

EARLY HOMES IN WAYNE TOWNSHIP



CRAFTS-CRAFTSMEN-EARLY 1900's

Early craftsmen, who played important parts in the community known as "Brownsdale" were the wheelwright, Frank Moyer, the cabinet makers, Monroe Moyer and J. Levi Manbeck. These men carried on their trades in addition to the coffin making and undertaking business. Of the established craftsmen the blacksmith also occupied an important place in the community's commercial life. He would fashion almost anything out of iron and usually succeeded in satisfying the community's demands by making new tires for wagons, runners for sleds, shoes for horses and many small articles then considered necessary such as ladles, forks, chains and chisels.

Levi V. Brown, better known as Wally, was the "Village Blacksmith," Florence Webber, his daughter has many memories of his craft such as the wheeze and flap of the bellows, sparks from the anvil, the twitch used on unruly horses, and even some of the gossip exchanged while a customer waited. This often required the greater part of a day, which sometimes began long before sunrise.

Wally, who learned his trade as an apprentice, started his own business about 1900, in his shop which was located in the valley north of Brown's Church. The original shop was destroyed by a violent storm in October 1928. This was replaced and business continued as usual. Wally was then assisted by two of his sons Walter L. and Heber W. who carried on the business until 1961, when due to the changes in transportation, and mechanized farming, the trade of the blacksmith gradually passed away and to many today is an unknown craft.