

There were three churches in Newtown and a City Hall. This Hall served as a theatre, dance hall, and gymnasium. All the high school basketball games were played here. Jesse (Jack) Smith was one of the star players. He was a brother to Lola Romine.

In the spring of 1922 a group of young people from Salem Church near Covington gave a play at this Hall. Roy Romine came with them and that was the evening he met Lola Smith at the Old Town Hall.

They were married May 2, 1925 at the M.E. Parsonage at Covington and later became members of the church. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary May 2, 1975 at their home in Covington. Roy died of a heart attack March 2, 1977.

They had three children. Jesse Roy (deceased 1970) Rosemary and Samuel Smith Romine.

All graduated from the Covington High School.

Jack Romine served in Korea during the Korean War. He later became a realtor.

He married Geneva Orahood, his high school sweetheart.

They had one son, Jack Lee Romine who married Carol Haniford, teacher in the Covington School, October 1980.

Rosemary graduated from Franklin College where she met Richard Tudor and they live in Franklin, Indiana and own the Vanderver Tudor Mortuary. Rosemary also teaches in the Whiteland school.

They have two children, Tamara a teacher in the Carmel High School and Thomas Richard Tudor who is the head of security at Washington Square in Indianapolis. They have two sons Adam Richard and Chad Tinsley.

Samuel Smith Romine lives in Illinois and is Principal in one of the schools. He married Beverly Black and they have two daughters. Terri Jo, a professional photographer and lives at Irving, Texas and Beth Ann who lives in New Mexico and works for Conoco Oil Company.

## The Isaac Romine Family

Isaac Romine, an early land owner in Fountain County was born (May 5, 1782, died March 24, 1866), married Elizabeth Crane (born May 21, 1791) on February 26, 1809. They lived in Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana. Their children were Smith, Ruth, Jane, Jesse, Samuel, Prudence, John, Isaac M., Elizabeth, Sarah Ann, Jacob B., and David.



Isaac Romine Family and Galloway cousins

Their 11th child Jacob Romine (born Aug. 8, 1828, died Feb. 3, 1901) married Rebecca Galloway (born September 29, 1829) on March 27, 1851. Children were Martha Ann, Samantha Jane (LaBaw), Evelyn, Jacob Alvin, Wm. Franklin, Theodore Parker, Emma Ruth, and Isaac Miller.

Jacob's sister, Sarah, married John Galloway, a brother of his wife. The descendants (double cousins) of these two families were good friends and still are.

Theodore Parker Romine, (born October 20, 1861, died June 23, 1926) married Cynthia (Sattie) Ratcliff. Both were Fountain County school teachers and he was also a farmer. Their son Leon Rex was born January 3, 1891. He graduated from Purdue and was an agriculture teacher. He also had an antique and a honey business. He married Julia Linder. Children were Mary Bell, Eleanor and Barbara. Eleanor married Miles Cramer, a teacher, and their children are Emily Runion and Miles Jr. Eleanor and husband Kevin and sons Mathew and Michael live in Crawfordsville. Miles Jr. lives with wife Jill in Washington State. Emily and Miles both graduated from Ball State.

Theodore Romine was a scientific farmer, and interested in education. After his wife died he and his son kept house on the farm. He was chairman of a farmer's institute where he met Margaret Myrtle Mather, one of the Purdue speakers (on domestic science). They decided to marry. He wanted to raise apples and decided that Morgan County yellow clay on a hill top was more suitable than his Fountain County farm. At the age of 45 he started a new kind of farming, with a new wife, in a new community.

Their children are Rebecca Hardin, and Theodore Mather Romine, both retired. She worked for a division of G.M., the Federal Government and two newspapers. Ted had a career with internal revenue and also managed the home farm.

Rebecca's first child, Alice Wright, has a daughter Patty who lives at Raccoon Lake, Parke Co., with husband Martin Kiripatrick and children Jessie and Erin. Patty graduated from Indiana State University and works for a bank in Terre Haute.

Rebecca's daughter Margaret Powell and husband Richard live in Park Forest, Illinois. Their daughter Marcia graduated from Indiana University with a degree in recreational therapy and works at Mt. Sinai, Chicago. Her sister Cindy is an R.N. at St. Francis Hospital, Evanston. Their brother Ted, wife Bonnie, and son Robert Joseph live in Hisdale, Illinois. Youngest sister Kathy married Thomas Saak. They live in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. They both graduated from Illinois State University at Normal, Illinois.

Ted Romine and wife Berta (Bartlow) a retired teacher have four daughters. Carol lives with husband Barry Carnine and children Rachel Sarah and David Alexander at Orange Park, Florida. Carol is an R.N., a practitioner and is in U.S. Navy. Margaret

and husband John Krider live at Bloomington, Indiana. She graduated from I.U. Judy and husband Bob Kelly live at Elkhart, Indiana. She graduated from the University of California. Linda Romine lives in Minneapolis and graduated from the University of Minnesota.

H.W. Beckwith's 1881 HISTORY OF FOUNTAIN COUNTY stated that both Isaac and Jacob Romine Were interested in education. Their descendants several generations later appear to have this same interest, and are willing to move where opportunity is.

## Homer and Josephine Royal

After the death of our parents, Jerry and Abbie (Sprankle) McMahan, my brother, Francis and I (Josephine) were reared among our relatives.

I lived about four years with my grandmother, Sarah Backus McMahan. It was here I heard many stories of early Covington which as a teen-ager I failed to appreciate and now try to recall.

Grandmother was born in County Waterford, Ireland in 1837, daughter of Jeremiah and Margaret Hearn Backus. The late 1840's and early 1850's was termed "potato famine" and many families left Ireland. Two of Grandmother's brothers had come to America. She came bringing a younger sister, Katherine, with her in 1854 when James Buchanan was running for the Presidency. A torch light parade in New York was a frightening experience for two young Irish girls who had no idea what it was. It looked like the city was on fire.

The parents and a younger sister, Ellen, soon followed them and for a time, they were all in Indianapolis and later in Covington, where the parents died in the 1870's.

Grandmother was married in November 1861, in the old St. John's Church in Indianapolis. She had told me that the priest who married her was a French Nobleman and had said Mass under the trees with the Indians. Her story was verified by a feature story in the Indianapolis Star magazine on September 20, 1959. Reverend Augustus Bessonies — born a French Baron — was at St. John's from 1857-1892.

Grandfather went to the Civil War.

Grandmother came to Covington to her parents when Grandfather left Indianapolis in the Civil War. She was so disappointed because everything seemed so dirty. Livestock, chickens and especially geese had free range. The north end of Covington was called "Goose Town".

Grandmother had nine children from 1863 to 1881. She died in 1922 and I went to live with an aunt and uncle. Francis lived with other aunts and uncles, until high school graduation. He was killed in a railroad accident at Rocky River, Ohio in 1958.

I first taught in rural schools in Champaign County, Illinois in 1926.