

# Early days of Scott

by Paul Riddick

The following on early days at Scott was written by the wife of the late Dr. A. G. Grubb and mother of Mrs. Fred G. Deal. Evidently it was written from some dictation from the doctor. Although the Grubb family is identified more with the village of Mongo, earlier the Grubbs and the Haggertys were prominent Scott families.

"The village of Scott was earlier named VanBuren, named after President Van Buren. Dr. William B. Grubb came to Van Buren from Ohio in 1865 when Dr. A. G. Grubb was three years of age. There was no post office. There was a small square building called the mill office located halfway between the mill and the property on the corner owned and occupied by Charley Gage. There was no regular mail carrier. Anyone having business at White Pigeon, which was the railroad center for the area, would bring it to the mill office. Each one expecting mail would go to the mill office, sort over the mail and pick out his own mail. There was another Van Buren in Indiana and the mail often became mixed. The post office, when established, was named Scott to avoid the trouble and gradually the town became known as Scott.

"Among the very early settlers of VanBuren, arriving while the Indians were yet in the vicinity, came James Hagerty, father of Charles and Emmett Hagerty, in 1836 or 1837. Dr. Grubb relates that, as a boy, Mr. Hagerty's stories of his experiences with the Indians were very interesting. A few I will relate. Mr. Hagerty owned and operated a distillery on the bank of Pigeon River somewhere near the house of Fred Mendenhall. On one occasion he saw some Indians very busy around a log on the bank of the river west of the distillery. Waiting for a number of hours after the Indians had disappeared he made an investigation and found that the Indians had hollowed out the log and in it had placed the body of a dead Indian, covering it with pieces of bark.

"Mr. Hagerty had in his possession a heavy iron hoe which he had obtained in making and exchange with Chief Shipshewana, a chief of the Potatomie Indians,

the tribe inhabiting the region at that time. The name Shipshewana is a name given to a line of chiefs. Dr. Grubb played with this hoe in his boyhood days which Mr. Hagerty called a squaw hoe.

"Upon another occasion an Indian slipped into the distillery and was attempting to steal a jug of liquor when Mr. Hagerty saw him and gave chase, up and down and around the barrels and casks. The Indian clung desperately to the firewater until his pursuer got so near he was compelled to drop it and make his escape.

"Mr. Hagerty and a man by the name of Carlin lived upon land purchased from the government now known as the Carlin farm north of Scott. Carlin was taken desperately sick. There were no doctors to be had so Mr. Hagerty called upon an old Indian squaw said to have ability to treat the sick. She took an Indian basket and

proceeded to gather plants and herbs. Mr. Hagerty asked if he could help and received an affirmative reply and was told to gather just anything. He lost his faith in the squaw doctor then. But Carlin survived his malady and the squaw's medicinal mixture as well. There were many other tales but these will suffice to show there were peaceable relations with the Potawatomes.

"Asa Olney and Ed Olney's grandfather Olney also were early settlers, purchasing land from the government in the 30's at \$1.25 an acre. Olney paid for his 40 by raising melons and selling them in Mishawaka. He was the grandfather of Eli Klinger's wife. I remember Mrs. Asa Olney had a loom and I have seen her weave linen for clothes and other purposes in the home.

"Emmett and Charley Hagerty lived there all their lives and no doubt could write much more." #