CANAWILERS AT REST

PHILO RUMSEY

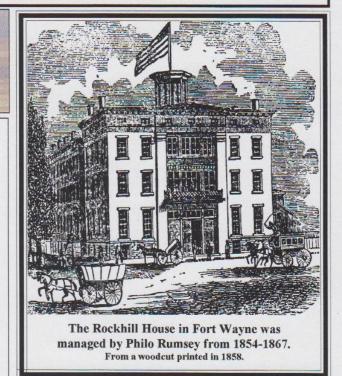
b. March 11, 1811 d. ?

By Jim Ellis

Sources:

Griswold, Bert J. The Pictorial History of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Chicago, IL/Robert O. Law Company. 1917.

Poinsatte, Charles R. Fort Wayne During the Canal Era 1828-1855. Indianapolis, IN/Indiana Historical Bureau. 1969.



Philo Rumsey was born in Rutland, Vermont on and David Comparet. March 11, 1811. He came to Fort Wayne, Indiana in the early part of 1832 and became a merchant and a tailor. There he met Rebecca Rockhill, daughter of William of Jesse Vermilyea a canal contractor and owner of the Rockhill, and on March 7, 1838 he married Rebecca. Vermilyea House inn, Philo managed the inn. It was They were blessed with two children, a son James and located fourteen miles southwest of Fort Wayne on the a daughter Edith.

After the Fort Wayne Light Infantry had to be to many passengers traveling on the canal. rapidly created in 1834 to dispel the outbreak of canal workers at Lagro, Indiana, the citizens of Fort Wayne ensian.

chartered, George W. Wood was elected mayor. He and of Fort Wayne on the corner of Broadway and Main and the other newly elected city officials faced many its being four stories tall with 65 rooms made it the problems. Mayor Wood was reelected in 1841, but he largest and best constructed inn in Indiana at the time. had a new city council. Philo Rumsey was elected to this The hotel closed in 1867, sat idle until May 20, 1878 second city council. He was again elected to the council when it was purchased by the St. Joseph Benevolent in 1845.

A grand celebration for the opening of the its core. Wabash & Erie Canal from Lake Erie at Toledo, OH to Lafayette, IN was planned at the American House in Fort Wayne, Indiana on May 17, 1843. Philo served on the Omaha, Nebraska in October 1868 where he became the correspondence and invitation committee. notables who made arrangements for this celebration and eating houses along the Union Pacific Railroad. He was had canal connections were Sam Hanna, W. S. Edsall, also proprietor and manager of the Palace Hotel in Santa Henry Lotz, Samuel Edsall, Asa Fairfield, W. G. Ewing, Fe, NM. We don't know when he died or was buried.

In 1849, after the death of Maria Vermilyea, wife Wabash & Erie Canal. It had a dock, a basin for canal boats and was near Aboite Creek agueduct. He catered

The experience gained operating the Vermilyea saw the need for a military organization. The first formal House probably was one reason Philo was given the organization was established in 1841 and was known as responsibility of managing the Rockhill House. However, the Fort Wayne Guards. Philo signed up and became an being the son-in-law of William Rockhill, owner of the hotel, wasn't a hindrance. The Rockhill House was a first-class hotel, which opened in 1854 after talking 13 In 1840 when the city of Fort Wayne was long years to complete. Its rural setting at the west side association. Today the present St. Joseph Medical Center has the original hotel and its one story addition as

> After the hotel had closed, Philo moved to Other manager of the Cozzen House and operated several

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