The Isenharts and the Salamonia Christian Church

Church Data From:
Salamonia Christian Church: 1842-1999
Judith Myers Ahrens, December 2012

Thanks to Judy for permission to use selected data from her book
Preface

• This presentation uses data from the three volume work of Judith Myers Ahrens

• The Isenhart family had been searching for Church records of the Salamonia Isenhart families, and had not found any records elsewhere referring to Isenhart participation

• The publication by Phyllis Franklin on the Lutheran Churches in the Salamonia and Fort Recovery area has references to the Fort Recovery Isenharts in the Fort Recovery Church, but no references to Isenharts in the Salamonia Church

• The data used in this presentation is but a small bit of the information contained in the Judith Myers Ahrens book. The genealogical information is both from the book and other existing Isenhart files.

• It is recommended that the book be read in its full extent to get a proper feel for its scope and the effort spent in its preparation.

• Judith may be reached by email at salamoniacc@gmail.com
Salamonia Christian Church, 1861-1999

Salamonia Christian Church
1842-1999

Volume I
Genealogy at the Salamonia Christian Church
Compiled by
Judith Myers Ahrens
December 2012
Salamonia

- Salamonia, Indiana was first named Lancaster, and was platted in 1839

- Name changed to Salamonia when post office was established in 1852

- The Isenharts settled on the west edge of Salamonia, William and George securing land grants in the late 1830’s, with Jacob a little later on the North edge of the village

- George and Jacob moved to Indiana in the early 1840’s and William apparently assumed ownership of their properties and expanded his own holdings.
History Milestones, Salamonia Christian Church

- Isenharts received land grants immediately west of Lancaster, 1837 and 1838
- Village of Lancaster plotted, 1839
- Joseph Watson arrived, 1841
  - First Christian Church organized in 1842 at Watson’s log cabin, also on the west end of Lancaster
  - Essentially just across the road from the Isenharts and a couple hundred yards east
- Lancaster renamed Salamonia in 1852
- Log cabin built in 1853 near the original Watson log cabin
  - Dual purpose meeting house and school
  - Church met there from 1853 until 1861
- In 1859 two lots obtained in across the road and east a hundred yards from the original site
- Church dedicated on Sept 3, 1861 on new site
- Belfry and bell added, 1876
- Stone wall foundation added in 1886
Organizational Milestones

• First sermon preached around 1840 or 1841 by Joseph Watson
• First church organized in 1842 with eight members
  – Joseph Watson, John McLaughlin, James White, Thomas White and their wives
• No written record until May 12, 1853, Church reorganized
  – Preachers, Thomas Burman and Joshua Write
  – Elder, Joseph Watson
  – Deacons, John McLaughlin and Thomas White
• Jan 26, 1854, final completion of reorganization
  – Elders: Richard Harter and William R. Coldren
  – Deacons: William Isenhart, Tobias Jetter, John Brewster
• Named persons of this reorganization
  – Eliza Brewster, Mary Isenhart, Elizabeth Jetter, Peter Coldren, Frederick Isenhart, Susan Isenhart
  – Catherine Beard, George Beard, Eliza Beard, Priscilla Isenhart, Burdine Isenhart, Margaret White, Elizabeth Weimer
• Richard Harter arrived shortly after the reorganization, became principal preacher
  – Active until his death on May 27, 1873
• William Isenhart appointed Elder, Jan 16, 1870
William E. Isenhart

- Born Dec 25, 1810, Washington County, PA
- Died June 4, 1897, Salamonia, IN
- Joined Church, May 12, 1853
- Church Trustee
- Church Elder
- Church Deacon
- Son of George and Priscilla Isenhart
- First wife, Mary Glassford (1810 to 1876), married May 20, 1830
- Second wife, Elizabeth Hall Jetter (1819 to 1889), married Aug 14, 1877
Isenharts on Church Record
Date of Joining Church

• Burdine Isenhart, before 1854
• Etta Isenhart, Feb 6, 1890
• Eva Isenhart, Jan 27, 1890
• Frederick Isenhart, before 1854
• G.W. Isenhart, 1913
• George Isenhart, Feb 16, 1890
• Mary Isenhart, before 1854
• Melissa Isenhart, April 8, 1854
• Priscilla Isenhart, before 1854
• Susan Isenhart, before 1854
• William Isenhart, May 12, 1853
Comments on Members of 1854 Reorganization

- Eliza Brewster
- Mary Isenhart: Wife of William Isenhart, Deacon, could also be their daughter Mary
- Elizabeth Jetter: Married William Isenhart in 1877 after death of his first wife Mary
- Peter Coldren
- Elizabeth Coldren
- Frederick Isenhart: Brother of William Isenhart, Deacon
- Susan Isenhart: First wife of Frederick Isenhart, maiden name Susan Beard, married 1848
- Catherine Beard: Second Wife of Frederick Isenhart, married April 1854
- George Beard
- Eliza Beard
- Priscilla Isenhart: Mother of William Isenhart, Deacon. William’s daughter Priscilla died in 1853
- Burdine Isenhart: Son of William Isenhart, Deacon
- Margaret White: Sister of William Isenhart, Deacon; Wife of James White
- Elizabeth Weimer
- Nancy Ehrhart
- Wineah Long
- James Watson
- William Beard
- Val. Thompson
- Reb. Thompson
Milestones in the History of the Salamonia Christian Church
1842-1999

In the Beginning

The village of Lancaster was platted in the summer of 1839 by Henry Able and wife and Benjamin Goldsmith and wife. The original plat covered about five blocks, but in 1904 an addition was filed, covering a half dozen lots to the south of Washington Street. It was a bold venture in the almost unbroken forest. No roads, only market trails led to the little village on the banks of the Salamonia. But heroic men and women made it their wilderness home hoping for better days.

In 1841, Joseph Watson and wife journeyed from Columbiana County, Ohio, to Lancaster to possess a home in the cheap land then known as the West. He was an unlearned man in academic achievement, but a man of deep religious convictions with a desire to serve humanity and honor his Creator. Although handicapped seriously in many ways, he succeeded nobly and left a glorious heritage to posterity.

The Watson log cabin was located at the west end of Lancaster at what is now known as the southeast corner of the intersection of 500E and 400S County Roads in Salamonia. The first Christian church in Salamonia was organized in 1842 in the Watson log cabin. The fledgling congregation continued to meet each Sunday in the Watson cabin until 1853.

In 1853 the first Salamonia school, which had been built for the dual purpose of a meeting house and a school house, was built near the Watson cabin. Edward Bell Woten was the first teacher in the little log schoolhouse. From 1853 until the autumn of 1861 church meetings were held in the log school house.
Isenhart Land Grant Locations Shown on 1881 Map

- William 8/20/1838
- William 3/15/1837
- George III 11/2/1837
- Jacob 11/10/1840
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Site of Two Original Log Cabin Buildings in Which Church Met
Standing on Original Church Sites, Looking Directly at Isenhart Land Grants
Land Grants Began Just Past Last House
Site of Salamonia Christian Church: 1861-1999
Remains of William Isenhart House Foundation
Original Log House Built on Land Grant Site
Barn at William Isenhart Land Grant Site
Thought to Date Back to 1840’s
James Burdine Isenhart, Portland Indiana
Direct Male Descendant of William Isenhart
Lives Within 15 Miles of Original Isenhart Settlement
Two Stained Glass Windows Salvaged from the Salamonia Christian Church Now Reside at this Church, Pendleton, Indiana
Fall Creek Church
Fall Creek Church Interior
Window from Salamonia Church
Window from Salamonia Church