

Virginia Parsons Vapor

Introduction to Virginia Parsons Vapor: Virginia's roots in Avon go back to the mid 1800s when her ancestors came to Hendricks County from North Carolina. She has been an active part of the Avon area her entire life. She was interviewed by Sandy Curry.

Mrs. Vapor's grandfather, Adrian Parsons, heard about professor C. C. Georgeson at Kansas State Agricultural College in Manhattan, Kansas, who imported the soy bean seed from Japan in 1891. Mr. Parsons was the first person in Indiana to plant and sustain the crop, the purpose of which was to enrich the soil with nutrients that corn depletes. In 1905, Mr. Parsons originated a new variety of soy bean, called the Mikado. Soon he was contacted by farmers from all over the Midwest wanting to purchase seed from him.

Mrs. Vapor has the ledger in which her grandfather recorded his sales and the associated expenses. More details of the story are available in *The History of Hendricks County, 1914 to 1976*, which is available at the Library.