



Above is the group of Camden people who composed the first "First Aid Class" during the Second World War. Dr. McKinley, at the far right, was the instructor.

it and send it to Governor Cox. The Republicans heard of this and determined to bid against them and the price went up beyond all expectations. The Republicans finally bought the cake for \$50.00 and later sent it to Senator Harding. The Democrats bought a smaller cake for \$25.00 and sent it to Governor Cox who graciously acknowledged it and wrote a cordial letter also to Mrs. Harry Charles, who had baked the cake:

Columbus, Ohio
Dec. 1, 1918

Mrs. Harry Charles,
Camden, Ohio.
My dear Mrs. Charles:-

I just want to express my appreciation of the very fine cake, which I understand you baked, which was sent to me by The Committee having charge of the Red Cross sale in Camden. The cake came just as I was leaving for Culver to spend Thanksgiving with my son, who is in school there. We took it with us, and you may be sure the boy enjoyed it, as well as the rest of us. Allow me to congratulate you on your skill, and thank The Committee for its kindness in remembering me. With all good wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,
James M. Cox (signed)

Compliments of Moysey Bros. Clothiers & Haberdashers — Eaton
Suburban Propane — Eaton
Landmark — Eaton
Dowler's Cafe, Fine Foods & Drinks — Eaton

Governor Cox's father lived in Camden and the town has always claimed the Governor as a Camdenite.

Not only in politics and national wars, but also in civilian work for the government, has Camden made its national contribution. Since early in the 1880's many men and women have held civil service positions both in Washington, D.C. and in other parts of the country, serving in the Treasury, the Labor, the Agriculture, the Internal Revenue departments, the Government Printing Office and the Library of Congress and other special activities.

REMINISCENCES

Though the life of the average Camden citizen may seem very hum-drum to an outsider, there have been exciting, happy, disturbing, disastrous, and upsetting events throughout the years. Some were known only to Camden people and some rated headlines throughout the state.

In 1877 the Camden Awkwards, a famous baseball team, was one of the best teams in the state. The players were William Overholtz, James Paulus, James Cochran, Dr. C. M. Thomas, H. C. Crafton, James Ford, J. Ed McCord, James Overholtz, Horace Brown and John Peters. Although these men have all passed on to their rewards, their names and the team name have gone down in baseball history as the beginning of Camden's baseball fervor. The team played an outstanding game in Eaton when the C. H. & D. Railway ran an excursion from Camden to Eaton and about 500 rooters accompanied the Awkwards. The Awkwards won and a great celebration followed.

Sept. 6, 1894 was indeed a gala day for Camden. The Cincinnati Reds played the Camden team in Camden. It was the first and only time in the history of Camden baseball that a National League team made its appearance in Preble County. The score was 16 to 1 in favor of the Reds. Losing the game did not deter Camden's enthusiasm, which

knew no bounds. A parade followed the game and the town was filled with noise.

In 1903 a baseball club was organized and club uniforms of the latest design and pattern of navy blue blouses and trousers, red stockings and "University caps" were adopted. The first club game,



**Top row: Charles Neff, W. E. Linting, Robert Black — Middle row: Cash Brower, Jake Collet, Loren Brewer, Roy Deckert — Bottom row: Frank White, Bill Sebert, Bob DeVall
Camden's Baseball Team — 1903**

June 18, 1903, was with Liberty, Indiana in Camden. Camden was highly complimented by the visitors for the excellent treatment accorded them. Later in July of this same year a game with Germantown was played. It resulted in an All Star team, recruited from three cities but allegedly from Germantown. The Camden team was not expecting the professionals, but undaunted, they tackled the team of All Stars and made a creditable showing even though they lost the game.

In 1915 a team of girls from Cincinnati, called "The Bloomer Girls" played a game with Somerville in Camden. This attempt of the girls at the game of baseball was a huge joke and enjoyed

very much by the spectators. Somerville won with a score of 13 to 3.



E. A. Bousman, a resident of Camden for 45 years, an ardent sports fan, and for many years managed the Camden baseball and basketball teams. He was president of the Camden Little League Assn. and took great interest in this activity.

In 1933 an interesting item in the local paper read "In the absence of Dr. Barnhiser, the veteran Doc Alston went to third. Alston is a valuable utility man and Manager Bausman is fortunate in having his reserve strength." The Doc Alston referred to is none other than the Alston of Dodger fame.

BASKETBALL was introduced in Camden early in 1904 by Frank White who had seen a game in Liberty, Indiana and was so enthusiastic about it that he immediately contacted several Camden men who were willing to finance the organization of two teams. On Dec. 14, 1904 Camden sport fans witnessed the town's first game. People were immediately enthused about this new game and it has remained a favorite of the town ever since. The two teams were called The Stars and The Stripes. They played among themselves for about a year after which a regular team with substitutes, was

**Compliments of Hoskin's Automotive Supply — Eaton
Feix's Sohio Service — Eaton
Bach Bros. Water Well Contractors — Camden
Sherman's Feed Store — Camden**

chosen, ready to meet teams from other communities. The regular team was composed of Henry Boomershine, Will Sebert, Murray Wall, John White and Frank White. Charlie Neff, Glenn Fornshell, E. O. Barnett, Ed McGriff, Clarence Davis, Clay Klopp and George Sizelove were selected as



Camden's first Basketball Team 1904. John White, Henry Boomershine, Frank White, Will Sebert and Murray Wall.

substitutes. The new team's first game was very exciting. Each succeeding game gave the team more confidence and after defeating the Miami University team they were ready to meet any team available. They scheduled a game with Hamilton High School who had been twice state champions. They lost the game with a score of 31 to 7. Camden became quite rough in their play during the second half of the game and the height of rowdyism was revealed. The rowdyism extended into the Camden audience and Camden returned home defeated and deflated.

In 1905 the Camden girls made their initial venture in basketball. Two local teams were or-



"The Reds" and "The Whites" Girls' Basketball teams of Camden — 1905.

ganized—The Reds and The Whites. Out of the two teams a regular team was organized. Their first game with an out-of-town team was with Liberty, Indiana. They once played against a boys' team.

An event of state-wide attraction was Ohio's Centennial in 1903. On February 27, Camden joined the whole state in this celebration. Parents and friends and pupils gathered together at the school to witness the exercises arranged by the teachers and pupils. The rooms were well decorated and Ohio's history related.

In 1908 Camden joined all of Preble County's centennial celebration which was officially held in Eaton. The Pennsylvania Railway carried 398 people from Camden to Eaton. This celebration was elaborately planned and carried out by the whole county and was long remembered as a gala affair.

On August 14, 1933 Camden's big Centennial and Homecoming opened. Historical events were pictured, contests held, parades and more serious programs were held. Certain days during the week were designated as "Horse and Buggy Days", "Mardi Gras" etc. During this week Camden experienced one of the greatest weeks of entertainment and historical review ever known and entertained one of the largest crowds in its history.

While most of Camden's distinguished visitors have come from the political life, there have been some from the entertainment, sports and educational fields. Always great enthusiasm greeted such

visitors and often parades and other signs of appreciation have been shown. "Landis Day" or "Kenesaw Mountain Landis Day" which was observed on September 19, 1907, was a real Red Letter Day for the village. Judge Landis came as the guest of honor of the 35th O.V.I. Regimental Association which was holding its annual reunion in Camden. Judge Landis' father, Dr. Abraham H. Landis, had been the regimental surgeon for this regiment, and had his leg broken by a twelve pound cannon ball at Kenesaw Mountain. He named his son, the famous judge, Kenesaw Mountain in memory of this battle. This reunion was surely an outstanding one for the veterans. An Eaton band, the Hamilton drum corps, crowds of veterans and many, many visitors were here. The town was decorated with regimental colors and after a very interesting program at the Town Hall a parade followed.

Although a fire in a village is not a reason for celebration, several outstanding fires have occurred in Camden. One of the most disastrous fires was that of Howard's Saloon on South Main St. in 1888 which was entirely destroyed. It started in the barn back of the building and spread rapidly until the barn, the saloon and two buildings below the saloon and part of the old Arlington Hotel were destroyed. Although the fire department



Above is pictured Howard's Saloon and the Arlington Hotel after the fire of 1888. The buildings in the background are those across Main Street.

worked all night diligently, individuals in the town were called upon to help. Buckets and buckets of water were carried from neighboring houses.

In 1892 the I.O.O.F. Building burned to the

ground. In the late 1890's the hotel known as the Danser House was burned. It stood where the Masonic Temple now stands. In 1936 the City Hall had a serious fire of unknown origin. It was the first dangerous fire fought after the installation of the water works system. In 1930 and in 1951 Wood Oil Company suffered through fire. Heavy property losses were caused and the life of Lester Gardner was lost. In 1952 the 90 ft. grain elevator of William and Michael Karr was completely destroyed and in 1955 the South Side Lumber Co. building was partially destroyed and great losses resulted.

Camden has had very few tragedies during its 150 years of existence, but three scandalous and spectacular ones were head-line news throughout the state. In June, 1887 Mrs. Nancy Beall, living north of town was shot and killed by her 13 year old son. It was a horrible story and one for which the boy paid most of his life. In 1913 Franklin Bourne, an eccentric farmer living near Back Bone was killed and the case became one of the most noted cases in the criminal annals of the state. The killer was convicted upon circumstantial evidence and a life term sentence was imposed, seven years of which he spent in the Ohio State Penitentiary, at which time death came to him following an operation. This is known as the greatest mystery occurring in Camden. The third case, in 1922, State Game Warden, Robert Marshall, was killed while trying to help Camden's town Marshal, Frank Roberts, arrest a man on a robbery charge. Mr. Marshall was shot from ambush and did not have a chance. The crime created in the whole area the most bitter feelings and cast a gloom over the entire community. Rewards were offered for the capture of the killer but he escaped, probably to the hills of Kentucky and was never apprehended.

Many unforgettable days and nights for Camden citizens have been caused by the weather. There have been blizzards; one very bad one occurred in 1918 when coal and oil were rationed; the one in 1950 was so severe that Mr. Ray Simpson, prominent local editor of the Preble County News was frozen on the steps of his place of business, which meant a great loss to Camden. There have been cyclones; the one in 1906 did great

damage to the Parker and Potterf farms; there have been tornadoes; the one in 1909 was one of the most terrific wind storms that this vicinity ever experienced. Wind accompanied heavy down-pour. It destroyed many valuable shade and fruit trees; it destroyed the frame work of the Fry residence which was being built; it removed two barns from their foundations on the E. J. Phares place and broke plate glass windows in his store. It overtook him and his son, Bruce, while they were driving along the road near the Pierce farm, carrying away his horse and buggy and occupants several yards into a corn field. Other towns nearby were hit very badly also. The one in 1955 was the heaviest wind storm since the one in 1909; roofs were blown off, windows broken, aeriels twisted and blown down, trees uprooted and power and telephone service disrupted. Lightning has caused much damage and some deaths. In 1899 a severe electrical storm caused the death of Levi Mann; in 1903 the death of Martin Gravin and severe shock to James E. Campbell; in 1907 Miss Martha Kautz was severely shocked and for days her condition bordered on nervous prostration; in 1914, 1916, 1920, 1924, 1929, 1930, 1936 and 1958 the whole area suffered great loss and many personal injuries as a result of lightning.

All through the years steady or extreme hard rains have brought an overflow of Seven Mile Creek causing floods in the east part of Camden, causing destruction and deplorable conditions in the streets. In 1887 the report of the flood read—"It has rained for about 56 hours in succession here. Every ditch and gulley is overflowing and mud prevails everywhere." In 1866 the bridge over Seven Mile was washed away in one of the most severe floods in local history. In 1896, 1897, 1899 and 1904 records show that Seven Mile went on rampages, washing out banks and bridges and causing the suspension of railroad traffic. In all floods Central Ave. was always flooded and at the conclusion of each flood a coating of mud was left on the sidewalks and lawns. In 1908 the flood caused backwaters to flood all but the heart of town. Streets were under from twelve to fifteen inches of water. A. A. Case was looking after his stock at the slaughter house just south of Camden, when he became

hemmed in by a wall of water. The town Marshal, risking his own life, rescued Mr. Case in a small boat. The flood of 1913 is spoken of always as "THE FLOOD" The entire eastern section of Cam-



The Flood of 1913 — Taken Tuesday, March 25, 1913, 9 a.m. by S. E. Fowler.
Looking south from Frank Eikenberry's yard.

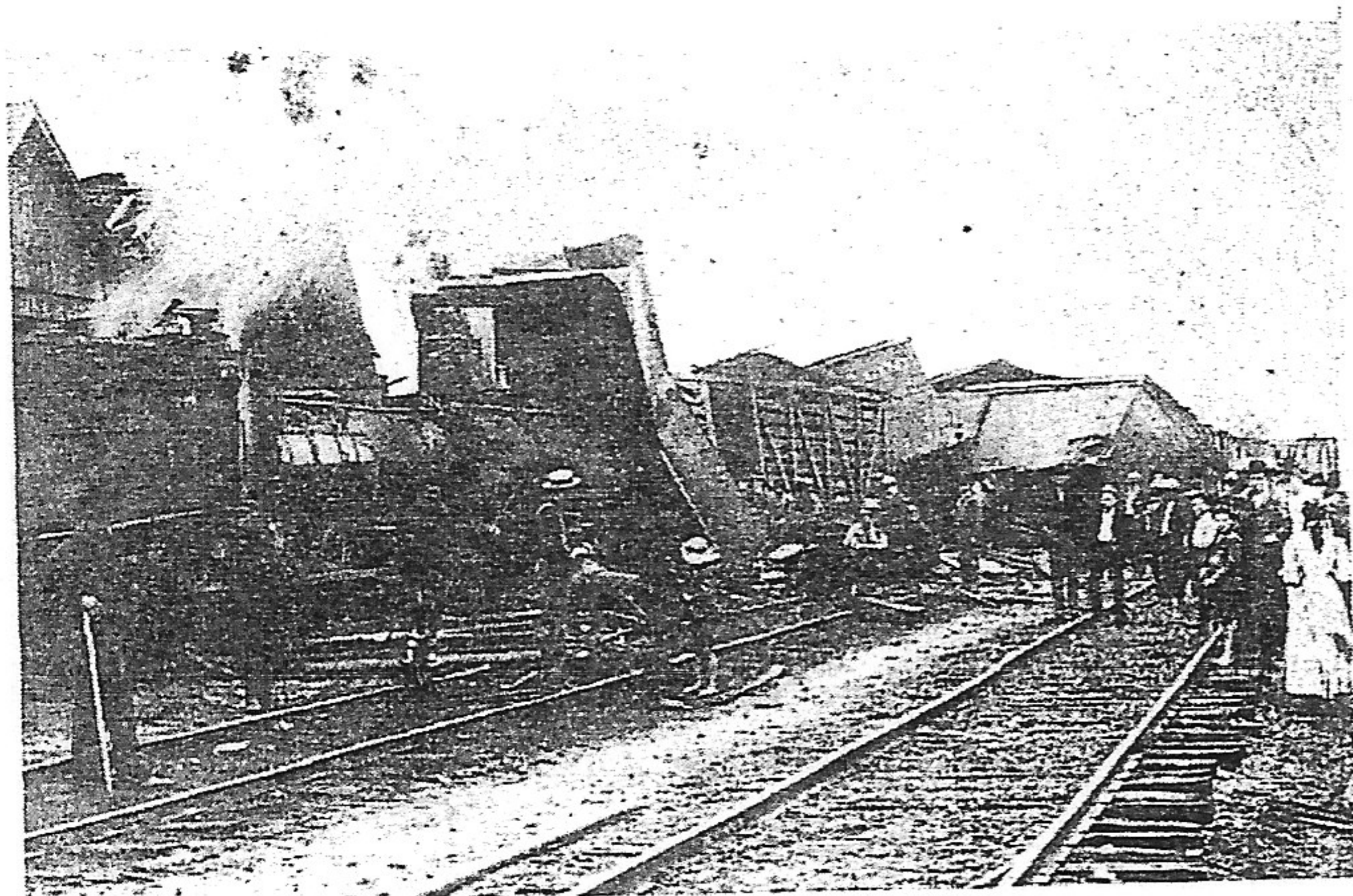


Flood of 1913 — Taken March 25, 1913, 9 a.m. by S. E. Fowler — Looking east on Hendricks St.

den was surrounded by water when Beasley's Branch gave way and gave Seven Mile the highest water stage in its history. Hundreds of dollars of damage was suffered by residents and the town. Residents lost household goods and their homes were greatly damaged. Many families not in the flooded district, shared their homes with the families affected and local business men donated goods and the ladies of the different churches made bed clothing for their relief. The first night of the flood in March, cries for help and the ringing of the

fire bell aroused the entire population between two and three o'clock in the morning. The retaining walls of Tibbit's Branch and Beasley's Branch overflowed causing not only the flooding of homes, but a current to flow through the village making it extremely dangerous to navigate and impossible to reach many homes. Some places were surrounded by from four to twelve feet of water and it reached within a few feet of the corner of Main and Central Ave. Many citizens were rescued from their homes by boats, rafts and other devices. The electric plant was flooded, leaving the town in darkness. Live stock, personal property and real estate were lost. The flood of 1913 was not a local one but extended all through the Miami Valley and relief was given to victims as far away as Dayton. Since 1913 Camden has suffered floods almost every year, all recalling the conditions of 1913 and everybody comparing each with that year. None have equalled it and while some years the water was possibly as high, there has been no indication of a repetition of the damage done at that time.

Since the railway has been operating through Camden, there have been many wrecks; some doing slight damage and some doing heavy damage. Most have been freight trains but in some instances passenger trains have been involved. On Sept. 5, 1891 occurred one of Camden's most disastrous



Train wreck in Camden on Sept. 5, 1891.

wrecks. The headlines of the Preble County News read—"An interrupted dinner. The engine of the east-bound local freight train, pulling a load of wheat, jumped the track and ran into the home of Aaron Garver." In May 1894, the freight train No.

82, was south-bound about 1 P.M. A drawbar pulled out which caused eight cars loaded with live stock to become derailed and completely demolished. The bodies of 62 head of hogs, sheep, and calves were strewn along the tracks. After several hours of work, the wreck was cleared and the later trains could pass. No human lives were lost. In 1909 the Preble County News reported—"Six die in the worst wreck ever experienced in this section; due to an open switch. Charles A. Johnson, a former Camdenite, was one of the victims." In 1947 a troop train crashed into the station, causing considerable damage. In the many years that the trains have been running through Camden, trains have crashed into trucks and passenger cars at the crossings. At these times deaths and property losses have been heavy.

OUR DOCTORS

In addition to the men pictured below, the following doctors, of whom we have no pictures, practiced in Camden. They are listed according to the dates in Camden:

Early days (Before Newcomb was incorporated)

- Dr. Walter Buell (lived in Eaton)
- Dr. Day (Only short time)
- Dr. Mount (Only short time)
- Dr. Ira A. Parker

1839-1851—Dr. McWilliams

1846 —Dr. Wyman Carroll (Died the same year he came to Camden)

1846-1847—Dr. Garret V. Hopkins (Known as "Steamer" or "Thompsonian" Doctor)

1846-1847—Dr. Connor (Known as "Steamer" or "Thompsonian" Doctor)

1847-1851—Dr. William R. Winton

1848-1864—Dr. Stevens

1850 —Dr. Crews (did not remain long)

1863-1864—Dr. William Gilmore (Father of Dr. A. H. Gilmore)

1859-1863—Dr. O. G. Potts

1870-1875—Dr. Zebulon Brown

1870-1871—Dr. John Bruce

1877- ? —Dr. Boyd

1880-1889—Dr. William Wesley Canny