

## OLD INDIANAPOLIS LETTER.

[To Mr. Arthur Osborn, of Spiceland, we are indebted for the following copy of an old family letter to his brother John, then of Ohio, but who later lived and died in Economy, Wayne county, Indiana, which town their father, Charles Osborn, laid out. This letter is written on a sheet of paper folded in such a way that the sheet made the envelope as well as a place on which to write. It was sealed with a wafer, and the cost of carriage (18¼c) was paid at the receiving office.]

PRINTING OFFICE, INDIANAPOLIS, CENTER TOWNSHIP,  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA,  
FIRST DAY 13TH OF 1ST MONTH, 1828.

**I** YESTERDAY received thy letter of 12th Mo. 9th, which had been detained by high water till this time. The land in Wayne county is to be had on good terms generally. The National Road goes through Richmond, Centerville, this place and Terre Haute, on the Wabash, strait from point to point. It is seventy-one miles to the Ohio line, seventy-five to Terre Haute. This town is situated on the east side of White river in a high, dry bottom, the court house three-fourths of a mile from the river. The place begins to look like a town. There are about a thousand acres cut smooth, ten stores, six taverns, a court house which cost \$15,000, many fine houses, and six weeks back had in it 1,066 inhabitants, lots worth \$100 and the place somewhat sickly but improving. A few Friends in the county, two families in town; eleven miles to Monthly meeting. I have not been to Friends' meeting since Yearly meeting.

The Legislature has been six weeks in session here; it expects to adjourn in one more. Bill Elliot is a member. I work by the piece; make from three to four dollars a week clear. I could get work all next summer, but I do not want it here. I shall quit in the spring, go to Wayne perhaps, work on my land or teach a school, and I have promised to go to father's to see them in the spring, or I will go into business in Richmond in the office if terms will suit. I can best tell when the time comes.

Myself—I dress fashionable, wear a white hat, blue cloth coat with metal buttons, and other garments as may best suit the time or my circumstances. I am out of debt, and have Benjamin Lundie's and Thomas Hoge's notes to the amount of \$130

which I never expect to get, and I have about thirty dollars' worth of property in Wayne county, besides my clothes, and eighty acres of land adjoining E. Swain, Jr., on one side and E. Swain, Sr., on the other, for which I have the certificate of purchase (though I had like to have lost it this way. I sent \$100 United States paper to Cincinnati by a man to purchase it. He went to the office and made the purchase in the day, and at night was at the auction sale where a pickpocket crowded in and got the pocketbook out of his pocket, containing four dollars in money and all his papers, my certificate with the rest. But he went to the office again, made oath to it and got another, providing that the last one shall draw the patent.)

(Signed) ISAAH OSBORN.

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### THE WORK FAMILY.

*Jeffersonville Evening News, September 4, 1905.*

THE following communication received from Mrs. Sallie Work Culp, a descendant of the John Work who built the famous Tunnel Mill near Charlestown, speaks for itself and corrects some inaccuracies in a former account in the *News and Democrat* which was written in view of the approaching Work celebration which will be held at the Old Settlers' meeting this week. Mrs. Culp writes as follows from Collins, Mo.:

Your paper of August 11 contained an article about the builder of Tunnel Mills near Charlestown, Ind. Some inaccuracies occurred in the issue. Since leaving the State in 1871 the writer has several times been tempted to take a pen in defense of a worthy grandfather who has been brought before the public in recent years under so many different names. If you will publish this account you will confer favor and assist in setting the matter at rest.

The records of the county show in whom the title to Tunnel Mills land was vested. John Work, builder of those mills—son of John Work and Anna Reid Work—was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, December 9, 1760. He married Sarah Jackson, of Uniontown, Penn., 1786. He bought and settled on a large tract