all the farmers who were moving into Indiana along the river. He decided that it would be a good idea to start a city in Indiana where farmers could sell their crops and buy things they needed for their farms. City people could come there and open stores and businesses. Joel Scribner and two of his brothers, Abner and Nathaniel, went on an exploring expedition down the river to pick a spot which they thought would be a good place for a city. The spot they chose was New Albany.

When the Scribners first came here, there was only a dense, swampy forest where the city of New Albany now stands. At first, they lived in the double log cabin near Main and East Sixth streets, which was shared with the Waring family. This log cabin was the first house in New Albany. It was torn down many years ago.

At first the Scribners hired men to cut down trees, make streets, and build log cabins. After all this was taken care of, Joel Scribner was able to build his family a home that was better than the log cabin. Although the house seems old-fashioned to us today, it was very modern when it was built.

Scribner House has been saved by the women of the Piankeshaw Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), who each year welcome the third graders to visit and tour the house.

Scribner House Restored

New Albany came to be the dominant city in the area and the reason Floyd County was founded.

Street Names

New Albany's streets had simple names. The street nearest the Ohio River was called Water Street. Because that area frequently flooded in the spring, the more desirable land was a bit higher up the bank. The street built on this higher land was called High Street. Since it didn't flood often, it became the main street, and eventually its name was changed to Main Street.

In earlier times people in New Albany bought their vegetables, fruit, and meat at two large market houses in the downtown area. Farmers brought their produce by wagon and sold it from small stands inside these buildings. Since there was no refrigeration, all meat had to be sold each day by 11 a.m. These important markets also were used for political meetings and even for childhood games of hide-and-seek. The street was named Market Street.

Hoosier Market House in New Albany – 1893
Market Street looking west from Pearl

Bank Street in New Albany was originally named East Second Street. The name was changed to Bank Street because a bank was located on the northeast corner of its intersection with Main Street.

Everyone knows for whom Culbertson Avenue and DePauw Avenue were named. Ekin Avenue, which was earlier called Poplar Street, was named to honor the first superintendent of the National Cemetery, which was built during the Civil War for the soldiers who lost their lives.

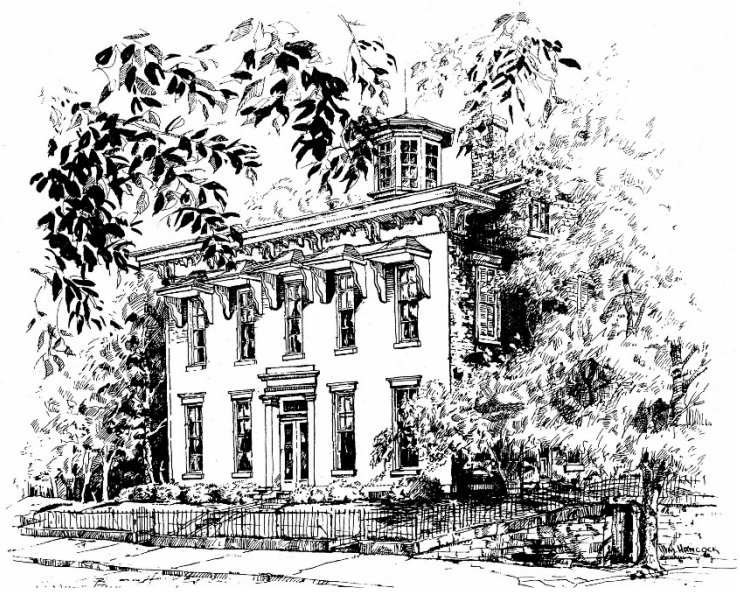
Grant Line Road is the western boundary of George Rogers Clark's land grant, which he and his troops received for fighting in the Revolutionary War.

The Mansion Row National Register Historic District

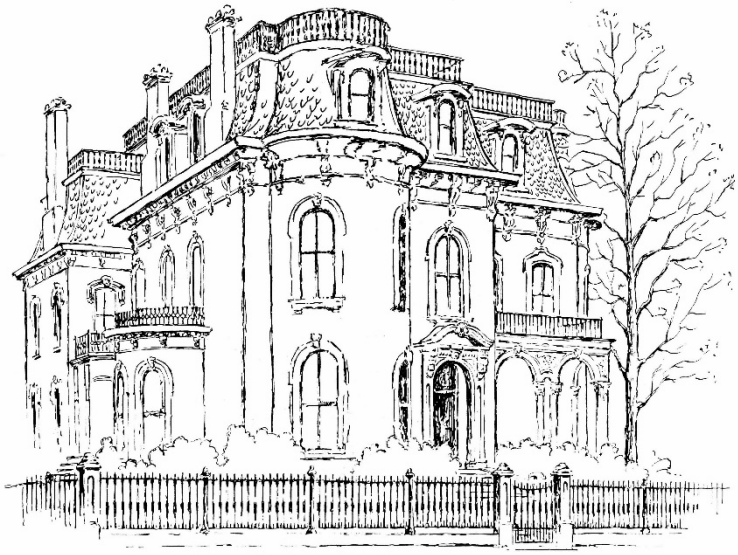
The Mansion Row district contains important buildings located on some of the oldest streets in New Albany. The historic district includes Main Street from State to East Fifteenth streets, the south side of Market Street from East Seventh to Eleventh streets, and a section of Dewey Street.

The Joel Scribner House, the William S. Culbertson Mansion, the Culbertson Widows' Home, and an early branch of the Indiana State Bank are among the points of interest found on Mansion Row.

The Mansion Row Historic District has been listed on the Indiana Register of Historic Places since 1980 and on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983.



Sloan-Bicknell House



Culbertson Mansion

Ethnic Communities

People from many countries settled in Floyd County. Some of these immigrants settled in communities where their customs were preserved.

The French settled in two areas in Floyd County. The first group settled along Budd Road, and by 1840 there were nearly 300 in that area. Other French settlers were attracted to the knobs area, perhaps by the Catholic log church which had been built there by the Irish. In 1837 the people, led by Father Louis Neyron, a French priest, built a brick church on the site of today's St. Mary of the Knobs Church.

German immigrants came in the 1830's and the 1850's, the first group settled in New Albany west of Pearl Street. They built slaughter houses, tanneries, and breweries. Tailors, stone carvers, and furniture makers set up businesses. The farmers settled in Lafayette Township and at St. Joseph's Hill, probably because of the Catholic churches at those locations. The first German church in New Albany was St. Marks United Church of Christ, established in 1837.

The first Irish in the county settled in the knobs about 1817 and built a log church where St. Mary of the Knobs now stands. The first Irishman was Thomas Piers, and he was followed by Duffys, McCutcheons, and others. In 1830 many Irish came to New Albany and Southern Indiana to work on building roads, canals, and railroads. They settled from East 4th to East 10th streets and in the area north of the Monon Railroad yards called Limerick Hill.

Early African-American History

The first African Americans in Floyd County going back long before the Civil War were not slaves. African Americans arrived very early in the Floyd County area along with white settlers. They worked the land and helped to establish this community. For example, before New Albany or Floyd County was established, African American William Morrison, assisted a white settler, Mr. McGrew, to clear the forested land. Another black man by the name of "Sam" helped Patrick Shields clear land in what became the community of Georgetown. Other blacks such as brothers Joshua and Jesse Wilson were wealthy and purchased land along the Ohio River in Franklin Township. In 1817 it is reported they built the first two houses in Floyd County that were made of bricks. A few other names of early black settlers in Floyd County were Carter, Cousins, Finley, Mitchem, Rickman, Ross, Stinson and Welch. Some of these early people have descendants that still live in the area today.

Station of the Underground Railroad used before, during and after the Civil War

Living in Floyd County, Indiana, was not easy for African Americans. The Ohio River was the only thing that separated them from the slave state of Kentucky. It was assumed *at the time* that those with black skin were slaves and they were often treated as such. They had to carry a "Freedom Paper" with them at all times that had been witnessed by a white citizen who was willing to testify that they were free. They had to pay a large amount of money to the court in the event they became too poor to pay for their home, food and clothing. African Americans were segregated, most of them living in West Union, also known as "Contraband Quarters." They were not allowed to vote and were kept from getting good jobs. The black children were not allowed to attend school with white children. Instead, leaders in the black community taught black children in their homes and churches.

Because there was a high concentration of slaves working in Louisville, it was tempting for them to look across the Ohio River to Floyd County and yearn to be free. They may not have known that, although Indiana soil was free, it was not a safe place for them. Their owners as well as slave catchers and law enforcement could chase after them onto Indiana soil. Nevertheless, many freedom seekers tried. Some made it into Floyd County but others were arrested and taken back to their owners. Free African Americans and some white citizens in Floyd County helped them with food and shelter, but Freedom Seekers could not stay long and had to move north, away from the Ohio River. This race for freedom by the enslaved, and any assistance they were given as they passed by, became a movement known as the Underground Railroad. Second Presbyterian Church, also called the Town Clock Church (Second Baptist Church) had many members who were actively against slavery and gave Freedom Seekers assistance on their way north. Today this church is remembered as a station on the Underground Railroad.

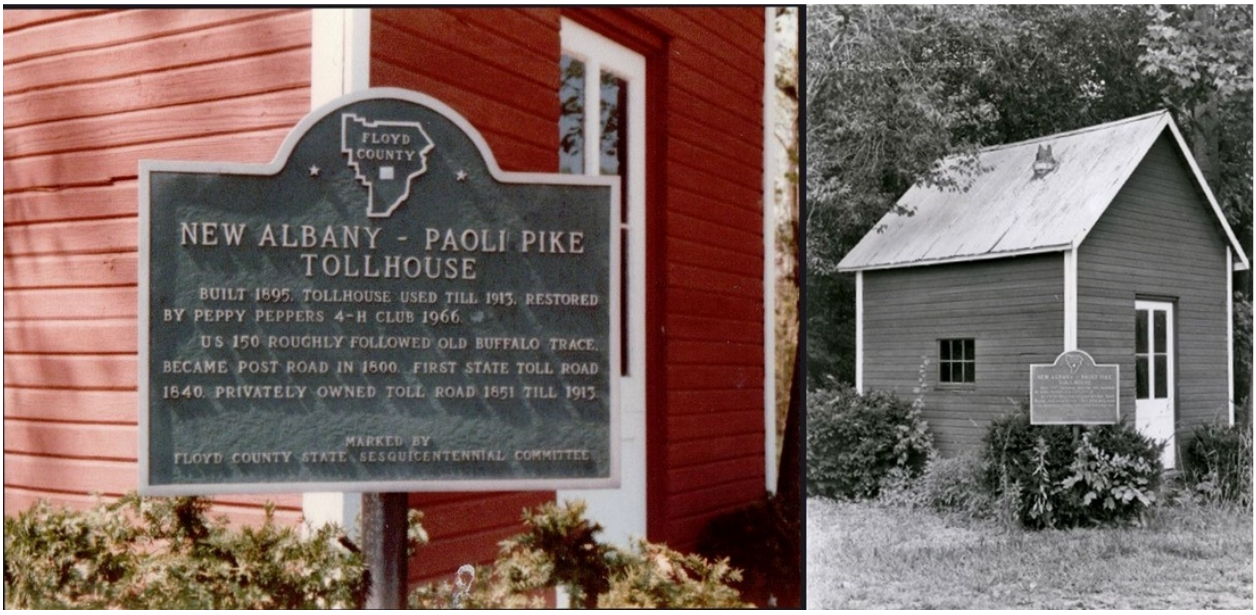
During the Civil War period, the African American population in Floyd County continued to grow, and at one time New Albany had the largest black population in the state of Indiana. Many were leading citizens such as the three medical doctors, William Burney, Joseph Alexander and William O. Vance.

Transportation

On Land

A network of trails covered the region, but the earliest road of importance was the Louisville to Vincennes road along the Old Buffalo Trace which was surveyed in 1805. The Rector Line established the southern boundary of Indian Territory. Settlement of this area south of the Rector Line was relatively safe and rapid. Soon people needed better roads to market. The first roads were corduroy roads (a road made of tree trunks laid side-by-side with soil filling the cracks). A little later, sawed planks were spiked down to make better roads.

The influx of settlers brought statehood to Indiana in 1816. One of the most ambitious enterprises of the new state was a program of internal improvements. One of the projects was a paved turnpike linking New Albany to Vincennes. It was finished to Paoli when the state was threatened with bankruptcy. The state then leased the road to a private company which charged tolls.



Toll House on U.S. 150
House destroyed by tornado, marker in the Padgett Museum

In 1820 the first stage coach route in Indiana was established on the New Albany-Paoli Turnpike. The stage also carried the mail. Prior to that it was carried by post riders on horseback. When the stage was robbed near the Inn in Mooresville, the silver was believed to be hidden nearby. Some have dug for the buried treasure.

By 1850, roads connected New Albany with all the neighboring towns. People drove horses with wagons, buggies, and carriages. If people did not own a means of transportation, they rode mule cars around New Albany.

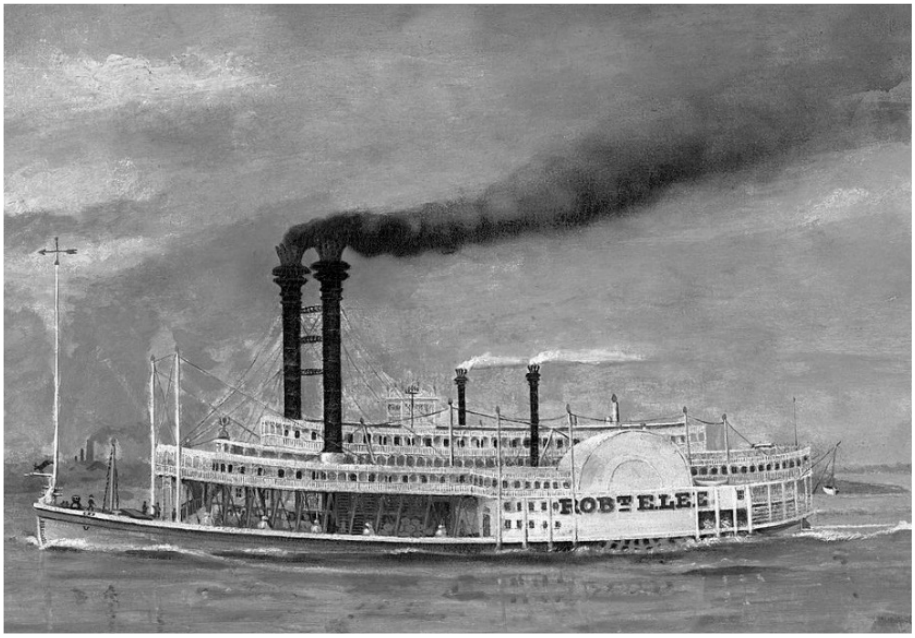
Steamboats

One of the most important industries in New Albany during the 19th century was steamboat building. Beginning in 1817, hundreds of steamboats were built at the many shipyards that were located on Water Street.

The first steamboat built in New Albany was constructed in the years 1817-1818. This boat, named the Ohio, was constructed for a riverboat captain named Henry L. Shreve. The city of Shreveport, Louisiana, is named for him.

The largest period of steamboat building in New Albany occurred between the years 1825 to 1867. During this period, 353 boats were built at the many shipyards in New Albany. In 1856, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was the only city on the Ohio River to build more steamboats than New Albany. In that year, which was the peak year for New Albany's steamboat building, twenty-two boats were built. During this time, 12,000 of New Albany's 16,000 people depended upon the boat building industry for their livelihood.

One of the grandest steamboats built in New Albany was the Eclipse, built by Dowerman and Humphreys shipyards in 1852. This boat, called a floating palace, was 365 feet long, one foot in length for each day of the year. The Eclipse had side paddles forty feet in diameter, and cost $375,000 to construct.



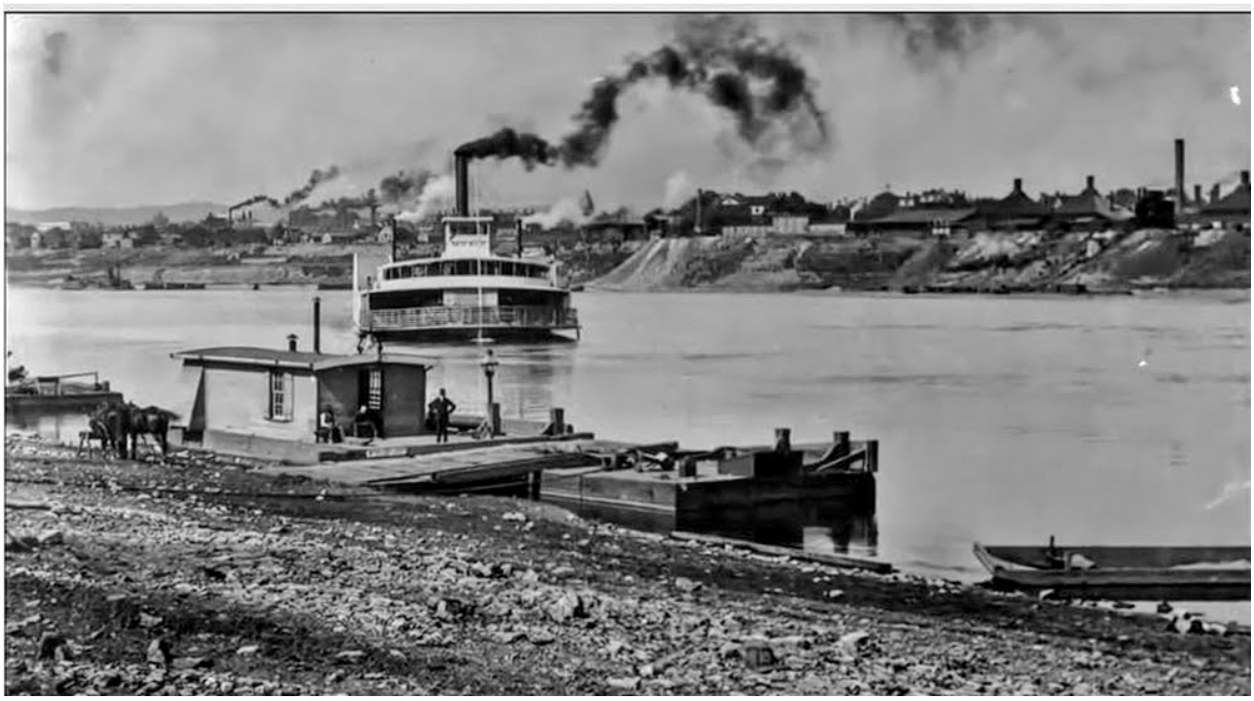
The Robt. E. Lee was built at the Hill, Roberts, and Company shipyards in New Albany in 1866. Thomas Humphreys, a successful New Albany boat builder, supervised the Lee's construction. The boat, launched on July 18, 1866, cost $240,000 to construct. The cabins of the Robt. E. Lee were constructed by Hippie and Smith, and the boilers were built by Stuckey and Twomey, both New Albany companies.

By the late 1860's, New Albany's shipbuilding industry began to fade.

Railroads and Interurban

By 1847 New Albany had a population of 8000 and was the largest city in Indiana. At first, railroads were short lines to connect rivers and canals, the important routes of travel. One of the first local railroads was built to connect New Albany with Salem, Indiana. James Brooks was the first president of the company that later became the Monon. It took over a year to build the first three miles. When this much was finished, the first trains were run on July 4, 1849. Hundreds of people celebrated by riding out to the end of the track. They heard speeches and had a picnic near where Mt. Tabor School is today.

By 1870 people wanted to travel by railroad between New Albany and St. Louis. It was decided to make a large tunnel through Edwardsville Hill because the hill was too steep for trains to climb. This required blasting nearly a mile through the hill. It took three years and used up all the company's money. They had only twenty more feet to go when another company took over the work and finished it. The railroads ran east, north and west. There were no bridges! The steamboat era gave us ferries big enough to carry people, wagons, cattle and later railroad cars across the river.



Frank McHarry Ferry, New Albany to Portland, 1870

When the K. & I. Bridge opened in 1886, local lines extended into the South. As in other cities, the railroad has become less important as public transportation, but our industries still use it to haul freight.

How did people travel within the county? They walked, rode horses, used private horse-drawn carriages or stagecoaches. In town there were horse-drawn wagons similar to our current buses. These were replaced by horse-drawn carts on rails. These were then replaced by electric powered trolley cars in 1893.

The electric interurban expanded into a network where one could travel from Jeffersonville through Clarksville, New Albany and on to Silver Hills. The north-south line ran from Louisville to Indianapolis. By 1946 buses replaced trolleys.

Horse-drawn coach on rails

Electric Interurban meets the Railroad

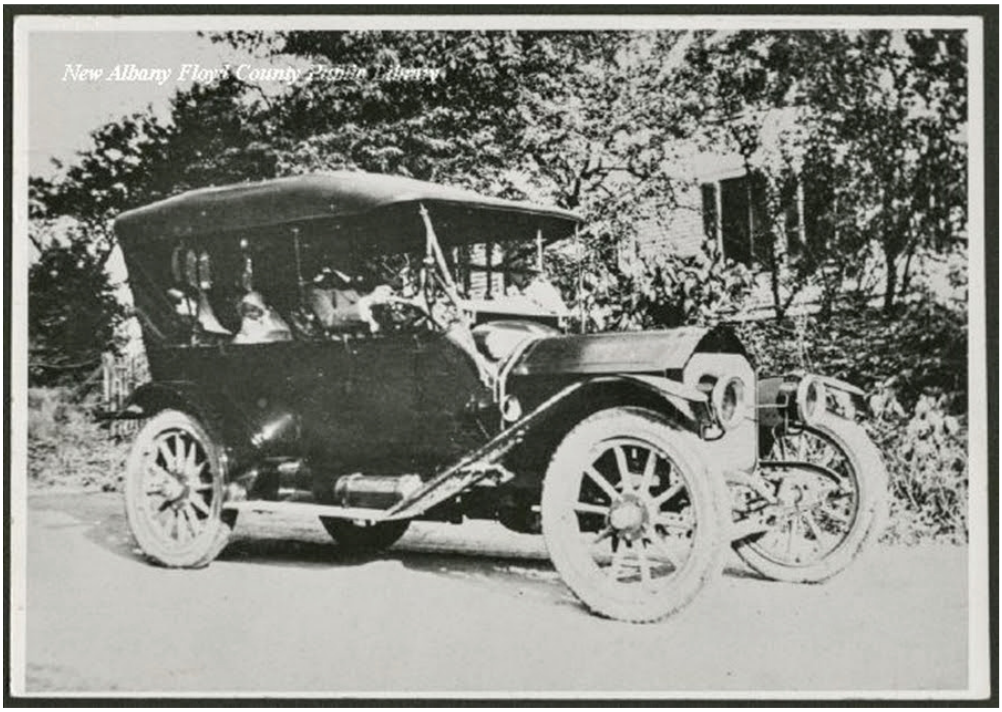
Age of the Automobile

Today, the automobile is our main way to travel. Transportation has gone full circle as highways are again very important. Floyd County is at intersection of three major highways, Interstate 64, Interstate 265 and Interstate 65. The roads connect the region to neighboring counties, cities and the rest of the country.

When cars and trucks came along about 110 years ago, roads had to be improved. People wanted to go farther, faster and carry heavier loads.

Corydon Pike

Car on Paoli Pike

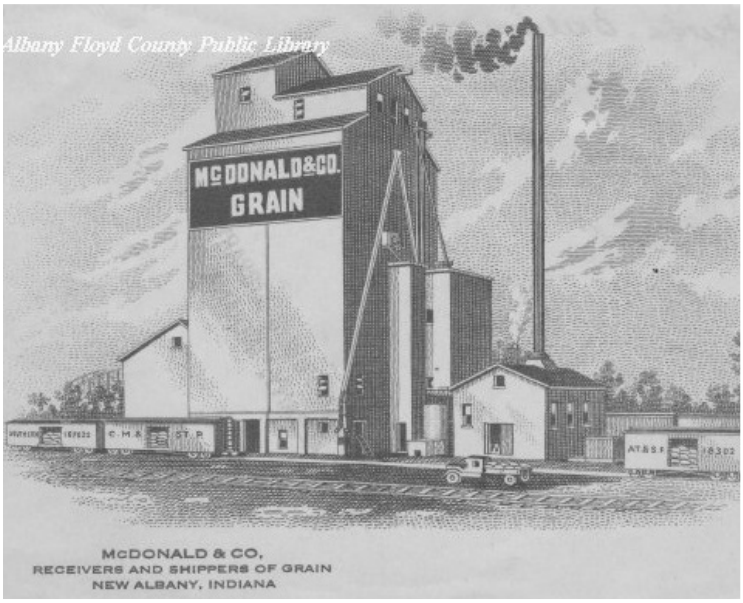


<u>Pilgrim</u> auto actually manufactured in New Albany about 1910

Business

Farming, Manufacturing and Services

New Albany started as a convenient place to cross the river. The first businesses supported the farming communities. The first steamboat, the New Orleans, passed what is now New Albany in 1811. New Albany was founded in 1813 and heavily promoted by its founders, the Scribners. Soon steamboats were being built here. Steamboats are complex machines and soon many businesses supporting their construction appeared. They were varied and many.

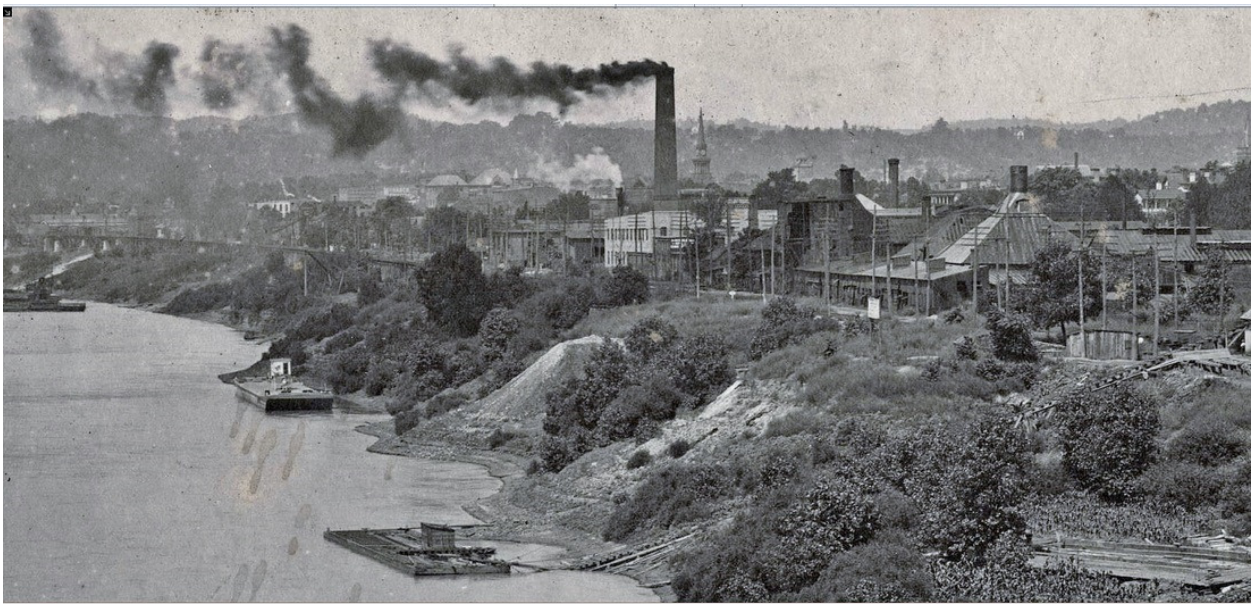


Storage of grain from Floyd County farmers

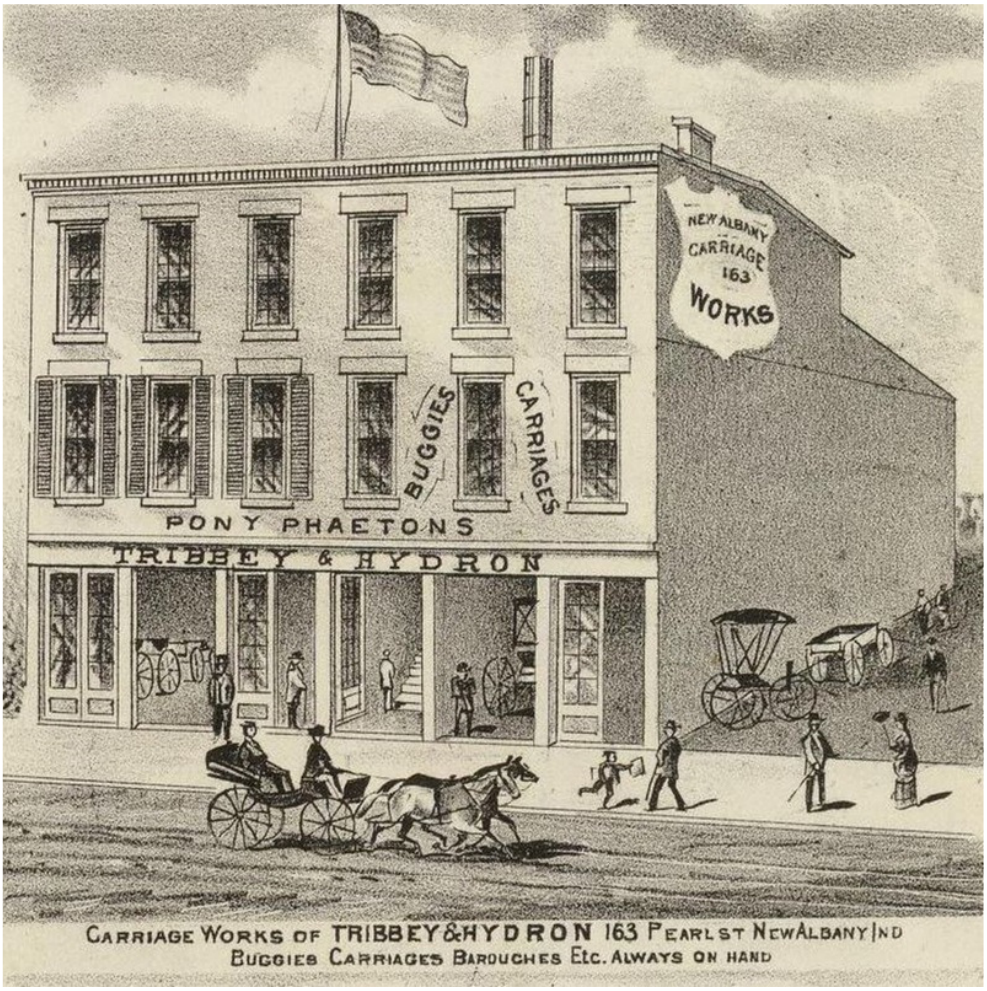
Fish from the Ohio River

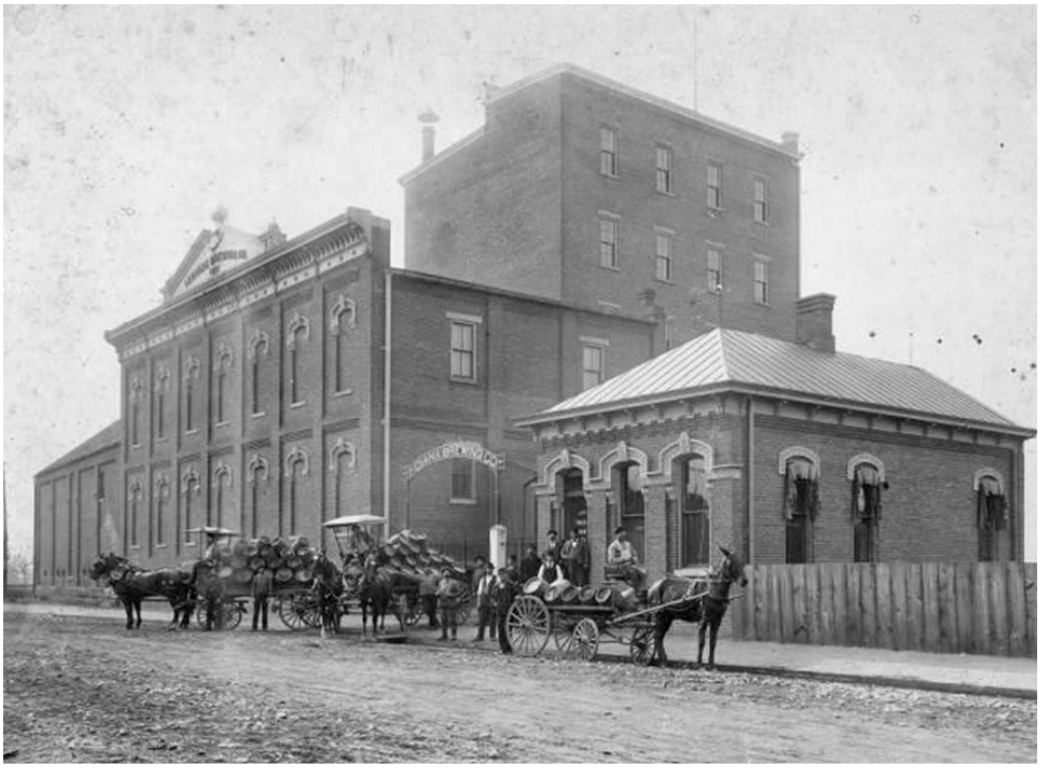
Six-foot, 4 inch diameter chestnut log on its way to the sawmill

Floyd County had abundant natural resources

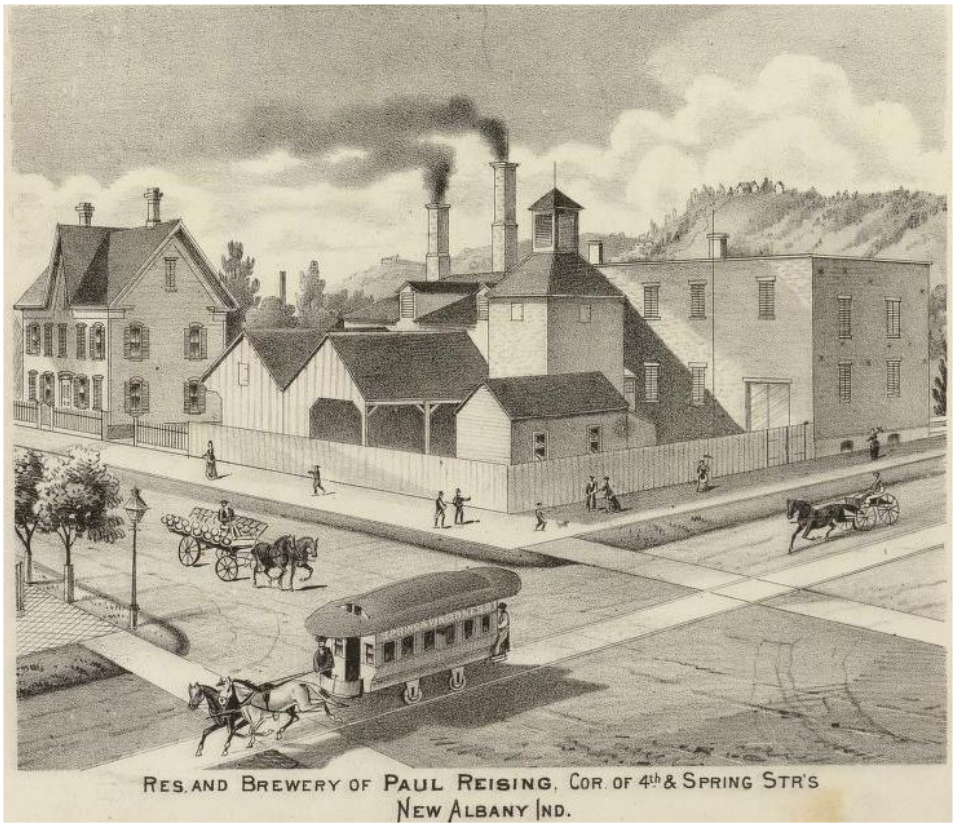


Busy Riverfront at New Albany



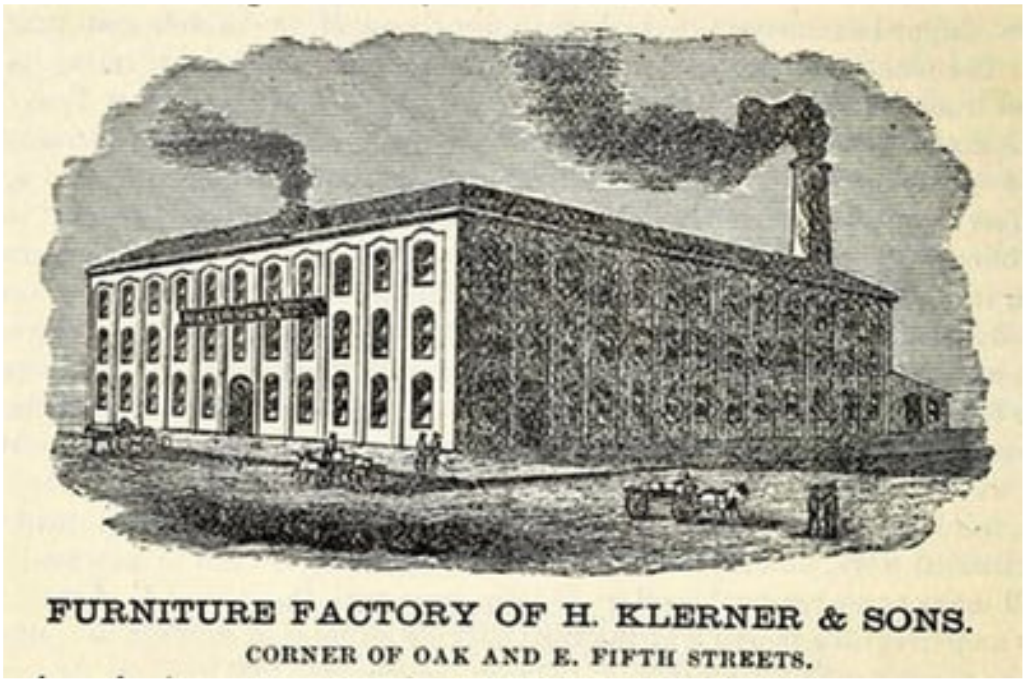


Indiana Brewing Company - 1890

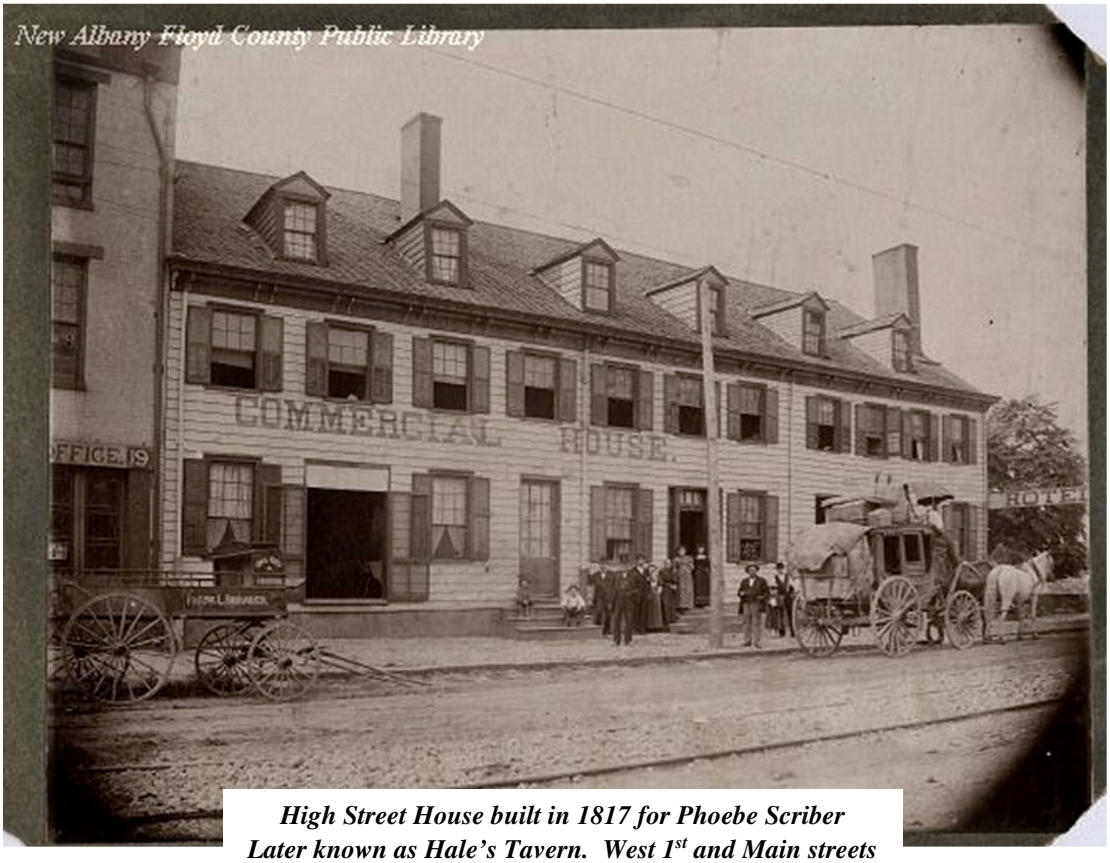


NEW ALBANY INSURANCE CO. & H.N. DEVOL'S BLOCK.
Main Street bet. State & Pearl.
New Albany.

Entered according to Act of Congress



FURNITURE FACTORY OF H. KLERNER & SONS.
CORNER OF OAK AND E. FIFTH STREETS.



High Street House built in 1817 for Phoebe Scriber
Later known as Hale's Tavern. West 1st and Main streets

New Albany Glass Making

A man from New Albany, John B. Ford, pioneered the making of plate glass in the United States. Plate glass is the name of the large sheets of glass which are used for store windows. Other people had been making pitchers, glasses, and all sorts of things, but no one in the United States had been able to make plate glass. The good plate glass had to be brought from Europe by ship, which was expensive.

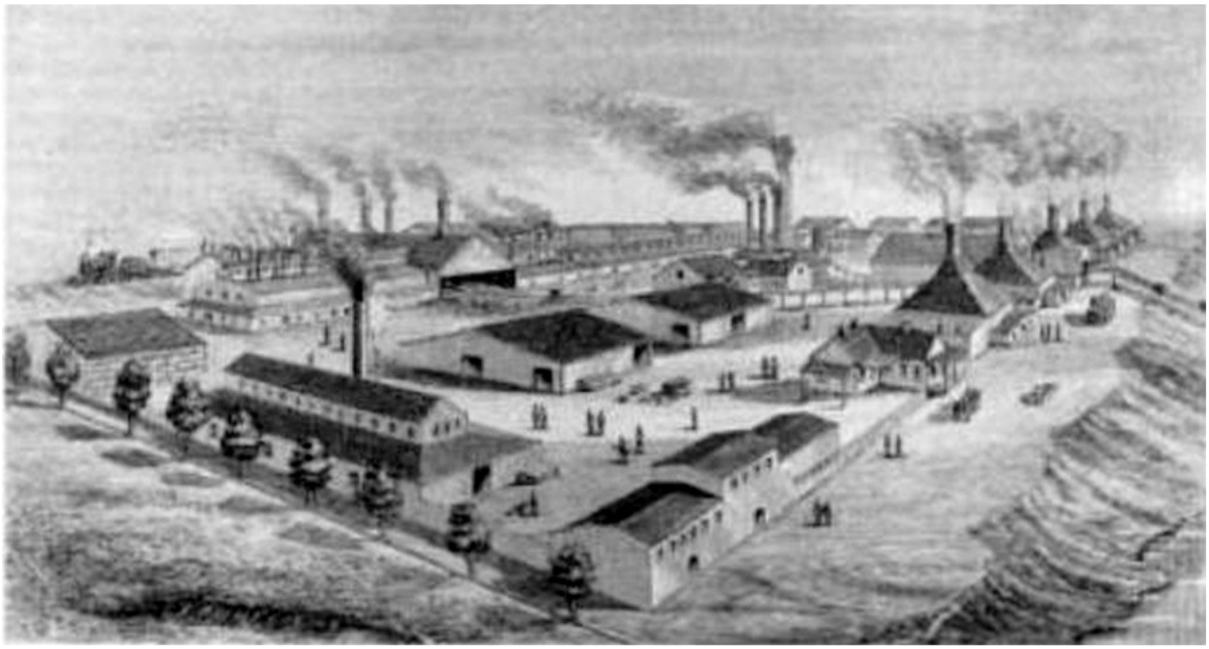
In 1865, just after the Civil War, Mr. Ford built a factory on the river bank at East Tenth and Water streets, called the Star Glass Works, later New Albany Glass Works. The first plate glass windows were made there and installed in a store at 316-318 Pearl Street. This was a tailor shop owned by a man named John Hieb. Some years later this glass was removed and put in the home of Ford's great-granddaughter.

Mr. Ford made plate glass by pouring melted glass on top of a large table which was covered with copper. The glass would cover the whole table top just like molasses. Then workmen would take a long roller and roll it over the melted glass to smooth it out. As it cooled, the glass hardened, forming a sheet of plate glass.

Business dwindled, and Mr. Ford was forced to sell the glass works to Washington C. DePauw, a cousin of his, who named it the American Plate Glass Company. It covered 30 acres and employed 2,000 men. This industry was very important to New Albany and Floyd County.

Mr. Ford eventually moved to Pittsburgh, continued making glass, and with two other men established the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, which came to be one of the largest and best-known in the United States.

After the death of Mr. DePauw in 1887, the company was operated by his two sons until about the year 1896, when it ceased operations. Today the floodwall covers only a small part of the ground where the factory stood.



Ford's Star Glass Work's – 1869
Between East 9th and East 13th streets on the river

Banking in New Albany

The building with the tall columns at the northeast corner of Bank and East Main streets was built in 1837 to house New Albany's first regular bank. It was a branch of the State Bank of Indiana which started in 1834. Hugh Pugh constructed this Greek Revival building. Built of sandstone dug from quarries around New Albany and costing $50,000 to build, it features a large central skylight to let in daylight.

In the earlier days, businesses were owner-financed enterprises, such as: sawmills, grist mills, taverns, cobbler shops, and general stores. Boat-building and railroad construction increased the need for banks.

During and just after the Civil War, several banks were established to provide capital for the expanding industries of New Albany. William Culbertson secured a charter for the First National Bank in 1865. It took over the old State Bank and moved into the building at Bank and East Main streets. New Albany had many factories, including iron works, tanneries, a woolen mill, a glass factory, and a hosiery mill. Business was booming. By 1887 Washington C. DePauw owned the majority of these industries. During the Panic of 1893-96, business became so bad that several banks closed but not the First National Bank.

Because of good transportation and a supply of raw materials, a new industry came into being. In the 1890's woodworking companies were making furniture, tool handles, boxes, and baskets. There was even an attempt at automobile manufacturing. New Albany became a pioneer in the manufacturing of plywood and veneer products. The first factory in the United States set up exclusively to produce these two wood products opened in New Albany in 1901. Many plywood and veneer companies followed. By 1920, more plywood was made in New Albany than anywhere else in the world. Gunnison Homes, prefabricated houses using plywood, filled a need for quick construction.

The depression of the 1930's closed many of the banks of New Albany. Those banks, which emerged, did business for about 50 years. Now large city banks have taken over the banking business here.

Branch of Indiana State Bank, built 1837

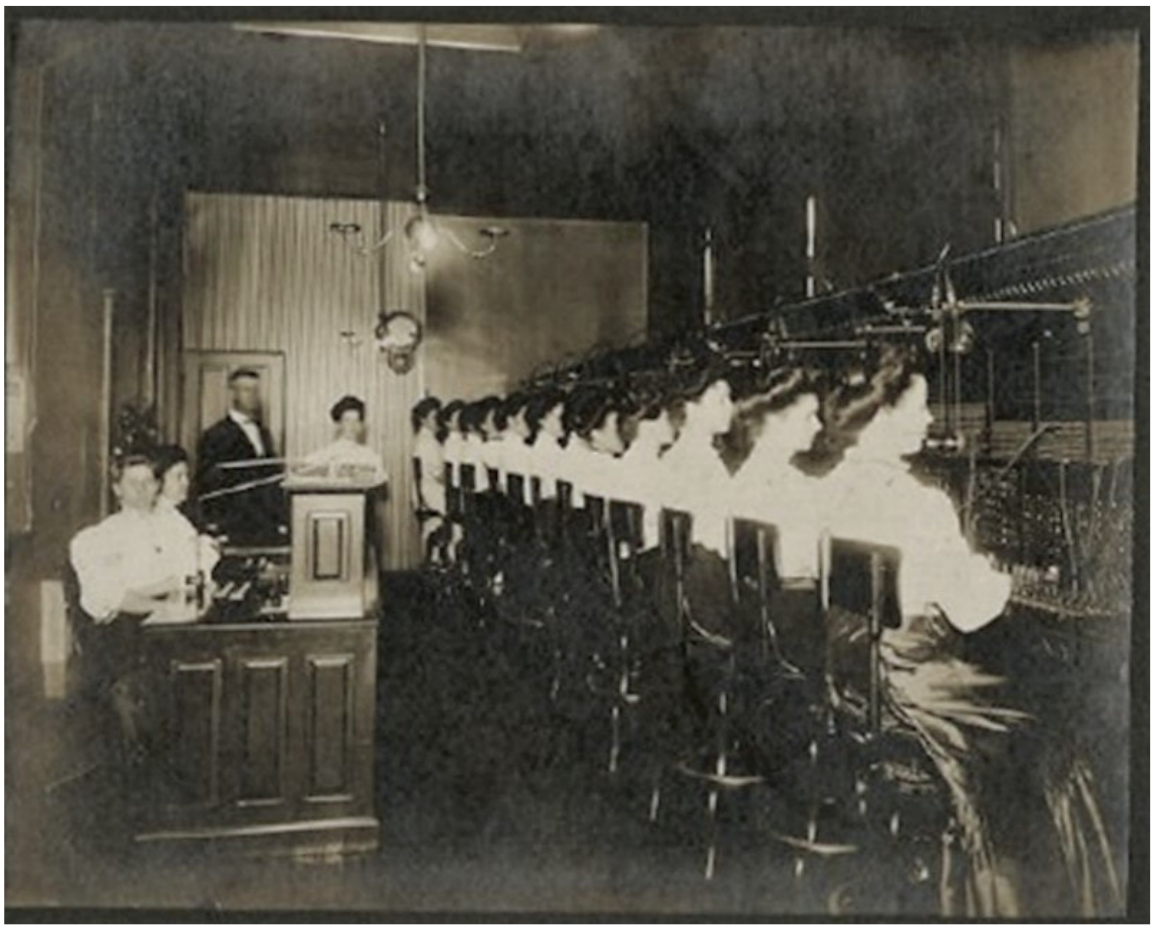
Utilities and Public Facilities

The home of the early settler was lighted by the flickering glow from the fireplace and by candles made from tallow (melted animal fat, either poured or dipped.) Later, kerosene lamps were used to read by. These were still in use in the early 1930's in the countryside around New Albany. It was not until the Rural Electric Membership Corporation (REMC) came into being during the 30's that rural people had electricity in their homes and on their farms. What a wonderful thing! Night changed to day.

In 1854, New Albany Gas Light Company began lighting the streets of the city. A lamplighter went about lighting the lamps each evening. But it was after the Civil War that people had gas lights in their homes.

Electric power, provided by two companies, came in 1887-88. At first it was used to light the streets. Then after Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, electricity began to be used in businesses and homes.

Telephones came to New Albany in 1883, but by 1892 there were only 100 phones.



Home Telephone Company
214 East Elm Street

Water came from wells and cisterns. Industry needed clean and abundant water. Water was later piped into homes.

Public pump

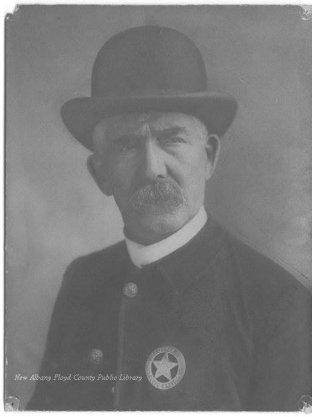
Gladys Powell carrying water – 1918 on Water Street near West 7th

Duke Energy and REMC now provide electric service to Floyd County. Vectren provides gas service. Water is provided under contract by Indiana American Water and other private and public companies. Some homes in the county still have cisterns and wells.

Sewage treatment is provided by New Albany and Georgetown. Several other small treatment plants exist in the county. Septic tanks are still plentiful in rural parts of the county.

Police Departments, Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Floyd County has been a necessary part of our community long before the area was formally recognized as a county. Night watchmen, volunteers who were appointed in communities that hadn't been formally organized, policed the community. As communities were organized constables and marshals were appointed to protect and handle violence, and other threats.



Sheriff T.J. Fullenlove was the Sheriff when the Reno brothers were hanged in 1868. He was assaulted by the vigilante crew.

Floyd County's first sheriff, Jacob Besse was elected in 1819, the same year the county was created. Sheriff Besse was responsible for carrying out the only three judicial hangings (ordered by a judge) in Floyd County. Sheriffs deputized citizens to assist in providing police services, a process that continued until late into the 1970s. Their mode of transportation was by horse and likely meant a trip of hours to respond to Georgetown or Greenville and might have involved staying overnight.

Greenville

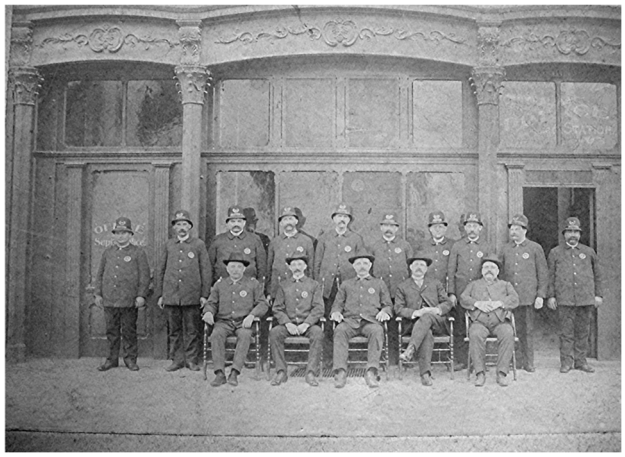
Before Floyd County became a county, the Greenville area was patrolled and protected by a marshal. A Greenville marshal has been on the job since 1816. The current marshal is Justin Craig.

Georgetown

Georgetown has a small police department which in cooperation with the Indiana State Police and the sheriff, keep the town and surrounding area safe.

New Albany

Before the New Albany Police Department was formed in 1871, New Albany, like Greenville and Georgetown, had marshals and constables.



New Albany Police Department - 1900

First New Albany Police Department chief David B. Starr a photo from the Civil War

Fire Departments

Providing fire protection is one of the most important services a community can offer to its citizens. Dr. Asahel Clapp, the first doctor in New Albany, helped to organize the first volunteer fire department in New Albany. He also served as fire chief for a period of time. A volunteer fire department means that people donate their time without being paid for fighting fires. New Albany began to pay its fire fighters in 1865.

In the early days, fires were fought with water thrown from leather buckets by bucket brigades. Later, hand-pumped engines and steam engines were used to battle blazes.

By 1857, New Albany had five well-organized and well-equipped volunteer fire companies with as many as 365 members. These volunteer fire companies had names such as Osceola, Washington, and Hoosier. The Hoosier fire company was organized in 1839. A station for Hoosier Number 3 was built in 1855 at West Fourth and Market streets. This fire station was used by the New Albany Fire Department until a larger fire station was constructed at West Tenth and Main streets in 1975.

Today, six fire departments protect the citizens of Floyd County.

Georgetown
serving: Georgetown and Georgetown Township (2 stations)
members: 12 paid/full-time; 14 paid/part-time; 7 volunteers

Greenville Twp Fire Protection Dist.
serving: Greenville/Greenville Township
(2 stations)
members: 9 paid; volunteers;
contracted to Lafayette Township

Lafayette Township
serving: Lafayette Township (2 stations)
members: 12 paid; 30 volunteers

Lanesville
serving: upper Franklin Township

New Chapel
serving: New Albany Township (not in the city) and lower Franklin Township
also provides ambulance service county-wide (not in the city)
members: 45 paid; 30 volunteers (3 stations)

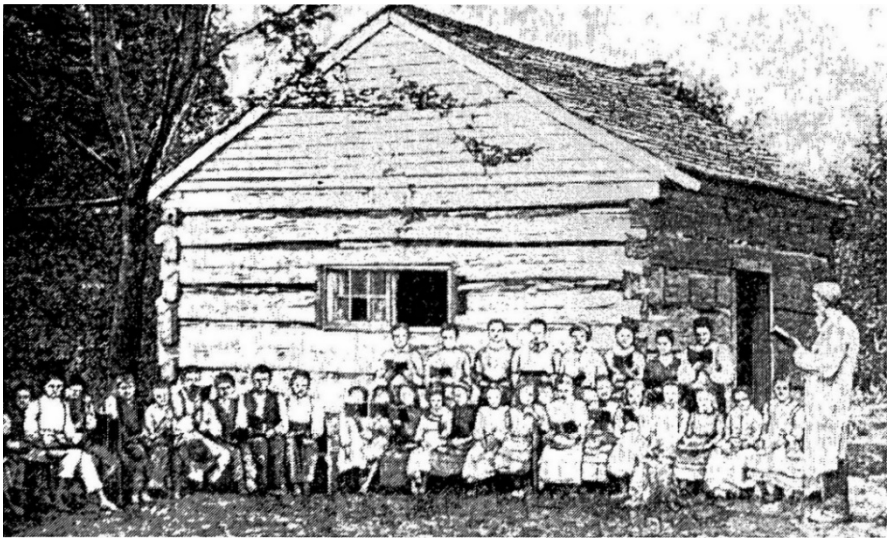
New Albany (5 stations)
serving: New Albany city
members: 80 paid

Over 200 professionals and volunteers are protecting the county.

Schools

The story of education in New Albany and Floyd County began almost as soon as the first settlers came. The Scribner brothers, who founded New Albany in 1813, believed all children should go to school and be educated. To see that this was done, the Scribners set aside $5,000 from the sale of certain town lots for a school fund.

The first school house in New Albany was built by the Scribners in 1817. It was a log building with one room upstairs and one downstairs. It was on State and Spring streets. An act “Incorporating the New Albany School" was passed by the Indiana State Legislature in 1821. This law established the first school system here. In 1823, the first school was opened.



An Early School

The new State Constitution of 1851 authorized a public-school system with the power to levy taxes. This provided an income.

In 1853, the school systems of New Albany were consolidated to form the New Albany City Schools.

In the meantime, the interest from the Scribner Fund was used to build a two-story brick building at West First and Spring streets. In 1853, under the New Albany City Schools, this building became Scribner High School later known as New Albany High School, the first public high school in Indiana.

Indiana’s first public high school at West First Street and Spring - 1853

The early schools in the county were subscription schools. This meant that anyone who felt he could teach or wanted to teach could pass around a paper and get people to sign an agreement to pay a certain amount for a child to attend his classes. In 1815, Greenville had the first school of this kind.

The early pioneer schools were usually one room, heated by a stove. Water was carried from a spring. The teacher didn't have time to hear each child recite, so they recited together at the same time. This earned them the name "loud" or "blab" schools. The children sat on benches made from split logs. They used slates to do their "'ritin' and 'rithmetic." The schoolmaster had to build the fire and sweep the floor as well as to teach. Older students helped with the chores and with the younger children.

During the Civil War the school buildings in New Albany were used as hospitals. In 1864, the schools were reopened and children returned to classes. In 1870, only 28 out of 100 children attended school in New Albany. As time went on, more people saw the need for an education, so more schools were built, more teachers were hired, and more subjects were taught.

Outside the city, in Floyd County, there were many one-room schools, close enough so that children could walk several miles to and from school. Starting in 1916 they were slowly consolidated, and in 1948 all of these schools became the Floyd County School System. In 1955 this system merged with New Albany Public Schools to form the first city-county unit in the state.

Country school house 13, Green Valley Road - 1915

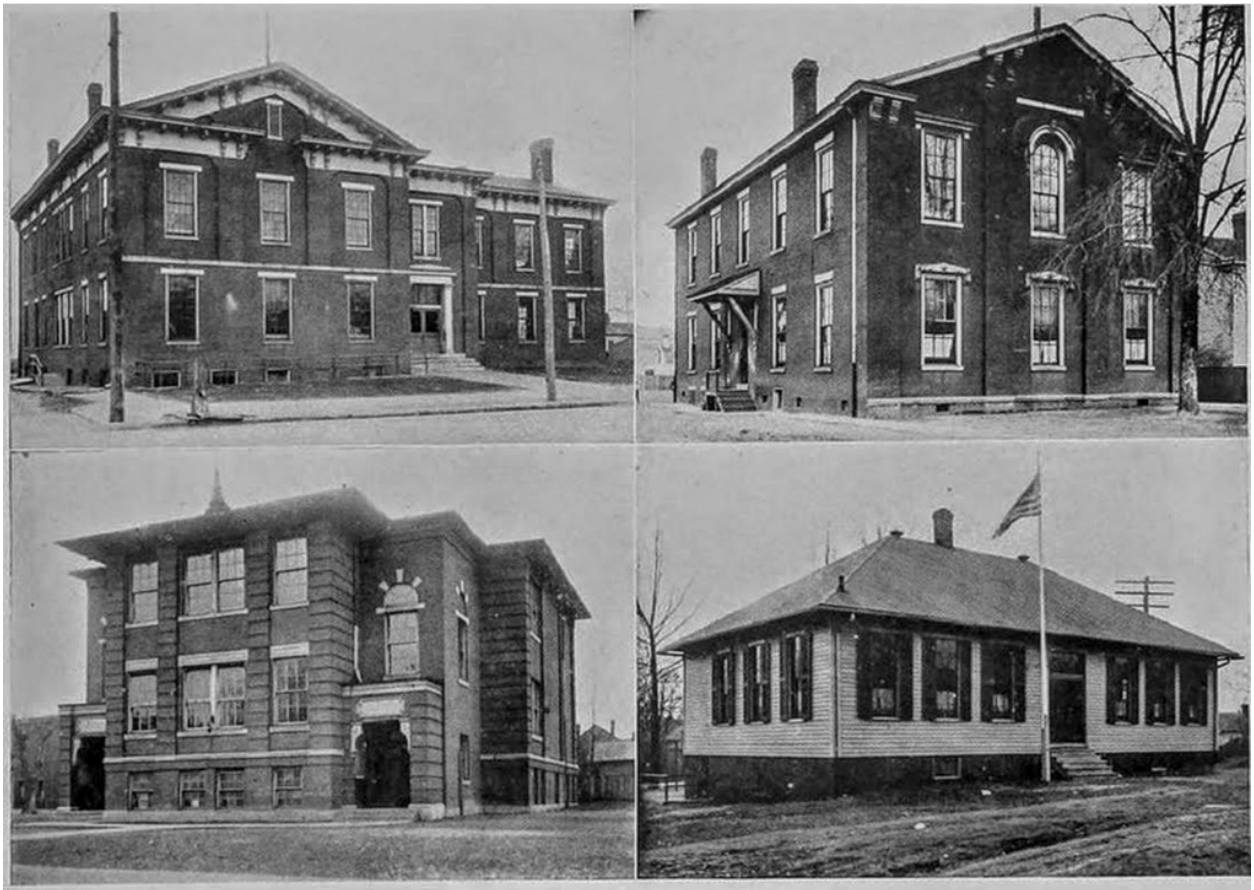
It was not until 1916 that transportation was furnished. Up until that time the children walked, rode horseback, or came in a horse and buggy owned by their parents. But in 1916 a school wagon, pulled by horses, took children to and from school. The wagon was much like a bus but had no heat. The ride was bumpy and cold. Today buses make it easy to get to school.

School Wagons line up at Jacob's Chapel School

Scribner High School, established in 1853, was originally located on West First and Spring streets. One year after its opening, the school was temporarily closed by the Indiana Supreme Court after the court ruled that its administration was allocating funds unlawfully. It was reopened until it was again closed, when the United States Army converted the school into a hospital for soldiers serving in the American Civil War.

Prior to the conclusion of the American Civil War, Scribner High School reopened for academic usage; enrolling students in September of 1864. In 1870, the high school established two separate high schools; with the original building being converted into a an all Boys' High School, while a secondary building on East Spring and Bank streets was designated as the Female High School. In 1880, the schools were consolidated and the name changed to New Albany High School, with all students beginning attendance solely at the former Female High School building.

The **Division Street School** is a historic school building located in New Albany. It was one of the first elementary schools for African-American children, with construction beginning in June 1884, and the opening in 1885. The building was moved thirty feet westward in 1922. It was untouched by the Ohio River Flood of 1937. It operated as a school until May 1946, while segregation still took place; those students were assigned to Griffin Street School. From 1946 until 1948 it was a Veterans Administration Office and was then used as a maintenance shop for the New Albany Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation until 1999. After restoration, it is now used for various community activities and fourth grade school field trips.



Group of Public School Buildings.

West Spring Street School.
Scribner High School.

West Market Street School.
Division Street School.

St. Mary's Parochial Schools.

Lower left—St. Joseph's School for Boys. Upper right—St. Mary's Academy for Girls.

Higher Education

The New Albany Methodist Seminary began in 1835 and closed about 1843. Out of it grew the Indiana Asbury Female College, which later became DePauw College for Young Ladies.

Anderson Female College in New Albany started about 1845, and later Anderson Collegiate Institute, a boys' school, began.

Anderson Female College, West Main and Lafayette

A Seminary opened in Greenville in 1850. Norman J. Coleman was the principal. One of the school's trustees was John B. Ford. The school was a two-story brick building. In 1852 the state began the public schools we have today. This spelled the end of the seminary that 100 students had been attending.

The New Albany Theological Seminary to train Presbyterian ministers began in 1847 but later was moved to Chicago and became McCormick Theological Seminary.

The Indiana University Falls City Area Center was established by Floyd McMurray in 1941 as an extension center of Indiana University in New Albany, Indiana, and Jeffersonville, Indiana. Classes were initially held in classrooms at New Albany High School and Hazelwood Junior High School in New Albany, and at Jeffersonville High School in Jeffersonville. In 1945, IU Southeast moved into its own building in Jeffersonville. IU Southeast moved to its current 177-acre (0.72 km2) campus in New Albany, Indiana, during 1973.

Churches

The early churches began as prayer groups in the homes of the early settlers. In 1817, both Presbyterians and Methodists formed churches. In 1818, the Methodists built a log building and their pastor was Rev. John Shrader. The Presbyterians erected a frame building on State Street in New Albany the same year. Isaac Reed was the pastor. In 1819 the first Sunday School class in Indiana was held here.

Other denominations followed in the next few years. The first Catholic Church in New Albany, Holy Trinity, came into being in 1836. About the same time, brush arbor (shelters made from tree branches) meetings were being held at Mt. Tabor. Many famous people preached at these camp meetings, such as Henry Ward Beecher. In 1836 St. Mary of the Knobs was given a resident pastor, Father Louis Neyron.

St. Mary of the Knobs

Most churches were served by circuit riders who went from place to place on horseback. They endured unbelievable hardships.

The Town Clock Church is a landmark in New Albany. It was Second Presbyterian Church when it was built between 1849 and 1852. It has several levels, one that allowed escaping slaves to find shelter on their route to freedom.

The Civil War

From April 1861 until April 1865 the United States fought a terrible Civil War. The southern states called themselves the Confederate States of America and withdrew from the United States to protect the institution of slavery. President Abraham Lincoln refused to recognize their right to do this and after a Federal Fort in South Carolina was attacked, we went to war.

Indiana was one of the first states to support President Lincoln and provided over 200,000 volunteers to serve in the military. Almost 25,000 Hoosiers lost their lives.

Because of its location on the Ohio River, New Albany became important to the war effort. Thousands of soldiers trained at Camp Noble, an army camp, established in New Albany near Silver Street and Charlestown Road on the old Floyd County Fairgrounds, where Fairmont School is today. Col. Benjamin F. Scribner organized and trained a regiment of men there. They were called the 38th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment. These men fought at the Battle of Perryville in Kentucky and later at many famous battles down through Tennessee and Georgia: the battles at Stone River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Atlanta, and on Gen. Sherman's March to the Sea.

During the Civil War African-American soldiers were not allowed to join same regiments as the white soldiers and were paid less. Despite this unfair treatment, a many local African-Americans served in the Northern Army. Alexander Samuels, Joseph Williams, Enos Mitchum, William Johnson, Doctor McClure, and Dr. William A. Burney all were members of this group. At the end of the war, this regiment was honored with a parade in Indianapolis. William Burney and Enos Mitchell marched in the parade.

At the battle at Shiloh, Tennessee, in April, 1862, 16,420 men were wounded, and 3,482 were killed. Many wounded were brought upriver by steamboat to New Albany to be nursed back to health. Some hospital boats were tied up at the wharf, and the local school buildings were converted into hospitals. Because the schools were closed, the children of New Albany sacrificed two years of their educational time to help the war effort.

A national cemetery was created on Ekin Avenue west of Silver Street as a final resting place for soldiers who died. This cemetery is beside the former Silver Street School. Today you can go there and read the inscriptions on the gravestones of those brave men.

During the Civil War, the closest fighting to Floyd County occurred at Corydon in 1863, when General John Hunt Morgan led 2,400 Confederate soldiers on horseback through Southern Indiana and Ohio. Although a likely target, New Albany was never attacked, probably because of many Union soldiers in the area.

Indiana 38th, https://fchsin.org/Indiana38th/Indiana38.aspx examines the **38th Indiana regiment** formed in Southern Indiana and headed by Benjamin Scribner.

Local Culture

Newspaper

New Albany had newspapers from its earliest years. The first newspaper, The New Albany Chronicle, was published weekly in 1820 by Mason Fitch and Ebenezer Patrick. Its first big story was of New Albany's first murder. A baker, Frederick Nolte, was killed by a friend, John Dahlmann, who was put in the jail which had been built in 1819 at a cost of $50. He escaped by boring a hole through the wood floor and tunneling out. When he was safely in Canada, he wrote his wife. Sheriff Besse set off to recapture him, accompanied by a deputy dressed as Mrs. Dahlmann. When Dahlmann answered the knock on his door, the officers seized him, put him in irons, tossed him in a boat, and brought him back to New Albany. At the trial a jury found him guilty, and he was hanged. Despite this lurid story, the Chronicle had only 250 subscribers and eventually went out of business.

The second newspaper was a real scandal sheet. It was named The Microscope and General Adviser, then The Indiana Recorder, and finally The Indiana Commercial Recorder. Its editor, Dr. T.H. Roberts, moved the paper to New Albany from Louisville when he was run out of town by an angry mob who didn't like what he wrote.

In 1830 a successful Whig paper, The New Albany Gazette, was started by James, Henry, and Thomas Collins. This became a daily newspaper in 1837 and was published until 1870. In 1864 it was revived as The New Albany Commercial. The first Democratic newspaper was begun in 1836. Beginning in 1849 it was published every afternoon under the name The Ledger. The main competition for The Ledger was The New Albany Tribune, which began in 1888 as a Republican paper. By 1920 The Ledger was not making enough money to continue daily publication, so it became a weekly. Because of the damage to its printing equipment in the 1937 flood, the paper was sold to The Tribune.

Several people tried unsuccessfully to establish weekly papers. Finally, in 1881 Josiah Gwin started The Public Press which continued until the First World War. There were several New Albany newspapers printed in German. The most successful was the Deutsche Zeitung, which means the German Newspaper. Of all these papers, only The Tribune remains today.

Entertainment

Even before radio, movies, and television, the people of Floyd County had entertainment. Most likely, the earliest theaters were the showboats, steamboats which went from river town to river town putting on plays or displays of fire-eaters or sword-swallowers. In 1853 a theater, Woodward Hall, was built at Main and West First streets, and it is still standing. It had a stage on the third floor, which was used for plays, political rallies, and public meetings. Tradition says one of the first Indiana performances of Uncle Tom's Cabin took place here. At the end of the Civil War, a large opera house was built at East Spring and Pearl streets. Some local citizens said the building was "too big to stand," but they were wrong. The building was often filled to capacity (full) with people enjoying the various musicals and drama which traveling companies put on. The Opera House, or the Music Hall as it was sometimes called, was the major place of entertainment until the silent movies became popular in the early 1900's. The Kerrigan Theater, named for Warren Kerrigan, had stage and vaudeville shows and silent movies.

In 1911 New Albany had eight movie houses: the Princess, Crystal, Grand, Liberty, Majestic, Mammoth, Star, and Victoria. The Opera House went into decline. It became the scene of poultry shows, a roller skating rink, and even a movie house called the Hippodrome. Finally, one cold March night in 1939, it was partially destroyed by fire. The third floor was removed; the building was renovated. It still stands today. Later other movie houses, the Elks, the Elba, and the Indiana, opened, but eventually the invention of television drove them all out of business. Although the Grand is no longer a movie theater, it is used today for an event hall.

Music

Music has always been a part of Floyd County's history. The first Methodist prayer group was formed when a passer-by heard Hannah Rough singing a Methodist hymn as she was working in her shop. The first singing group, the Callioxean Society, was formed in 1847. Later, other music study and singing groups were organized. The Mannerchor, a male chorus, was popular for many years after the Civil War. New Albany had several renowned bands. Reisinger's Sax Horn Band won a statewide competition in 1856, defeating a band from Bloomington. The Silver Band, the best known, existed for over 30 years. One of the best-known music lovers of New Albany was Mrs. Jennie Gebhart Hedden, who inspired the choir at the First Presbyterian Church to become one of the best in the Fall's Cities. She also sang for many years with the Treble Clef Club. In 1929 the longest existing music study club in New Albany's history, the Jennie Gebhart Music Study Club, was named in her honor. Over the years New Albany had a Musical Literary Club, a Mozart Club, a Hayden Club, and even a Mandolin and Guitar Club. For a time, there was a Summer Opera Company, which gave spectacular performances at Glenwood Park. From the time New Albany was little more than a clearing in the forest up to the present time, its citizens have found pleasure in music.

Arts in New Albany

In early New Albany there were no photographs. People hired artists to paint pictures of family members. At that time artists would live in the homes of the people whom they were painting. George Morrison was probably the first professional artist to work in New Albany. In the early 1900's New Albany's best-known artists were Ferdinand Walker, Frederick Shrader, and James L. Russell. Mr. Russell's oils of the beech trees along Silver Creek were especially popular.

In the 1960's there was a rebirth of art and artists in Floyd County as a result of the establishment of the Studio Gallery by Dorothy Luedemann. In addition to providing a showcase for local artists, Mrs. Luedemann started a Fourth of July Regional Arts Festival. The Festival included not only an art exhibit for professional artists but also a children's exhibit and stage presentations of music, dance, and drama. This gallery closed in 1970, when its founder and owner moved to North Carolina. After her departure, the Floyd County Museum, later known as the Carnegie Center for Art & History, opened in the old New Albany Carnegie Library at Bank and East Spring streets. This museum has exhibits of both history and art.

Interest in art in Floyd County has been fostered by the establishment of the Mary Anderson Center for the Arts at the Mt. St. Francis Seminary site. Artists have studios there and offer classes for interested children and adults.

Chautauqua

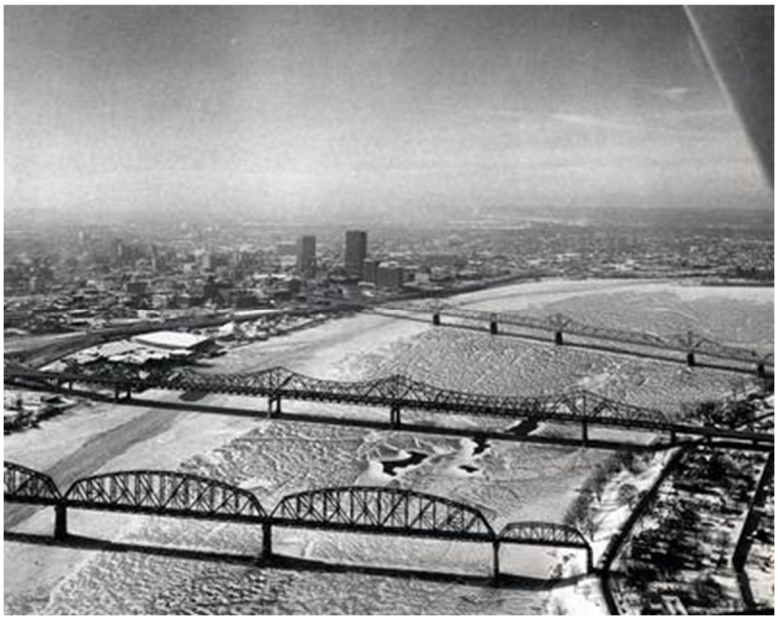
In 1903 the first Chautauqua in New Albany was held at Glenwood Park on the banks of Silver Creek. Held every summer for two weeks, the Chautauqua was designed to provide education, inspiration, and relaxation. Some of the first movies in New Albany were shown there. Many famous people lectured on new ideas. Indiana's most famous poet, James Whitcomb Riley, and well-known politicians, William Jennings Bryan and Eugene V. Debs, were among the speakers. A production of Hiawatha had a troupe of full-blooded Native Americans. Most of the Chautauqua events were held in a huge tent that seated 4,000 people. The Chautauqua ended in 1922 for good. It became a victim of radio, movies, and automobiles. For several years it stood empty; then it was sold off for residential development. Today only the street names Glenwood Park and Glenwood Court remain to remind us of this park.

Weather

Weather is the state of the air and atmosphere at a particular time and place: the temperature and other outside conditions (such as rain, cloudiness, etc.).

In general, Floyd County lies in a temperate zone with less extreme weather than experienced to the north and even to the south. Other places get more snow and experience colder temperatures. Floyd County is in the Ohio Valley. The river creates its own weather.

That doesn't mean that Floyd hasn't had some trying times. Drought will sometimes cause farmers to lose their crops and create a shortage of drinking water. In 2017 there was a record number of extreme high temperature days. Extreme snowfall will sometimes shut down power, businesses and schools. In 1977 the Ohio River froze over and slowed barge traffic. This has not happened since 1977!



Frozen River

Looking downriver over the Big-4, Kennedy and 2nd Street bridges

While the river moderates, it can sometimes cause major trouble. From earliest times the land in the valley flooded. Some years there was extensive damage to businesses and homes in the city. The years 1832, 1847, 1858, 1883, 1884, and 1913 were all times of severe flooding. But the largest flood, the one that buried all the others in the mud, occurred in January 1937. At its highest point, which is called the crest of the flood, the water just touched the bottom of the traffic light which hung on high wires over the street at East Spring and Silver streets. Businesses were closed. Families had to go live with friends and relatives in other towns. Electricity was off in most areas. Some schools were used as emergency centers where citizens could go to get assistance. Many children and adults received typhoid fever shots there. The fire department floated a pumper truck on oil drums so that they could take it to the scene of fires. After the flood, slimy mud covered everything. Some books at the library had to be shoveled out and thrown away. Everything had to be scrubbed. People worked hard and gradually got rid of the mess.

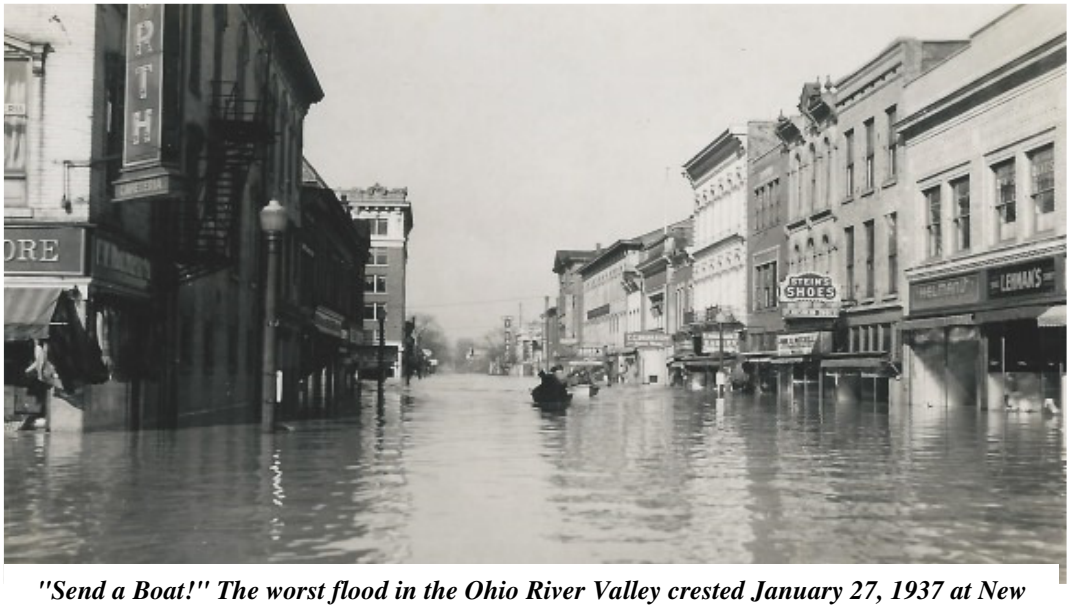
Today New Albany is mostly safe from major floods because of the floodwall which was built from 1948-1953 and because of the many dams that were built to regulate the flow of the river. Flooding still occurs but nothing as severe as in 1937. Recent floods occurred 1997, 2011, 2013, 2015 and twice in the Spring of 2018!

1913 Flood

Note the Town Clock Church has its original steeple

1937 Flood

This was the big one! It was an Ohio valley event. Communities up and down the river experienced the hardship similar to New Albany. It occurred in January. In addition to getting wet people were also cold!

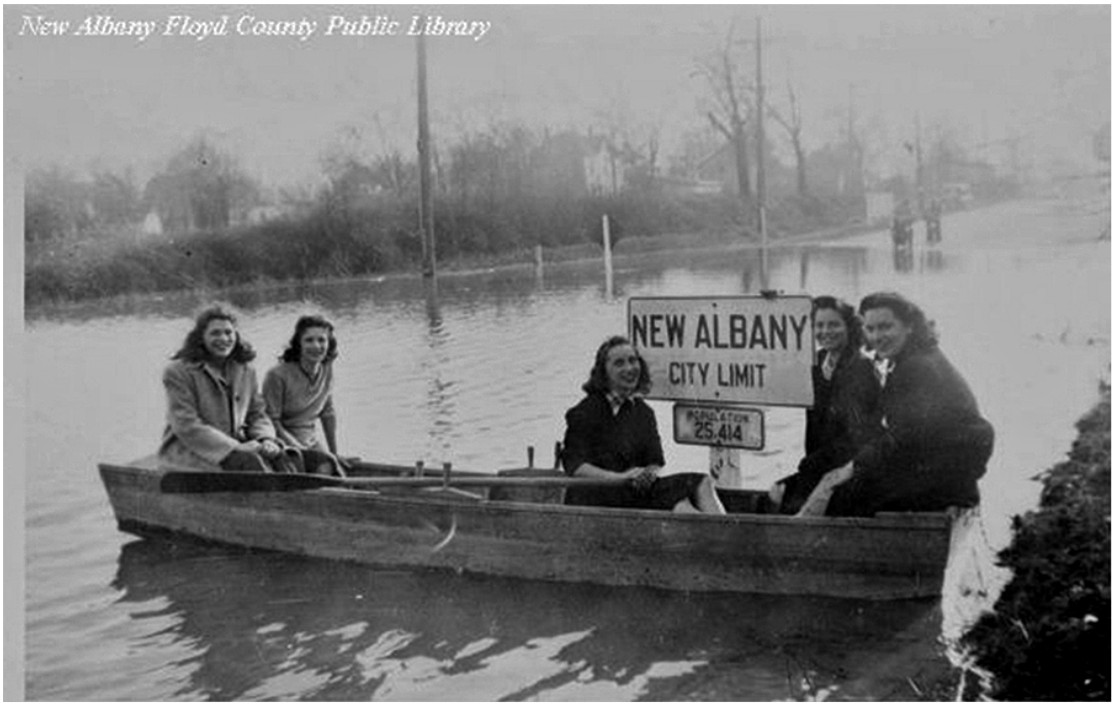


"Send a Boat!" The worst flood in the Ohio River Valley crested January 27, 1937 at New Albany. A state of emergency existed from January 20 until February 11, when National Guard units were disbanded.
This view shows Pearl Street, north from East Market.

On East Spring at East Sixth Street

A firetruck on oil drums on East Market Street

1945 Flood



1945 March flood, East Spring Street bridge over Silver Creek. (l-r) Reeda WIlson (Burks), Alma Libs (Knable), Dorothy Lemon (Flora), Jane or Jennie Wiseman (Martin), and Hilda Shireman Bailey.

1997 Flood

Louisville waterfront, Interstate 64 ramp

1917 Tornado

Tornados occur less frequently in Floyd than some surrounding counties. On March 23, 1917, a warm, muggy day, tornado winds swept over the knobs and dropped into the city of New Albany. Hundreds of homes were damaged, and 45 people were killed. The areas hit were along Cherry and Ealy streets, State Street and along Grant Line and Charlestown roads. The huge DePauw summer home was wrecked. Help poured into the city from all the neighboring communities. As a result of the tornado, the New Albany Chapter of the American Red Cross was organized to assist people in need of help. Recently, on June 2, 1990, a number of tornadoes struck the knobs and the Six-Mile Switch areas in the night. Many homes were damaged. Ross Bolding, a first grader at Lafayette Elementary School, was carried some distance from his home by the winds. Fortunately, he survived with only minor injuries.

Charlestown Road and Vincennes Street took the blow hard

Ruins of a firehouse on State Street.

Depauw's old summer home on Charlestown Road

African-American school on Olden Street where two were killed in the collapse

Troop D, Indiana Guard, at Vincennes Street and Charlestown Road

More recently, the Henryville tornado passed through Clark County in 2012. Injuries and loss of life accompanied the wide-spread damage.

Straight-line winds and wind gusts also cause damage, knocking down trees and power lines and damaging homes and businesses as they did in 2011.

People to Know and Remember

Aebersold, Wilton Jameson "Jamey" (1939-) A publisher, educator, and jazz saxophonist born and living in New Albany. His Play-A-Long series of instructional books and CDs, using the chord-scale system, the first of which was released in 1967, are an internationally renowned resource for jazz education. His summer workshops have educated students of all ages since the 1960s.

Alexander, Joseph - Founder and editor of the first African-American newspaper in New Albany, The Weekly Review, in 1882.

Alexander, Stephen - Many New Albany citizens, both black and white, remember the devotion and care of this physician during his 45 years of practice. Dr. Alexander is buried at West Haven Cemetery.

Anderson, Mary (1859-1940) Famous actress who donated the land that is now Mt. St. Francis.

Atterbury, William Wallace (1866–1935) New Albany native who was a brigadier general in World War I. Became the tenth president of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Camp Atterbury was named for him.

Bennett, Cathi - Miss Indiana USA in 1991, from New Albany.

Bicknell, George A. (1815-1891) Moved to New Albany in 1851. He served as judge of the second judicial circuit of Indiana 1852-1876, and was also a professor of law at Indiana University 1861-1870. Bicknell was elected as a Democrat to the Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Congresses (March 4, 1877 – March 3, 1881). Bicknell was elected judge of the circuit court of Indiana in 1889.

Brewer, Dayna - Miss Indiana in 1993, from New Albany.

Brown, Jesse J. - Founder of the Republican Party in Southern Indiana. Business partner of W.S. Culbertson. Commissioner to the World Expo at Vienna, Austria, appointed by President Grant in 1873, from New Albany.

Buerk, Professor Harry A. - Well-known local educator from New Albany. Amateur geologist. Started football at New Albany High School.

Buley, R. Carlyle (1893-1968) Author who received the Pulitzer Prize for his book Old Northwest. Born in Georgetown.

Burney, William A. - First African-American doctor in the New Albany area in 1864. Helped Joseph Alexander establish The Weekly Review.

Cannon, John - Captain of the Robt. E. Lee steamboat, from Kentucky.

Clapp, Asahel (-1862) Dr. Clapp came to New Albany in 1818 from Vermont. He married Joel Scribner's daughter, Mary. He built a two-story brick structure next to the Scribner House on Main street. For years this structure housed the iconic Southside Inn and is now the home of Boomtown Kitchen Restaurant. This is the oldest brick building in New Albany.
In addition to being a doctor Asahel Clapp is recognized as a botanist, geologist and meteorologist. Dr. Clapp helped to organize the first volunteer fire department in New Albany and was its chief. He owned a drug store and took part in local elections of city officials. He helped to form the Indiana Medical Society in 1820 and was its second president.

Clokey, Joseph (1890-1960) Educator, organist and composer of sacred and secular music, born in New Albany.

Coleman, Norman J. (1827-1911) Principal of Greenville Seminary. First Secretary of Agriculture, appointed in 1889 by President Cleveland. Floyd County has scant claim because he was born in New York and later moved to Missouri. His wife, Clara Porter, was from Greenville.

Collins, Angelina (1805-1885) Author of the first cookbook published in Indiana in 1851 called Table Receipts Adapted to Western Housewifery. Also, a poet, anti-slavery and temperance advocate. Lived in New Albany.

Culbertson, Samuel (1862-1948) President of Churchill Downs. Started the tradition of putting a garland of roses around the neck of the horse which won the Kentucky Derby. Son of W. S. Culbertson, born in New Albany.

Culbertson, William Stewart (1814-1892) William Culbertson moved to New Albany in 1835 from Pennsylvania through Louisville and found employment working as a clerk in the dry goods store of Alexander S. Burnett. He soon had a very successful dry goods firm of his own. William was a philanthropist, a wealthy person who shared much of his wealth with people less fortunate. In 1873, he donated $25,000 toward the founding and construction of a widows' home, located at 704 East Main Street in New Albany. In 1881, he donated $18,000 toward the establishment of an orphanage which was located at 1801 Ekin Avenue, or Poplar Street as it was known at the time. This orphanage was called the Cornelia Memorial Orphans' Home, named for his second wife, who had worked to help orphans in New Albany. Mr. Culbertson built his French Second Empire mansion at 914 East Main Street between 1867 and 1869. The 25-room mansion has hand painted ceilings, a carved rosewood staircase, marble fireplaces, and crystal chandeliers. The Culbertson Mansion cost $120,000 to build in 1867. It has been an Indiana State Historic Site since 1976.

Dean, Joe (Jo-Jo) (1930-2013) Nationally known basketball player and television sports announcer, from New Albany.

DePauw, Washington C. (1822-1887) W. C. DePauw moved from Salem, Indiana to New Albany in 1854. DePauw's business interests included saw and grist mills, farming, merchandising, and banking. He earned much money in grain trade, and during the Civil War his income was over $300,000 a year. At this time, Washington C. DePauw was considered the richest man in Indiana. DePauw took over the plate glass company from John Ford in the 1870's, and his company, the American Plate Glass Works, at one time was the largest factory of its type in our country, employing 2,000 people. DePauw built a plate glass manufacturing empire in New Albany. By 1890, two-thirds of the plate glass made in America came from the New Albany plate glass industry.

Eicholz, Robert - New Albany mathematician who authored an elementary math program used locally and nationally.

Ford, John Baptiste (1811-1903) Born in Kentucky he moved to Greenville Indiana in1823. For 30 years he prospered in Greenville, having a saddle shop, grocery and dry goods store, a flour mill, cooperage shop, and a plant to make tin door pie safes. He had as many as 30 agents with teams of horses going through the country selling saddles and pie safes. He supplied saddles for the U.S. Calvary during the Mexican War. In 1854, with $40,000 in the bank, Ford took his wife and two sons and moved to New Albany. He first manufactured a cutting box for feed for animals. Then he expanded into a nail factory, an iron rolling mill, a forge and foundry, and a plow factory. He built steamboats and operated a river fleet. From that, he went into glass making. At first it was bottles and jars, but soon he began his manufacture of plate glass. The first two panes of polished plate glass ever made in America were installed in the store front of John Hieb's tailor shop at 316-318 Pearl Street in New Albany. In 1872, Ford was forced to sell his glass works to Washington C. DePauw and moved to Pennsylvania where he continued in manufacturing. A state historical marker was placed in Greenville on May 19, 2019 commemorating Mr. Ford.

Fox, Bruce (1903-1960) Floyd County artist and businessman who developed a method of using aluminum to create decorative plates, bowls, and plaques.

Gunnison, Foster (1896-1961) Developer of the first prefabricated homes in the United States, from New Albany.

Herman, William Jennings Bryan (Billy) (1909-1992) Billy Herman was from New Albany and became a famous and talented major league baseball player. Billy attended New Albany High School and played regularly as an infielder on the varsity baseball team for three years. He played second base for the Chicago Cubs in the 1930's and during his career, was regarded as one of the best players at his position. Billy also played in the 1932 World Series. In the early 1950's, Billy was a third base coach for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was also a coach for the Milwaukee Braves in 1957 and 1958. The Braves won the World Series in 1957 and won the National League Pennant in 1958. In 1966, he managed the Boston Red Sox and in the early 1970's was a scout for the Oakland A's. In 1975, Billy Herman was voted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Hubble, Edwin Powell (1889-1953) Famous astronomer who worked at Mt. Wilson Observatory. The Hubble telescope was named for him. He was a Spanish and physics teacher and basketball coach at New Albany High School in 1913-1914.

Huth, Gerald (Gerry) B. (1933-2011) Gerry Huth started his football career playing for the New Albany Bulldogs. Graduating in 1948, he then attended Wake Forest University, again playing football and graduating with a degree in Business Administration. He was drafted into the NFL by the New York Giants, where he had an immediate impact as a rookie. After a two-year stint in the Army (won the European Football Championship), he returned to the NFL playing for the Philadelphia Eagles and the Minnesota Vikings. Gerry was inducted into the NAHS Hall of Fame and the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame. He was on two NFL World Championship teams. After retiring from the NFL Gerry became a claims adjuster in California. He later moved to Las Vegas.

Jones, Epaphras (1764-1847) Revolutionary war veteran, author, businessman who founded the town of Providence in an attempt to compete with New Albany.

Kenney, Bert - Soft-shoe dancer, comedian, and singer.

Kerr, The Honorable Michael Crawford (1827-1876) Michael Kerr moved to New Albany in 1852 and began practicing law. In 1854 he was elected New Albany city attorney. The following year, Kerr was elected Floyd County prosecuting attorney. He also served as an Indiana State Representative and as a reporter for the Indiana Supreme Court. From March 4,1865 until March 3, 1873, Michael C. Kerr served as a Democratic member of Congress for five terms. He was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. Michael C. Kerr lived in New Albany at 1109 East Main Street in the Mansion Row Historic District. Today, his home is recognized by a state historical marker.

Kerrigan, Kathleen (1868-1957) and **J. Warren** (1861-1953) Sister and brother who were stage and silent movie stars. Lived in New Albany.

Langford, Romeo (1999-) Romeo started all four years for New Albany High School's basketball team and graduated in 2018. He finished his high school career being the Bulldog's all-time leading scorer and fourth on the all-time Indiana state scoring list with 3,002 points. Langford was crowned Indiana's Mr. Basketball for 2018. Other honors included: McDonald's All-American, two-time Naismith All-American, Gatorade Player of the Year, and member of the 2017 USA Basketball Under-19 National Team. He began his college career at Indiana University in the fall of 2018.

Lemmon, Dr. John - Founder of the Floyd County Historical Society.

Mackey, Guy (1905-1971) Athlete from New Albany, coach at Purdue. Purdue University's Mackey Arena named for him. Lived in New Albany, attended New Albany High School.

MacLeod, John (1937-2019) Important basketball coach. Coached the New York Knicks, Phoenix Suns, and Notre Dame, from New Albany

Minton, Sherman (1890-1965) Born in Georgetown, attended New Albany High School and received a law degree from Indiana University. Sherman became a partner in a New Albany law firm whose offices were in the Elsby Building. He was elected United States Senator from Indiana in 1934. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to the Federal Court of Appeals of Chicago, Illinois. In 1949, President Harry S. Truman appointed Sherman Minton to the Supreme Court of the United States. Sherman Minton was the first person from Indiana appointed to the Supreme Court. A bridge over the Ohio River between New Albany and Louisville is named for him.

Moody, William Vaughn (1869-1910) Born in Spencer, Indiana, William spent all of his childhood in New Albany. When he was nine, he won an award by making 232 words from the word CONSTANTINOPLE. He went to New Albany High School. After high school he taught at Corydon Pike School for one year and then went to Harvard on a scholarship. William Vaughn Moody spent his adult life working as a professor of literature at the University of Chicago. In the early 1900's, Will was considered by many people to be one of the two best American poets.

Morrison, George (1820-1893) Morrison moved from Baltimore to Connersville, Indiana. It was there that he started his career as a portrait and landscape painter. In 1840, at age twenty years, Morrison moved to New Albany and soon became known as a talented and popular artist. Many important New Albany citizens owned Morrison paintings in the 19th century and hung them on the walls of their homes. Dr. John Sloan owned two Morrison landscape paintings. Mr. Harvey Scribner, a member of New Albany's founding family, owned a landscape called "A View of New Albany," which was painted in 1849 and now hangs in the Carnegie Center for Art & History. Washington C. DePauw owned a Morrison landscape which showed the knobs surrounding New Albany. In 1857, George Morrison painted a portrait of Ashbel P. Willard of New Albany, the 11th Governor of Indiana. That painting today is hanging in the Indiana State House in Indianapolis and is considered by some to be Morrison's most important portrait. Morrison painted Charles (Little Eddie) Scribner in 1852. This portrait can be seen hanging on a wall at the Scribner House in New Albany.

Neyron, Father Louis - Priest at St. Mary of the Knobs who organized the building of Holy Trinity in New Albany. Was a surgeon in the army of Napoleon in the Russian campaign and at the Battle of Waterloo.

Nielsen, Shani - Miss Indiana in 1996, from New Albany.

Nunemacher, John (1824-1882) New Albany bookstore owner who published the Collin's cookbook and sold it for $.50 per copy.

Oster, Maggie - Widely published garden, food writer and photographer from Floyd County. Now lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

Plaschke, Paul (1880-1954) Famous political cartoonist, artist.

Prosser, Charles Allen (1871-1952) Known as the Father of Vocational Education in the United States, Dr. Charles Allen Prosser was born in New Albany where he received his elementary and high school education. Through the help of friends and of his playing semi-professional baseball, Prosser obtained his college degrees from DePauw University at Greencastle, Indiana, in 1897 and 1906. Other degrees Prosser received were from the University of Louisville and Columbia University. He married Zerelda A. Huckeby, also of New Albany, in 1896. Charles Prosser taught history and physics at New Albany High School before becoming superintendent of the local schools from 1900 to 1908. Prosser was instrumental in helping the city of New Albany obtain the Carnegie Library, which now houses the Carnegie Center for Art & History, and instituted the community's first night school program. For 31 years, Charles Allen Prosser headed the Dunwoody Industrial Institute at Minneapolis, Minnesota, where many of today's vocational training concepts were shaped. In 1969 the Prosser School of Technology in New Albany was dedicated to the development of vocational education in southern Indiana.

Richardson (Byrnes), Marian (1925-2010) 1938 winner of the National Spelling Bee. She grew up on a farm as an only child. She attended a one-room school in New Albany. While at Indiana University in the early 1940s, she organized one of the first student chapters of the NAACP. She founded Citizens United to Reclaim the Environment, which led the way for her to head the Southeast Environmental Task Force.

Ritter, Joseph (1892-1967) Archbishop of Indianapolis, appointed Cardinal in the Catholic Church in 1961. Ritter was one of the cardinal elector who participated at the Papal Conclave, 1963. Championed desegregation, from New Albany.

Stotsenburg, Evan (1865-1937) Former Indiana Attorney General and former State Highway Commissioner. A former law partner of United States Senator Sherman Minton. Member Indiana House of Representatives, 1895, Senate, 1907-1915 (president pro tem, 1911). Mr. Stotsenburg served as a Highway Commission member, from New Albany.

Thornton, James (1927-) Thorntons Inc. is a gasoline and convenience store chain with locations in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee. A 1946 graduate of New Albany High School.

Vance, Dr. William O. (1853-1903) Dr. Vance moved to New Albany in 1880. He served New Albany's African-American community as an educator, a doctor, and a newspaper editor. Dr. Vance also served as principal of the African-American Scribner High School. He was a licensed medical doctor, as well. In 1882 and 1883, Dr. Vance was an editor of The Weekly Review, the first African-American newspaper published in New Albany.

Vaun, Esther Brown - Early woman doctor, daughter of slaves. Graduated from Scribner High School in New Albany.

Walter, Letty - Letty worked for the New Albany-Floyd County Parks Department at a young age, taught school for 36 years at St. Mary of the Knobs and served on the New Albany City Council, the Floyd County Council and numerous civic boards. In 1956 she organized a girls' softball team — known as the BPW Hoosiers. The team laid the foundation for organized girls' sports in Floyd County. Letty Walter Park in Floyds Knobs is a Floyd County. Little Indian Creek runs through it. Contained in its 34.5 acres are 1 full court basketball court, a football and soccer fields, a covered shelter with tables, 1 baseball field, 2 tennis courts, and playground equipment.

Willard, Governor Ashbel P. (1820-1860) Kentucky politician moved to New Albany in 1845, was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives, became Lieutenant governor and then governor in 1857. He was the first Governor of Indiana to die in office and remains the only governor to have lived in Floyd County.

Willson, Forceythe (1837-1867) Poet who wrote "The Old Sergeant," one of the best-known poems of the Civil War, from New Albany.

Woodard, Jeff - U.S. high jump record holder in 1981 at 7ft 7 3/4 in., from New Albany.
In 1993 Javier Sotomayor (Cuba) set a new record of 8 ft 0 1/4 in which stands to the present day.

Wright, Camille (1955-) Camille Wright, of New Albany, became a nationally known swimmer in the 1970's. She went to the Pan American Games in Mexico in 1974 and won three gold medals. In 1976, Camille was a member of the United States Olympic Swimming Team which won a silver medal at the Summer Olympics held in Montreal, Canada. She currently lives in Redmond, Washington.

Zoeller, Fuzzy (1951-) An American professional golfer who has won ten PGA Tour events including two major championships. He is one of three golfers to have won the Masters Tournament in his first appearance in the event. He also won the 1984 U.S. Open, which earned him the 1985 Bob Jones Award. Fuzzy graduated from New Albany High School where he played both golf and basketball.

New Albany – Floyd County Firsts

Dr. Asahel Clapp, New Albany's **first doctor**, is known as Indiana's **first botanist**.

The **first Sunday School** in Indiana was established in New Albany in 1819 by the First Presbyterian Church.

The **first stagecoach route** in Indiana was from New Albany to Vincennes in 1820.

The **first covered bridge** in Indiana was built at Mooresville in Floyd County in 1820.

The **New Albany-Paoli Turnpike**, built in 1836, was the first state owned toll road.

The **first cookbook** written and published in Indiana, Table Recipes Adapted To Western Housewifery, was written by Angelina Maria Lorraine Collins of New Albany and published by John R. Nunemacher of the City Bookstore in 1851

Grant Line Road is the western boundary of George Rogers Clark's land grant, which he and his troops received for fighting in the Revolutionary War.

The **first public high school** in Indiana was established in New Albany in 1853, New Albany High School.

Ashbel P. Willard of New Albany, the 11th Governor of Indiana, was the youngest person to serve as Governor and the first to die in office.

The first **performance in Indiana of Uncle Tom's Cabin**, a play written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, was presented at Woodward Hall, 128 West Main Street, in New Albany during the early 1860's.

Michael C. Kerr of New Albany was the first Democratic Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives after the Civil War.

The most famous steamboat in American history, the **Robt. E. Lee**, was built in New Albany in 1866. The Lee set a Mississippi River record in 1870 from New Orleans to St. Louis in 3 days, 18 hours, and 14 minutes.

The first panes of **American-made plate glass**, made in New Albany, were installed at John Hieb's Tailor Shop at 318 Pearl Street in New Albany in 1870.

New Albany became known as the **plywood** capital of the world.

New Albany High School was invited to participate in the first annual Indiana High School Basketball **State Tournament** held at Indiana University in 1911.

Rear Admiral George A. Bicknell of New Albany, supervised the construction of the first steel warships used by the U.S. Navy. This took place at the John Roach Shipyards in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The first **prefabricated home** in America was built by Foster Gunnison in New Albany. His company was later sold to the United States Steel Company.

Sherman Minton, from Floyd County, was the first Justice from Indiana appointed to the United States Supreme Court.

WNAS, the first student owned and operated F.M. radio station in America, was started at New Albany High School in 1949.

The first single countywide school system in Indiana, established in 1955, was the **New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation**.

The **Harvest Homecoming**, celebrated in New Albany every October since 1968, is the second largest festival in Indiana.

Historical Markers in New Albany-Floyd County

More markers, more detail, pictures at https://fchsIN.org

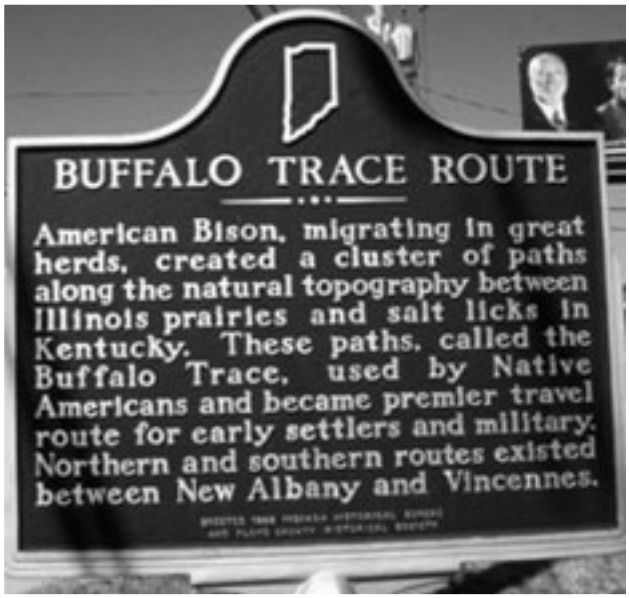
New Albany History Markers
1-64 Exit into New Albany at West Spring Street
Spring Street at Woodrow Avenue, New Albany

Camp Whitcomb
Beharrell Avenue and Spring Street, New Albany

Georgetown, Oldest Settlement in Floyd County
State Road 64, Georgetown

Birthplace of Supreme Court Justice Sherman Minton
State Road 64, Georgetown

Buffalo Trace Route ←
Buffalo Art Park
Daisy Summit, New Albany



Site of First Catholic Church in Floyd County
1 mile south of St. Mary of the Knobs Catholic Church

Navilleton - Last One-Room School in Floyd County
8 miles west of New Albany, off U.S. 150 on Navilleton Road

Site of New Albany-Paoli Pike Tollhouse
Marker in the Padgett Museum

Shipyard where Robt. E. Lee was built
West Main Street/Corydon Pike, New Albany

Israel House
142 West Main Street, New Albany

Woodward House
509 West Market Street, New Albany

City-County Building
Hauss Square and West Spring Street, New Albany

New Albany Centennial Marker
Indiana History Room, Floyd County Library, New Albany

Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter Home
1218 East Oak Street, New Albany

Mitchell-Meyer House
613 East Spring Street, New Albany

Fairview Cemetery-Many Historical Markers and Monuments
800 East 6th Street, New Albany

New Albany's Market House
State and West Market streets, New Albany

John Baptiste Ford
First Harrison Bank, 9849 US 150, Greenville (Floyd County), Indiana 47124

Site of First Catholic Church in New Albany
621 East Market Street, New Albany

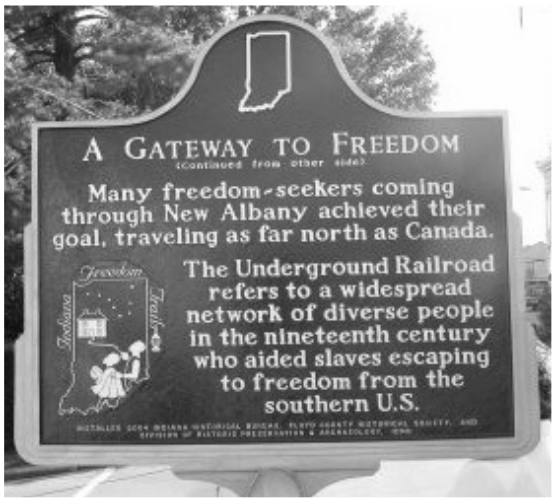
Holy Trinity Heritage Court
East 7th and Market streets, New Albany

Scribner House
State and East Main streets, New Albany

Dr. Asahel Clapp's Home and Office
114 East Main Street, New Albany

New Albany's First Bank Building/
State Bank of Indiana
Bank and Main streets, New Albany

Town Clock Church/A gateway to Freedom ←
300 East Main Street, New Albany



Isaac P. Smith House
513 East Main Street, New Albany

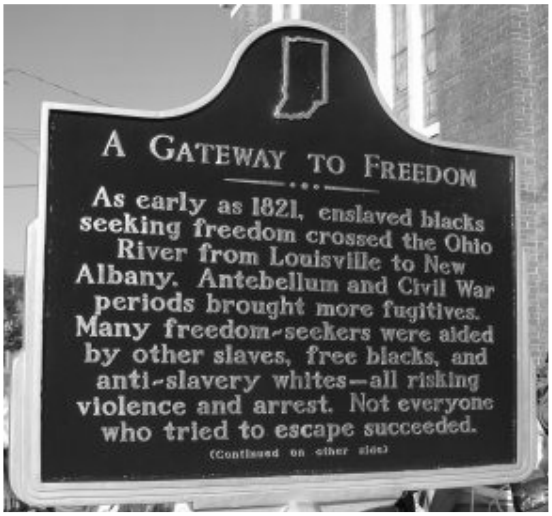
Nunemacher-Hangary House
709 East Main Street, New Albany

Culbertson Mansion
914 East Main Street, New Albany

First Successful Manufacturer of Plate Glass in America
Rear of Culbertson Mansion
East 10th Street, New Albany

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Michael C. Kerr Home
1109 East Main Street, New Albany

Morrill House
1309 East Main Street, New Albany



New Albany High School - First Public High School in Indiana -1853
1020 Vincennes Street, New Albany

New Albany National Cemetery
1943 Ekin Avenue, New Albany

Old Floyd County Fairgrounds/Camp Noble
Fairmont area of Charlestown Road, New Albany

New Albany Public Schools -1821
2813 Grant Line Road, New Albany

Clark's Grant - Western Boundary
Indiana University Southeast, 4201 Grant Line Road, New Albany
809 East Main Street, New Albany

New Albany Tornado – 1917
1111 Pearl Street

Lucy Higgs Nichols
Rear of Town Clock Church, East 3rd Street, New Albany

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Fire Departments
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http://ltvfd.org/ **Lafayette Township**
http://www.georgetowntwpfd.com/ **Georgetown/Georgetown Township**
http://visitgreenvillein.com/greenville-volunteer-fire-dept **Greenville**
https://www.facebook.com/LanesvilleVolunteerFireDepartment **upper Franklin Township**

Floyd County Historical Society
https://fchsin.org

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Northwest Territory (1787)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Territory

People
Jamey Aebersold (1939-) jazz musician
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamey_Aebersold

Mary Anderson (1859-1940) actress
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Anderson_(actress,_born_1859)

People (cont.)

William Wallace Atterbury (1866–1935) Brigadier General, RR President.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Wallace_Atterbury
http://www.atterburybakalarairmuseum.org/william-atterbury.html

George Bicknell (1815-1891) Teacher, politician, judge.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_A._Bicknell
http://www.militaryhallofhonor.com/honoree-record.php?id=2246

Carlyle R. Buley (1893-1968) historian, author
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._Carlyle_Buley

Asahel Clapp (1792-1862) Doctor, botanist, geologist, meteorologist and civic activist.
https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/subject/Clapp,%20A#/titles (botany)
http://FloydLibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/asahelclapp.pdf (biography)

Joseph Waddell Clokey (1890-1960) composer
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_W._Clokey

Norman J. Coleman (1827-1911) Teacher, politician.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Jay_Coleman

Angelina Collins (1805-1885) poet, author of cookbook
https://civilwartalk.com/threads/mrs-collins-table-receipts-adapted-to-western-housewifery.137595/

Samuel Culbertson (1862-1948) Son of William Culbertson, businessman, part owner of Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby.
http://www.culbertsonmansion.us/Samuel.html

William Stewart Culbertson (1814-1892) Businessman, philanthropist, at one time the wealthiest man in New Albany.
http://www.culbertsonmansion.us/History/WSCulbertson.html
http://www.culbertsonmansion.us/History/children-of-WSCulbertson.html

Jo-Jo Dean (1930-2013) Basketball player NAHS, television sports announcer, athletic director LSU.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Dean

Washington C. DePauw (1822-1887) Businessman and philanthropist.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_C._DePauw
http://thestatehousefile.com/people-who-shaped-the-hoosier-state-washington-depauw/23879/

John Baptiste Ford (1811-1903) Businessman, steamboat builder, glass maker
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Baptiste_Ford

Bruce Fox (1903-1960) A metalsmith and sculptor, founded a business in 1938 in New Albany which still exists today.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Fox,_Inc.

Foster Gunnison (1896-1961) Modular housing builder
https://instanthouse.blogspot.com/search?q=gunnison
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People (cont.)

Billy Herman (1909-1992) NAHS graduate, major league baseball player, manager
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Edwin Powell Hubble (1889-1953) American astronomer, NAHS teacher
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