

Stinesville: the town that limestone built

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residents at the turn of the century include groups of quarry and mill workers, school classes and informal family groups. Apart from Eusebius Stine, it was the Easton family who left the most tangible evidence behind them.

According to the *Histories of Morgan, Monroe and Brown Counties Indiana*, published in 1884, it was William Easton who built the town's first "hotel." By our standards today, it would be considered

boardinghouse-size, but it attests to the prosperity of the growing mill town in its heyday. On the main street is a row of buildings that bear dates and the names of the Eastons that built them. John Easton, for example, was the town's first shoemaker, while J.W. and M.L. operated stores.

ONE BIT of the flavor of Stinesville in those days can be found in the *Histories of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana*, which says, "Early morning brings scores of brown-skinned, stalwart workers

through the town, down the hill to work and throughout the day the hum and crooning of the mills may be heard, until evening, when the workers return, covered with fine, white stone dust."

Some of those "stalwart workers" were immigrants, who lived at the western edge of Stinesville along the road that leads to Ind. 46. Today in that area — called "Stringtown" — there are few, if any, traces of their houses.

One of the most visible samples of the town's mill work is the Soldiers

and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis. The 1917 *Monroe County history* relates an anecdote about a Stinesville veteran stone worker who set the record straight.

"They told me at the city that the stone in the monument came from Bedford, but sez I, you ain't makin' me mad, cause I can tell yu', stan' in' right here, every grade of rock from tip to toe, and how deep it was under level."

Next week: More Memories of Stinesville