

'Endangered cemetery' yields a tale of trouble

One of the little "endangered" cemeteries that can be found in Monroe County is close to the intersection of Mt. Tabor and Bottom Roads in Bean Blossom Township.

FOUNDED IN THE heyday of the Mt. Tabor community, the burial place is now so over-grown with a ground-cover-type weed that some of its remaining tombstones are visible only as mounds under the vines. It is the final resting place of the members of at least three families that each, in different ways, left marks in the county's history.

The oldest known "occupant" is "William Hite, Esq.," who was born in September of 1784 and died in 1843. He was the first postmaster of the then-thriving Mt. Tabor area and father of Felix G. Hite, who was born in 1810 in Kentucky.

According to the *Histories of Morgan, Monroe and Brown Counties, Indiana*, Felix was in the grocery business in the 1840s, and the

Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

family operated a steam carding mill and a grist mill. Felix's children were Eliza, Jackson, Lucinda, William and Henry, some of whom may also be buried in the Mt. Tabor Cemetery. The tombstone of his wife, who died nine months before he did in 1854, can be found there.

Reuben Staley, a Tennessean, born in 1806, is buried at Mt. Tabor, but the tombstone of his wife, Margaret, is not among the visible ones in the overgrown cemetery.

THE STALEY'S SON, William, served in the Union Army during the
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