



The

Generation

Next

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1

January 2021

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Our building on Main Street in Lexington is closed right now, but the volunteers of THE FORT-Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society- are willing and able to help you with questions or need for historical research.

We **check our email daily**, so just email us and explain your request and we will put an experienced volunteer in contact with you for some personal help. Email us at thefortoflex@aol.com

Hope to hear from you soon.
From Your FORT Volunteers

Update on Gas Station - Cabin

Last fall we asked for more information about one of the original little gas stations on Route 4, later named Route 66, through Lexington. Legend had it that the tiny wooden cabin had been moved (not to Lake Bloomington as first reported, but to a small private lake near Hudson) off of the new Right-of-Way when the by-pass was built in 1947. It was difficult to determine which of those old stations would have been far enough to the west to have been located in the ROW. It remained a puzzle for a while.

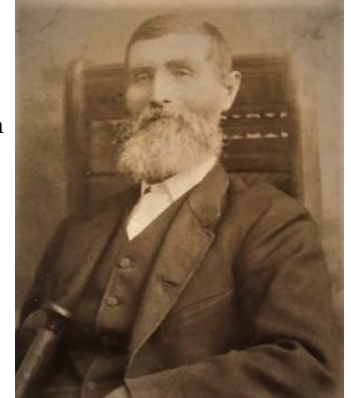
Recently Sharon Buzard Payne called with facts to clear up some of the mystery. Sharon related that her parents once owned the little station that originally sat at the corner of Grove and Main. That spot was later Willie Anderson's Pool Room for many years and was purchased and is being remodeled by Bob Brown. Sharon remembers her dad running the station and her mom doing the cooking of food for the patrons in the late 1940's. When the highway moved a block to the west of Grove Street on the new Route 66 By-Pass, the Cities Service Company decided they wanted to replace the little house with a new building. Sharon remembers that her parents did not want to be involved with construction, so they sold the little building at that time and it was moved away. She has fond memories of being around the old station after school, as she was about junior high age at that time.

Our patron, who now owns the little cabin at the lake, was thrilled to get a first-hand account with more history of her place and even invited Sharon to come out to visit next summer. It's fun when a mystery is solved!



ID REQUEST FOR MYSTERY PHOTO

Fort member Jean Roberts from New Mexico sent this mystery photo found among family keepsakes, but, of course, no name on the old Merrill Photo from Lexington. Jean's clan includes McMullen, Janes, and Flesher names and S. Merrill was in business after the Civil War until the early 1900's so lots of years and names could be part of the puzzle. Jean says, "I would appreciate any help or advice to identify this gentleman. Also I've done considerable research on these families, so if anyone needs help, I'd be happy to share information." If you have suggestions for Jean, let us know at THE FORT.



BASKETBALL SERIES RUNNING IN LEXINGTONIAN NEWSPAPER

The IHSA shutdown HS Basketball this season, so THE FORT picked up the ball and dug into some Lexington Basketball history for fan entertainment. Did you know...basketball was invented in 1891 at the YMCA near Boston as an indoor exercise to keep athletes in shape over the winter. The gym game quickly caught on all over the world and by 1911 - just 20 years later - Lexington won the very first McLean County Basketball Tournament, played at the Bloomington YMCA. This great photo of that 1911 team of boys shows 8 of the 10 names listed on the game roster... Last names listed were: Wick, Freed, Carnahan, Smith, Goddard, Hibbs, Ogden, Davis, Payne, and Perry. It's a great photo, so if anybody can match a face with a name...we'd sure like to know. Give it a try and let us know if you have any idea who is who. Thanks!



They Ask for \$10,000.

—Some days ago a very distressing accident happened to Mrs. Elizabeth Gardner and Sarah McDaniels, who, by the giving way of the floor of an outhouse, were precipitated into a pit full of filth, nine feet in depth, and who barely escaped with their lives. Both ladies were dangerously injured, Mrs. Gardner still suffering from blood poisoning from bruises on her leg, and the other lady from nervous shock and its consequences. On Saturday two suits for \$5,000 damages each were brought by these ladies against John A. Hallinan, the owner of the rented premises on which the accident happened, and who, it is alleged, suffered the outhouse to remain in a dangerous condition after several warnings. Hallinan lives on East Clay street, in which vicinity the accident occurred.

You are so addicted to genealogy when you find news of 1885 more interesting than what's in today's newspaper!!!
From Bloomington Pantagraph Nov. 1885