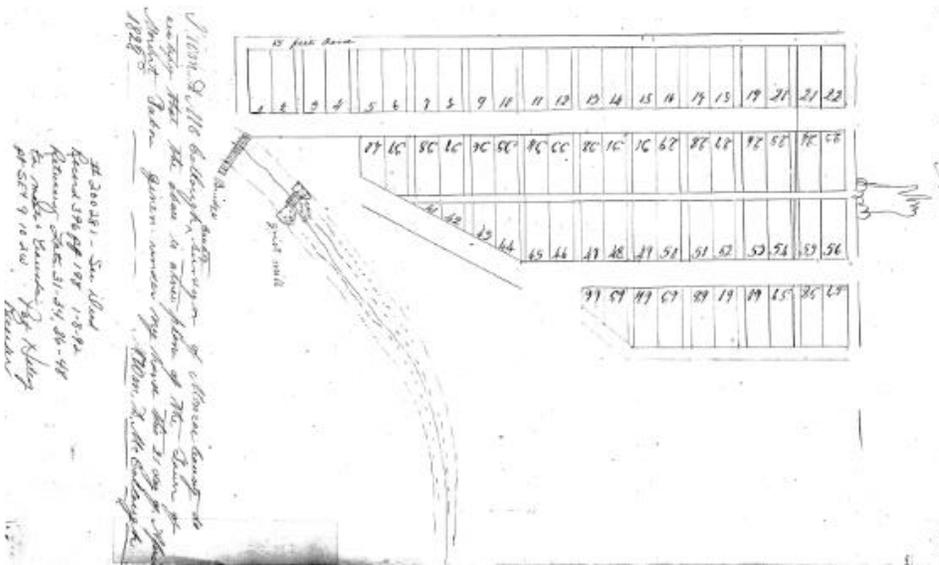


Mt. Tabor (Switzer-Hite) Cemetery of the Month--September 2015

Mt. Tabor is one of those truly historic places, yet no historic marker marks its location. Between 1820 and 1850 it was a prosperous village, located in Bean Blossom Township with a population estimated at 350 persons, and a major marketing site within the county. To quote from the *History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties* (Bowen: <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89072944762>), “As early as 1820, John Burton erected his mill... He ground corn and cut lumber from the native forest trees. A blacksmith shop was set in operation in 1825 by James Turner and Jefferson Wampler. William Ellett sold the first merchandise there in 1829, from what would now be styled a “saloon”... Ellett & Kirkham started a store there in 1831. Other dealers there were, John S. Barnes; Gideon Walker; the Wampplers; John Bennett 1835; Shelburn & Dunning, 1836; A. W. Hill, 1843; W. J. Sparks 1845; Sparks & Davis 1847; John C. Mays 1849; Parks & Egbert 1849; Sparks & Davis kept the last store in the village of Mt. Tabor, before the Civil War, and Levi Kean conducted the last one there, a little later on. Blanchard’s *History of Brown, Morgan and Monroe Counties* reports more businesses. William Hite was the first Postmaster. Nathan Hill and F. G. Hite succeeded him.



Plat of Mt. Tabor (Deed Book C, page 87, April 1828):



The Cemetery is located just south of Bean Blossom Creek, a couple hundred yards from where the old mill was located in the early 1800’s. According to County Cemeteries of Monroe (Rice), there were nine marked stones: Samuel G. Boyd, Felix Grundy Hite, Margaret Hite, Mary Wampler Hite, Priscilla May Hite, William Hite, Jan Mershon, Octavia Mershon, and Reuben Staley. These stones have been located but most were leaned against the trees. The MCHC Cemetery Committee in partnership with the office of the Bean Blossom Township Trustee, cleaned the yard in early spring. On September 20 we hope to finish replacing the stones. The Trustee’s office will maintain the cemetery coordinating with the landowner for access.

The stones are mostly of limestone and almost all are easy to read. You will recognize some of the names from the above history of Mt. Tabor including William Hite, the first postmaster. To volunteer for the September 20 workday, contact Bob Dodd or Lou Malcomb care of mchclibrary@gmail.com.

