

## RAILROADS WERE CRITICAL LINK IN 19TH CENTURY

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**Railroad** tracks crisscrossed early Warrick County, connecting numerous tiny communities. Some thrived into present-day towns. In other cases only the name or a few buildings survive.

"Some of these were country station stops," according to Don Baker, director of **Newburgh**-Ohio Township Public Library.

In 1873 the Lake Erie, **Evansville** & Southwestern **Railroad** was built from **Evansville** to Boonville and extended to Gentryville in 1880, where it was consolidated with the Rockport and Huntingburg line. These railways later were named the Southern Railway.

In 1888 the **Evansville Suburban** and **Newburgh** Railway was completed to **Newburgh**. A line to Boonville was built in 1906.

The **Evansville** Railway company had an electric line passing 31 miles through Warrick County from **Evansville** to Rockport, via **Newburgh**, Yankeetown and Hatfield with a branch line to Richland.

"The Rockport extension of the **Evansville** Railway Company is the latest addition to the network of Interurban traction lines which weave their way through the country in Southern Indiana, especially Warrick County," according to Monte M. Katterjohn in "Warrick and Its Prominent People." The extension was completed in 1907.

A 1908 Indiana **railroad** map shows the following Warrick County stops: Boonville, Bullock, Canal, Chandler, Dayville, DeForest, Degonia Station (or Degonia Springs), Eby, Elberfeld, Folsomville, Heilman, Hemenway, Lynnville, **Newburgh**, Paradise, Rosebud, Scalesville, Selvin, Stanley, Tennyson, Stevenson and Yankeetown. (The origins of the placenames of many of the larger Warrick County communities have been explained in earlier stories.)

Dayville was "Named for the Day family, descendants of Thomas Day, who settled in Warrick County in 1850. A post office was established here in 1900, with George Day as the postmaster," according to "Indiana Place Names" by Ronald L. Baker and Marvin Carmony.

Day and another settler named Oatly established a flouring mill at Selvin at an early date, according to Eldora Minor Raleigh's "History of **Newburgh** and Warrick County, Indiana."

DeForest Station was built on property owned by Dr. A.D. DeForest along the Southern Railway. The station had an early post office at DeForest's home, located near Indiana 460, according to the Warrick bicentennial booklet.

Joseph DeForest was among the early settlers of Boon Township.

A special Industrial Edition of The Southern Indiana Tribune mentions a W.H. DeForest, born in Boon township in 1849. He attended Delany Academy in **Newburgh** and in 1871 he married Susan Morrow.

For 14 years he was a miller in the Lynnville flour mill. He later ran the Bethell & Hochhalter mill in **Newburgh** and managed the John Archbold coal mine near **Newburgh** until 1894. He was elected Ohio township trustee in 1895 and proved very popular.

Five generations of the DeForest family have lived in the two-story frame house at 216 W. Jennings St. in **Newburgh**.

Eby honors Isaac Eby, listed as the proprietor of a sawmill in 1857 and among the patrons of Katterjohn's history.

Abraham Eby died in the service of Company E, 65th Indiana Volunteers' Infantry, which went into service in August 1862 in the Civil War.

Heilman was named for the Heilman family of **Evansville**. The post office was established in 1881.

William Heilman was born in 1824 in the German village of Hesse-Darmstadt. When he was 19, his family came to America and settled in Posey County. In 1847 he and his machinist brother-in-law, Christian Kratz, opened a blacksmith and machine shop.

The Heilman & Kratz Foundry expanded from a log shack powered by two blind horses to a brick building covering nearly an entire block.

After the Civil War the foundry expanded to include farm tools, sawmill equipment and steam engines, employing several hundred men. The foundry perfected a threshing machine called the Pitts.

After Heilman's death in the late 1890, his son Charles, and son-in-law, Major A.C. Rosencranz, changed the firm's name to Vulcan Plow Works.

Heilman served several terms on the **Evansville** City Council and later represented Vanderburgh County in the Indiana legislature. In 1878 he was elected to Congress.

The Heilman home at 611 First Ave. in **Evansville** now houses the St. Vincent Day Nursery, according to James Morlock's "The **Evansville** Story."

Charles Heilman served as **Evansville**'s 18th mayor from 1910 to 1914.

Hemenway commemorates several generations of a prominent Warrick County family.

John Hemenway and his wife, Elizabeth, left New York around 1820 and settled near **Evansville**. He died about two years later. "He had been to **Evansville** to secure some lumber and upon returning

home, fell from the wagon and the wheels passed over his body, killing him almost instantly," Katterjohn reported.

Their son, Israel, was 12 years old when he began supporting his mother. He was apprenticed at a tannery where he remained until age 21. He then married Hannah Hall and started a tannery, farmed and built a house.

He carried on an extensive shoemaking business with Erie Canal workers and continued to enlarge his landholdings.

In 1860 he moved to Boonville, where he entered the dry goods business but the firm failed in 1875. In 1866 he founded the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, donating \$1,500 as his share. He had 10 children and died in 1886.

Israel's son, William J. Hemenway, was born in 1833 near Center Church in Warrick County. He married Sarah A. McClellan in 1853, with whom he had four children.

After a stint at farming, he located in Boonville in 1855 and entered the dry goods business. He served as postmaster from 1861 to 1866 and again from 1872 until his death in 1878. The General Baptist Herald commented on his death: "In the death of Mr. Hemenway, Boonville has indeed lost one of its best and most highly esteemed citizens."

A house or two marking Hemenway survived into recent years.

Rosebud appears to be named for the flower. But several Indiana town names incorporating the word "rose" were named for Rose families, according to "Indiana Place Names."

Scalesville, formerly Stephensport, was an early settlement along Indiana 68. William Scales was the first among many members of the Scales family to figure in Warrick history.

He is thought to have been a descendant of the Scales family, which was banished from Scotland in the early 1700s for its liberal views and emigrated to North Carolina.

Before joining the early settlers of Lane Township, Scales lived in Kentucky and near Princeton, Ind. He married Mary Skelton of Georgia and raised 16 children.

He served as first sergeant in Capt. Hargrave's company in the War of 1812 and participated in the Battle of Tippecanoe. After the war he moved near Selvin.

He was primarily a farmer, but possessed an uncommon education for that time and taught school.

In 1843 Scales was elected sheriff. He twice served as county assessor and was elected county treasurer in 1847. He died in 1848 in Boonville.

"He was a man of fine physique and a true type of the old Scotch gentleman. He was of a sociable, mirthful disposition, and possessed a fund of thrilling and amusing anecdotes of personal

experience in his early settlement," according to "Warrick and Its Prominent People," edited by Will Fortune.

Jockey is of uncertain origin. "One explanation is that residents had a reputation for dealing shrewdly, so the community was named Jockey for that meaning of the word," "Indiana Place Names" suggests.

Other historic communities are mentioned in the Warrick County 1976 Bicentennial Tour booklet. All are mentioned in various historical accounts, but there is no clue to the origin of some of the placenames.

Pyeattsville was named for Nathan Pyeatt (sometimes Pyeatte). In 1866 he and Peter Goad rode horseback to the Ozarks in Missouri to visit relatives, Ms. Raleigh recounts.

The community was plotted on the east side of Pigeon Creek about the time of the Civil War. The town boasted a water-powered grist mill, saw mill, blacksmith shop, tobacco factory, school, church, two stores and several houses. Some of the buildings survived into recent years.

Loafer's Station was an early community at the crossroads of Rockport- Petersburg Road and Boonville-Corydon Road. Isaac G. Cissna lived at Loafers Station, about six miles south of Selvin. Lincoln's home was a few miles east of this location.

Ash Iron Springs formerly was a mineral water resort and the summer home of U.S. Sen. James Hemenway of Boonville. The home burned around the 1930s.

Ronan's Well and Ronan's Station was located a half-mile south of DeForest Station. The St. Ronan's Well was a famous health resort from 1870 to 1900, attracting large numbers of people from all over the country. The resort was owned by Townsend Olin.

Rocky Branch was a popular place for baptizing many years ago, about 1200 feet southeast of the junction of Old Rockport Road and Indiana 161. It was also an early crossing point.

Neark was a little town about 1 1/2 miles south of Millersburg. Here were the canal gates, used for raising or lowering the depth of the water in the canal. St. John's repeated the name of the rural church there, which was torn down in recent years for coal mining, according to Warrick County historian Kay Lant.