Old Dutch Cemetery and Church near Stinesville

The Old Dutch Cemetery and Church is located off Indiana 46 West, taking Red Hill Road to Old Dutch Church Road. The church and cemetery is next to a large creek that flows gently and quietly. The sign above the door of the church states the church was established in 1835. The original log church built by Dutch families was called St. John's Lutheran Church. In the early days services and song books were in German, but as old settlers passed on and others moved in, things changed.

Hubert Grubbs, the owner of the original farm, gave three-quarters of an acre for the new church building. When the old church closed and the new church reopened in 1955 it became non-denomination and was re-named the Old Dutch Church. The original log building no longer exists and an outhouse sits directly behind the current church, giving an indication that there is no plumbing in the church. Nelson Figg was the minister of Old Dutch Church in the early days and Tom Figg planted the large maple trees that shade the cemetery. Hubert's brother Robert Grubbs married Betty Stines, an original descendant of the Stine family. Robert indicated that the stone fence surrounding the cemetery was installed by hand by the early Stine family. He mentioned that the early families of the church were given plots in the cemetery and the reason we are seeing new monuments and gravesites today is the families are starting to pass on.

The Old Dutch community settlement was started about 1820 or just a few years after Indiana was admitted to statehood. Among the first to settle in the Old Dutch community was the Shawver, Summit and Stine families. They are buried in the Old Dutch cemetery with the earliest recorded grave being Mary Ground in 1843. The cemetery has several old monuments and it is difficult to make out the lettering. Some legible stones are Jacob Stine and his wife, Magdalena who were born in 1774 and 1781, Henry Stine born in 1784 and Christopher Shawver born in 1796.

The monument that impressed this writer the most was Mary Mayse born in 1836, no death date. The limestone is carved to resemble tree stumps with a potted plant at the bottom. The Stine family stones are lined up like chess players standing at attention. There is record of a World War II veteran Gerard Bogard Baker and a Vietnam veteran, Clarence Figg, possibly a relative of Nelson and Tom. Children Thomas Edward and Timothy Lee, no last name, born December 29 passed away in 1957 at birth and one day later.

A fact worth noting about the Stine family is, the ancestors came from Germany and the original spelling of their name was Stein. When they settled in the Stinesville area the name became Stine and it was changed once more along the way to Stines. The town of Stinesville is named after the Stine family.