

CANAWLERS AT REST

DAVID McROBERTS

b. December 5, 1805

d. April 6, 1870

Find-A-Grave # 59155322

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

David McRoberts was born on December 5, 1805 to David and Martha B. (Olds) McRoberts in New York. His father was likely to have been born in Scotland. His mother was the daughter of Reuben Olds of Sturbridge Town, Worcester County, Massachusetts. He had eight brothers and sisters: Eliza, Lucretia, Martha, Willard, Lucy B., Reuben, Cynthia Ann, and Artemus Bernard. The family migrated to western New York, where David, the father, served the New York militia in the War of 1812. They then moved to Kentucky and finally to a farm at Cincinnati, Ohio in 1823. His father died shortly after moving to Ohio.

David, our subject, was married to Rebecca Abbott on August 26, 1827 in Baltimore, Maryland. Rebecca was born February 11, 1809 in Maryland and died on June 22, 1874 in Gibson County, Indiana. They had twelve children: David, Elizabeth, Nancy Ann, Lucy Ann, Willard, William Louis, Alexander David, Reuben Olds, Artimus Bernard, Cynthia Luellen, Martha Jane, and Meranda Ellen. Some of them were born in Hamilton County, Ohio and the rest in Gibson County, Indiana.

In his younger days, David, our subject, found work on the Miami & Erie Canal in Ohio. While working on the canal his "boss" said he owned a ninety-acre tract of land in Indiana and wanted to know if David would buy it. David took him up on the proposal and, in 1840, David and his family left the old home in Cincinnati, Ohio, came down the Ohio River to Evansville, Indiana and from there came overland to Washington township, Gibson county, Indiana. They settled on a farm in Gibson County, Indiana.

One of David's younger brothers joined the family

after driving the horses from Cincinnati over the rough trails and primitive roads to Gibson county. In 1860 (twenty years later, David's brother Reuben also joined the family on the farm.

David lived out his life on his Washington township farm cultivating his land in seasonable weather. He worked as a cooper during the winter months. He was a very skillful cooper and made lard pails that were shipped down the river to New Orleans, Louisiana, where there was a great demand for them.

David McRoberts died on April 6, 1870 when a blood vessel burst. He was 64 years old. He was laid to rest in the old France cemetery and later moved to Section 2 Row 6 of Mt. Olive Cemetery in Washington Township, Gibson County, Indiana. His grave stone reads:

David McRoberts
B. 12-05-1805
D. 4-06-1870

Rebecca M. McRoberts
B. 2-11-1809
D. 6-22-1874

Photo by Dan Elliott



THE HOOSIER PACKET - MARCH 2014

David McRoberts' Family

| Name | Birth | Place | Death | Place | Marriage | Place |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| David McRoberts | 1775 | Scotland ? | 1823 | Gibson C | | |
| m. Martha B. Olds | 1781 | Sturbridge Town MA | 1859 | | | |
| Eliza | | | | | | |
| Lucretia | | | | | | |
| Martha | | | | | | |
| Willard | | | | | | |
| Lucy B. | 1803 | | 1873 | | | |
| David McRoberts | 12-05-1805 | New York | 4-06-1870 | Gibson Co, IN | 8-26-1827 | Baltimore, MD |
| m. Rebecca Abbott | 2-11-1809 | Maryland | 6-22-1874 | Gibson Co, IN | 8-26-1827 | Baltimore, MD |
| David | 1828 | Ohio | | | | |
| Elizabeth | 1829 | Ohio | | | | |
| Nancy Ann | 1830 | Ohio | | | | |
| Lucy Ann | 1832 | Ohio | 1911 | | | |
| m. Jerry Hillman | | | | | | |
| Willard | 1834 | Ohio | | | | |
| William Louis | 1837 | Cincinnati, Ohio | 1921 | | | |
| m1. Walla Sinkhorn | | | | | | |
| m2. Rosella Bennet Thompson | 1800 | | 1875 | | | |
| m3. Mary Kirk France | 1832 | | 1907 | | 2-03-1861 | |
| William A. | 1861 | | 1921 | | | |
| m. Cynthia Hoover | | | | | | |
| Ambrose U. | 1863 | | 1946 | | | |
| m. Ella Finney | | | | | | |
| Ethel D. | | | | | | |
| m. Robert M. Keel | | | | | | |
| David A. | | | | | | |
| Alexander David | 1840 | Ohio or Indiana | 1912 | | | |
| Reuben Olds | 1844 | Indiana | 1891 | | | |
| Artimus Bernard | 1847 | Indiana | 1913 | | | |
| Cynthia Luellen | 1848 | Indiana | 1848 | Gibson Co, IN | | |
| Martha Jane | 1850 | Indiana | 1851 | Gibson Co, IN | | |
| Marinda Ellen | 1851 | Indiana | 1936 | | | |
| m. Calvin Minnier | | | | | | |
| Reuben | 1814 | | | | | |
| Cynthia Ann | 1817 | | | | | |
| Artemus Bernard | 1822 | | 1885 | | | |
| m. Indiana Lewis | | | | | 11-28-1848 | |
| Milton | 11-24-1850 | | | | | |
| m. Elizabeth Foster Phillips | | Gibson Co, IN | | | | |
| Clarence | 7-20-1875 | | | | | |
| James L. | 9-14-1877 | | | | | |
| John R. | 10-30-1879 | | | | | |
| Edith M. | 4-12-1884 | | | | | |
| m. Samuel Kolb | | | | | | |
| Sally G. | 4-21-1887 | | 7-07-1889 | | | |
| Ethel | 6-19-1890 | | 12-16-1890 | | | |
| Cornelia | 12-31-1891 | | | | | |
| m. Fines Trippet | | | | | | |
| Lewis Milton | 1-19-1894 | | | | | |
| Edna E. | | | | | | |
| Narcissa | | | | | | |
| m. Henry Phillips | | | | | | |
| Artemus B. | | | | | | |
| Francis M. | | | | | | |
| Willard S. | | | | | | |
| Jerome | | | | | | |
| David C. | | | | | | |

Sources:

Ancestry.com

<https://familysearch.org/eng/Library/thl/catalog/titledetailsframe.asp/display=titledetails&tit>

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/46255332/person/6504806562>

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/46255332/person/6504808836>

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United States Federal Census 1850, 1860

Find-A-Grave #59155322 and #59155491

Peattie, Elia W. *History of Gibson County, Indiana*. Chicago, IL: American Publishing and Engraving Co., 1897.

Stormont, Gil. R. *History of Gibson County, Indiana*. Indianapolis, IN: B. F. Bowen & Co., Inc., 1914.