

## **Acquisition History-**

**Crow's Grove – This gorgeous property was generously donated to NICHES Land Trust by Ronald and Martha Crow Pugh and Chester and Freda Crow Butler in loving memory of Russell and Ruth Crow, the parents of Martha Crow Pugh and Freda Crow Butler.**

**Excerpts from History of Warren County Indiana by Weston A  
Goodspeed  
Published 1883**

### THE LANDSCAPE.

“Warren County has many natural scenes to delight the eye. Several bluffs along the Wabash, towering up like huge domes far above the water, command a view of over twenty miles along the valley and reveal the sinuous curves of the historical old river and the beautiful natural scenery along its banks. One may look down the river from above Independence and see live or sis natural horizons of forestry until the view is terminated by a long belt of heavy timber over twenty miles away. But the most beautiful and picturesque views are along Big and Little Pine Creeks. Perpendicular embankments of sandstone, from which cascades as airy and bewitching as a bride's veil, leap from forty to eighty feet to the rocks below, and rise in mimic clouds of spray like a miniature Niagara, kindle in the beholder the highest emotion of grandeur. Natural groups of white pine, that most commanding of all trees seen at a distance, occur at intervals along the bluffs which skirt the valleys and stand like faithful sentinels over the vale below, through which the brook runs laughing aloud on its way to deeper bays and swifter currents. Even the prairies in early years, with their islands of groves, were the grandest sights to those whose view from infancy had been hemmed in by heavy bodies of timber. The eye greeted the boundless vista of green velyet until sky and prairie met in the far distance as it did the immensity of the starry spaces or the sublime expanse of the ocean. All this and much more is in

Warren County. Many people in other counties and States would travel miles to enjoy the beauties which too many of the citizens of Warren do not appreciate. Warren has three or four great natural pleasure resorts.”

### **WILLIAM CROW**

The pioneers of Warren County are rapidly passing off the stage of action, only a few of the early settlers remaining, and one of the most widely known and thoroughly esteemed of these is William Crow, of Liberty township. He is considered an authority on the early history of this section of the state, and has witnessed almost its entire development, coming here, as he did, in 1830, more than two thirds of a century ago.

The paternal great grandfather of our subject, one Joel Crow (originally spelled Crowe), a native of England, was the founder of the family in the United States, long prior to the war of the Revolution, their home being on the James river, in Virginia, for some generations. Benjamin Crow, the father of our subject, was born on Christmas day, 1790, in Frankfort, Kentucky. He married Susanna Sullivan, a native of Virginia, and it is related that she, when an infant, was placed in a basket and thus carried by her parents in their journey on horseback through the almost trackless forests, when they emigrated to Kentucky. Her ancestors came to this country from Wales, and one of her grandfathers, a man by the name of Buckner, with his son, served under Washington in the Revolutionary war.

Born in Lincoln County, Kentucky, January 12, 1816, William Crow the third in order of birth of fourteen children, is now the only survivor of this once large and happy family. He was but four years of age when the family removed to Bartholomew county, Indiana, and on February 4, 1830, they arrived in Warren county. The father bought land in what is now Liberty township, and cleared and improved a good farm. The wife and mother died in 1845, and subsequently the father returned to Kentucky, the home of his

childhood, with the intention of passing the remainder of his life there. When the war of the Rebellion came on, he was so openly pronounced in his views on the subject and so strongly opposed to secession, that his son William, fearing that the venerable man's life was jeopardized, went to see him, and finally persuaded him to return to Indiana, and here he continued to dwell until his death, in 1872. His eldest son, John, died in Polk county, Iowa, at the age of seventy five years; Mary Ann, one of the six daughters, lived to be four-score; James died at fifty two; Jane died when about thirty, and the others, save our subject, departed this life in early childhood.

As he was a youth of fourteen summers when the family located in Warren County, William Crow remembers the appearance of this region well as it was nearly seventy years ago. Once, while sitting on the porch of his father's cabin, in the spring of 1832, he counted forty six deer as the herd leisurely passed into the edge of the forest near by. He was not a hunter, and took no pleasure in the idea of depriving of their life and liberty these beautiful denizens of the forest. December 13, 1834, was the date of the marriage of William Crow to Martha Young, whose birth had taken place February 14, 1818. Her parents were Matthew and Sarah Young. Her stepfather, William Warbritton, and her mother were also pioneers of this county, they having come here from Spencer county, Indiana, in 1830. Mrs. Crow was summoned to the home beyond on March 14, 1866. Five of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Crow are living, namely: Walter H.; Clarissa Jane, wife of John Swisber; Benjamin Franklin; Winfield Scott and Horace Greeley. Several of the number are residents of this immediate locality, and Winfield Scott is a distinguished minister in the Universalist church, of New York city. Three of the sons of Mr. Crow fought for their country in the Union army during the war of the Rebellion, Walter H., William Harrison and Benjamin F. William H., a member of the Eighty sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, died at Louisville, Kentucky, while in the service, in June, 1863. The war record of the other sons is to be

found elsewhere in this work. Three sons died in infancy, and Mary, Matilda and Abraham Lincoln are likewise deceased.

When they began housekeeping the personal effects of Mr. and Mrs. Crow did not amount to more than one hundred dollars' worth of goods, but by industry and economy they amassed a comfortable fortune and reared their children well. Many years ago Mr. Crow was numbered among the well-to-do farmers of this county, and is still classed as such, as he owns over thirteen hundred acres of valuable and finely improved land, and other property.

In his political faith Mr. Crow was a Republican for many years, but is now independent, exercising his franchise as he deems best under prevailing conditions at the time of elections. He has attained the thirty second degree in Masonry, holding that exalted rank for a number of years past. Religiously, he is a Universalist. For a number of years Mr. Crow has served as one of the commissioners of this county, and as an appraiser of real estate, etc. A pleasant experience in Mr. Crow's life, in late years, was an extended trip through the west, which he made in company with five old friends and neighbors, dubbed the "Pilgrims," by common consent. This memorable journey was made in the autumn of 1891, and the route was as follows: To Chicago, thence to Saint Paul, and over the Northern Pacific Railroad to the National park, thence to Seattle, Portland, Sacramento, and back on the Southern Pacific Railway. The trip consumed seventy three days, and frequent stops were made at points of interest along the lines of their route. Every one of the little party, all of whom were pioneers of Warren county (with the exception of Isaiah Houpt), thoroughly enjoyed the excursion, and according to agreement they were to continue to meet on the anniversary of the day on which they started out from home for the west, as long as any two of them were living. W. F. Evans and Mr. Houpt have both since passed away, each meeting a violent death, and now those who commemorate the pleasant pilgrimage of seven years ago are John Pugh, Rufus Prible, George Crawford and Mr. Crow. The years will not be many ere all shall have started forth on

a journey to a " better country," where they hope to meet again in renewed friendship.

As an interesting matter of early American history, it is worthy of record here that the old Indian trail from Detroit, Michigan, to Vincennes, Indiana, which was traveled so often by the bloodthirsty savages under Pontiac, the celebrated Indian leader, ran through the present home farm of Mr. Crow, passing about twenty rods west of his residence and along the edge of the beautiful grove for so many years bearing the name of "Crow's grove." It was along this Pontiac trail that General Harrison marched his army in that eventful campaign against the Indians which culminated in the battle of Tippecanoe. The oldest child of William Crow's grandfather, John Crow, also named John, was one of the gallant band that accompanied General Harrison in this momentous enterprise. Traces of this old trail are yet to be seen.