

Leggo My Legos!

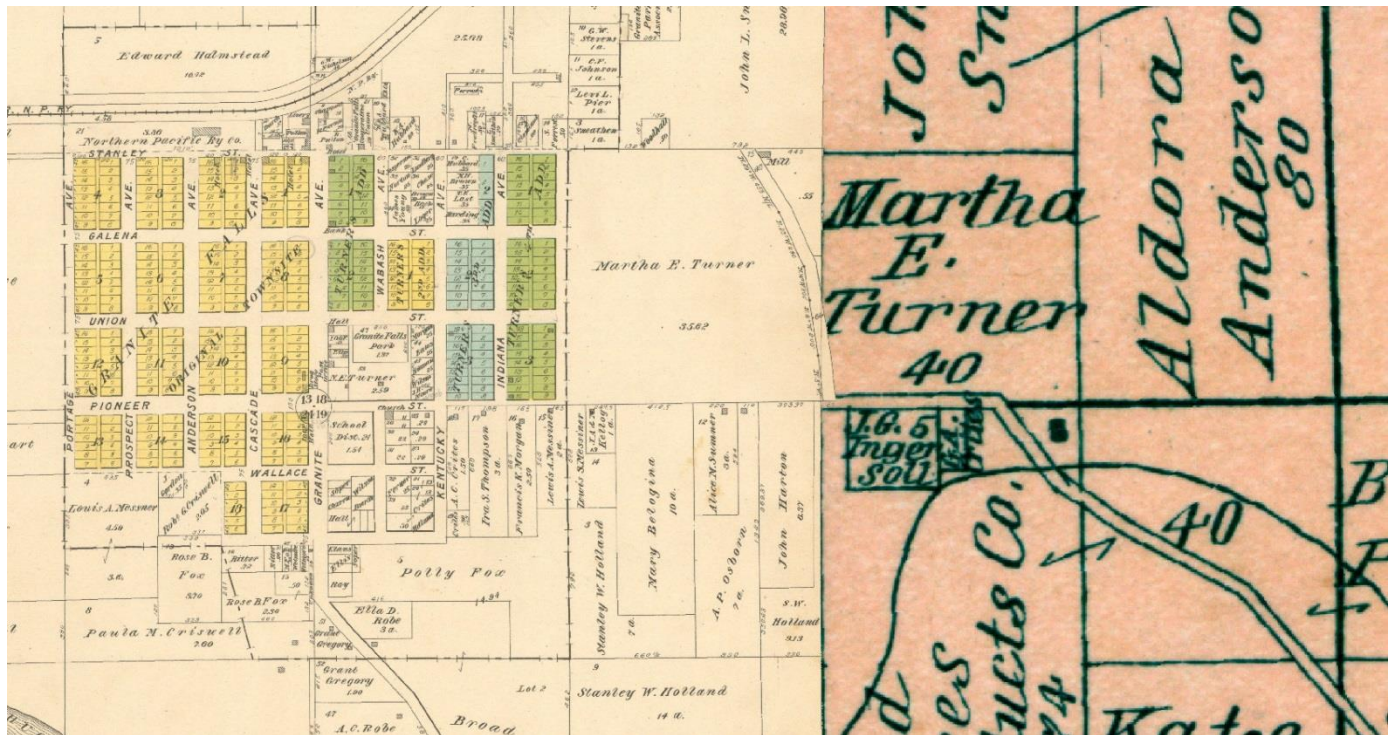
Last year, the museum got an email from a local resident asking if we had much information on the house in which she lived on Menzel Lake Rd. She'd heard a number of variations of who'd had it built, when it was built, etc., and she was seeking additional information. It is rather unique building for this area, in that it was built of "blocks", faux stone blocks made of concrete.

You may have noticed that the bank and the old Odd Fellows Hall (now Our Father's House church) are also built of such blocks. They were all built around 1906-08 and the lady on Menzel Lake Rd believed her house to have been built about that time, as well.

On the east end of E. Union St., there's a house and garage built of the same blocks, and it turns out that house belonged to the man who owned the block-making machine. It's shown clearly on an early detailed fire insurance map of Granite Falls, on which non-wood buildings were clearly marked in color. Note the current hardware store, firehouse, bank, Our Father's House, and the house on the east end of E. Union St. . . all marked in blue and red to indicate masonry construction!



Unfortunately, the detailed fire maps didn't cover the area on Menzel Lake Rd, but the 1910 maps indicated the property was owned by a gentleman named J.G. Ingersoll . . . you can see his name on a 5 acre piece, just before the road turns to the south outside of town.



So, we searched our newspapers electronically for the name “Ingersoll”, to see if there was any special connection between him and the “blocks”. Surprisingly, we found an article that mentioned he was the head cashier at the bank (the “bank manager” at that time) when it was robbed in 1913 – so he definitely had some connection to the blocks from which the bank was built! (wonder if he got a discount?) At that point, we were

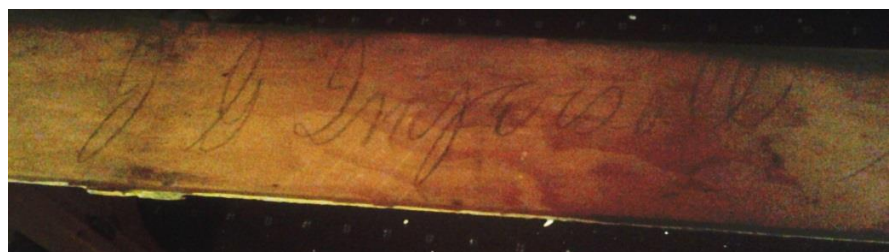
happy to have found a connection, but months later we received another email from the same lady. They had decided to complete some remodeling of the interior of the house, and in the act of doing so removed some false beams and ceiling material. This, of course, uncovered original beams and woodwork. On multiple pieces of the original lumber was written the name “J. G. Ingersoll”, apparently written by the mill as they cut and then provided the material. The owners sent a picture:

Old-timers were recalling this week that it was just 20 years Tuesday that the Granite Falls State Bank was robbed of \$1772 in a daylight holdup. The five unmasked bandits escaped after a running fight during which many shots were fired. They were later arrested in connection with another job.

Among the local residents who took pot-shots at the robbers were Marshal Fred Ivey, H. E. Jewell and Postmaster Ed Turner. None of the shots took effect, but it is reported that a dead cow was found three blocks away the next morning with a bullet in her that came from Hi's Civil War .30 Remington.

J. G. Ingersoll was cashier of the bank at the time, and Claude Stage was assistant cashier.

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New Bank and New IOOF Hall, both on South Granite Ave.