

# LM Berry

John Frain

(A biography in progress)

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## Before The Lights

(1820s – 1880s)

In the first decades of the nineteenth century, the Northern half of Indiana had very little white settlement. The Miami and Potawatomie Indians had suffered serious defeats at the hands of General Anthony Wayne along the Maumee River in 1794 and William Henry Harrison at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. However, they still held the rights to the land in this area. There was a need for additional land for white settlement and the need to establish a canal system along the Wabash River.

By the early 1820s the federal government had acquired Indian land south of the Wabash River except for the 760,000 acres in the Big Miami Reserve, but settlement was slow due to a lack of adequate transportation routes. In fact, there were no towns on the Wabash between Fort Wayne and Terre Haute until 1825 when a river boatman named Grigsby recognized the site of Lafayette as an excellent site for flatboat navigation and platted a town there. Even then residents of envious neighboring towns jeered and called it "Lay Flat" or "Laugh At" when it grew so slowly. The need for better roads, navigable rivers and canals was evident to everyone.

Turnpikes, canals and improved river navigation became an obsession among Hoosiers by the time the National Road and Erie Canal opened, and political parties of the time vied for voters' attention by promising more and better "internal improvements." Hoosier leaders immediately began agitating for Indian land for right-of-ways through north-central Indiana together with tracts of land large enough to sell and finance the construction costs. The most frequently mentioned projects in the Upper Wabash were a road connecting Lake Michigan with the Ohio River and a canal connecting Lake Erie and the eastern seaboard with the Mississippi system and Gulf of Mexico. These were called the "Michigan Road" and the "Wabash Erie Canal."

Only the federal government could handle the problem, and James B. Ray, Governor of Indiana from 1825 to 1831, appealed to Congress and President Van Buren's administration, proposing an Indian treaty with the Miamis and Pottawatomies. He asked that his own name be included among the Indian Commissioners and was so-named, leading to a loss of popularity with many Hoosier voters since the Constitution of 1816 prohibited a state official from holding more than one salaried office at the same time. The other two Indian commissioners were Governor Lewis Cass, Territorial Governor of Michigan at the time; and John Tipton, Indian Agent who lived in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Both Cass and Tipton were experienced in Indian affairs, but Tipton was given the assignment of taking the lead in selecting a site for the Treaty Grounds, and for arranging

details for advertising, official notifications of tribal leaders, hiring guards, ordering supplies, building quarters for housing and making all other arrangements necessary for negotiations that were expected to last more than a month. This was not all that complicated, for all that. By 1826 Indian treaties followed well-established patterns and the three commissioners were practical and experienced politicians.

As the events unfolded leading up to the Mississinewa Treaty, for such was its official name, it became evident John Tipton was the man for the job. Born in Tennessee in 1786, he was only 40 at the time of the treaty negotiations, but had already had a full and active life on the frontier. Cherokee Indians had killed his father when he was 7, and he was 20 when he came with his mother and her family to Indiana. He became Justice of the Peace in Harrison County at age 24 and a few months later was elected a captain of his Rifle Company following the Battle of Tippecanoe in November, 1811.

In 1826, Congress made an appropriation to hold a treaty meeting with the purpose of acquiring additional land from the Indians. Governor James B. Ray of Indiana, Governor Lewis Cass of Michigan, and Captain John Tipton were appointed commissioners to represent the U.S. Government. Captain Tipton was assigned the task of locating a site for the meeting. This location was chosen, as it was centrally located with many favorable natural features. These features included a plentiful spring and enough open land to construct the treaty camp.

John Tipton was the man of the hour, the right man at the right time in history. Tipton's rise in the Army was rapid. Commissioned a major of the 5th Regiment of the Indiana Militia in May, 1812, he went through the positions of Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier General and eventually Major General by 1822 at 35 years of age. During that time he had held various jobs locating county seats, a site for our state capital and marking the Indiana - Illinois boundary. But it was his role as Indian Agent to the tribes of northern Indiana in 1823 that made him invaluable in arranging the Indian Treaty of 1826, as he was acquainted with various tribal leaders and they knew and respected John Tipton from experience.

The treaty camp was constructed in the spring and summer of 1826 and the treaty meeting took place in October of 1826 and lasted approximately two weeks. On October 26, 1826 the Miami and Potawatamie Indians surrendered the rights to their land in Northern Indiana and southern Michigan. The signing of the Treaty of 1826 allowed for white settlement of this land and the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal.

Construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal began in 1832 at Fort Wayne, Indiana and continued all the way to the Ohio River. It was a shipping canal that linked the Great Lakes to the Ohio River by an artificial waterway. The canal provided traders with access from the Great Lakes all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. Over 460 miles long, it was the longest canal ever built in North America.

The canal was actually a combination of four canals: the Miami and Erie Canal from the Maumee River near Toledo, Ohio to Junction, Ohio, the original Wabash and Erie Canal from Junction to Terre Haute, Indiana, the Cross Cut Canal from Terre Haute, Indiana to

Worthington, Indiana (Point Commerce), and the Central Canal from Worthington to Evansville, Indiana.

The canal opened up settlement in the area. The first settlers were Colonel David Burr, Colonel Hugh Hanna and Alexander Worth. In January 30, 1833, Wabash County was established and in March 1835, the county around Wabash was politically organized. The main impetus for settlement was the great canal. Wabash City was first incorporated in January 1849. In 1856 the first passenger train arrived in Wabash, Indiana. The railroad continued to play a major role in the development of Wabash and the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad were persuaded to build shops in Wabash. For a number of years, the canal and the railroads were the main impetus to the growth of Wabash. But by the 1870s, the canal was seeing less and less use and playing a smaller role in the growth of Wabash.

By 1880, the canal was almost abandoned.

And the railroads were not what they used to be.

## The Magic Lights

(1880)

Ideas for new ways to promote the town of Wabash and the surrounding area were fermenting in the late 1870s and the early part of the new decade. Something was needed to spark tourism and interest in Wabash. There happened to be two young entrepreneurs in Wabash at this time by the name of Theron P. Keator and Thad Butler. They were owner-editors of *The Plain Dealer*, one of the newspapers in town. One night they were strolling past the elegant new courthouse perched high on a hillside overlooking the town. Keator exclaimed to Butler, “If you had a barrel of tar on the dome of the court house and set it on fire it would light up the whole city.”

The idea of electric lights followed naturally as inventor Charles Brush had made headlines the previous year when he tested his electric lights in a public square in Cleveland. Keator and Butler traveled to Cleveland to meet Brush, who was eager for an opportunity to test the latest improvements to his lights. At the time, Wabash’s gas streetlights, although not extensive, were a considerable drain on the town budget. The prospect of a far cheaper system was probably a key factor in the town council’s decision to authorize Keator and Butler to strike a deal with Brush whereby the town would pay Brush one hundred dollars to install the lights for a trial period. The terms also specified that the lights should illuminate a half-mile radius with the brilliance of a standard-size gas burner at all points, thus lighting most of the town. If fully satisfied, the Wabash council could purchase the lights and generating equipment for \$1,800. The town council approved the plan and preparations to light the town at night moved forward.

In the next few weeks preceding the lights’ debut, the Keator and Butler’s *Plain Dealer* worked hard to arouse public interest. Only a few months before, Thomas Edison’s light bulb had begun attracting great attention in Menlo Park, New Jersey. Edison had spent more than a year working on the lights and had made some premature and boastful claims about them. Not until the New York *Herald’s* exclusive story on Edison’s lights in late December of 1879 prompted thousands of people to travel to see the lights did the cloud of doubt begin to subside. Even though the lights produced only a dim glow, visitors found them to be absolutely spellbinding.

Keator and Butler and the town planners had the event with Edison firmly in mind and saw that the lighting event in Wabash could turn the event into a large public spectacle. It was the type of event that could help boost the economy of the town at a time some type of boosting was greatly needed. The *Plain Dealer* announced that special reduced-rate excursion trains would be bringing one of the largest crowds ever assembled in Wabash. The paper also promised in its March 6, 1880 edition:

Those who come can rest assured of seeing the first city in the world that proposes to be illuminated by a single light, and also one of the most beautiful artificial lights in the world; a light that shows all the beautiful colors as distinctly as the sun, and gleams as pure and white as the full moon. Wabash extends to the entire country a cordial and hearty invitation to come and see this marvel of the nineteenth century, which already is a success of years' standing in all the large cities of this country and Europe and which promises to open up a new era in the illumination of cities.

\* \* \*

Twenty-two-year-old Charles Berry Charles Berry is teaching school in a small brick schoolhouse on Sivey Street in South Wabash. Newspaper articles from the *Plain Dealer* newspaper about the lighting event are tacked all over the walls of the little classroom. For the past few days his class has been learning about the new energy form called electricity that was being used in different ways. Like making nighttime into daytime.

Before school is dismissed, Charles Berry warns his students about the great event in a few hours.

“We are honored to host such a spectacle,” he says. “But like anything new and untried, there is potential danger. No one knows how bright the lights will be tonight so I encourage you to take something to shield your eyes. And be sure to stay near your parents.”

The children are excited about the event. It is impossible not to be excited. People have come to Wabash from all over the state for the past few days. The hotels are full, the restaurants busy. Even distant relatives one never sees are arriving and stuffing themselves into family homes that are much too small to hold them.

When the children are gone, Charles Berry erases the lesson on the blackboard and puts up tomorrow's assignment. Everyone is to write a short report of the lighting event tonight and tell how it might change the history of Wabash. He then works for a while grading papers but his mind wanders up from his work and he looks out one of the windows of the small classroom and thinks about Elizabeth Murphy again and his date with her tonight to watch the lights. He had known her for some time but tonight is their first date and what could be a better date than watching the lights of the city with her? The words from the *Plain Dealer* article have echoed over and over in his mind the past few weeks. “A light that shows all the beautiful colors as distinctly as the sun, and gleams as pure and white as the full moon.” It seemed such a good description for the lights tonight but it also seemed to describe the light he saw in Elizabeth Murphy's eyes.

\* \* \*

Three miles west of Wabash along the Farr Pike, twenty-year-old Elizabeth (Lizzie) Murphy is completing her chores on the family farm. She has been living and taking care of her grandmother since her grandfather Philip Murphy died in 1875. The area had

gotten the name as Murphy's Corner as her father David Murphy had a farm just down the road and her uncle George Murphy a farm next to her father. Elizabeth has two sisters and four brothers. Her brothers Philip and Michael hope to have a career as schoolteachers while Joseph is said to be the lawyer of the family and David the doctor. Her sister Florence is known for her ability in music both as a singer and a pianist. Her sister Etta is known for her ability in the art of hand-painting chinaware.

Lizzie often wonders what her role in life will be? For the past five years it has been consumed with caring for her 86-year-old grandmother Elizabeth Sterner Murphy whose health is declining and her once sharp memory fading away.

It is late afternoon and her grandmother is inside the tiny farmhouse taking her daily nap. Her brother Joseph is helping her with the farm chores and as they go about tending the few animals on the farm they talk about the big lighting event in Wabash tonight. It is the biggest event in town since anyone can remember.

"So you are going to the big event with that schoolteacher Charles Berry," her brother says.

"You are the nosiest person in the world!" Lizzie says.

"The Berry family is a good family," Joseph says. "I know Charles Berry's father Thomas Jefferson Berry. He lives on a farm in Paw Paw Township right outside of Wabash. A hard worker. An honest man. He has created a family of teachers. Everyone seems to be teachers in that family. They say Charles is one of the best teachers in town."

"It's an honorable profession," says Lizzie.

"Yes, an honorable profession," says Joseph. "Looks like we're going to have a few Murphy's in this honorable profession."

The two complete their chores and go into the farmhouse.

Lizzie wakes her grandmother up from her afternoon nap and helps her to the dining table where she has prepared her dinner.

"You're sure you don't want to try to go into town tonight grandma?" Lizzie says. "Biggest event ever in Wabash."

The old woman just smiles and shakes her head and Lizzie knows that she doesn't understand anything about the event tonight.

By early evening clouds have formed and it is beginning to drizzle. Joseph leaves and Lizzie's sister Etta comes to watch Elizabeth while Lizzie gets ready for her date with Charles Berry. As she gets ready she thinks what one should she make of this young teacher? She had known him for a few years like everyone knows everyone else in a



small town. He was a descent, hard-working young man. They have seen each other at various events around town. But this is the first time Charles Berry has asked her on a date.

At seven o'clock it was dark and Lizzie could hear the sound of a buggy coming down the road and then stopping and she could hear the puffing of the horses and then the knock on the door. Charles Berry appeared dressed in his best Sunday clothes. He held a small bouquet of flowers in his hands and presented them to Elizabeth. She said they were beautiful and gave him a hug and then went into the house and put them into a vase and then put the vase on the family dinner table and the two of them were off to the big event.

\* \* \*

They walked with a growing crowd of people towards the downtown courthouse. Clouds were overhead and a light drizzle of rain continued to start and stop. They recognized a number of friends and relatives from Wabash. Joseph Murphy was there as well as a few of Lizzies' other siblings. Charles saw some of his family members. But there were many people from out of town they didn't know. They found a place maybe a hundred yards from the courthouse and stood talking about nothing while the night got darker and darker. Thousands of people surrounded them. It was more people than they had ever seen in Wabash.

Then, according to the plan, at 8:00 pm the Court House bell sounded as the signal to start and suddenly from the towering dome of the courthouse burst a flood of light. Elizabeth grabbed Charles and shielded her eyes from the blinding light. Charles was mesmerized by the brilliance and could not take his eyes off the great ball of light coming from the top of the courthouse.

Under most circumstances, all of this would have caused shouts of *rejoicing* from the thousands crowding and jostling each other in the evening's darkness. But right after the lights were turned on everything was strangely silent. No shout or token of joy disturbed the deep silence that suddenly settled on the vast crowd gathered from far and near to witness the consummation of a singular enterprise. Everyone stood, almost with bated breath, overwhelmed with awe as if they were near a supernatural presence. The strange, weird light, exceeded in power only by the sun, yet mild as moonlight, rendered the courthouse square as light as mid-day. But after a minute of stunned silence there was much hurrahing and shouting from the thousands assembled. A new era was upon them and they were witness to its beginning.

\* \* \*

After a while, the crowd around the courthouse began to disseminate into the electric light night, amazed at the golden glow the arc lights spread over their town. None of the gas lamps were on but the electric light seemed sufficient to illuminate the streets of the town and even the signs on the buildings. It was a light no one had ever seen before.

Charles and Elizabeth walked around town basking in the glow of the electric arc lights of Mr. Brush from Cleveland. Charles tried to take Elizabeth for a soda but everything was so crowded with celebrations that he decided to drive Lizzie back home.

They drove west on Farr Pike and even when they were a few miles out of town the glow from the courthouse lights were so bright that Charles had little trouble seeing the road. Most of the farmhouses were dark as everyone was in town to witness the grand event. However, lights were on in one farmhouse right next the road and outside a farmer she recognized as a friend of her father was on his knees facing the lights from the town and shouting over and over "The end is near! The end is near!"

"Not everyone reads the *Plain Dealer*," Charles said as they drove by the crazed farmer.

When they arrived at Elizabeth's home the lights from town could still be seen. If one didn't know better they would have thought that some great conflagration was consuming the entire town not more than four miles away. In front of Lizzie's home, the great glow was strong enough to make the horse and buggy cast a shadow.

Inside, they found Lizzie's grandmother in an agitated state. She was sitting next to the window in the front of the little farmhouse and looking out at the great glow coming from Wabash. She was shaking terribly and Etta was trying to comfort her.

"She thinks it's the end of her life," said Etta. "The lights came into her bedroom and she began screaming."

Elizabeth knelt beside her grandmother.

"It's alright grandmother," she said. "It is only the new electric lights I have been telling you about."

But the old lady heard little of this.

"It's not long now," she said to Elizabeth. "Not long now," she kept repeating as Elizabeth and Etta walked her to bed.

In a few minutes Lizzie appeared.

"Thank you for a wonderful evening," she said to Charles.

"A historic evening," he said.

"Yes, a new era of electricity is upon us," Lizzie said.

"I didn't mean that," Charles said.

"What did you mean?"

“ I meant historic as it was our first date.”

Lizzie smiled and gave him a quick kiss on the cheek.

“Yes,” she said. “Historic in this sense too.”

On his drive back to town the great lights suddenly went off and Charles had to stop and light the gas lamps on the sides of the buggy in order to see the road.

As he rode along Farr Pike back into a dark Wabash, he thought about the amazing lights tonight. But more than this, he thought about Lizzie Murphy. The lights were brilliant for sure but they were not as brilliant as the light he saw in the Lizzie’s eyes.

\* \* \*

So great was the initial interest in the lighting that Wabash’s Western Union office worked late into that night telegraphing information to large daily newspapers across the country, which ran the following headlines: “Wabash Enjoys the Distinction of Being the Only City in the World Entirely Lighted by Electricity,” and “The Entire City Brilliantly Lighted and Shadows Cast at Midnight on Buildings Five Miles Away,” and “The Test of the Brush Electric Light Witnessed by 10,000 People and Councils of 19 Cities.”

In the next month, tourism picked up rapidly as word of the news spread. Hotels were packed with people who came to see the light. Passenger trains would stop in town and allow passengers 5 minutes to see the light before heading on their way. The experiment proposed by Keator and Butler was a success and the town of Wabash moved full-steam-ahead into the new decade.

Later that year Thomas Edison established the Edison Illuminating Company in New York City. It was the pioneer company in the emerging electrical power industry. Edison’s system was based on creating a central power plant equipped with electrical generators. Copper electrical wires would then connect the station with other buildings, allowing for electricity distribution. And Charles Brush, after installing his lights in Wabash, installed carbon arc lights along Broadway and a small generating station was established in Manhattan on 25<sup>th</sup> Street. The electric arc lights went into regular service in New York on December 20. Soon, towns all over the world came alive at night with the magical electric lights.

\* \* \*

Not long after the event, Charles and Elizabeth began seeing each other on a regular basis. Both of them would often talk about that night. There was a special mystery to it that somehow went even beyond the brilliant illumination of the town. Something special, personal, just between the two of them. It might have marked the beginning of a

new era for Wabash and the world, but it also marked the beginning of a new life for Charles and Elizabeth who were falling more and more in love with each other.

## A Light Goes Out

(1892)

Charles Berry was rising fast in the Wabash school system after becoming principal of the South Wabash High School in 1887 and it seemed the best way to increase his advancement was to get a college degree. The question was discussed with Lizzie as it would mean he would be away for a while. She agreed that a degree would be a good thing for him to obtain and the family made preparations for his enrollment at Indiana University at Bloomington in the fall of 1892.

When school ended for the year, Charles began to review some of the books on teaching for the upcoming year at Indiana University. He was excited and a little intimidated at the thought of being a student again. He would miss his wife and son but it was just a little over a hundred miles away and he would come back for holidays and other breaks from school.

He spent a lot of time with Lizzie before he left. They had seldom been apart since their marriage in 1886. He told her how much he loved her and wondered if he was doing the right thing but she assured him he was.

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, he took his family to the big picnic celebration of the day at the edge of town on the road to North Manchester. The residences and businesses of Wabash were liberally decorated with flags and bunting and everywhere were the sounds of firecrackers and overhead the sight of bursting torpedoes. They fell in line with the large crowd that followed a brass band marching from City Hall to the picnic area. Hacks and buggies carried women, children and the elderly over the route.

It was going to be another hot summer day but the trees of the grove offered shade to much of the affair. Some Sunday school group sponsored the picnic and spent \$74 on lumber to build the speaker's platform, dancing floor and beer counters. After the noon meal came the usual round of orations and patriotic music. With the speeches over a little orchestra struck up some tunes and until 6 o'clock in the evening the dancing platform was kept hot by the feet of the merry dancers. Charles danced again and again with Lizzie, more than he had ever danced with her. Four-year-old Loren watched them dance and then explored a pond with a few other boys.

Around dusk, the throng at the picnic area trickled back to town where most joined an even larger crowd at the Courthouse where fireworks began at dusk on the south steps of the building. For two and a half hours the crowd heard the explosion of the fireworks as they echoed off the limestone bluffs on the far side of the river. Skyrockets burst over the

roofs of nearby buildings and houses, and an occasional illuminated balloon rose over the courthouse tower.

Charles pulled Lizzie and Loren close to him as they watched the fireworks and knew how much he loved them. It had been one of the best days in their marriage and there was such a future to look forward to.

\* \* \*

That summer, Chicago (only 150 miles northwest of Wabash) was battling a great epidemic of typhoid fever. In the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, typhoid was the great killer disease. Transmitted by the ingestion of food or water contaminated with the feces of an infected person, the disease was spread through poor hygiene habits and public sanitation conditions and sometimes also by flying insects feeding on feces. During the American Civil War, 81,360 Union soldiers died of typhoid or dysentery.

The disease hit the growing American cities particularly hard but the worst city hit was Chicago. In the late 19th century, the typhoid fever mortality rate in Chicago averaged 65 per 100,000 people a year. The worst year was 1891, when the typhoid death rate was 174 per 100,000 people. Typhoid struck the city in cycles reaching epidemic levels in 1852, 1854, 1864-66, 1872, 1881 and 1890-93, and causing as much as 7 percent of the city's total mortality. In non-epidemic years, the city's typhoid mortality hovered around 3 percent of total mortality. The greatest typhoid epidemic in Illinois' history occurred in Chicago in 1890-93. During those four years, the disease killed 5,164 Chicagoans. At its peak in 1891, the epidemic accounted for 7.2 percent of all deaths within the city.

"I'm glad we don't have to depend on the Chicago River for water," Charles said to Lizzie while reading an article in the *Plain Dealer* about the Chicago typhoid epidemic.

"One of the good things about living in a little town like Wabash," Lizzie said.

"Yes," Charles agreed. "One of the good things."

\* \* \*

Charles left for DePauw in early September. Lizzie had packed a few suitcases for him. She was much better at this than Charles. Then he was in the buggy of his friend with his suitcases heading south a hundred and thirty miles to Bloomington.

A few days after he arrived, Charles used that new device called a telephone to call Lizzie and tell her he was all settled in. The classes were going well and he had rented a small room in a boarding house near the campus.

He wrote letters to Lizzie and called her every week on Sunday using that new device called a telephone.

Things seemed to be going well until early November when Charles called and told Lizzie he had a fever and was going to the infirmary to take care of it. A day later there was a call from the school nurse to Lizzie that they were sending Charles home as he was not well at all.

Charles came home in the first week of November and Lizzie could see that he was very sick with typhoid fever. The *Wabash Sunday Call* newspaper of November 15 ran an article on page one of the newspaper noting that “Prof. C.D. Berry is lying very ill of typhoid fever at home in South Wabash. He was attending college at Greencastle and had to return home last week.”

Lizzie did everything she could do. She had learned much from nursing her grandmother all those years. She called her the family doctor. But Charles continued to get worse and worse.

At four o’clock on Monday morning, just a few days before Thanksgiving, Charles died at his home in South Wabash. There was an obituary on page one of the *Plain Dealer* about his death. “Prof. Charles D. Berry, formerly principal of south Wabash schools, died at his home at 4 o’clock Monday morning, of heart failure, superinduced by the grip and typhoid fever. Deceased was born in Wayne county May 8th, 1858, and moved to Wabash county with his parents when quite young. He succeeded Harvey Hutchens as principal of the South Wabash schools five years ago, and filled that honorable position to the entire satisfaction of his assistants and patrons of the school, until the annexation of the south side to the city proper last spring. Mr. Berry was a successful educator, and was attending the State University at Bloomington, when taken sick. He would have graduated this year had his life been spared him. He returned home Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> suffering from an attack of the grip when the typhoid set in. A sad feature of the case is the fact that one of his brothers is sick of typhoid fever at Terre Haute, where he was attending state normal and another brother is just recovering from an attack of the dread disease at Urbana, where he is teaching school. Professor Berry leaves his wife and one child, father, mother, five brothers, five sisters and a host of friends and associates to mourn his untimely departure. The funeral took place from his late residence Wednesday morning at 11 o’clock.”

Charles was buried next to his son Philip in the Wallace Cemetery in Noble Township. He was only 34-years-old. The whole episode happened so quickly Lizzie had no idea what she would do to get by. Her grief at the passing of Charles was great but there was the immediate matter of simply putting food on the table for her and Loren. Part of the financial burden was lifted in early December when H.B. Lassell, local agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Milwaukee, gave her a check for \$1,000, the amount of the policy her husband held in that company. The settlement was unusually prompt, Mr. Berry having been buried Nov. 25th. It was a considerable amount of money equal to a year and a half of Charles’ \$700 a year salary at the school.

## Finance, Fair & Fire

(1893)

Not long after the death of Charles Berry, Loren's uncle Joseph and aunt Florence came to live with them to help their widowed sister with her son and her life. In these years, families didn't move away to distant cities and states but continued to recirculate to various family homes to save living expenses or help ailing family members as Lizzie had done with her aging grandmother for seven years.

Joseph Murphy became the man of the house and a stand-in father for young Loren Berry. As an only child, Loren had always received much attention from his mother. But there was only so much a mother could do and the young boy needed some example of a man in his life for he hardly remembered the brief four years his own father was with him.

There was a strange element in the air, something that seemed out-of-place in all the growth and expansion of the nation during these years that would later be defined as the Gilded Age. Some great economic crisis seemed moving towards the world but Joseph couldn't decipher what this was. In early Spring of 1893, Joseph Murphy met for lunch with a banker friend of his at the Collins House Hotel in downtown Wabash feeling his banking friend would be able to offer some explanation on the events.

Joseph's banker friend was one of the most positive people he knew, a constant booster of the new world and all type of local ventures as much as those newspaper entrepreneurs Keating and Butler were thirteen years before with their promotion of the electric lights in Wabash. He was always stopping along the street and asking businessmen about their businesses and he always seemed able to somehow put together money to help their business expand.

But on a cold day in Wabash with snow flurries lightly drifting over the city like feathers from a broken pillow, his banking friend wore a rare, worried look on his face. He pushed lettuce around his plate and stared down at it like someone trying to read tea leaves on the bottom of a cup.

"The bankruptcy of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad was only the beginning," his banker friend told Joseph. "We're in for many more bankruptcy's. There's been much shaky financing of the railroads. The Northern Pacific Railway is having problems. The Union Pacific Railroad is in over their heads. The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad is shaky. Things are a mess."

"What can one do?" asked Joseph.



“Not much,” said his friend. “We’re already seeing people withdrawing their money from the banks.”

“A panic?” Joseph asked.

“It looks that way,” his friend said. “I see little that can stop it.”

His banker friend was right. Things continued to get worse through the Spring and into the summer of 1893. Joseph worked as a teacher to bring in a meager income but he thought of one day becoming a lawyer and was sure he would go back to school soon to pursue this ambition. Lizzie brought in a tiny income as a seamstress and Florence continued to practice her piano and sing through all of this. At least the growing economic crisis had various musical soundtracks in Lizzie’s home.

Just as his banker friend predicted, Joseph watched as his friends withdrew money from the banks in Wabash. The *Plain Dealer* said there was a growing danger of a bank run. It seemed a ominous thing to Joseph yet something that was difficult to identify with since there was not any money in the bank for him or his sister Lizzie to withdraw from it.

There were larger and larger headlines in the newspaper into the summer. One headline read “5,000 companies and 200 banks fail.” A little later a headline read “10,000 companies and 400 banks fail.” Another headline estimated almost 20% of the workforce was unemployed. But Joseph read the unemployment rate in Pennsylvania hit 25% and in New York it was 35% and in Michigan 43%. There were photos in the newspaper about soup kitchens opened in order to help feed the destitute. The newspaper reported that facing starvation, people chopped wood, broke rocks, and sewed in exchange for food. In some cases, women resorted to prostitution to feed their families. There was an article in the paper about Mayor Hazen Pingree of Detroit who started things called “Pingree’s Potato Patches” which were community gardens for farming.

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With the economic storm swirling about the nation, Wabash went about its daily activities. In May a new iron bridge was built at Carroll Street and the Aukerman & Baer Band Saw Mill was built on West Canal Street. Lizzie and her sister Florence continued working as seamstresses. Even in the declining economy there was always dresses to mend and some shirts to fix.

The world was beginning to come into focus for the five-year-old Loren Berry but the great economic crisis was something vague and distant to him. It was summer and time to explore things in the nearby creek and follow uncle Joseph around town on his daily activities. With school ending Joseph was free for the summer except for the part-time jobs he picked up here and there and was always willing to let his five-year-old nephew follow him around.

While the news of the economy continued to get worse, there was increasing articles and advertisements in the newspaper about the great World's Fair in Chicago called the Columbian Exposition to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World in 1492. Joseph read the articles with growing interest and an idea got into him.

"Why not let me take Loren to the Chicago fair," he asked Lizzie over dinner one summer evening. It was turning out to be one of the hottest summers on record in Wabash and Chicago was on the cool banks of Lake Michigan.

Lizzie considered the idea. Loren had hardly been out of her sight since he was born. But she had a lot of trust in her brother and thought the experience would be a good one for Loren.

"That might be a good idea," she said.

In the next few days, Joseph made reservations at one of the inexpensive hotels that had sprung up near the fairgrounds and secured their tickets on the train. A week later, the two of them were off for the world's fair.

\* \* \*

Lizzie packed a small suitcase for Loren and saw the two of them off at the station in Wabash. She held Loren for a long time at the train station. He had never been away from her before.

Then the two of them were off riding north on the Big Four Railroad to Warsaw where they transferred to the Pennsylvania line for the rest of the trip. It was Loren's first trip outside of Wabash and he watched the farms pass by his train window and then buildings and more buildings outside his window. More than he had ever seen before. Buildings as far as the eye could see.

The two were off to the fair early the next morning in a special trolley that ran from the hotel to the fair. Upon entering the fair there was the iconic centerpiece of the large water pool that represented the long voyage Columbus took to the New World. The exposition covered more than 600 acres featuring nearly 200 new buildings of predominantly neoclassical architecture, canals and lagoons and people and cultures from 46 countries.

Joseph took Loren to see a number of the exhibits that included wondrous installations of electric lights and inventions such as the telephone and the automobile. They rode the massive Ferris Wheel with carts on it as large as trolley cars. They ate all types of exotic food and sweets and Joseph even won Loren a stuffed animal at one of the games. They visited the Wild West Shops of Buffalo Bill and tapped their feet to the military marches of John Phillip Sousa. Displays throughout the grounds gave them looks into the future.

\* \* \*

It was a time when great contrasts in America bumped up against each other. During a summer of a deepening economic crisis, here was this magical fair in Chicago, perhaps a symbol to the coming end of the Gilded Age. The Gilded Age of excess was what Mark Twain called this period of late 19th century America. By this, he meant that the period was glittering on the surface but corrupt underneath. In the popular view, the late 19th century was a period of greed and guile: of rapacious Robber Barons, unscrupulous speculators, and corporate buccaneers, of shady business practices, scandal-plagued politics, and vulgar display. It was modern America's formative period, when an agrarian society of small producers were transformed into an urban society dominated by industrial corporations. A national transportation and communication network was created, the corporation became the dominant form of business organization, and a managerial revolution transformed business operations.

Within a stone's throw from the Chicago hotel Joseph and Loren stayed in, was one of the lodging houses where part of the floating population of 30,000 single men lived. The two walked by the small, one-storied frame structure every day on their way to ride the trolley to the fair. If they had gone in they would have been overcome by the odor that resembled a long disused tomb. They would have seen a dim sleeping room but little else as it was impossible to see anything in the place, the only light coming from a dirty lamp at the farther end of the room. The darkness heavy, thick with smoke from a dozen pipes of men lying in the beds and smoking. The beds consisted of a piece of canvas fastened to the wall on one side and supported on the other side by upright wooden poles running from floor to ceiling. The beds were arranged in tiers, four deep. The covering on each bed consisting of one thin blanket. In the center of the room was a large stove filled with blazing wood which only served to dispel any breath of air which might have inadvertently entered the room where one hundred and fifty men sleep.

But the two always walked quickly past the lodging house towards the fair trolley a block away. Loren looked at a few of the men sitting out in front of the lodging house holding cuts and heard them ask for money as they passed. They wore rags and were sad and not like the cheerful crowd in the bright clothing of summer at the fair. In a second he could feel the tug on his arm as uncle Joseph pulled him along the sidewalk towards the trolley and the magnificent city within the city.

\* \* \*

That summer 27 million people from around the world attended the Columbian Exposition during its six-month run. It had a profound effect on Chicago's self-image and American industrial optimism in the midst of the growing economic crisis.

It had a profound effect on Joseph and his nephew Loren. When they got back to Wabash the town seemed much smaller to Joseph and out of touch with the grand currents of life that flowed past them up in Chicago like a vast, powerful river. He had been born on the little farm a few miles west of Wabash and had seldom traveled much farther away than

Marion Peru. Once he went to Indianapolis and Fort Wayne but they were nothing like the grand city of Chicago with its magic world's fair.

The experience also had an effect on young Loren Berry but it was something that was too big for his mind at the time to process. A great ball of experience, wound up like a ball of twine, not subject to being unraveled and examined.

Joseph talked for days about their trip and gave Lizzie and Florence a number of souvenirs from the fair. Lizzie was glad Loren had a good time but she wondered if her brother might be exposing him to too many things at such a young age. Loren made a scrapbook of the postcards and photographs and flyers he had collected and went through it over and over again explaining the various places to his mother. The great Ferris Wheel. The big water pool. The Wild West shops.

\* \* \*

The great fair continued on through the summer and Joseph read articles about it in the Plain Dealer. Over 5,000 citizens of Wabash went to it and in the restaurants and bars of Wabash there was constant discussion of it. But the news of the fair was mixed with increasing bad news about the economy and news of the economy mixed with news of the fair. The banking crisis continued to grow worse and one day Joseph saw his banker friend at a bar he stopped in now and then. Joseph thought this was strange as it was unlike his friend to go to bars. It was a small town and word got around quickly and how could one trust their banker if he went to bars?

But worse than being at the bar, Joseph's banker friend was roaring drunk and talking loudly about the growing economic crisis. Joseph took a seat at the bar beside his friend.

"We closed the bank today," his friend said slurring the words together so they sounded like just one long word. "Things are bad."

Joseph ordered a drink and was going to ask him about the crisis but his friend was gone in a flash.

Late summer in Wabash County consisted of a drought, hot weather and fires. The fires were mostly ignited by sparks from steam locomotives on both the Big Four and Wabash lines. Fires along the rights-of-way of railroads were not unusual in any season, but the heat and the drought made it worse. Near North Manchester, sparks from a locomotive set fire to a large wooded area, and then the flames spread to cornfields. That blaze burned for several days before it was snuffed out. According to the *North Manchester Journal* "the woods were as dry as powder, and the flames swept through like a tinder box." The fire spread to surrounding farms, and fields were burned over and rail fences destroyed. Farmers rushed to plow up sections of the fields to stop the spreading flames before more crops were destroyed.

Joseph was on the volunteer fire department in town and was constantly getting calls to battle fire. When his sister was away, he would take Loren with him to watch the fires at a safe distance in the background. He never told his sister about this as there was little chance that she would allow Loren to do a dangerous thing like this.

One day Joseph took Loren to a fire that had broken out at the Wabash County fairgrounds. It was another fire started by locomotive sparks and was consuming several sheds, animal pens and large privy when they arrived. The fire department had not yet arrived and neighbors had turned out to fight the fire but a stiff wind was pushing the flames towards buildings. Loren stood behind a fence and watched as his uncle and others battled the fire until the fire trucks arrived and it was soon out.

A few weeks later there was an early morning fire at the Collins House in downtown Wabash and Joseph took Loren to this one also. Reece Eaton, an old hand on the fire department, drove the hose cart down the Wabash Street hill and a half-block or so west on market Street, and soon with the help of bystanders had four streams of water trained on the flames when Joseph and Loren arrived. John Potter, day clerk at the hotel, manned one of the hoses. Horace Murphy, the assistant postmaster, left his desk at the Post Office and joined the others in fighting the fire. Captain David marks supplied a moment of humor when he turned out to fight the fire will still in his nightshirt. Firemen and citizens had the blaze under control in 30 minutes. The *Plain Dealer* reported the next day that a major loss was a large quantity of fine cigars.

Major M.H. Kidd thought he had the answer to the drought and fires. The major was a believer in the Dyrenfurth method of rain making, and he urged that when clouds gathered a few hundred pounds of dynamite be detonated. This, said the major, would bring forth a deluge to end the long drought. During the hot, dog days of August, clouds did cover the sky, but few offered their help in raising the \$300 dollars needed to conduct the experiment. A few drops of rain did fall, and the next day the indignant major cruised the streets of Wabash complaining that few had faith in his idea.

“Had they done as I said, we would have had a rain last night worth thousands of dollars to farmers,” quipped the major. “Henceforth I will decline to give this community the benefit of my scientific ideas, and while they are slowly roasting, they’ll think of what I said and they will repent their indifference.”

Joseph Murphy read the story about Major Kidd in the *Plain Dealer* over breakfast one day and then laughed and shook his head. Loren sat across from him and his mother and Florence were out mending clothing somewhere around town. It was going to be another hot day without any sign of rain in the forecast.

“We live in crazy times,” Joseph said to Loren. “Crazy times. Some day you’ll understand how crazy they really are.”

## Horseradish and Politics

(1896)

In July of 1894, there was a huge fire at the location of the Chicago World's Fair that destroyed most of the buildings. It was not an important event in history and most of the grand structures were little more than wood and plaster facades like the coming movie sets of Hollywood. Yet the destruction of the buildings of the 1893 World's Fair seemed to have a symbolic importance suggesting the great optimism expressed at the fair was not a permanent mood of the American public.

The Panic of 1893 officially ended in the fall of the year but the economic depression it caused remained severe in 1896, making economic conditions a crucial issue of the campaign. The sitting Democratic president, Grover Cleveland was wildly unpopular because of the depression. His unpopularity helped foster a deep rift in the Democratic party, and also made William Jennings Bryan's campaign an uphill battle from the start.

But progress moved on towards the new century in spite of the economic depression. In 1894, the New England Telephone and Telegraph installed the first battery-operated telephone switchboard in Lexington, Massachusetts and Coca-Cola was sold in bottles for the first time. In 1895, the Supreme Court of the United States decided the federal government has the right to regulate interstate commerce, legalizing the military suppression of the Pullman Strike. In El Paso, Texas, the outlaw John Wesley Hardin was killed by an off-duty policeman in a saloon. The first professional American football game was played, in Latrobe, Pennsylvania between the Latrobe YMCA and the Jeannette Athletic Club (Latrobe won 12-0). Wilhelm Rontgen discovered a type of radiation known as X-rays while Auguste and Louis Lumiere displayed their first moving picture film in Paris. And, in September of 1895, the old carbon lights used in March of 1880 to light Wabash at night were found by Thomas McNamee in the attic of the courthouse. Only fifteen years old but already resigned to the status of antiques in the nation speeding so quickly into the future.

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The years after Charles Berry's death in 1892 were tough ones for Lizzie Berry and her son Loren. She took a number of jobs to make ends meet but her main jobs were as a baby nurse and a seamstress. At the time there were not many options for women in the workplace.

In 1896, Lizzie's mother's cousin, Charles Bradley, gives her job with the Bradley Brothers Drug Store as a door-to-door salesperson handing out literature and samples of medicine. One of leaflets she carries with her when selling medicine door-to-door is a

letter from Miss Mary Lengham of Brooklyn testifying that the seven bottles of Lydia B. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound she consumed made a complete change in her life.

Although Lizzie Berry had a strict sense of morals that would later support the prohibition movement, it is a fact that many of the medicines of the time contained large amounts of alcohol and other questionable substances. There is the story of Colonel John Pemberton who was wounded in 1865 during the Civil War and became addicted to the morphine used to ease the pain. Being a pharmacist, he searched for a cure for his addiction. In 1866, he started working on painkillers that would serve as opium-free alternatives to morphine and came up with something called Dr. Tuggle's Compound Syrup of Globe Flower, the beginning of that "medicine" called Coca Cola.

Lizzie brother Joseph's career as a lawyer and Republican in town was taking off and Joseph continued to mentor his nephew Loren by letting Loren follow him around town on his various activities. Often, he took Loren to dinner with him where Loren overheard political conversations.

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In the spring of 1896, Loren went to a restaurant in Wabash with his Uncle Joe and found that he liked the horseradish they had with dinner. When he got home, he asked his mother if he could gather wild plants and grind them up and sell it. Lizzie thought this was a good idea and the two of them went down to a small stream about a mile from their house and dug it out and took it home where his mother ground it up and helped Loren put it into glass jars. Loren then went door-to-door selling the horseradish. They sold a good-sized jelly glass of horseradish for a nickel. Reorders simply meant refilling the original jars and returning them to the customer. There was no expense involved in the production process, since the jelly jars had been purchased for their contents and then recycled for the horseradish venture. The horseradish project really marked the first business idea of Loren Berry, an idea that he came up with and developed at the age of eight.

His horseradish business continued through the spring and summer of 1896. Loren was eight-years-old and beginning to read so his world was expanding outside the immediate events of daily life in Wabash. Young boys at the time were reading a new genre of book called science fiction such as H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine* (1895), *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896) and *The War of the Worlds* (1898). Another new genre of literature called the detective story was created in 1892 when Arthur Conan Doyle published *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. And that genre called horror would begin in 1897 with the publication of Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula*.

There were also popular boy's books such as the Oliver Optic books written by William Taylor Adams. One series "Blue and Gray On Land" consisting of the books *Brother against Brother; or, The War on the Border* (1894), *In the Saddle* (1895), *A Lieutenant at Eighteen* (1895), *On the Staff* (1896) and *At the Front* (1897). Young boys were also reading the other Civil War series of Oliver Optic books called "Blue and Gray Afloat" consisting of *Taken by the Enemy* (1883), *Within the Enemy's Lines* (1889), *On the*

*Blockade* (1890), *Stand by the Union* (1891), *Fighting for the Right* (1892) and *A Victorious Union* (1893). Also popular with boys at the time were the Rollo Books created by Jacob Abbott. His *Rollo Books*, such as *Rollo at Work*, *Rollo at Play*, *Rollo in Europe*, etc., are the best known of his writings, having as their chief characters a representative boy and his associates.

Young boys were also exposed to the series of books by Horatio Alger best known for his many juvenile novels about impoverished boys and their rise from humble backgrounds to lives of middle-class security and comfort through hard work, determination, courage, and honesty. His writings were characterized by the “rags-to-riches” narrative, which had a formative effect on Americans during the Gilded Age (the last three decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century). In the Horatio Alger books, young Loren Berry saw much of his own life.

Loren’s reading of the newspapers also widened the scope of his life and his knowledge of the world beyond Wabash. In May of 1896, there was news of the deadly St. Louis tornado leveling a mile-wide swath of downtown St. Louis and killing 255 people. There was news of the summer Olympics in Athens. In August, news of the great Klondike Gold Rush began dominating the news. The newspapers reported a massive movement of people, goods and money towards the Klondike, Yukon District of Alaska. Men from all walks of life headed for the Yukon from as far away as New York, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Australia. A large proportion were professionals, such as teachers and doctors, even a mayor or two, who gave up respectable careers to make the journey. One resident of Camp Skagway Number One was William Howard Taft who would become President of the United States.

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But the big news of the year was the presidential election in November. Loren heard Uncle Joseph talk about getting the Democrats out of office and it looked like it might happen in the fall. The Democrats were deeply divided and the ongoing depression had made the Democrat President Grover Cleveland wildly unpopular. Cleveland, the first Democratic president since the Civil War, had served two terms (1885-1889 and 1893-1897). In the early years he was popular as a reformer who opposed the corruption of big-spending Republicans in the capital, but the economic shock of 1893 eclipsed this issue and for the past three years, the nation had been mired in a deep economic depression, marked by low prices, low profits, high unemployment, and violent strikes. The Democrats had a fiery orator named William Jennings Bryan running against the Republicans William McKinley and Joseph told Loren it might not be an easy victory.

Yet the Republican victory in November was substantial. Many factors led to Bryan’s defeat. He was unable to win a single state in the populous Northeast. Laborers feared the free silver idea as much as their bosses. While inflation would help the debt-ridden, mortgage-paying farmers, it could hurt the wage-earning, rent-paying factory workers.

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Loren had his first exposure to politics that summer and he was learning much about politics from his Uncle Joe, one of the leading Republicans in Wabash.

“The election came down to one of the city against the country,” his uncle told him after McKinley won the presidential election. “Things are changing quickly. People are leaving the farms and moving to the cities. America is becoming an urban nation.”

After his trip with uncle Joseph to the World’s Fair in Chicago in 1893, it was not difficult for Loren to understand this. Who could not want to live in a magic city like Chicago?

Loren entered elementary school that fall and got his first real job as a paperboy for the *Wabash Plain Dealer*. He supplemented this income by selling subscriptions to the *Saturday Evening Post*. The money supplemented the small salary his mother got by selling medicine door-to-door. He was a good little salesman. Efficient and organized far beyond any other boy his own age. Under the watchful eye of his mother. The watchful eye that an “only child” naturally gets from his or her mother. But also the strict eye of a rising moralist in the county, a person of growing importance in the local temperance movement. On the other hand, her brother was a growing lawyer and politician in town. The two lifestyles and philosophies couldn’t have been more at odds with each other.

On Christmas day of 1896, John Philip Sousa composes his magnum opus, *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. The grand march expressed a renewed enthusiasm in the American dream after all the years of the economic depression and seemed the perfect theme song to the new Republican administration which moved America towards the upcoming century.

## Century End

(1897 – 1899)

An article in in bold black type from the 1897 *Wabash Times Board of Trade Edition*, personified Wabash somewhat like a miniature Statue of Liberty. “In her bright and charming 1897 costume with arms wide open (Wabash) welcomed all worthy enterprises seeking a location where every essential advantage exists in its most attractive and encouraging form. A city of factories is Wabash, but combined with her manufacturing interest are churches, schools and other moral environments. Add to these advantages her large mercantile interests, her abundant supply of pure and wholesome water, her cheap natural gas, and you will then understand why Wabash is styled “Queen of the Wabash Valley.”

*Wabash Times Board of Trade Edition* observed that Wabash had 11,000 citizens and growth was above normal, promoted by the discovery of natural gas in Indiana fields. Some believe Wabash was in an industrial renaissance about this time. Wabash citizens are described as conservative and Wabash capital looked with disfavor on visionary schemes and wild booming. For rent signs were seldom seen on business rooms or residences. “Conservatism rules the local roost, so to speak, but, while this is true, all legitimate demands for better and more residence and business blocks meet a spirit which disavows any intention on the part of Wabash capital to move along the lines of mossbackism” or old-fashioned, extremely conservative ways.

The *Edition* described the people employed in Wabash manufacturing firms as “superior.” Many were born in Wabash and a large percent owned their homes. Wabash had many essential advantages leading toward its industrial growth-cheap fuel, first class railroad facilities, ample fire protection, an abundant supply of water and a “population that is in hearty sympathy with all its local enterprises of a commendable character.”

Shipping facilities were provided by the Big Four and Wabash railroads. Both roads responded to factory-owners requests for special tracks or switches. The Big Four built miles of extra track within the corporate limits of the city for the convenience of local manufacturers. The fire department was “admirably equipped for fighting successfully an fire that may occur within the city limits.” Thirty men served on the fire company with W.A. Williams, chief. The Gamewell system of fire alarm was used with 12 boxes judiciously located. There were 186 fire hydrants distributed throughout the city.

Its sidewalks were described as “wretched” and Wabash streets weren’t much better. But the city council was taking some steps toward improvement.

Oil fever burned in the veins of Wabash County men soon the Rock City Oil and Gas Company was formed with plans to drill three wells, two on the south side of the river and one on the north. Drilling had already begun on the R.F. Lutz farm north of the city.

Wabash had prosperous businesses and a fertile farming area surrounding it. There were three banks the oldest being The First national chartered in 1863. The two newspapers were the *Plain Dealer* and the *Tribune*. The post office had four regular employees and two substitutes. Receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897 reached nearly \$13,000. Wabash had nine churches, an opera house, a hotel and a city park. Among Wabash's 12 attorneys were Plummer and King, J.W.R. Miller and Lincoln Guynn the prosecuting attorney.

Thomas Alber had his blacksmith shop at the corner of Miami and Water streets, Bietman and Wolf department store and grocery was at Canal and Miami Streets and W.P. Jones furniture and undertaking was at 8 and 10 East Canal Street. The T.W. King and Son elevator was on Canal Street on the Big four Track and the William A. Elward elevator on Sinclair Street on the Wabash track. Wabash had 13 grocery stores, four milliners and six saloons. Wabash Business College was located in the Alber Block at Hill and Wabash streets. Dr. J.H. Ford has his office at 29 W. Canal St. Mark G. Mitten's Troy Steam laundry was next door at 27 West Canal.

\* \* \*

In 1898, Loren Berry was in grade school and onto his next venture. It was a laundry route with initial pick-ups and deliveries made on foot. Soon, though, he raised enough money to purchase a bicycle and basket and was able to speed up the process. Before long, 25-30 customers were paying anywhere from a 5 to 40 cents per week to the ambitious young man, giving him the tidy sum of \$3 or \$4 that he could hand to his mother at the end of each week for household expenses.

Uncle Joseph was increasingly active in the Republican Party and was elected the new Prosecuting Attorney of Wabash County. His life was becoming busier and busier but he always had time for his young nephew Loren.

In April of the year, the first volunteers left the county to fight in the war breaking out between the United States and Spain. There was growing sentiment against Spain and for the Cuban patriots who fought against them for their freedom. The American press played a central role in the conflict led by the "yellow press" of William Randolph Hearst's *New York Journal*. The results of the fighting are short and decisive with the U.S. destroying the Spanish fleet in Manila and Teddy Roosevelt making a name for himself by leading the Rough Riders up San Juan Hill. America emerges as a new international power in Latin America and the Far East.

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In the summer of 1899, Lizzie Berry talked her cousin Joe Rife into helping her move her one story house to property she owned around the corner on Chestnut and Middle Street.

She erected a new two-story house and rented the older building for seven dollars a month that fall. Elizabeth continued to live in this house for over thirty years.

Eleven-year-old Loren Berry started working for Marcus Mitten on another laundry delivery and pick-up job. He kept detailed records of all of his laundry deliveries and payments as well as other money he earned. Between January 1 and March 22 of 1900 he saved \$6.35. He found a nickel on April 23 and also made 15 cents hauling wood. The following day he was paid 25 cents for handing out handbills.

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The music of the final year of the century is a mixture of a rising form of music called ragtime and frivolous songs like “Hello Ma Baby” the most popular song of 1899. Scott Joplin’s *Maple Leaf Rag* is registered for copyright and “Hello Ma Baby” is about a man who has a girlfriend he knows only through the telephone. It was the first well-known song to refer to that new device called a telephone.

Hello! ma baby  
Hello! ma honey  
Hello! ma ragtime gal  
Send me a kiss by wire  
Baby, ma heart’s on fire!  
If you refuse me  
Honey, you’ll lose me  
Then you’ll be left alone  
Oh, baby, telephone  
And tell me I’m your own!

The old century was almost over and the nation moving from farm to city with all the new challenges and problems this would bring. At the beginning of the year, the first known use of the word “automobile” appears in an editorial of *The New York Times*. Later in the year, Henry Bliss of New York City is killed by a taxicab while stepping off a streetcar becoming the first automobile fatality in the US. Yet vestiges of the fading century spotted the events of the day. On May 30<sup>th</sup> of the year, the female outlaw Pearl Hart robs a stagecoach 30 miles southeast of Globe, Arizona.

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As the new century approached (with ragtime music in the background) America was conscious it had a part on the world stage yet uncertain and divided about what role it would play. The quick defeat of the Spanish in 1898 imbued America with a new sense of power and Teddy Roosevelt was the spokesman for this emerging power. On April 10, Roosevelt, enthused by his triumph with the Rough Riders, called on his fellow Americans to meet the challenges of the dawning age:

“The twentieth century looms before us big with the fate of many nations. If we stand idly by, if we seek merely swollen, slothful ease and ignoble peace, if we shrink from the hard contests where men must win at hazard of their lives and at

the risk of all they hold dear, then the bolder and stronger peoples will pass us by, and will win for themselves the domination of the world.”

Later, Teddy Roosevelt’s remarks to an older opponent in a debate over war with Spain captured this new spirit. “You and your generation have had your chance,” he said. “Now let us of this generation have ours!”

## Silver Beach

(1907)

“It should be fine tomorrow,” Lucile said to Loren. “But we’ll have to be up with the lark.”

The two sat on the porch of Lucile’s family home in Marion, Indiana on the hot afternoon of June 27, 1907. Big bees buzzed around the porch and hovered around the large pitcher of lemonade next to them. A red interurban car came down the street and stopped depositing a few passengers across the street and then clicked-clacked away and around the corner.

For nineteen-year-old Loren Berry there was an incredible joy in Lucile’s words. They were the words he was waiting to hear. They would be eloping and getting married and no one could stop them. His mother in Wabash twenty miles north thought he had been coming down to Marion for his growing business in selling barbershop annunciators and advertising on the interurban timetables. She knew nothing of the romance with Lucile in Marion. And the two had kept the romance hidden from Lucile’s parents in Marion. They were now away in Chicago for a week and it seemed the perfect time to elope and get married.

Loren extracted the interurban timetable card from his pocket and looked at it. He knew the schedule well but the confirmation of Lucile and the passing interurban car made him want to recheck it.

“Six tomorrow morning,” he said batting away a large bee in the syrup-thick humidity of the Indiana afternoon. “We take the red car up to Wabash and transfer to the yellow line at eight fifteen and then the yellow line to Warsaw and then at ten the green line to Plymouth and the orange line to South Bend at noon and the red line to St. Joseph at three o’clock.”

Lucile picked up the dog-eared flyer next to the lemonade pitcher with the photograph of the Silver Beach Amusement Park in St. Joseph, Michigan on it. The photograph was taken from a boat in Lake Michigan a few hundred feet from the shore where the amusement park rose out of the white sand. In the background, like the bone structure for rolling hills, was the famous Chase Through the Clouds roller coaster.

\* \* \*

They stepped on the red car at six the next morning and were soon out of Marion gliding through the countryside heading north to Wabash. Lucile had packed a few things in a

small suitcase and was asleep next to him. He looked down at the brown leather suitcase his mother had given him when he graduated from Wabash High School.

His mother Lizzie had worked so hard to buy it for him and she had so little money from the various jobs she was always patching together. He remembered the suitcase was somewhat of a reluctant gift from her. She would have preferred him to follow his father into the more respectable career of teaching.

“Our world is changing so fast,” she said to him many times. “There is a great need for teachers to tell the young about it.”

His mother was a deeply religious person and connected with a temperance group in Wabash and his budding career in sales seemed connected with alcohol consumption and taking the interurban to far off towns. But she was constantly amazed at how good at sales he was. She told him this many times.

The farms turned into buildings and soon the red interurban car was in Wabash and Loren nudged a sleeping Lucile.

“We get off in a few minutes,” he said. “Then a half-an-hour wait for the yellow line into Warsaw.”

Lucile smiled and squeezed his arm rested her face on his shoulder.

“Still love me?” she asked.

Loren kissed her briefly.

“Still love you,” he said.

\* \* \*

It went like this for the next few hours traveling between the towns of northern Indiana. A town and then farms and then a town and changing to another interurban line. Lucile was engaged in looking out the window at the new world outside the confines of the town of Marion where she had lived all her life. But it was all familiar territory for Loren who had travelled to these towns many times before in his sales job and he worked on the little book he always carried with him that listed his various sales accounts.

They had a few hours in South Bend, Indiana before their final trail to St. Joseph, Michigan and Loren took Lucile to the grand Oliver Hotel one of his favorite lunch places in town.

The young Loren had finalized a few advertising contracts at the restaurant inside the hotel and knew that Lucile would be impressed by it. She was impressed. It was hard not to be impressed. The lobby and rotunda of the hotel was a huge space with an Italian

Renaissance theme and embellished in gold. Overhead on the ceiling of the rotunda were painted the images of 16 females representing the seasons, the arts, earth, water, fire and air and the lavish decor extended to all other areas of the hotel.

“You know so much about things,” Lucile said to him over lunch.

“Part of my business,” Loren said to her.

“Your business sounds exciting,” she said. “Traveling to new places all the time.”

“We’re both going to travel,” Loren said. “Exciting new places.”

Lucile was silent for a moment.

“It’ll be hard on your mother,” she said. “Leaving her in Wabash.”

“And hard on your parents too,” Loren said. “Leaving them in Marion.”

“Not as hard as it’ll be for your mother,” she said. “I have a lot of brothers and sisters to keep my parents company when I’m gone but your mother only has you. I know how much you talk about her and know how much she must dote on you.”

The nineteen-year-old waived his right hand in a sweeping motion so that it made reference to the great rounded painted sky above them.

“You can’t have success like this in Wabash,” the young man said. “And my mother wants success for me. Joseph Oliver who created this hotel travelled a long way from his home in Scotland to become create all this. I think I’m also going to have to travel a long way to become successful.”

Lucile forced a slight smile.

“Maybe,” she said. “But success is not always related to traveling great distances.”

“Your father was successful and he grew up just a hundred miles from Wabash.”

“If you call teaching successful,” Loren said.

“He was a high school principal,” Lucile said. “I call that successful.”

Loren Berry shook his head and extracted the brown sales book he always carried with him and put it on the dining table. He opened it to a page and pushed it across the table and pointed his finger at a part of the page.

“My sales of advertising on barbershop annunciators and interurban timetables,” he said to her. “Just for one month. More than my father made in a year.”



Her hand moved across the table until it encircled his.

“So a salesman it is,” she said.

It seemed a strange, exotic career to a family like hers who had been farmers and she felt it must be a strange career to him also who came from a family of so many teachers.

Loren moved his other hand across the table so that he was holding Lucile’s hand with both of his hands.

“Yes,” he said surveying the great rotunda room of the Oliver Hotel. “A salesman.”

The word hung on his tongue like a particular fragrance.

“A salesman,” he repeated.

\* \* \*

They had some time before the three o’clock red line up to the Silver Beach Amusement Park in St. Joseph, Michigan and Loren walked Lucile around the downtown area of South Bend, Indiana. On many of the windows were posters celebrating the Notre Dame football team’s spectacular 12-2 season under Coach Tom Barry. There were ongoing debates in town whether Notre Dame could have another winning season this year under their new coach Victor Place.

They passed a few barbershops and Loren told Lucile they were all clients for his barbershop annunciators.

“South Bend is a good market,” he said to her. “Lots of barbershops.”

They turned onto Washington Street and in a few minutes were in front of a magnificent mansion.

“Joseph Oliver’s home,” Loren said to Lucile. “Creator of the Oliver Hotel. Built in 1862 and purchased by him in 1881. He sold off all the interior woodwork and hired a New York architect who had designed Canada’s parliament buildings to enlarge and re-design the house. He hired an army of workmen to lay stone.”

Lucile looked at the great mansion in awe. It was larger than any home she had ever seen. She could count at least five chimneys but there might have been more. Ivy edged up the outside stone giving it the appearance of something that had been there since the beginning of time.

“It’s magnificent,” Lucile said.

“James and his family moved into the completed home in 1882 and in 1883 held a reception for 500 guests who danced in the third floor ballroom and dined on food prepared by a Chicago chef.”

“You sound like a tour guide,” Lucile said.

“I’ve studied his life,” Loren said. “It’s important to study the lives of great people.”

The young couple stood in front of the big mansion for a few minutes just taking in the majesty of the old place.

“James came a long way from the simple life of a shepherd in Scotland,” he said. “His wife died in 1902 and he is 84 years old now and in poor health.”

Just after he said this the front door opened and an old man in a wheel chair came out pushed by a person in a black suit. The old man was feeble and had a blanket over him even on the warm afternoon. His head was hanging and he just sat in the afternoon sun for a few moments and then lifted his head and saw the couple and waived at them a feeble waive.

Loren waived back.

“Oh my god,” he said. “James Oliver! We’re one of the few people who have seen James Oliver! No one in South Bend ever sees James Oliver!”

In twenty minutes they were getting aboard the red car for St. Joseph.

Loren told Lucile more about the famous James Oliver as the red interurban car left South Bend and headed north for Michigan. He told her about all of the businesses James had started and how much of an inspiration he was for him. However, he didn’t tell Lucile that in spite of affluence, he remained a simple man with simple tastes, who preferred the heat of his foundry and the dirt of a farm to the elegant surroundings of his new hotel or home. This was something that the young Loren Berry could not understand about the man. He had come so far yet he really hadn’t come that far. It was one of those paradoxical questions that hovered around him at this time, a question that only the time of his own life might provide an answer for.

\* \* \*

The red interurban travelled almost straight north into the flat farmlands of western Michigan with patches of forest here and there. Soon, they were moving west towards the shores of Lake Michigan and the great expanse of blue water could be seen on the horizon like a slim, shimmering presence.

Loren looked out the window, deep in thought about something. Lucile was starting to realize this was a common expression of his. Thinking about something, someplace,

some time in the future. Perhaps envisioning a home like James Oliver's home. A life like James Oliver some day.

He was such a different boy from all the other boys she knew. Most of them were still working on farms around Marion, content to move the operations of the family farm forward at a slow, steady pace. Content to take their place in the long lineage of family history. Content with the simple life on the farm when everyone was moving to the towns and cities. Loren was different from them. How was he different? It seemed to be a constantly evolving question. Like the changing morning fogs of October on the farms around Marion.

Lucile snuggled next to Loren and thought about the life that lay before them.

\* \* \*

It was a little after six when the red interurban pulled into the lakeside town of St. Joseph. In the middle of summer the town was full of tourists and they saw license plates from all over on the Model T cars parked in the downtown area.

The interurban stopped at the edge of the Silver Beach Amusement Park and the two got off and walked towards the entrance to the park. Loren had secured one of the cottages by the lake inside the park and it was a short walk to the one he had rented that had been left open for their arrival.

It sat on the beach next to the other cottages, sitting on blocks above the sand with wooden steps going up to a little porch and then the open unlocked door into the cottage.

Lucile put her small suitcase down and spun around the cottage. There wasn't much room to spin around.

"It's wonderful," she said. "Our own little place."

A bed was pushed against one wall and a small desk and a few chairs placed against another wall. On the desk was a bouquet of flowers and a bottle of wine and a plate of bread and cheese.

Loren opened the bottle of wine and poured two glasses and gave Lucile one and lifted his glass in a toast.

"To the most wonderful woman in the world," he said.

Lucile clicked her glass against his.

"To the most wonderful man," she said.

They sat out on the porch eating the bread and cheese and drinking the wine and watching the sun sink into Lake Michigan.

Behind them, the evening lights of the amusement park were a glow over a thin line of trees and they could hear the sounds of the amusement park: a calliope, the screams from the roller coaster, the pings and pongs of the games, the music of a band, laughter, an organ playing the popular song of the day “School Days.”

After the sun disappeared and a pale moon hung in the sky they took a walk along the beach right in front of their cottage.

“Logan Drake created Silver Beach,” Loren said to Lucile. “He spent part of his courtship to Maude Schlenker walking along this beach. Maude coined the name ‘Silver Beach’ because the moon path on the water shimmered like silver.”

They stopped and looked out at the lake.

“Like it’s doing tonight,” Lucile said.

\* \* \*

Their wedding was at noon the next day in a small chapel next to the amusement park. Loren had arranged for the minister and the ceremony was a short one. A few photographs were taken and the minister wished them good luck and then quickly but politely ushered them out as there was another wedding ceremony to perform in a few minutes. Silver Beach was a popular place for couples to elope and get married and the little chapel had a good business in weddings.

They walked past some games at the amusement park and Loren won a stuffed animal for Lucile by tossing some beanbags through a hoop. They filled themselves with candy and soda pop and went on a steamboat launch called the Wolverine. It went up the St. Joseph River for a few miles and then turned around and came back to the amusement park. It was open on the sides like a trolley car and had benches on the sides and down the center.

They had a few glasses of steam beer when they got back to the amusement park and were giddy enough to try the Chase Through the Clouds roller coaster. The figure 8 rollercoaster was founder Logan Drake’s crowning achievement in the park at this point and its photograph was circulated on postcards all through the Midwest. The cars on it were not linked like a snake but simply had several two person capacity cars.

Lucile had never been on a rollercoaster before and had some doubts about the whole idea but Loren playfully pulled her into the small little wooden car and before she knew it they were traveling up and down over the tracks and she was screaming and holding Loren tighter than she had ever held him before.

When it was over Lucile dabbed a handkerchief against her forehead.

“What do you think?” Loren asked her.

“I think it’s somewhat like this wild marriage we’re embarking on,” she said.

Loren Berry laughed.

“You’re probably right,” he said.

\* \* \*

That evening they went to dinner at one of the restaurants in the downtown area of St. Joseph and after dinner they went to the dance pavilion and danced to the organ music and then walked along the shoreline again and watched the shimmering reflection of the moon on the water of Lake Michigan.

It was a warm evening and when they got back to their cottage Loren opened a bottle of wine and they sat out on the porch and pondered the new life before them. And how they would tell their parents that they had gotten married. Loren knew that it would break his mother’s heart and he didn’t look forward to telling her.

They were up early the next morning and heading back home on the network of inter-urbans. Loren got off the car in Wabash and Lucile traveled the twenty miles south to Marion. The next few days would be busy trying to find a place where the two of them would live. In the meantime he would be spending a lot of time in Marion with Lucile.

“How was your business in Marion?” his mother asked when he came in the door of their little home in Wabash.

“Excellent,” Loren said. “Picked up a few new customers.”

“That is good,” said his mother.

“Yes,” said Loren. “I’ll need to spend a lot more time down there.”

## Final Wabash Years (1908 & 1909)

(A special thanks to Wabash County Historian Ron Woods for the following day-by-day accounts of the events in Wabash in 1908 and 1909)

### Wabash Public Library Files

#### 1908

##### FIVE MURDERS IN A YEAR.

Five murders affecting Wabash occurred during the year. On September 6, Joel Baker killed Mrs. Sylvia Null-Hernice and then turned his revolver upon himself. Ed Quick, guard at Michigan City from Wabash, was murdered in the night while his wife was lying beside him. His remains were brought here for burial.

Mrs. Mary A. Wright, formerly of Wabash, murdered her adopted daughter, formerly Miss Beulah Cox, at Devil's Lake, N.D. Mrs. Wright was in jail awaiting a decision of a jury. Milo and Walter Long implicated in the murder of John A. Hayes and his daughter at Culbertson, MT. The murder was done by a gang of night riders and it was held by the jurors that the two Wabash county men were involved in this murder, leading the mob and both were sentenced to the penitentiary.

##### STORY OF TRAGEDIES.

The tragedies of the year are largely told by the coroner's inquests. These do not include some fatalities. Harry McCrea suicided in Chicago and the inquest was held there. Mr. Bechtold, east of Wabash was killed by a train and the inquest was held in Huntington. The inquests held here in the past year were:

Oscar F. Knee, asphyxiated in a bath tub, January 7.

Robert Schmalzried, child, killed by wagon, January 28.

James V. Blayney, suicided by chloroform, February 15.

Rufus Willett, suicided by carbolic acid, March 20.

Mrs. Lydia Martin, suicided by morphine, April 2.

William May, heart disease, April 10.

Mrs. James Frame, apoplexy, April 22.

Jacob Lower, heart disease, April 25.

Robert Frankstein, corrosive sublimate poisoning, accidental, May 19.

Glenn Williams, child, heart disease, May 26.

Clark G. Wilson, heart disease, June 24.

John Gowens, heart disease, July 18.

Henry Lamb, angina pectoris, August 30.

George W. Chalmers, drowned, September 20.

Victor Wilmore, killed on railroad, September 23.

Virgil Dee Whitmyer, accidentally shot by father, August 7.

Lemoine White, suicided. September 16.

Herman R. Miller, angina pectoris September 30.  
Mrs. John Unger, killed in runaway, November 20.  
William Oppy, found dead from exposure, December 25.

#### WEDDINGS AND DIVORCES.

There were 223 marriage licenses issued in Wabash County in 1908 and during the year there were but twenty-two divorces issued. Of the twenty-two who secured divorces only two were men. In other words only two women failed to prove true to the vows they had made.

There were thirteen divorce suits filed which were dismissed. Occasionally there was a divorce asked and then the two agreed and the cases were dismissed. Occasionally a case was filed again. There are now twenty-four cases pending. These will go on the docket for the January term of court. The list of weddings was not quite as large as it should be.

#### STORK AND REAPER.

The stork and the reaper ran a race during the year and the stork came out far ahead. In the county, outside of the corporations, there were 203 births and 133 deaths. In the city the figures have not been compiled but will show the relationship slightly better for the stork. Dr. C.F. Fleming, County Health Officer, completed his figures today and the showing was quite good.

#### AS TO ARRESTS.

There were ninety-six arrests made by the sheriff or his deputies in the year just closing. There were 230 arrests all together the remainder being made by the city police and by special officers or those of other towns. The year went out with but one prisoner in the jail. It came in with six prisoners held over from the previous year.

#### FIRES OF THE YEAR.

In the past year there were thirty-nine fire alarms. The total loss for the year reached \$15,000, about \$5,000 less than for the year of 1907. Of these fires the largest losses were in the following: Fawley & Holderman, Ernest Hanes livery barn and the White Drug Store. Other fires of heavy losses were, The Ford House, Carney barn and the Kidd house.

In the entire list there were several false alarms turned in and eight grass fires, many more than for last year because of the dry weather.

There was an average of seventeen firemen present at every fire. This is one of the best reports that has ever been turned in by the department as there have been an unusual number of fires this year, and the number of firemen present for each fire and their successful work held down the losses to a smaller figure than last year although there were as many big fires this year as last.

On June 12 The city firemen purchase first summer clothes to replace their heavy clothing, worn year round.

October 23 Fire alarm to public \$25 reward for discovery of persons causing false alarms.

October 30 Damage in early fire North Manchester visited this morning by serious blaze, bank and two stores damaged.

1909

- Jan 1 Charles Clayton blew out gas and found unconscious following morning.  
Life saved with  
difficulty.
- 2 Herman Oleson, Swede, arrested and held for murderer of Ben Fish, released.
- 3 Malinda Lamb, age 96 becomes great great grand mother with birth of son at  
Cleveland  
Kendlesparker's home, dies the next day.
- 5 City, owing to indebtedness, releases all street repair and improvement men  
and shuts down  
stone crusher.
- 6 Wabash Sanitary Mill Company organized.
- 7 First saloon in Wabash closed under local option election.
- 8 Mayor Murphy named delegate to meeting of the Indiana Sanitary & Water  
Supply Assoc- iation at Indianapolis.
- 9 Maud Miller appointed official stenographer in house of representatives by  
Speaker Honan.
- 10 Adolph Modricker received news of great fortune in Europe which never  
materialized.
- 11 First heavy snow of the season falls.
- 12 12 Big Four passenger and freight traffic men have banquet at Tremont.
- 13 Ray Aughenbaugh, life long resident of county, leaves Chester township for  
first time and sees first street car in Wabash.
- 15 Mrs. Samuel Dunfee badly hurt by falling upon a comb stuck in her hair.
- 16 Sadie M. Green divorced three days prior, laughs at court order restraining her  
from marriage  
for two years and weds Walter Fulton.
- 19 Floy L. Ireby, fifteen, refused license to wed George H. Brum
- 22 Mrs. Katherine Wilson, colored, become violently insane while visiting at  
home of Green  
Boone and attempts to take her life.
- 23 Safe-blowers crack safe in Martin & Co.'s store at Lafontaine.
- 24 After exciting chase on handcar Chief Lines captures Abe Sweeney, wanted  
for larceny.
- 25 Katherine Wilson dies in county jail.
- 26 Orlie Heck, killed near Indianapolis, identified by father in morgue at Capital  
City and brought here.
- 27 Big Four Dispatcher Cannady finds full grown raccoon in parlor at his home.
- 28 Rev. J.W. Ritchey, formerly minister near Somerset, arrested in St. Louis,  
where he had  
eloped with girl, leaving family.



- 30 Worst storm of winter sweeps County and Big Four freight train sticks in drift near city.
- Feb 3 Wabash county prohibitionists hold county convention.
- 4 Fourth saloon in city closed by local option law.
- 5 Visit of stork at National Hotel arouses patrons. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Icholtz, Indianapolis, who were racing with stork, were the parents.
- 6 First maple syrup of season is in market.
- 7 Opening services of Lincoln centennial week held at Wabash churches.
- 8 Mrs. Catherine McMullen, for years housekeeper for the late President McKinley, stranded in city.
- 9 Mrs. Mary Wright found guilty of murdering Beulah Cox by jury in North Dakota court. Both former residents.
- 10 Nine pound turtle caught on asphalt street in residence district.
- 12 School children at East Ward building became ill and attribute trouble to hypnotic spell.
- 13 Sleet storm breaks down all telegraph wires between Wabash and Fairmount and Big Four trains are run without orders.
- 15 Charles Hoppes Big Four brakeman, brings Mrs. Hayes Hurd, Anderson, to Wabash for a week and then introduces her to Mrs. Hoppes as a "long lost cusin". Hoppes arrested.
- 16 Body of Mrs. Sarah L. Snearly exhumed at Roann for post mortem.
- 17 No. 5 saloon closes.
- 18 Jesse Sellers vaudeville actor, steals Leonidas Jackson's overcoat and lands in jail.
- 19 Train of New York orphan children leaves a part of its human freight in Wabash.
- 23 Fire from gas jet burns two Lafontaine business houses.
- 24 Ft. Wayne ^ Wabash Valley Traction line cars stopped by flood.
- 25 First day of farmers institute held.
- 26 Frank Freeman prisoner in county jail, writes farewell note and prepares to drown himself in bath tub. After one bared foot had been placed in the freezing water Freeman changed his mind.
- Mar 1 Attempt to wreck Big Four passenger train by placing pile of stones on track north of Wabash frustrated by timely discovery by engineer who stopped train.
- 2 George E. Fetrow leaves family with but four cents arrested at Logansport with Mrs. Ona Giffin of Lagro. Mrs. Fetrow declines to prosecute her husband.
- 4 Chautauqua for Wabash announced.
- 5 Wabash Cabinet works sold to committee of creditors.
- 7 Passenger train No. 1 on the Wabash wrecked east of Wabash.
- 9 D.H. Gleason finds skeleton in gravel pit on farm near Red Bridge.
- 10 Robert and James Baughman believe implicated in the blowing of a Lafontaine safe, escape from Indianapolis jail.

- 11 Asher Gray's race track, oldest in the county built 34 years ago abandoned.
- 14 Actress with a burlesque show attempted suicide in a cab. Escort knocked bottle of acid from her hand.
- 17 Daugherty Bros annual combination sale draws big crowd.
- 18 Evidence all in grand jury investigation of Snearly case. Dr. George Snearly indicted by grand jury next day.
- 20 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Asbury find babe dead by their side.
- 21 Miss Charlotte Brewer found dead.
- 23 Mrs. Theeny Gowan, Marion, brought letter supposed to have come from beneath cross after Jesus' crucifixion to Wabash for publication, believing it would bring her good luck.
- 24 The "managerette" and owner of "The Hall Room Boys" company sought by the police but not found.
- 25 South Side school closed because of scarlet fever. George Dowling, morphine fiend, runs amuck believing he is pursued by squad of police.
- Apr 2 Ben Smith 75, destitute, walking hundred miles to reach home, found unconscious near city.
- 3 Original records of Judge Landis in Standard Oil case found at paper mill in nick of time.
- 4 Dr. George E. Snearly released from Columbia City jail.
- 8 Tornado hits Wabash injuring many and doing heavy damage. On the 8<sup>th</sup> a mass meeting held to relieve tornado victims.
- 9 Lafontaine telephone exchange burns.
- 12 Members of North Manchester town council arrested for irregularity in allowing bills.
- 13 W.A.A. annual banquet held.
- 16 Mayor Murphy instructs police to arrest all auto scorchers.
- 23 Century teachers put smoke in halls and sound fire alarm empty building in time prescribed by state inspectors.
- 24 Nun Fearnno, falls under train and has three fingers cut off.
- 25 Unknown man found dead near Laketon.
- 26 Modern Woodmen decide upon giving a street fair.
- 27 Gilbert Williams found not guilty of violation of ninety-day clause of local option law. First case in state.
- 30 No. 7 saloon closes.
- May 1 George F. Ogden becomes deputy recorder.
- 2 Members of executive committee of Indiana Law reporters association meets here.
- 3 Joseph Davis elected truant officer on 19<sup>th</sup> ballot.

- 4 Camp Helm, famous hobo camp, burned by police.
- 7 School enumerators report 2,385 youths.
- 8 Wabash County board of education says resignations must follow marriage of girl teachers.
- 10 "Major" Policeman Allison's bird dog, protects child from attack of snake.
- 15 Wabash County Bar association decides to establish schedule of fees.
- 17 Several cases brought against saloon men for having pool and billiard tables, dismissed.
- 18 Miss Golda Kreider goes into trance-like sleep. Sleeps until the 22<sup>nd</sup> when she awakens.
- 19 North Manchester editors ordered to produce files in circuit court cases.
- 20 Bones of huge mastodon unearthed near city.
- 21 Clesley Partridge accidentally shot and killed, by Howard Bashore at charivari party near Servia.
- 27 Aaron Ulrey, county councilman, ejected from Big Four train for refusal to pay cash fare.
- 28 Daniel Harden, tramp, compels Samuel Ramsey to prepare him dinner, under cover of a gun.
- Jun 1 Noble township advisory board rejects petition for new school at Richvalley.
- 3 Walter Kaufman, Wabash resident, attempts to murder wife in Michigan. Later taken to Michigan asylum.
- 5 Philip Hipskind & Sons begin proceedings to enjoin the city from operating stone crusher and selling the output.
- 6 Leslie Smith drowned in Mississinewa when boat capsizes.
- 7 James Arnett rendered unconscious and burned when barn is struck by lightning.
- 15 Seven cases against J.A. Ervin, Boyd Park manager for Sabbath.
- 16 Wabash businessmen go to Chicago to confer with Ginsburg Bros. relative to locating factory here.
- 17 Dr. Snearly officially vindicated of the charge of murder in Whitley county court.
- 20 Alfine Parker steps in front of passenger train north of city and instantly killed.
- 21 Wabash fire department joins Northeastern Volunteer Fireman's association.
- 22 H.S. Logan, who controls local ice supply promises forty cent ice for entire season.
- 23 Five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Malaker comes from Austria alone to join his parents in Wabash.

- 24 Wabash physicians adopt resolutions declaring that their names must not be used in newspaper accounts of accidents.
- 25 Four year old son of William Purdy rescued from home fired by lightning by eleven year old brother.
- 28 Mary Smith drinks coal oil and life is saved with difficulty.
- 30 John W. Grant, wealthy Nevada miner, receives many proposals of marriage through an advertisement in the Times-Star.
- Jul 2 Women's Relief Corps presents Lincoln cabin with American Flag.
- 2 Traction company files suit against L.M. Props, Lagro, for appropriating electricity.
- 5 Supply of fireworks intended for celebration at Roann destroyed when match was thrown in pile of explosives.
- 6 County council appropriates \$4,000 for flood repairs.
- 7 Fifty two depositors of Bank of North Manchester, defunct, file suit against stockholders.
- 9 Ray Baurman, white, and Mable Bundy, Indian squaw, marry.
- 10 Mrs. A.H. Plummer slightly injured by premature discharge of rifle she was handling.
- 13 Warren G. Sayre elected Leading Knight of Elks of United States.
- 14 George Bernard, convict at Michigan City denied pardon by state board.
- 15 Wabash grocery and dry goods clerks play ball for benefit of Wabash hospital.
- 16 Daughter of Jake Garst rushes into burning barn and risks life to save pet horse.
- 17 Walter Long, Wabash county boy serving time in Montana prison sends bridle to old home to be raffled off to secure funds.
- 18 Ban placed on oriental dances at street fair in city.
- 20 Thomas Mullenix and Frank Rhodes, chicken thieves, caught after long chase by posse.
- 21 Anderson detectives sue Jesse Crist for services rendered in Snearly murder case.
- 22 11 months old daughter of Oscar Bollinger has narrow escape from death by eating fly killer.
- Aug 4 Charles Rager arrested for throwing stones at autos whom he thought frightened horse.
- 5 Rev. Shannon, evangelist, holds meeting and refuses to permit ladies without escort.
- 6 Wabash county Chautaugua opens.
- 7 Nine business houses burn in Lafontaine.
- 13 Big Four runs first moonlight excursion.
- 17 Street fair opens.
- 18 Annual reunion of Wabash soldiers held at Roann.
- 22 Grace Van Studdiford files suit for divorce.
- 23 Ira Baer's home near Lagro burns and wife uses telephone to summon help before wires burn.

- 24 Beta Phi Sigma convention of Ohio and Indiana opened in Wabash.
- 26 Wabash Elks hold annual picnic at Boyd Park.
- Sep 1 Old Settlers of county meet in annual reunion
- 2 First frost of fall nips late vegetation.
- 3 Wabash County Detective Association elects officers.
- 8 14<sup>th</sup> Indiana battery holds annual reunion.
- 9 300 Hipskinds meet in annual reunion.
- 11 Judge Plummer orders court house bell silenced during his term of office.
- 12 J.H. Harter delegate from Wabash to attend state federation of commercial clubs at Gary.
- 16 Wagon with seven passengers go over 40 foot cliff in Waltz twp and all escape.
- 17 M. Clark, arrested in Chicago on serious charge, proves alibi with register at Kaiser hotel, proving him to have been here on date of alleged charge.
- 19 Annual convention of W.C.T.U. of county held here
- 20 William Edmond, Oklahoma, makes first visit to Wabash in forty years.
- 21 Mrs. Mattie Thomas, Indianapolis, suddenly loses consciousness while on street car and does not regain senses for three days.
- 23 "Nervy Nat" Flemming baseball player, elopes with Lucky Ivory.
- 24 Orville Reynolds enters father's store in largo and buys cigar of parent without being recognized after long absence from home.
- 25 O.P. Goodlander dies on farm where he resided since birth, 60 years ago.
- 26 Firebugs attempt to burn Hoosier Skirt factory at North Manchester.
- 27 Night watchman Oscar Bollinger fires at Pervey Peele, a trespasser and shot in leg.
- 28 Clifford Kegg lands 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pound bass at Chapman's Lake wins prize in Bradley Bros big bass contest.
- Oct 1 Big Four announces no more Cincinnati and Louisville excursions to be run from Wabash.
- 2 F.A. Delane, president of Wabash Railway system, pays city a flying visit.
- 4 John Bagley, Detroit, tobacco king, sends prisoners at county jail five pounds of tobacco.
- 6 Charles McCammon, Beaumont, Tx, coming to city to see mother, finds her dead.
- 7 Wabash county hospital board adopts resolutions closing institution.
- 8 William Kumley Lagro twp farmer, tells sheriff his farm is infested with band of outlaws who seek his life.
- 11 Police report prisoner says intoxication was caused by an overdose of patent medicine.
- 13 Robert Curkendoll, aged colored slave, found dead at poor farm.
- 17 David Shoemaker crashes into interurban car with auto.
- 19 North Manchester councilmen found guilty of irregular business procedure and fined in

- circuit court.
- 20 George Mullin, Detroit pitcher, returns home in city and Elks give him a banquet.
- 22 Daniel Lutz kicked by a calf and cracks a rib.
- 23 Mrs. Julia Stiner found almost dead from coal gas.
- 27 David Fouts, city employee discharged because it was believed he furnished the Times-Star with graft information.
- 28 Mayor appoints delegates to deep waterways convention at Ft. Wayne.
- 29 Earl Hiatt, Lagro, attacks father with razor while intoxicated and is hit by shot gun fired by parent.
- Nov 1 Wabash passenger train wrecked near Lagro and four injured.
- 6 Karl Modricker telegraph operator struck by Wabash train and killed while walking home.
- 10 Charles D. Bolte chief of police under Mayor-elect Wilson.
- 10 Ben Brooks accidentally shoots Earl Smith while hunting.
- 12 Fred Hodel, three years old, falls into cistern and is rescued by mother.
- 13 Two year old son of Paul Ebbinghouse falls from second story window without injury.
- 14 Mrs. Daniel Owen, living in northern part of the county, bitten by snake which attacked her as she walked through yard.
- 17 New city council decides to do away with office of street commissioner.
- 20 Governor and Mrs. Thomas Marshall pay visit to Wabash.
- 21 Homer Belitts becomes unconscious while driving; does not regain consciousness for ten hours.
- 23 John Shrader falls beneath a freight train at Roann and has both feet cut off.
- 26 Harley Jenkins has hand shot off while hunting.
- 28 Board votes to give play for benefit of county hospital.
- Dec 2 Roy Hoover falls from moving freight train and left unconscious along track for some time.
- 1 News received of the death of Chris. Arnold, formerly of Wabash, killed by a runaway, in Cuba.
- 2 William Culvert, total blind, walks on street car tracks in front of approaching car and is hit.
- 6 Gas found in big quantities in abandoned well at Somerset.
- 7 Marion judge dissolves restraining order granted to Lambert Bros. against city.
- 8 Mercury hits zero mark for first time during winter.
- 9 N.G. Hunter speaks at national Telephone association meeting.
- 10 Bursting water damages decorations at Eagles Theater.
- 11 George Baldwin, Indianapolis traveling man, robbed of five hundred dollars while walking on south side, after robber had twice attempted to shoot him.

- 12 Will of Amanda Williams probated provides her jewelry be sold and proceeds given to missionary society.
- 13 Seniors in high school adopt caps and gowns for commencement.
- 16 Noble township advisory board member declares intentions to thereafter regard the sixty day law theretofore ignored.
- 17 1832 Club meets.
- 19 Rev. Richard Haworth attacks divorce problem in his pulpit.
- 22 Good Fellows play to give poor children a merry Christmas presents distributed on 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 26 Stranger sells imitation furs to Wabash parties and departs before deception discovered.
- 27 Twelve inches of snow blocks traffic
- 29 Discovery made that Wabash Railway company owes city of Wabash approximately \$5,000 in back taxes.
- 30 Weather record for years broke 10 below zero.
- 31 Johnny Kieslanck, an insane itinerant, taken in custody at Richvalley after having eaten breakfast with a family against their wishes.

## Dayton

(1910)

In 1910 22-year-old Berry and his wife Lucille moved to Dayton, Ohio, centrally located in the Midwest and a town with a booming economy. There, he started the Ohio Guide Company. They lived in a \$12-a-week boarding house while he set up shop at a rented desk in a downtown office building. His first client was the Home Telephone Company, one of two phone companies serving the community. After performing well for the customer, he was then able to sell his services to the parent company, The United States Independent Telephone Company of Columbus, Ohio, which ran 20 telephone companies in the state. Berry was awarded the business of eight directories that had never sold advertising.

In order to handle the influx of business, Berry took on a partner, a neighbor in his office building, George Craven, who had been working as a life insurance agent. The expanded operation, called Craven and Berry, was now able to solicit and win business from other Midwestern telephone companies located in larger towns like St. Louis, Indianapolis, and Louisville. New salesmen were employed and given common sense tricks to developing leads, such as read the local newspapers, jot down the names on the side of delivery trucks and wagons, and even visit the silent movie theaters to see what businesses were willing to pay to have their names projected on the screen before the show.

Read more: <http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/49/L-M-Berry-and-Company.html#ixzz4UiIMAvY2>

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“Dayton, Ohio: The Rise, Fall and Stagnation of a Former Industrial Juggernaut”

New Geography.Com

By Samuel Staley (8/4/08)

In effect, it was the Silicon Valley of its time. A beacon of manufacturing success that claimed more patents per capita than any other U.S. city in 1900. Its entrepreneurial climate nurtured innovators such Charles Kettering and John Patterson, inventor of the automobile self-starter and founder of NCR. Or the flight pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright. As the U.S. economy took off after World War II, Dayton was home to the largest concentration of General Motors employees outside of Michigan.

The city also nurtured companies that would become stalwarts on the Fortune 500, including National Cash Register (NCR), Mead Paper Company, business forms companies Standard Register and Reynolds and Reynolds, Dayco and Phillips Industries.



To put this in context, just 14 U.S. cities could claim six or more Fortune 500 headquarters in 2007. Not a bad performance for an urban area that peaked as the 40th largest city in the U.S. in 1940.

These early industrialists were more than just business men. They were also visionaries. The founder of NCR, John H. Patterson, is widely credited with laying the foundation for the first modern factory system, pioneering the basic principles that still drive much of modern advertising, and redefining the relationship between labor and management. NCR may also have been America's first truly global business. "The cash register," writes Patterson biographer Samuel Crowther, "is the first American machine which can claim that on it the sun has never set." Even as Patterson was toiling away in a little shop in Dayton, cash "registers were being sold in England and Australia." The company's first non-US sales office was established in England in 1885 and its first European factory was established in Germany in 1903.

It's difficult to underestimate Patterson's influence on American industry. By 1930, an estimated one-sixth of all U.S. corporate executives had either been an executive at NCR or been part of Patterson's management training programs. Among NCR's alumni were IBM's visionary CEO Thomas Watson as well as the presidents of Packard Motor Car Company, Toledo Scale, Delco (now Delphi) and dozens of others.

What may separate men like Patterson to their equivalents today in places like Silicon Valley was their intense civic involvement. Patterson was one of the first business leaders to try to apply scientific management to local government, testing out his ideas in rebuilding the city after a disastrous flood ruined downtown Dayton in 1913. He also helped create the Miami Conservancy District, one of the nation's first flood control districts that still manages a system of low-level dams and levies that keep downtown flood-free to this day. Perhaps one of Patterson's most prescient civic innovations was bringing the city manager form of local government to the first large city in the U.S. As significant as Patterson was as an individual, he was not alone. The Dayton area benefited from the entrepreneurial drive and civic commitment of hundreds of businessmen that built large companies, many publicly traded. Patterson was the most iconic of the icons.

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"America's forgotten forerunner to Silicon Valley"

BBC.Com

March 15, 2015

By Krissy Clark

Before Silicon Valley became a world-renowned technology hub, the home of US innovation was in Dayton, Ohio. It's almost impossible to go one day without using one of its inventions. But how is it faring now?

One particular valley springs to mind when thinking of American innovation. It's where

brilliant engineers and scrappy entrepreneurs tinker late at night in their garages, until they come up with the perfect solution to a problem. And then they found start-ups that make them fabulously wealthy.

But before Silicon Valley there was the Miami River Valley near Dayton, Ohio.

And if Silicon Valley has a prototype, it's Dayton.

By the early 20th Century, Dayton had the most patents per capita of any American city. It was home to one of the world's greatest concentrations of scientists and technicians. A sixth of all corporate executives had spent a portion of their careers in the city.

"You can hardly get through a day today in 2015 without having a connection to Dayton," says Alex Heckman, director of education for Dayton's Carillon Historical Park, full of exhibits paying homage to inventions from the area.

There's the aeroplane. The cash register. The ring pull mechanism on a can of soda. Refrigerants and air conditioning. The electric wheel chair. The modern parachute. Magnetic strip technology for credit cards. Stealth technology for aircraft. Barcode scanners. Batteries used on satellites. Scratch and sniff stickers.

Silicon Valley loves to celebrate the whole trope about coming up with a world-changing product in your garage. Well, before the garages that sheltered Hewlett and Packard, or Jobs and Wozniak, as they tinkered - there was Deeds Barn, in Dayton.

Deeds Barn is where, back in the 1910s, two Ohio farm boys from modest means, Edward Deeds and Charles Kettering, tried to solve one of the biggest problems facing the nascent auto industry: How to start a car without having to kneel down in the mud and turn an extremely heavy crank by hand. (Something only the strongest of men, and barely any women, had the strength to do.)

"They'd sometimes work for 36 hours in a row," Heckman says. "All night, all the next day. There's a story of Kettering literally falling asleep out of exhaustion underneath the car."

Finally, they perfected an electrical part that would make it possible for anyone to start a car. They called it the Delco self-starter.

The self-starter went on to make these two Ohio farm boys, Deeds and Kettering, a lot of money. They sold the company they started in Deeds Barn to General Motors. When Charles Kettering died in 1958 he was worth \$350 million.

But "self-starter" is also a pretty good metaphor for the spirit that was alive all over Dayton in its heyday of the early to mid-20th Century. The metaphor fit not just the inventors of Dayton, but also the hundreds of thousands of people who found jobs in the area mass producing all the new things being invented.

“It’s a situation where success breeds success,” says Heckman. “Someone could pull themselves up by their boot straps by going to work for a major manufacturing facility.” He compares the way that people now flock to Silicon Valley to “make it” in the tech economy to the way people once flocked to Dayton to climb out of poverty and become middle class.

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“Why Did Dayton Produce So Many Inventors And Inventions?”

WYSO.Org

8/1/14

By Lewis Wallace

Mary Oliver, the director of collections with Dayton History at Carillon, shows off a room filled from floor to ceiling with elaborate cash registers, each engraved with the words National Cash Register.

“In my opinion, exactly why we’re standing here is why Dayton was so innovative...NCR,” she says. Oliver thinks National Cash Register is where a lot of it got started. John Patterson, who founded the company in 1884, didn’t actually invent the cash register: he was an entrepreneur, and he surrounded himself with creative folks. He was also an eccentric individual with a knack for marketing; Oliver says one of his great inventions may have been junk mail.

John Patterson and NCR bring us to the first, most obvious answer to Susan Thornton’s question about why Dayton was a hub for invention: Dayton had the people.

“Dayton had a particular group of people all in this golden era all coming together at the same time that really had that mindset,” says Alex Heckman, education director for Dayton History. Patterson hired engineers Edward Deeds and Charles Kettering, who went on to invent the ignition self-starter and other innovations in the auto industry.

But there’s a chicken-egg question here. Which came first? Did the people make Dayton, or did something about Dayton make the people? Of course, this question is subjective—there’s no definitive work on the issue. But WYSO found the short answer is, there’s more than one factor contributing to why Dayton was a hub for invention. The second factor: location.

“There had always been a lot of machinists in the area, a lot of small-scale manufacturing, things that we call today tool and die,” says Janet Bednarek, a history professor at the University of Dayton. She says Dayton was near rivers and transportation, which made it a good place for building and making things. As the industrial economy exploded, the high level of production drew people here. The city’s productivity, in turn, led to the third key factor in inventiveness: capital.

“The late 19th and early 20th century was a time of tremendous technological change, a lot of energy, a lot of capital was available for innovators at that time,” says Bednarek. The steel industry, meatpacking, and of course Patterson’s booming cash register business were raking it in. “That capital has to go somewhere.”

Dayton at that time was kind of like the Silicon Valley of mechanical engineering, with investment to support a whole class of inventors and thinkers. That investment, in turn, fed into a final factor driving Dayton’s inventiveness: collaboration. Professor Bednarek says the Wright Brothers and Kettering and Deeds used to hang out and put their heads together, forming a group known as the “Barn Gang” that later developed into the Dayton Engineers Club.

“It seems if you get a lot of creative people within close proximity to one another, it seems to have this synergistic effect, and a lot of things happen, and that’s what happened in Dayton around the turn of the last century,” says Bednarek.

A spirit of collaboration and creativity lasted through the 20th century and inspired many more inventions.

#### Notes

“Before The Lights.” Source of the first few paragraphs of the story from the following source. Indian Treaty of 1826, Tipton’s Quest, By Historian Carl Leiter. Howard, Indiana Memory Project <http://www.howardcountymemory.net/default.aspx?id=12842>

“Fair & Fire.” The section on the Chicago boarding house from the novel by William Stead, *If Christ Came to Chicago*.

## The Early 1920s

A turning point in Berry's history came in 1921 when the U.S. government finally decided that local telephone competition caused more problems than it was worth, and legislation was passed to allow for natural monopolies and the consolidation of rival phone companies. Although Berry lost some major customers during the shakeout, in the long run the change was good for the company. No longer did advertisers have to decide if they were going to advertise in more than one directory, and they could be assured that they would reach all telephone customers in a community and not just a fraction.

The health of Loren Berry's partner George Craven began to falter in the early in the early 1920s their business George Craven's forcing the dissolution of Craven and Berry. Thus, in 1924 the firm took the name L. M Berry and Company.

<http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/49/L-M-Berry-and-Company.html#ixzz4UiIMAvY2>)

## New Home (1928)

The Berry family moved from their home in North Dayton to the Dayton suburb of Oakwood around 1928. Their new home was on Ridgeway Road and it was only a few homes away from a large white home on the tallest hill in the area. The home was called Hawthorne Hill and it was the home of the famous Wright Brothers, inventors of the airplane. Although Wilbur passed away in 1912, Orville was living at the home now with his spinster sister Kathryn.

Loren Berry has related the story of how he first met Orville Wright a number of times. One day, he saw an older gentleman in the back yard by a large tree. He went out to talk to the man and it was Orville Wright. Orville told him he used to picnic by the big tree. Years later, Loren had a plaque made that noted Orville Wright used to have picnics here and put it on the tree. A friendship developed that lasted until Orville passed away in 1949.

One of Loren's daughters, Elizabeth, became a special friend of Orville Wright and Kathryn. All the Berry children used to pass Hawthorne Hill on their way to the nearby elementary school Harmon Avenue. Kathryn kept a rose garden by the side of the home and one day Elizabeth stopped by the rose garden and asked Kathryn if she could smell the flowers. Kathryn said yes and this started a friendship that lasted many years. Eventually, Kathryn introduced Elizabeth to Orville. Although Orville Wright was known to be a very smart man he was not known to be a warm man but he took a shine to E.

One Saturday evening in the late 1920s, Elizabeth was having dinner with Orville and Kathryn when a harsh rain started with thunder and lightning. Orville was concerned about Elizabeth going home and called Loren Berry. Orville offered that she might spend the night at Hawthorne Hill and that he and Kathryn would bring her home first thing in the morning. Loren Berry was a great admirer of Orville Wright and told him that he was sure Elizabeth would be in good hands and would cause them no trouble and he had no problem with Elizabeth spending the night at Hawthorne Hill.

The friendship with Orville Wright and Kathryn lasted the rest of Orville Wright's life and when he passed away in 1949, Elizabeth was the only young person who received a specified bequest for a specific statuette that she liked in Orville Wright's will.

## 1930s

By the start of the 1930s Berry's annual directory volume had reached one million copies, a considerable improvement over the 8,000 directories of 1910. The company achieved a major coup in 1931, signing its first Bell System contract, covering the Dayton area for the Ohio Bell Telephone Company. In that same year, the company was forced for the second time since the departure of Craven to relocate its Dayton headquarters to larger accommodations. In addition, Berry maintained offices in a number of other cities, as far away as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Tampa, Florida.

( <http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/49/L-M-Berry-and-Company.html#ixzz4UiPqobdu>)

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### The Surf Club

<http://press.fourseasons.com/surfside/trending-now/the-surf-club-history/>

Founded in 1930, The Surf Club was an unlikely addition to the Miami Beaches. After all, the then southernmost city was, and remains, the location where many seek the limelight as much as the sunlight. Some, however, would prefer to socialise behind closed doors, which was precisely the appeal of The Surf Club.

The idea for the club was born on a yacht owned by tire tycoon Harvey Firestone on a winter afternoon in the late 1920s. Firestone and a few friends including Miami Beach pioneers Carl Fisher and Irving Collins cruised up the coast of Miami Beach on the *Marybelle*, when they noticed an incredibly beautiful beachfront landscape. In the midst of Prohibition, they were hankering for a private place to gather and once they laid eyes upon this location, the ideal place was found. Architect Russell T. Pancoast, who defined aesthetics of that era, was brought on to bring their vision to life.

Since its opening on New Year's Eve 1930, the club became a gathering place for exceptional figures of the past century. Among those who came to sip and sup were Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Elizabeth Taylor, Winston Churchill and more. There was always something fabulous taking place – from poolside fashion shows and debutante galas to black-tie boxing nights and over-the-top parties.

## 1940s

A second generation of the Berry family became involved in the company in the 1940s. Loren Berry's son, John William Berry, had learned the business while growing up, working after school, on weekends, and during his summers. When he was 18, in 1941, the younger Berry got his first taste of sales by heading up the directory sales campaign in Franklin, Ohio, and in the process demonstrated a great deal of potential. In just half the time as the previous year's effort, his team doubled the number of Yellow Page advertisers. John Berry did not join the company until 1946, after earning a business administration degree at Dartmouth University in 1944 and serving a stint in the military at the end of World War II. He quickly assumed greater levels of responsibility at Berry Company, becoming general sales manager in 1948.

( <http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/49/L-M-Berry-and-Company.html#ixzz4UiQSi2ZS>)



## 1950s

It was during the postwar years that the telephone became ubiquitous in the homes of average Americans, and as a consequence the Yellow Pages took on a greater importance and the fortunes of the Berry Company rose accordingly. Between the end of the war and 1950, the Bell System installed 14 million telephones, the same number put in service during the company's first half-century. Moreover, the consumer advertising industry came of age and the Yellow Pages became part of a greater trend impacting consumers and merchants alike. In the generation after the war, Berry expanded across the country. It added Bell customers throughout the south, as well as in New York and Wisconsin, and won the business of nearly 200 non-Bell customers. In addition, Berry became more vertically integrated. Not only did it sell advertising, it would now be able to handle all facets of a sales campaign, plus bill the advertisers, compile the directory, print, and deliver it.

Read more: <http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/49/L-M-Berry-and-Company.html#ixzz4UiQsXWxQ>

Loren Berry was selected a Republican Presidential Elector for Ohio in 1956.

## 1960s

The 1960s brought other changes to berry. John Berry became Managing Director in 1960, then succeeded his 75-year-old father as president in 1963, the same year the business was incorporated. Although Loren Berry would remain involved, serving as chairman of the board, the company was under the guidance of John Berry, who during his tenure would take the business beyond the United States borders. In 1966 he formed a joint venture with International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) creating ITT-World Directories to publish directories and sell advertising for telephone companies around the world. Stateside, in the meantime, Berry made a number of West Coast acquisitions in the 1960s and as a result opened the first office west of the Rockies.

## 1970s

By the early 1970s Berry was responsible for one out of every four telephone directories published in the United States, serving more than 10,000 communities in 42 states. The company also began doing business in Canada, forming L. M. Berry-Canada, Ltd., to produce the Yellow Pages for The New Brunswick Telephone Company.

The business was publishing in nine languages in 17 countries, some of which never before had a classified telephone directory. Also of note, they were not necessarily the Yellow Pages. In Australia, for example, they became the Pink Pages, and in Europe the Golden Pages.

<http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/49/L-M-Berry-and-Company.html#ixzz4UiRUMwYE>

Berry was selected as a Presidential Elector for the second time in 1972.

In 1976, Loren Berry was inducted as a member of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, which honors the achievements of outstanding individuals who have succeeded in spite of adversity.

In 1978, Loren's son John W. Berry endowed the Loren M. Berry Chair in Economics at Dartmouth College to honor his father. John W. Berry was a 1944 graduate of Dartmouth and also donated \$27 million for the construction of the Berry Library.

In 1978 Loren Berry said “I've been fortunate to know many people who have shared with me...a faith in the individual's ability to achieve, a willingness to work hard — very hard, and a strong belief in the free enterprise system.”

## 1980s

Loren Berry died at his home in Oakwood in 1980 at the age of 92. He was interred at Woodlawn Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio.

In 1982, he was added to the Telephone Hall of Fame honor roll of the Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association. He did not witness the major changes that occurred in telecommunications and the Yellow Pages, prompted in large part by the government-mandated breakup of AT&T and the deregulation of the industry. The Yellow Pages had become a significant cash cow for the Bell System, generating about \$3.5 billion in advertising revenues in 1982. The profit potential had not been lost on others, of course, and already companies like GTE Corporation and Continental Telecom, Inc., had begun to launch directories to rival the Yellow Pages produced by the local AT&T company.

For years other independents had carved out smaller, neighborhood directories that often proved more useful to consumers than the thick, unwieldy AT&T Yellow Pages that covered an entire telephone service area. Of the 6,000 Yellow Pages directories published in the United States in the early 1980s, 1,000 were produced by small independents. Nevertheless, the Bell companies took in 80 percent of all Yellow Pages revenues, retained their status with merchants, and had the added advantage of controlling access to the white pages listings, including new phone numbers, deletions, and changes.

After the divestiture of AT&T in 1984, the resulting “Baby Bells” began competing with one another, all of them looking to build a lucrative Yellow Pages business. Berry, the second-largest independent advertising sales agent for Yellow Pages directories in the United States, at the time representing 800 directories in 31 states and generating \$750 million in annual revenues, was an obvious prize and a natural fit for BellSouth.

In 1986, BellSouth bought the company from John Berry, who had long since bought out his siblings. He would then use the proceeds to found Berry Investments and also support his philanthropic interests, in particular Dartmouth University.

As a BellSouth subsidiary, The Berry Company lost a number of customers who were in competition with its corporate parent. Some accounts it lost had been held for six decades and it took some time to rebuild the customer base. Another factor was increased competition from rival telephone directories in the 1990s. The rise of the Internet, however, also brought a new outlet for the Yellow Pages and new opportunities for Berry.

Another industry shift occurred at the end of the century when telecommunications companies began to sell off their directory services, providing Berry with a chance to sell consulting and other services to the restructured operations.

Although BellSouth now owned Berry, the company maintained ties to the Berry family. John Berry, Jr., remained with the company until his retirement in 1994. His brother, Chuck Berry, was the last of the family to be employed. He had joined the business in 1976 and worked in a number of departments over the years. In the final years of his tenure he took a position in Community Affairs, an area that he described as his true passion, affording him a chance to represent the company his grandfather founded in a number of Dayton-area philanthropic programs. He retired in January 2006. It was the passing of an era for the company, and possibly the start of a new one was on the horizon, as BellSouth reached an agreement to be acquired by AT&T, which Berry also served, for \$67 billion. The two companies also jointly owned yellowpages.com. As a result, Berry's looked forward to an uncertain, yet promising, future.

### **Principal Subsidiaries**

The Berry Company; Berry Network, Inc.; Berry Sales & Marketing Solutions.

<http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/49/L-M-Berry-and-Company.html#ixzz4UiSrZN8H>

The Berry Sports Center at Dartmouth, opened in 1987, was a gift of the Berry family.

## Miami Beach

(Notes from Stu Fox: There were some wild times at the Latin Quarter in Miami Beach. It was off the causeway on Palm Island and it featured top-notch entertainers doing several shows a night, showgirls, and scantily dressed waitresses. Barbara Walters dad owned this nightclub from the early 40s to the late 50s. Man, I heard some incredible stories about this place. Havana and Sloppy Joe's. The wild days in south Florida with the after-hours gambling joints.)

Other popular spot were Ciro's Copa City and the Beachcomber. I recall our parents talking about the night before at that place when I was young. I also remember the days when everybody would take care of getting us kids dinner and then head out to this wild happy hour spot on the Beach. Hollywood, Florida was a wide-open anything-goes city when I was young with mob operated gambling joints. The mob also was involved in a number of nightclubs in Miami and Miami Beach. I remember going to the Place For Steak on Rickenbacker Causeway several nights after a mobsters was gunned down there.

There were also many trips to Havana until the late 50s.

The name escapes me right now but one of the most popular tourist spots on Miami Beach in the 30s and 40s was this older hotel on the southern part of Miami Beach that was one of the oldest big hotels on the beach by the 50s.

By the time I was a teenager, the hot night spots were mostly on upper Collins Avenue. The Eden Roc's Persian Room, the Carillon etc. I saw Bobby Darin at the Deauville on New Years Eve when I was 14. What a wild night. Uncle John married Mardell on New Year's Day.

Wolfie's on Lincoln Road was a popular restaurant hangout on South Beach.

Did you ever hear about the incident involving your mom at the Ball & Chain in Miami?

## Afterward/Notes

What we're trying to do in the stories? Method. Technique. This document utilizes different techniques in creating a new type of biography. Normally, a biography explores the history of a person's life and creates a story from this personal history. But what happens when this history – or parts of it – are dim and contain little information? Such is the case with the early years of my grandfather's life. His later years are relatively well-documented but his early years are filled with a few facts here-and-there but little else.

Our attempts to extract information from historical documents as well relatives or friends (or anyone who knew him) have yielded little new information on the early, little-known years of this legend of American business. There are a few stories told over and over again about events in his early life. But whether the stories are true or not does not seem to be a settled matter. Did they really happen or are they little more than convenient fictions that support an overall mythology built around him like George Washington chopping down the cherry tree?

Faced with this situation, not all that rare for a researcher investigating any family history often filled with dim periods of time, one looks to other ways to understand a biographical subject. In this sense, although we might never know the events of his early life, we can know the events in the world around our subject and knowing these events we can draw inferences about their influence on our subject. While we might not know what our subject did, we might be able to surmise how he felt about the world around him. In searching for a new way to understand a biographical subject, perhaps we move towards a new type of biography.

\* \* \*

Our method first involves creating a yearly outline and then filling the outline with information about our subject. When all the information we can gather about our subject is placed into the yearly outline, we then include events, things, people and places of the time. We initially used this outline method for our history of the city of Palm Desert, California and refined it in three other biographical outlines. Most influential are the local events and history of the place the subject grows up in but national and world events are also listed. A wide net is cast here: the items filling the outline are fashions, media, celebrities, heroes, books, songs, science and technology, government and politics, the arts. A congregation of the social and popular culture at the time. One might call this the construction of a type of biographical "media ecology" around our subject with the thesis that he was part of this surrounding ecology.

From the outline, a narrative is constructed using methods and techniques outlined in Appendix A (Not included in this document). So far, we have created five outlines using

the above methods: one on the history of a town, one the biography of a legendary Polynesian restaurant and three biographies: one about a teacher of mine, one about a famous nutritionist and this one about my grandfather Loren Berry. The Loren Berry outline is the first that we have attempted to pull a narrative from one of our outlines and are publishing here seven sections from the developing biography of my grandfather *LM Berry: Invention of An Industry*. The biography is planned to be divided into parts: his early years (1888-1910) and later years (1910 -1980). These stories are all part of the early year part of the biography. The least understood and documented and therefore the most fertile for this method of ours of turning outlines of events into a new genre (perhaps) of speculative fan fiction biographies.

\* \* \*

An interesting phenomenon related to this whole process of writing life stories in a new way. One of the most interesting things I've found from pulling stories from a chronological outline already created I find a very fascinating yet mysterious process. I started out writing one of the stories based in 1907. The author is able to fly over all of the material created and swoop down to pick it out of the stream of life and try and breathe life into it. Or at least a new life.

But sometimes one sits waiting for a time period to make a pull on your own creative muse. To convince her to go in this period of time. Sometimes against the demands of other muses who compete in all of this for the attention of someone picking dates to align (alight) upon. Writing this way is not going forward in a linear path to create something new but flying back and forth in time and finally constructing one's own narrative version of a person's life.

When one alights on these sections of time in the life to tell about, in a particular order, it seems sometimes like picking Tarot Cards from a deck. And who is to say that this method might not be close to that ancient method of Chinese divination that Jung talked about so much, the i-ching? What in fact regulates the points in time you choose to tell about? And tell about in a particular order? And with a particular type of developing style.

\* \* \*

Anyway, when one arrives at extracting material from the outline then we use the materials in Appendix A. The outline is placed into a structure defined mostly by screenplay structure consisting of a beginning, middle and end. In this sense, the subject of the biography is considered the Hero of the biography and whose actions are ultimately about pushing against one grand Villain in the story. As with accepted characters in a screenplay, there are also Mentors involved who help the Hero move forward through the biography. This screenplay-biography method also means focusing on particular scenes to tell the story and creating a surrounding "wallpaper" in the scenes containing objects, events, symbols of the subject's time.



Within this narrative, certainly literary devices are employed that attempt to encourage reader participation in the creation of the biography. These elements have been identified by Marshall McLuhan in his discussion of “cool” media in *Understanding Media* as well as Henry Jenkins in *Spreadable Media*. The techniques are used in part by the literary phenomenon called fan fiction.

Throughout, a narrative voice (or voices) for the biography emerges. We are influenced here in a large respect by the narrative voice made popular by Virginia Woolf in *To The Lighthouse*, particularly the so-called “Brown Stocking” section of the novel discussed by Erich Auerbach in his work *Mimesis*. In this regard, the biography is not narrated by one author as is the case with most biographies. Rather the narrative function is carried by various characters (authors) within the biography. Hopefully at times, if our techniques are working, the function of narration is passed to the reader for his or her participation by supplying their own narrative interpretation of the story.

\* \* \*

In writing 15,000 words and seven stories from the outline, a technique is being developed as well as a tendency noticed about the process of turning an outline of factual events into a structure of fact mixed with fiction. Perhaps it is a new technique for writing biographies or novels? Perhaps the whole point is that some new hybrid form of literature is evolving that doesn't perfect individual genres but rather creates new ones by connecting old ones. The final product perhaps something between a biography, novel and screenplay. Fact mixed with fiction so that a certain type of story is developed. Whatever you want to call it. Yet it seem to me that the most honest and true respect to an ancestor comes out in some form not meant to be some form of advertising.

Before the advertising people could descend on his advertising life, beneath the biography being created is a type of speculation on the topic of biography and history and how the past is reconstructed. What does one bump into? The great book of literary criticism by Erich Auerbach *Mimesis* that discusses how reality has been presented in western literature?

Certainly this is part of our theme but our real theme is how past reality might be presented in literature. It seems to me that the current methods and techniques of the biography genre seem limited and insufficient demanding some new approach.

Ironically, the beginning of a new biographical method might be brought about this biography born from frustration of knowing more about a grandfather. While I will probably never know the things he did in these years, I can know the things that happened in his world and speculate what he might have felt about them and what he might have done. Again, it is a method for better understanding one life. But I think it might be useful to others, offering a method for understanding other lives. And of course, ultimately, their own life.

\* \* \*

Through the writing process, music from my library comes out of Bose speakers and hangs like a particular media ecology in the background of the story. Something felt more than seen. Something known more than believed.

I often hum the songs of the 1890s and 1900s on my daily rounds around town. I'm able to download a lot of the songs from these years. It comes out of the Bose speakers and blends with the music I'm listening to now. The music of the past mixes with music of the present. The most popular song of 1899 "Hello My Baby" mixes with Coltrane or Tyner.

Tonight, as I write this Afterward, it's the music of DJ Day who has the Thursday night DJ gig around the pool at the Ace Hotel up in Palm Springs. The music of his CDs *The Day Before* "A Place To Go" and *Land of A Thousand Chances*. It is music born in the desert by people who have decided to go their own ways, get off the beaten tracks into the cities. The music seems a good blend for the early years of his life. Music that shows constant expansion of landscapes and horizons.

*Blueprint Your Bestseller*

Stuart Horwitz

Review By John Fraim (5/18/14)  
www.greathousestories.com

The book *Blueprint Your Bestseller* is perhaps one of the most interesting books about screenwriting in recent memory. Even the more interesting because the author is addressing novelists and not screenwriters. He proposes a new way of writing novels that goes against almost all current “how to” books on writing and countless magazines. The book *Blueprint Your Bestseller* by Stuart Horwitz is on the outside about how to organize and revise your manuscript with a program called the Book Architecture Method.

Horwitz is the founder of Book Architecture, a firm of independent editors in Providence and Boston who work with authors. Horwitz teaches classes from ideas in *Blueprint Your Bestseller*. He holds two masters degrees: one in literary aesthetics from New York University and one in East Asian studies from Harvard University.

It seems a little more than coincidence that I encounter Horwitz’s ideas while working on a biography about my grandfather. For, perhaps more than anything else, Horwitz’s method involves not looking forward but looking back. For biographers like myself, this means looking back on a particular life. Yet for novelists, and screenwriters, it involves looking back at a particular work of art. A story they have created.

Brushing aside talking in current literary jargon of things like plot structure, Horowitz feels it is more important to simply get things out and later analyze and structure them. For this reason, he asks those who come to his book that they have something they want to apply his methods onto. He says at least a hundred pages. But he would probably say a screenplay also.

For Horwitz, the Book Architecture method is based on applying a number of tools to the past story. First, a division into scenes. Second, pulling reoccurring series of things from the scenes. Third, finding an overall theme from the scenes and the series. In the process, he has all of us reading the wonderful story “The Ugly Duckling” by Hans Christian Anderson (1843) and the translation by Mrs. Edgar Lucas (1910). He then applies the Book Architecture theories to the famous fairytale in a brilliant description of the true power of the little fairytale.

One of the best breakdowns I’ve ever read about the underlying hidden structure of

literature and how to work with it. Perhaps the best explanation I've ever read explaining the power of the fairytale in terms of literary technique. His identification of the key scenes, series and them of the Ugly Duckling is He mentions that Hans Christian Anderson might have known about the ideas he promotes with Book Architecture today. After all, he did change the first name of his story that contained "Swain" in the title to hiding swain until late in the tale.

The method relates much to the old stream of consciousness technique but also seems to apply the ideas that Carl Jung had about symbols and other items from the depths of the unconsciousness in the modern world. They often appear (in fact most times appear) when we least expect them to make their appearances. Why is it that we never seem to see the important things in life when we have our "radar" of consciousness up?

For Horwitz, it is consciousness that creates art. Too much consciousness perhaps. This too much consciousness translates into too much planning. Horwitz would ask how is it possible that you can plan what you want to do on a date in the future. Best, he says, to look back on something created in the past and find the patterns within it through finding scenes, series and the theme. It is seldom what one thing it is when they set out to write a novel. Or, a screenplay. The book offers a new way forward for novelists. Away from the old strict forms of planning and plot and into a true stream-of-consciousness production of a particular story. The initial output is not as important as the examination of this output by the modern author who is a combination of stream-of-consciousness technique with examination of the nuggets to extract from the stream. Always trying to extract the main series, the key scenes real story from the collection of the words an author writes.

One wonders about the application to these seven stories. Perhaps it is time to divide this group up into scenes and then find series and ultimately a theme as Horwitz suggests we do. His ideas are for novelists. But aren't biographers novelists?

Book Architecture Analysis

New Loren Berry Biography Project

Seven Stories

Scenes (Key scenes in a life)

Charles teaching school

Lizzie taking care of grandmother (meet Joseph)

Charles & Lizzie on date

4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic

Death of Charles

Meeting of Joe and Friend about economy

Trip to the 1893 Fair

Fires in the summer

Horseradish venture

Porch with Lucile

Trip on interurban with Lucile

Lunch in South Bend

The Oliver House

Silver Beach

Chase Through the Clouds

## Series

Canal

Railroad: connection to outside

Electricity: before, early use, development; a magic about it; the frightening moment the lights went on at night.

Interurbans: connection between towns

Fame & Fortune: Oliver

Salesmanship: school paper

Advertising: importance of local businesses advertising; Lasky in Chicago and modern advertising

Directory: a new media of advertising

Telephone: the growth of something that would play a growing importance in his life.

Entrepreneurship: night lights; horseradish; laundry; subscriptions; paper route; school paper; reporter; annunciator; timetable; directory.

Politics

Leaving Home:

Freedom – Joseph, Lucile; 1904 World Fair; interurban travels; Silver Beach

Control – Lizzie

Newspaper: only way news from outside reaches town; the small events of daily life in Wabash clash with the great national and world events. Yet the small events have a greater importance than the larger events.

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