

John Foree
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NOTED PERSONALITIES OF GALLATIN

In the event the tourist desires to contact some of the outstanding, living citizens of Gallatin County, the following are listed: Judge W. R. Payne, former county Judge, sheriff, county court clerk and present banker of the county; Judge Connelly, former sheriff, county court clerk, circuit court clerk and present county judge; Earl Spencer, present county court clerk, a position he has held for many years; should he be interested in agriculture, he should see D. D. Foree, county road agent and farmer, located on Highway 35, two miles south of Warsaw, Warren Davis, who lives in Steeles Bottom, seven miles north of Warsaw, farmer and member of Gallatin County Agricultural Control Committee, or Noel Robinson, farmer near Glencoe; physicians include J. W. Shupert, R.E. Miller, C. R. Bogardus all of Warsaw and J. M. Stallard of Sparta; E.C. Threlkeld, dentist, of Warsaw; Mrs. P. C. Weldon, owner and manager of the Clover Farm Grocery and B. K. Bailey, druggist, Warsaw, B. F. Wilson, merchant of Sparta; The bankers are E. J. Mountjoy and H. C. Renyer of Warsaw, H. C. Records, representative of Gallatin and Carroll Counties, Sparta and Olen Stewart of Glencoe; Ward Yager, commonwealth attorney and F. S. Connelly, County Attorney, both of Warsaw; Pryor Perry, banker, farmer and retired business man of Warsaw will be found especially helpful to anything pertaining to the county either past or present and for courtesy to, and consideration of the stranger, he cannot be excelled.

Three of the noted personalities of the county, now dead are worthy of especial mention. The first of these, R. B. Brown, has died recently.

For many years Mr. Brown was engaged in the practice of law in Warsaw. By reason of sheer ability he built an enormous and lucrative practice in the courts of all northern Kentucky counties. Mr. Brown also turned his attention to financial matters in which he was very successful, being the wealthiest man in the county at the time of his demise. He held several positions of honor and trust and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention that nominated John W. Davis for the Presidency.

Another of Warsaw's famous men of the past was General John J. Payne who was born near Warsaw in 1795, the son of John Payne and Elizabeth Johnson Payne. General Payne's maternal grandfather was Robert Johnson who moved to Gallatin county from Scott county and became owner of a great plantation and many slaves. General Payne served with distinction in the war of 1812 under his uncle Richard M. Johnson, famous in the annals of Kentucky history. In 1815 he received an appointment to West Point. The present Payne family at Warsaw has in its possession a letter describing the trip, by horseback, from Warsaw to Washington where he received the West Point commission. Soon after entering West Point he was painfully injured by the premature firing of an old type, breech loading cannon and it was necessary to amputate one of his arms. After this painful accident he was furloughed until 1818 at which time he was granted a pension, one of the first to be granted, and was retired in 1818. He then returned to Warsaw to take charge of his Grandfather Johnson's estate. He soon became one of the most influential citizens of the county and held what is said to have been the first lost sale in the town of Warsaw. He also built three very pretentious houses which are now standing. One, a red brick dwelling built in 1809, could be restored to

its original beautiful condition at no great cost. Another has recently been restored by F. S. Connelly and is a beautiful mansion of the old colonial type with all the modern conveniences. Facing north it overlooks the Ohio River and provided a beautiful scenic view into southern Indiana.

In 1822, General Payne was married to Miss Mary Stephenson of Owen County where he lived for a short time but soon returned to Gallatin and continued his activities in and services to, the county. He died at the mature age of 91 and is buried in the cemetery at Warsaw close to Highway 42. There is much available material concerning the Johnson family in connection with General Payne but no member of the family excepting the mother and grandfather appear to have been citizens of the county. The title "General" is said to have been honorary and not have been given for participation in military affairs.

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A mile south of Warsaw, on a plateau overlooking Dry Creek, repose the earthly remains of Mrs. Milicent Yates, wife of Henry Yates, who laid out the town of Warsaw, and mother of Richard Yates. Here marked by a rough hewn granite stone, shaded by native forest trees, in the broad valley of the beautiful Ohio, watched over by the age old hills, sleeps this good woman in the quiet of a county graveyard, in the land where she knew her greatest joys and sorrows, in the land that she loved. It is to such pioneer women as Milicent Yates that the county of Gallatin and the state of Kentucky owe their sturdy sons and lovely daughters and to whom many of the other States of the Union owe many of their most distinguished citizens. The date of her birth is not known but it is certain that she died in 1830 on April 9th. To Henry and Milicent Yates, on the 18th day of January, 1818, was born a son who was named Richard. After the death of

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the mother, the father and son moved to the sister state of Illinois.

Richard Yates was graduated from Illinois College at Jacksonville in 1838, at the early age of twenty years. He became a lawyer continuing in the profession for many years. In 1842, he was elected to the State Legislature and was sent to Congress from his district in 1850. Ten years later he 1861-65 was elected governor of Illinois beginning his tenure of office in 1861 and retiring at the expiration of his term in 1865. Governor Yates took a very pronounced stand against slavery and ardently supported the Federal government during the Civil War, being active in the organization of volunteer regiments who served on the side of the Union during those trying days of bloody combat within the Nation. From 1865 to 1871 he was United States Senator and played a prominent part in the beginning of reconstruction. After his retirement from the Senate he was United States Railroad Commissioner. He died in St. Louis, Mo., on November 27, 1873. Born at Warsaw he is, without question, Gallatin County's most famous son.

In 1905, a son of Governor Yates visited Kentucky to assist in the defense of persons on trial as an aftermath of the William Gobel killing. While in the State he came to Warsaw and made arrangements for the placing of the stone at the grave of his grandmother, the original marker being in poor condition at that time. (The New World Encyclopedia, published by the Christian Herald, New York, Volume VI, Editor in Chief, George J. Hagar.

FOLKLORE

The folklore of Gallatin County is no different from that in the rest of Northern Kentucky Counties. There are no picturesque or peculiar customs of the people such as story telling or periodic festivals or celebrations. One folk dance, commonly called the "square dance" still survives but it is no different from the same dance that is so well known and so called throughout the West and South and has been much popularized in recent years by means of the radio. Such dances may be witnessed at road houses and at private gatherings in the county at most any time and are not considered as unusual.

RACIAL ELEMENTS

Two races, white and negro, are found in Gallatin County. The negroes are, of course, descendents of the slaves imported from Africa. The whites are mostly of Virginia stock but there are some Dutch and German descendants and quite a number of Irish lineage. The county boasts one outstanding englishman but has no jews.

POINTS OF INTEREST

There are several points of interest in and around Warsaw. The ancient bed of the Ohio River is nearly a mile from the present course and is plainly discernible with its narrow, winding depression and high bank. It has been filled to some extent by cultivation and erosion but still forms a natural drainage and where a fill has been built across it for Highway 35 a reservoir has been made. Owing to the natural sand formation of the land it holds

water for only a short time and only after heavy rains. The town of Warsaw lies between this old river bed and the Ohio. Drainage is toward the old bed and water falling within a stones throw of the river drains away from it and into Dry Creek which empties into the river at some distance below the town. Another point of interest is an old distillery no longer in use but which has an interesting history. Its picturesque, bare brick walls give an idea of the architecture of fifty years ago. The oldest house now standing in Warsaw is a log house. It has been remodeled and is now used by the Gallatin County Health Unit. On the court house lawn are two cannon, one in the rear and one in front of the building. They are small brass guns of the type in use during and after the Civil War. The one in the rear is within a few feet of the River Road, Highway 42, and was cast in 1864. It weighs 1,226 pounds.

Out in the county is the Boone Trail over which Daniel Boone made his way on one of his trips through the State. It is in the southern part of the county and extends from Carson to near Napoleon. There is a county road, passable at all times of the year, leading along the original trail. It follows Lick Creek to its source and winds over the ridges and into the valleys through a land poor in fertility but rich in beauty in the autumn when the foliage has been colored by frosts and there are an abundance of nuts and bitter sweet for the visitor who travels the less frequented roads.

Near Glencoe Eagle Creek has cut its way through a hill leaving a narrow valley and forming an excellent site for a dam and power generation. The town of Glencoe lies in a bowl shaped plateau and may be plainly seen from the surrounding hills. To those who admire rural scenes, from above, the view is thrilling.

Near Napoleon, which is nine miles east of Warsaw, are some Indian mounds. No excavations have been made but some artifacts have been taken from near the tops and sloping sides. The mounds may be easily recognized not only by their elevation but by the black greasiness of the soil. The largest of these is ten or twelve feet high and about one hundred yards in diameter. Indian camp sites are numerous and pipes, chards and other relics have been saved by local residents. Near the Gallatin Boone County line a small creek has uncovered a burying ground and exposed fifty or more Indian skeletons in the past few years. They have no value however as all were buried in a deep soil and were badly decomposed when found. The remains were always found beneath a large stone similar to a hearth stone. Like stones were found in another location nearby, also uncovered by the waters of the stream, but no remains were found in the latter location.

Howard Miller who lives near Napoleon and not far from the burial ground, has an interesting collection of artifacts consisting of beads, pottery, arrowheads, hatchets and pipes. A State road now in process of construction passes his farm home.

The most interesting and one of the most beautiful points of interest in Gallatin County is Highway 42, generally known as the River Road, especially that part of it from the Sugar Creek bridge five miles east of Warsaw to the Gallatin-Carroll line about ten miles west of the county seat. This wide concrete highway follows the Ohio River closely between the two points mentioned and allows a close view of bottom lands in Kentucky and Indiana. The rugged Kentucky hills are close enough to be clearly seen and the distant hills of Switzerland County, Indiana may be seen through a dim haze rising

from the river. The rich river bottom farms with their neat farm houses and buildings, cultivated fields of corn, tobacco, hay and grain, the pasture land and live stock all appeal to the eye of the tourist, particularly if he is a farmer or one raised on a farm. At the mouth of Sugar Creek which empties into the Ohio River at a great bend, the State Highway Commission has made a parking space for cars and has beautified the highway with shrubs. Here cars from every State in the Union stop to see the river, observe the passing steam boats and watch the steady stream of traffic flowing along the highway. Tourists traveling this highway will be extended every courtesy by Gallatin-countians.

EDUCATION

The County is divided into three educational districts, that part over which the county board of education has jurisdiction and two independent graded districts one at Glencoe and the other at Sparta. The county unit of education is under the able and efficient supervision of County School Superintendent, William Harris. A county high school is maintained at Warsaw. It is a class B school employing three teachers. It has an enrollment of 86. Kirt Dollins A.B., Western Kentucky State Teachers College, is Supt. Six elementary teachers are also employed. There are 13 white and one colored one room elementary schools in the county with an enrollment of 656. Three school busses provided transportation to and from the schools. It is planned to discontinue 3 one room schools, employ three additional elementary teachers in the school at Warsaw and lengthen the common school term to eight months during the coming school year. Many pupils eligible to high school are not now enrolled and the plan is to increase the high school enrollment 300% in the next three years. Mr. Harris regards as his chief

accomplishment during his term in office the fact that he has materially increased the high school enrollment by making transportation possible to pupils in remote sections of the county.

Adult education in the county, also under the supervision of the county superintendent, is being done. Nursery work for preschool children is done at Warsaw. There is an enrollment of about 35.

Extension work in the 4H and Eutopia Clubs, judging teams and the county fair are under the supervision of Harry A. Berge, County agricultural agent.

The Independent High School at Glencoe is rated as a Class B. institution. It has an enrollment of 28, employs two teachers and is supervised by the principal Prof. J. N. Witt, employs three elementary teachers and has an enrollment in the grades of 85.

The school at Sparta is in Owen County but reaches across the county line into Gallatin and has been treated as an Owen County school.

CULTURAL CENTERS

Culture in Gallatin County is centered in the schools and churches. The schools have already been listed in the article on education. The Christian Church in Warsaw was founded by the Rev. John T. Johnson, a brother of Richard M. Johnson in 1836 and will observe its centennial on Sunday April 26, 1936.

The following churches may be reached by Highways 42 and 35 (all are in Warsaw); Baptist, Rev. W. M. Smith, pastor, membership 300, Sunday Service at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM; Sunday School 10:00 AM; BYPU 6:30PM,

weekly prayer services, Wednesday at 7:30 PM; Methodist, Felix K. Struve, Pastor, membership 160, Sunday services at 10:45 and 7:30; Sunday School at 9:45 AM; weekly prayer services Wednesday evenings at 7:30PM; Christian, Herbert Tinsley, Pastor, membership 225, Sunday services 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM., Sunday School at 9:45 AM and weekly prayer services on wednesday at 7:30 PM; Holiness, Cecil Knight, membership 8, services Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday at 7:00PM; St. Joseph's Catholic, Rev. Gerald J. Connelly, membership 35 families, Mass at 8:00 and 11:15 in summer, 9:00 and 11:15 in winter; week day Mass at 7:30 AM; Missionary Baptist (colored) Rev. Henry Hughs, Paster, membership 30, services on Sunday after first Saturday at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM, sunday school each sunday at 9:30 AM; Predestinarian Baptist (colored) no pastor at the present time, membership 20, Sunday school each sunday at 9:30 AM, preaching services fourth sunday in each month at 11:00 at 7:30 .

There are no art galleries or antique shops in the county. Dr. E. C. Threlkeld has a nice collection of antiuges not for sale and can direct the prospective buyer to others.

A womans Club at Warsaw has been organized for some time. The President is Mrs. F. S. Connelly. It is divided into a garden club and a book lovers club both of which hold rgular meetings.

TRANSPORTATION

Excellent freight and passenger transportation are provided over the two state highways, the Ohio River and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The Doyle Transfer Company and the W. R. Huey Motor Transfer furnish daily freight deliveries from both Louisville and Cincinnati. Green Line Boats

provide daily freight and passenger service from points above and below Warsaw. Taxi service to Sparta makes connection with North and South bound L and N Trains. Taxis leave Warsaw at 7:30 A, and 3:15 PM and arrive at Warsaw at 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. It takes about twenty minutes to drive from Warsaw to Sparta. Greyhound busses pass through Gallatin county to and from Cincinnati and Louisville about every three hours. If the visitor should desire to drive his own car he has only to follow the hundreds of others who pass over the River Road daily.

EMERGENCY LANDING FIELD

The American Air Lines, a division of the Department of Commerce, maintains an emergency landing field near Warsaw. It is on circuit number one from Louisville to Beaton. The field is well marked and has excellent runways. It transmits at 278 kc and receives on a day frequency at 5632 kc and a night frequency at 3232 kc. Continuous watch is kept and weather messages are sent every hour. The airways keeper is A.S. Casper who is generally on watch from 8:00AM to 4:00 PM and his assistants, who divide the other two watches are C. A. Colley and V. W. Warth and E. G. Parsons.

The following description of the landing field is taken from Airway Bulletin No 2, Description of Airports and Landing Fields in the United States, published September 1, 1934, by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Air Commerce. "Warsaw - Department of Commerce intermediate landing field, site 5A, Louisville-Cleveland Airway. One half mile W. of Warsaw on Highway 42. Altitude, 485 feet, Rectangular, sod. level, natural drainage; two landing strips 30000 feet, NE/SW and NW/SE., entire field available. Shed roof marked "5A L-C". Pole line, buildings and trees to N and NE. Beacon, green code, flashing characteristic "5" (.-.) N

servicing facilities. Department of Commerce marker beacon, nondirective, characteristics signal "U" ~~(Morse)~~ (...-), operating frequency 332 and 278 kc. Teletypewriter."

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WARSAW

Warsaw, the county seat of Gallatin County, is a thriving little town of approximately 800 inhabitants, located in the northern part of the county on the Ohio River and Highways 42 and 35. The town, formerly known as Fredericksburg, was incorporated by act of the Kentucky legislature on December 7, 1831. The act set out that James F. Blanton, William Whitesides, Jefferson Peak, Willis Peak and William Chamberlain were to be trustees and fixes their term of office and powers and provides for the election of their successors and for the appointment of a town clerk. (Chapter DCXL, pages 75-77 Acts of the Kentucky Legislature, 1831).

In 1831, on December 12, the name of the town was changed to Warsaw because there was another Fredericksburg in Washington County. The trustees were granted the same powers and assigned the same duties as in the act passed on the seventh day of the same month of the same year. (Chapter DCLIII, page 91, Acts of the Kentucky Legislature of 1831). Warsaw at that time was a small town, just a trading post, and from this beginning it has grown to have four groceries, three restaurants, two garages, two banks, eight churches, one hardware store, two drug stores, two clothing stores, three filling stations, one pool room, a furniture factory, complete ferry service, a lumber and manufacturing plant, two physicians, one dentist, a county health unit and two attorneys.

GLENCOE

Glencoe, situated on the L and N railroad ten miles south of Warsaw, has a population of 450. It was incorporated February 23, 1876. The act of incorporation provided that A. D. Daniels, Thomas Williams, John Shelton, William Parish and R. E. Foster were to be trustees and set out their powers and duties. It also made provision for a police judge, marshall, clerk and treasurer. (Chapter 229, pages 171-173, Acts of the Kentucky Legislature, 1876).

At the present time Glencoe has four groceries, two churches, three filling stations, a barber shop and lumber yard, two restaurants, a bank, a hardware store and a pool room. It is badly in need of a physicina and a drug store.

SPARTA

Sparta is an unincorporated village of about 300 people on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, nine miles from Warsaw on Highway 35. It has six groceries, a garage, two churches, three filling stations, two barber shops, a lumber yard, bank, hardware store, pool room and one doctor. Two large nurseries are located near Sparta. Merchants do a thriving business in the section nearby and it is probably the richest town in proportion to its size in Gallatin County

WAS WARSAW ON ONE OF THE THREE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY LINES DURING SLAVERY DAYS?

So far as can be established, the answer to the above question is "no". An old slave by the name of Clint Yates who says that he is 92 years of age and looks the part stated that he had never heard of such a thing, although he was born and reared and has lived his entire life withing five miles of Warsaw. He says that his oldest sister and an uncles succeeded in making their escape from his mater four years before the negroes were granted their freedom.

That he has seen many slaves sold "down the river" and some from the country captured and turned over to officials for the reward. He states that it was common knowledge that once across the Ohio aid in escaping could readily be obtained but that crossing into free territory was difficult and that there were no northern sympathizers in or near Warsaw that he ever heard of. He appears to be perfectly sound in mind, he talks intelligently and convincingly and was owned by the Gex (Jay) family, a family still very prominent in Gallatin and Carroll Counties.

Mr. George Winters, 86, says that his father captured two runaway slaves and that he has heard older people talk of capturing still others but never heard of anyone giving aid to them. W. R. Payne, 78, says the same thing and younger men and women contacted (that is men around 50 and 60 years) say the same thing.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- R. J. Hickey, prominent citizen, former county relief worker and retired business man.
- Pryor Perry, Retired Merchant, at present banker and farmer, former disbursing officer KERA, Gallatin County.
- The New World Encyclopedia, published by the Christian Herald, New York, Vol VI.
- William Harris, County School Superintendent, Gallatin County.
- E. C. Threlkeld, dentist, collector of antiques and student of ancient Kentucky history - especially of Gallatin County.
- Howard Miller, farmer, collector of artifacts and investigator of Indian Mounds and burial places, Napoleon, Kentucky.
- Rev. W. M. Smith, Pastor, Baptist Church, Warsaw, Kentucky.
- Felix K. Struve, Pastor, Methodist Church, Warsaw, Kentucky.
- Herbert Tinsley, Pastor, Christian Church, Warsaw, Kentucky.
- Rev. G. J. Connelly, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Warsaw, Kentucky
- Earl Spencer, county court clerk and farmer of Gallatin County.
Has a wide acquaintance and knowledge of the county.
- Mrs. Earl Spencer, deputy county court clerk and club woman of Warsaw.
- Victor Satchwell, Taxi Driver from Warsaw to Sparta.
- E. G. Parsons, asst. airways keeper, at emergency landing field near Warsaw.
- Airway Bulletin No 2, Description of Airports and Landing Fields in the United States, published by Department of Commerce, Bureau of Air Commerce, September 1st, 1934.
- Acts of Kentucky Legislature, 1831, Chapters DCXL and DCLIII, pages 75-77 and 91
- A. L. Ward, business man of Glencoe and one of the older citizens.
- Clint Yates, 92, former slave.
- George Winters, 86, retired business man and local historical authority.
- W. R. Payne, former county judge and banker, 78, belongs to old aristocratic family. Well educated and highly respected.
- Acts of Kentucky Legislature, 1876, Chapter 229, pages 171-173.
- Personal Observati n.