

Robert English – Lagro, IN

By Bob Schmidt

Robert English was born in Ireland sometime from 1808 – 1810. He first came to Pennsylvania with his parents at a young age. About 1834 he came to Lagro as a contractor for the Wabash & Erie Canal. In 1839 Robert and his brother Michael built a mill south of Lagro on the Salamonie River. When this mill was destroyed by fire they rebuilt on the south side of the Wabash River at Lagro. In 1840 Robert was involved in canal construction in Fairfield township, Tippecanoe county near Lafayette. About 1841 the brothers built a grain warehouse on the canal at Lagro and became some of the leading merchants of the town. In 1842, he and his brother Michael had the contract for \$20,000 to build the towpath bridge over the Wabash at Carrollton above Delphi / Pittsburgh. Robert left for the California gold field in 1849 but never reached there. When his partners died en route he returned to Lagro. Robert English was a member of St Patrick's Catholic Church in Lagro, IN where he died in February 1868 and was buried in the church cemetery.