September 8, 2016 – Our Old Bookcase

Photo Caption: The 1888 Plat Map of the Village of Mercer identifies historical sites. Take this map with you on the September 11, 2016 Tour of the Village of Mercer, 1:00 – 4:00.

OUR OLD BOOKCASE, By Joyce L. Alig, President, Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

On September 11, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M., Members of the Mercer County Historical Society are hosting a “Drive it Yourself Tour,” of the Historic Sites in the Village of Mercer.

George Schroyer’s Truck Collection will be on exhibit at 9411 U.S. 127, just south of Mercer. Rex and Carl Marsee will be at this the Schroyer Center, signing copies of “Mercer Memories.” The Motor Inn Auto and Truck Stop is located at 10391 U.S. 127 at the intersection of U.S. Rt. 33. The Motor Inn Family Restaurant is adjacent to the Truck Stop. Midway Inn stood across from this site in the past.

The Mercer Methodist Church, built in 1900, 5585 Mercer Road, has an Open House. Their first log Church stood near West Mercer Village. The second Methodist Church was built in 1848, on the West side of Main Street, across from the present Church. Paul Hosack wrote a History of this Church in 1970.

The Mercer School stood on the west side of Charter Street, just south of Lima Road. The old Mercer Grain Co. was built in the early 1900’s, and known as “The Little Elevator, at 3 E. Charter Street, across from the old Railroad Depot. In 1921, the mill was purchased by Albert Dudgeon and Lee Little. In 1969, it was sold to Landmark Inc., and in 1975 was purchased by Mercer Landmark, Inc. The building was later torn down. The old C.H. & D. Railroad Track path, with the Train Depot is marked on the map.
Grier’s Garage was located north of the Motor Inn Restaurant on U.S. 127. Floyd Grier bought the Garage from Pat Heath in 1945, and kept his Garage open until 1964, when the U.S. 127 road was widened. They tore the Garage down in 1964-65. In 1951, Floyd Grier added Grier’s Power Digging. James, Larry and Bill Grier owned the business next. Today Bill owns Grier’s Power Digging. On the east side of U.S. 127, Mayfair Motel and Snider TV Service were located south of Mercer Road.

The Mercer Village Post Office was formerly known as Ruckman’s Post Office, which was established on June 22, 1832, and as of April 21, 1837, was transferred to Mercer Post Office. The Mercer Post Office then was open until it was discontinued on October 19, 1957. The research of the early history of the sites of the Ruckman Post Office, and then the first Mercer Post Office, is in progress. Carl and Rex Marsee provided information on the sites of the Post Offices at Mercer from the 1940’s. “The first Post Office site which we remember was at the back of Beougher’s Store, on Lot # 16, on the NW corner of Wayne and Charter Streets. Ralph Beougher was the Postmaster as of February 1, 1940. The second site was on Charter Street Lot # 19 next to the School house and behind the Beougher Store and across from the Elevator. Troy Marsee was Postmaster with wife Flora Marsee as a team as of July 16, 1946. Sherman Marsee, a brother of Troy, was Postmaster at the same Post Office as of 1947. The third site was the SW corner of Main and Wayne Streets, Lot # 5. The Post Mistress was Birdie Marsee, as of February 1949. The fourth site was on Lima Road across from the Methodist Church on Lot # 4. Mrs Dollie B. Halfhill was Post Mistress from October 1949 until being discontinued on October 19, 1957.”

Two Hotels were located in Mercer; one was located on Lot # 30, at the NE corner of Wayne and Charter Streets. Ralph Beougher’s General Store was located across Charter St. and Russell Beougher owned the store next. The other Hotel was located on Lot # 8, at the SE corner of Wayne and Compton Streets. This is the location of the house on the cover of the "MERCER" Book. In 1970, the Union Grange Hall stood at 5 S. Mercer Road before Charter St. The Mercer Cemetery stood on Mercer Road, west of the State Highway Building. The old Baptist Church stood on the south side of Wayne St., east of Fulton St. The old S.S. Mill & Tile Factory is marked on the map, north of the railroad track and west of the Cemetery. Ralph Donovan’s Garage was located on U.S. 33, near Main St., (1940’s - 1970’s). In 1970, Davis Upholstery Shop was located on U.S. 33, between Charter Street and Village limits.

More research is needed, in order to identify all of the business locations in the Village of Mercer. You are invited to share your knowledge about Mercer’s history with the Mercer Co. Historical Society.

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