

## **Record of the Old Settlers' Picnic, Whitley Creek**

[Introductory note. The transcriber of this record is R. Eden Martin – me. I am working from a Xerox copy of a handwritten record with 73 numbered pages, originally written in a lined account book. I do not know where these copied pages came from; they are part of an archive of family and local history that came down through the family and came to rest with me. The handwriting is from several different hands and is generally good, though there are occasional passages of smudged or otherwise illegible writing. I have done my best to reproduce accurately what is on the written page.]

\* \* \*

The circumstances which led to the organization of the “Old Settlers’ Picnic” in Whitley Township are about as follows:

From about 1828 to 1835 the emigrants began to settle on both sides of Whitley Creek then a part of Shelby County.

The early settlers were principally from Kentucky, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

These early settlers invariably stopped along the edges of the timber thinking the prairies would never be settled. The prairies at that time were covered with ponds of water, prairie grass and rosin weeds from two to seven feet high, and no ordinary team could plow it. The timber land when once cleared was a mulch of leaves and easily broken but took a great deal of hard labor to get the timber off and get it ready to plow.

The early settlers endured many hardships, as there were no railroads, no factories and no mills except a few of the rudest sort of horse mills and water mills.

The nearest towns that kept food supplies in any quantity were St. Louis and Terre Haute. Charleston and Shelbyville were mere villages and Mattoon didn’t exist at that time.

The early settlers always extended a hearty welcome to all newcomers, let them come from whatever state they might.

Very few owned their land in those days – they built their homes on government land. Fifty Dollars would buy forty acres of land in those days and there was no rushing business at that, as the dollars were scarce and the land not very desirable.

The early settlers realized their dependence on each other, so at once there sprang up a social relationship that cemented the neighborhoods into compacts not

divided by streams so much as by prairies – there were miles of prairie between settlements.

In the course of time they realized the necessity of a place of worship and a place they might send their children to school. This called for the construction of a building which was made of logs and in the rudest manner.

As sickness and death has followed man through all the ages, they made this place of worship a burying ground for their loved ones. There being settlements on both sides of the creek, this spot was considered a central location – hence the rude log cabin was built here in about 1840. Those instrumental in the work were the Mo\_\_\_, Waggoners, Smiths, and Hendrick, Hayden, Vaughn, Gammil and \_\_\_ Lilly. The first preachers were John Webb and Bak\_\_ [?], later Vaughn and Whitfield Turner and Randolph.

The writer of this sketch is unable to say who taught the first school, probably Wm. Baker or Hayden.

In the course of time the prairies began to be dotted with settlements so the streams divided the neighborhoods rather than the miles of prairie, and other and better houses were made. Some of the leading members of the church died, others moved and made changes so that the first and oldest house and cemetery were neglected.

As every human thing decays, the house in a few years passed out of existence; its location can hardly be established and the [Lynn Creek] cemetery, had it not been for a few marble slabs which marked the resting place of loved ones, would have almost been lost.

All of this was the reason for the present organization – known as the Old Settlers Picnic.

The first meeting was about 1885, at which time there were some contributions given for cleaning and fencing the cemetery. G.A. Monson was appointed treasurer; then there were no more meetings for 10 or 12 years.

About 1899 a meeting was called by solicitation, S.P. Lilly acting as chairman and J.H. McCormick as treasurer. There were speeches made by the older ones and readings by the younger people – the program being varied that all might be interested. A contribution was taken and the money expended on the cemetery.

The exercises were always interspersed with religious songs led by Henry Boyd.

Each succeeding year the picnic has increased in attendance and interest.

Many old settlers have been invited and have lent a helping hand in the past by their presence and speeches – perhaps the oldest person that ever spoke was Gordon Boling, aged 88 at that time, and made a 15 minute very interesting talk.

About 1903 or 1904 S.P. Lilly resigned and the society held its first election, at which time Benj. Hamblin was elected president.

Respectfully submitted by  
S.P. Lilly

Written by Myrtie Boyd.

### **Minutes of 1906**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Old Peoples Picnic, held in J.H. McCormick Grove near the Monson Cemetery, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> 1906 was duly opened at 2 oclock p.m. By Prayer. Bro. J.M. Moore of Gays, Ills.

Singing by congregation. After which short addresses were made by  
John Cox of Mattoon.  
Honorable Chas. Voris  
S.P. Lilly – Ben Hamblin.  
Geo. Monson – Gorden Bolin and others.

After which an obituary list was read of those who had gone to their long Home since our last meeting, as follows:

Wm Davis, Dec. 22d 1906, Age 62 yrs.

Collection was taken. Amt. \$7.00

After which the election of officers was held and the result was as follows:

S.F. Gammill, President  
E.C. Harrison, Sect.  
Jay Waggoner, Treas. –  
For the year 1907

Closed in due form.  
E.C. Harrison, Sect.

### **1907**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Old Peoples Picnic was held in the J.H. McCormick Grove near the Monson Cemetery, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1907.

Forenoon session was duly opened by scripture reading and prayer by Elder Joseph Thomas of Gays, Ill.

Song by the Congregation.

Followed by a speech by Hon. Chas Voris of Windsor, Ill. Topic: History of Ills.

Next song by the Whitley Choir.

Adjourned for Dinner.

Afternoon session – 2 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Song. America, by Whitley Choir.

2<sup>nd</sup> – Minutes of Previous Meetings. Read by S.P. Lilly and approved.

3<sup>rd</sup> – Song. Nearer My God to Thee.

4<sup>th</sup> – A. Talk by J.J. Martin. Advise to Young People.

5<sup>th</sup> – A Talk by Mrs. Lucie Summerlin of Mattoon. The Old and the New.

6<sup>th</sup> – A talk by G.W. Dalby, in a general way.

7<sup>th</sup> – Song. By Geo. Vaughn. The Ninety and Nine.

8<sup>th</sup> – Speech by Geo. W. Gaughn. Subject – “Evolution.”

9<sup>th</sup> – Song. Quartet by Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. Lilly. Title: Going Down the Valley.

10<sup>th</sup> – Speech by Ebeaneazor Noys. On Old Times.

11<sup>th</sup> – A Recitation by Vern Kern [?]

12<sup>th</sup> – Talk by Prof. Frank Cox of Mattoon.

13<sup>th</sup> – An Old Time Spelling Bee, conducted by Frank Cox.

Those in Class \_      Henery Monson  
   A.N. Davis  
   Jessey Armantrout  
   S.P. Lilly  
   Mrs. Nealy Waggoner  
   Lissil Garrett  
   Gurl Hunt  
   S.P. Bristow  
   Geo. Monson  
   Geo. Vaughn

14<sup>th</sup> – Song by Whitley Choir. Sweet By and By.

15<sup>th</sup>. A list of those who have gone to their reward since we last met are as follows:

Geo Edwards, Jan 7, 07, 58 yrs.

James M. Smith. Feb. 22d 1907, 72 yrs.

Wm. Spencer, Feb. 22d 1907, 85 yrs.

Gri\_ory Hawkins, Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1907, 62 yrs

Thomas Weekley, whose life was taken on the fatal Intererbin Park near  
Charleston Ills. Friday, August 30, 1907. Age 70 yrs.

Total 5

16<sup>th</sup> – The Usual collection taken and rec. \$4.77.

17<sup>th</sup> – Treasurers Report and on hand \$11.48.

18<sup>th</sup> – Committee appointed to select officers for ensuing year. S.P. Lilly, S.F.  
Young. Which resulted in the election of:

S.F. Gammill, Pres.

E.C. Harrison, Sect.

Jay Waggoner, Treas.

19<sup>th</sup> – Song by audience. God Be With you Till We Meet Again.

Benediction by Rev. L.M. Mullikin.

E.C. Harrison Sect.

## 1908

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Settlers Meeting convened September 5, 1908 at J.H.  
McCormick Grove at 10 Oclk A.M.

1<sup>st</sup> – Song by Congregation. All Hail the Power of Jesus Name.

2<sup>nd</sup> – Prayer, S.P. Lilly.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Speech by Cavins of Mattoon

4<sup>th</sup> – Song. Blessed be the Name.

5<sup>th</sup> – Talk by J.C. Hoke. Subject – Old Time Society.

6<sup>th</sup> – Talk. E.D. Elder

7<sup>th</sup> – Talk by Pennington of Mattoon.

8<sup>th</sup> – Talk J.S. Hortenstine.

9<sup>th</sup> – Song. Nearer My God To Thee.

10<sup>th</sup> – Talk. E. Noys. Old Times.

11<sup>th</sup> – Song. Marching Through Georgia.

Dinner

1 P.M.

1<sup>st</sup>. Reading of Minutes

2<sup>nd</sup>. Song by Whitley Choir

3<sup>rd</sup>. J.J. Martin. Talk. On Methods of Teaching.

4<sup>th</sup>. Song. What a Friend We Have in Jesus.

5<sup>th</sup>. Talk by G.W. Dalby.

6<sup>th</sup>. Talk by Chas. Voris of Windsor, Ills.

7<sup>th</sup>. Song. Lover of My Soul.

8<sup>th</sup>. Talk by J.J. Martin. Lessons I learned When at School.

9<sup>th</sup>. Song. God Be With Us Till We Meet Again.

10<sup>th</sup>. Collection taken. Committee on Same. Burl Hunt, A.N. Davis, Mack Garrett. Amt. of Collection \$ 10.10.

11<sup>th</sup>. Election of Officers. Choice. S.F. Gammill Pres., E.C. Harrison, Sect. J. Waggoner, Treas.

Expenses for 1908 meeting including mowing of graveyard and water and seats \$4.00.

Benediction.

E.C. Harrison, Sect.

Death List for 1909

S. B. Garrett, Aug 13<sup>th</sup>, 1909, age 54 yrs.

Aunt Rachel Martin, July 6<sup>th</sup> 1909, age 77 yrs. [Mrs. John Neely Martin, the present transcribers great-grandmother.]

E.C. Alexander, Aug. 27, 1909, age 80 yrs.

## 1909

The Eleventh Annual Homecoming, Old Settlers Reunion, convened at the usual place, J.H. McCormick's grove, 1 mile east of the Smyser Church, at 10 a.m. with the following –

Program:

1<sup>st</sup>. Song. All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

2<sup>nd</sup>. Scripture Lesson & Prayer by J.C. Hoke

3<sup>d</sup> Song by Whitley Choir

4<sup>th</sup>. Talk by Thos. McKee

5<sup>th</sup>. Talk by J.A. Kern

6<sup>th</sup>. Song, by Whitley Quartett

7<sup>th</sup>. Contest for the Best cake took place, and was awarded to Mrs. Jessey Davis of Cadwell Ills. Prize was \$1.00.

Judges were:

J.S. Hortenstine

S.P. Lilly, and

Uncle Peter Brown

Adjourned for dinner.

Afternoon:

1<sup>st</sup>. Song by Congregation. America.

- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Song by Gays Quartett. Amid the Green Fields of Old Virginia.
- 3<sup>d</sup>. Address of Welcome by J.H. McCormick
- 4<sup>th</sup>. Reply by Elder Barber of Windsor, Ill.
- 5<sup>th</sup>. Whitley Quartett – Keep Going
- 6<sup>th</sup>. Recitation by Mrs. Boyd
- 7<sup>th</sup> Solo by Mifs. McDavid
- 8<sup>th</sup>. Gays Quartett. Song. Lift Your Light a Little Higher.
- 9<sup>th</sup>. Recitation by Mrs. Summerline of Mattoon, Ills.
- 10<sup>th</sup>. Talk by Harry Gardner of Gays, Ill.  
 Subject – Born in Ills.
- 11<sup>th</sup>. Song. Whitley Quartett.
- 12<sup>th</sup>. Selections of Officers for 1910. Resulted in choice of  
 S.F. Gammill Pres.  
 Jay Waggoner Treas.  
 E. C. Harrison Secty.
- Committee on same was:  
 W.S. Young  
 Mack Garrett  
 Jessey Lilly
- 13<sup>th</sup>. Collection taken. Committee on Same.  
 Elza Waggoner  
 John Jones  
 Wash Young  
 Sam Davis  
 Amt of Collection was \$3.40.
- 14<sup>th</sup>. Medlay. Germany Land.
- 15<sup>th</sup>. Talk by Andrew Chesum of Mattoon
- 16<sup>th</sup>. Song. Whitley Quartett
- 17<sup>th</sup>. Song. Gays Quartett. Dixie's Land.
- 18<sup>th</sup>. Song. Whitley Quartett.
- 19<sup>th</sup>. Song. God Be With You Till we Meet Again. By Congregation.
- 20<sup>th</sup>. Closed in due form.  
 Benediction  
 By J.C. Hoke.
- 21<sup>st</sup>. Amount of Cash on hand for the year 1908 \$\$ 15.63. Expenses for 1909  
 Cash on hand for 1909. \$19.03.

#### 1909 Deaths.

Those that have passed away since our last meeting Sept. 1909 are as follows:

Bro S.P. Lilly, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 1909

Aged 73 years 11 months and 14 days.

1910 Deaths.

Uncle Cornelius Fugate

Died May 22d 1910, age 87 years.

Funeral at Gays, Christian Church, conducted by \_ J.S. Bose, Pastor.

Mrs. Geo Lilly died July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1910, near Allenville, Ills. Funeral was held at the Graham M.E. Chapel, conducted by Elder B.W. Webb. Her age was 70 yrs.

Mr. Samuel Davis, died July 14, 1910 of heart trouble, age 59 years. Funeral was conducted at his residence by Elder Steed & Bose. Was berried in Gays, Cemetery.

### **Deaths 1910**

Uncle Jessey Armantrout. One of the oldest citizens of Moultrie Co. died at his home in Sullivan, Ill. July 31, 1910. He was born in Whitley township, where he lived on the Old homestead until a few years ago. Age at the time of his death was 75 years. Funeral was conducted by Elder J.S. Rose at the Smyser Church Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> 1910 after which his remains were laid to rest in Smyser Cemetery.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

Uncle James A. Bolan, a resident of Gays for 42 years. Died at his home in Gays, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1910, age 69 yrs. A short cervis was held at the Ash Grove Christian Church on Aug 4<sup>th</sup> by Elder J.S. Rose, after which he was laid to rest in the Ash Grove Cemetery.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

### **Deaths Since Our Last Meeting, Sept. 1910**

Died at his home on Western Avenue Road, Uncle James D. Ellington, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 1910. Aged 80 years, 3 months and 28 days. He came from Washington Co. Virginia to Ills in the year 1855 and was united in marriage to Mary Ann Wilson on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1868.

E.C. Harrison. Secty.

Mrs. Sarah J. Smith, wife of Wm Smith. Departed this life at her home Nov. 25, 1910. She was born in Moultrie Co in 1842. Aged 68 yrs. In 1862 she was married to Wm Smith who died several years ago. Funeral was held at the Graham Chapel, conducted by Elder Johns and was buried in the adjoining cemetery.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

Hesekiah Waggoner died at his home near Gays, Ill. Tuesday morning at 10 Oclk a.m. Age 72 yrs. Funeral was held at the Gays M.E. Church. Conducted by Elder J.G. Sawin of Mattoon, after which he was laid to rest in the Waggoner Cemetery north of Gays, Ills. Died Dec. 27, 1910.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

R.E. Elder, son of (John Elder) who died many years ago. He was born in Whitley Township near the Whitfield Church, Oct. 21, 1860 and died at his home in Johnathan Creek Township, Moultrie Co. Jan 13, 1911. Aged 50 yrs, 2 months & 22 days. Funeral was conducted by Elder O.H. Reeves at Zoar (sic) Church and his remains were laid to rest in adjoining cemetery.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

David Wiley died at his home just north of Gays. Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1911 and was born in East Nelson Township Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1850. Aged 61 yrs old. Funeral was Preached at the Gays M.E. Church by Elder C.W. Gant, and was laid to rest in Gays, Branch Side Cemetery.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

Mifs. Narcissus Waggoner died at home of her sisters, Mrs. Hannah Dauhearty, east of Sullivan, Ill. Funeral was conducted by Elder J.G. Sawin of Mattoon at her late home. Body was brought by train to Coles St. and berriel was in the Waggoner Cemetery, near where she was born. She was 70 yrs. Old. Was unmarried. Died Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 1911. She was a member of the Predestinarian Baptist Church at Linn Creek.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

Aunt Mary Waggoner, wife of Uncle Alvin Waggoner, died at her home which she had made her home for sometime at her daughters, Mrs. John Janes, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1911. Aged 78 yrs. She was the daughter of Phillip Armantrout, who died many yrs ago. She was born within ½ mile of where she died. Funeral was held at her daughters where she died. E.C. Harrison, Secty. Conducted by Eld. J.G. Sawin of Mattoon. Reported in last meeting, Sept. 1910.

Sept. 27, 1911. Since our last meeting Aunt Lucretia Davis. Died at her home at Coles St. Ills. At 6:30 oclk, Wednesday morning, Sept 27, 1911. She was 85 years old at her death. She was buried at the Smyser Cemetery. She was the widow of Uncle Green Davis, who had preceded her several yrs ago to the Better World.

Died at his home in Bruce, Ills. Feb. 24, 1912, Uncle Lafayette Bond. Aged 79 yrs, 5 mo. & 14 days. Born near Albion Ill. Sept 10, 1832.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

Nov. 1911. Died at his home near the Waggoner church Moultrie Co. Ills. Martin L. (T.?) Waggoner, Nov. first 1911. Aged 60 yrs and 7 months and 16 days. Funeral was preached at the Waggoner Church, conducted by Elder A. Dawson, assisted by Rev. Isaac Davis of Mattoon, Ill.

E.C. Harrison Secty.

Died at her home in Whitley Township, Mrs. Marthey E. Bence, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> 1912, widow of J.B. Bence. Funeral was conducted by E.U. Smith, assisted by Rev. C.S. McOllom. After which the body was consigned to its last Resting Place in the Whitfield Cemetery, aged 69 yrs.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

Died at her home near the Waggoner Church, Mrs. Lucinda Ann Waggoner, wife of A.J. Waggoner, Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> 1912, aged 60 yrs 8 months & 120 days. Funeral was conducted by Elder S.A. Dawson of Kansas Ills. At the Whitfield Church. Then she was laid away in the adjoining cemetery to await her Coming Redeemer.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

Forwarded to page 60

Died at his late home in Sullivan, Ills. John D. Dauharty, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1912. Aged 89 yrs 3 months & 10 days. Was interred in the Waggoner Cemetery north of Gays, April 22, 1912. He was born in Virginia Jan 10, 1823.

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

Died at his daughter's home in Allenville, Ills. Mr. Riley Cox, July 4, 1912, aged 75 yrs. Was interred in the French Cemetery, funeral was preached by Rev. Heninger of Gays, Ills.

Died at her daughter's. Mattoon. Mrs. Emzy Armantrout, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1912. Aged 76 yrs.

Mrs. E.J. Stewart of Allenville, Ills. Died in Decatur Ills. July 14, 1912. Aged 72 yrs and 9 months. She was brought to her home in Allenville. Funeral preached by Elder J.N. Mathers, assisted by Rev. Griffith, after which her remains were taken to Sullivan Ills., and laid to rest in Greenhill Cemetery.

Died at his home in Gays, Ill. Samuel Finley Gammill. Aug 2d 1912, aged 71 yrs, 1 month & 12 days. Was laid to rest in Branch Side Cemetery, Gays, Ill.

Died at his home near the Waggoner Cemetery, Wilbert Waggoner, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1912. Son of Ira and M.C. Waggoner. Aged 43 yrs 2 months & 4 days. Was laid to rest in the Waggoner Cemetery near by.

Aug. 1912 – since our last rept. [Transcribers note: these are “out of order” but they are reproduced here in the order in which they appear in the record book.]

Died at his home in Stewardson Ills. Mr. Thos. Burry, Aug 19<sup>th</sup> 1912. Rec. too late to rept. This in 1912, so it comes in the 1913 Report.

Died at her home in Sullivan, Ills. Mrs. Maggie Haughton [?], daughter of Samuel Scott, who preceded her many years ago to that Better Home. Aug. 23 – 1912, aged 70 yrs. Old.

Died at her home in Whitley Township, Mrs. Jane Monson, Jan 10, 2013, aged 63 yrs, wife of Jack Monson. Was interred in Whitfield cemetery.

Mrs. Isyphenia [?] Smyser - died at her son's home in Washington, D.C., January 1913, aged 86 yrs. She was the wife of Capt. A.N. Smyser who preceded her many years. She was the daughter of John W. and Polly Hardy Edwards, who died many years ago and who lived in Whitley Township for many yrs. She was interred in Greenhill Side Cemetery at Sullivan, Ill.

Died at her daughters (Mrs. Ina Curry) who lived at Cisna Park, Ill. Mrs. Mary Ellen Layton, Feb 24, 1913, age 77 yrs old. Was laid to rest in Branch Side Cemetery at Gays, Ills.

Died at his home in Coles St. Ill., Mr. Francis M. Townley, April 2d, 1913, near where he was born. Aged 67 yrs. His Boddy was laid to rest in Smyser Cemetery.

Died at his home, north of Gays, Ills. near the brick school house, Mr. Harmon Smith, April 12, 1918. Funeral was conducted at the Smyser Church Monday April 14<sup>th</sup> by the Pastor, Rev. Smart, after which his weary boddy was laid to rest in the Cemetery near by. Aged 65 yrs. Old.

Died at his daughter's home in Urbana Ills. Dr. A.G. Pickett, May 5, 1913. Aged 88 yrs.

James S. Harrison a life long resident of this community died at his late home west of Gays, August 1<sup>st</sup> 1913 at the age of 68 years, 9 ms.

William Pruiett [?] died at his home in Windsor on August 11<sup>th</sup> 1913. He lived his entire life in this locality being at the time of his death about 45 years of age.

George D. Waggoner, a son of Avlin Waggoner senior, one of the first settlers of Whitley Tp., died at his home in Phillips, South Dakota, where he had gone for the health of his daughter. August 15<sup>th</sup> 1913, where on August 17<sup>th</sup> he was followed in death by his daughter Bessie. The remains of both father and daughter were shipped together and brought to their old home in Whitley where a double funeral was preached by Bro. Rose after which their bodies were buried side by side in the Waggoner cemetery.

Fred Armantrout died in Memorial hospital, Mattoon Ill., following an operation for appendicitis, Aug 16<sup>th</sup> 1913. Aged about 22 years, he was born near Coles Station where he spent his entire life. He leaves a widow and infant child, Mother, sister and two brothers to mourn his untimely death. He was a son of Gid Armantrout and grandson of Robt. Armantrout, old residents of this neighborhood.

## 1910

Sept. 1910. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Old People's Reunion was held at the usual place, JH. McCormick's Grove, Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1910, Thursday. Owing to the inclement weather, there was no session in the forenoon. Session convened at 1:30 p.m. with a full program.

1<sup>st</sup>. Song. By Congregation.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Reading Scripture lesson – Father Hoke.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Rev. G.W. Dalby of Mattoon – Heal in Prayer.

4<sup>th</sup>. Song by Congregation.

5<sup>th</sup>. 10 minutes talk by Levie Sease, candidate for the Legislator 24<sup>th</sup>

Senatorial Dist.

6<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Homer Boyd. A Recital

7<sup>th</sup>. Whitley Quartett as follows:

James Dauharty

Henry Boyd

Homer Boyd

Jessey Lilly

8<sup>th</sup>. Mifs Estelle Young, Recital. Little Jim.

9<sup>th</sup>. 7 minutes talk by Louis Huteson, Candidate for Co. Judge.

10<sup>th</sup>. Talk by E.B. Elder, Candidate for Supt. Of Schools.

11<sup>th</sup>. Gays Quartett:

J.S. Hortenstine

N.E. Hortenstine  
Wm. Hortenstine  
Jake Hortenstine, Junr.

12. Talk Van B. Boughten. Candidate for Supt of Schools.
13. Talk. Fred Gadis. Candidate for Supt. Of Schools.
14. Talk by Edgar S. Jones. Candidate for Supt. Schools
15. Song. Lived and Led, by Elder G.W. Dalby and sang it as they did 60 yrs ago. Before the Song was ended many eyes were in tears.
16. Reading of minutes for 1909 by Secretary E.C. Harrison, and also regrets from Parties abroad that couldn't be here, as follows:  
John Will Edwards, Sulpher City, Ark.  
J.W. Johnson, Winslow Ark.  
Will Henry Smyser, 1219 Fairmount St. N.W. Washington D.C.  
Lucetta Smyser, Loveland Ohio.  
G.T. Garrett. Pomona Kan.  
Susan Calaway, Clinton \_\_\_  
Sadie G. Rice, 587 N. Ba\_\_\_, Passadina Cal.
17. Song. Whitley Quartett.
18. Talk by Miles Mattox, Candidate of Co. Judge
19. Song. Gays Quartett.
- 20 15 minutes talk by J.C. Grady, candidate for Congress, 19<sup>th</sup> Cong. Dist.
21. Song by Whitley Quartett.
22. Election of Officers for 1911 and resulted in the choice of:  
S.F. Gammill, Pres.  
Jay Waggoner, Treas  
E.C. Harrison, Secty.
23. Address by Rev. Steed.
24. Whitley Quartett Song.
25. Song by Gays Quartett
26. Closing Song. God Be With You Till We Meet Again.
27. Committee to choose officers for 1911 were: W.S. Young, Burl Hunt,  
Brass Davis
28. Committee on Seats for 1910: W.S. Young and A.N. Davis
29. Amt. of Collection for 1910. \$9.78.
30. Committee on Cake: was Charles Edwards, Uncle Peter Brown, G.W.

Dalby

Prize was awarded to Mrs. Nelson Armantrout

E.C. Harrison, Secty.

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1911.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Anuel Old Settlers Picnic was held at the usual place in Bro. J.J. McCormick's Grove, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, 1911. Owing to the rain, the forenoon Cervis was quite short. Reading of Scripture lesson by Rev. C.W. Gant.

Two songs were sung, then – adjourned for dinner and a social time was enjoyed by all.

#### Afternoon Cession

1. Song by Congregation
  2. Minutes of Previous meeting read and approved.
  3. Committee appointed on arrangements for ensuing year, 1912. W.S. Young and A.N. Davis.
  4. Song by Audience. Land of the Brave.
  5. Address by Rev. C.w. Gant
  6. Song by Gays Quartett.
  7. Recitation by Donal Waggoner.
  8. Speech by Cecil Hughs
  9. Recitation by Mifs. Anna Davis.
  10. Recitation by Mrs. Homer Boyd.
  11. Song by Whitley Qhoir.
  12. Recitation by Mifs. Edna Waggoner.
  13. Song by Elder Steed. Come Through Forrest, and up to date song by Choir. Christian Soldiers.
  14. Gays Quartett. Song
  15. Address by Rev. Steed. Subject America.
  16. Rept of Committee on officers for 1912 as follows:  
S.F. Gammill, Pres.  
Jay Waggoner, Treas.  
E.C. Harrison, Sect.
- Committee on Same: W.S. Young, Burl Hunt, A.N. Davis
17. Song by Whitley Choir
  18. Song by Gays Quartett
  19. Closing Address by Elder J.S. Rose.
  20. Song. Gays Quartett.
  21. Closing Song by audience. When the Role is Called, I'll be There.
  22. Amt. of Collection. \$7.07.
  23. Expenses for 1911 \$7.50
  24. Bal. on hand for 1910 \$3.53
  25. Total Bal. on hand for 1910 and 1911 \$10.60
  26. Expenses for 1911 \$7.50
  27. Bal. in Treas. Hands for 1911 \$3.10
  28. Benediction by Elder C.W. Gant.  
E.C. Harrison, Secty.

29. Prize for the best Corn Pone - was awarded to Mrs. Hannah Walker of Gays, Ill. \$1.00

## 1912

The 14<sup>th</sup> Anuel Old Settlers Home Coming and Picnic was held at the Usual Place, J.H. McCormick's Grove. August 22, 1912.

Forenoon Cession & Program:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Song by audience. Revive Us Again.
2. Scripture Reading by Judge W.G. Cochran of Sullivan, Ills. From Romans 15 Ch. Followed by Prayer by Bro. Wilber Hoke.
3. Judge W.G. Cochran was then introduced and gave a short talk. On Old Time Reminiscences.
4. Song by Audience.
5. The Cake contest then took place and the prize was awarded to Mrs. E.C. Harrison of Gays, Ill. \$1.00.

Judges were John Jones, Mack Garrett, and Wilber Hoke.

Adjourned for dinner.

Then the tables were prepared and all were seated. Was led in thanks by Bro. J.H. Smart, after which all enjoyed a bounteous dinner.

Afternoon Session.

1. Song. By Audience. Nearer My God to Thee.
  2. Reading of Minutes of previous meeting. By the President and was duly approved.
  3. The Committee on Arrangements for the ensuing year was then announced, which were as follows:  
W.S. Young  
A.N. Davis, and  
J.F. Lilly
  4. Recitation by Mifs. Hellen Kern.
  - 5 Song by Audience. Sweet By and By.
  6. A Committee was then announced by the President for Choosing officers for the ensuing year 1913, and resulted in the choice of ;  
W.S. Young  
Burl Hunt  
Harmon Smith
- Committee on Officers for 1913 reported as follows;  
E.C. Harrison, Pres  
J.S. Hortenstine, Sect

Henry Boyd, Treas.

7. Talk by Rev. E.U. Smith of Windsor.
8. Recitation by Mfs. Hasel Walker. Subject. Aunt Jane
9. Recitation. Mfs. Eva Peadroe. Subj. How I Came to Vote
10. Recitation. Mifs. Hellen Waggoner
11. Song. By audience. Shall We Gather at the River.
12. Mifs. Corel Waggoner. Movement Cure for Rheumatism.
13. Duet by Rev. Griffith and wife.
14. J.J. Martin. Short Talk.
15. Song by Audience. Come Through Forrest. – of Every Blessing.
16. Recitation. Mifs. Carrie Carnine. A Girl's Conversation Over the Telephone.
17. Solo. By Rev. Griffith and wife.
18. Song. By Choir. America
19. Song. By Mixed Choir. The Little Brown Church in the Vale.
20. Short talk by Rev. J.H. Heninger of Gays, Ill.
21. Song by Mifs Fern Kinkade.
22. Short talk by Rev. J.H. Smart of Decatur, Ill.
23. Collection was then taken.
24. Song by Audience. All hail the Power of Jesus' Name.
25. Song by audience. Blest be the Tie that Binds.

On acct. of a rain, the program was cut short. No benediction.  
Vern Kern, Sect. Pro tem.  
E.C. Harrison, Pres.

### **Minutes for 1913**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Settlers Homecoming and picnic was held at the usual place, J.H. McCormick's grove, Thursday, August 21, 1913.

Forenoon session, programs. Meeting called to order by President E.C. Harrison at 11 o'clock. Song by Whitley people.

Scripture read by Rev. J.H. Smart from 13 chapter of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians.

Prayer by Rev. E. M. Smith of Windsor.

Song by Whitley people entitled Somebody.

Talk by Rev. J.H. Smart of Decatur on Passed and Present Customs.

Song. Loyalty to Christ.

Cake contest was announced by President. Seven cakes were submitted for inspection. The Judges being Mrs. Howard Boyd, Mrs. Thomas Kinkaid and Mrs. George Kimborough. The prize of one dollar was awarded to Mrs. Farley Young.

Meeting adjourned until 2 p.m.

Minutes of afternoon session.

Meeting called to order by Pres. E.C. Harrison.

Song America.

Reading of minutes of last annual meeting, corrected and approved.

Treasurer's report by Henry Boyd.

President appointed W.S. Young, Jesse Lilly and Frank Hunt to receive the collection which amounted to eleven dollars and sixteen cts plus two dollars, stand total thirteen dollars and sixteen cents.

Song Banner of the Cross.

Judge W.G. Cochran addressed the people on Early Days and Reminiscences of Long Ago, after which the President appointed a nominating committee consisting of J.F. Lilly, W.S. Young and A.M. Davis to name officers for year of 1914.

At this part of the program a violent rain storm set in and concluded the exercise of the afternoon session.

Later the committee met and decided to continue the organization as it existed, viz. E.C. Harrison, Pres.

J.S. Hortenstine, Sec.

Henry Boyd, Tres.

Signed. J.S. Hortenstine, Secretary

Since our last meeting, several of our esteemed and valueable people have passed from this life and gone to their rewards in a better world in a fuller better and more perfect life.

The first to pass away since our last homecoming was William Armantrout, a life long resident of Whitley Township and valuable citizen, esteemed and respected by all, who died at his home on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1913, aged 86 years.

Mrs. Milda Mallory, a resident of this locality since 1869, died at memorial Hospital in Mattoon, Ill. on Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, 1913. Aged 63 years.

Bro. J.H. Smart, the esteemed pastor of the Smysor Church people for the past 9 years, and who took part in our last meeting, making the speech of the forenoon, died on the way to California in making a visit to friends in that state, late in October 1913.

Hon. Charles Voris, a resident of Windsor who has addressed our meetings on different occasions and an old resident of this locality died November last.

Also, Jacob Grider and J.K. P. Rose of Windsor neighborhood has passed away in the last year.

Miss Clara Belle Young, who was born and raised in our midst, died after an illness of two years at her Father and Mother's home on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 1914.

Isaac Hortenstine, a resident of this community passed away at his home on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 1914 having lived among us for 57 years.

Steven Ellington, an old settler of our community who left here many years ago, died at his home in Brookfield, Missouri, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1914, aged 81 years.

Roxy Waggoner Hortenstine, who passed her entire life in Whitley township and whose parents were the first people to settle here in this neighborhood, died at her home June 34d 1914.

Newel McCormick, who was a son of our esteemed old friend James H. McCormick and who was raised on this farm and passed his entire life among us, died at his home in Mattoon, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1914.

J.S. Hortenstine, Sec.

### **Minutes for 1914**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Settlers homecoming and picnic was held at the usual place, the J.H. McCormick's grove, August 1914.

Forenoon session program:

Meeting was called to order by E.C. Hamilton, president.

Song by Whitley choir, title: All hail the Power of Jesus Name.

Scripture reading, Acts 3<sup>rd</sup> Chap.

Prayer by Van D. Roughton

Song. Shall We Gather at the River

Address: The Problem of Country and City Life, Rev. H.B. Easterling

Cake judging contest. Prize of \$1.00 awarded to Miss Grace Pierce.

Afternoon:

Song. America

Talk. Mr. O.B. Lowe

Song. Growing Dearer Each Day

Reading of Minutes of former meeting by Mrs. Myrtle Boyd  
Collection

Duet by the Misses Kern (Edith & Helen)

Talk. Rev. Wolfarth, pastor M.E. church, Sullivan

Song trio. Callie Gail & Carrie Carnine

Treas. Report of last year

Song. Banner of the Cross

Talk by Van D. Roughton

Song, duet. The Misses Kern

Talk. J.J. Martin  
Talk. E.D. Elder  
Solo. Gail Carnine  
Talk. Rev. Blythe of Windsor  
Organization as follows:  
    Pres. E.C. Harrison, Pres  
    Vice PRes. Jesse Lilly  
    Sec. J.S. Hortenstine  
    Treas. Henry Boyd  
Song. In the Sweet By and By  
Benediction

Since our last meeting the following named have passed from this life and gone to their reward in a better world in a fuller better and more perfect life.

James McCormick, an old and highly respected and friend and citizen died at his home at 6 oclock a.m. Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>. Aged 80 years 4 mths. Moved to late \_\_\_ in 1869.

Mary Jane Hostetter Ely died at her late home in Mattoon, Ill. Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1915. She was born in Whitley township and spent nearly her entire life in this locality.

Emma Corder Gass was born in Whitley T. and spent her entire life in the vicinity. She passed away at her late home on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1915.

Sally Scott, an old time resident and pioneer of Whitley died at her home in Fresno Cal. Saturday March 27, 1915. Aged 92 years.

Dr. F. M. Beals for many years a practicing physician of the locality died at his home in Mattoon March 31, 1915.

Allen Patterson, who came to this neighborhood from Kentucky in 1869 and made his residence here since that time, died at the home of her (sic) daughter, Mrs. Booze, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915.

Mrs. Susie Edwards Buckalow, a daughter of the late John Tree Edwards, was born and lived her entire life in Whitley Ts. died at her home near Whitfield Church Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915.

Samuel F. Bristow, who came from Kentucky to this neighborhood in 1858 and who has made his home with us since that date passed away at his house in Sullivan, Ill. August 37, 1915, aged 82 years.

J.S. Hortenstine, Sec.

## Minutes of Meeting, 1915

The reading of the minutes is tiresome when we have so many good things on the program; however, necessary to have them.

The Old Settlers of Whitley Creek assembled at the usual place, the J.H. McCormick Grove, Aug. 28, 1915 their 18<sup>th</sup> annual picnic.

The following program was rendered during the day.

Meeting was called to order by E.C. Harrison, President.

Song by audience.

Scripture reading by Mr. Colson of Windsor

Prayer and talk by Rev. E.U. Smith.

Song and dismissal for dinner and social hours.

Dinner being spread on several tables, also groups of friends and families here and there on the grass under the beautiful trees. The social hour, the enjoyment of meeting and mingling with old friends being one of the main features of the picnic.

Afternoon session was called to order by a song by Whitley Choir. Crown Him King of Kings.

A talk by J.J. Martin.

The following were then named to take a collection, which amounted to \$9.59.

Song. Shall We Gather at the River.

Address by Rev. E. U. Smith of Stewardson. 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Romans used as basis for the remarks.

Song.

Talk by Judge A.J. Steidley of Shelby co.

We're favored with a duet by Carrie & Gail Carnine

Speech by Frank Wendling of Shelbyville.

The following officers were elected for ensuing year.

E.C. Harrison, President

J.S. Hortinstine, Vice President

Henry Boyd, Treas.

Myrtie Boyd, Secy.

Song and benediction that we might all meet again the next year – this present day.

Since last assembly the following have passed from this life to their reward.

Benjamin D. Hamblin a former resident of Whitley Tp. died at his home near Etna in his 77<sup>th</sup> year.



\* \* \*

Jackson Maxedon passed away March 8<sup>th</sup>, 70 years of age.

David Pierce died Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at Mattoon aged 81 yrs.

Louis Frasier died at his home in Gays Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1915.

A.B. McDavid passed away June 15 at his home in Sullivan. 69 years old.

M.S.B.

## 1916

The old settlers of Whitley Creek assembled at their usual place last year and held their 19<sup>th</sup> annual picnic. The following program was rendered through the day. Meeting was called to order by the president, E.C. Harrison.

Song by Choir. The Church in the Wildwood.

Scripture reading by J.S. Hortenstein.

Prayer by Rev. E.U. Smith of Maroa.

Another song.

The lecture of the forenoon was delivered by Rev. Watson of Sullivan, followed by song, Illinois.

Then the audience was dismissed for the dinner hour and social time which is the big feature of the picnic. Many from a distance attended the picnic last year. Some of the Whitleys whose ancestors were among the first settlers along the stream which bears their name.

The program for the afternoon was:

Quartett –

Recitation by Clorine Simer

Solo – Miss Hester Clem.

Address by Judge A. J. Stiedly

Solo – Inez Waggoner of Gays

Reading by Miss Mabel Martin of Sullivan. [Transcriber's aunt, daughter of I.J. Martin.]

Addresses by Rev. Hopper of Sullivan and Mr. Wendling

Quartett by young men

Speech by Rev. O Monson of Mattoon.

Since our last picnic at this place, the following from this community have passed to their reward.

Mrs. Catharine Boyd, aged 80.

Miss Sallie Waggoner, 92

Mrs. Mary Layton, 70

Mrs. Mary Osborn – 69

Mr. Wilford Hoke

Miss Mary Hortenstine, died Dec 28, aged 69, Roslin N.M.

Mrs. Sarah Hamblin, wife of A.B. D. Hamblin, at her home in Etna Ill. aged 64.

Mr. E.F. Whitley of North Okaw, aged 52, grandson.

Thos. E. Legitt at Memorial Hospital, aged 76.

## 1917

The old settlers of Whitley Creek assembled at their usual place last year and held their 20<sup>th</sup> annual picnic.

The following program was rendered through the day.

The president Mr. E.C. Harrison was unable to be present on account of illness and was very much missed by those present. The people were called togher by J.S. Hortenstein, who acted as chairman for the day.

Readings were given – “Way back days,” and “Sleepin’ at the foot.”

B.F. Peadro gave an interesting talk.

Were then adjourned for dinner and the social time, which is the biggest event of the day as there are always visitors from other states and friends mingling together.

Afternoon addresses were given by Mr. Bander of Bethany, Rev. Lew D. Hill of Decatur and Mr. Harper of Shelbyville, intermingled with music.

Since our last meeting there have been several called from the ranks of the pioneers and passed to their rewards. They are –

Mrs. J.H. McCormick, age 80, 1918.

Theadore Layton

Andrew Jack Waggoner age 76, 1918.

Mrs. Amanda Harrison, age 73, 1918.

### 1918

The people assembled together to hold the Old Settler's Picnic at the usual place, McCormic Grove on Aug. \_\_.

A large crowd participated in the dinner. The program was rendered as follows:

Song  
Speech by Mr. Jupin of Gays  
Song. America  
Dinner

Afternoon program – song J.A. Clemens  
Quartett  
Address Rev. Walker of Mattoon  
Solo – Mrs. Ralph Hardinger  
Address – J.M. Ice – minister from Smyser  
Song by Chorus  
Pantomine – Leona Garrett, Latica Boyd, Carrie Carnine, Grace Pierce  
Duett – Townley sisters of Mattoon  
Speech by Mr. Spark of Shelbyville  
Reading by little daughters of Mr. Sparks  
Same officers were retained for the year of 1919.  
Collection with what was already on hand \$20.

Myrtie Boyd

### 1919

Many assembled at the usual place. J;H. McCormick's Grove on Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1919 for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Homecoming and picnic. A short program: songs, scripture reading and prayer was given, then adjourned for dinner. Many had brought well filled baskets and the mingling of friends together and the splendid spreads were enjoyed by all present.

The people were called together by song after dinner and as Rev. A.P. Robb was beginning his address, there came a downpour of rain and the crowd soon

dispersed with regrets as a splendid program had been arranged by the Pres. E.C. Harrison.

Myrtie Boyd, Secy

## 1920

### Report of Old Settlers' Picnic.

The picnic was held at the usual place, J.H. McCormick's grove on Thursday, September 2.

The president E.C. Harrison gave a scripture reading and prayer, followed by a talk by Rev. H.B. Easterling, pastor at Gays. The many visitors assembled around three bounteous tables and a great feast was spread. After an hour's enjoyment among friends, the people retained their seats and the following program was rendered:

Addresses. Mr. Cochran, Sullivan  
O.E. Kelly – Ash Grove  
F.B. Wendling – Shelby Co.  
Prof. Sparks  
Rev. Shores – M.E. Gays  
Rev. Easterling – P. Gays

Music – Whitley Choir  
Mrs. Earl Armintrout  
Mrs. Stella Townley and  
Myrtle and Irma Townley  
Gays Quartette

The following officers were elected for the following year:

Pres. J.S. Hortenstine  
Vice Pres. E.C. Harrison  
Secy Blanche Kimbrough  
Treas. Henry Boyd

The ranks of the old and young settlers have been thinned since the last meeting. Those called to the great beyond are:

Mrs. Sarah Pierce

Burris Fizwater

John Edwards

A.J. Waggoner

Wm. Cross

Frank Curry

Ralph Boyd

Thomas Kinkade

Joel Munson

Henry Hostetter

And Mary Taylor

Blanche Young-Kimbrough, Sec'y

### **1921 Report of Old Settlers' Picnic**

The twenty-fourth annual old settlers' reunion and picnic was held in J.H. McCormick's grove, Thursday Sept. 1.

Bro. Harrison had charge of the platform. The Cochran-Martin quartette from Sullivan furnished music for the morning service, after which scripture, prayer and a short talk was made by Bro. Hopper. Afternoon addresses were as follows:

Ex. Mayor Cisna, Mattoon  
Rev. W.B. Hopper, Sullivan  
Mr. Cochran  
Rev. E.W. Smith, Windsor

Music for the occasion was furnished by:  
Sullivan Quartette  
Solo Mrs. Ruth Armentrout  
Violin Isaac Hortenstine  
Organ Ruth Blythe  
Duett Myrtle and Irma Townley

Officers elected were:  
Pres. J.F. Lilly  
Vice-Pres. Henry Boyd  
Secy Blanche Kimbrough  
Tres. Frank Hunt

Mrs. Rebecca Jane Harrison, wife of E.C. Harrison was born near Fullers Point, Coles Co. Ill., March 17, 1844, and departed this life at her home in Gays, Ill. Apr 13, 1922, age 78 yr. She died in the triumph of a living faith in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Others who passed to the other life were:

Otis Garrett  
Thomas Fleshner  
Mrs. Rufus Pierce  
Elza Waggoner

Blanche Kimbrough, Sec'y

### **1926 - Report of Old Settlers' Picnic**

[Nothing reported for the years between 1921 and 1926.]

A large crowd attended the 28<sup>th</sup> annual old settlers' picnic held at the McCormick Grove in Whitley township on September 3, 1925. It was an all day affair and the crowd for dinner was largest in several years. Others gathered in the afternoon and all enjoyed the excellent program which had been arranged for the day.

The following program was enjoyed.

Song "America" - audience.

Prayer - Rev. Ira Blythe, Gays

Song by Gays school under direction of Miss Edson

Address - Rev. A. Horner

Judges of Shelbyville

Violin solo - Isaac Hortenstine

Reading Mrs. Chlorine Gammill

Song - Gays Girls Chorus

Saxophone - Violin duet

Roy Glasebck and Isaac Hortenstine accompanied by Mrs. \_\_\_\_

Talk - Rev. Smith, Windsor

Address - Rev. William Waggoner of Eureka

The following officers were chosen for 1926:

Pres. Frank Daughy

Vice Pres - Henry Boyd

Secy Orla Kimbrough

Treas. Frank Hunt

Those residents of surrounding community who have passed on since this meeting are:

Mrs. Ella Waggoner - Coles

Mrs. Anna Edwards - Gays

Mrs. Albert Henderson –  
Thomas Townley – Coles  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Blythe – Gays  
Luther Slater – Gays  
Edward Sibotte [?] – Gays  
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Montague  
N.E. Hortenstine  
Mrs. Ada Waggoner  
Mrs. Rosa \_\_ iett

## 1927

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual reunion of the old Settlers of Whitley Creek was held at the usual gathering place on Sept. 3, 1927. The weather was fine and a large crowd enjoyed the bountiful dinner served at the noon hour.

Many more arrived in the afternoon and njoyed the splendid program which had previously been arranged.

Officers elected for the coming year were:

Pres. Henry Boyd  
Vice Pres. Orla Kimbrough  
Secy and Treas Frank Hunt

An offering was taken which amounted to \$6.54.

A balance of \$3.29 was left from the previous year, which made a total of \$9.83.

Total expenses for 1927 were \$3.50, leaving a total balance of \$6.33.

This fund is to be used in having the old Munson cemetery cleared.

Those who have passed on since then are:

Aunt Cornelia Waggoner  
Donald Pierce  
A.N. Davis  
James Hostetter  
Andrew Waggoner

## 1928

The annual Old Settlers reunion of Whitley township and vicinity was held Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> in the McCormick grove one mile east of the Smysor church.

Rev. Raymond McAlister, pastor of the Smysor church had charge of the devotional services in the forenoon.

A bountiful dinner was served at the noon hour which was enjoyed by all.

Many more gathered in the afternoon to enjoy the program of speeches, readings, songs and music, which had previously been prepared.

The following officers were re-elected for the coming year:

President – Henry Boyd

Vice President – Orla Kimbrough

Secy-Treas – Frank Hunt

## 1929

The old settlers of Whitley township and vicinity met Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> in the McCormick grove one mile east of the Smysor Church. This was their 31<sup>st</sup> annual picnic. The weather was fine and a fair sized crowd gathered in the morning. The time was spent in a social way in the forenoon, after which a bountiful dinner was spread and was enjoyed by every one present.

The afternoon was taken up with a program consisting of songs by the Sullivan male quartet and music and readings by others of the community. The main feature of the program was a splendid address by the Rev. Mr. Barnette of Sullivan.

The present officers were reelected for the coming year:

President – Henry Boyd

Vice President – Orla Kimbrough

Secy-Treas – Frank Hunt.

# # #

[Record ceases.]