

243 West Main  
Research by Ruth Ann Montgomery

Hello Ruth,

We purchased the house at 243 West Main in March of 2003 and began some badly needed repairs like putting the long windows back in the second floor. I visited the library in March to see if I could find out when the house was originally built and found a few items related to land transactions that were in the file for that property. Carol Culbertson

Rock County Court House Deed Records.

This property was once part of a larger parcel and sometimes lots 5 & 6 were sold or mortgaged separated from the parcel.

Original Plat of Evansville, Block 6 –

#6 January 1858 – Lots 5 & 6 – Daniel Doolittle, mortgaged the property to Nelson Winston

#11, October 1857 (not recorded until April 1860) – Lots 5 & 6, Hiram Griffith to Daniel Doolittle Warranty Deed (WD) for \$40.

[note: this sale happened prior to Daniel getting a mortgage of lots 5 & 6 from Nelson Winston, but for some reason was never officially recorded until 1860.]

#14 March 15, 1860 Damon Y. Kilgore purchased a large section of block 6, from Hiram Griffith and Griffith held a mortgage for \$112. (sale recorded in #29, after the mortgage had been recorded. ) Lots, 17, 18, East ½ lot 19 and 1 ½ rods off E side of lot 16)

#15, March 15, 1860, D. Y. Kilgore to Daniel Doolittle, mortgage for \$300, lots 5 & 6

#21, August 1861. D. Y. Kilgore & Wife to Joseph Bullock, Mtg. \$350, lots 5 & 6

#27, October 1863 – Damon Y. Kilgore to Lewis Spencer, a quiet claim deed \$300.

#29 March 1860 – Hiram Griffith to Damon Y. Kilgore, Lots, 17, 18, East ½ lot 19 and 1 ½ rods off E side of lot 16 W. D. \$112. (see #14 above)

# 35, October 1866, Lewis Spencer to Lucy A. Kilgore a quiet claim deed for lots 5 & 6

[Note that transactions #37, #39, #41, #52 and #91 all refer to the property described in #14 & #37]

#37, January 1866 – Lucy A. Kilgore to Levi Leonard (Warranty Deed for \$1,520, lots East ½ of 3, lots 4, 5, 6, 7 W.D. \$ 1,521.

(In 1863, Jacob West sold lots 3 & 4 to Lucy Kilgore for a warranty deed \$181. )

#39, December 1866 – Levi Leonard sold the property as described in #14 & #37 to Clayton Semans for W. D. & \$1,000.

#41, November 1866 – Clayton Semans to George W. Pack, W. D. \$ 1, 750

#52, May 1870 – George W. Pack to Alex Wilson, W. D. \$2,000.

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING TRANSACTION THAT DESCRIBES THE PROPERTY TO THE WEST AT 249 WEST MAIN:**  
**#70. August 1879, Alex Wilson sold the property described for the first time as E ½ lot 3, Lot 4, and W 1/8 of lot 5 SOLD to Albert Snashall FOR WD \$250.**

**#72. September 13, 1879. Albert Snashall mortgage the same described property to Charles F. P. Pullen for \$400. (Albert Snashall was a carpenter builder.)**

#73, January 1881 – Alex Wilson to Almeron Eager – only E ½ lot 5 and W ½ lot 6, WD \$212.50. **[THIS IS THE FIRST SALE OF THE PROPERTY AS DESCRIBED THROUGHOUT THE REST. THIS AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL TO HAVE A HOUSE ON IT AND WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR A LOT ONLY.]**

#78 , April 1881 – Almeron Eager to Edward Sargent, W. D. \$275.

#83, March 1882, Edward Sargent to Lansing W. Mygatt, Mortgage \$1,000.

#91, Clayton Semans to George W. Pack, Land Contract, \$1,750 (this was recorded long after the sale to clear the records for the property described in #37, 39, 41, 52,)

#106, September 1891. Edward Sargent to Lansing Mygatt, W. D. \$1,700.

#112, July 1894, Rock County Court to clear the estate of Lansing Mygatt – property was deed to Cecelia Mygatt his wife by court order.

#126, June 1900, Cecelia Mygatt to Fred L. Franklin, W. D. \$1,750

#127, June 1900, Fred L. Franklin mortgaged the property to Cecelia Mygatt for \$1,550. (In this case he would have agreed to pay the amount in 126, but Mygatt did not get the full amount of money, she held a mortgage for \$1,550. This was very common among folks who invested in income property. Cecelia Mygatt lived in the house on the northwest corner of West Main and Second Street.)

#135, March 1903, Fred L. Franklin, a widower, deeded the property to Leon E. Franklin, W. D. & \$1,900.

#256, April 1942, Leon E. Franklin to Jessie Franklin his wife to create joint tenancy.

#268, August 1944, Leon Franklin & wife to George E. Smith, wife Cora E., & Ray H. Smith, W. D. \$1. & C.

#267, August 1944, Smiths' mortgaged the property to Union Bank & Trust for \$3,000

#322, September 1950, George Smith sold the property to Ray Smith for \$1 & C.

#327, February 1957, Ray Smith mortgaged the property to Union Bank & Trust for \$7,500

#416 July 1969, Ray W. Smith to Donald D. & Mary Ann Schroeder, W. D. \$1. & C.

#417, #418, #419, Schroeder took out a mortgage with Union Bank & Trust for \$3,000 and a mortgage with Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs for \$4,000.

#452, June 25, 1976, Donald D. Schroeder and Mary Ann to Ronald Hugh Hyne and wife Terri Lee, W. D.

#453, June 25, 1976, Ronald & Terri Hyne to Knutson Mortgage & Financial copr, Motgage \$29,750

#464 September 22, 1977 Ronald Hugh Hye and Terri Lee to Leo M. Bruenig. W. D.

#465 September 22, 1977, Leo M. Bruenig, (single) to Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, mortgage, \$31,600

#554, January 3, 1987, Leo Bruenig, mortgaged the property to First Financial Savings for \$11,900

#611, June 4, 1990, Leo M. Bruenig sold the property to Dale R. Mann, WD \$1. & c.

#612, June 4, 1990, Dale R. Mann mortgage the property to UB & T for \$46,000

2003, Steve and Carol Culbertson purchased from the Mann estate.

Some of your current articles in the newspaper include information about people doing construction on their homes. Does this information come from newspaper articles or from another source?

1993 Description of property: Original Plat, E 57.75' lot 5, W 8.25' Lot 6, block 6 (owned by Dale R. Man, 243 W. Main St.,  
Land \$12,000  
Improvements \$40,100 Total Value \$52,100)

In checking the work you must have done earlier, I see that there is a mortgage of \$200 in 1858 from Daniel Doolittle to Nelson Winston for lots 5 & 6. There is another for \$300 in April 1860 from D.Y.Kilgore to Daniel Doolittle. Do these dollar amounts include values with a home for the 1860s? In 1863 there is a Warranty Deed of \$600 Daniel Doolittle to Damon Y. Kilgore for Lots 5 and 6. In 1866 there is a Warranty Deed for \$1521. from Lucy Kilgore to Levi Leonard for E 3/8 Lot 3, lots 4, 5, and 6. From then on the values are \$1,000 or more.

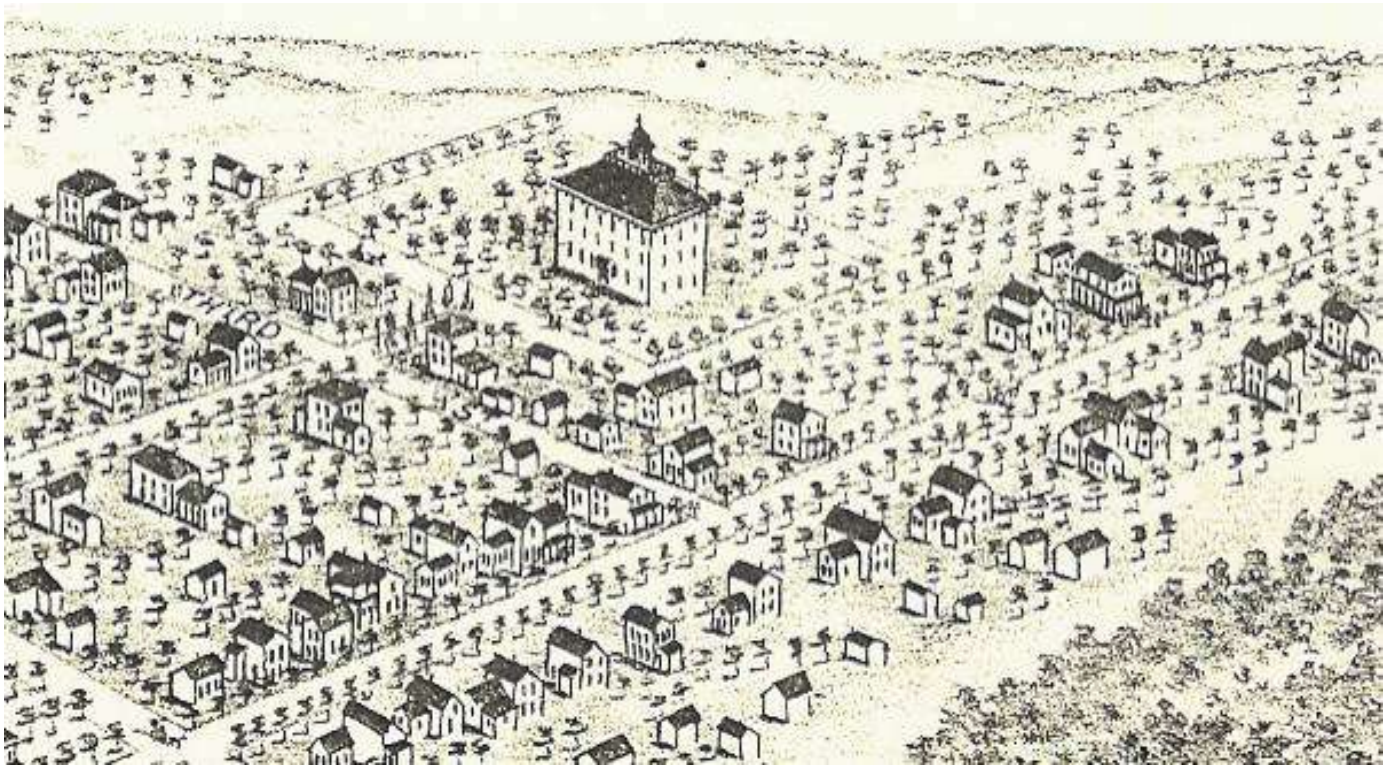
Carol, I just checked the 1870 census for Daniel Doolittle and I believe he was living on a farm west of Evansville. Doolittle's family is listed between D. C. Rowley and Vinson Cooley. Connecting his neighbors in the same area located on an 1873 Union township map (also listed as neighbors in the 1870 census), there was a V. Cooley, living on land bordering CTY C adjacent to the Pleasant Prairie School. G. W. Hall (not the circus George Hall) living land west of the Pleasant Prairie school. Edward, James, Aaron & D. C. Rowley, all owning land on the next road north of CTY C, sections 18, 19, 20.

The Tax assessment rolls were kept at the Rock County Historical Society when I worked there in 1980, but have been moved to a storage area in the Rock County Court house.

1866 tax assessment rolls: D. Y. Kilgore as the owner of the East 3/8 of 3, lot 4, 5, and 6, and 1/2 rod of west side of 7, also East 3/8, of 20, lot 19 & 18 and west 3/8 of lot 17. This property was valued at \$750.

1867 tax assessment rolls: Mrs. Farman as owner of East 3/8 of 3, lot 4, 5, and 6, and 1/2 rod of west side of 7, (700) also East 3/8, of 20, lot 19 & 18 and west 3/8 of lot 17 (\$200.)

1871 Bird's Eye view, showing West Main Street and Seminary (only one building)



The Bird's Eye View for 1883 appears to have a building where this house now stands - 4th house east of 3rd street. I was not able to get the earlier Bird's Eye View to open. Tomorrow - Wednesday - I plan to visit the library to see if they have copies of these Bird's Eye Views.

I would be interested in any hints you have about how to find out when this house was built.

Carol Culbertson, Evansville, WI



1873 Map of Evansville

Mr. Eager has bought the vacant lot next east of Albert Snashall, of Alex Wilson, and intends putting a tenement house thereon in the spring.

February 9, 1881, Evansville Review, p. 3, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

Ed Sargent has commenced excavating to lay the foundation of a house, on Main Street, next to Albert Snashall's.



June 29, 1881. Evansville Review, p. 3, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

Spring Improvements in Evansville: Mr. Ed. Sargent, a new house.

The Pudding Stick, July 1881.



1883 Bird's eye view West Main Street, Third, West Church,

Mr. E. Sargent, of the firm of F. A. Baker & Co., has been suffering severely from rheumatism for several days, to that extent that he has been unable to come down town until yesterday, when we saw him riding home with his partner, Mr. Baker. The disease has become chronic with him and he has suffered more or less from it for several years, but it is hoped by his many friends that he will soon recover.

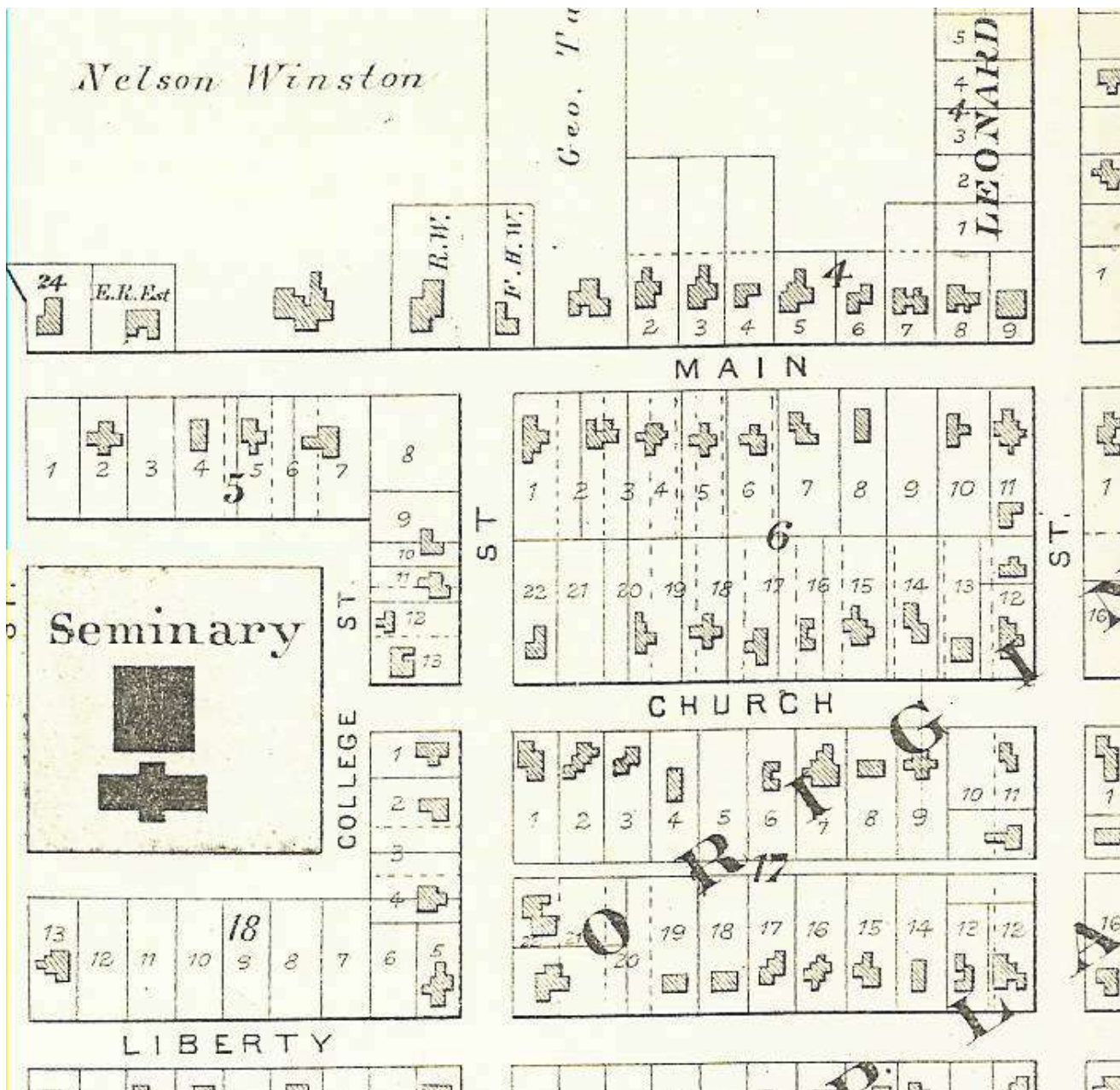
December 8, 1888, The Tribune, p. 1, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

—Mr. E. Sargent has sold his interest in the F. A. Baker & Co. hardware and will go to Mt. Clemens on Monday next for treatment for rheumatism, from which he has been a great sufferer.

February 5, 1892, Enterprise, p. 1, col. 4, Evansville, Wisconsin

Mr. Ed. Sargent, who is in the hardware business at Garne, Iowa, spends Christmas at home. Everybody glad to see Ed. and shake a warm hand with him.

December 27, 1892, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin



of Evansville

1891 Map



## DIED.

SARGENT.—On Wednesday Dec. 6, 1893, at Garner, Ia., Edward Sargent, aged 49. Funeral at the family residence in this city, this Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, under the auspices of the order of Modern Woodmen.

The news of the sudden death of Mr. Sargent cast a gloom over the many friends of this gentleman in this city, and it was with extreme reluctance that they were forced to believe the same as true. On Monday his son Will hearing he was sick started for Iowa to see him and was there some twelve hours before he died.

The boyhood days of Mr. Sargent were spent in Janesville, and some thirty odd years has made this city his home. Three years ago he located in Iowa, purchasing a hardware store, and by close attention to business, not only made friends, but a success otherwise. For many years he has been a victim of rheumatics which told on his robust condition, but with a cheerful heart kept up till the final chord liberated his spirit to the vale beyond.

Universally respected by his friends; honored by his business associates and loved by his family, they one and all feel keenly the loss of a true friend and parent.

Mr. Sargent leaves a wife and three children who are nearly heart broken over the sudden death of a dear husband and kind parent, and the many friends tender their heart felt sympathies to them in this their hour of deepest mourning.

W December 8, 1893, Enterprise, p. 1, col. 5,

Evansville, Wisconsin

### City Directory 1900:

This is the numbering system used before 1914. The block is 100 more than the present number of 200s and the even numbers were on the South side of the street, whereas after 1914, they are on the North side of streets (modern numbers in parenthesis.)

302 West Main	John H. Winston	(203 West Main)
206 West Main	Frank & Lulu Baker	(209 West Main)
310 West Main	Evander Blakeley, Thomas Walters, Harry Blakeley	(217 West Main)

314 West Main	Frank Roberts (227 West Main)
324 West Main	Edward E. Smith, (237 West Main)
336 West Main	Fred Franklin (243 West Main)
340 West Main	Herbert Cary (249 West Main) destroyed in fire and replaced with new
344 West Main	William T. Harvey (257 West Main)
350 West Main	Ellen M. Hawley (263 West Main)

Phone Directory Information:

August 1961	Ray Smith, 243 West Main
December 1971	Donald Schroeder, 243 West Main
December 1972	Donald Schroeder, 243 West Main,

The earliest census I found giving addresses in Evansville was 1920. At that time Leon E. Franklin and his wife were living there. There is a Leon Franklin and his wife living on West Main in 1910. The file at the library included the information that there was a Warranty Deed for \$1900 in 1903 from Fred L. Franklin and W to Leon E. Franklin. The 1900 and 1880 census were difficult for me to see if there was anyone living in a house at 243 W Main.

I must confess that I am a genealogist and very much interested in the history of our new home. A visit to the Wisconsin State Historical Library archives yielded the information that it appears on the 1914 and 1928 Sandburn maps, but not on the 1907 map. The 1907 map only came as far as the house next door.

Thanks for responding.

I just returned from the library. We found the Bird's Eye View map for 1883 and the house is there but we could not find the one for 1871. Do you have the one for 1871? If so, would it be possible to get a copy of the block between 2nd and 3rd streets for West Main? We located a plat map for 1878 (I think-I didn't write the year down :( but it was 187? something) and noticed there were small numbers on some of the lots. Do these numbers (usually 1) indicate that there were homes on those lots?

Thank you for your offer to help at the Rock County court house. I may take you up on that but it appears you have already done most of that work. Are there tax records available? That might be another source to try.

It was disappointing to me to find out there is no abstract for this property. Do you know if there are abstracts at the library for this area? I typed abstracts when I lived in Rockford, Illinois. The early history is interesting to read.

Carol

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ruth Ann Montgomery" <montgomery.ruthann@als.lib.wi.us>

To: <cculbert@charter.net>

Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2003 8:23 AM

> Carol, I picked your e-mail up at work, thus the different address.

> You

can

> contact me at either address.

>

> The usual place to start with a house history is with a deed search at

> the Register of Deeds office at the Rock County Court House. For

> instance the transaction that you see in 1903 for \$1,900 usually

> indicates that there

is

> a house on the lot, as even some of the largest homes on West Main

> Street cost just \$2,000 to build in the late 1890s.

>

> If you cannot get to the court house, I would be happy to do that for

> you. (There is no charge, I do this as a hobby.)



>  
> After I have established a possible range of dates for building, (for  
> instance, if a lot sold in 1885 for \$250 and in 1895 for \$1,500) then  
> I begin looking through the Evansville newspapers from 1885 to 1895 to  
> see  
if  
> I can match the building of a house with the names on the deed  
> records. During this period of time there were four newspapers  
> published, The Evansville Review, The Tribune, The Enterprise, and The  
> Badger.) They did not all print the same news, so it usually means a  
> search through all the papers.  
>  
> Since I have been doing this research since the late 1970s, I  
> sometimes  
have  
> information that I have not had an opportunity to match with a house.  
> I will check my files at home to see if I have any information on Fred  
> Franklin or Leon Franklin.  
>  
> Let me know if I can help in any way.  
>  
> Ruth Ann  
>  
Ruth Ann,

Thank you so much for the information. The history for our home is taking shape. I will have to check the 1873 map again. The numbers I saw were not the lot numbers but another number or some other notation that looked like a 1 that was along the street side of some of the lots. All the lots along West Main had these numbers, but those on Church did not have them.

The 1860 federal census includes Claricy West as family #804, Reuben Winston 805, Geo S. Plaissted 806, B?. J. Bridgman 807, Daniel Doolittle 808, Lotrup York 809, Geo. H. Taggart 810, Lester Blackman 811, John Lalling 812 and John Graham 813.

The 1870 federal census includes William Hubbard, farmer, as family #9; Alfred Jones, farmer, 10; E.B. Hubbard, farmer, 11; J.B. Sharp, clergyman, 12; Martin Benway, farmer, 13; John Alsop, farmer, 14; Alex Winston, farmer, 15; E.E. Franklin, selling windmills, 16; Enos Franklin, farmer, 17; Emma Cooper, keeping house, 18.

Would you be interesting in having transcripts of the 1850 through 1880 federal censuses for Evansville for the local history room? I could work on this for you if you do not already have it. We may be able to match present day addresses up with the families listed in those census reports.

Now I am about to get myself in trouble. A thought just came popping into my head. Norwegians have written books about individual parishes in Norway. These books are a history of the people that lived on each farm. Some of them include a great deal of genealogical information. Wouldn't it be fun to do such a book for Evansville about families living in each home? With Evansville being the size it is it should not be an impossible task. You have already gathered a great deal of information that could be used. I would love to work on such a project and we may be able to find others as well - perhaps some of the seniors would like to contribute what they remember about families that lived in particular homes. We may have to have a cut off date of 1930 because of privacy issues, but that could be sorted out later. Actually, it may take another ten years or more to complete so we could use a cut off of 1940 since that federal census would be released by then.

Carol

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Ruth Ann Montgomery](#)

**To:** [cculbert](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 06, 2003 8:58 PM

Carol, I checked the copy of the 1866 tax assessment rolls for Block 6, and found D. Y. Kilgore as the owner of the East 3/8 of 3, lot 4, 5, and 6, and 1/2 rod of west side of 7, also East 3/8, of 20, lot 19 & 18 and west 3/8 of lot 17. This property was valued at \$750.

This means that his property faced on West Main Street and on West Church Street.

Kilgore's neighbor to the west was Jacob West and he owned lots 1 & 2 and the West 5/8 of lot 3, as well as lots 21 and 22 and the West 5/8 of lot 20. If you look at an 1873 map, you see the numbers of the lots on block 6. Jacob West's property was also valued at \$750.

The information I have on Daniel Doolittle was that he was a "carpenter & joiner". He was still living in Evansville in the 1870s and advertised in 1874 that he made "odd sized doors, sash, all size window blinds, and all other work usually done in a joiner's shop." He had a small carpenter shop on East Main Street near the bridge, in April 1877. In November 1877, he sold his carpenter shop and moved to Union Grove to live with his daughter. Daniel Doolittle and his family are buried in Maple Hill cemetery. Daniel died at the age of 60 on Sept. 20, 1878. His wife was Sophronia and died at the age of 58 on July 3, 1877. A daughter, Mary Jane, died at the age of 25 on Sept. 24, 1864.

Another news article I found on Leon Franklin is the following: "Leon Franklin is improving his house by the addition of a new porch." May 7, 1914, Evansville Review

If I find more, I will send it.

Ruth Ann

419 Badger Drive

Evansville, Wisconsin 53536

[RMontgomery@eishome.com](mailto:RMontgomery@eishome.com)

608-882-6367

Hello Ruth,

Betsy asked me to write something about our house for the progressive dinner. I do not want to send something to her that is not correct and I want to give you the credit for information you have provided. Would you please read this and make any changes you feel are appropriate? (This may be longer than Betsy wants, but she can decide how much she wants to use.) I understand that Ray Smith was a "colorful character" Should more be said about him that the older generation would appreciate and may help to encourage them to participate in the dinner? Sounds like we should have some Wild Rose bottles around:)

Residence at 243 West Main Street.

1858 Daniel Doolittle mortgaged Lots 5 & 6 to Nelson Winston. There were no banks in Evansville so Mr. Winston loaned money to people. A map made in 1858 shows a house on West Main in about the same spot as the present 243 West Main home. It belonged to D. Doolittle. This could have been on the same sight as the present home and later torn down or moved or on nearby.

Doolittle and his family appear in the 1860 Federal census for Union Township and are listed as follows: Doolittle, Daniel, 42, Saphrona, 41, Mary J., 20, Augusta, 17, Wm. H., 12, Doolittle. Their neighbors included Claricy West, Reuben

Winson, Geo S. Plaissted, Bridgman, Lotrup York, George H. Taggert, Lester Blackman, John Lalling and John Graham.

Daniel Doolittle was a carpenter/joiner in Evansville in the 1870s. He had a small carpenter shop on East Main Street, near the bridge in April 1877. November 1877 he sold his carpenter shop and moved to Union Grove to live with his daughter. Daniel died 20 September 1878, 60 years; Sophrona died 3 July 1877 at 58 years; Mary Jane died 24 September 1865 at 25 years of age. All were buried at Maple Hill Cemetery.

There were several exchanges of the land between Damon Y. Kilgore, Joseph Bullock, Lewis Spencer, Daniel Doolittle, Lucy A. Kilgore, Levi Leonard, Clayton Semons and George W. Pack in the 1860s and 1870s. Kilgore was the principal of the seminary in the early 1860s.

In 1870 Alex Winston purchased part of lot 3 and lots 4, 5 and 6 from George W. Pack. He and his family appear in the 1870 federal census for Town of Union (taken June 1, 1870) as Alex, 36, farmer, Aurilla 24, Egbert 3, and Eddie 7/12. Their neighbors included Wm. Hubbard, Alfred Jones, E.B. Hubbard, J.B. Sharp, Martin Benway, John Alsop, Alex Winston, E.E. Franklin, Enox Franklin, and Emma Cooper.

In 1881 Warranty Deeds were issued from Alex Winston to Almeron Eager and later from Almeron Eager to Edward Sargent.

An article appeared in Evansville Review, April 20, 1881, page 3, about Ed Sargent building his house. "Ed Sargent, the accomplished tinner of Snashall & Mygatt, and who has been in their employ for nearly a dozen years, bought a portion of the "Wilson" lot on Main street, on which he intends putting a residence."

It was announced in the newspaper, The Pudding Stick, that "Ed Sargent's new house is being completed." September 16, 1881, page 4.

"Ed Sargent occupied his new house last week. It is a fine residence, and compares favorably with the beautiful residences on Main Street." Evansville Review, November 8, 1881.

Ruth Ann Montgomery writes that in 1874 Snashall and Mygatt's became the general agents for the Monitor windmill manufactured by the Baker Company. The hardware merchants reported that the sale of the mill was meeting with success far beyond any expectations the owners of the firm may have had.

Farmers wanted to buy the windmill, even before it had been thoroughly tested. The windmill was a successful product for the manufacturer and merchant. The hardware store continued to supply other merchandise. "They employed an English immigrant, Ed. Sargent, to work in the store. Sargent handled the tin shop, repairing and putting on tin roofs in the Evansville area."

In 1883, Lansing Mygatt's health was failing and he dissolved his partnership with Snashall. While the two men continued to own the building, they turned their interests to other ventures. Their tinner, Ed Sargent, bought an interest in the F. A. Baker & Company Hardware establishment and that firm became the local general agents for the windmill and pump business of the Baker Manufacturing Company. (located at the present address of 101 East Main - The Baker Block apartments, according to Ruth Ann Montgomery)

The Bird's Eye View Map published in 1883 for Evansville shows the Sargent home.

In 1891 Edward Sargent sold this property to Lansing Mygott. According to the Evansville Review, February 9, 1892, "On account of ill health and repeated rheumatic attacks, Mr. Ed. Sargent has withdrawn from the hardware firm of F. A. Baker & Co., and left Monday for Mt. Clemens, Mich., for treatment. The title of the firm will remain the same, "F. A. Baker & Co.," his son, F. Aaron Baker being the senior partner of the firm. The change was consummated Feb. 3., Mr. Will Sargent, son of the former will remain in the new Co.'s employ as tinner. Mr. Sargent has lived in Evansville nearly twenty-six years, coming from Janesville here in 1866. He is a good mechanic, and has been in every way, a good, industrious and respectable citizen, and shall be sorry to lose him and his estimable family from our place, but understand this may be a probably conclusion hence, should he recover his health.

Cecelia Mygott received the property from the estate of Lansing Mygott in 1894. She sold the land in 1901 to Fred L. Franklin. At this time the address was 336 West Main Street. Fred sold the property to Leon E. Franklin in 1903. In the 1910 federal census for Evansville the family is listed as Leon, 41, and Missa, 50. Their neighbors included E.J. Snashill, Ch. H. Snashill, Lizzie Gillis, Lebl Sperry, Amos Weaver, Altha Howard, Frank Asmus, Ellen Hawley, A. Taggert, W. B.



King, E. Smith, L. Frantz, Van Patten, John W. Winston, F. A. Baker, Bert Baker, Cecelia Mygott, Charles Doolittle, P.H. Brink and W. R. Phillip.

May 7, 1914 the Evansville Review announced that "Leon Franklin is improving his house by the addition of a new porch" About this time or a little earlier the house numbers were changed. The street address was changed from 336 West Main to 243 West Main.

The 1920 Federal census for Evansville residents includes those living at 243 W Main. They are: Franklin, Leon E., 52, and his wife, Misse, 60. Leon was a carpenter building houses. Their neighbors included: Marion Winston, Charlie Barnard, Frank P. Hyne, Stanton C. Miller, Livingston Frantz, Ed E. Smith, William S. King, Laura Taggart, George C. Davis, Cora C. Roberts, Walter D. Spratler and Futon Johnson.

By the time the 1930 federal census was taken the following family was renting what appears to be 243 West Main Street. The street number is difficult to read. James B. Coleman, 44, and his wife Bonnie, 40. James was a dealer for a farm implement company. Their neighbors included: Elmer McGaffrey, stationary engineer, factory, Laura Taggart, Will D. Brown, machinist, windmill factory, and Max Trentzsch, Physician, general practice.

At this time Leon Franklin and wife, Jessie, were living in the Darien Township of Walworth County, Wisconsin. In 1944 Leon and his wife, Jessie, sold the land to George E. Smith and his wife Cora and Ray H. Smith. In 1955 George E. Smith & wife Cora sold to Ray H. Smith.

In 1969 Ray H. Smith sold to property to Donald D. Schroeder and his wife, Nancy. Donald D. Schroeder and his wife, Mary Ann, sold to Ronald Hugh Hyne and Terry Lee in 1976. Hyne and Lee sold the land to Leo M. Breunig in 1977. In June 1990 Leo M. Breunig sold to Dale R. Mann. The Dale R. Mann estate sold the land to Stephen C. and Carol A. Culbertson in March 2003.

Since Steve and Carol purchased their home, they have replaced all of the second story windows that were modernized several years before. The house and barn were painted colors that are traditional Victorian colors used in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Steve learned how to make the eyebrows over the replaced windows so they look more like they have always been there. The second floor bedrooms have been restored with more traditional woodwork and the flooring in the hall was put back to its original position. They will be restoring the bathroom with a claw foot tub and appropriate fixtures possibly later in 2005.

All of the floors and woodwork on the main floor were left intact. Carol looks forward to stripping and restoring the woodwork this summer. The kitchen was completely gutted and modernized in the early 1970s. Probably at the same time some of the long narrow windows were removed and modern rectangular windows were installed on the second floor, kitchen and mudroom.

The Culbertsons have enjoyed all the complements they have received from passers by while they are working on the house's exterior or in their yard. "It makes all of the hard work well worth while" said Carol. "The house has come along way from the peeling paint and square windows that didn't look right to a bright yellow house with two shades of green trim" she added.

Carol, this is what I can add while I'm at work and I'll check to see if I have anything more at home. I'm sure this is more about the neighbors than you wanted to know.

Doolittle and his family appear in the 1860 Federal census for Union Township and are listed as follows: Doolittle, Daniel, 42, Saphrona, 41, Mary J., 20, Augusta, 17, Wm. H., 12, Doolittle. Their neighbors included Claricy West, Reuben Winston, Geo S. Plaisted, Bridgman, Lathrup York, George H. Taggart, Lester Blackman, John Lalling and John Graham.

Daniel Doolittle's obit:

[http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?gskw=doolittle&\\_F000348d=localities&\\_F000348e=northam&\\_F000348f=usa&\\_F0003490=states&\\_F0003491=wisconsin&\\_F0003492=counties&\\_F0003493=rock&ti=3&ti.si=3&rank=0&gss=angs&db=mb&p=localities.northam.usa.states.wisconsin.counties.rock&application=public&filter=1&utype=Admin&mbtitle=Rock+Board&fh=25&clx=2](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?gskw=doolittle&_F000348d=localities&_F000348e=northam&_F000348f=usa&_F0003490=states&_F0003491=wisconsin&_F0003492=counties&_F0003493=rock&ti=3&ti.si=3&rank=0&gss=angs&db=mb&p=localities.northam.usa.states.wisconsin.counties.rock&application=public&filter=1&utype=Admin&mbtitle=Rock+Board&fh=25&clx=2)

Sophronia Doolittle's obit:

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec/message/rw/localities.northam.usa.states.wisconsin.counties.rock/4890>

Their neighbors included E.J. Snashill, Ch. H. Snashill, (I believe this is Caleb H. Snashall and Emmeline Snashall) They lived in the large corner house, that is so colorfully painted, with the iron fence and tigers in the yard, 349 West Main, I think.)

See Caleb's obit on RootsWeb

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec/message/rw/localities.northam.usa.states.wisconsin.counties.rock/4213>

Lizzie Gillis, is probably Gillies (see obit)

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec/message/rw/localities.northam.usa.states.wisconsin.counties.rock/4816>

Lebl Sperry, This is probably Levi Sperry a relative of John Willoughby's

Amos Weaver, ; (third house north of the corner of Main & Third on the south side of the street.

Altha Howard (probably a widow at this time, husband's name was James.)

Frank Asmus built the house at the southwest corner of West Main and Third Street

Ellen Hawley, lived in the house at the southeast corner of West Main and Third Street

A. Taggert, W. B. King, E. Smith, L. Frantz,  
Van Patten, John W. Winston, F. A. Baker, Bert Baker,

Cecelia Mygott, Cecelia Mygatt lived in the house that Gladys Peterson now has. Her husband was Lansing Mygatt see his obit on RootsWeb

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec/message/rw/localities.northam.usa.states.wisconsin.counties.rock/533>

Charles Doolittle, P.H. Brink and

W. R. Phillip. lived in the house that Sandra Decker now has.

This is the history of Ray Smith's butcher shop.

<http://mywebpage.netscape.com/ruthannmontgomer/17%20West%20Main.html>

He apparently was a bookie. Phil remembers taking bets for horse races to him from some older men who gathered at the dry cleaners on East

## To Erect a Two-Story Factory.

The Franklin Blueing company are making preparations to erect a two-story factory on Lincoln street this season. From a small beginning in a room big enough to turn around in, the business has increased to such an extent that new quarters have to be made for it. The company is composed of Frank and Fred Franklin, the senior partner being on the road continually selling the product, while Fred looks after the manufacturing end of the concern.

May 23, 1907, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 1, Evansville, Wisconsin

## AUCTION SALE

On account of breaking up housekeeping, I will sell at my home at 243 West Main Street, Evansville.

**Friday, September 24**

A full line of household furniture, including stoves, beds, mattresses, dishes, etc.

*Terms will be made known on day of sale.*

LEON FRANKLIN, Owner.

D. F. FINNANE, Auctioneer.

September 23, 1926, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin





Fred L. Franklin, grocer at Grange Store – handled eggs.

## Leon Franklin Dies at Darien

Darien—Leon Franklin, 76, died at 10 p. m. Sunday in the Hausser nursing home, Delavan, where he had been a patient for the past four weeks. Mr. Franklin had been ill for about three years, and for a time was a patient at Mercy hospital, Janesville. He was a carpenter in Darien for a number of years.

Born June 12, 1868 in the town of Union, he lived there much of his life. His wife, the former Artemisa Fairbanks, died in 1926. He married Mrs. Jessie Ivis of Darien, Nov. 19, 1928, and had since made his home in this vicinity. Three brothers and three sisters preceded him in death. Surviving besides his wife is a brother, Fred Franklin, Evansville.

Services will be at 2:30 p. m. Tuesday in the Allen funeral home, Evansville, the Rev. Grant V. Clark of the Congregational church, to officiate. Burial will be in Maple Hill cemetery, Evansville.

1945 Sexton's scrapbook of Maple Hill Cemetery burials/obituaries.

Eager Free Public Library, Evansville, Wisconsin

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1945

## Leon Franklin, 76, Passes Sunday P. M.

—V—  
**Union Township Native Dies  
In Delavan Following  
Months Illness**  
—V—

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May 31, 1945, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 4, Evansville,

Wisconsin

## SMITH-HATLEN

**EVANSVILLE —** Miss June  
Smith, daughter of Ray Smith,  
Evansville, and Henry Hatlen, son  
of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hatlen,  
Evansville, were married Aug. 9  
in Dubuque, Ia., by the Rev. W.  
P. Sandroek. Mr. and Mrs. Hatlen,  
who attended the Evansville  
schools, will make their home on  
a farm in the town of Porter.



August 16, 1938, Wisconsin State Journal,

Madison, Wisconsin



# Evansville Couple Wed 53 Years Nov. 8

## George Smiths Will Observe Occasion At Home Here Next Wednesday

Mr. and Mrs. George Smith, residents of Evansville for 50 years, will observe their 53rd wedding anniversary at their home here at 243 W. Main street next Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married Nov. 8, 1897 in Oregon. They resided in Brooklyn for a few years after their marriage where Mr. Smith was employed by a stock buying and feed and seed and coal firm known as Richards, Graves and Roberts. Mrs. Smith was formerly Miss Cora Persons of Attica.

After coming to Evansville the Smiths resided on a farm south of the city a few years and 30 years ago Mr. Smith and sons purchased a meat market here which he and his son, Ray, operate now. A son, Harold, died 13 years ago. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Congregational church and the latter belongs to the Royal Neighbor lodge. Besides the son, Ray, the couple has a granddaughter, Mrs. Harold Beyers Evansville, and a great granddaughter, Carol June Byers.

November 2, 1950, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 1, Evansville,

## George Smiths Observe 55th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. George Smith, residents of Evansville for more than 50 years, will observe their 55th wedding anniversary Saturday, Nov. 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married in Oregon and resided in Brooklyn for a few years before coming to Evansville where they lived on a farm south of the city. About 30 years ago Mr. Smith purchased the Smith and Sons meat market which is now operated by his son Ray.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Congregational church and Mrs. Smith is a member of the Royal Neighbors lodge. Besides their son Ray they have a granddauhter, Mrs. Harold Byers, Evansville, and two great-grandchildren.

November 6, 1952, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

## Ray Smith Retires After 40 Years

What is believed to be Evansville's oldest retail store in terms of operating without change in ownership or management, went out of business this week with the retirement of Ray Smith from the grocery and meat business. After 40 years he has discontinued his business and sold the store building and stock to Al Koeneman. Koeneman in turn sold the stock to a Brodhead grocery and plans to move his appliance business into the building.

Recalling the early days of the business, then George Smith and Son, Ray said this week that at the time there were only two meat markets in Evansville—the Smiths' and the Matt Ellis market. No groceries were sold in the shop which was unheated except for a back-room stove. The meat was hung on big hooks, and the floor was covered with sawdust in those days.

About 25 years ago the Smiths added groceries to the stock—the first items being only catsup and barrels of sweet pickles, Ray says.

He makes his home with his mother on W. Main st. He has always played an active part in community affairs, particularly through the Lions club, of which he was a founding member. He and Robert Antes this year were the only two charter members of the service club still active in Evansville.

On his retirement he was serving customers who have been steady users of his meats for 39 and 40 years. To these, and his other customers, he has asked that his thanks be extended.

May 26, 1958, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

Wilson Wilbur announces that he has recently purchased his partner's share of the E & W Clover Farm Store. Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur came here in November from Lake Geneva and established a grocery store and fresh meat department in the Clark building on the corner of Main and Madison St. His business partner, Edward Reich, Lake Delton, Wis. Managed and built up a popular meat department. Wilbur states that he expects to continue the same service and line of meats. Ray Smith, with some 40 years experience in his own meat business, has been hired to take charge of the department. Mr. Reich has returned to his home town of Lake Delton.

May 14, 1959, p. 1, col. 1, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

**STREET**

[illegible]

## EVANSVILLE ORIGINAL PLAT

1980s



## 100 Pounds of Pot, Money Confiscated In Evansville

Rock County Sheriff's deputies arrested an Evansville man, Leo M. Breunig, 33, on Saturday, Dec. 12, and confiscated 100 pounds of marijuana, after executing a search warrant at the man's home.

Breunig was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver after deputies searched his home, Rock County reports said.

Deputies also confiscated near-

ly \$14,000 in cash. The warrant and arrest followed a joint investigation by the Rock County Consolidated Police Services Unit, the Janesville Police Department, and the Rock County Sheriff's Department.

Breunig was implicated during Janesville arrests which took place on the same weekend involving three Janesville residents. Authorities there executed search warrants at two local homes and confiscated suspected drugs having a street value of nearly \$4,000.

### Phase 5 Sidewalk

December 23, 1981, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 1-2, Evansville, Wisconsin