Indians Came Here To Hunt And Fish But Did Not Set Up Villages

Editor's Note—Following is another in a series of articles about the settlement and development of Richmond. The 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first permanent settlers to the site of Richmond was celebrated here with a pageant and other festivities. The articles were written by Luther M. Feeger, associate editor of The Palladium-Item.

By Luther M. Feeger

Indians did not establish villages or towns in the Upper Whitewater valley. They came here, usually in groups, from their 14 towns on the White river to hunt and fish.

The Whitewater valley, with the two forks of the river and their tributaries, really was a big game reserve which the Indians tried desperately to keep indefinitely.

Indians returned to Noland's creek in Center township as late as the 20's of the last century, long after the land had been ceded to the United States.

When David Hoover and his party of land seekers first saw the Whitewater river in 1806, they met Indian trappers near the present Pennsylvania-railroad bridge who directed them to the Kentucky settlement of whites near Elkhorn creek.

Cornelius Ratliff found several Indian tepees at a bend in the Whitewater river, near present Thistletwaite's falls upon his arrival here from North Carolina in 1810.

Saw Tepees

The late Walter S. Ratliff, one of the descendants of Cornelius Ratliff, said the tepees remained there for several years. Ratliff collected and wrote many articles about the Indians and the pioneers of Wayne county.

Many of his articles were printed in this history column, in 1942 and 1943.

The Ratliff family began using water from a spring near the Indian camp. Ratliff was alarmed when the Indians suddenly moved to another location. However, the families lived west of the Whitewater river.

He recalled that Indians were frequent visitors in the cabin of his parents. Ratliff married Mary Kinley whose parents lived near Wayneville, Ohio. She was familiarly known as "Aunt Mary." Ratliff began the nursery business in 1822 and continued it for more than 30 years.

Democratic Platform Group Visited By Mrs. Roosevelt

CHICAGO — Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was disclosed today to have added her voice to those urging Democratic convention platform drafters to strive for a civil rights plank acceptable to both North and South.

The widow of the former President, backing Adlai E. Stevenson for the party's presidential nomination, made an unscheduled halt, what she had told the platform drafting subcommittee.

Rep. John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, chairman of the Resolution Committee and of the drafting group, said only she had made a general reference to civil rights.

McCormack said former President Truman had arranged for Mrs. Roosevelt to appear before the group after her former boss
Cornelius Ratliff, jr., accompanied his father from Carolina to Wayne county in 1610. Mrs. Ratliff was a daughter of a pioneer settler near Waynesville, Ohio. They entertained many as 40 guests during the annual conferences of Yearly Meeting.

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Waynesville, Ohio. She was known as "Aunt Mary Ratliff" began the nursery in 1822 and continues more than 30 years.

(Another Article Follows)

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CHICAGO [UP]-Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was disclosed today to have added her voice to those urging Democratic convention platform drafters to strive for a civil rights plank acceptable to both North and South.

The widow of the former President, backing Adlai E. Stevenson for the party's presidential nomination, made an unscheduled half-hour visit Sunday night before the 18-member drafting group now hammering out a preliminary draft of the 1948 platform.

It was not a public session, but newsmen outside heard delegates applaud her talk.

One of them said later she had expressed "hope there would be no civil rights plank that would be unacceptable to any delegates."

That presumably would mean the statement of party aims would not include any reference to the Supreme Court decision banning racial segregation in public schools.

Stevenson has said the platform should contain an "unequivocal approval" of the decision, although also saying it seems strange the platform should be expected to endorse what is the law of the land.

Decline To Say
Mrs. Roosevelt declined to say what she had told the drafting sub-committee.

Rep. John W. McCormack, Massachusetts, chairman of the Resolutions Committee and drafting group, said only that "we are making a general reference to rights.

McCormack said former President Truman had arranged for Mrs. Roosevelt to appear at the group after its forms had ended. Truman is now New York Gov. Averell for the presidential contest.

McCormack kept the group working past midnight, called them into session at 2 a.m.

Two former Democratic administration officials now trying to set Republican senators a platform group advice on farm plank last night.

They were Claude Wickham, secretary of agriculture in opposing Sen. Homer C. R. (Ind.-R), and R. Milner (Eames), former administrator of farm programs under 1939 who is trying to defeat Bourke B. Hickenlooper in Iowa.

Both said the Democrats promise farmers 100 per parity by a series of fees including price supports less than 80 per cent.

Bedford Studies 6-Point Plc To Fight Juvenile Delinquent