

In
Owen Co
1,10

SALE of LOTS in MIDDLETOWN 1828

from the book *Some Descendants of John Mugg, Sr. 1765-1837 and wife Rebecca Truax 1769-1844* in two volumes, compiled and recently donated to Owen County Public Library, by Vera Holley and Ed Zimmerman.

Not to be confused with the Jefferson Township Middletown, "Middle Town, before the railroad came, was a settlement halfway between Gosport and Alaska in Harrison Township. Water from Roger's Cave provided power to operate a sawmill and grist mill. A tannery and a brewery were other businesses in Middle Town." (*Owen County, Indiana: a History 1994*).

Also: "Middletown, a little hamlet of a few houses is situated in the southern part of the township, and was at one time in the early history of the country a prominent local point, on account of a flouring mill, and a small store kept by Andrew Evans. Evans sold goods for several years, and was succeeded by Burton Mattock, who left the place after continuing the business a short time. A blacksmith and wheelwright shop was one of the institutions of the place, kept by William P., or, as he was more familiarly known, "Pop Corn" Chambers. A harness and saddlery shop was run for several years also. There is no business at the present time, and all that remains of the "city" are the ruins of the old mill and a few dismantled and woe-begone cabins which give the spot a rather dejected appearance." Charles Blanchard, *History of Owen County, Indiana, 1884*, Harrison Township, p. 816

From Deed Book 1, pp. 112-13-14, recorded between 26 July and 30 August 1828

Bill of the first Sale of Lots in the Town of Middle Town in the County of Owen and State of Indiana sold by Levi Johnson

<u>Purchasers Names</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Purchasers Names</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Ambrose Hendricks	3	6	3	75	William Asher	8	6	8	50
Isaac Hendricks	3	5	3	62½	Solomon Wilson	1	7	4	00
Frederick Stigerwalt	3	4	5	18¾	John Tompson [sic]	1	8	3	00
John Wilson	3	3	3	75	James Boldon	6	2	3	00
Daniel [Smith?, partially faded out]	3	2			Andrew Evans, JB [J.P.?)	6	1	6	37½
[name faded out]	3	1			John Hendricks	6	8	8	25
Daniel Smith	3	8	3	00	Levi Johnson	6	7	9	50
William Haus? Howe? Ham?	3	7	2	25	Tobias Butler	6	7	6	62½
Adam Moser	2	8	5	75	William Asher	6	5	8	25
Robert Walters	2	7	5	75	William Blunk	6	4	3	12½
William B. Hall	2	6	5	00	James Boldon	6	3	5	00
Robert Walters	2	5	6	00	John Mugg	8	2	6	00
Gadsby [?] Blunk	2	4	8	00	William Wayde [Wade]	5	1	4	50
John Thompson	2	3	7	50	John Johnson	5	8	10	37½
William Boldon	2	2	2	37½	John Johnson	5	7	12	31¼
William Boldon	2	1	3	56½	John Johnson	5	6	4	62½
John Wilson	7	2	4	13½	Robert Walters Jr.	5	5	2	75
Andrew Evans	7	1	4	37½	John Dunagan	5	4	4	37½
William Asher	7	4	1	50	James Thompson	5	3	4	25
John Langwell	7	3	3	12½	William Hancock	4	2	8	25
	8	2	5	50	William Hancosk [sic]	4	1	5	00
Thomas Asher	8	1	3	00	Elijah Prichet	4	8	3	00
Allen Asher	8	4	3	00	Grafton B. Whitaker	4	7	3	00
Lewis Asher	8	3	6	00	Eli Greyson	4	6	1	25
William Asher	1	4	5	00	Henry Hancock	4	5	2	00
William Asher	1	5	6	50	William Mannan	4	4	1	30
					Henry Hancock	4	3	2	00

me that Grandpa and Bertha were "pretty good buddies." He was indebted to her for helping him with the children and allowed her and John to live there rent free. John liked to gamble and drink with the local good ole' boys so Len kept the land in his name so she would be sure to have a place to raise her children. This property is also for sale now. It is a good-sized home, a single story with formal dining room and other large rooms. There are beautiful large snowball bushes around the home. This is not the original house because it burned in 1928 and a summer kitchen and garage were built to accommodate the large family until the present house could be built.

We then journeyed down Owl Hollow Road named because of all the roosting owls in this area. This road leads to Jordan Village and at one time every house along the route had either a Rubeck or Hunsicker family member. The first house on the right, above the high bank was the home place of William Leonard and Margaret Isabel "Len and Bel" Rubeck. This is where our Grandpa Willie was raised. He could walk out the front door and across the road, through the lowland woods to Bertha's house which Marjorie remembers happening often especially at meal time. I haven't quite got the story straight yet, but the family living there now says the original house burned 20 years ago and was rebuilt on the exact site. However, Roberta Bullerdick Nees doesn't believe that is correct. Also, Oran Rubeck did not remember the house burning. The family presently living there are from Alabama.

On down the road we came to the Clifford Rubeck house on the left; next the Rubeck sawmill and Oran and Mary Rubeck home. The Albert "Bert" and Nora Hunsicker Rubeck two-story house is on the right. It is now vacant and was once a showplace, also where many family reunions were held by that branch of the family. On down the road on the right lived Louis and Martha Fritzing, Leslie Fritzing, and Roy Rubeck. Also in this area is the turn-off to Frank Hill Road where the Frank families live. George "Herman" and Rose Rubeck owned about a section around the Highway 42 and Owl Hollow intersection. Their house was back a long lane off Highway 42 that is grass-covered and overgrown by large trees now. We believe this to be part of Grandpa Len's land from his father George Rubeck. Toad Rubeck lives right off Highway 42 on a hill with a well house in front of the house.

Highway 42 runs east and west, Owl Hollow Road runs north and south, and Bullerdick Road runs east and west. Bullerdick Road is so named after John Bullerdick who built the road and lived on the west end. He was an employee of and retired from Ralph Rogers Group, Inc. of Bloomington, well known in this area for building roads.

As a thunderstorm was coming, we sadly completed our tour of Jackson Township and returned to Uncle Albert's house. I then headed for Montgomery Township, Marjorie headed for Indianapolis, and Sharon and Bob headed for Pekin, Illinois.

A lovely memory.

Ed. note: You may contact Deanna Collins by writing to her at 483 E. Coon Path Road, Spencer IN 47460.

Earliest Known Cancellation from the Spencer Postoffice

The earliest Manuscript Cancellation from the Spencer Postoffice that has been collected is shared here by postal historian Vince Ross. The folded letter, with a handwritten cancellation, was addressed to Clark County Indiana, John Carr, Clerk, Charlestown, from the Sheriff of Owen County, Spencer, and dated August 20th, 1824. Postage was 12 ½ cents.

Another example (left) of a Manuscript Cancellation was sent from Hausertown to a Christian Fisher Esq. Tuscarawas County, Ohio. The

year is not stated. The postage on this one was five cents.



