

Shuffle Creek's name linked to dancing feet

Thanks to a reporter with curiosity, one of the strange road names in Monroe County is not as mysterious as "That Road" and "Lost Man's Lane." Did you ever wonder about how Shuffle Creek and Shuffle Creek Road got their names?

The answer can be found in a 1905 issue of the *Bloomington Courier*, a newspaper whose style seems quaint in comparison with today's journalistic standards. A *Courier* reporter's primary motive in the front page article in the Oct. 20 issue was to let the readers know that lots of Bloomingtonians had been making trips out to Shuffle Creek near Unionville to see where the Indianapolis Southern Railroad was planning to put its "mammoth bridge."

In the midst of his on-site inspection of the place, it must have occurred to the reporter to ask around about the origin of the Shuffle Creek name. Apparently, he didn't have far to go to get the answer. According to the *Courier* article, "Squire G.N. Brock, who lives near there (pre-



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sumably the creek) and who is one of Benton Township's best known citizens, informs the *World-Courier* that in the early days there were numerous dances in that neighborhood and that there was so much shuffling of the feet along the little creek that it became known as Shuffle Creek."

For the benefit of Bloomingtonians who hadn't taken a buggy ride out to that area, the reporter provided a description. "At present the stream is not much wider than the length of a piece of paper long enough to write its name upon, but after a heavy rain it looks like a young river."

Was Brock truly a leading
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