

THE TOMLINSON FAMILY WILL MEET SUNDAY

100th Anniversary of Set-
tlement of the Chester
Community

REUNION AT HOME
LUDOVIC HILL

Closely Identified With
Early Friends of the
County

Ludovic Hill, of Wabington town-
ship, in Noblesville, Thursday, on
business, announced that the an-
nual reunion of the Tomlinson fam-
ily will be held at his home, a short
distance west of the **CHESTER FRIENDS**
church, next Sunday. It will be the
one hundredth anniversary of the
settlement of the Tomlinson family
in that section of the county. It
developed into one of the staunchest
Quaker communities in the county
and the neighborhood cluster with
many memories of the activities of
the early Friends in the western
part of the county.

Most of the pioneer members of this family are gone but Mr. Hill said he expected a large number of relatives and supposed a few friends would call, all of whom will be made welcome. Aside from the usual reunion dinner there will be no special program. A few years ago an interesting pageant of the early days was given on the Hill farm. Some of the oldest members of the Tomlinson family took part in that event, which attracted the attention of hundreds, but nothing of this kind will be attempted at the reunion next Sunday. While there are many descendants of this widely known family still living in that community it is believed that Asher Tomlinson, who resides by himself on a farm on the east side of the Range Line road, is the oldest surviving member. He is close to eighty. Much of the land in that locality was entered from the government by the Tomlinsons and it is still in the family.

The Chester church, which was abandoned a few years ago for religious services and which in civil war days was believed to have been a station on the underground railroad for the transportation of slaves from the southern states to Canada, has a history beginning with the first settlement of that neighborhood. It was in February 1837 that Robert Tomlinson, with his family, settled two miles north of Westfield. In September of the same year Enoch Jessup and family settled nearby. In the course of time other families came to the neighborhood, most of whom were members of the Friends church.

(Continued on page 4)

THE TOMLINSON FAMILY WILL MEET SUNDAY

(Continued from page 1)

There was no church nearer than Westfield. As there were no roads the mode of travel was either on foot or on horse-back. This distance was traveled for a few years until they thought they should have a church established in the neighborhood. This to this end on March 31, 1859, the following petition was presented to the Westfield Monthly Meeting of Friends:

"We, the undersigned members of the Westfield Monthly Meeting of Friends request the privilege of holding a meeting for worship and a preparative among ourselves to be known by the name of Chester, two miles north of the town of Westfield, in the county of Hamilton, in the state of Indiana. Said meeting to be held on the first and fourth day of each week except first day of the quarterly and fourth day of the monthly meeting weeks. The preparative meeting to be held on the fourth day before the last seventh day in each month."

This petition was signed by Robert Tomlinson, Peter Rich, David Stalker, John Stalker, Joseph Moore, William Baldwin, Lydia Tomlinson, Prudence Jessup, Amy Rich, Annie Stalker, Deborah Moore, Mary Baldwin, Noah Tomlinson, Allen Tomlinson, Eli Carey, Isom Hiatt, Jonathan Carey, David Podrea, Abigail Tomlinson, Martha Tomlinson, Mary Carey, Asenath Hiatt, Tamer Podrea and Eliza Carey.

In accord with the granting of this petition the Chester church was organized in October, 1859, with Robert and Lydia Tomlinson as heads of the meeting and Joseph Moore and Amy Rich as clerks. The first meeting was held October 31, 1859. The first marriage in the church was Henry Roberts and Keziah Lamm and the first minister recorded was Zimri Kivett.

NOBLESVILLE DAILY LEDGER

Devoted to the Interests of Hamilton County

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA, FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1937

SINC