

An Article about Toadvine

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It may be of some interest to the people of the county, at least, to know the name of the country town, Toadvine. The name originated in this way: During one of the battles of the late war, Mr. E. C. Smith, who at present is one of the leading citizens of the place, was captured by the Union Army and carried with a number of other Confederates to Rock Island, as a prisoner of war.

Among the number thrown in this mess, were two men of entirely different character and dispositions, John Toadvine and Dick Nash. Toadvine was a native of New Orleans, La. and was a brave, warm hearted, genial intelligent gentleman and soon became the favorite and the leader of the camp. Nash, on the contrary, was much disliked and was a mean, selfish, rascally fellow. Being large and stout he prided himself upon being the "bully" of the camp. It was not long before he had some difficulty with nearly every man in the mess and it finally came his turn with Toadvine. His first insult to Toadvine was met with a severe blow, which brought on at once a regular "set-to." Nash being the heavier, at first obtained an advantage, but still did not seem able to do much damage. Our friend Smith, with whom Toadvine was a special favorite anticipating the final result, at once ran up and demanded that no one should interfere, till Toadvine had given Dick Nash a thorough thrashing. His highest anticipations were soon fully realized, for no sooner had the parties changed positions, than Toadvine began to deal severe blows in Dick's face, causing soon to be heard the cry of "Enough!" take him of "murder! murder!" The result was entirely satisfactory to the crowd and so pleased was our friend Smith with the result that he was the first man to take Toadvine by the hand and to thank him in behalf of the camp and as a higher evidence of his individual appreciation, he promised Toadvine most cheerfully that should the Lord preserve him to get home from the war, he would name his first boy John Toadvine. Dick soon settled down into a first-rate, clever fellow and was never known after that to have a difficulty with any one. Toadvine became still more the favorite of the camp.

The war finally closed and all who survived the hardship and went diligently to work to build up their lost fortunes. Several years passed, and still friend Smith did not for a moment forget his promise but you can know there are some things impossible for man. No sooner had our friend recognized this great truth than he resolved to keep good his promise and perpetuate the name of his friend by building up a town and giving to it the name of Toadvine. The result of his resolution can now be seen in the thriving little village on the banks of Rock creek, some 23 miles west of the courthouse. The place has now a postoffice, two stores, two blacksmith shops, one gunsmith shop and a large number of residences and intelligent families.

Something might be said of the early settlement of the country in and around Toadvine. We have only space to say that in the year 1821, Jacob Smith, Sr. came from Lincoln county, Ga. and settled near this place. Among the large family raised up by him are Alvin M., E. C., and Jacob, all prominent and good men. The widow of Jacob Smith, Sr. is still living and is now 85 years of age. She has around her 89 grandchildren, 43 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild - all living in and about Toadvine. It is said that the chief qualification of a residence in Toadvine is that every man shall vote the Democratic ticket.