

Brown Co., IN History & Families
1836-1990

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* **FOX FAMILY** - "Jonathan Fox was the founder of this family in Brown County. He came from Kentucky, where he was born and raised. His wife was Fanny Clark. Their children were: John, born April 16, 1811, Nancy, Samuel, Joseph, Isaac and Uriah, all born in Kentucky. His wife died there.

"He moved his children to Lawrence Co., IN, where he married Martha (Hutson) Porter, a widow. She had come from Kentucky and also had children: Henry, Mary, Vacey, Violet and Elizabeth. They moved with their children, to Big Salt Creek, Washington Township, Brown County, where he entered land (Sect. 14, Twp. 9, R3E) 1831, where they resided until their death.

"Of the Fox children: John married Eliza (Louiza) Pike and had children, Fanny, Philip, Joseph, William, Samuel, Jane, Thomas, Lewis, John, Mary, Ira and Emma. Nancy married John King, lived Washington Township, Brown County and had eight children..." (**The Hamblen and Allied Families** by A. Porter Hamblen)

John Fox and Louiza Pike had the following children: Fanny, married Robert Hamblen; Philip; Joseph; William; Samuel; Sarah Jane (Janie), married John Hedger; Thomas, married Eunice Arbell (Bell) Hoover; Lewis, married Jenny Gates; Mary, married Isaac Pruit; Ira, died as infant; Emma, married George Rainwater; John Wesley, married Laura L. Brown, daughter of James Brown and Mary Reeves. James Brown was the son of Jesse and Mary (Polly) Brown.

John Wesley Fox, born Sept. 16, 1861, died Jan. 21, 1951, and Laura Luedillie Brown, born May 5, 1874, died April 17, 1944, had 14 children. James

O., born April 1892, died 1976, married Mable Bolton. Sarepta Olive, born 1893, died 1980, married first Wheeler Smith, married second Gilber Riggs. Isaac, born November 1895, died 1985, married first Edith Walker, married second Dorothy Poole. Dillard, born 1898, died 1970, married Lena Ellen Riley. Willard born 1902, died April 1979, married first Cora Zimmerman, married second Dolly Poynter. Raymond, born 1904, died 1983, married first Sussey Snyder, married second Bessier Stott. Rosa A., born 1906, died 1975. Arnold A., born 1909, died 1970, married Beatrice Roberts. Goldie M., born 1912, married Eustayce Leonard. Charley W., born 1916, married Frances Louise Friend. William, Dessie, Bessie and Mary all died in infancy.

Ca. 1900, John Wesley and Laura (Brown) Fox built the log cabin that is now Camp Palowoc and owned by Mike Nickels. Ca. 1870, John Wesley's father, John, built the older log cabin on the same property.

Charley and Frances (Friend) Fox operated a small grocery and gas station (1948-1967) on their property on Gatesville Road where the road forks. This store was called Fox's Corner Grocery and even though the store has been closed since 1967, the area is still known as Fox's Corner. It was known as Tinerville ca. 1857 and the land was deeded to the County for a school by Solomon Parsley in 1857. *Submitted by Charley W. Fox*

PARSLEY FAMILY - The first generation of the Parsley family migrated from England two centuries ago. In the late 1700s, they came to Virginia and then on to Kentucky. Some came to Indiana and settled for a while in Jackson County. Because of a typhoid epidemic and for the value of the forests, they started to the hill country.

Robert Martyr Parsley, a school teacher, came from Richmond, VA to Brown County by wagon

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and oxen, blazing a trail in the wooded hills near Bear Wallow Hill east of Georgetown, now known as Bean Blossom. Here, he staked out a section (Sec. 33, Twp. 10) homesteading in the early 1800s before this county was organized. He built a primitive log cabin with a dirt floor, wooden windows and a fireplace. Some of the tools they had were an axe, mattock, double shovel, loom, and spinning wheel.



Columbus Parsley, 1881

Solomon S. Parsley, son of Robert Martyr, was born in Virginia (1803). He came with his father and lived his lifetime in the Brown County pioneer cabin on the Parsley Farm. He married Susannah Staples. They had eight children: Ralph's grandfather Columbus (1830), Mary (1833); William (1834); Rachel (1835); Jasper (1836); Newton (1838); Robert (1840); and Henry (1842). In 1883, aged 45, Newton was killed on the farm by a horse and wagon tragedy, leaving ten children from the ages of two to 21.

The Parsley family was deeply religious. Faith brought them a long way. Their prized possession was the family Bible. Solomon founded and helped build the Unity Baptist Church (1845) where he was a trustee. He was civic-minded, as the Justice of Peace (1841) and as the County Commissioner (1845). He thought they needed a church and a school. He and Susannah gave the land for a school called "Goshen #4" which is now Foxes Corner. Charlie and Frances Fox still have the deed from Solomon and Susannah Staples Parsley.



Old Parsley Home built by Columbus Parsley on Gatesville Road

The family lived off the land, depending on the natural resources. They carried water from a spring in the hill. Besides farming, they cut the timber—mostly white oak and hickory—to make crossties. The railroad came through in 1909. They made hundreds from hickory to go around barrels and hauled them to Martinsville, where the barrels were made.

They drove cattle to Cincinnati on foot for sale in the stockyards. The family decided to build a new house, barn and other buildings on level bottom

ground from native virgin timber. In this house Columbus Parsley, son of Solomon S., raised eight children (four by his first wife, Elizabeth Chapell, who died in 1871): Sylvester, Amanda, Susan and Newton. He and his second wife Sarah Steven had Clarence, John, Elsie and Otto (Ralph's father). Ralph is the great-great-grandson of Robert Martyr Parsley.

Ralph and Garnet still own and raise cattle on the Parsley Farm, east of Bean Blossom, Hamblen Township. They have two children and five grandchildren. Daughter Wanda Parsley Bunge, a school teacher, has Trudy, Polly and Angela; their son John C. is a Baptist minister, has sons Jason and John Robert.

Ralph and Garnet received the 1986 Homestead Award from the Governor for continuous family living on the same farm for 150 years. Submitted by Garnet (Keaton) Parsley