

**When Indians Were Here**  
**W.H. Eddinger Recalls Early Franklin County Events**  
From the Ottawa Evening Herald, Thursday, January 15, 1914  
**FCHS Headlight**  
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W.H. Eddinger of this city is one of the pioneers of Franklin County. He has lived in the county since the spring of 1860 and noted the many changes of the country in the intervening 54 years.

The Eddingers landed in old Peoria City April 1, 1860. Down by the old lily pond James Wind owned a house which the Eddingers occupied. W.H. Eddinger was then a boy and lived with his step-father and mother. His step-father worked for Wind and others of the Ottawa Indians who were scattered over the country. Taury Jones then lived in the big house on Taury Creek which is now the Woodlief estate.

After living for a few months in the Wind house the Eddingers moved to Middle Creek. Very little water was in the river and a team could be driven down the river bed to Peoria. A few little pools were scattered along the stream.

Chief Wilson of the Ottawa lived back of what is now Forest Park. P.P. Elder Sr. was the government agent and lived at Ohio City. He dealt out beef and other supplies. During the war Mr. Eddinger states that the Indians were peaceful and accommodating. When the soldiers followed Quantrell (sic) after the Lawrence Raid August 21, 1863, Mr. Eddinger watched them.

“It was a wild country,” Mr. Eddinger says. “Human skulls were found in the timber along the river. Indians were camped much of the time between Ottawa and Peoria. An Indian store in a double house was standing near First and Hickory streets. The Remaley brothers ran a ferry. Cattle swam across the river before the bridge was built. The old L.L. & G. railroad came into Ottawa just before one New Year’s. (1868) The old depot was across from the Shaner hotel. (*Site of the Antique Mall on Walnut*) The college was built in 1866. The old Baptist Church stood on Main Street just south of where Halloran’s Lumber Yard now is (*middle of the 400 block of Main, east side*). I was baptized there and old deacon Holt was my Sunday School teacher.”