

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Wises Landing

by

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Trimble Co.
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WISES LANDING

Wise's Landing was named for Jesse Wise, who purchased one and one-quarter acres of land on the low bank of the Ohio River from Henry Phillip Fix on 25 November, 1876. A post office named "Corn Creek" was authorized on 21 June, 1878, and mail was postmarked "Corn Creek" at the store until about WWI, but the name of "Wise's Landing" has prevailed for the town.

Wise was not the first store owner as the 1860 United States Census of Trimble County shows that in the Household of Henry Fix (age 35), lived John Black (22), who was his brother-in-law and was a Store Clerk. In Household #156, Jacob S. Fix (age 39) a brother of Fix, was shown as a trader. The store was located on the northwest corner of the 385 acres purchased by Henry Phillip Fix in 1845.

Wise's Landing was not the only boat landing in the vicinity as many farmers with Ohio River frontage established their own landings. The general merchandise store at Wise's Landing drew trade from the surrounding territory from Corn Creek a mile to the north and to Middle Creek and its valley three miles to the south, where Evan Garriott's family had a store. His property extended from Patton's Creek to Barebone Creek, edging the Fix property. Evan Garriott was a State Senator for several terms and resided in one of the largest old brick homes known, located just south of Houston's Landing. Later, Green Wise, brother of Jesse, kept store there in the 1880's.

The terrain, with finger-like hills reaching toward the Ohio River and with creekbeds used for roads, there was a natural access to the Ohio River for supplies and shipment of produce.

About halfway up the Middle Creek Valley, most of which was part of the Garriott Estate, Mr. Lazarus McDonald Scott managed about 500 acres of the farm of Mrs. Thomas (Edmonia Shirley) Garriott, a widow, for over 30 years. At that time there was a house up every hollow. The Middle Creek School was located at the juncture of the north branch of Middle Creek where an early store and postoffice were located. The postoffice was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (Margaret Simpson) Burrows.

To the north, at the mouth of Corn Creek, was Jackson School, named after the Jackson Family, whose cemetery was recently moved to IOOF Cemetery in Bedford.

Barebone School was located about half-way between Wise's Landing and Bedford on what was then called "Barebone Pike."

The first schoolhouse at Wise's Landing was established on Totten property on the east side of Barebone Creek, constructed of logs. Later, it was replaced with a frame building, which was also close to a branch that emptied into Barebone Creek and was given the name of "Schoolhouse Branch". Later, due to the flooding of Barebone Creek, a new school was built on the original Totten property and was named "Totten School" in honor of Dr. John Totten. It was located across the road from Dr. William and Mrs. (Rebecca A.) Wright's residence. Dr. Wright practiced medicine from around the turn of the century until he died there in 1927.

One of the most respected and colorful teachers who taught here and at most of the one-room schools in Trimble Co. was Mr. A. L. "Dolly" Voiers, (brother of John T. Voiers). He sought to advance the education of his students and having no public funds, provided a building (later to become the Redmen's Lodge) and started the first high school in Trimble Co. in Bedford.

The first family of Wise's Landing known from the record in Perrin's History of Kentucky, 1888, is that of Henry Phillip Fix, born November, 1824 and died here in 1909. He was the fifth of nine children born to Henry and Sarah (McKinley) Fix, natives of Virginia and Maryland, respectively. Sarah died on June 7, 1863, and Henry Sr., died January 9, 1875. On June 26, 1849, Henry Phillip Fix married Martha A. Black who was born March 2, 1827. Martha was a daughter of James and Mary G. (Campbell) Black of Bourbon County. Mrs. Mary Black Fix died September 9, 1875, and Mr. Fix later married Martha A. Richardson, daughter of John H. and Rebecca S. (Wood) Richardson, natives of New Jersey. Martha A. (Richardson) Fix was born February 5, 1851 and died in 1914.

Henry Phillip Fix had eleven children, but several died young. He left his farm to his only surviving son, Dr. Carroll C. Fix. Dr. Fix graduated from the University of Louisville in 1907 and started at once practicing medicine at Wise's Landing. Dr. Fix married Miss Josephine Giddens (1882-1960) and had two daughters.

Dr. Carroll C. Fix was born October 14, 1882, and died in 1956. Thelma, his eldest daughter preceeded him in death. His youngest daughter, Mrs. Duncan (Corinne) Logan inherited the large Fix Farm and eventually left it to her two children, Mrs. Russell (Betty Jo) Rausch and Mr. Carroll Logan.

The Fix Homestead, (Photo taken in the 1970's) with its unique and dignified type of architecture, caused neighbors to point with pride to the historic home, which somewhat resembled

a great white excursion boat come to rest on its laurels, looking out on the large expanse of the surrounding green pasture. It had served the Fix Family for 140 years and was listed by the State of Kentucky as a Historic Landmark. However, due to some trivial oversight, the beautiful and grand old home suddenly burned to the ground, shortly after a great, great, grandchild of Henry Fix, Sr., Mrs. Russell (Betty Jo) Raush had purchased her brother's half in 1985. After the fire, Mrs. Raush could only find one unbroken china cup in the ashes.

John Black, who had worked in the early Fix store, enlisted on September 11, 1862, in the Confederate Army, Co. G., 9th Kentucky Cavalry in Trimble County and died in service. His father, James, remarried a Miss Foree and moved with the rest of the family to Lebanon, Indiana.

The youngest daughter of James and Mary G. (Campbell) Black was Mrs. John Milton (Miriam Virginia Black) Yager of Sligo, Kentucky. Her daughter was Mrs. Edward H. (Matilda Yager) Mullikin, mother of Miss Christine Mullikin, who resided at Wise's Landing until 1950.

Mr. E. H. Mullikin engaged in several businesses, but the most interesting was hauling coal from West Virginia on the "Willie-B". He rebuilt the boat and people gathered for the launching. As the boat hit the water, it fell apart and he had to do it over again.

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THE PRIEST HOME

Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Anderson Priest and family lived across the road in a unique house he built, which still stands (1988). Mrs. Priest was the former Elizabeth Mahoney. Her nephew, Mr. Gayle Mahoney and his family still live in the Corn Creek area. Mr. Priest was a great nephew of General George Rogers Clark.

Dr. John Totten was born at Madison, Indiana on February 13, 1824, and was the fourth of twelve children born to John H. and Julia (Knapp) Totten, natives of New York. Married in New York in 1815, they moved to Madison, Indiana, in 1822. Dr. Totten graduated from the University of Louisville in 1845, and after practicing in Henry County moved to Bethelhem, Ind. In 1851, he moved to Wise's Landing (about the time of the cholera epidemic at Bedford) and called his place "River View". On April 15, 1845, he married Sophia M. Black, daughter of James and Mary G. (Campbell) Black, who was the sister of Mrs. Henry Phillip (Martha A. Black) Fix.

Dr. Totten's great granddaughter, Mrs. Louis (Alma) Bumen now resides in Florida and maintains the Totten cemetery plot.

Dr. Totten purchased his large farm from George Cook, which extended from the commonly used road between his and the Fix property up the Ohio River to the property of Dr. Stephen Cook and the H. W. Garr property, the latter of which became the home of the John H. and Rebecca Richardson family for the next 100 years. Farther up the river toward Corn Creek was the large farm known as the "Lee Place", which was purchased by William Davis, whose family continued to run the family farm for over 50 years.

After the death of Dr. John Totten in 1898, Mr. John Voiers (1834-1919) purchased the Totten property and later sold it to Mr. Richard A. Perkinson (1865-1953) and Mrs. Melissa Jane (Jeffries) Perkinson (1868-1951) whose son, Clellan "Bill" Perkinson and families resided at "River View" for 40 years. The present owner of "River View" is the Scott Family, as Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Scott purchased the home in 1950.

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Pleasant View Baptist Church was built on property purchased from John Voiers in 1905 after having been organized in 1904 at Wise's Landing. It is still an active church.

Wise's Landing had developed after the clustering of a single family and its close relationships. It probably was at its peak about WWI. There were three stores and two churches. Mrs. Alice (Mullikin) Prior, the sister of E. H. Mullikin recalled at the age of 104 (in 1987) that the Macedonia Christian Church had organized by 1893 and met in the Totten Schoolhouse until the church was built. (Mrs. Alice Prior will be 105 on March 28, 1988). Early farm tenants had a "moving day" in March when the next farm looked greener. Teachers had to shuffle attendance records to accomodate this mobility. After World Wars I and II, many old tenant houses were left to ruin as workers fled to the city for more pay. After the 1913 flood, many people moved to higher ground, but the convenience of Ohio River travel before World War II was a drawing card in this close knit society. Three doctors found this place home, Drs. John Totten, William Wright, and Carroll C. Fix.

General merchandise storekeepers moving in and out included Wise, Yager, Ogden, Joyce, Jackson, Rowlett, Williams, Davis, McClure, Craig, Garrett, Forsee, Morgan, and the last was Mr. Roy F. Barrickman, who kept store "under the bank" for many years. After the devastating 1937 Ohio River Flood, Mr. Barrickman suffered severe damage, not only to his store and stock, but he also lost a large sawmill and equipment. However, undaunted, he bought the old Yager store, which had been kept by the Wm. McClures for several years as well as many others. Mr. Barrickman was survived by a son, Uhel Overton Barrickman, a prominent attorney in Glasgow, Kentucky, and a daughter, Mrs. James (Greta Barrickman) Maturo, whose husband is a retired Col. in Honolulu, Hawaii. Greta treasures the old store located across the road from her home in Wise's Landing.

Other prominent businessmen at Wise's Landing included Mr. Shirley H. Craig (1883-1983), who had moved from the Craig Hill above Middle Creek to Wise's Landing about 1920 when he purchased the Frank Joyce home and entered into the farm equipment business with Mr. Edward H. Mullikin. Mr. Craig served on the Trimble County School Board for 25 years and was a Director and Vice-President of the Bedford Bank. He was married to Miss Rose Scott and they lived in Wise's Landing until after WWII, when they moved to LaGrange.

During war times of our country, young men have frequently volunteered for service, and some living at Wise's Landing followed suit. During WWI, Ray Button, the young son of Mrs. Oral (Fix) Button joined the Army and was killed in service. Another young man from Wise's Landing killed in service was Hayden Shelton in WWI. His grandfather, also named Hayden Shelton had joined the Confederate Army at the age of 24 and served four terms. He was in the Orphan Brigade, and died at the age of 79 in 1911. He was the great grandfather of Jim Barnes, who married a Wise's Landing native, Miss Carolyn Webb, daughter of Mr. Morris and Mrs. Mary (Davis) Webb, whose father farmed here for over 50 years.

During WWII, the first young man from Wise's Landing killed in service was Raymond Michael "Toady" McDowell, who was killed

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in the China-Burma-India area and was buried there. At that time the pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church, former Army Chaplain L. A. Dixon, had just returned from that war zone and remembered having seen "Toady" over there, where he had conducted a service.

Two young men from here who were severely injured and flown back to the States during World War II were Mr. Claude "Doc" Perkinson and Mr. Harold Estill Rowlett. There were many who bore the scars of service, but the list is quite long.

A book listing the men and women who served in World War II and information on each of them is planned by the Historical Society to be published in the future.

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PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH ON LEFT, STILL IN USE IN 1988
MACEDONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON RIGHT, NO LONGER STANDING,
CEMETERY STILL IN GOOD CONDITION.