



**Gen. William Henry
Harrison Beadle**

Wm. H. H. Beadle was a 1st Lieutenant when the 31st Regiment, Company A was raised in Parke County for the Civil War. (See "Wabash and Erie Canal Civil War" Canal Society of Indiana Newsletter Sept. 1999 Vol. 13, No. 9, p. 16) The picture of himself and the birth place log cabin was taken from a book he authored: Beadle, Wm. H. H. **Beadle's Memoirs**. Aberdeen, S. D./ News Printing Co. found in the Department of History Collections, South Dakota Vol. III, 1906. This original book is in the Rockville, IN. library. In it was found a handwritten letter dated February 16, 1907 from Mr. Beadle to Capt Jn. T. Campbell. Inside the hard-bound cover is written "This volume was presented to me by General Wm. H. H. Beadle of S. D. for my person, after which I was to place it in some Library in Parke county, preferably, Rockville. John T. Campbell, soldiers home, LaFayette, Ind. 3/16th 1907." Below this inscription is written: "The book was given to me by Captain John T. Campbell shortly before his death, there being

no library in Rockville at that time. dollars an acre. It is with pleasure that I comply with the original wishes of my uncle, William H. H. Beadle. Edmund P. Beadle November 24, 1919."

Trying to learn more about W. H. H. Beadle I found his obituary in **The Rockville Republican** of November 17, 1915; spoke with Frank Passic at Albion, Michigan, who is the Calhoun county historian; and spoke with a relative, Oris Friesen. Here is what I found.

Gen. Beadle was born in 1838 in Howard. He attended Ann Arbor University in Michigan and graduated in 1861. Returning home he enlisted in Co. A, 31st Ind. and became captain. After resigning this position he returned to Michigan and recruited the 1st Michigan sharpshooters regiment becoming a lieutenant colonel. He was promoted as a brigadier general in the 9th Army Corps and at the close of the war he was brevetted major general.

President Grant appointed Beadle surveyor general of Dakota Territory (North & South Dakota) in 1869, and later he was elected to the legislature of South Dakota. He introduced a bill organizing the school of the state along the lines of the Indiana public school system. In 1879, he was appointed the Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction by the Territorial Governor. He held this position until 1889. He was instrumental in saving 20 million acres of school land in South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho and Wyoming from speculators by provision of his bill that no school land should be sold for less than ten

After retiring, Beadle received the job of president of Madison Normal School, holding this post until 1912. In appreciation of his great service the state provided for the erection of a marble statue of Gen. Beadle which stands in the rotunda of the state house at Pierre, South Dakota. Few, if any, sons of Parke County have equaled his service record in so short a time.

In 1912 Beadle decided to reside at Soldiers home in Hot Springs. The month of November he was operated on for bladder troubles in a hospital at Los Angeles, California where he died on November 13, 1915. His body was transported to Albion, Michigan and buried next to his wife Ellen S. (Chapman), who was originally from Albion. He was survived by one daughter, Mrs. F. G. Frink of Eugene, Oregon; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Ella Hughes of Los Angeles, California; one brother James W. Beadle of Rockville, Indiana; and one sister, Mrs. Reeder of Kansas. A classic story from rags to riches, from a log cabin to the state house.

James Ward Beadle
(b. September 30, 1806,
d. April 18, 1879)

Wm. H. H. Beadle's father, James Ward Beadle, was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, near the city of Louisville, Sept. 30, 1806. He married Elizabeth Bright on June 2, 1832. She was born March 12, 1805. They came to Parke county in 1839 and for ten to 12 years James did business in Howard - farming, pork packing, dealing in dry goods

and groceries and shipping to New Orleans. He bought land for his home place on August 30, 1842 the NE quarter of NW quarter Section 18, 39.73 acres. (Deed Record 8/4) His next purchase was on August 20, 1844 the Pt. W half of the NE quarter of Sec. 18 and SE quarter of Section 7, 260 acres. They sold out March 11, 1847 and moved to Sec. 2 and Sec. 11 on a farm west of Rockville in Adams township. Their children were James W. Beadle (b. 7-8-1844, d. ?), Catherine A., Mary E., Laura V., Wm. H. H., John H. Fred R., Edward T., and Sara E. In 1848 James W. Sr. was elected sheriff of Parke county and served two terms. Upon his death in 1879 he was buried in Rockville Cemetery. (Beckwith. Biography: History of Parke and Vigo Counties. 1880. and Straus, Isaac. Parke County Combined Atlas 1874-1908-1916. p. 112)

Elizabeth Bright Beadle
(b. March 12, 1805,
d. March 30, 1890)

"The Twin Sisters, Nancy and Elizabeth Bright, daughters of Capt. John Bright, were born near Leonardstown, St. Mary County, MD on the 12th of March, 1805. They were the fourth of a family of three sons and nine daughters there being another set of twins. In 1812 the schooner their father owned and ran on the bay was anchored to stay. Their recollections of the next few years dealt only in extreme poverty. The British army came and their camp enclosed the home. One night the children were awakened to look north and west to see their country's capitol was in flames. They were 9 years old, and their next memories were of the return of their father, of dire poverty and a final departure for

the West. The family located near Beargrass creek in Kentucky, and there June 2, 1831, Elizabeth married James Ward Beadle, a native of that section. A few weeks later Nancy married George Hazzard of Scott county, Ind. Both soon moved across the Ohio to Clark County, Ind. In 1835 the Hazzards moved to Parke county, locating finally on Wabash Mill Creek, and in 1837 the Beadles followed and located in the same vicinity. In no long time Captain Bright and the rest of the family followed, and long constituted a large relationship in Liberty township. Capt. John Bright died early in 1861, a few days short of 95 years, and ten years later his wife died nearly the same age. They lived husband and wife sixty-seven years. In 1848 George Hazzard died and Nancy lived a widow for 42 years rearing her children, working the farm living independent and self reliant. She was a Christian, living chiefly with her son-in-law, Joseph Swaim of Sylvania after her children grew to maturity. She died Feb. 17, 1890. When Elizabeth heard of her death, she merely said, 'Nancy was just worn out, and I soon will be.' Elizabeth breathed her last March 30, 1890 just at sun rise of Sunday. Her twin Nancy died at sunset and thus each sister died at the hour she was born. The funeral of Elizabeth was assisted by Rev. Zimri Maris." (Rockville Tribune. April 3, 1890)

Reverend Zimri D. Maris
(b. December 13, 1835,
d. October 19, 1920)

The Rev. Zimri D. Maris was a long time canal superintendent in Parke county. He was the son of pioneer William and Abbie Hunt

Maris, was born at Annapolis, Parke county, IN and died at the home of his daughter, Abbe Linebarger, near Crowley, LA. During the building of the canal his father moved to West Union to take advantage of such opportunities and engaged in business then died suddenly there, leaving Zimri as the mainstay of his mother and the young children. While living at West Union he was married to Ellen Manwarring on November 1, 1855. (See "Manwarring Basin." Canal Society of Indiana Newsletter . August 1997) "Children of this union were Abbe Linebarger, Ella Rice, Kate Aydelotte, Mary Evans, Annie Wilson, Lina and Charley Maris, all born at West Union. Of that place is where he was overseer of the Wabash & Erie Canal at West Union until he was elected sheriff of Parke county in 1878, that year he and his family moved to Rockville. After serving two terms as sheriff he was engaged for several years in running a feed and supply store or as an auctioneer. He was also a preacher of the gospel of the Methodist church." Researching the newspapers of that era shows Zimri marrying or giving services for burials so numerous it would be hard to count them. (Rockville Republican. October 27, 1920)

Another eye witness description of Howard-Westport appeared in **The Rockville Republican** in the early 1900s date unknown. It was however written by Samuel Chew Madden in the late 1800s and titled "My Early Recollection of Westport."

Howard is located in Liberty Township 17 Sections 18 and 13 N Range 8 W, Parke County, Indiana.