

# Limestone, railroad key to Stinesville's past

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cautiously collected by the railroad partners.

It is possible that Stine got wind of engineering projections for the path of the railroad. The *Histories of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana* indicates that Stinesville grew slowly at first. The 1856 Monroe County plat book published by the Historical Society lists only a handful of property owners in Section 17 of Bean Blossom Township. They were John Berry, Biddle & Watts Mill, William Brown, John McHenry, S.W.

McManus, H. and Paul Stine, and N. and Nicholas Wilson.

ONE OF THE county histories lists Samuel Brisco as the very first store owner in Stinesville. He was soon followed by John McHenry & Son, James Williams, a man by the name of Matheny, James Shell, Thomas Riggs, C.C. Dunn and David Miller.

Stine apparently didn't put all his investment eggs into one basket. In addition to dealing in town lots, he built a saw and grist mill on the creek and was the town blacksmith.

But the limestone business turned out to be the making of the town. The Virginia Company began some quarrying near the village along Big Creek and others soon followed. John Hoadley Sr., and his brother, William, had bought saw and grist mills at Mt. Tabor, but when the New Albany & Salem Railroad bypassed that thriving community, they could see the financial handwriting on the wall. They were fortunate in finding a buyer who had more faith in Mt. Tabor than they did at that point.

THE HISTORY of Lawrence and

Monroe Counties calls limestone "American marble." Its earliest use was as tombstones, and some of the local artisans had already produced some relatively crude examples of their work, copies of tree stumps and slabs decorated with angels, clasped hands and crosses.

George W. Henley and Hoadley thought limestone had even better uses and their business enterprises had a profound effect on the little Stinesville community.

Next week: Stinesville, a Boom Town