

Lawrence County, Index to Account Book of Hade Bridwell, Blacksmith, Perry Township, 1873–1878

Transcribed by Wendy L. Adams

In the 1870s a blacksmithing business operated in Perry Township, Lawrence County, Indiana. Although an account book survives, the only clue to the blacksmith's identity is the name "Hade Bridwell" written on the inside front cover. Presumably, "Hade" is a nickname for "Hayden." The 1870 U.S. Census shows a Hayden Bridwell living in Marshall Township, Lawrence County, Indiana—Perry Township's neighbor to the east. Whether or not this "Hayden" Bridwell is the one who created the account book cannot be confirmed, although it is possible that he is one and the same.

Born in Nelson County, Kentucky, Hayden Bridwell (1825–1907) moved to Lawrence County, Indiana, from Lagrange County, Indiana, after 1840, along with parents Noah and Nancy (Cuppy) Bridwell. Hayden and his wife Elizabeth (Potter) appear in the 1850 census living with his parents and siblings in Perry Township, Lawrence County. By 1870 Hayden, his wife, and children—Mary E. (1852–1936), Pratt H. (1856–1936), John B. (1859–after 1910), Emery/Emory H. (1859 or 1860–1939), and Hurshall/Herschel (1863–1941)—resided in Marshall Township.¹

In 1865 Hayden became a partner with Samuel Short in the gristmill at Avoca, Marshall Township, and then sole owner in 1868. This same gristmill in 1853 had been owned by Doctor Bridwell (1813–after 1900), probably Hayden's uncle. (Use of the word "Doctor" in this instance refers to the man's given name and not his vocation or title.) Then, in 1884, Hayden opened a general store. Although Lawrence County histories are quick to mention Hayden Bridwell in connection with a gristmill and mercantile, none refers to the possibility that he worked as a blacksmith.²

The account book provides the names of those who sought Hade Bridwell's blacksmithing services from 1874 to 1879. Under each name is recorded the type of service provided and the amount due as well as any payments made. Services ranged from shoeing

horses, producing hardware and tools (hinges, crowbars, and cane knives), and fitting items with iron (sleds, wagon beds, and buckets) to sharpening farm implements (plows, cutters, and grub hoes) and mending a variety of tools and conveyances (chains, knives, wagons, and buggies). Generally, payments were made in cash, but sometimes customers paid with food items such as beef, sugar, flour, and coffee, as well as other goods and services. These included scrap iron, loads of wood or coal, and providing transportation to Harrodsburg, Kentucky, or the local mill. On occasion, others in the community made payment toward an individual's debt.

The following list was created from the index located at the front of The Account Book of Hade Bridwell, Blacksmith, Perry Twp., Lawrence County, Indiana, 1873–1878 (BV 4) found in the manuscript collection of the Indiana Historical Society's William Henry Smith Memorial Library. The index is in alphabetical order by the first letter of the customer's last name.

Notes

1. 1840 U.S. Census, Lagrange County, Indiana, Roll 86, page 186; 1850 U.S. Census, Perry Township, Lawrence County, Indiana, Roll M432-158, page 458; 1870 U.S. Census, Marshall Township, Lawrence County, Indiana, Roll M593-335, page 464; and Lawrence County Historical and Genealogical Society, comp., *History of Lawrence County, Indiana, 1818–1990* (Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Co., 1990), 189, 192; 1910 U.S. Census, Monroe County, Indiana, Roll T624-371, page 3A; *History of Lawrence County, Indiana* (1884; repr., Paoli, IN: Stout's Print Shop, 1965), 350.
2. *History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana: Their People, Industries and Institutions* (Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen, 1914), 48; *History of Lawrence County, Indiana* (1884; repr., Paoli, IN: Stout's Print Shop, 1965), 44, 45, 350; Lawrence County Historical and Genealogical Society, comp., *History of Lawrence County, Indiana, 1818–1990*, 20; 1900 U.S. Census, Shawswick, Lawrence County, Indiana, Roll T623-385, page 2A.

Index to Account Book of Hade Bridwell, Blacksmith, Perry Township, 1873–1878

A
Adamson, Ben
Allen, J. T
Allen, [M]esb[e]ne
Allen mill
Anderson, Arch
Anderson, Sam
Armstrong, Ab
Armstrong, Ari
Armstrong, Bart
Armstrong, Felix
Armstrong, John
Armstrong, Joseph
Armstrong, Wesley
Armstrong, Winchester

B
Ba[t]y, Luther
Beard, Jerry
Bennet, Aaron
Board an[d] Wm
Bo[o]n, Virg[il]
Boriff, Wm.
Born, Daniel
Boyd, Mr.
B[r]adford
Bridwell, Aaron
Bridwell, Doct.
Bridwell, Noah
Brid[well], [Brat]
Brock, John
Broddas, Andrew
Butcher, Howard
Butcher, Daniel
Butcher, Levi
Byran, Tip
Byres, John
Byres, Lauery
Byres, Riley

C
Calvin, Vernon
Caney, Carley
Chambers, Ben
Chanery, James
Chaney, Thomas
Cobb, Calob
Cobb, David

Cobb, Ire
Coletram, Zeb
Crooke, Green

D
Davis, Jessee
Davis, R. R.
Denning, Sam
Dishman, John
Dority mill

E
Erens, Ellick

F
Ferguson, Homer
Ferguson, Ned
Fields, Harry
Fields, Stephen
Fisher, Au[s]ker

G
Gainey, Wesley
Gamey, Ed
Gamey, Guinn
Ga[m]ey, E[d]mund
Ga[m]ey, John M.
Giles, Basc[u]m
Giles, Cas
Giles, John
Gooding, Bud
Gooding, Wils[on]
Gra[v]es, John
Gray, Hamilton

H
Hammons, Wm.
Hilard, [J]. N.
Hir[l], But
Homes, Clay
Homes, George
Homes, H[elm]er
Homes, Jacob
Homes, John
Homes, Milford
Houpt, Preacher

I
[J]m, Hough

K
Kathers, James
Kerns, Bud
Kerns, George

L
Lackey, Hyram
Lackey, young
L[au]der, James
Lynti[in/um], Widder
Lyntic[in/um]

M
Male carrier [Johnson]
Marsey, John
Mayfield, Camell
Mayfield, N[er]el
McD[ow]el, James
McD[ow]el, Wm.
McD[ow]el, Par[k]
M[u]rry, Winfield
Miller, Mr.
Miller, Wm.
Mirry, Abe
Mitchel, Wm.
Mosier, George
Murry, James
Mursey, Bud

N
Norel, Thomas

O
Oleman, Boyd
Olephant, Cap
Olephant, Lauson

P
Pafford, [G]id
Pears, Widar
Pearson, Bud
Pearson, W. L.
Pedig[o], Henry
Pedigo, John
Pedigo, Soben
Perce, Josiah
Perce, Leroy
Perce, Nuton
Perce, Peraman
Perry township

R

Rapperty, M. C.
Richards, Ge[o]rge
Richards, James
Roach, John
Roach, John Sr.

Robbertson, Z
Rum, Joseph

S

Seued Seure,[Rufus]
Sayrs, Frank
Shepard, James
Short, Dod
Short, John Z.
Short, Orrien
Short, Quincy
Short, Wesley
Sikes, Sam
Small, Wa[t]
Smith, L. S.
Standard, Chaly
Stand[a]rd plat
Stepenson, Wm.
Sutherland, Mc[D]owell &
Co.
Sutherlin, Frank

T

Tatum
Taylor, Hiram
Turner, Jack
T[i]ncher, James
Tourney, John
Tres[s]ler and Seedsure
Tuny, Ed
Turpen, James
Turpe[n], Joseph

V

Vantyle, George
Vantile, Z.
Voss, Amond
Voss, L. D.

W

Waggoner, Jonathom
Wilmeth, R. R. Contractor
Winders, Alford
Woodward, Wm.