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For many years, the Armstrongs represented one of the town's prominent and respected families. The patriarch, Jefferson Armstrong (1805-1881), was in his sixties when the family first arrived in Westfield in 1873. He was accompanied by his wife, Angeline, and their four children: Edward "Ned", Pauline, Tennessee Bird, and Thomas. Formerly a slave in Missouri, Jefferson worked for years as the toll-gate keeper on the Noblesville-Lebanon Pike.

His eldest son, **Edward Armstrong**, gained his freedom from slavery by serving with the Union troops in Kansas and Alabama during the Civil War. After settling in Westfield he married on two occasions, the second time to **Sarah Roberts**, daughter of Sterling and Caroline Roberts. Edward and Sarah Armstrong had five sons who grew to adulthood in this community: Isaac, Irven, Ezekiel "Zeek", Charles, and Lindzey.

Each son graduated from Westfield High School starting with senior class of 1909, and four of them later attended college. **Isaac and Charles Armstrong** graduated from Wilberforce University, a school for African-American students located near Xenia, Ohio. Charles became a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and was serving a congregation in Baltimore at the time of his death.

Irven Armstrong graduated from Indiana University in 1915 and spent most of his professional life in the educational field, taught in several Indian public schools, and was chairman of the history department at Crispus Attucks High School in Indianapolis until in retirement in 1959. While at IU, Irven and his cousin Bryon Armstrong contributed significantly to the founding of the Kappa Alpha Psi, a Black national social fraternity which has active chapter today in many colleges and communities.

Ezekiel Armstrong (1893-1965) never married and spent a number of years in Michigan before returning to Westfield and becoming the last family member to live in the community. He took out membership in the Quaker Church a few years prior to his death. **Lindzey Armstrong** attended Iowa University and settled eventually in New Jersey.

The five Armstrong brothers each served in the U.S. Army during World War I. All except Lindzey went overseas to France, and three brothers had front-line battle experiences. During these war years, their mother, Sarah Armstrong, received acclaim as being the only mother in Indiana with five sons wearing the American military uniform at the same time.



The following letter received by the Geo. Van Camp & Sons Packing Company of Westfield was written on the back of a label from a tin can used by the company for packing pork and beans.

Somewhere in France

August 30, 1918

George Van Camp & Sons

Westfield, Ind.

Messrs. Van Camp:

Just a line to say that some of the beans we packed during the month of March are listed with our food supplies. This label was taken from a can of beans which we had for lunch today, and you know it gave me joy to tell the boys that we were eating pork and beans that I had helped to pack in my dear little old hometown. They were very fine beans at home, but believe me they are more than fine they are grand over here.

I remember how we joked while labeling them out that I might get over in time to help eat them, but I hardly thought it would come true.

However I am here and am enjoying life very much. Give a Hello to all the factory people for me. Wishing success to all I remain.

Yours,

Pvt. Isaac M. Armstrong

Hdq. Co. 351 F.A.A.E.F. Via N.Y.