

CANAWLERS AT REST

JIRAH BARLOW

b. 1811

d. May 8, 1873

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

ana. In 1843 Jirah and Wilson opened a store in Lagro, Indiana after the Wabash & Erie Canal linked Lafayette, Indiana to Toledo, Ohio. On April 28 of that year Jirah was appointed a U.S. Postmaster and operated the post office from there. It is likely that the mail was carried by canal boat to Lagro. The *Register of All Offices and Agents Civil, Military and Naval in the Service of the United States as of the Thirtieth September 1845* shows that Jirah Barlow was compensated to the 3rd February \$58.08 with net proceeds of \$207.04 and William B. Barlow was compensated \$34.46 with net proceeds of \$58.28 for their postal work.

In 1847 Jirah was appointed the toll collector for the Wabash & Erie Canal according to *Orders, Rules, Regulations and Rates of Toll for the Wabash & Erie Canal 1847 Board of Trustees*. His salary was \$500 per year. Lagro was one of seven toll collection spots on the Wabash & Erie Canal in Indiana. The others were at Ft. Wayne, Logansport, Lafayette, Covington, Terre Haute, and Evansville. The duties of Indiana's W&E Canal toll collectors can be found on page 7, February 2013 and for Ohio's O&E Canal toll collectors on page 11, October 2013 of *The Hoosier Packet*. Besides collecting tolls these men actually policed what was being carried on the canal, what it weighed, its travel from point to point etc. and reported those who did not follow the rules. It was an important position.

The 1850 Census lists Jirah as a merchant with real estate valued at \$1,400. His wife is Mary Barlow, age 27, who was born in Ohio, and daughters Adaline C. Barlow age 7 and Helen A. Barlow age 3/12, both born in Indiana. Living with them are Marcus Starr, 21, a school teacher; Cornelius Driskel, age 20, a store clerk; and Mary Baker, age 16. Apparently his wife and daughter, Adaline, died before 1860.

Jirah Barlow was born in 1811 in Vermont to William Wyatt and Ruth (Rich) Barlow. His grandparents were William and Content Barlow. What Jirah's early life was like we do not know.

Jirah and his brother, Wilson Barlow (some census records say W. B. Barlow and a more recent book says Nelson Barlow), moved to Lagro, Indiana in 1834. The Humbolt Hotel, a brick structure, was built in Lagro around 1835 at the time when Wabash county was incorporated. The brothers operated the hotel and John Townsend, a deaf and dumb man, operated the post office in the hotel. After several years the hotel was abandoned and a new home for the post office had to be found.

The 1840 U.S. Census shows Jirah and W. B. Barlow living in Lagro, Wabash county, Indiana. On January 10, 1842 Jirah became the Notary for Wabash county, Indi-

Jirah Barlow's Family

| Name | Birth | Place | Death | Place | Marriage | Place |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Barlow, William | 1742 | | | | | |
| m. ?, Content | 1743 | | 1828 | | | |
| Barlow, William Wyatt | 1770 | Rochester, Ply. MA | | Pittsford, Rutland, VT. | | |
| m. Rich, Ruth | | | | | | |
| Barlow, Wilson* (Nelson, W.B.) | | | | | | |
| Barlow, Jirah (Josiah) | 1811 | Vermont | 5-08-1873 | Huron Co., OH | | |
| m1. ?, Mary | | | | | | |
| Barlow, Adaline C. | About 1843 | Indiana | | | | |
| Barlow, Helen A. | About 1849 | Indiana | | | | |
| m2. Snow, Jane Chloe** | 2-??-1829 | Madison Co. NY | 2-17-1904 | Greenspring, Seneca Co. OH | 3-13-1860 | Noble Co., IN |
| Barlow, Anna | 12-19-1865 | Wabash Co. IN | 12-16-1928 | Greenspring, Seneca Co. OH | | |
| m. Hinkley, H. L. | 10-18-1857 | | | | | |
| Barlow, H. | 1870 | Wabash Co. IN | | | | |

* Three different names are given for Jirah's brother: Wilson, W. B., and Nelson and in some places Jirah is listed as Josiah

** Jane Chloe Snow Barlow's second marriage was to Francis Wright.

In May of 1854 Jirah donated \$7.00 to construct the Presbyterian church in Lagro. The money was received by Rev. A. Hawes.

On March 13, 1860 Jirah was married to Jane Chloe Snow in Noble county, Indiana. Jane was born on February 20, 1829. The 1860 Census taken on June 1 shows Jirah at age 49 as the canal collector with real estate valued at \$2,000 and a personal estate of \$700. Living with him are his wife, Jane C. Barlow age 31, who was born in New York, and Helen, Jirah's 10 year old daughter.

The 1870 Census does not list Jirah Barlow living in Lagro. The head of the household is J. C. (Jane Chloe) Barlow. Living with her are her daughters A. P. (Anna) Barlow age 4 and H. Barlow age 4/12 both born in Indiana.

Jirah Barlow died in North Fairfield, Huron county, Ohio on May 8, 1873. We assume he was buried in the old North Fairfield Cemetery since his wife Jane Chloe Barlow is buried there. She died on February 1, 1904 and her stone



JSB
Find-A-Grave # 111654783

JANE SNOW
BARLOW
Feb. 20, 1829
Feb. 1, 1904

ANNA BARLOW HINKLEY
Dec. 19, 1865
Dec. 16, 1920

H. LUSERN HINKLEY
Oct. 18, 1857

Courtesy: SavingRecordsForOurFuture

stands in the cemetery. Since the cemetery is reportedly in very poor condition, in all likelihood Jirah's stone is missing.

Jane's stone also marks the graves of their daughter Anna Barlow and her daughter's husband H. LuSern Hinkley. It is not known when their son died or his burial place.

Sources:

Ancestry.com:

- Barlow, Anna <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/48084962/person/12849280419>
- Barlow, Jirah <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/68947041/person/32191281149?ssrc=>
- Barlow, Jirah Josiah <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/2076937/person/24025473101?ssrc=>
- Barlow, Josiah <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/48084962/person/12849280416?ssrc=>
- Barlow, William Wyatt <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/68947041/person/322192406>
- Snow, Jane Chloe <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/68947041/person/32191281092>
- <http://searfh.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=US AppointPost&h=258736&t>

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The Indiana Annual Register and Pocket Manual, Revised and Corrected for the Year 1846. Indianapolis, IN; Samuel Turner Publisher. 1846.

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