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"Tidbits of Starke County History".....

A short history of San Pierre, Indiana ---

Established and laid out in 1854, the area was originally called *Culvertown*, although a post office had been established as *River* in 1853. According to one local tradition, the village later took the name of *San Pierre*, named after a nearby French-Canadian saloon owner. The story goes that 'Pierre' built a shack some 400 feet south of the village of Culvertown and began to sell whiskey there. As a consequence of this inducement, the town shifted slightly to the south and the name was changed to *San Pierre*. Another tradition records the village being named after a French railroad worker called 'Pierre', with *San* being added to provide more importance to the name. In any case, the name was changed simply to *Pierre* in 1894, by the US Post Office, as a result of increasing tension between Spain and the United States, leading up to the Spanish-American War. Finally the name was changed back to *San Pierre* in 1899. Before the down turn of the railroad industry, San Pierre had a train station at the intersection of the Monon and New York Central railways, and thus was a part of the route of Abraham Lincoln's funeral train.

And San Pierre is on the world wide map again. San Pierre is pulling itself up by its boot-straps. With the help of Beverly Santicola, Executive Director of the Center for Rural Outreach and Public Service (CROPS), and a whole lot of volunteers, San Pierre is making Starke County history. Here is the CROPS website - www.ruralgrants.org and **Attached** is the CROPS newsletter.

If you click on the items on the left side of the home page (the history project, the digital stories, and the faq's), you'll get a whole new perspective of San Pierre. I'm proud that San Pierre is part of Starke County.

Jim Shilling Starke County Historical Society

http://www.starkehistory.com http://www.scpl.lib.in.us/historical/

(If you do not wish to receive "Tidbits of Starke County History" in the future, please let me know.)