

Updike Barn *Brookville, Indiana*

We can speculate that the barn was built between 1850-1860, due to an increase in property value of the land. The barn was a subsistence style barn with a 20th century addition for more livestock use. Overall, it was 44'x38'x16' with two stories. Widow Sarah Blew Updike (1777-1841) emigrated west from Pennsylvania to the Territory of Indiana. In the wild and unbroken forest of White Water Valley, she settled with her sons, Benjamin, Morris, Levi, and John. Sara made her home with son, Levi, while the other sons lived nearby.

In 1850, Lev's Updike's land was valued at \$800. He and his wife Lucinda had 6 children. By 1860, the land value was \$1500. At this time he had a new wife, Naomi, and a total of 10 children.

After Levi Sr. died in 1888, Levi Jr. who lived in Boston, returned to the farm. A local newspaper reported in 1906, that Levi Jr. and his wife Mary had purchased a gramophone; so, life on the farm was economically good. By 1916, Levi and Mary had a phone and were selling chicken coops for raising chicks. Mary died in 1920; Levi remarried to Martha Billings. After Levi's death in 1928, aged 78, Martha sold the barn parcel to William Lanning. Levi and first wife, Mary were childless, but in the 1890's had taken in a girl, Ida Baughman who later married Willard Lanning. Ida and Willard had a son, Willard Jr. After his parents' death, he continued to own the barn property. The farm became known as the Willard Lanning Farm. During the 1950's, the farm sold livestock, small lots of meat, and pony farm equipment. Willard died in 1992 passing on the farm to his son Quentin Lanning. Quentin was known for raising prize winning lambs and calves, and was a 4-H leader for 61 years. A new house was built on the barn parcel in 1970. Lanning heirs are the current owners of the barn property. Currently, it is a cash grain general farm. Time and weather took its toll on the barn which eventually needed to be dismantled.

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