

**REMINISCENCES**  
**AND**  
**EARLY HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**PIONEER DAYS**



**BY**  
**L. W. MARTZ**  
**DECEMBER, 1916**





**CATHARINE DRENNEN McCORMICK**

Wife of John McCormick, Sr., and great-grandmother of the author of this book and one of the first settlers of Connersville, Indiana



After giving a short history of the McCormick and Martz families this little booklet has a number of blank leaves designed for the purpose of pasting in pictures, and short biographical sketches of the lives of any of the relatives who have passed away, which would be a very convenient reference in tracing the ancestry line.

THE AUTHOR



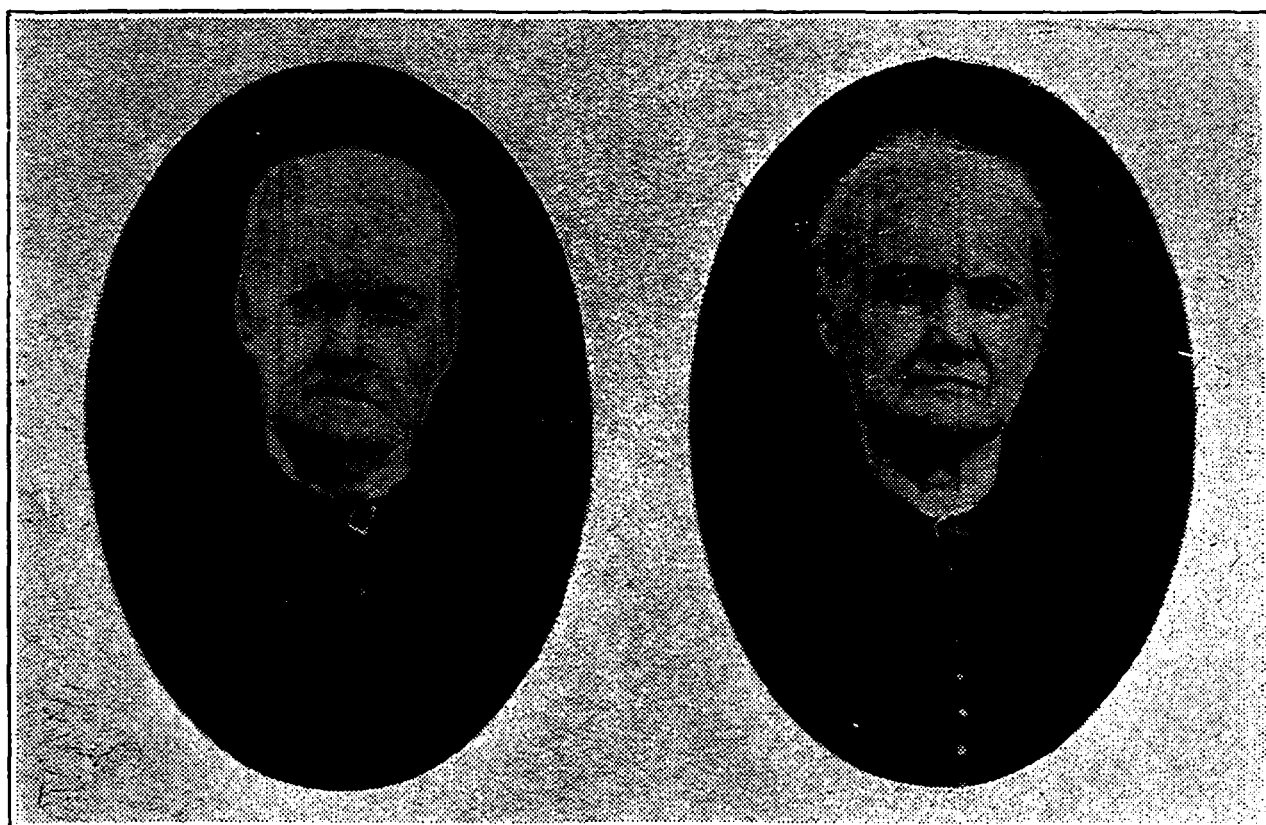
Gift '54  
Mrs. HAZEN JONES



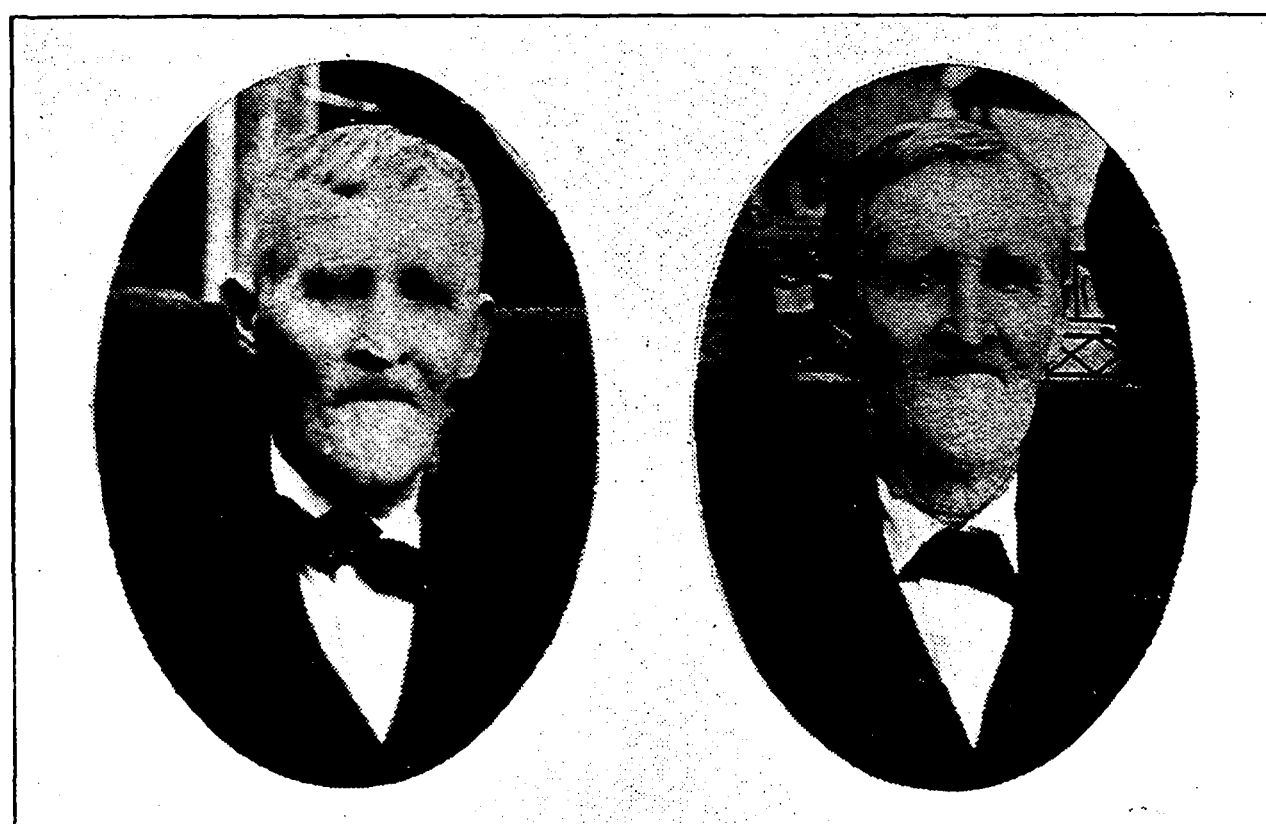
**BETHIAH M<sup>C</sup>CORMICK**  
**WIFE OF JOHN M<sup>C</sup>CORMICK, FIRST SETTLERS OF**  
**INDIANAPOLIS**





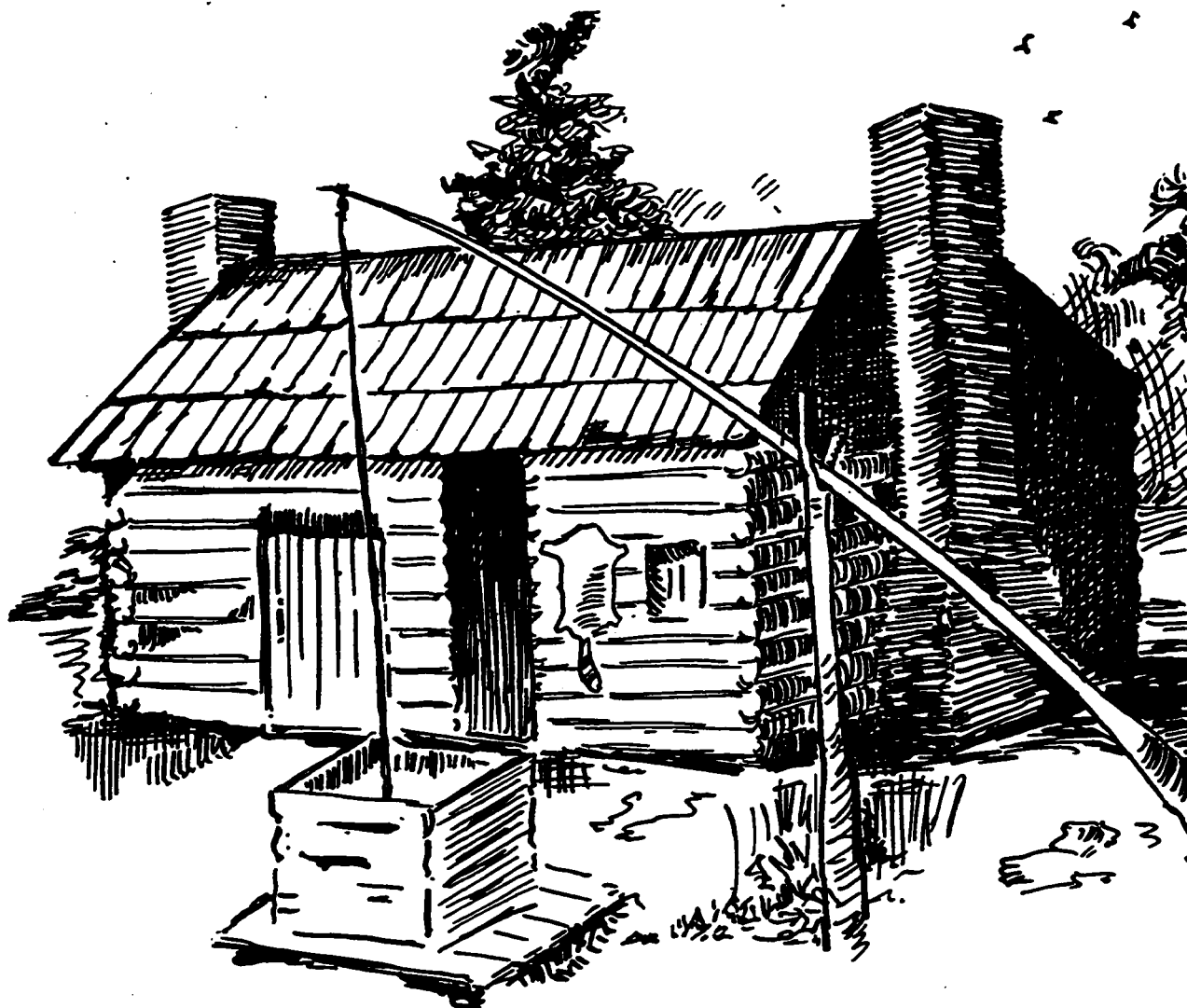


**LAVINA MARTZ                      TABITHA MARTZ**  
**TWIN DAUGHTERS OF JOHN AND BETHIAH MCCORMICK**

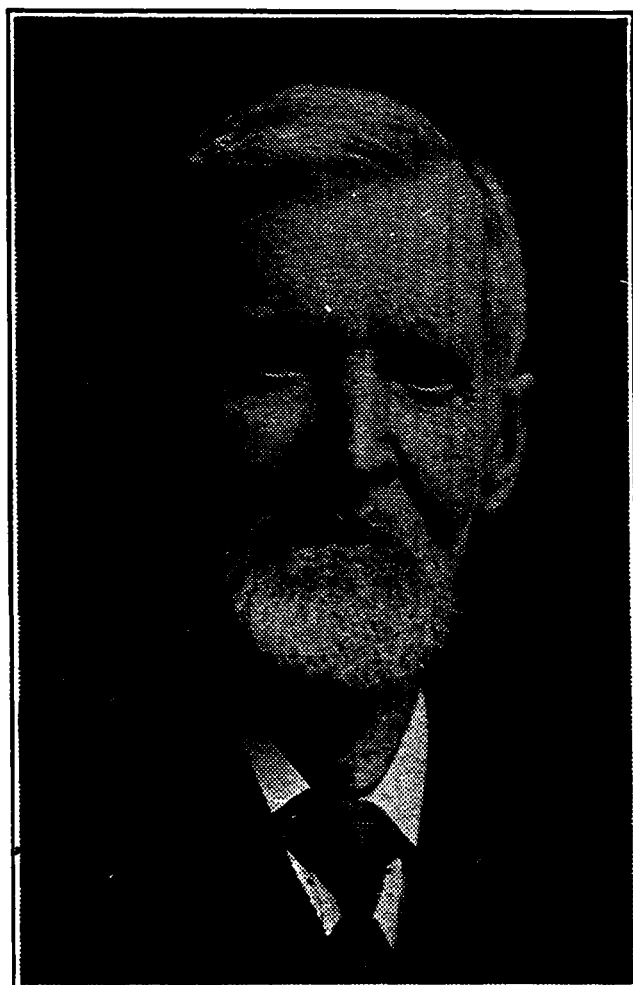


**ISAAC MARTZ                      MOSES MARTZ**  
**TWIN BROTHERS OF PETER AND CHRISTENA MARTZ**





**A PIONEER LOG CABIN---THE FIRST BUILT IN INDIANAPOLIS  
BUILT BY JOHN M'CORMICK IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1820**



**LEWIS W. MARTZ  
SON OF ISAAC AND LAVINA MARTZ  
AND GRANDSON OF JOHN AND BETHIAH M'CORMICK**



## *FAMILY HISTORY*

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The passing year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of Indiana into the Union as a state. It is fitting therefore, that we recall some of the incidents, and important events, relative to the early settlement which go to make up its wonderful history. Much of the success and future greatness of our state and nation, is due to the efforts and dauntless courage of the early pioneers. Their story reaches back to the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock and is tragic in the extreme and merits the most profound admiration. It is a matter of personal pride for us to be able to trace our ancestry back through those trying times, and note the part they played in that heroic struggle.

On coming to the new world they found nothing but savages, wild beasts and an unbroken wilderness. With brave hearts and willing hands, they went to work to clear the land and plant the standard of liberty. They conquered and civilized the savages, they drove out the wild beasts, they cleared, cultivated and ditched the farms, they bridged the streams and improved the roads, they built school houses and churches, they planted vineyards and cultivated the vines and made the wilderness to blossom as the rose,

that on-coming generations might sniff the fragrance.

While those early pioneers, who paved the way, and opened the path to liberty, have long since gone to their reward, we who are living can only venerate their memory and marvel at the wonderful structure that is being builded on the foundation which they laid.

Young as our nation is, we command the respect and admiration of the world. In order to impress the thought in mind, it is only necessary to state that during the life of persons now living there has been more progress in science, invention, art and literature, than the world has witnessed in the thousand years that had preceded.

In order to enter more fully into the spirit of the times, it is necessary to take a retrospective view of what the older people have witnessed in the way of transportation and travel.

We had the horse and wagon, the stage coach and steam boating on the navigable streams, and later the canal with its boating facilities. These all served their purpose under the old order of things.

The mind of man is restless and ever on the alert to discover some new invention. At this point the inventive genius, the skill and scientific research began to work out the railroad proposition. In its full development it was believed that the transportation problem was solved. But that,

too, began to grow slow and tiresome, and along about the beginning of the Nineteenth century, a new thought began to germinate in the scientific mind of one Elwood Haynes, of Kokomo, Ind. He conceived the idea of constructing a vehicle that in some way could be driven by gasoline. He began to work out his dream. Elwood is a little timid, or was then, and what he was doing in that little shop didn't get much notoriety. He did not like to be called a crank, therefore he kept his council to himself. When the trappy little affair was ready for its first test it was spirited out into the country two or three miles (the public wasn't invited). On fairly good behavior it was allowed to show off in the town occasionally. From that small beginning the magnificent motor car has been developed and found its way into every civilized nation on the globe. Not only that, it stands at the head of all other means of transportation and travel.

The people of Kokomo are ever ready to accord to Mr. Haynes the honor of being one of the bright stars in the constellation of the world's renowned inventors. Mr. Haynes is inclined to stay on the earth, and his activities are confined to terra firma. Just what the air men will do to him is in the realm of mystery. Surely we are living in an age of wonders. New things are suddenly thrust upon us. We go to bed to dream, we wake up in the morning to find some new discovery knocking at the door of possibility.

The fact that this wonderful transformation has taken place within the memory and experience of the writer shows what great strides the world is making in the way of economic and social reforms.

This narrative will deal mostly in matters of a personal character, yet will be of interest to any one seeking to know certain facts relative to the settlement, growth and development of the state of Indiana. Indiana was organized as a state, was named, and got its charter just one hundred years ago. Indianapolis was located and named ninety-two years ago, the seventh day of last June. I know something about Indiana. I was born and raised a Hoosier. When I became a citizen she was a little bit of a young thing, not out of her teens and Indianapolis was but ten years old. We grew up together and I have good reason to know something of her doings. More than seventy years ago I sat at the feet of my great grandmother, wife of John McCormick, Sr., and listened to her story of the trying times they passed through in their Virginia home while her husband was serving in the Revolutionary war; and her experience in living in the fort at Connersville to protect themselves from the hostility of the Indians, after moving to the northwest territory of which Indiana was a part. And more recently and on numerous occasions listening to my grandmother, wife of John McCormick, Jr., recount the story and experience of her



life. The McCormicks were conspicuous in the early settling of the state as well as the nation. They were of Scotch descent. They left Scotland and settled in northern Ireland the latter part of the Sixteenth century, coming to America about the year 1700, settling near Winchester, Va. At that time it was a province of Great Britain. The McCormicks were loyal to the king, but being opposed to the tyrannical measures of the English government, early cast their lot with the colonists in their struggle for independence. John McCormick, Sr., my great grandfather, and father of John McCormick, Jr., served in the Revolutionary war from 1775 to 1783, as the records in the war department at Washington show. He was born August 18, 1754, and married to Catharine Drennen March 24, 1785. About two years before the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. To them were born fourteen children, eight sons and six daughters. Their descendants are numerous and widely scattered. In the year 1808 he left his Virginia home and moved with his family to the Northwest territory, Indiana being a part of that territory; and settled near the present site of Connersville and remained there until his death, which occurred April 18, 1837. Catharine, his wife, was born January 25, 1769, and died February 22, 1862, age 93 years. She drew a pension as the wife of a Revolutionary soldier up to the time of her death. John McCormick, Jr., was the fourth son

of John and Catharine McCormick and he was born September 25, 1792, and was married to Bethiah Case near Hamilton, O., in the year 1811. When war was declared against Great Britain the second time, he left his young wife and enlisted in the army, serving through the war. When peace was declared he and his wife left Ohio, going to his father's near Connersville. He remained there until a treaty with the Indians, signed at St. Mary's, O., ceding a strip of land through central Indiana to the United States, this was called the new purchase. After this land had been secured from the Indians he decided to move to it. With covered sleds as vehicles of conveyance, he and his family, accompanied by some of his relatives and friends as escorts, started on the eighteenth day of February, 1820, westward, cutting the road as they went. After a journey of eight days, going sixty miles, they landed on the banks of White river. The stream at that time being difficult to cross they decided to go into camp. This they did at once. They proceeded to erect a cabin, it being located near West Washington street where it crosses the river. They landed at that place on the twenty-sixth day of February. My mother and her twin sister celebrated their fourth birthday the next day after they landed at what was to be their new home, the twenty-seventh.

The locating of this family at this point marked the beginning of a new settlement which

began to attract attention. Soon after the arrival of the McCormicks others were attracted to the new location and began to arrive in quest of new homes. Among the first was George Pogue, and then the Bates, Osbornes, Rays, Hardings and Carrs. A sensation was caused in the new colony by the sudden and mysterious disappearance of George Pogue, going out to look for his horses one evening and never returning. It was supposed he was murdered by the Indians. From this incident the little stream that meanders through the center of the city got its name, Pogues Run.

The records show that my grandfather, John McCormick, was selected as one of the three that constituted the first board of county commissioners, of Marion County. That meeting was organized and began business on the sixteenth day of April, 1822.

To John and Bethiah McCormick were born eight children, my mother being one of them. John McCormick, the husband of Bethiah, his wife, and the father of these children, died August 25, 1825. After his death the two twin girls were taken back to Connersville to live with their grandfather, where they remained until their marriage. The widow, some years after the death of her husband, married a man by the name of King. To this union two children were born, making her the mother of ten children, four sons and six daughters. She was again left a widow

the second time. For a time she remained at her late home, near the Bluffs, finally moving to Arcadia to live with her daughters, Lavina and Tabitha Martz, where she remained until her death, which occurred in 1874. She was an interesting conversationalist and had many thrilling incidents to relate concerning the early pioneer.

Soon after the arrival of the McCormicks, the question of locating the capital began to be agitated. The Fall Creek site as it was known, was not slow in contesting for the honor. The Connor site, near Noblesville and the Bluffs, fifteen miles south of Indianapolis, being the principal contestants. A little later Governor Jennings appointed a commission consisting of the following persons: Hunt, Connor, Ludlow, Gilliland, Rapp, Durham, Emison, Tipton and Bartholomew. Benjamin Blythe was selected to act as secretary to the commission. This commission selected Judge Laughlin to make a survey of the different proposed sites and report at a time set later. On the seventh day of June, 1824, this commission met, Governor Jennings being present, to hear the surveyors report, and to decide on the location. This meeting was at the John McCormick house or tavern, as it was known, it being kept as a public house.

After eating their dinner which consisted largely of venison and which my grandmother helped to prepare, they proceeded to take the

vote. Judge Laughlin reported having made a survey of the three sites named above. Hunt, acting as chairman, called for the vote by raising their hands as he called the different sites: Connors site, two voting, Connor and Ludlow; Fall Creek, three voting, Gilliland, Bartholomew and Tipton; The Bluffs, three voting, Emison, Durham and Rapp.

Connor withdrew in favor of Fall Creek. A little speech making followed, those favoring the Bluffs argued that it was high and dry and the river afforded excellent facilities for shipping. The Fall Creek people came at them with a stronger argument. First, it was near the center of the state, the geographical center being within a few rods of the McCormick tavern. They argued that the capital was for the benefit of all the people of the state and should be located as convenient to all as possible. They contended also that there was a fine landing place for boats on the river nearby which would be of great commercial advantage, affording direct communication to New Orleans which they considered their principal market for buying their goods and shipping away their produce. Again, they argued also, that they must have mills, and Fall Creek would afford abundant water power to operate them. After hearing these arguments, a vote was taken resulting in the Fall Creek site being unanimously chosen. Interested spectators having gathered at the McCormick home await-

ing the result, when it was announced indulged in a season of rejoicing at what they considered their good fortune. The name Indianapolis was also adopted, being suggested by Jeremiah Sullivan and Samuel Merrill of Madison. After signing the report and handing it over to the governor, instructing him to have the state records removed to the new capital, and bidding those present an affectionate farewell by hearty handshakes the commissioners departed. Indianapolis began to grow and is still growing. My mother, being then eight years old, witnessed these proceedings and had a vivid recollection as to what happened. It is necessary in order to complete this narrative to bring in the Martz family. They are of German descent, coming from Wurtemberg, Germany, about the beginning of the Seventeenth century, settling in Lancaster, Pa. Records have been kept which date back to the birth of one Nicholas Martz, who was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1762. Nicholas was particularly noted for two things, eccentricity and corpulency. He tipped the scales at about 400 pounds. And his eccentric traits led him to construct his own coffin a year or two before his death. It was said that it would scarcely pass through a three-foot door. The Martzs, like the McCormicks, sympathized with the colonists in their struggle for independence. Peter Martz, my grandfather, was a son of Nicholas and was born in Lancaster

County, Pennsylvania, February 20, 1789. After his marriage to Christena Myers, which occurred in 1808, he left the Keystone state and moved to Piqua, O. Twelve children were born to this union, Isaac and Moses were twins, being the third. When they were but three months old their father enlisted in the British-Indian war and served to its close. At the close of the war he returned to Ohio and remained there until 1818, when he moved to Indiana, settling on a farm on Symons creek, near Dublin. He built the first mill in that part of the country, running it in connection with his farm. In 1868 he retired from active life and settled in Arcadia, where his death occurred in May, 1872.

Isaac and Moses Martz, the twins, remained with their father after their marriage until they had accumulated sufficient means to enter land, which they did in Hamilton County, where Arcadia now stands. Their marriage to the McCormick twins borders on the romantic. The Martz twins happened to meet the McCormick girls at a singing school near Connersville. The Martzs were not much gifted in music. The McCormicks were fine singers and could make the welkin ring from the old Missouri harmony. Suffice it to say, these two Martz boys were not so much interested in running the musical scale as they were in capturing the hands and hearts of those two charming girls. The race was not of the long meter kind and soon culminated in the marriage

of the Martz twins to the McCormick twins. This double wedding occurred November 27, 1834. To each family were born twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, there being four days between the birth of the oldest and six days between the youngest. The writer of this article was the oldest child born to the Isaac and Lavina Martz family, was born August 29, 1835. Also am the oldest living grandchild of John and Berthiah McCormick, first settlers of Indianapolis. And by the way, enjoying the distinction of being the oldest living representative of the generation that comprise the offspring of both the McCormick and Martz families. There was born to these two families approximately ninety grandchildren. More than half of them have already crossed over the great divide. And I am the oldest of them all except one, who preceded me four days, but has long since passed away, am still journeying on life's rugged road. Both of these families descended from a hearty race of people. Some of them living past the century mark and several coming close up to it. In order to bring this genealogical line down to date of the families herein mentioned, it is necessary to complete the final history of the quartet of twins who figured prominently in this narrative. The two twin brothers, Isaac and Moses Martz, were born May 27, 1812. Isaac died from an accident September 2, 1898. Moses departed this life November 2, 1899. The twin sisters,



Lavina and Tabitha Martz, were born February 27, 1816. Lavina's death occurred February 14, 1896. Tabitha passed away November 14, 1905.

The above historical sketch was authenticated in the recent elaborate Centennial Pageant given at Indianapolis. The selecting of a site for the capital was one of the episodes. The meeting of the commissioners at the McCormick home was enacted by the characters bearing the names of the persons mentioned above. Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, a sister of L. W. Martz, represented her grandmother, Mrs. John McCormick.



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