

ON COMMON GROUND

Chapter I

Part I Introduction

Part II The Historic Setting (Economic, Industrial, and Social Trends at the time Miner was Erected)

Part I -- Introduction

"Richman, poorman, beggarman, thief; Doctor lawyer, merchant, chief ;"

Who of us, at one time or another, has not warbled this ditty to some process of elimination (such as counting our shirt buttons or skipping the rope) to determine what we would be when we grew up, or, in the case of little girls, whom we would marry,

What, but a school, can look down through the years, and see in reflection a part in the making of each of them? A school can look with pride at the achievements of the respected ones (by far and large the majority) and with sorrow upon those of the lesser levels in the ditty.

Richmen, lawyers, teachers, doctors, statesmen, home-makers, tradespeople, authors, inventors, ministers -- all these and more, representatives of all walks of life, bring both reward and honor to the heart of a school. All these crowd into the shadows of heartache and disappointment the downfall of the anti-social ones who have become problems of the community. This is true of every school -- even Miner. It would be falsely presumptive to say that none of the latter group ever attended Miner. We know that some did, however, we are only saddened by the fact that they are the losers, and as such, are a trifling minority of the thousands that have come and gone, are now going and will be coming to our "little red school house" which stands at the southwest corner of DeWald and Miner Streets in the city of Fort Wayne.

Located approximately one and one-fourth ($1\frac{1}{4}$) miles south and three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) mile west of the Allen County Court House, it is situated in one of the early residential districts of our city. It was built in 1886 and named for one of the leading civic businessman of that time -- Byrum D. Miner. Of course, the street which bounds the school on the east was named for the same man. Incidentally, Leora Miner, one of the daughters of this man held a teaching position for a few years, in the school shortly after the turn of the century. Although she has been retired from teaching profession for several years, she is still living and has given much valuable information relative to this history.

A number of changes in the structural plan of the building have taken place at varying intervals and will be discussed in a later chapter. Many of the trees originally beautifying the