

Stopt at Major Arganbrites (?), had dinner, etc. At dark got safe home, having been absent 27 days, the compensation allowed us commissioners by the law being \$2 for every 25 miles traveling to and from the place where we met, and \$2 for each day's service while engaged in the discharge of our duty, my pay for the trip being \$58—not half what I could have made in my office. A very poor compensation.

JOHN TIPTON.

Some Early Indiana Taverns

FROM THE PAPERS OF THE LATE J. H. B. NOWLAND

THE writer commenced traveling through the State at the age of ten years, and has kept it up pretty well for nearly fifty, which has given him an opportunity to learn something of the different taverns and their proprietors.

Prerequisite to securing a tavern license was the certificate of a free-holder testifying that the applicant had two spare beds, and two stalls that were not necessary for his own use. Included in the tavern privilege was the right to retail spirituous liquors—this being the only form of liquor license issued in the earlier days. An old man I knew, wishing a license, rented two beds in a neighbor's house and two stalls in his stable. This the neighbor certified to and the license was procured.

There was a class of houses of which no license was required, and these were usually announced on their signs as places of "Private Entertainment."

On the different roads radiating from Indianapolis were many taverns, well known in their day, a few of which may be mentioned. On the Michigan road, south, was Goble's, near Pleasant View; Adkin's, just this side of Shelbyville; Mrs. Louden's, just beyond the latter place; Boardman's, in Dearborn County. On the Madison road were Isaac Smock's, Mrs. Adams', Widow Thompson's, Chauncey Butler's (this was Ovid Butler's father), and many others. On the Michigan road, north, were George Aston's and Widow Davis'; on the National road, east, were Fuller's, John Hagar's and Beck-

ner's. On all the roads, indeed, were numerous well-known taverns where first-class entertainment could be had for "man and beast"—for the man, ham and eggs, fried chicken, light biscuit and buckwheat cakes with honey; for the beast, a warm stable, with plenty of oats and hay—and all for 75 cents.

The signs before the taverns were sometimes as odd and catching as the modern advertisement. I remember one which hung in West Washington street that was made like a gate with slats, and on the slats was painted:

"This gate hangs high and
hinders none,
Refresh and pay then travel on."

JOHN FERNLEY.

Another on Washington street, opposite the court house read on one side: "Traveler's Ray House, Cheap," and on the other, "Traveler's Ray House, Cash."

The first sign painter in Indianapolis, Samuel S. Rooker, put before the public gaze some samples of his handiwork that I well remember. Mr. Rooker came at a very early day, and his first order was from Caleb Scudder, the cabinet maker. When the sign was done it was in flaming red letter and read, "Kalop Skodder, Kabbinet Maker." His next was for the "Rosebush" and "Eagle" Taverns, which he executed to the satisfaction of his patrons, but the critics said the picture of the royal bird on the latter sign was a turkey. A tavern-keeper on the National road ordered a life-sized lion on his sign, but when Mr. Rooker had finished his job he had hard work proving that it was not a prairie wolf. Rooker's most notable work of art, however, was one that stood on the Michigan road about six miles southeast of Indianapolis. This was a portrait of General Lafayette in full uniform. The board on which it was painted was not long enough for the heroic scale on which the picture was begun, so the legs were cut short and the put on where the knees should have been. Mr. Rooker's own advertisement long stood on the northeast corner of Washington and Illinois streets, and read: "Samuel S. Rooker, House and Sine Painter."