

*Myrtle Garvey*

*Carrollton (the town)*

CARROLL COUNTY.

Early Settlement.

Mr. Benjamin Craig and Mr. William Hawkins were given a large grant of land in Carroll County extending from Stephens' Creek in the eastern part of the county down along the Ohio River to Little Kentucky.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Craig gave the ground for the Court House in Carrollton, which was then Port William. He probably laid out Port William in 1791 or '92. It was incorporated in 1794, the name being changed in 1838 to Carrollton, which was the name of the residence of Charles Carroll. All of the business and life of the settlement were on the Kentucky River front and on Water Street near the Ohio.

Main Street was originally a strip of land used as a race track by both Indians and White men. Just at the side of the old Stone House, on Main Street at First, stood an old elm tree under which most of the business transactions were made. The old Stone House, still standing, was then known as the Elm Tree House. It was built about 1805. Farther down was the Point House which was a tavern; George Rogers Clark was often entertained there. This Point House was used until the high water of 1883-4 rendered it unfit for occupation. At that time the water entered the second story.

Soon after the Point House was build a Mr. Houghton built a house known as the Houghton House on the plot of ground where the Richland building now stands.

Beyond the Point House was a large strip of land extending along the river front north of Main Street from First Street to Old Cedar Grove, present location of the canning factory. This was Water Street which has long since been claimed by the river. There were large trees growing along Water Street and flowers could be seen in at least one yard along that street.<sup>2</sup>

At the north-west corner of Main Street stood the oldest known building in Carrollton. It was built for a dwelling, but later used to house and operate a flour mill and still later was the pumping station and the power plant. An old town well was located on Water Street near the intersection of Second Street, and near it was a public building used as the court house.

An old building still standing on Second Street between Main and Highland was built for a fire engine house. The fire pump was operated entirely by hand much the same way as a hand car is operated. Cisterns were located on business corners that they might supply plenty of water. The pump was operated by negro slaves.<sup>3</sup>

Another very old brick building is on the corner of Third and Main Streets. It is now used as a filling station and garage. It was there that Howe Brothers operated their first Store. An old hotel once known as the "The National Hotel" and "Corn Hotel." stood at the corner of Second and Main Street, part of the remains of which can still be seen.<sup>4</sup>

The first Settlement in Carrollton was made in 1785. A Mr. George Elliott built the first or second house here. Indians attacked his home once and, according to some accounts, killed this Mr. Elliott and some of his servants; others claim that it was not Mr. George Elliott but his brother that was killed.

It was said that George Rogers Clark and his wife had asked for logging at the Elliott home a short time before the massacre, but Mr. Elliott was absent and they were not favorably received. So they dropt farther down the river, but after hearing of the massacre they returned and stayed with the family.

The George Elliott named above gave <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ Francis Preston power of attorney to have sold a tract of four hundred acres of land on a part

of which Carrollton was established. Col. Preston placed a surveyer's camp at what is now Prestonville, but this was at first named Preston, in 1774 for Col. Francis Preston.

Clark was looking for a place to plant a settlement and it was said that he considered Carrollton before he stopt at what is now Louisville.<sup>5</sup>

The first court house was built with log cribbing and fastened together with wooden pegs. The old log foundation could be seen as late as 1875. This old building was smaller and plainer than the present one, being a blue-gray building.

The Court House bell was rung to notify people when a fire occurred. Benjamin Craig gave the land for the first court house on which the present court house now stands.

Religious services were first held from house to house. After the court house was built the people congregated there until each body could build a house of worship. The first church building was erected in 1810, the next in 1830, the next in 1848.

Benjamin Craig also gave the land where the present school building is, specifying that it was to be used for educational purposes only, so that this land cannot be sold.

Schools were at first held in private homes; later there was a school in the basement of the Baptist Church.

Finally a school house was erected on the ground where the present school is located and a seminary was conducted there. Another school-house was put up on Sixth Street and several teachers were employed.<sup>2</sup>

A Mrs. Bennett once taught school in the old house next to the Methodist Church and across from Preston's Inn.

The house now used by the Woman's Club on Sycamore Street was built by the Methodists for a select school for white children thru the week and to be used by colored people for a church on Sunday.

The Methodists put up the first church building in Carrollton and it was the only one which held uninterrupted services during the Civil War.

The old stone house standing off the right side of the Ghent road just above Carrollton was the home of James Ogburn, first Methodist Minister of that organization.

Percival Butler, father of W. O. Butler, was the first town clerk, and Mr. W. B. Winslow, grandfather of Mrs. William Howe, was his secretary. Mr. Winslow lived in the house now occupied by Mrs. William Howe and Miss Jen. Howe on Fifth Street as early as 1826. It was built by Montgomery Blair.

Mrs. Howe, named above, was a descendant of Abraham Owen for whom Owen County and Owensboro were named. Mr. Owen was one of the members of Clark's Expedition and perished in the battle of Tippecanoe.

The Tandy's, Masterson<sup>s</sup>, Gullions and Demints were some of the pioneer families of Carrollton.

Union soldiers once camped between High and Seminary Streets on land owned by Mr. W. B. Winslow. The Winslows were Southern sympathizers. The people here, in the main, tried to remain neutral or to stand by the Union, but many enlisted on each side.

Captain Richard Butler, a brother of W. O. Butler, once lived on what is now the Ghent Road in the brick house to the left just above Carrollton, now owned and occupied by Mr. J. W. Harrison and wife. Later Mr. Butler lived in a house on the lot where the post office stands.

The large gray brick building now the Darling home, on the corner of Sixth Street next to the post office was the first bank in Carrollton. Mr. W. B. Winslow was its first president and a Mr. Crawford, cashier. Each had \$10,000 in gold in the bank. This bank was robbed in 1863.

Each person had his money in a bag bearing the owner's name and it was placed in a vault. Men on horseback carried away the gold and being too heavily loaded lost much of it so that a great deal of it was recovered.<sup>4</sup>

Quoting Miss Hallie Masterson, "An interesting character that once lived at Carrollton was C. Berg; he had a jewelry store where Fisher' Agency is now located. It had an Old World air about it. Mr. Berg liked his jewelry. He did not seem to care whether anyone bought it or not. He lived so quietly, not everyone knew what he was doing for the town. Remittances came to him from his home which I think was in Germany. A part of it always went for stone to help on the retaining wall he was building back of what is now Kentucky State Bank, and on down as far as he could go.

He also planted willows to hold the soil. It was said that had it not been for the work of Mr. Berg Main Street would have gone the way of Water Street."

1. Miss Anna V. Barker, president of the Woman's Club or rather the Gaby M. Froman Club, at Ghent.
2. Miss Hallie Masterson, Descendant of one of the pioneers, and sister of William Masterson, consul to Aden in Arabia, to India, and Plymouth, England.
3. Mr. W. R. Fisher, Realtor and Ins. Agent.
4. Mr. J. H. Newman *Attorney*.
5. Miss Jen. Howe, Descendant of Mr. W. B. Winslow and Mr. Abraham Owen.