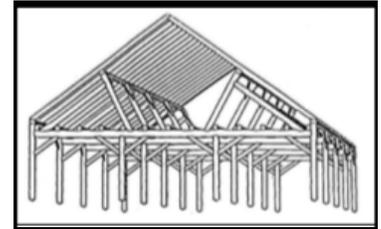


# Craig Family Barn

Franklin County  
Brookeville, Indiana



The Craig Family barn is estimated to be built between 1830-1837. Beams were hand hewn hardwoods. It was a three bay English barn like the diagram on below left. The overall size of the barn was 40'x 60'x 15' high. In 1870, the frame was reworked to create canted queen posts to accommodate an interior hay trolley. Diagram on the right shows diagonally positioned beams in the loft in order to create an open space along the ridge. Before Indiana became a state in 1816, the territory was divided into sections ranging from 100 to 171 acres. In 1813, the U.S. General Land Office deeded Jacob Fausset, a volunteer in the U.S. Rangers from the War of 1812, a large section of land. In 1828, a Scotsman, Archibald Craig purchased 100 acres of Fausset's land. The following Craig family portraits are courtesy of James Craig's descendant Nancy Brackney *Craig Family Tree* on Ancestry.com



**Archibald Craig (1792-1844) & Agnes Gilchrist Craig (1794-1886):** Archibald was a native Scotsman who came from a family of coverlet weavers. As a young man Archibald was very active in political affairs, which led to his imprisonment. While he was in prison, he decided to come to America. After settling in South Carolina in 1821, Archibald studied Presbyterian ministry. In 1828, he relocated with his wife, Agnes and son James to Indiana. He continued his ministry by riding horseback all over the country. Because of poor health, his son James took on the farming responsibilities at a very young age. Archibald Craig died at age 53.



**James Craig (1820-1906) & Harriet Gurr Craig (1837-1915):** James was a one year old when he came to America from Scotland. He was the first of nine children for Archibald and Agnes. James was drafted for service during the Civil War, but was not allowed to serve due to bad hearing. On January 31, 1867 James married Harriet Gurr. They had four children, Agnes H, John, Mary J and James William. Together they added sixty acres to the 100 acre farm. In 1870, they remodeled the barn and added a hay trolley system.



**James William (Will) Craig (1876-1929) & Iza Gertrude Knowles Craig (1875-1957):** Of the four children that James and Harriet had, it was James William that ended up operating the farm. "Will" married Iza in 1907 and had one child, Willard. In 1914, Will was in a boiler explosion accident that scalded his body hospitalizing him for 13 weeks. One of his injuries was a crushed leg that did not heal properly, thus leaving him with one leg shorter than the other. When Will's mother, Agnes died, he officially purchased the inherited farm from his siblings.

**Willard Craig (1911-1991):** Willard was a lifelong resident of Franklin County. He was a member of the Franklin County Farm Bureau and the Franklin County Historical Society.

**Claudine Rader (1932-2018):** Claudine was a friend, and an heir to Willard. For many years, she and her family were renters on the farm who took care of Willard. She inherited the farm. When Rader passed away, the estate sold the property. Based on necessity the barn was dismantled in 2020.

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