

Stinesville thrived with stone boom

As the limestone quarries and mills in Stinesville flourished, there were others besides John Hoadley Sr. and George Henley who saw the enormous possibilities of "Indiana granite."

Mathias Berry was one of them. Born in North Carolina, he came to Monroe County with his parents in 1833.

According to the *Histories of Morgan, Monroe and Brown Counties, Indiana*, Berry owned 80 acres "well cultivated, stocked and improved by a comfortable residence, barn, etc., and also a fine orchard." More importantly, he had "a fine quarry, containing marble which may be polished to an extent almost equal to that of New England marble." His stone was largely used for monuments, but the biographical sketch in the county history implies that Berry dabbled in building stone as well.

ANOTHER LIMESTONE entrepreneur was Lewis W. Walden, who was born in Bean Blossom Township in November of 1830. His first business venture — a flour mill at Stinesville — failed because he was too trusting and kind-hearted. The county history says his business failure was because "of going security for other parties and other debts."

Regaining his financial equilibrium, Walden bought 40 acres west of Stinesville and began quarrying stone. His business, which he later sold, was being operated in the 1880s, strangely enough, under the name of the *Terre Haute Stone Company*. On another 80 acres he renewed quarrying. According to the 1884 county history, "He

Looking back

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By Rose H. McIlveen

"(Walden) ships marble to all parts of the country. The quarry yields the softer stones of good quality."

INDUSTRY ATTRACTS laborers and small business, and Stinesville was no exception. Although the town's residents occasionally shopped in Bloomington or Gosport, there were the alternatives of local merchants.

W.H. McIlhenry, whose father had been born in the fort at Vincennes during the War of 1812, supported his family with a variety of skills he had acquired. Having attended the Baptist College at Franklin for 11 whole months, he was qualified to teach school. Several years of saw mill experience gave him the confidence to try his hand at the stone business. He also operated a store in Stinesville and served for several years as the town postmaster.

AS THE STONE MILLS hummed away, its profits and wages were recycled through the community's businesses. The 1917 history of the county lists the general stores operated by the Eastons and R.A. Dunn; Eli Myers & Son and D.E. McHenry groceries; J.O. VanBuskirk livery stable; O'Harrow (of Bloomington) branch drug store; J.C. Burgan hotel; A.J. Collier restaurant; Frank Fox barber