

Fairhaven- Then and Now-Louis Foley

Foreword--

Genevive Campbell Lecturer of Fair Haven Grange asked Dou to talk on Fair Haven "Then and Now". He was so interested in the subject that he really worked on it. He talked to Lillian Pinkerton who helped him greatly., and Martha Wilson who gave him the names of the ministers. I have various sets of notes and the ones he spoke from at Grange but I cannot fill in the extras he gave us as he went along. He loved old Fair Haven stories and traditions. You will find that there is much more of "Then" than "Now".

This was written in January 1949 and his illness dated from July 21 of that year and he passed away on May 1 1950. I intended having him fill in the names of the various business men but put it off to long

In memory of Lou,

Mary C. Foley

Dec. 25, 1951

Then--

The population was 236. There were 55 families homes with now eleven of these people living- but not all in Fair Haven. The population consisted of six retired farmers, a wagon maker and his helpers who made farm wagons, springs wagons and carriages, three blacksmiths., three shoemakers who not only repaired boots and shoes but made new ones, two broom makers. one raised his own broom corn, a tiner and his helpers, a feed miller, a carpet weaver, a hotel and a photography gallery, a milliner shop, and a dress maker. Three complete thrashing outfits, a saw mill a cider mill, a sorgum mill, a tile kilm, a butcher shop, a slaughter house and stock yard. Two harness makers, a skating rink, a dance hall and an auction room, A post office and a lodge hall.

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Two livery stables, three carpenters and their helpers, and a house mover.

Five stores, one general store where they could outfit the family from birth to marriage ^{and} ~~for~~ materials for shrouds. They had boots and shoes, suits, hats, caps and gloves, under wear and socks for the men and pieces goods for fine party and every day wear for the ladies. They also carried groceries, hard ware and about every thing else (quite likely the Hawes ~~the~~ Store). One that carried groceries, notions and patent medicines. One that sold notions and patent medicines. One that sold groceries only. At that time- and along time after- every one had to buy their own school books. One store that sold drugs and medicines. There were three doctors and a veterinarian and one combination vet and breaker of kicking horses and wild colts. Two painters and paper hangers.

Mechanics in those days were real mechanics. They had to serve an apprenticeship. You couldn't just hammer an anvil and blow the bellows and say you were a blacksmith. All the smiths made their own shoes and the nails, besides most any thing else made of metal. Fairhaven had one carpenter that was second to none. He could literally start at the stump and complete a building either house or barn. And he had tools that our modern carpenters could not name, let alone use.

The mail was carried to Fair Haven by what was called a Star route from Hamilton and Richmond. The mail was evidently not as heavy then as now and the winters were different. One post master who also carried the mail had his own horse but no sleigh. The man who owned the sleigh said he would sell the sleigh for five dollars or rent it for fifty cents a day. The carrier chose to rent it and carried the mail in it for 90 consecutive days.

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(I think the carrier was Bob Beckett and the owner Jim Henry). There was a hack line that carried mail to and from Richmond also freight and passengers and they gave better service than we have today.

The winter sports were coasting and skating and many a time they coasted from the school house to the Valley House Hotel (Bob Evans). I don't think there were many prizes given for skating but there was one at least who could cut the pigeon wing and the figure 8, (Bob Evans I think). There were prizes for fancy skating at the rink. At one masquerade the prize went to a couple who were so completely masked that no one knew them. When they unmasked the man was black and that ended masked skating. (The girl did not know who he was).

Fairhaven turned out 27 school teachers and 15 preachers. The preachers were all from the U. P. Church congregation. I could find no preachers from the Methodist church. (I found the following lists in his notes but only 21 preachers so he must have thought of some after.-Windates-6 Williams - 1 McDivitts-2 VanDykes-1 Pierson-1 J. Paxton-1 Paul Orr-1 Ministers--J.A. Renyolds, ~~W.A.A.~~/McCaughan. John Pinkerton, James Orr, ~~J.H.~~ J.H.Elliott, J D. Pinkerton, G.E. Hawes, W. R. Wilson, W.W. Gorden, J. C. Scouller, John / Graham. Samuel L. Pinkerton and J.A.P. Magaw.

They took their politics seriously in these days, and in campaign years even candidates for Congress made speeches in the hall and there were torch light parades the length of the town. I do not know why they were so concerned about the vote in Fair Haven as they were 99.44 percent Republican. Once in a while the Democrats did line some one up to strengthen the faithful and often that ended in a fight.

Now about the last hotel The Valley House. They had several regular borders and transients. I boarded there for three months, three meals-

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for fifty cents- and they were real meals- and every one who knows me can figure how much they cost every day.

They had no neon signs in those days but one good old store keeper displayed this sign-"For Sale, Tar, Treacle, Godly Books, and Gimlets". Which meant that he sold tar for tarbuckets, molasses, Bibles and gimlets. I remember that I got, years ago a hand bill that read "Yes Oh Yes! Great Caesar! Have you heard the news? Rich~~mond~~ gold mines at home. Get your horses shod at H. A. Simpsons. Four new shoes for 80 cents."

A different class of people loafed nights in the stores and shoe shops and if those old walls could talk it would make interesting listening if any one cared to listen. There were no school buses or hot lunches. We walked to school kicking ^{the stones with} our copper-toed ~~shoes~~ boots- the shoe maker had to live- and swinging ^{tin} ~~tin~~ dinner pails. There were several colored families in Fair Haven and the children went to school and that made many a fight. There was one good old man who looked after the interests of the of the colored folks. A little boy died and he went to console the family He said now think of the last thing Willie said, The father replied, "Take that pancake off my belly".

The Sabbath was kept sacred. No business place was open and both churches were full ~~at~~ both church and Sabbath School. Now there are many empty pews in both Churches and there are many who should be in Sunday School who hardly know what the inside of the church looks like except what they can see from peeping ^{at} the windows.

This is all the notes he had but how I wish I could give the rest of his as he gave it. He was so very much in earnest. He said "Waht the country needs is more religion and we will never have it till it is taught in the schools. He told of our trip to Kentucky with the Lybrooks and to the Church schools at Frenchburg and Ezel.

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He was so impressed by them., the character of the teachers and what they doing for the children. He was so concerned with the number of children in Fair Haven who were not in Sunday School and the only way they could be taught religion was in the schools, he spoke so fervently. Some one asked afterwards if he would want his religion taught. He said he did not care as to the creed so they had^{as} Christain training.

He was strict on Sabbath observance as any U. P. and it really worried him when our old business was kept open on Sunday. He said in all the years it had been built (a hundred or more) that it had never been open for business on Sunday.

I copied this from Mary's little History in April 1961 to help me with My History of FairHaven" which I was doing for Professor Albright's American History Course Miami University
Jeannette F. Hays