

You have heard much about the Raleigh High School and the fight of the citizens of the community to keep the school going. William Hall was township trustee when this high school was built. Hall not only built the school that was supposed to be the first consolidated school in America; he also distinguished himself by building a home unlike any other in Indiana, an octagonal house.

Hall came to Fayette County with his parents when he was only four years old. As a youth he went to live with an uncle in Cincinnati who was a cabinet maker. Here he worked as an apprentice.

Hall returned to Indiana in 1835 and bought a Rush County farm near Raleigh. In about six years after his return, he built a log cabin near where the octagonal mansion now stands and he was married.

When not busy on the farm he worked at cutting poplar trees and hewing them into beams for his new home, and he built the sides of the octagonal home on the ground to be raised later. In 1855 the house was completed.

Much to the surprise of Hall's neighbors who came to watch the day he raised the sides, they fit perfectly. The century old house is still beautiful. The unique banisters on the porch and balcony and the eight-sided columns show skilled workmanship.

From 1853 until 1878 Hall was trustee of his township, taking a leave of absence in the early '60's to serve the Indiana General Assembly.

The octagonal house seemed to bring Hall bad luck. Shortly after they moved into the house Mrs. Hall died while giving birth to the couple's eleventh child. The tiny babe died a month later. In only a few months four more of Hall's children died of diphtheria.

In 1860 Hall was remarried. His second wife, Melinda Knotts, bore five children in the odd shaped structure.

Frank T. Hall, a son by Hall's first marriage, became mayor of Rushville and later Lieutenant Governor during the administration of Governor Thomas R. Marshall.

The beautiful, unique home has been occupied for a number of years by Mrs. Walter Crull, who, aided by her son, Marvin, and grandson, Gary, have kept the surroundings most attractive.

On an adjoining farm lives Hall's grandson, Meredith. As a hobby he and his wife are filling a scrap book with lore of Rush County history during the period when the elder Hall lived.

Here was a man who built the first consolidated school and without question, the first pre-cut house in Indiana.

His school building is still a good structure and his home attracts the attention of every one

ONLY OCTAGONAL HOME IN STATE



A view of the octagonal home built by William Hall near Raleigh in Rush County. Hall was township trustee when the Raleigh School, now in the news, was built.

who drives from Raleigh to Carthage. Even some of the trees he planted are still shading the yard.