

# The aftermath of Hoadley mill fire

There are events in the life of every community that do not seem to have any connection, but time proves otherwise.

In 1907, 5-year-old Bert Hoadley, the son of B.G., left his home in Stinesville late in the afternoon to meet his father at the mill at quitting time. On the way, he dawdled, as children will, fell in the creek and drowned. His mother, Kitty, never got over it and never felt the same about Stinesville.

EVENTUALLY, she and B.G. moved to Bloomington. In later years she told people that the reason for the move was to give her children the benefit of Bloomington schools.

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## Looking back

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By Rose McIlveen

Fourth in Stinesville series

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B.G., the principal stockholder in J. Hoadley & Sons, was traveling back and forth each day to the mill in Stinesville. When the mill burned in January 1916, his father, John Hoadley Sr., was 87 years old and retired. Two of his other sons, Albert and Elmer, had died. A third one,

John Jr., was operating a mill in Bloomington.

On the day after the Hoadley mill fire, the Bloomington Telephone reported that John Jr. expressed the opinion that the plant would not again be built in Stinesville.

Apart from Kitty Hoadley's disenchantment with Stinesville, her husband's daily commuting there and the town's lack of fire-fighting facilities, there was another factor that had bearing on the decision about where to re-build the company. As early as March 31, 1916, the Bedford Mail reported: "Through the

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