

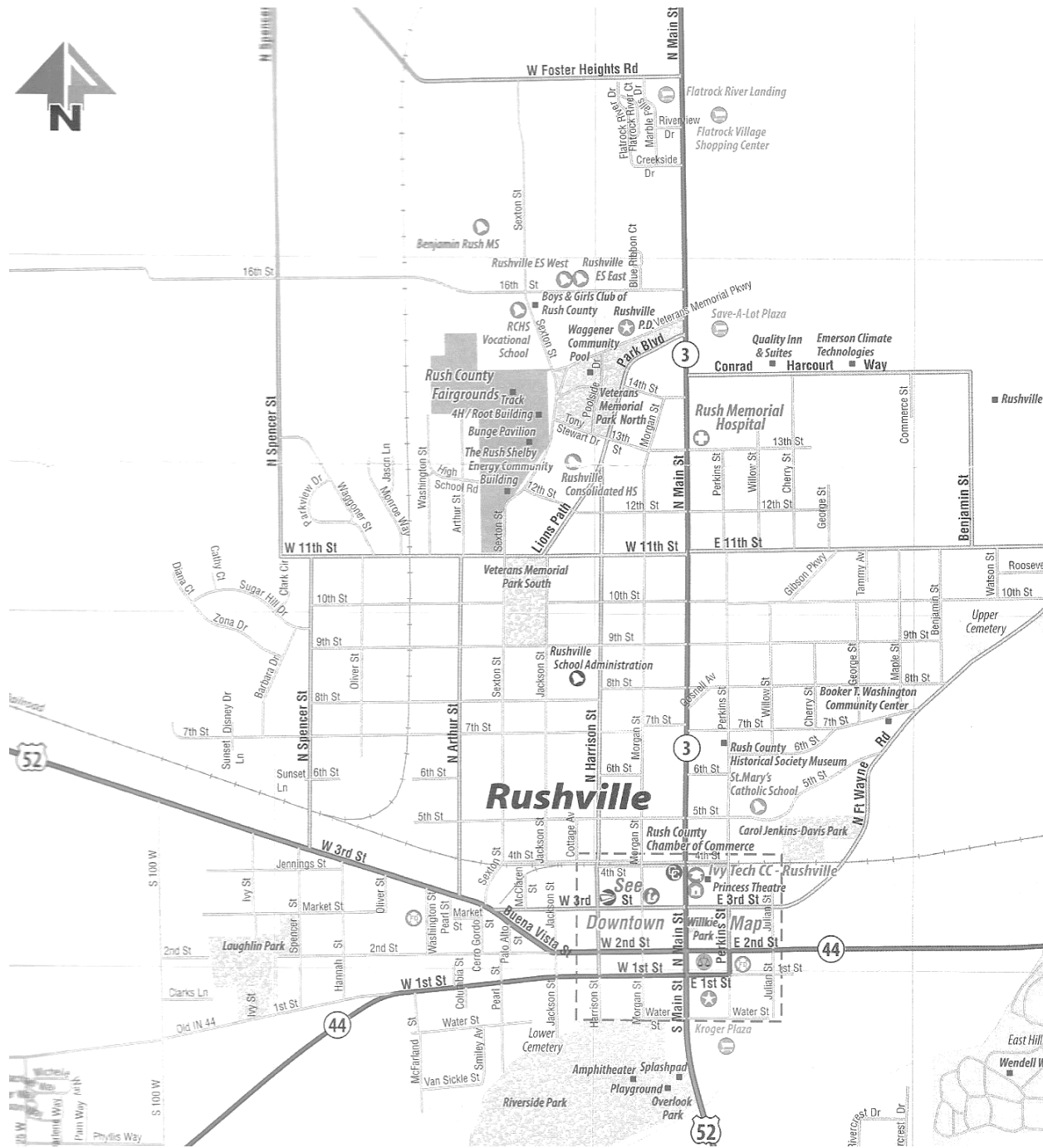
**HISTORIC HOMES  
WALKING TOUR OF RUSHVILLE**

**Rush County Genealogical Society**



**Bicentennial Year – 2022**

**Research by: Katrina Cooper, Marilyn Yager,  
and Kevin Harr**



## Home of Doctor Frank Hayes Green - 314 N Perkins Street



Doctor Frank Hayes Green lived at this house. Green was born in Arlington on July 20, 1876, the son of Dr. Lot and Cordelia J (Barnard) Green. He was the grandson of Dr. and Mrs. James Green. After attending common school in Jackson township and Gings, he graduated from Gings High School and went on to graduate in 1897 from Indiana Medical School at Indianapolis. He began the practice of medicine in Rushville with his father and served the community some forty-three years.

He served in the US Army in World War I and was a captain in the Medical Corps. He was stationed in Montgomery, Alabama and then Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. On his return from service, he opened a 6 bed hospital in 1919 above the office which he shared with his brother, Dr. Charles Green, DDS.

Dr. Green served as Coroner of Rush County.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Elks, Masons, American Legion and Rush County, Indiana and Sixth district medical societies. Green was president of the Rushville High School Athletic Board, the organization formed to build the Memorial Gymnasium.

He was first married to Kate Richmond Kiplinger who preceded him in death in 1931 and his second wife Mary Green survived him when he died at this home on July 30, 1940. He was buried in the East Hill Cemetery in Rushville, Indiana.

-----Rushville Republican, Rushville, Indiana, July 31, 1940, page 1.

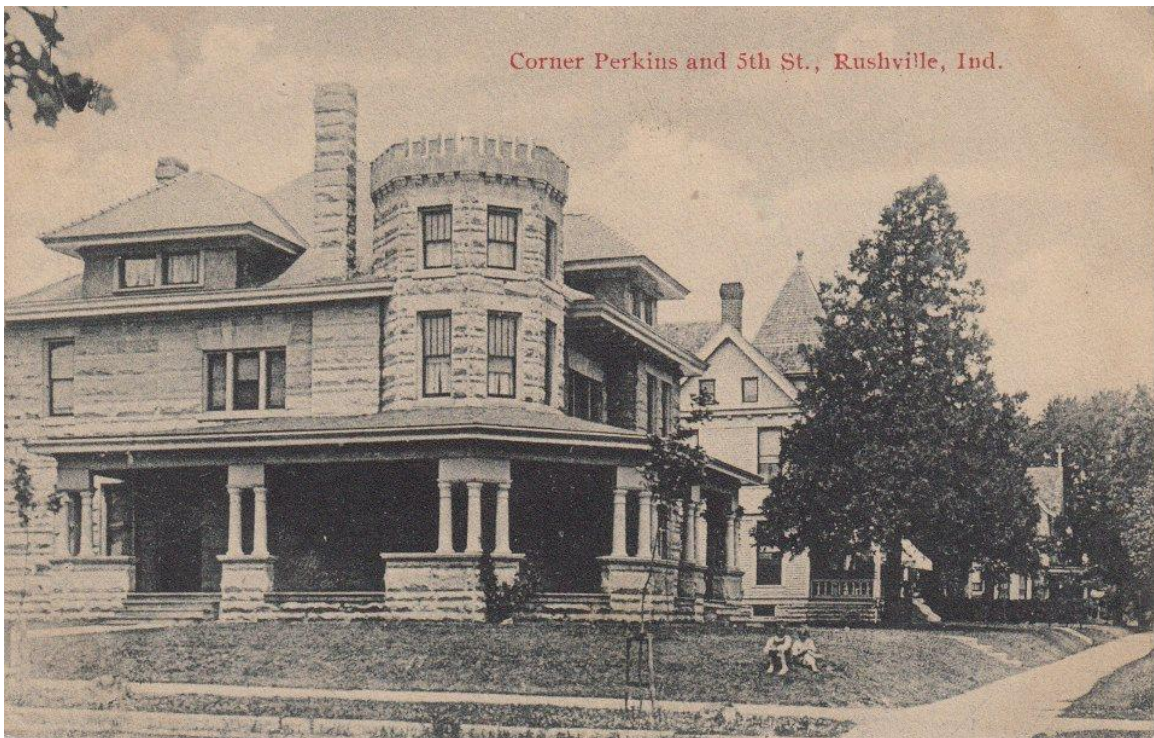
**Home of Willard D. Root - 431 N Perkins Street**



Willard D. (W. D.) Root was a farmer and furniture manufacturer. He was born near Batavia, Illinois on August 1, 1857, son of David and Marietta Root. He married Maude Bartlett and they had four children – Donald, Paul, Lawrence who died in 1939, and Willard Deloss who died in infancy. For a time in 1909, the family moved to Piqua, Ohio. Frank Wilson lived in the home during this time. W. D. was a very active member of the St. Paul Methodist Church and was in a meeting of the board of trustee when he died of a heart attack. He is buried in the East Hill Cemetery. There was a sale of 620 Acres of land after his death. Some of the land was in Posey Township, some in Rushville Township, some in Noble Township and some was in Richland Township.

-----Rushville Republican, Thursday, November 15, 1945, page 1

**Home of Miss Mary A. McCoy - 503 N Perkins Street**  
**Later Became Convent for St. Mary's Catholic Church**



This property was owned by Miss Mary A. McCoy. She was born October 4, 1873, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Moran McCoy, a prominent farmer. Miss McCoy had donated many gifts to the Rush Memorial Hospital. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Altar Society.

At the time of her death on February 17, 1956, Mary bequeathed this spacious two story, stone veneered home to the St. Mary's Parish. They did an extensive remodeling project to convert it to a convent for the five sisters of St. Francis who taught at the St. Mary's School.

In the Notice of Sale of Real Estate by St. Mary's Church on September 7, 1974, the home was described as a Bedford stone house, completely modern with storm windows and in excellent condition. There is a full basement, consisting of four rooms, a first floor consisting of six rooms and a second floor, consisting of nine rooms and a large attic. There are mainly hardwood floors throughout, more than one bathroom and wash basin in each bedroom. Heated with oil, steam heat.

----- Rushville Republican: February 18, 1956, page 1; May 25, 1972, page 4; and August 28, 1974, page 9

**St. Mary's Catholic Church – 512 N Perkins Street, Built in 1897**



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church was built in 1887 and is the third church for this parish which was founded in 1857. The beautiful stained glass windows were imported from Germany. The oak church pews are original to the church and the auditorium has a slight rise from the front to the back of the church. Their pipe organ is located in the balcony to the back of the auditorium.

There is a good video about the St. Mary's Church on [HistoryInYourOwnBackyard.com](http://HistoryInYourOwnBackyard.com).

## Winship House - 519 N Perkins Street, Italianate



Morris M. Winship lived at this home. Winship was born in Rush County on June 12, 1854, the son of William S. and Nancy E. Morris Winship. He married Margaret Pearsey in August, 1933. He was a member of the Main Street Christian Church and a well-known contractor in the County for over 50 years. On the northwest corner of the Graham School on Perkins Street, there was a cornerstone that noted the general contractor who built the school was Morris M. Winship & Son.

He was survived by one son, Will, of Rushville, who owned and operated Farmers Tractor & Implement on East Second Street from 1930 until his death in 1962. Prior to that he was associated with the firm of Winship & Son noted previously.

Also surviving Morris Winship at his death on September 27, 1946 were two daughters, Cora and Nell who continued to live in the 12 room brick home for many years. They had both worked at the ISSCH and later took on, in their 60's, the job of mothering their little toddler great nephew. Cora lived until October, 1968 and Nell until October, 1978. Nell was a charter member of the Rushville Chapter of the DAR. She was well known for her cooking skills having won many honors at the Rush County Fair. At the age of 96 she won First Place for her Cinnamon Bread, Cheese Straws and Oatmeal Bran Cookies. Her cheese straws were judged the best of all food items for that year's County Fair, earning the Grand Sweepstake Award.

-----Rushville Republican: September 27, 1946, page 1; February 13, 1962, page 1; December 15, 2015 and The Cincinnati Enquirer, September 28, 1977, pages 57 and 65.

**Home of Judge William M. and Della Young Sparks - 524 N Perkins Street**  
**Gabled-Ell, Built about 1875**



William Morris Sparks was born April 28, 1872 at Charlottesville in Hancock County, Indiana. He was the son of Dr. James and Harriet Johnson Sparks. The family moved to Carthage when he was 8 years old and he attended school there, graduating from Carthage High School in 1890. He enrolled in DePauw University where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts; going on to Indiana Law School at Indianapolis. He was admitted to the practice of law Rushville in 1896.

Soon after, he was appointed deputy prosecuting attorney for two years. In 1897 he formed a law practice with Gates Sexton and this partnership continued until 1901 when he was elected to the Indiana Legislature as a representative and was re-elected in 1903. In 1904 he was elected on the Republican ticket as judge of the combined Rush-Shelby Circuit Court in a district that was mostly Democratic. In 1910 he ran again, but was defeated by just 19 votes so he resumed private practice until 1913 when the Indiana Legislature created a separate circuit for Rush County and the next year, he was elected as the first judge. He served in this position until he received his federal appointment in Chicago in 1929. He always retained his home here and returned to Rushville after his retirement on November 20, 1948.

Judge Sparks was a student of history, of the classics and of the Bible. He was the organist at St. Paul's Methodist Church and for over 20 years taught a men's Sunday School Class. He was active in the Masonic Lodge locally and in the state serving in the Grand Lodge, Knights Templar and Grand Commander of the State. He was a member of the Rotary Club, Delta Theta fraternity, and the Rush County Bar Association. He was president of the Library Board at its inception in 1910.

Will Sparks was a great lover of sports, and in his college days at DePauw, he was a baseball pitcher of prominence. He was a strong follower of the local high school basketball team back in the years of his Model T. Ford.

On November 23, 1897 he married Della Young, native of Rushville – the daughter of George W. and Nancy Hinchman Young. They were the parents of two children: William who died in 1941 of a heart attack in Indianapolis and Dorothy who married Horace Foster, Jr. His wife died in Chicago on November 14, 1947, the week before they were to celebrate their Golden Anniversary. Will died January 7, 1950 following a stroke and both are buried in East Hill Cemetery, Rushville.



**Home of Alphonso L. Riggs - 538 N Perkins Street, Built in 1895**



Alphonso L. Riggs was born October 21, 1855 in Wabash. He came to Rushville when a child and received his grade school and high school education here. He worked for J. B. Kennedy in the hardware business and later bought the business along with his brother-in-law, W. E. Havens. The business was later purchased by John Morris.

When President Harding was in office, A. L. was appointed postmaster of Rushville and he served from September 5, 1921 to May 3, 1930. He was active in Republican politics and served as chairman many years.

On June 7, 1876, he married Laurette Havens. She died on January 13, 1931. The couple had one daughter, Blanche who married Guy Abercrombie. Riggs was a member of the Methodist church, the Elks, K. of P. lodges of Rushville and the Columbia Club in Indianapolis. He died at his home on August 3, 1935 and was buried in East Hill Cemetery, Rushville.

-----Rushville Republican, August 3, 1935, page 1, page 6.

**Home of William M. and Florence Bliss - 550 N Perkins Street**  
**American Four Square, Built in 1904**



William M. Bliss was born in Cynthiana, KY on May 9, 1858. In 1882 he joined a partnership with Frank Wilson and his brother George that had been called Bliss & Wilson. The Bliss Brothers and Wilson business continued until 1890 when Frank Wilson left the firm. For a time, Will operated the business with his brother and then in 1892 the partnership of Bliss and Cowing was formed with Joseph L Cowing. They did business on a One Price Cash Basis and were able to buy their goods at a cheaper price as they belonged to a buying group of clothiers.

Will married Florence Bowman of Connersville on Oct 27, 1896 and they had a daughter named Mary Louise.

Will was a member of the Commercial Club, Masons, Knights of Pythias, Redmen, Royal Arcanum, and Woodmen.

In 1921 he and his wife moved out to Los Angeles and he died from injuries suffered when hit by an automobile when crossing the street near his home on April 1, 1938. His wife Florence died October 5, 1954 also in Los Angeles.

**Home of Theodore Abercrombie - 605 N Perkins Street**  
**Queen Anne, Built in 1895**



Theodore Abercrombie was born on a farm near Andersonville, Franklin County, Indiana on July 23, 1831 to John Abercrombie and Rebecca Pursel. He attended the country schools and at age of 13 began learning the trade of Tailor at Andersonville studying under Smith Scott for three years and then went to Laurel where he took lessons in tailoring by the week.

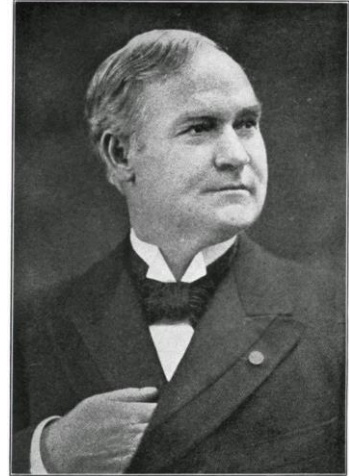
Abercrombie served as director of the Rushville National Bank for 49 years, having served as president for twelve of those years. He was one of the organizers of the Rushville Natural Gas Company and was one of its directors since its start in 1889, being president when he died. He was active in the Masons and the Odd Fellows.

He served as chairman of the Republican party, president of the Town Board which would be the Mayor's office today.

Theodore married Sarah Wilson Sexton and had four children; Gary, Ned, John Sexton and Roy. Abercrombie passed away April 21, 1918. At the time of his death, he lived at the corner of Eleventh and Main.

-----Rushville Republican, Monday, April 22, 1918, page 1 and page 5.

**Home of Colonel John K. Gowdy - 619 N Perkins Street, Built in 1895**  
**Often called "The House That Jack built"**  
**Deeded by relatives to RCHS in 1940**



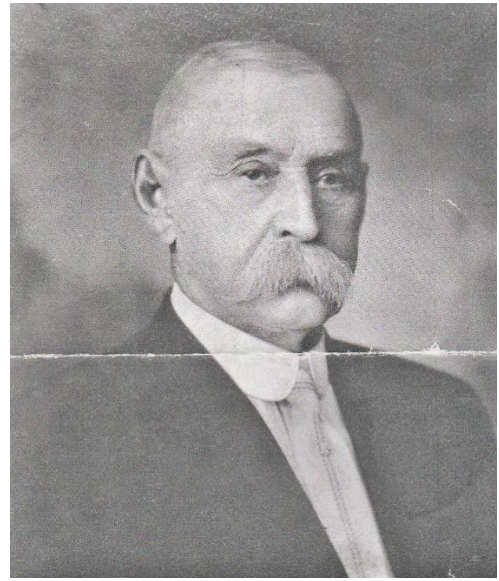
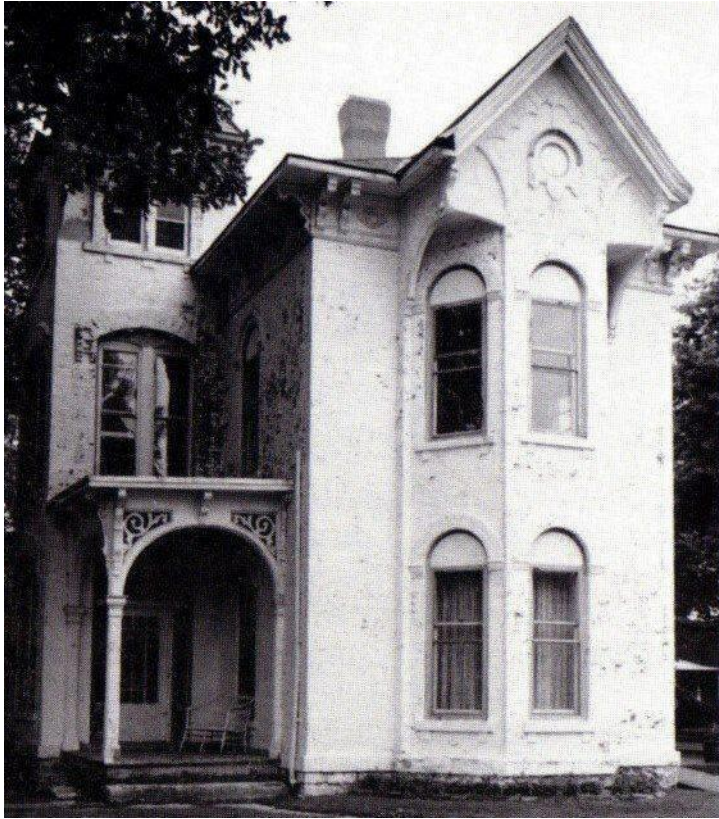
John Kennedy Gowdy was born in Arlington, Indiana on August 23, 1843. The family moved to Jasper county in 1849 where he received his education in public schools. His father was involved in politics and was elected a delegate of the second state constitutional convention and a member of the legislature representing the district of Jasper, White and Pulaski counties.

At the time of the Civil War, John K. Gowdy enlisted in Company L, Fifth Indiana Volunteer Cavalry at Lafayette on July 17, 1862 at the age of eighteen. He served with his regiment in pursuit and capture of John Morgan, the famous raider, with General Burnside in the East Tennessee Campaign, and served with General Sherman in the Georgia Campaign and was mustered out with his company on October 5, 1865. At the end of the Civil War, he returned to Rush County and married Eve. E. Gordon on January 24, 1867.

In 1870, Gowdy was elected sheriff of Rush County and was re-elected two years later. In 1879 he moved from his farm to Rushville and in 1882, he was elected as Rush County Auditor and served two 4 year terms. He also served as Republican Party Chairman for ten years, 1879 to 1889. In 1890 he was elected Chairman of the Indiana State Committee where he served several terms. In 1896, he was instrumental in achieving one of the most notable political victories in this state with the election of William McKinley being elected to President. Soon after the inauguration of McKinley in March, 1897, Mr. Gowdy was appointed consul general to Paris, where he achieved the honor and distinction of being one of the most efficient and popular officials who ever represented the U.S. government in France. He served during the Spanish American War and the Paris Exposition in 1900. Gowdy resigned his position after eight and a half years and returned to Rushville. He died at his home in Rushville on June 25, 1918.

--- from the Centennial History of Rush Co. Indiana, volume 2, 1921.

## Home of Colonel Edward H. Wolfe - 629 N Perkins Street, Built in 1875



Colonel Edward Highly Wolfe was born September 26, 1834 in Rushville. He received his education in Rushville and then attended Hanover College and for a short time at Miami University.

Edward enlisted in the army when he was twenty-six years of age and served until the end of the war. His promotions were rapid due to his gallantry, efficient service and his splendid personality. He was first commissioned as Major in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Regiment on October 25, 1861, promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on April 26, 1862, advanced to the command of the regiment as Colonel on September 19, 1862, and commissioned Brevet Brigadier General on March 18, 1865. Both his brother and his father Lieutenant Colonel Joel Wolf, who was killed at the Battle of Richmond, were also members of the Union Army.

In civil life, he was elected Auditor of Rush County, serving from 1868 until 1874. His work was so satisfactory, that there is on record in the Court House at Rushville a vote of thanks which was presented to him at the expiration of his term. Wolfe was later elected Indiana State Auditor and served from 1881 until 1883.

Wolfe was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church and was the Grand Inspector of the Masons and visited many lodges throughout Indiana.

Colonel Wolfe passed away August 17, 1916 leaving two children, Mrs. Fannie Maupin of Rushville and Charles Wolfe of Washington, D. C.

-----Edward H. Wolfe Memorial by the Masons, Office of the Grand Master, Michigan City, September 1, 1916.

**Main Street Christian Church – 615 N Main Street - Built in 1894**



Though there are records of the Main Street Christian Church beginning activities as far back as May 23, 1830, the church was formally established in 1840. The original building was constructed in 1850, but the larger, the current building was constructed in 1893-94 at a cost of \$30,000. The dedication for the new building was held on February 4, 1894 and was the culmination of a great deal of dedication and direction of Rev. Jolm H. McNeil.

The [HistoryInYourOwnBackyard.com](http://HistoryInYourOwnBackyard.com) website offers a great video about the Main Street Christian Church.

**Home of Frank M. and Luna Foley Wilson - 602 N Main Street**  
**Queen Anne, Built in 1896**



Frank M. Wilson was born on November 19, 1858 just two miles south of Rushville, the son of William and Elizabeth Brooks Wilson. When 14 years old, he took a job in the store of Eli Frank. At 17 years old, he began clerking in a clothing store for Rosenthal, Krouse and Company and after three years he worked at Lakin and Carr for one year.

In 1879 Frank formed a partnership with George Bliss and operated a clothing store under the name of Bliss and Wilson in the Odd Fellows block. In 1891 he sold his interest to Mr. Bliss and opened his own store. In July, 1894 he moved the store to the northwest corner of Main and Second Streets. He always practiced the policy of giving the best quality for the least money so he paid cash for his stock to get good discounts and ran his business at the lowest possible expense, giving his customers the benefit of what he had saved.

Frank married Luna Foley of Cincinnati on November 5, 1885 and they had one daughter, Aileen (Mrs. Chauncy Duncan). He was a member of the Commercial Club, the Social Club, and an officer and director of the Equitable Loan Association. His wife Luna died April 7, 1926 and he died on his 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday – November 19, 1947. They are buried in the East Hill Cemetery, Rushville.

## Home of Theodore H. and Elizabeth Reed - 530 N Main Street



Theodore H. Reed was born in Shelby County, Indiana, near St. Paul on July 5, 1852, the son of William H. R. and Harriett Zeigler Reed, a well-known grain dealer in the state. It was said that he was practically born and reared in an elevator. At the age of eighteen, Theodore went to Greensburg and engaged in the elevator business for eight years, returning to St. Paul in 1878 where he built the first steam elevator in the state, outside of the large cities.

After four years in St. Paul, Mr. Reed came to Rushville and built a double elevator on West Second Street near the intersection of the Big Four, Pennsylvania and L.E. & W tracks. It was a model for its day, with bin capacity of 80,000 bushels that could be used for corn or wheat. He handled more grain than any of his Rush County competitors. He made it a rule never to be over bid in the local market.

Theodore married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Spear in Cincinnati on January 1, 1878 when he was living in Greensburg. They had one son, Theodore Richardson Reed who was also involved in the grain business with his father. Lizzie died April 20, 1918 from a complication of diseases. Theodore moved to Fort Thomas, Kentucky in 1921 after suffering a stroke of paralysis and died there on January 30, 1923.

Mr. Reed was the largest stockholder in the Rushville Natural Gas Company, a stockholder in the Rushville National Bank, a director of the Rushville Telephone company, conducted Flash Stock farm for the training of fast horses and operated a farm of 170 acres two miles east of Rushville. He was president of the Board of Trade when it was in operation in Rushville and was a member of the Riverside Park company. Mr. Reed served one term on the school board.

This home sold for \$7500 at auction in August, 1920. His 332-acre farm was sold at auction in 4 separate sections – 2 bought by Jasper D. Case and 2 by Edwin Gartin at an average of \$149 per acre.



Theodore H. Reed



Theodore Richardson (Rich) Reed



**Home of Jasper D. and Sallie Bell Case - 525 N Main Street**  
**Mediterranean Style, Built in 1920**



Jasper Deryl Case was born in Butler County, Ohio on January 14, 1857, one of several children of John Milton and Eliza A. Struck Case. He came to Rushville about 1888 and became involved in the lumber business and operated a planing mill and lumber yard here for many years. He later was connected with the American National Bank where he was vice president with banks in Milroy Gwynneville, and New Salem. Case was also a large stockholder and president of the Park Furniture company. At one point, he was said to be the richest man in the county.

He married Emma Kelly in 1887 and she passed away May 14, 1892. He was later married in 1895 to Sallie A. Bell who was born October 18, 1873 in Franklin County, Kentucky. They had one son, Jasper Deryl Case, II who was born August 15, 1906.

During the time of the Great Depression the American National Bank closed on April 22, 1933. Case, being the vice president committed suicide in the garage of this home. He left a note only saying where to find his body after he shot himself. Sallie Case was active in the community until the time of her death on May 16, 1942. She died at the home of her sister, Martha Grindle, just down the street at the Queen Anne style home at 503 N. Main. (September, 1942 home sold to Dr. and Mrs. Lowell Green.)

Jasper D. Case had this limestone mansion built in 1920. The tiled roof porch originally extended across the front. The interior woodwork is made from red gum trees. In 1938 the home was sold and became the Wyatt Memorial Mortuary and since the mortuary closed, it is again a family residence.



Grindle home, 503 N. Main Street



Jasper C. Case

**Home of Dr. Marshall and Elizabeth S. Brooks Sexton - 506 N Main Street**  
**Greek Revival/Gothic Revival**



Marshall Sexton was born at Rushville on January 29, 1823, the first white male child born in Rush County. He had this home built at the site of his parents Horatio Gates and Hannah Pugh Sexton's log cabin. Four generations of Sextons provided medical care over a 100-year period.

After receiving his education in the local schools, he studied at Hanover College for two years. He then studied medicine with his father and then went to Ohio Medical College where he graduated in 1844. When the Civil War broke out, Marshall served as surgeon of the Fifty second regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry until he had to resign in the Spring of 1863 due to ill health. He married Miss Elizabeth S; Brooks in Wilmington, Ohio in May, 1844 and the couple had five children: Horatio G., Louisa, Ruby H., Sally M., and John Chase.

John C. was born January 21, 1859 and he graduated from Rushville High School in 1876, attended Hanover College and then studied medicine under his father until 1880 when he went to Cincinnati to attend the Ohio Medical College where he graduated in 1882 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He later took post graduate studies in Philadelphia, New York, and Chicago. In 1902 Doctor Sexton started the only hospital in Rush County. It was located on Sixth Street, between Main and Perkins streets. On September 27, 1882, John married Hannah Cullen, the only daughter of Judge William A. Cullen and they had two children: Frances B. and Marshall Cullen Sexton.

Dr. Marshall Cullen Sexton passed the State Medical exam in 1920 with a high grade. He was a Fellow of the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and president of the Indiana State Medical Society.

In 1928 when Dr. J. C. Sexton had decided he would retire, he offered the City of Rushville the opportunity to purchase the Sexton Hospital for just \$11,000.00. There was a restriction that they would not sell the facility to any private concern, but operate it as a city hospital for five years, before making any changes. The city decided to purchase the hospital with the thought of later building a larger hospital adequate to serve the county. Most surrounding counties already had hospitals.

**Home of William and Leona Knecht - 434 N Main Street**  
**American Four Square, Built in 1915**



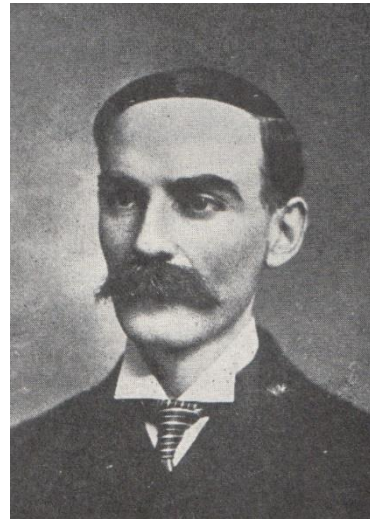
William Francis Knecht, well known farmer and stock buyer, was born October 27, 1856 in St. Peters, Franklin County. He was the son of Francis and Margaret Knecht. He was married to Katherine Riedmann in 1879. In 1881, they moved to Rush County and located on a farm near Raleigh. They came to live in Rushville in 1927. Their home was located at 526 N. Main. They had five sons: John A., William J., Frederick A., Emil J. (Jack), and Francis that lived to adulthood. Son, Lawrence and daughter, Evelyn died young. Katherine died September 7, 1934. Son, William and Florence Knecht later lived in the family home in the 1940 U.S. Census.

February 1, 1907 four of the Knecht sons: John A., Will, Fred and Jack along with Jet Parker started The Knecht Clothing Company and they purchased a clothing and furnishings store owned by the Silverberk Clothing Co. This company operated stores in Greensburg, Columbus and Rushville. Jet Parker severed his relationship with the company in 1912 and the Knechts continued the business eight more years at which time, Jack Knecht became the sole owner. The store was known as Knecht's O. P. C. H. which stood for One Price Clothing Store. This slogan was started by Geston P. Hunt who at one time operated a hardware store next door – one low price to all, with every garment marked in plain figures. In 1940 Knecht was assisted by tailors Lawrence Zerr and Fred McGinnis.

July 12, 1939 William, Sr. was re-married to Leona Kuntz Coyne of Greensburg. They made their home at 434 N. Main, a brick home with ceramic tile roof built in 1915.

William Knecht became associated with the Rush County National Bank serving as a director at the time of his death on February 21, 1945. William had also served as vice-president of The Falmouth State Bank.

## Residence of Joseph L. Cowing - 430 N Main Street, Built in 1887



Joseph L. Cowing was born in Andersonville on September 8, 1862, son of John and Louisa Barber Cowing. After graduating from the common school of Franklin County, he obtained a teacher's license and started teaching at age 19. He moved to Rushville when 23 years old. He married Jennie Beale, on May 5, 1897 who died Oct. 30, 1930. A son, Byron, was born to this union. On October 24, 1931, he married his first wife's sister, Minnie J. Beale.

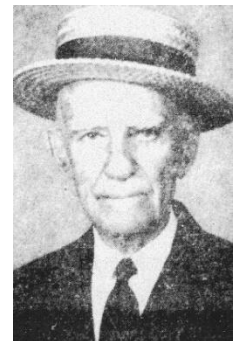
In 1885 he became bookkeeper for F.B. Stearns & Co., a pump and windmill manufacturer and in 1892 became office manager/bookkeeper for Bliss Brothers Clothiers. In 1902 he became partner in the business with Will M. Bliss and in 1919 the sole owner. He sold the business and retired in 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Cowing then spent their time traveling in the United States and Europe.

Joseph Cowing served as vice president of the Rushville National Bank and in 1929, he was elected president of that bank, this position he held at the time of his death.

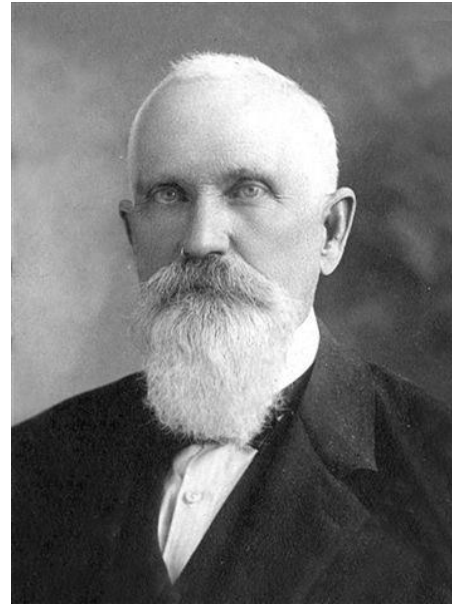
Mr. Cowing served as elder at First Presbyterian Church for 50 years. He also served as trustee at the East Haven/Richmond State Hospital for 20 years appointed under a Republican and Democrat Governor.

The Cowings spent winters in Florida and Joseph was known for wearing a straw hat nine months of the year -3 months in Florida and six months in Rushville in the summertime.

Joseph died November 15, 1947 of a heart attack and was buried in East Hill Cemetery, Rushville.



**Home of William and Anna Churchill - 413 N Main Street**  
**Second Empire/Gen Grant Style**



William Churchill was born August 4, 1828 in Richland Township, Rush County, Indiana. He was the son of Daniel and Nancy Street Churchill. He lived with his parents in Noble and Richland Townships working on his parents' farm until he was 30 years old. He then went to Rushville and engaged in the grain business, later incorporating a farm implement business with the grain business. Disposing of that business, Churchill went into the lumber business for about ten years and then retired.

William had four brothers and they were some of the longest living set of brothers at the time of his death in 1910. George Taylor was born in 1837 and died in 1920, Jefferson was born in 1830 and died in 1914, John Wesley was born in 1833 and died in 1916, and Milton was born in 1843 and died in 1921.

Mr. Churchill married Anna R. Bush and they had two children. Ione Bush was born August 5, 1875. She married Ned Abercrombie and their son was Theodore William Abercrombie. She died January 14, 1952 and was buried in the East Hill Cemetery, Rushville. The other daughter was Kate Wilma Churchill, born April, 1881. She married Lawrence Lovett Allen who ran a grocery business in Rushville for 27 years before moving to McAllen, Texas in 1932. They later moved to San Bernadino, California in 1943 where she passed away in 1964.

**Home of Charles H. Parsons, MD - 410 N Main Street**  
**Built Around 1885**



This home built around 1885 is of an "Indeterminate" style meaning that it has undergone significant remodeling.

CHARLES H. PARSONS, M. D (1855-1921) was one of the oldest and best-known physicians and surgeons in this section of Indiana. He was a member of one of the old families of Rush county and for many years, a recognized leader in the social and civic life of

Rushville. Doctor Parsons was born on the old Parsons Homestead place in Rushville Township, a short distance northeast of the city of Rushville on January 28, 1855. He was a son of Mathias and Mary (Dill) Parsons, both of whom were members of pioneer families in this county. The Doctor's early schooling was in Rushville and following his graduation from high school, he entered the old Northwestern Christian University (now Butler University) at Indianapolis. After a course in "humanities," he went to Cincinnati and entered the Ohio Medical College where he spent one year. In 1876 he went to New York City and entered Bellevue Hospital Medical College and graduated in March, 1878, with the degree of doctor of medicine and surgery. Doctor Parsons returned to Rushville and began his professional career, interning with Dr. John Moffett. He was a busy man and was not content to be idle; his "leisure" time occupied by work in various public affairs. He was an ardent Democrat, for years regarded as one of the leaders of that party in this county, and for four years served as a member of the Rushville city council (1909-1913). He served at a trying time when the city's water supply was threatened. (1912 Masonic fire demonstrated that Rushville's water supply was insufficient for both household and fire protection uses.) Doctor Parsons was for years a member of the local pension board and during WWI served as a member of the medical advisory board for the physical examination of men registered for service. He was a faithful member of the Main Street Christian Church and for years acted as a Sunday school teacher, teacher of the men's Century class and later, teacher of a woman's class. Doctor Parsons died at his home, 410 North Main Street, at 12:15 p. m., Saturday, March 5, 1921 due to a stroke. His widow remained in the home for several years. Mrs. Parsons also was a member of one of the old families of Rush county and lived in Rushville all her life. She was born Sallie Sexton, daughter of Dr. Marshall Sexton and his wife Elizabeth. She married Doctor Parsons on December 17, 1878. They had one child, a son, John Parsons, who died in 1893. All three are buried at East Hill Cemetery.