

The Settlement of Dubois County

ELFRIEDA LANG

The northern part of Dubois County became the scene of its first settlements in 1801. While living in Kentucky, the McDonald family of Scotland, received the urge to move on, and for their new abode chose a tract of land approximately two miles south of the present town of Portersville. Since the Indians were a disturbing factor, a fort was built where the family might go for protection at the slightest indication of danger. That they feared the Indians was also demonstrated by the fact that one member of the family would walk around the land with a long rifle while the other members cleared the land. It was not unusual to see a man plowing in the field accompanied by a son or daughter carrying a rifle which might be put to use in case the opportunity presented itself.¹

The next pioneers were a colony of Scotch-Irish who settled in the northwestern part of the county. Later, this district was referred to as the Irish Settlement.² Shortly, after Indiana was admitted as a state in 1816, John Stewart, one of the early pioneers from Ireland, entered land about four miles south of Fort McDonald.³ When the settlers of this region in 1842 laid out the town and wanted to call it American City, the post office department objected and it was named Ireland in honor of the nativity of John Stewart.⁴

Only a few foreigners can be mentioned among the first settlers. Of all the pioneers, however, the greatest contribution was made by those from the Southern states. Kentucky, the Carolinas, Virginia, and Tennessee are among the most outstanding. Many of the settlers were very poor. They sought homes where they might improve their conditions.⁵ Some, however, had been slaveholders and brought their slaves to Dubois County.⁶ Whether poor or in the possession of some material means the West seemed to hold forth an

¹ George R. Wilson, *History of Dubois County* (Jasper, Indiana, 1910), 26, 30, 351.

² Albert Kleber, *St. Joseph Parish* (St. Meinrad, Indiana, 1937), 6.

³ Tract Book, Dubois County, Indiana, 170.

⁴ Wilson, *History of Dubois County*, 351.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*, 113.

inviting hand, and as Frederick J. Turner has so ably expressed it: "The very fact of the wilderness appealed to men as a fair, blank page on which to write a new chapter in the story of man's struggle for a higher type of society."⁷

A large number of early settlers who migrated north of the Ohio did so because of slavery. Some were too proud to work among the slaves and too poor to own a plantation. The inflow of the "poor white" was made up in part of restless hunters and thriftless settlers who moved along without any definite ambitions, and in part of other classes who migrated to a new region with the hope that they might improve their conditions.⁸

That emigration made its imprint on the South can be seen by newspaper accounts. A traveler was impressed by the large number of emigrants along the road. It appeared as if North and South Carolina were pouring forth their population in swarms. At night the campfires of the emigrants made the woods blaze in all directions. The lands were exhausted and the planters sought more fertile land. A reduction in wages of twenty-five per cent also worked a hardship on many and deprived them of what little comforts they had.¹⁰ As early as 1821 the free-laboring classes refused to settle in places where labor was considered degrading. In areas where there was a large increase of slaves, there was also a comparative decrease of the free white population.¹¹ Each class had an ax to grind, and, apparently, to some of these disheartened and oppressed Southerners Dubois County served as a desirable place to make their future home.

Captain Toussiant Dubois, a Frenchman, of Vincennes,¹² was the first man to purchase land in Dubois County on May 7, 1807.¹³ The county was organized on December 20,

⁷ Frederick J. Turner, "Contributions of the West to American Democracy," *Atlantic Monthly* (Boston, 1857-), XCI (1903), 92.

⁸ Logan Esarey, "Internal Improvements in Early Indiana," *Indiana Historical Society, Publications* (Indianapolis, 1897-), V (1915), 51.

⁹ Frederick J. Turner, "Dominant Forces in Western Life," *Atlantic Monthly*, LXXIX (1897), 434.

¹⁰ Montgomery, Alabama, *Portland Evening Advertiser*, April 12, 1833, quoted in *Niles' Weekly Register* (Baltimore, Maryland, 1811-1837), XLIV (June 1, 1833), 222.

¹¹ *Niles' Weekly Register*, XXI (October 27, 1821), 132.

¹² Wilson, *History of Dubois County*, 397.

¹³ Tract Book, Dubois County, Indiana, 161.

1817,¹⁴ and named in honor of Captain Dubois for his untiring services in the Tippecanoe campaign.¹⁵

From the landholdings it is obvious that quite a few migrated to Dubois County whose financial status was more than moderate. Four of the landholders owned a section, four three-quarters of a section, five a half section, seventy-one a quarter section, and fifty-three or thirty-one per cent owned less than a quarter of a section.

LAND ENTRIES OF DUBOIS COUNTY, 1807-1830¹⁶

Year	Acres	Year	Acres
1807	800	1821	80
1810	572	1822	352.80
1812	160	1823	80
1814	2,252.62	1824	404
1815	800	1825	395.80
1816	3,308.20	1826	240
1817	5,005.66	1828	246
1818	5,098.05	1829	320
1819	560	1830	400
1820	520		
		Total	21,595.13

During the first nine months of 1814 only 480 acres had been sold, but during the last three months over seventeen hundred acres were sold.¹⁷ An illuminating account of Indiana in August, 1814, may in part have been responsible for the land entries for the remainder of that year.

Indiana territory is also a great tract of rich land, watered by fine streams, especially the *Ohio* and *Wabash* . . . It is singularly happy in having but a very few *slaves*, the bane of industry and curse of improvement . . . The spirit of the people is opposed to their introduction; and, as we desire the improvement of delightful *Indiana*, we hope that good spirit may continue as long as the *Mississippi* rolls water to the sea!¹⁸

The table also seems to indicate that the Panic of 1819 may have interfered with the sale of land in Dubois County. Between 1820 and 1830 an Indiana farm of eighty acres, with two horses, two or three cows, a few hogs, and farming implements was evaluated at approximately four hundred dollars.¹⁹ This appeared like a mountain to the man who had

¹⁴ *Indiana Special Acts, 1817-1818*, 2nd Regular Session, VII.

¹⁵ Wilson, *History of Dubois County*, 403.

¹⁶ Tract Book, Dubois County, Indiana.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 155-156, 238.

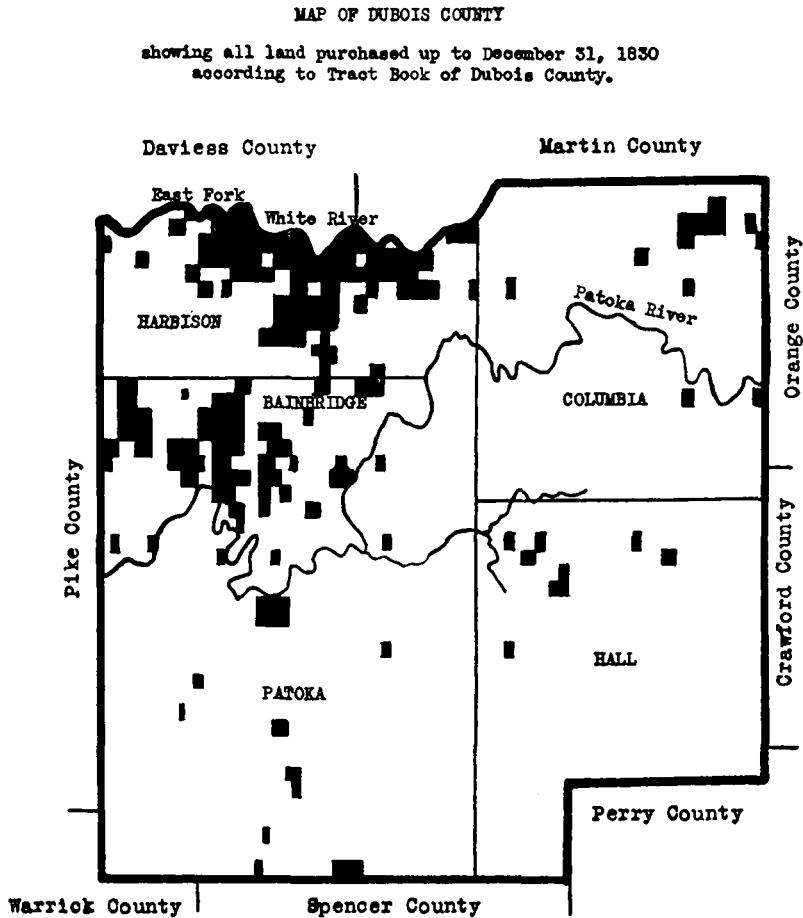
¹⁸ *Niles' Weekly Register*, VI (August 6, 1814), 394.

¹⁹ Frederick J. Turner, *Rise of the New West* (American Nation Series, 28 vols., New York, 1904-1925, edited by Albert B. Hart), XIV (1906), 87; *Emigrant's and Traveller's Guide Through the Valley of the Mississippi* (Philadelphia, 1834), 176.

little or no reserve, and it may have had discouraging effects on the amount of land sold.

A further analysis of the landholdings as recorded in the Tract Book indicates that of the 21,595.13 acres sold before January 1, 1831, the largest number of entries were for land located in the northwestern part of the county. The landholdings were distributed among the townships of the county as follows: Harbison 9,769.73 acres, Bainbridge 7,483.46 acres, Patoka 2,021.94 acres, Columbia 1,440 acres, and Hall 880 acres.

The map indicating the land sold in Dubois County from



1807 to 1830 also serves to show the areas first settled. The northern part of the county, no doubt, was more accessible because the "Buffalo Trace" and two streams, the East Fork of the White River and the Patoka River, were in close proximity to the settlements.

The German element began to make its entrance onto the soil of Dubois County in 1836, choosing the southern half of the county for its new home. In that year twelve Catholic families from Baden, Germany, settled near the present town of Jasper.²⁰ From the census records it is obvious that Dubois County was not merely a new home, but a region of opportunity for the Germans. That they made their mark was indicated by the fact that at the December term, 1844, of the county court a new township was formed by taking a part of Hall and Patoka townships; the new township was to be called Ferdinand,²¹ which was becoming a German community.

The largest contribution between 1836 and 1850 of any foreign group to the population of Dubois County was made by the Germans.

FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION ACCORDING TO TOWNSHIPS,
1850²²

By number, and percentage of total population.

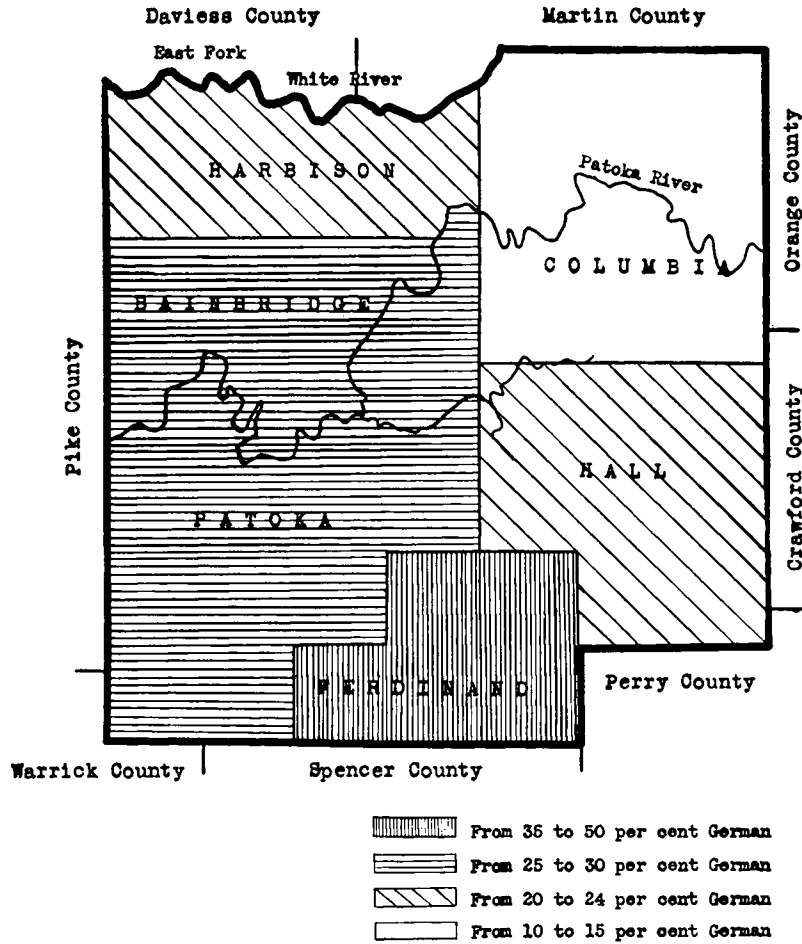
Country	Bain-bridge		Columbia		Ferdinand		Hall		Harbison		Patoka	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Germany	420	28.17	80	10.64	275	50.37	223	21.62	198	21.18	407	26.01
Other Countries	11	.74			6	1.10					2	.13
England											1	
France	4				3						1	
Ireland	2				3							
Switzerland	5											
Total	431	28.91	80	10.64	281	51.47	223	21.62	198	21.18	409	26.14

²⁰ John T. Melchoir, Leaves from the Early History of Saint Joseph's Parish, I, 3, unpublished manuscript of 2 volumes.

²¹ Commissioners Record, A, Dubois County, Indiana, 165-166.

²² Original Returns of Seventh Census, 1850, Dubois County, Indiana (microfilm in Indiana University Library, Bloomington, Indiana).

GERMAN POPULATION IN DUBOIS COUNTY, 1850
 according to the Original Returns of the Seventh Census.



Three townships had only Germans among the foreign population and the remaining three townships together had less than two per cent who represented other nationalities. In Ferdinand Township over fifty per cent of the entire population was German, whereas in Columbia Township, located in the northeastern part of the county, less than eleven per cent of the entire population was German.

FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION ACCORDING TO TOWNSHIPS,
1860²³

Country	Bain-bridge		Columbia		Ferdinand		Hall		Harbison		Patoka	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Germany	614	28.80	155	14.34	530	34.28	361	21.19	256	20.12	725	27.23
Other Countries	29	1.36	1	.10	88	5.69	9	.53	22	1.73	34	1.27
Austria												2
Belgium												1
England	2								8			2
France	10		1		73		8		11			7
Holland					4							2
Ireland	2				2		1		1			
Scotland	1								1			1
Switzerland	14				9				1			19
Total	643	30.16	156	14.44	618	39.97	370	21.72	278	21.85	759	28.50

The percentage of the foreign population between 1850 and 1860 changed slightly in all the townships. Ferdinand township alone, however, had a ten per cent decrease.

More foreign countries were represented in Dubois County in 1860 than in 1850 as is indicated by the tables. Ferdinand Township, however, still had the highest percentage of the foreign-born population. Patoka Township, on the other hand, had more countries represented in its foreign population than any other township in the county. Apparently Columbia Township was not popular with the foreigners since it still had the smallest percentage of the foreign-born population.

The distribution of the native-born population is just as interesting as that of the foreign-born population. The pattern followed in 1860 was somewhat similar to that which existed in 1850.

²³ Original Returns of Eighth Census, 1860, Dubois County, Indiana.

NATIVE-BORN POPULATION ACCORDING TO TOWNSHIPS, 1850²⁴
By number, and percentage of total population.

States	Bain-bridge		Columbia		Ferdinand		Hall		Harbison		Patoka	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New England									5	.53		
Mass.									1			
Vt.									4			
Middle Atlantic	30	2.01	4	.53	29	5.31	11	1.06	13	1.39	19	1.21
Md.	4		2				2		3		5	
N. J.	7				1							
N. Y.	3		2						2		2	
Penn.	16				28		9		8		12	
North Central	842	56.47	482	64.10	219	40.11	651	63.07	574	61.39	949	60.64
Indiana	817	54.79	473	62.90	189	34.61	637	61.72	550	58.82	897	57.32
Illinois	1						3					
Mo.					1							
Ohio	24		9		29		11		24		52	
Southern	188	12.61	186	24.73	17	3.11	147	14.25	145	15.51	188	12.01
Ala.			2						7			
Ark.			5									
Ga.	2		1						1		8	
Ky.	96		43		8		100		44		119	
Miss.			1									
N. C.	34		26				10		10		16	
S. C.	3		2				3		39		1	
Tenn.	12		73				21		16		22	
Texas			1									
Va.	41		32		9		13		28		22	
Total	1060	71.09	672	89.36	265	48.53	809	78.38	737	78.82	1156	73.86

Both tables indicate that the largest contribution of the native-born population exclusive of Hoosiers was made by the Southerners. Columbia Township which had the smallest percentage of foreign-born had the highest percentage of

²⁴ Original Returns of Seventh Census, 1850, Dubois County, Indiana.

NATIVE-BORN POPULATION ACCORDING TO TOWNSHIPS, 1860²⁵
By number, and percentage of total population.

States	Bain-bridge		Columbia		Ferdinand		Hall		Harbison		Patoka	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New England			3	.28								
Conn.			2									
Vt.			1									
Middle Atlantic	28	1.31	5	.46	33	2.14	13	.76	3	.24	20	.75
Md.	1		3						1		6	
N. Y.	2				1						2	
Penn.	25		2		32		13		2		12	
North Central	1314	61.63	737	68.17	875	56.60	1121	65.79	940	73.90	1801	67.63
Indiana	1252	58.72	702	64.93	800	51.75	1069	62.74	914	71.86	1761	66.13
Ill.	2		11				7				2	
Mich.											1	
Mo.			2				5					
Ohio	60		22		75		40		26		37	
Southern	147	6.90	180	16.65	20	1.29	200	11.75	51	4.01	83	3.12
Ala.			1									
Ark.											1	
Ga.	1		1									
Ky.	91		60		16		111		23		55	
La.											2	
Miss.											1	
N. C.	14		21				16		4		11	
S. C.	8		4						8			
Tenn.	5		70				50		7		4	
Va.	28		23		4		23		9		9	
Total	1489	69.84	925	85.56	928	60.03	1334	78.30	994	78.15	1904	71.50

Southerners. Hall the adjoining township in the southeastern part of the county also had few foreign-born and the second largest percentage of Southerners. Ferdinand Township which had the highest percentage of Germans had the smallest percentage of Southerners. Those townships which had a high

²⁵ Original Returns of Eighth Census, 1860, Dubois County, Indiana.

percentage of Germans also had a high percentage of immigrants from Pennsylvania and Ohio. Natives of Indiana were, of course, more numerous than those of any other state. Next to Indiana among the North Central states, Ohio made the largest contribution.

The following table computed on the basis of the 1850 and 1860 Original Census Returns may serve as a summary of the nativity of the population of Dubois County for the period designated:

	1850		1860	
	No.	%	No.	%
Germany	1603	25.35	2641	25.40
Other Foreign Countries	19	.30	183	1.76
New England States	5	.08	3	.03
Middle Atlantic States	106	1.68	102	.98
North Central States	3717	58.81	6788	65.28
Southern States	871	13.78	681	6.55
	<hr/> 6321		<hr/> 10398	

Although there was only a slight variation in some sections of the native-born population, only the North Central states indicate an increase, while the Southern states show the largest decline. In the case of the foreign countries, exclusive of Germany, there was an increase of approximately one and one-half per cent. From this table it is also apparent that for the New Englander Dubois County was not an attractive place for settlement. The Southern element was strong, and the Virginian or Kentuckian was likely to "confuse the shrewd, unscrupulous 'Yankee' peddler of cheap clocks with the substantial Connecticut farmer, and to treat the two alike."²⁶ Since this county had a strong German element, the New Englander's ideals were somewhat in conflict with those of the German. The New Englander could not justify beer drinking, violation of "the American Sabbath," and similar social practices.²⁷

One might enumerate a number of reasons why the Germans came to Dubois County, but the efforts of one

²⁶ Lois K. Mathews, *The Expansion of New England* (Boston, 1909), 254.

²⁷ Frederick J. Turner, "German Immigration into the United States," *Chicago Record Herald*, September 4, 1901.

man supersede all others. Father Joseph Kundek was the leading spirit for the settlement of Ferdinand. He arrived in Dubois County on September 28, 1838, as a missionary for the area between the White River and the Ohio River with Evansville on the west and St. Mary of the Knobs on the east. Most of his flock consisted of German-speaking settlers and since he spoke German his sympathies went out to this group. While traveling around in this district he conceived the idea of establishing two resting stations in the form of Catholic towns along the bumpy and lonely road from Jasper to Troy, a distance of thirty-one miles. One of these stations, the town of Fulda, was nine miles north of Troy and the main station, Ferdinand, was thirteen miles south of Jasper. In order to encourage Catholics to settle in his parish, he bought up large tracts of land.²⁸ In the region which is known as Ferdinand Township today 1,360 acres were sold to Father Kundek.²⁹ Father Kundek's deed is interesting and reads as follows:

STATE OF INDIANA,

DUBOIS COUNTY. SS:

Whereas I undersigned viewing the multitude of Germans coming on both from Europe and all the parts of the United States and settling them in different Townships of the County of Dubois in Indiana, to promote their Spiritual Welfare in building a German Chapel—by opening a School in their maternal Language for their offspring producing so a true temporal and a eternal happiness among them and making good moral Citizens of them to the adopted Land of promise—deliberately resolved to lay off a new Town under a German name "Ferdinand" out of this reason, that them can pronounce it easily, impression their minds and find it out accordingly. The above named Town Ferdinand is situated in the State of Indiana Dubois County in Township No. three, South of Range No. four West, in the Section twenty eight lying generally in South West Quarter and some lots in the Section thirtythree of the same Township in North West Quarter and North East Quarter of North West Quarter comprehending in all two hundred and seventy six lots besides Chapel's Reserve. The Town is laid off with five North and South streets through the whole length of Town every one of whom numbers fifty feet in Width, except one the main Street nominated Ohio Street which is eighty feet wide. The first of them North East is named Caroline Street. The second one Maryland Street. The third one Ohio Street. The fourth Virginia Street. The fifth Missouri Street—The number of the East and West Streets are Ten, each

²⁸ Albert Kleber, *Ferdinand, Indiana, 1840-1940* (St. Meinrad, Indiana, 1940), 11-18; Franz Löher, *Geschichte und Zustände der Deutschen in Amerika* (Cincinnati, Ohio, 1847), 334.

²⁹ Tract Book, Dubois County, Indiana.

of them is forty feet wide except the other one main Street named Indiana being Sixty feet wide.—The names of them are as follows: beginning from the North East Corner—The first one Washington Street. The second Jefferson Street. The third Jackson Street. The fourth Vienna Street. The fifth the said Indiana Street. The sixth Schoenbrunn Street. The seventh Europe Street. The eighth Stranger Street. The ninth Lafayett Street. The last Lapold Street, with these remarks: that neither Indiana nor Caroline Street do cross the Chapel's Reserve consisting of the said Streets and of twelve Lots more as it can be seen in the adjoined to it Town-Plat. Each Lot of that new Town contains ninety nine feet square nothing more are less. Being all the Lots Corner Lots there are no lanes no alleys in the Town and no public Square not being a County Town. A parcel of the lot designated by its number two hundred and sixty five is lying in the South East Corner of East half of South East Quarter in Section twenty nine the same Township. The said and above described Chapel's Reserve I do hereby with the present grant and donate with all my Titles and Claims for ever and ever to the Catholic German Congregation belonging to this parish to the purpose of a Catholic Chapel and a Catholic German and American School-House on it wit: for both Languages their native and American being subject always to the Inspection of the Catholic Bishop of Vincennes—still reserving to me the power of disposing of it as long as I will reside among them—donating and granting a full right to the said Congregation of Catholics to form some alleys or lanes out from their Reserve round about the same Reserve, when necessary.—

To the Credit so it is before every Court of the United States or any Magistrate whatsoever I give my hand and my usual seal.

Given in Jasper Dubois County Indiana the eighteenth day of March Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and forty.

JOSEPH KUNDEK.

State of Indiana

Dubois County SS:

Before me Bazil B. Edmonston Recorder within and for said county personally come Joseph Kundek the within named grantor and acknowledged the within and foregoing Indenture to be his voluntary act and deed for the purposes therein expressed given under my hand and Seal this 18th day of March 1840.

Bazil B. Edmonston

Recorded: March 18, 1840.³⁰

On January 8, 1840 the town was surveyed and laid out by John Cassidy.³¹ In the forest a town was founded, but the wild animals still reigned supreme. How and where to pro-

³⁰ Deed Record No. 1, Dubois County, Indiana, 49-50.

³¹ "State of Indiana Dubois County January 8,th 1840 Began at Post the N W Corner of the S W quarter of section N 28 R 4 W T 3 S to Lay off the S W quarter for the Rev,d Joseph Kundek thence S 160 prs [perches, that is rods] to a W oake the old Corner thence E 160 prs to apost and Two W oaks thence N 160 prs to a black oake thence

cure settlers was the next big problem. Two plans were pursued to induce settlers to come: first, Father Kundek advertised in *Der Wahrheitsfreund*, which had a wide circulation among Catholic Germans; secondly, when he visited a community where Catholic Germans resided he would give a glowing account of his mission field.³²

The following advertisement appeared in *Der Wahrheitsfreund* from January 2 until April 23, 1840:

The German Catholic Congregation in Jasper, Dubois County, Indiana, has laid out a new town [*Stadt*] with the name "Ferdinand," twelve miles south of Jasper, on the Troy Road, about eighteen miles from the Ohio. In the middle of the town there is [?] a Catholic church; in the neighborhood of the town there are about forty farmers and more than 120 sections of Congress land. . . . The region is healthful, the soil fertile. A German Catholic priest is appointed for it, as soon as the congregation increases. The lots, which are 100 feet long and wide, will be sold in the town itself on April 22, at \$10 each, on condition that \$5 must be paid by July 1, and the other \$5 by September 1, 1840. Whoever wants to have one or more of them earlier, may see

Joseph Friedmann,
In Jasper, Dubois County, Indiana³³

Father Kundek kept a catalogue of the lots, 276, which indicated to whom the lot was sold and the sum paid for the same.³⁴ A copy of the original town plat³⁵ has been made indicating the lots that were sold and the sum realized on each lot. The following summary indicates that the lots which sold for twelve dollars were the most popular: 21 lots remained unsold, 3 were donated, for 9 no price was given, 35 sold for \$10, 4 for \$10.50, 140 for \$12, 1 for \$13, 31 for \$15, 6 for \$15.50, 1 for \$16, 3 for \$16.50, 3 for \$17, 4 for \$17.50, 6 for \$18, 5 for \$20, 1 for \$21, 1 for \$21.50, 1 for \$22.50, 1 for \$26.50.

W 160 prs to the Beginning Containing one Hundred and Sixty acres Began at apost Twelve feet N of a hickry to Lay off the S W fourth of N W quarter of the same section thence E 80 prs to apost W oake and Dogwood thence S 80 prs to a Dogwood thence W 80 prs to apost thence N 80 prs to the Beginning Containing forty acres. Surveyed by John Cassidy Senr". Kleber, *Ferdinand*, 22-23.

³² Kleber, *Ferdinand*, 28-29. *Der Wahrheitsfreund* was a Catholic weekly paper published at Cincinnati, Ohio, from 1836 to 1904. Sixty-seven volumes were published.

³³ Kleber, *Ferdinand*, 29.

³⁴ Miscellaneous Record No. 1, Dubois County, Indiana, 90-97. This catalogue was not recorded until July 17, 1860.

³⁵ Deed Record No. 1, Dubois County, Indiana, 648.

An indenture for the sale of two lots in Ferdinand in 1840 shows the type of indenture made for the lots listed in Father Kundek's catalogue.

This indenture made the 24th day of April in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty between Joseph Kundek of the County of Dubois and State of Indiana of the first part and Joseph Friedman of the second part witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of twenty-five dollars to him in hand paid by the party of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged by the said party of the first part has granted Barganed and sold and by these presents do grant bargain & sell unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever all that certain lot or lots or any parcel of ground known and designated on the map or chart of the town of Ferdinand by its numbers fifty-four (54) & fifty-three (53) being (99) feet square each of them.

To have and to hold the said lot or lots or any parcel of land with the appurtenances thereunto belonging as in any wise appertaining to the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever and Ever and the said party of the first part further covanat and agrees to and with the said party of the second part that the premises hereby barganed and sold now are and forever hereafter shall be and Remain free and clear of and from all right and title of any incumberances whatsoever and that he the said Joseph Kundek as aforesaid and his administrators and Executors shall warrant and defend the same agreement against the lawful claims as claims of all and any person claiming through or under them. In testamony Whereof the said party of the first part has hereunt let his hand and seal the day and date first above Written.

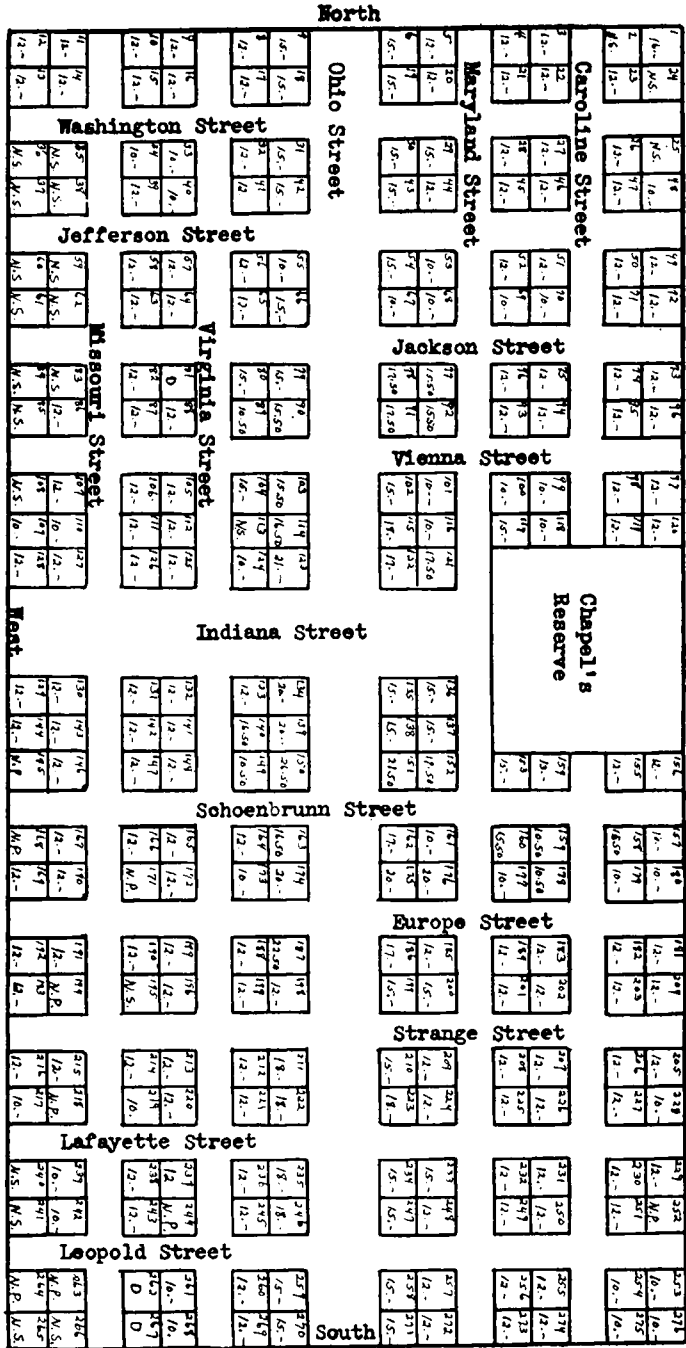
Joseph Kundek

State of Indiana
Dubois County SS

Personally appeared before me Bazil B. Edmonston Recorder within and for said county Joseph Kundek the above named grantor and acknowledged the foregoing deed of conveyance to be his voluntary act and deed given under my hand and seal the 25th day of April 1840.

Bazil B. Edmontson
R.D.C.³⁶

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 59.



PLAT OF FERDINAND, INDIANA
January 8, 1840

Father Kundek visited Europe in 1852 in the hope that he might arouse interest in his missions. He had the town plat of Ferdinand artistically embossed and lithographed in Vienna, and 540 copies were drawn off to be distributed in influential circles of Austria.³⁷

A letter written in 1842 indicated that the Germans were settling in Ferdinand.

In General the Germans come flying like the snowflakes and buy up the land, and in two years our congregation may amount to two hundred families. Last spring [1841] our pastor counted forty families, and now there certainly are fifty. Last spring a house was built in town. The owner sold it to a man named Schneider, who lives in Cincinnati and who intends to come this winter yet and to bring along store goods. The second house was blocked up in autumn, its owner [John Beckmann] will move in next week; he wants to do something similar. And I helped block up two more houses: the one stands in the southerly, the other in the northerly direction, just alongside the road and the town; the one to the north even has a well dug.³⁸

Jasper also had quite a German settlement, the first twelve families arriving in 1836. They were followed by twenty-four in 1837, fourteen in 1838, forty-six in 1839, and eleven in 1840.³⁹ In this area Father Kundek also bought land and advertised for Catholic settlers.⁴⁰ As has already been stated, he came to Jasper in 1838 as a missionary. He founded the town and parish of Ferdinand in 1840 and the parish and town of Celestine in 1843.⁴¹ When these three towns were linked together they constituted a triangle of Catholic Germans.

The 1850 and 1860 census records indicate that Father Kundek's work was not in vain as a large number of Germans came to Dubois County, especially Catholic Germans. The success of his work in Dubois County, no doubt, may be at-

³⁷ Kleber, *Ferdinand*, 22-24.

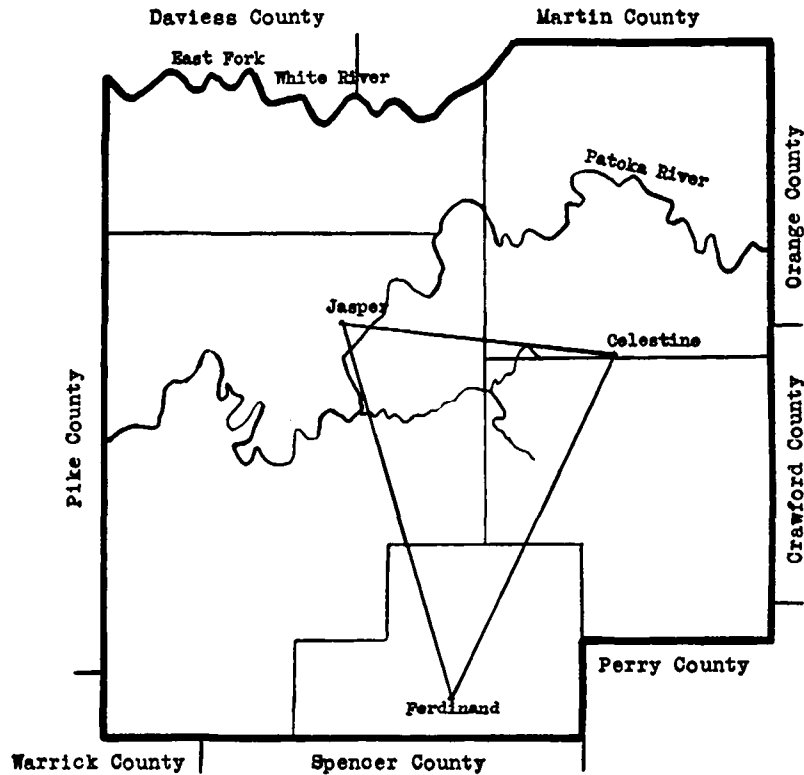
³⁸ John Nicolaus Gerhard to Matthew Hassfurther, January 6, 1842, in Kleber, *Ferdinand*, 34.

³⁹ Melchoir, *Leaves from the Early History of Saint Joseph's Parish*, I, 3-6.

⁴⁰ Kleber, *St. Joseph Parish*, 20.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 36.

MAP OF DUBOIS COUNTY
 indicating triangle of Catholic Germans



tributed to his determination to protect the Catholic immigrants against the loss of their faith.

Natives of five German states, Bavaria, Hanover, Prussia, Baden, and Hessen, came in large numbers to Dubois County. Several other states were also represented by settlers in the county. The following table indicates the contribution of each German state to the various townships in Dubois County.

Of the Germans who settled in Dubois County 664 came from Bavaria, 529 from Hanover, 457 from Prussia, 453 from Baden, 261 from Hessen, 60 from Oldenburg, 32 from Saxony, 24 from Württemberg, 15 from the Thuringian

GERMAN POPULATION OF DUBOIS COUNTY ACCORDING TO
GERMAN STATES⁴²

	Bainbridge	Columbia	Ferdinand	Hall	Harbison	Patoka
Baden	330	10	43	23	14	33
Bavaria	103	93	115	51	204	98
Hanover	34	20	114	56	1	304
Hessen	46	5	22	98	26	64
Nassau				3	1	1
Oldenburg	9	2	26	13	1	9
Prussia	24	3	191	28	6	205
Saxony	10	1	5	13	2	1
Thuringian States	15					
Waldeck			1	1		
Württemberg			13		1	10
Illegible	43	21		75		
Total	614	155	530	361	256	725

States, 5 from Nassau, and 2 from Waldeck. Because the census returns are not clear, it was impossible to account for 139. Most of the immigrants who came from Baden settled in Bainbridge Township, Bavarians located in Harbison, Ferdinand, and Bainbridge, the Hanoverians chose Patoka and Ferdinand, while the Prussians made a similar choice. The Germans who settled in Bainbridge and Harbison came from southern Germany while those who settled in Patoka Township were mostly north Germans. Ferdinand Township had a large percentage of north Germans but also quite a representation of south Germans.

The north German had no love for the south German because he looked upon the latter as weak, while the South regarded the North as a little barbarous. Such advances as were taken toward popular liberty had their origin in the South.⁴³ Another outstanding distinction between the north German and the south German was in his character. Germans were *gemütlich* or they were not *gemütlich*. It would

⁴² Original Returns of Eighth Census, 1860, Dubois County, Indiana.

⁴³ William H. Dawson, *What is Wrong With Germany* (New York, 1915), 195-196.

be impossible to imagine a north German to be *gemütlich*, and it would be just as impossible to imagine a south German to be otherwise. In the South there was more humanity and less strenuousness.⁴⁴ The dialects in Germany also indicate the region from which an individual comes. The homely Platt dialects of the North were similar to the language of the Netherlands; however, they were beyond the point of comprehension to the Bavarian and Swabian peasants, whose vernacular differed only slightly from those of the Austrian and the Switzer. Many a Westphalian, Hanoverian, or Hamburgian may cling to his *stock* and *stein*, while other Germans adopted the *Sch* pronunciation.⁴⁵ The passion of northern Germany for strict rules, prompt and unquestioning obedience, as well as the parade of uniforms has always been in conflict with a great inclination on the part of central and southern Germany toward democracy and liberty.⁴⁶

As the people in their homeland showed these characteristics, so we may assume that the earliest settlers to Dubois County brought with them to an alien land all these traits, both good and bad. Although the following report was made on observation at Madison, Indiana, no doubt, it might hold true for other areas where south and north Germans had settled in the same region.

They [the Germans] want to be paid for everything, even for the little glass of whisky that they give their own brother At times they would like to introduce this commercial spirit even into the sanctuary. The priest must give them an account of every cent, else he will no longer get anything from them. And what on such occasions at times causes quarrel and strife among them is the varying nationality of the multitude thrown together from all regions of Germany: The Saxon does not like the Suabian, nor the Prussian the Bavarian, and the Westphalian would as lief devour the poor Badenser alive, and so conversely.⁴⁷

Interviews with several inhabitants of Ferdinand indicated how much trouble they had had as children at school in trying to understand the language some of the other children

⁴⁴ William H. Dawson, *The Evolution of Modern Germany* (London, 1908), 21-22.

⁴⁵ Hamburg-Amerika Linie, *Guide Through Europe* (Berlin, 1912), 40.

⁴⁶ Samuel van Valkenburg and Ellsworth Huntington, *Europe* (New York, 1935), 468.

⁴⁷ Kleber, *Ferdinand*, 87.

spoke since some spoke low German and others high German.

Regardless of the time or the place from which these particular groups came, together they gave Dubois County a large German population which even today is observable as one walks the streets of Jasper, Ferdinand, or Huntingburg, or stops in the homes of its people, or visits the churches that grace its communities.