

Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc.

MILLERSVILLE TREASURES TOUR

April 17, 2010



**The Race at Millersville painted by T.C. Steele, in 1889, courtesy of Martin Krause,
Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs, The Indianapolis Museum of Art**

Millersville @ Fall Creek Valley, Inc.

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Indianapolis, IN 46220



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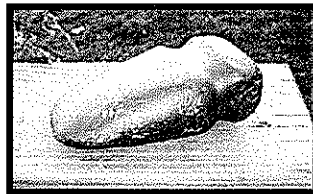
Sallie Rowland, advisor

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**Can you identify this artifact?
It was found in Millersville!**



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A special thank you to Lisa Blair-Ivory, English teacher, Arlington High School; Susan Haber, parent facilitator for Belzer Middle School and Park Tudor School; David Mattingly, English teacher, Lawrence Central High School; and Denny Krauser, Technology Coordinator, Lawrence Central High School who made the student projects on pages 24-29 possible.

Please see the back cover for additional partners and sponsors.

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April 17, 2010

Dear Millersville Residents,

Founded over 175 years ago, Millersville has straddled the Washington and Lawrence township line in Marion County on the northeast side of Indianapolis since the early 1800's. Its location on Fall Creek was chosen by Peter Negley and Seth Bacon and other early settlers for their mills, because it was conveniently located near the toll road that transported goods and services to and from Pendleton and beyond. Though none survive today, grist and saw mills and distilleries were once the center of the bustling village and provided a great deal of commercial activity in the area.

Today we want to be reminded of the history of Millersville, and we want to again find the camaraderie that comes with meeting our neighbors in a common space where we can collaborate in commerce and in leisure. The tie that binds us together today is an interest in our community just as it brought together those who established Millersville long ago!

On the first Treasures Tour, we will see evidence of the past in homes like the William Winpenny and John Johnson houses and the Millersville Masonic Lodge. In addition, we will see the communities of Brendonwood, built by Charles Lewis and George Kessler in 1916, Laurel Hall, built for Stoughton Fletcher in 1916, and Ladywood Estates, built by Avriel Shull and Fred Capp in 1965. We will also have the added bonus of learning about the physical environment in which we live that we must care for to assure its survival for those who come after us.

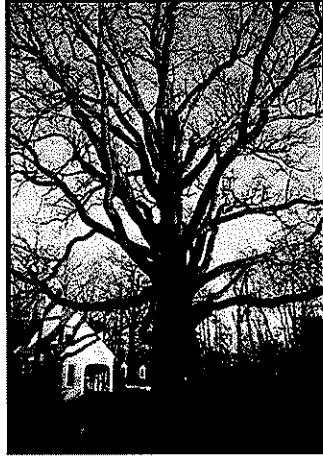
In the pages that follow, and on the Treasures Tour you will learn more about the manmade and natural beauty that makes up Millersville from yesterday to today.

Enjoy the tour!

The Board of Millersville at Fall Creek Valley Inc

and Barbara Lee, history committee chairman and tour publication editor

P.S. We plan future tours and publications, so if you have Millersville stories or pictures to share, please contact Barbara Lee at blee@alumni.indiana.edu



This old growth tree in Millersville (left) symbolizes how the area has long been tied to nature for such trees diminish flooding and retard erosion...and this recent photograph (right) of land cleared of trees just upstream of Millersville symbolizes the challenges facing our community for flood erosion and control.

Photograph on left courtesy of Sarah Rowland; Photograph on the right courtesy of Jim Barnett

MILLERSVILLE'S NATURAL HISTORY

Our little village of Millersville sits within a valley whose history began some 15-20,000 years ago. It was then that the glaciers that had repeatedly advanced and retreated over Indiana for 2 million years melted for the last time. The ice withdrew towards Canada and left behind the not-so-little trickle we know as Fall Creek. Uplands and wetlands, and also woodlands and prairies accompany it from Geist Reservoir, southwest to Fort Harrison, through Millersville, and on towards its confluence with the White River just north of downtown Indianapolis.

That post glacial history determined the scenery and also the settlement of the valley. We can speculate that it influenced Native Americans although traces of their history in Millersville are hard to come by. There are significant remnants from the post-pioneer and pre Civil War history of the mid 1800's. These include the little red frame building now known as the Flower Mill that sat along the toll road through the valley, a convenient route to Pendleton Pike.

Hoosier School artists came to paint the scenery of Millersville in the late 1800's to early 1900's. And one can imagine that the Millersville Masons placed their Lodge in the valley in 1852 due to its pretty setting. Certainly some of the city's most historic residences and neighborhoods such as the Fletcher Mansion, Brendonwood, and Ladywood were situated along the banks above the creek to take full advantage of the pastoral countryside. Skiles Test and

Woollens Gardens are respectively 80- and 40-acre parks that are treasures of nature that benefactors gifted to the city in order to preserve the natural heritage for posterity.

Millersville sits in the heart of a “network of parkways, boulevards, and parks that were planned and designed by nationally known landscape architect George E. Kessler from 1908 through 1923. This whole interconnected system includes 12 parks, 6 parkways and 2 boulevards which encompass numerous historic features such as parkway alignments, landscape composition, walks, bridges, buildings, statuary and fountains.” This is from a press release of October 14, 2003 announcing that Storrow Kinsella Associates had succeeded in placing the Indianapolis Park and Boulevard System, including the Millersville segment, on the National Register of Historic Places.

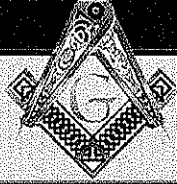
But Fall Creek flows through a gentle valley. You hardly notice the drop of a few tens of feet as you dip into Millersville’s commercial center at 56th St and Emerson Way. This is so even if you drive into the valley over the bridge spanning Fall Creek on Emerson Way. If you then follow Fall Creek northeast towards Shadeland you get an occasional glimpse of hills that rise a hundred feet or more up to Brendonwood on the south bank or up to the Hillcrest Country Club on the north. But the area is built up, and that obscures the shallow basin in which Millersville sits.

Therein lies a challenge. The urbanization of the Fall Creek watershed up to Geist Reservoir and beyond is increasing flooding and erosion along the river. The latest challenge is the 2009 construction upstream along Fall Creek that stripped nearly five acres of wetlands of trees and covered much of the property with a parking lot and a building. In its natural state, the land and especially the wetlands close to the creek act like a sponge that absorbs precipitation. The land slowly releases water into the stream. And the trees transpire water as vapor into the air. But when roads and buildings cover the land and trees are cut down, the water runs off directly into the creek, rapidly increasing its discharge (volume of water flowing past a reference point in a given time). Retention ponds can hold only some of that water. Records obtained from the gauge at the Emerson bridge prove that discharge has been increasing over the past century.

As for consequences, in 2003 a woman drowned in a flood that swept along Fall Creek Parkway and surrounded the Windridge shopping center. Water periodically rises close to the entrance of the office building at Windridge Shops and the building has to be protected with sandbags. According to FEMA some residential properties along Fall Creek now lie within the 100-year flood plain. Just a few years ago, they sat above it. Take a look at the remediation project that Windridge Homeowners’ Association has just completed near the Emerson bridge. It is a series of wire baskets filled with boulders that brace the river bank against the river’s flow.

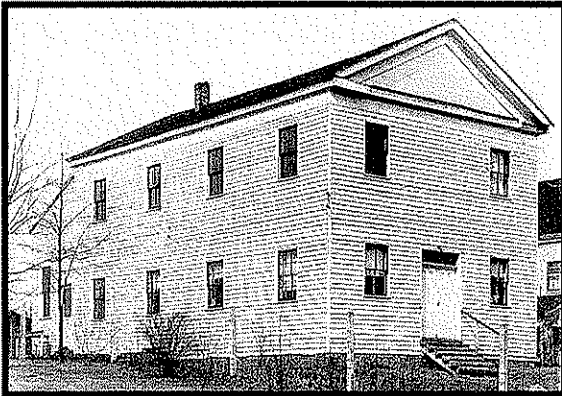
Thus, the conundrum. How to redevelop our village and its commercial center and yet live with the natural heritage of the valley? We are attracted to Millersville because it is a pretty area with an historic character. It has recreational and cultural potential to soothe our souls. But how do we preserve that potential for the benefit of our village and indeed for all of metropolitan Indianapolis?

Gary D. Rosenberg
Fellow, Geological Society of America and
Associate Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, IUPUI

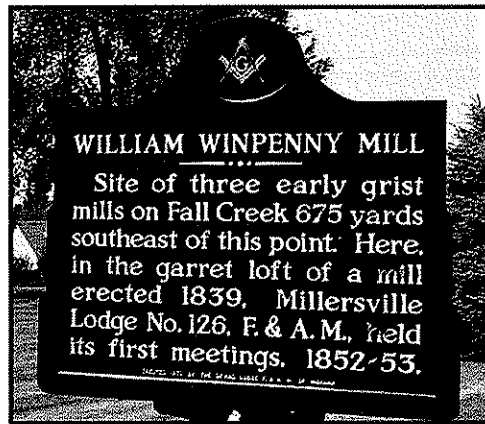


Millersville Masonic Lodge #126

Indianapolis, Indiana



The Masonic Lodge meetinghouse above was shared with the Methodist church from 1853-1925



Built in 1925, today's Millersville Masonic Lodge is in the center of Millersville.

MILLERSVILLE LODGE #126

The land at the northwest corner of Kessler and Emerson Way has hosted Native Americans, settlers, and Washington Township Elementary School #2. Since December 3, 1925 it has been the land on which the stately brick and stone Millersville Lodge #126 has stood. It was built at a cost of \$59,874.70 and has long dignified the community with its well-maintained presence.

This Lodge, once known as the "Milkman's Lodge" due to its close proximity to Roberts Dairy, provided a new home for the Masons who had met in the rural home of William J. Millard, Jr., on the third floor of the Wimpenny Mill, and in a clapboard Hall that was located on the west side of Millersville Road about halfway between Fall Creek and 56th Street. The latter site is still visible behind a bank. A small cemetery behind the Ebenezer Church on Millersville Road about a half-mile east of Keystone Avenue is the final resting spot for many of the Lodge's historical figures with the familiar last names of Negley, Steinmeier, and Millard.

In addition to promoting its tenets of "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth to all" the Lodge generously gives back to the community with scholarships, stewardship, and stability. The respect given to Freemasonry has endured 158 years of change in this area not to mention centuries of social, political, and cultural changes in our world.

No strangers to fun, family, and social events, the Millersville Lodge holds an annual Fish Fry in September and serves breakfast to the community on the first Saturday of the month asking for a meager "donation" from its customers. In 1984, the Brothers were pleasantly surprised when a few young ladies came into the Lodge thinking it was the place where Colts cheerleading tryouts were being held. They were cheerfully directed to the Colts Headquarters next door.

The Lodge has generously supported the new Millersville at Fall Creek Neighborhood Association by hosting a fall meeting and by allowing the use of the parking lot for the Treasures Tour. The Neighborhood Association thanks the Lodge for its hospitality and for its continuing service to the community.

Submitted by: David and Cindy Woods



Built in 1848, the Winpenny home was moved to its present day location in 1982.

Photograph courtesy of Catharine Diehr

WILLIAM WINPENNY HOME

The William Winpenny home, built in 1848 near his grist mill on Fall Creek was relocated to its present site in 1982. The relocation of the home became necessary to save it from demolition by the Indianapolis Department of Transportation because of the 56th street and Fall Creek Parkway project to widen Kessler Blvd, 56th street and the installation of a new bridge. Community efforts, including a three thousand signature petition, failed to persuade the D.O.T. to change the plans for demolition. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Inc. became involved in working with potential investors to relocate the historic home. The partners of Jourdan Construction Company had been aware of the plight of this historic home for several years, and after completing a feasibility study, made the decision to relocate and renovate the dwelling. The home was purchased in 1983 by Steven and Dawn Neal who completed restoration.

The Greek Colonial Revival home is significant to the village of Millersville as Mr. Winpenny was one of several local individuals who founded the Millersville Masonic Lodge. Winpenny permitted the Millersville Masons to meet in the top floor of his mill in 1852. He was an active member of the lodge until his death in 1861. His wife, Christina Winpenny passed away at the age of 81 on December 27, 1912. They had two children, Ellen and George. Miss Ellen Winpenny became a noted local artist, author and inventor of such items as a notary's seal shaped like scissors; a purse to hold money and cards; a kitchen table on wheels with a zinc top; an electric flatiron; and a disposable cuspidor. George attended the Central Law School, located in Indianapolis, entered private practice, was an active member of the Republican Party and later became a deputy prosecutor in Marion County.

William Winpenny was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania. He moved to Millersville, Indiana where he purchased 800 acres of farm land, a flour mill and saw mill. William's paternal ancestors came from Saxon, Germany, where the old Winpenny castle still stands, centuries old. His great grandfather was an officer who held high rank in the imperial army of the empire and who had one brother and three sisters. He settled in Halifax, England where he became an extensive manufacturer of broadcloth. He married Nancy Rouse, by whom he had six children, all, excepting a son, Samuel, died in England. Samuel Winpenny married Ellen Bolton of Halifax and eventually settled in Germantown, Pennsylvania. William Winpenny's grandfather, James Bolton, was an eminent artist and a member of the British Royal Art Society. He published several treatises on the English ferns. He also wrote and illustrated a history of the British songbirds, similar to the work of the naturalist, Audubon.

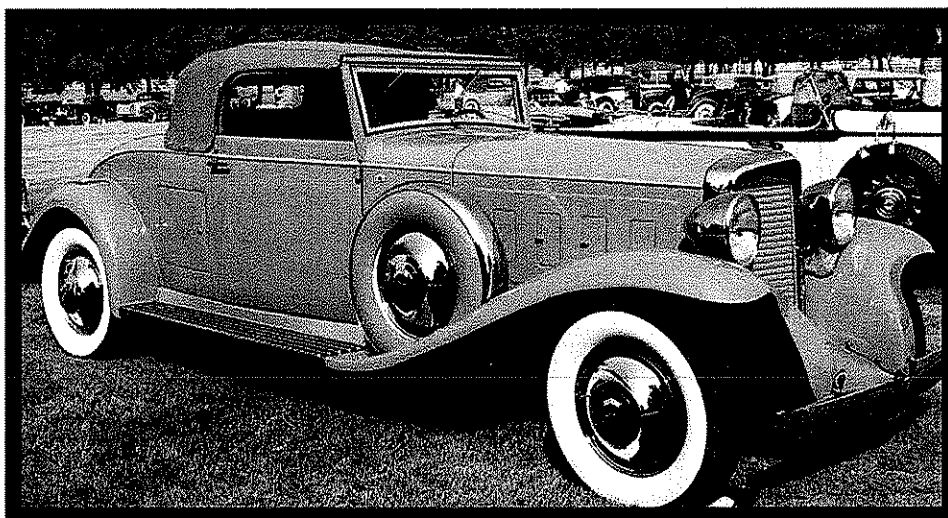
The Winpenny home, a reminder of the late pioneer period in the county will remain a part of the Millersville area for years to come.

Submitted by: Steve Neal



In 1928, this home was built for Walter and Annie Marmon, of the Marmon Automobile Company—an example of a Marmon car is below.

Marmon Home photograph courtesy of Sallie Rowland



BRENDONWOOD / MARMON HOME

Back when East 56th Street was a two-lane dirt road called Military Drive and the closest public school was at 38th Street and Central, Charles Lewis had a dream of creating a residential park development in the Fall Creek Valley. The year was 1917 and that dream became Brendonwood.

As early as 1909, Mr. Lewis started to acquire parcels of land to make up Brendonwood's 350 acres that are bordered by the Fall Creek on the north and west, 56th Street on the south, and Brendon Forest Drive on the east.

There are 106 homes in Brendonwood on approximately 250 acres. The balance of the acreage is common ground for all resident property owners including the roads, bridle and hiking paths, a nine hole golf course, a meeting house and land for other recreational activities.

To lay out the roads and develop building sites, Mr. Lewis hired George E. Kessler, Landscape Architect, and Civil Engineer, A. H. Moore. The tree-covered steep terrain in most of the area was a challenge to the planners while the flat acreage between 56th Street and Lawrence Drive was barren and required a massive planting program. In the English tradition, Mr. Lewis planned hedge rows surrounding each lot and provided a nursery on the south side of 56th Street to grow all the trees and shrubbery that would line the lots and roads of Brendonwood.

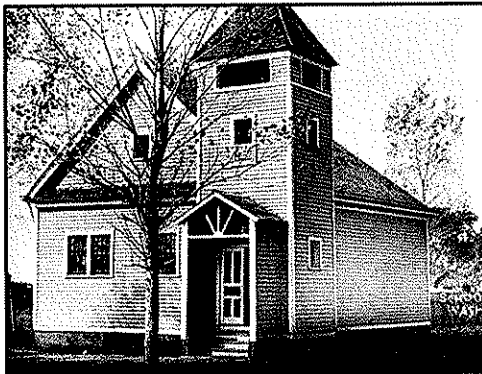
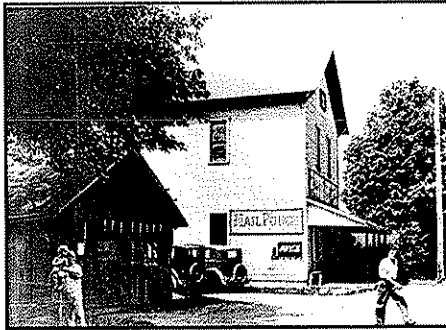
The first new house in Brendonwood was built in 1920 on Lawrence Drive for Montgomery Lewis, Charles Lewis son. There were 17 houses built in the 1920's, three of those burned down but the other 14 remain. One of the homes built in 1928 was for Walter & Annie Marmon of the Marmon Automobile Company. Mr. and Mrs. Marmon originally owned 9 adjacent lots in Brendonwood when they built their house and stables and it now occupies three lots and has been beautifully restored by the current owners. The architects Lee Burns and Edward James designed the house in the Tudor style.

One of the many unique things about Brendonwood is the variety of architectural styles that include Colonial, Georgian, Dutch Colonial, Neoclassical and Tudor Revival styles as well as Art Deco, French Renaissance, Mission, Ranch and Prairie styles. The architectural committee and the Common Board of Directors must approve all designs.

An important contributor to maintaining the integrity of the Mr. Lewis' dream was Joseph Daniels of Baker and Daniels who wrote the governance for Brendonwood and established its By-laws and covenants. Mr. Daniels built his home in 1924 on Hunterglen Road.

Brendonwood was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

Submitted by: Sallie Rowland



Clockwise from top left: Millersville General Store and Blacksmith Shop, Millersville Bridge in 1915, Cows on 56th St. in 1900, Fall Creek in 1903, Washington Township School #2, The Easterday's Home/Toll House, Winpenny Mill in 1906

Photographs courtesy of Earl Anderson

HISTORIC MILLERSVILLE

Listen as you go through the streets of Millersville today and you may hear the echoes of the 19th Century and of ages before ringing there! Established as a way station for stage coach travelers in the early 1800's, the village was a bustle of social and commercial activity with several mills and toll houses, a general store, a tavern with rooms for tired travelers and two blacksmith shops.

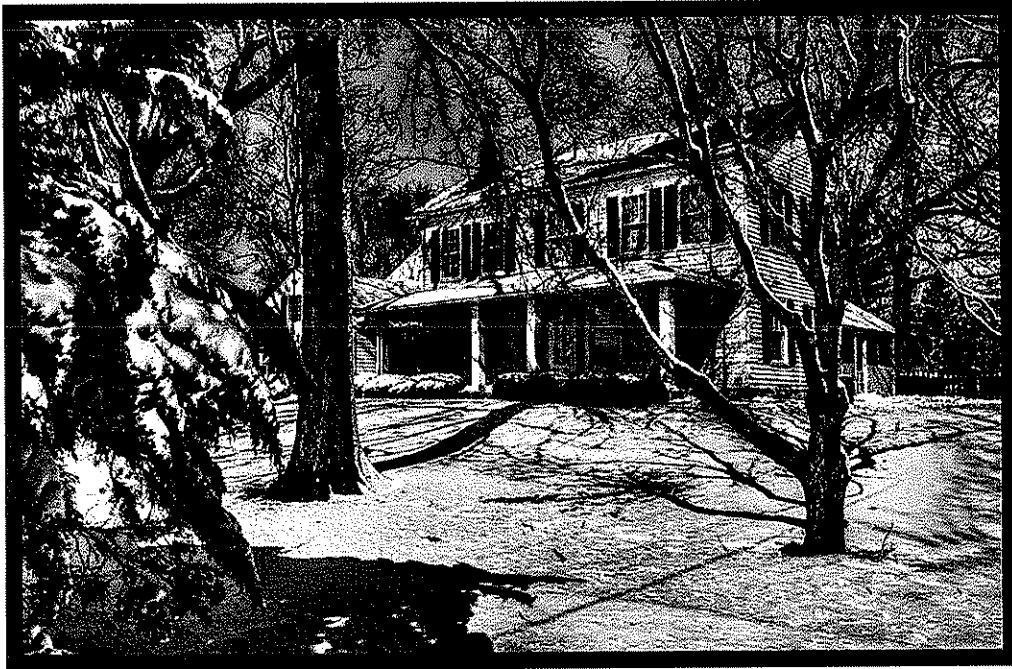
In 1816, Indiana became a state and only a few years later, Peter Negley and others settled in a blossoming village along Fall Creek even before Indianapolis was laid out in 1822. Negley and Daniel Ballinger were two of the citizens of the area who were granted land by the U.S. Government. They wanted to name their village the Town of Independence but many of those who were granted land divided and sold their parcels before the town's incorporation, so the town then was simply referred to as Millersville (presumably for the abundance of grist and saw mills emerging along Fall Creek).

Over the ensuing years, many of the hard working characteristics of the early settlers were seen in those who followed them in commercial and leisure pursuits. Blacksmith shops gave way to gas stations and general stores gave way to grocery stores.

Once horses were used for transportation and toil, but as the 20th Century began to unfold a horse racetrack took shape on Stoughton Fletcher's estate and then later a riding stable and barn at the corner of 56th and Emerson Way. During this time, Millersville settled nicely into its role as one of the first suburbs of Indianapolis when Brendonwood, developed by Charles Lewis and George Kessler, and Stoughton Fletcher's estate were built between 1909 and 1925.

Beyond the early 1900's, Millersville has ebbed and flowed as has the creek it surrounds. As time goes on, each new neighborhood and resident that is added has brought new characteristics and flair to the community. Looking at the photos on the facing page and throughout this booklet you will see some of the unique charm of Millersville's past and by reading the vignettes throughout you will learn more about the extraordinary people and events that have been attracted to the area.

Submitted by: Barbara Lee



The John and Sarah Johnson home

Photograph courtesy of Jim Barnett

JOHN R. AND SARAH ELLEN (RINGER) JOHNSON HOME

As recorded in the Tract Book, on July 27, 1821, Enoch Clark secured an 80 acre tract of land from the United States of America. The abstract shows the land passed from Clarke to Abraham Drake to Jacob Spahr to Samuel Rinkard. Then, in 1849 it was deeded to Joseph Ringer. It remained in the possession of Ringer's decedents until 1985.

In 1891, Joseph Ringer's youngest daughter, Sarah Ellen, married John R. Johnson. She inherited 1/3 ownership of the land when her mother died and in the next few years the Johnsons acquired the other 2/3rds from her siblings. So by 1889, John and Sarah Johnson owned the entire original 80 acres.

In 1935, land along Fall Creek was deeded to the City of Indianapolis for "park or boulevard purposes". The deed stated:

"The above described property is to be landscaped and maintained by the City of Indianapolis. It is donated to this city upon condition that the business of manufacturing or selling of intoxicating liquors or beverages or other commodities of any kind, shall never be conducted thereon, or any part thereof.

In the late 1950's most of the remaining land was sold to a developer and the neighborhood homes were built. By 1985, only the 1 ¼ acre that the house sits on was still owned by the Johnson family.

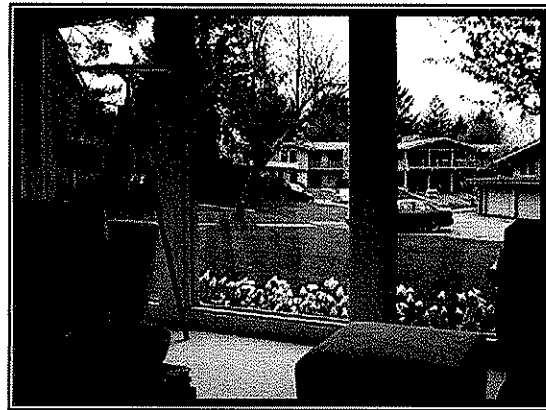
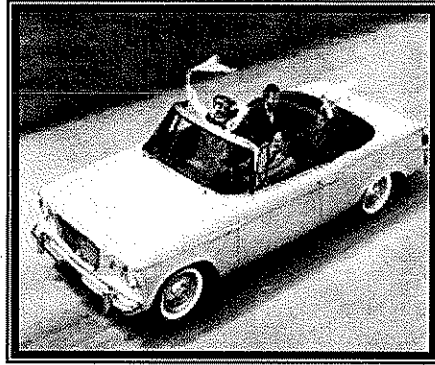
According to oral history, in about 1840, a cabin was built near the northwest corner of the land and not far from the center of Millersville. It was a single room, roughly 17 x 17 feet in size. The pitched roof was tall enough to create a large attic area which may have been used as a loft, and that roof extended out in both front and back providing cover for two porches. The front porch faced east into Millersville. On each porch wall, there was a large door centered between two windows allowing for excellent flow-through ventilation. The north wall was principally a large brick fireplace with handy storage areas on each side of the fireplace. The wood floor was supported by half log joists with the bark still attached. It had sash windows with glass panes. The exterior was clapboard. The interior walls and ceiling were plank wood. All of these items still exist.

Various out-buildings were built to the west of the original house. One still exists. It dates to sometime in the 1800s and was originally a smokehouse. Meat hooks still hang from the ceiling joists. When it was no longer used as a smokehouse, it became the family chicken coop. In 1884, the little house was greatly expanded by an addition attached to the southern wall of the original cabin. It was a post and beam construction utilizing native wood which was hand hewn and attached with wooden pegs.

Although it was principally the home to a farming family, there was a period when it served as a public office. According to John Johnson's great-great grandchildren, for a while during the late 1800's the western room in the downstairs of the "new" addition was used as the Millersville post office.

Through the ensuing decades amenities and necessities were added as needed and the current owners hired architect, Steven Alexander, who worked to maintain the original house and integrate the added space so that it looked like it belonged. The architect's inspiration came from New England farmhouses where, due to the difficult winters, outbuildings are frequently attached to the main house. In that spirit, a barn-shaped great room was built to connect smokehouse and the garage. A silo-shaped tower now connects the barn to the main house. A dormer was added above the original one-room house and running over to the silo creating two additional bedrooms upstairs. The original roof line was maintained in the north wall of the new addition. The kitchen was moved into an area that replaced the western porch and joined the old house with the new. Now the original house is the family room and what was once used as the post office now serves as a dining room. Updating will continue into the foreseeable future with thoughts rooted in the past to preserve the home for future generations.

Submitted by: Sheri Barnett



Avriel Shull's 1951 wedding photograph provided by her family; others provided by Ladywood Estates residents

LADYWOOD ESTATES

Ladywood Estates Condominiums is proud to be an anchor neighborhood of Millersville at Fall Creek Valley. Located just south of Fall Creek, on a bluff filled with mature trees and providing outstanding views, Ladywood Estates is one of Indianapolis' architectural gems. With its storied history and exciting future, the dedicated owners of the neighborhood are determined to once again make this one of the premier addresses of Northeast Indianapolis. Ladywood Estates was conceived by wealthy Indianapolis resident Fred J. Capp in the mid 1960's. Capp, a well-known Indianapolis personality, spared no expense in creating this glamour and trendy apartment community. Rather than settling on simplistic design, he chose Avriel Shull, a local, central Indiana architect who was rapidly gaining national notoriety for her expressive design and efficient use of space. In commissioning the Ladywood project, Capp wanted to make a big statement and Avriel Shull had just the personality.

Simply put, Avriel Shull (1933-1976) was a revolutionary. While most home builders of the 1950s and 1960s were content to build the status-quo ramblers of the time, Avriel Shull dared to be different. - Very different. A native of Carmel, she graduated from Butler University and eventually the John Herron School of Art. Early attempts at a stationery business and commercial art agency gave way to the creation of "Avriel", an architecture and design firm formed in 1953. Her ultimate success as an architect was especially remarkable given a lack of formal architectural education and training. Nonetheless, her background in the visual arts and appreciation for aesthetic harmony are apparent in each of her designs.

Her first large scale design project was "Christie's Thornhurst Addition", a stunning Mid-Century modern housing community just west of downtown Carmel. By the time this project was completed, she had truly articulated her architectural message to the world -- design themes present in each of her subsequent projects. Shull's largest project was Ladywood Estates, built between 1967 and 1969 -- she was only 35 at the time of completion! Throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s, Avriel Shull was rapidly gaining both local and national recognition for her stunning and efficient designs and, without a doubt, was among the most commercially successful residential architects of the time. Her tragic death in 1976 begs the question - what would residential architecture look like today had her work had the opportunity to fully develop and blossom? With her stunning 1951 wedding photos published in Life magazine and the dramatic buildings scattered across Indianapolis and beyond, her legacy will be long-lasting.

Ladywood Estates is comprised of 55 individual units; no two are identical. Exterior materials include cedar, brick, and natural stone. Units include soaring vaulted ceilings with exposed beams, floor-to-ceiling windows, original hardwood and slate floors, and functioning fireplaces. Most have an elevated wooden deck or a concrete patio - or in some cases - both. Also common are open lofts which make unique guest or office spaces. As a testament to good design, the rooms feel cozy but not cramped, open but not cavernous. True to Mid-Century Modern design, the buildings are designed to harmonize with the natural beauty of the bluff on which the community sits. Exterior materials were specifically chosen to coexist with the natural wooded surroundings and are complementary of the old growth pine and fir trees that frame each of the buildings. Large windows and natural light provide ample opportunity to view nature in complete comfort.

Ladywood offers a unique design experience that rivals downtown lofts and conversions but with beautifully wooded surroundings and a more convenient, centralized location. As a smaller community, Ladywood Estates offers a sense of camaraderie and community. Many are dog lovers and evening walks often turn into lengthy conversations with neighbors. On a summer night it's not uncommon to stumble across an impromptu patio cocktail party or cookout. Similarly, cold winter nights are a great excuse to build a crackling fire and invite the neighbors over to share in the warmth.

Submitted by: Allen Clingler



Fletcher Mansion known as Laurel Hall was named for Stoughton A. Fletcher's mother.

Photograph courtesy of Earl Anderson

LAUREL HALL

As you drive along the 5400 block of Emerson Way, past the gated entrance of the condominium community known as Windridge, you would never suspect that there were 221 attractive homes hidden behind those gates - many built overlooking beautiful Fall Creek Valley. Nor would you suspect that prior to those homes being built in the 1970's and 1980's behind those same gates, the Sisters of Providence opened Ladywood School in 1925 - an upscale preparatory boarding school for young ladies which flourished until the late 1960's.

What the Sisters had purchased for \$600,000 for their upscale School was the English Gothic Manor house, all the out buildings and several hundred acres of what once was the 1500 acre estate of Stoughton A. Fletcher, a rich and prominent Indianapolis banker, of the pre-WWI era.

Fletcher's original acres were bounded by Millersville Road, 46th Street, Arlington Ave, 56th Street and Fall Creek. In addition to the Manor house, there was a separate building, also in the English Gothic style, housing servants and cars as well as enormous boilers that sent steam heat to the Manor house through a long tunnel. They were fired by four natural gas wells dug on the property and supplied by water from Fall Creek. Additionally there were five cottages, greenhouses, stables and horse trails - even a race track within the estate's boundaries.

Alex Tuchinsky, Fletcher's Belgian landscape Architect, laid out the estate's original gated entrance, its buildings, roads, rare plantings, waterfalls, and statuary including water cascading from a Greek Temple which still exists, but is on the Cathedral High School grounds. Fletcher commissioned Herbert L. Bass, a noted local Architect who also designed the Holcomb estate, to design his Manor house which was built high on a bluff overlooking that same beautiful Fall Creek Valley and the then still thriving community of Millersville. The estate was completed in 1916 at a cost of over \$2 million (approx. \$40 million today). It was a landmark known for many years as the largest private home in Indiana and a destination sought by many. Fletcher named it Laurel Hall for his mother.

Laurel Hall, the structure, was saved the first time by the Sisters of Providence and secondly by R.V. Welch Investments, Inc., the firm that developed the Windridge Condos and the Commercial Center across Fall Creek from them. It had been sitting empty four years before Welch restored it for the Windridge Community Club House. But sadly the cost of its upkeep was so great that the residents eventually sold it to the Hudson Institute which moved to Indianapolis from Croton-on-Hudson, NY, in 1984. In 2004 Laurel Hall's ownership changed once again when Hudson relocated to Washington, D.C., and Laurel Hall was purchased by the Endowment Fund of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity for use as its international headquarters. Laurel Hall is approaching 94 years old and its future is looking bright. The new occupants are committed to its historic preservation. Visiting it is truly a rare and distinct privilege - a delightful trip into the crown jewel of the Millersville at Fall Creek Community.

Submitted by: Marta Meeker



Schofield Mill painted by T.C. Steele, in 1889, courtesy of Martin Krause, Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs, The Indianapolis Museum of Art

HOOSIER ARTISTS IN MILLERSVILLE

From the late 1800's to the early 1900's, Indianapolis was home to an association of artists known as The Hoosier Group. These men and women sought out what was then the pastoral scenery of Millersville for their landscape drawings and paintings. Among them was prolific artist T.C. Steele, the "American Master of Light".

T.C. Steele spent a few years in Indianapolis before marrying Selma Steele, a former Indianapolis Public Schools art supervisor. After their marriage, the Steeles built a small home in a remote area of Brown County near Belmont, Indiana, the "House of the Singing Winds".

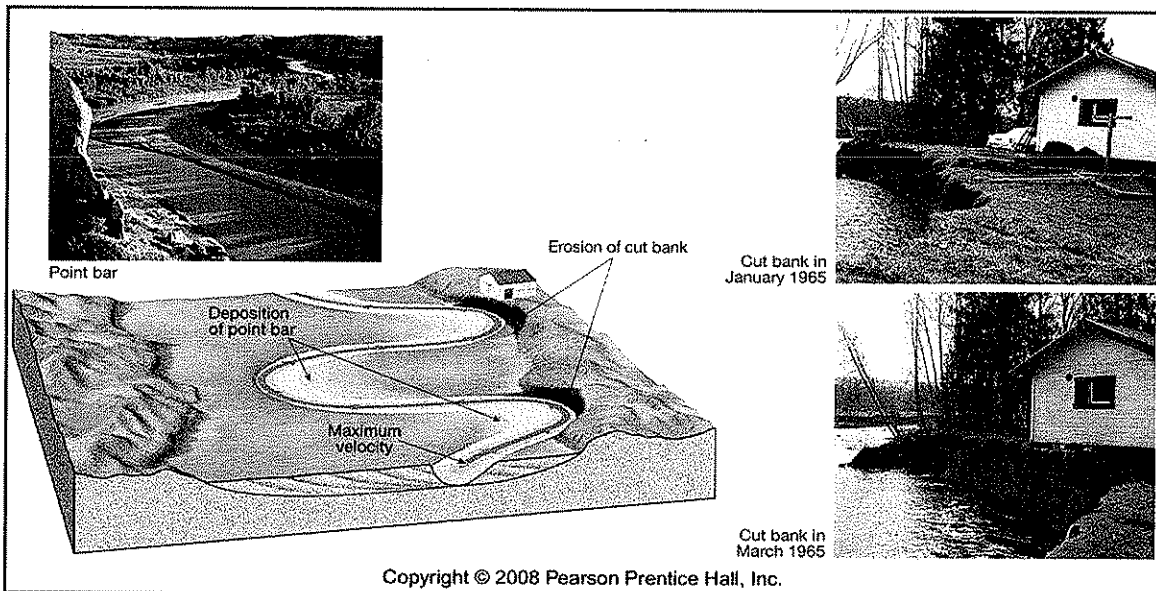
Fortunately T.C. Steele recorded his presence in Millersville in at least two paintings. Images of them appear in a book that the artist himself published so there is no doubt about their authenticity. One painting is of Schofield Mill near what is now Keystone Avenue (opposite page). That mill is long gone but if our community was named for the area mills (as some historians believe) then surely Schofield Mill was one of the landmarks.

He titled the second painting "The Race at Millersville" (front cover) and it clearly shows rapids (i.e. a race) in Fall Creek at Millersville valley on a lazy summer day. Millersville does not look like this any longer but our natural heritage is clearly evident. This painting, whose whereabouts is unknown, reminds us that it is Fall Creek and the surrounding hills and valleys that make our neighborhood such an inviting place in which to live.

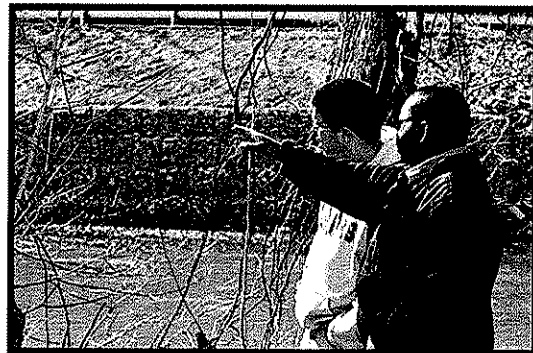
The work of T.C. Steele was included in the first Hoosier Salon in 1925. The exhibition was held in the gallery of Marshall Field and Company in Chicago, Illinois and was sponsored by the Daughters of Indiana. It was one of the venues that successfully launched Steele's career. In 1923, Steele accepted an invitation from Indiana University to fill a chair in the School of Fine Arts. At one point Steele commented that "the function of a university was not how to make a living but how to live." His own words described his philosophy of life: "What God thinks of beauty we know from the fact that he has made it so universal." Above the fireplace at the house of the Singing Winds is etched another saying: "Every morning I take off my hat to the beauty of the world" put there by Otto Starks when he was a guest in the Steele home. (Quote sources: The House of the Singing Winds, IHS Press, 1989 and Joanne Nesbit www.ourbrowncounty.com)

That Steele found beauty in our little corner of the world reinforces the importance of celebrating Millersville's heritage and protecting its scenic character for generations to come.

Submitted by: Cindy Woods and Gary D. Rosenberg



Fall Creek is a meandering, or looping, river. Although not as big as the one pictured here, the principle is much the same. Buildings along the cut bank are at risk of erosion, and floods are hazards for the whole valley. Image from E.J. Tarbuck and F.K. Lutgens, *Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology*, 2010, Pearson Prentice Hall.



Above Left: Tim Davis and Cody Lavelle at the canoe ramp across from Woollen's Gardens.

Above Right: Tim Davis and Cody Lavelle study a retaining wall of gabion baskets protecting the river bank from further erosion on Fall Creek.

Photographs courtesy of Jim Barnett

FALL CREEK EROSION

Fall Creek is a magnificent and breathtaking river in Indiana that has an abundance of aquatic life living in it and other wildlife living near it. The river is also a great recreational place for families to enjoy fishing, canoeing, and other outdoor activities. Fall Creek has many lovely features that draw people in, which means the area around it is a common choice for city expansion and urbanization. The sun, water, and cool breeze allow for this place to be seen as paradise in the eyes of many.

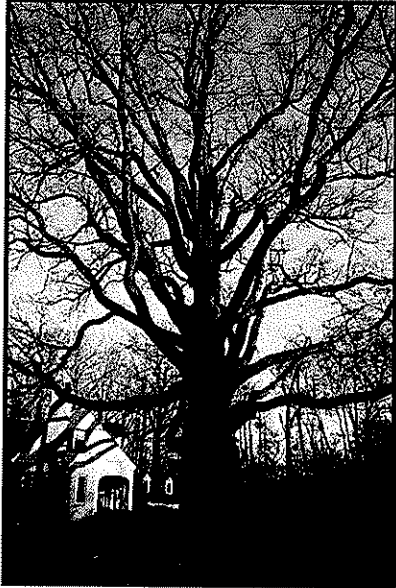
During the flood of 1913, Fall Creek was one of the rivers that flooded. It caused a lot of damage and a large number of injuries and even deaths. While the flooding could not be controlled the number of damages and deaths could have been. Constant building and landscaping on and around the area caused problems for the community and the people who live there and it still does today. While Fall Creek, a meandering river - a river that twists and bends- is indeed beautiful, it is not meant to be lived on.

A meandering river, such as Fall Creek, eventually erodes the river's banks which can result in problems for the people around the area. Man-made river banks and rip rap (blocks of rock) can be used to slow erosion but can cost many millions of dollars and will also eventually erode away. A residential area known as Windridge sits on the outside turn of a meander loop, the erosional side of the river, and upstream urbanization sends more water into Fall Creek from nearby roads, parking lots, homes, etc., because the ground can no longer absorb rain water. Consequently, the water flows directly into the river causing the bank to erode more and more.

Fall Creek is one of nature's beautiful natural exhibits and draws people in easily. The abundance of wildlife and gorgeous landscape invite visionaries to see a place where families can live, play, and enjoy nature without even realizing how they are hurting the environment they love and putting countless numbers of people in danger. They are also taking away from natural resources because with people comes pollution and trash, which can harm the river, its aquatic life, and wildlife nearby that depends on it.

In conclusion, while the river is a beautiful place, naturally, it is not meant to be urbanized by people. While it is hard to resist getting closer to nature and its magnificent wildlife and wonderful display of nature at its finest, we must work together in order to preserve it and protect it and our own people.

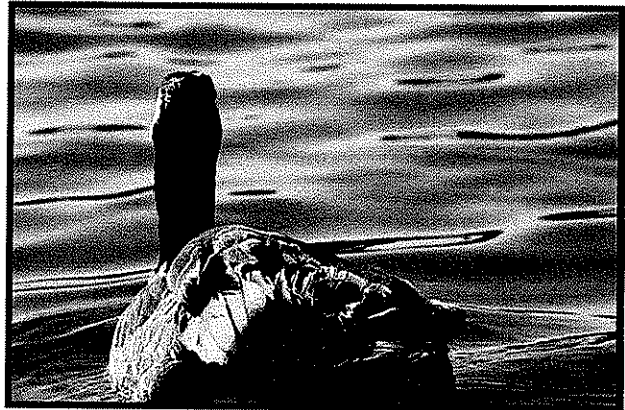
Submitted by: Timothy Davis, Arlington High School student



This tree in the Fall Creek area of Millersville is the second largest in the State of Indiana so it must have very large and very absorbent roots

Photographs courtesy of Sarah Rowland

Wildlife enjoys flooding more than humans do!



FLOOD CONTROL IN THE FALL CREEK AREA OF MILLERSVILLE

Flooding continues to be a problem in the Fall Creek area of Millersville. The amount of water that is being transferred by our creeks and streams is overwhelming. There are ways that we can prevent flooding in the future by looking at the way the water is absorbed into the ground and how it flows downstream. The less water above ground the better in preventing floods.

It helps if we understand that water in the environment goes through a cycle. The water cycle be-

gins with evaporation from water to water vapor. The water vapor then forms clouds. When the air is saturated, water vapor condenses and precipitation occurs. The precipitation falls to Earth's surface. Some of the precipitation falls on lakes and rivers. The rest of the precipitation falls on the ground which soaks up most the water it receives. This is called infiltration. Some of the ground water is soaked up by the roots of trees and other plants. Plants transpire a lot of the water they soak up. That means they release water through their leaves into the air as water vapor. The water in the ground flows slowly into rivers and streams. Surface water is again evaporated, repeating the water cycle again.

The water upstream needs to be slowed and reduced in volume to give the water downstream more time to filter out into the bigger rivers and reservoirs. Normally, the ground acts like a sponge and absorbs rainfall and melting snow but when it is covered by roads and buildings, it can no longer do that job. By building detention ponds, weirs, green roofs and pervious (porous and permeable) roadways we can help reduce the water flow.

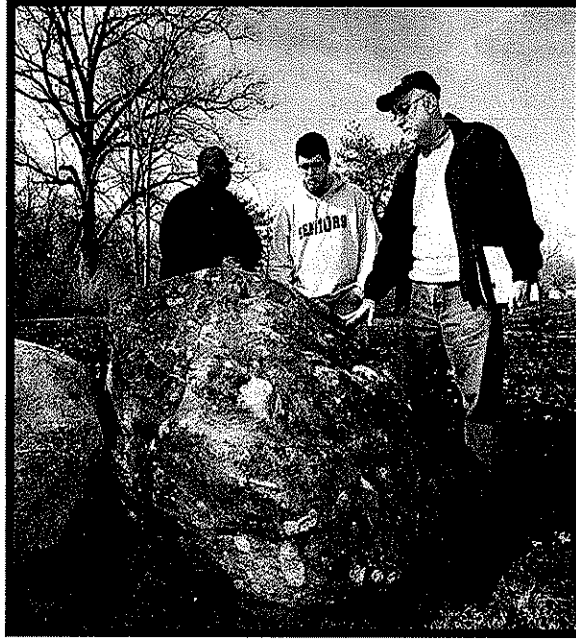
We can plant rain gardens or plants that have long roots that absorb water quickly and hold it deep in the ground and also transpire it back into the air. Transpiration reduces the amount of water running off into streams. In fact, a natural forest can transpire thousands of gallons of water vapor into the atmosphere each day. Fortunately, the Millersville area has many large trees with very large and absorbent roots that can help us prevent flooding and erosion, and so it would be a good idea to protect them and not cut them down in the first place.

Business, nonprofit and home developers can avoid cutting down trees and removing other plants, and they can install green roofs. Green roofs are flat with living plants that can absorb up to an inch of rainwater, therefore reducing the amount of water flowing into a nearby pond or creek. We can construct weirs, which are low sloped dams. Some of the water gets caught behind and the water that isn't trapped is simply slowed and reduced in volume. When new roads are paved, we could use pervious (porous and permeable) pavement which has small holes in it to let the water seep through into the ground to reduce water that gathers on the roadside. As you can see there are several ways to reduce the amount of water upstream and therefore the amount and speed at which it flows downstream.

These are just some of the simple things that we can do to maintain a complete, natural water cycle in order to help prevent flooding downstream. No matter which methods you choose they will help prevent future flooding and make our rivers, creeks and ponds look better in the Fall Creek area of Millersville.

Remember, ducks are the only ones who don't mind flooding!

Submitted by: Sarah Rowland, Belzer Middle School student and Steven Salvas, Park Tudor student



Tim Davis, Cody Lavelle and Gary Rosenberg behind the Gowganda tillite on Fall Creek Parkway North Drive.

Photograph courtesy of Jim Barnett

MILLERSVILLE'S OLDEST RELIC

The oldest relic in Millersville is a boulder that is 2.2—2.4 billion years old and it contains rock fragments that are another 100 million years older than that. That's a little older than even the Millersville buildings that antedate the Civil War!

What's more, that boulder tells the story of one of Earth's early mountain building episodes, the planet's first world-wide glacial period, and also its most recent ice age, the famous Pleistocene.

The boulder is on Fall Creek Parkway, North Drive, just west of Emerson Way. It sits in a cluster with three other boulders that might actually be older. But the one that interests us most has great big chunks of pink, white, and gray granite (with a few black speckles) in a much finer grained greenish gray rock. A rock that has big pebbles mixed in a finer grained material is called a conglomerate, and this conglomerate is truly special. It is a tillite, a rock that was produced by glacial activity. In fact, this one records two glacial events, separated by more than 2 billion years of Earth history.

Let's start with the granite pebbles, some of which are as large as or larger than your hand and some of which are quite small, just an inch in diameter or even less. The granite is an igneous rock which is a rock that crystallizes from molten material called magma or lava. The granite was produced in a mountain building episode that took place in what is now Ontario, Canada some 2.5 billion years ago. It formed during collision of two of Earth's lithospheric plates or rigid slabs of Earth's crust. As they crashed together, the granite formed from molten magma generated deep beneath them as a result of the collision. Later, between 2.2—2.4 billion years ago, it was exposed at the surface of Earth by various geologic processes.

That is when Earth's first known, world-wide glacial episode occurred. The glaciers ground across the crust, picked up chunks of granite, and carried them off. Ontario was then at the edge of the sea. Icebergs broke off the glaciers and floated out to sea. The icebergs melted, and dropped the granite pebbles into the green-gray mud on the sea floor. That mud became the fine-grained, greenish gray rock that encases the granite pebbles. The Gowganda is special in the sense that most other tillites created by glaciers are not ice-rafted; most are deposited on land. The whole conglomeratic sediment hardened to form a thick layer of rock that is now known as the Gowganda tillite and most of it remains layered within other rock layers on land in Ontario not far from Toronto.

How did the ice-rafted Gowganda tillite get from the sea floor onto land? The answer is that more plate collisions and mountain building raised North America above sea level and, at the same time, the sea drained off. The continent started to erode.

The Gowganda sat in what is now Canada for some 2 billion years, somehow escaping complete weathering and erosion, and destruction by younger mountain building processes that affected other parts of our continent.

Then, around 2 million years ago, Earth once again cooled and the Pleistocene ice age began. Another glacier scraped across Canada. It gouged the Gowganda tillite, plucked up huge boulders of it, and moved them southwards into what is now Indiana and other states. Ice can carry boulders that are as big as a car or even bigger. Sometime around 20,000 years ago the ice sheets melted for the last time and retreated northwards, leaving behind remnants of the Gowganda. Chunks of the Gowganda tillite are actually quite common in farmers' fields and in streambeds throughout the central Indiana area.

In conclusion, it is interesting that geologists have been able to figure out what Earth was like billions of years ago and to know that ancient rocks aren't always found in distant and obscure places. Today, sitting in Millersville is a boulder of the Gowganda tillite, one of the most distinctive and important tillites known. It is one that tells a fascinating story of glacial episodes and mountain building going back 2.5 billion years, more than half the age of the planet!

Submitted by: Cody Lavelle, Lawrence Central High School student and Gary D. Rosenberg, Department of Earth Sciences, IUPUI

Wouldn't it be wonderful to save these important pieces of Millersville history?

5440 Millersville Rd is reported to have Hopalong Cassidy wallpaper from the 1940's in one of the upstairs bedrooms and bats living in the attic!



Constructed in about 1870, 5422 Millersville Rd. was once a general store on the public square in Millersville. It was later the Flower Mill flower shop for 30 years.

Once a Tavern where travelers passing through town would spend the night and rest their horses, 5500 and 5504 Millersville Rd date back to the 1840's or 50's. There is still an iron fence dating to the period on the property.



Additional Resources

Windridge Condominiums: www.windridgecondos.com/history.shtml

Brendonwood: www.brendonwood.org

Ladywood Estates Condominiums: ladywoodestates.com/Ladywood_Estates/Welcome.html

Millersville Lodge #126: www.millersvillegorge.org/

Laurel Hall/Phi Kappa Psi: www.laurel-hall.org/

Cathedral High School: www.cathedral-irish.org/

Lawrence Central High School: lawrencecentral.ltschools.org/

Belzer Middle School: belzer.ltschools.org/

Arlington High School: www.ips.k12.in.us/

Brookdale Senior Living: www.brookdaleliving.com/brookdale-place-fall-creek.aspx

Indy Greenways: www.indygreenways.org/fallcreek/fc_images/fc_map.pdf

A Home in the Woods: Pioneer Life in Indiana, Howard Johnson, IU Press, 1951 and 1977

Ollie's Cabin in the Woods, Robert and Katheryn Hessong, Guild Press of Indiana, 1999

The Massacre at Fall Creek, Jessamyn West, Harcourt Brace and Co., 1975

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Great Indianapolis Neighborhoods Initiatives (GINI)

<http://www.greatindyneighborhoods.org/index.php>

Lincoln Square Pancake House

<http://www.atlincolnsquare.com/>

Phi Kappa Psi / Laurel Hall

<http://www.laurel-hall.org/>

Starbucks at 56th and Emerson Way

<http://www.starbucks.com>

Jim Barnett Photography

<http://www.jimbarnettphotography.com/>

Millersville Lodge #126

<http://www.millersvillelodge.org/>

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Indianapolis Museum of Art

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