



Historic tidbits... a little bit about Merrickville and Franklin Depot. In the early days of Franklin, there was Smith Settlement in the Franklin Depot area. Samuel Smith, a Delaware County pioneer, came to Franklin in 1795. Little is known of this settlement but a cemetery remains. The oldest grave that is legible dates back to 1841 but many are illegible and may be older. Smith Settlement Burial Ground is located on Franklin Depot Road, east of Sidney Center on private property. The cemetery's south edge is sunken towards the creek and there is a distinct drop off. Stones teetering on the edge suggest that the burial ground was once much wider and there's no telling how many feet of the cemetery have already been lost to the creek. Smith Settlement was predominantly farm land. Merrickville & Franklin Depot were formed when the Midland Railroad Company (later called the O&W) came through the area in the 1870's and built stations in both these areas. Merrickville was named after John Merrick who sold part of his farm to the railroad. The train brought a post office and telegraph stations which encouraged a community to spring up. Soon industries such as a creamery, feed store and general store added to the development of the two communities. There was even a water tower on the hill. When the O & W ran into financial problems, it closed these stations, thus began the demise of Merrickville and Franklin Depot as distinct communities. By 1952 little was left. Some of the old buildings have been turned into private residences. The old Switchback /Northfield Tunnel is a remnant of this once bustling community and remains a sight to behold. For anyone interested in the history of this part of Franklin, including the railroad and tunnel, please visit the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum.