

Whitley County, Early History in More Family Papers, 1836–1892

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The More Family Papers in the Indiana Historical Society's William Henry Smith Memorial Library hold a variety of interesting and useful documents.¹ Among them are correspondence, essays, deeds, legal papers, and genealogy notes for the More family and for the families of Miami Chief Little Turtle and Captain William Wells, Little Turtle's son-in-law, who was Indian agent at Fort Wayne from 1802 to 1809.² The documents cover a period from the latter part of the eighteenth century through the nineteenth century.

The first More to settle in Whitley County was John W. More, who moved to Smith Township in 1836 and married Margaret Spear. He was the county's first justice of the peace and its first assessor. John and Margaret's son William C. More, born in 1829, served in Company B of the Seventy-fourth Indiana Volunteers during the Civil War. William married Martha Compton, and one of their six children, Charles H. More, became interested in local and family history. Charles's extensive notes constitute much of the genealogical information in the files. What follows is a synopsis of the contents of folders 1–3 that reveals the names and civil positions of many early residents of Smith and Union Townships in Whitley County, Indiana.³

Notes

1. [More Family Papers, 1836–1953, M 0296, OM 343](#), Indiana Historical Society. Information for the introduction to this article was taken from the collection guide written by Charles Latham, January 8, 1996.
2. Andrew R. L. Cayton, *Frontier Indiana* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996), 165, 203–4.
3. A version of this article was originally published in *The Hoosier Genealogist* 40 (March 2000): 21–23.

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Tax Receipts

Tax receipts for state and county, and road taxes assessed against landed property of John W. More, are signed by the following people:

R. Wale, collector, Allen County, 1836
Benjamin Grable, Whitley County treasurer, 1841–1845 and 1847
C. W. Hughes, Whitley County treasurer, 1848, 1851, and 1854
J. T. Long, Whitley County treasurer, 1855

Agreements

Asa Thorp agreed to clear land in Butler Township for James Cole of DeKalb County, dated February 26, 1841. The agreement mentions Robert Work owning land in the same area.

John W. More agreed to furnish the Logansport and Northern Indiana Railroad Company with “good, new, split rails, which may be of sound white, live, pin, burr, or pigeon oak, black walnut, blue ash, cherry, or locust timber . . . and to construct . . . all of the rail fence . . . of said railroad, through or along” his lands in Whitley County by July 1, 1855. Agreement signed by L. S. Nash, chief engineer of the railroad company. On the back of the original agreement is a second agreement in which More sold his lands within the right-of-way along the railroad track to Anderson Corn and Ryland Jeffreys. Witnessed by J. S. Collins, April 1, 1856.

Deeds and Indentures

Deed: Harvey and Rebecca H. Seymour and David F. and Anne S. Robinson, all of Hartford County, Connecticut, sold 80 acres of land in Whitley County to William Smith of Whitley County. Recorded by Thomas Washburn, A[uditor], and R. Collins, Whitley County, Indiana, March 17, 1848.

Deed: William and Christina Smith of Whitley County sold land in Whitley County to Elias James Bond. Attested by Milo Gradless, James Smith, and James Welshimer, justice of the peace, Whitley County, October 21, 1853. Recorded by R. Collins, R[ecorder], and S. [?] Wunderlich, A[uditor], Whitley County, December 4, 1854.

Deed: Elias J. and Margaret Bond of Whitley County sold land in Whitley County to James Smith. Attested by Asa H. Carter, justice of the peace, Whitley County, May 29, 1856. Recorded by C. W. Hughes, R[ecorder], and A. Y. Hooper, Aud[itor], Whitley County, January 21, 1859.

Indenture: Robert J. and Huldah A. Smith of Whitley County sold land in Whitley County to Wilson S. Bigbee. Attested by Adams Y. Hooper, notary of the public, November 1, 1866. Recorded by C. W. Lamb, recorder, and S. H. Wunderlich, auditor, Whitley County, November 1,

1860. Printed at bottom of deed: “A. Y. Hooper, Attorney and Notary Public, Columbia City, Ind., ‘Post’ Print.”

Administrator’s Deed: John F. Depoy and Allison S. Briggs, executors of the estate of Nicholas Depoy who died in Whitley County, sold land in Whitley County to William C. More. Attested by James B. Edwards, clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, Whitley County, March 9, 1869. Recorded by D. A. Quick, recorder, and S. [I.] Wunderlich, auditor, Whitley County. Approved by Wm. W. Clapp, judge, Court of Common Pleas, 19th District Indiana.

Deed: John W. and Mary More of Whitley County sold land in Whitley County to William C. More. Attested by J. M. Douglas, J[ustice of the] P[ea]ce, Whitley County, August 20, 1869. Recorded by D. A. Quick, recorder, and S. [I.] Wunderlich, auditor, Whitley County, October 4, 1869.

Indenture: John W. and Mary More of Whitley County sold land in Whitley County to William C. More. Attested by Edward A. Mossman, notary of the public, Whitley County, March 30, 1880. Recorded by Wright Lancaster, recorder, and Wm. H. H. Rutter, auditor, Whitley County, May 8, 1880.

Quit Claim Deed: Alexander More and Sarah Ann and Andrew J. Briggs of Whitley County sold land in Whitley County to William C. More, brother of Alexander and Sarah. Attested by James S. Collins, notary of the public, January 23, 1891. Recorded by John H. [Thilts?], recorder, and [C. or W.] Souder, auditor, Whitley County, January 23, 1891.

Burial Lot Receipt

Burial lot receipt for William C. More, dated March 21, 1892; signed by L. Welsheimer, secretary of the Eel River Baptist Cemetery Association.

Road Taxes

List of Road Taxes for District 1, Union Township, Whitley County, signed by Wm. E. Merriman, township trustee, September 5, 1873:

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME(S)/INITIALS	AMOUNT
Bigbee	John	\$0.93
Crider	John	\$1.34
Depoy	Nicholas	\$3.45
Depoy	Nicholas S.	\$1.90
Gradeless	Hiram B.	\$6.25
Gradeless	Milo	\$2.91
Gradeless	Wells T.	\$1.41

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME(S)/INITIALS	AMOUNT
Jones	Daniel	\$0.69
More	John W.	\$5.58
More	William C.	\$3.80
Pierce	J. E.	\$0.04
Pierce	Joseph	\$1.33
Pierce	W. Y. B.	\$6.96
Starkweather	Robert	\$0.68
VanMeter	John	\$3.95
VanMeter	William	\$1.75
Welsheimer	James	\$5.06
Welsheimer	Philip H.	\$0.18

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