

HISTORY OF TIPPECANOE PLACE

In 1884, Clem Studebaker, President of Studebaker Corporation (Largest Wagon Manufacturer in the World) “begins to feel he ought to have a larger house and one more nearly corresponding in its character with the position he had obtained in the affairs of the world.” The site of his mansion would be at the corner of West Washington and Taylor St, just west of Downtown South Bend on 3 plus acres of land. The house would be built on a bluff, which ran diagonally through 2.65 Acres of grounds, and the carriage house and conservatories would be dedicated to the additional acre in the back.

Throughout 1885, Clem trekked to Chicago on multiple occasions to interview architects, study plans, research materials, and visit some of the grand estates in the City. After much deliberation, Clem chose Henry Ives Cobb, one of the best known architects in Chicago, to work with him on “mapping out” all the details of the home. Cobb had recently designed the splendid Potter Palmer Mansion on Lakeshore Dr., and other noteworthy Chicago landmarks which still exist today; including, the Historical Society Building (now Excalibur Night Club), Chicago Varnish Building (now Harry Carey’s restaurant), and many buildings located on the grounds at the University of Chicago. Cobb’s work was influenced by “Richardson Romanesque” design which was distinguishable with its fortress like stone walls, complex roof line, low arches, rising towers, and gabled dormers. This style was extensively popular from 1870’s -1880’s in large commercial properties and grand public buildings and churches. However, due to its high cost of material construction and labor, it was very rare to see this design in residences.

The exception was the “Urban Castles” for the extremely wealthy Barons of Industry. In addition, Clem felt this design style exhibited the true mood he was looking to achieve in his “ masterpiece”; one of “stability, security, and permanence.”

The home was nearing completion towards the later part of 1888, and the next few months were dedicated to final landscape work and interior furnishing installation. In February of 1889, the Studebaker family finally took possession of their new home.

Tippecanoe Place has approximately forty rooms, with twenty uniquely different fireplaces, and close to 24,000 Sq. Ft. of living space on four floors. The interior of the home emphasizes high quality wood work throughout with expert carving skills. The total cost of construction was estimated at \$250,000, with an additional \$100,000 dedicated to furnishings and art collection. To put this actual cost into perspective, the typical monthly rental for a good house in South Bend was \$12 in 1880. In October of 1889, just eight months after final construction, disaster struck as the house was severely damaged by fire. The entire top of the house was burned off, leaving only the stone facing walls unharmed. Since the structure was thought to be basically fireproof, very little insurance was carried by the Studebakers. Within a year, the house was completely rebuilt at an additional cost of close to \$100,000. After its completion, the South Bend *Times and Tribune* wrote “The house, in its proportions and appointments probably surpasses anything in Indiana. It is an embodiment of all that wealth and taste can suggest, and modern skill and invention devise.”

OCCUPANTS OF TIPPECANOE PLACE
1889-1933: Studebaker Family

Master and Mistress:

Clem Studebaker: Founder of the Studebaker Wagon Corporation

Anna Milburn Studebaker: Wife of Clem Studebaker

1901: Clem Studebaker passes away

1916: Anna Milburn Studebaker passes away, and Tippecanoe Place is willed to son George.

Three Children:

George Studebaker

(Born 1865, Deceased 1939)

Aka Colonel George after he graduated from Chester Military Academy in 1884

He married Ada Lantz in 1885, and they resided permanently in Tippecanoe Place from 1889-1933. George worked as an Executive of the Studebaker Corporation.

Anne Studebaker

(Born 1861, Deceased 1931)

Married Charles Arthur Carlisle at Tippecanoe Place in September 1891.

Mr Carlisle was a purchasing agent and Director at Studebaker Corporation. In 1894 the couple built a three story Queen Ann Style residence on the SE Corner of the original Studebaker Estate adjacent to Tippecanoe Place. Today the "Carlisle House", has been renovated and turn into the law offices of Anderson, Augustino & Keller.

Clem Studebaker, Jr.

(Born 1871, Deceased 1932)

When Tippecanoe Place was under construction, Clem was studying at Northwestern University. In 1893, he married Alicia Rhawn, one of his sister's

bridesmaids and best friends. Clem was involved in his family's other lines of business serving as both President of the South Bend Watch Company and North American Light and Power Company. He and his wife lived at " Elm Court", a mansion on East Jefferson St. in South Bend which still stands today on the grounds of the prestigious Trinity School at Greenlawn.

1933: George Studebaker and his wife Ada Lantz declare Bankruptcy, and abandon Tippecanoe Place. The furnishings and belongings of the estate are auctioned to pay off debt, and the mansion is put on the market for sale.

1934-1941: During the Great Depression, no active sales market exists, so the property remains "empty" for seven years.

1941: Mr. E.M. Morris, a South Bend businessman who founded First Bank & Trust and Associates Investment Co., purchases the property for \$20,000 and bequeaths the asset to the South Bend Board of Education to be used as a School for the Handicapped.

1941-1946: World War II intervenes, and the property is commissioned and used by the Red Cross Society.

1947- 1970: Occupied by the E.M Morris School for Crippled Children.

1971-1974: Used as School Offices and Administration

1975-1979: Occupied by Southhold Restorations (Local Historical Preservation Group -Forerunner to Northern Indian Historical Society).

1980 – Present:

Tippecanoe Place Restaurant

Continental Restaurant Systems, a division of Ralston Purina which includes 71 other restaurants, purchases Tippecanoe Place in 1979. Continental spends \$2 Million restoring and converting the mansion into a restaurant. The successor in interest, Paragon Steakhouse, sells the property in 2001 to the Matteoni Family on a sale / leaseback transaction, and in 2008 the Matteoni Family acquires the restaurant operation.

THE NAME – TIPPECANOE PLACE

Two theories exist, one pertains to the Indian History of the Region, and the second pertains to Clem Studebaker's friendship with President Benjamin Harrison. Both theories are actually very closely related.

Indian History of the Region:

Before any white explorers set foot in Northern Indiana, the St. Joseph Valley in the mid 1600's was occupied by Miami Indians. The power of the Miami was in their large size villages, which were strategically located at key portages (trail between two rivers) in order to enhance their trade abilities. Just above the "south bend" of the St. Joseph River a transfer point allowed for a short 18 mile portage from the River of the Miami (original name of St. Joseph River) to the nearby Kankakee River. This juncture between these rivers allowed continuous canoe travel from the Lake Michigan watershed to the headwaters of the Illinois River which flowed into the Mississippi River. It was this "key" juncture where the Miami's settled, since it secured a connection for traders, explorers, settlers and other Native American who were travelling from the east via Lake Michigan.

The size of the Miami villages were typically in the thousands, which lent power to the office of the chief whose duties included regulating the supply of trade and negotiating peace or aspects of warfare. At the dawn of the 19th century, the first white man settled in the area by the name of Alex Coquillard. He established a permanent post on the St. Joseph River which became the center of trade among the Miami Indians. Since Alex served in the American forces during the War of 1812, he also negotiated as an American agent for Indian affairs in this region. Due to this interaction, Miami Chief Tippecanoe, became a friend and ally.

At this same time, the US Government began enacting a policy to move Native American tribes east of the Mississippi River to west of the river, away from the white settlers who began inhabiting the territories. In the Indiana Territory, the US Government negotiated treaties as early as 1804 with Saux and Fox leaders to cede certain lands north of the Ohio River. Later the Treaty of St. Mary's (often referred to as the Treaty with the Miami) was signed in 1818, which ceded Miami reservation lands in present day Central Indiana to the Indiana Territory. When the Native Americans of northwestern Indiana relinquished their property under the Treaty of Tippecanoe in 1832, the destiny of white settlement for all of Indiana was complete.

Although no references are available to discover the following facts, various historians believe the land purchase treaties were made in small segments of Indian tribes rather than with Indian nations as a whole. With this thought, "the Chief Tippecanoe council grounds on the bluff" might very well refer to the Indian treaties administered by Coquillard with the Miami's. It is no small stretch to believe that

one of the agreements which took place on the ground of the Studebaker Estate, was the execution of a document which related to the Treaty of Tippecanoe.

Friendship with President Benjamin Harrison:

In 1800, William Henry Harrison became governor of the newly formed Indiana Territory, and was commissioned by the US to secure title to Native American lands to allow for American expansion of settlers which in turn would provide statehood for Indiana. Harrison negotiated numerous land cession treaties with the Indians, including the Treaty of Fort Wayne in 1809 which involved the sale of over 3 Million acres of land.

Two Native Americans, Tenskwatawa and his brother Tecumseh, were outraged by the Treaty of Ft. Wayne, and met with Harrison to demand a nullification of the treaty which Harrison rejected. Not to be deterred, Tecumseh began to travel widely, urging and intimidating warriors throughout the territory to abandon the accommodating chiefs and join them in a settlement north of the Tippecanoe River near Lafayette, Indiana. In response to rising tensions and threat of war, an American force commanded by William Henry Harrison, set out to launch a strike on the brothers headquarters. The Battle of Tippecanoe took place at the confluence of the Tippecanoe and Wabash Rivers on November 7, 1811, with the Americans victorious both tactically with the destruction of the village, and strategically, since this battle sealed the fate of the Native Americans in Indiana.

William Henry Harrison returned to the battlefield with his running mate John Tyler to give speeches during his Presidential campaign of 1840. Because of his fame as a frontier hero, and the enthusiasm generated from the colorful campaign jingle "Tippecanoe and Tyler too", Harrison, the Whig candidate, won the election overwhelmingly from the incumbent Martin Van Buren.

William Henry Harrison's grandson was Benjamin Harrison, who entered into a life of politics as a Republican Senator from the State of Indiana. In 1888, the Republican Party chose him as their Presidential candidate to run against the incumbent Grover Cleveland. In a narrow victory, Benjamin Harrison was elected the 23rd President of the United States. Benjamin Harrison and Clem Studebaker were very close friends, and Benjamin Harrison appointed Mr. Studebaker to his inauguration committee and to the first Pan American conference between the US and Latin American nations. In addition, right after the election, President Harrison ordered five new carriages from the Studebaker Manufacturing Company, one of which is still on display at the Studebaker National Museum.

It is rumored that due to this close relationship with President Benjamin Harrison, Clem Studebaker named his regal South Bend home in honor of Harrison's grandfather William Henry Harrison, the hero of the 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe.