

CANAWLERS AT REST

ELIAS MURRAY

b. November 2, 1787

d. June 12, 1859

By Robert & Carolyn Schmidt

Huntington, Indiana, one of the larger commercial towns along the route of the Wabash & Erie Canal is also the county seat of Huntington county. The town and county were named as a result of one man, Elias Murray. As you read the early histories of that area his name occurs again and again. Who was this man and why did he choose to name the town Huntington? No, it's not after the West Virginia capital, which was called Holdersby's Landing until 1871. The capital was renamed for railroad tycoon Colis P. Huntington, builder of the C&O railroad, which finally linked Richmond, Virginia with the Ohio River in 1873.

Elias Murray was born on November 2, 1787, in Montgomery county, New York. His birthplace in the village of Fonda, then called by the Mohawk name of "Caughnawaga" that is situated in the Mohawk valley along the Erie Canal near Amsterdam. His father, John Murray, served as a Private from Massachusetts in the American Revolution. During the war on May 4, 1779, John married Tryphena Webb from Brookfield, Massachusetts. Sometime after the war they moved to New York.

Tryphena Webb, born on April 10, 1757, in Stratford, Connecticut, was the daughter of Mehitabel Huntington, who married Zebulon Webb. When he died in 1760 at age 45 she married Silas Bowen. They later moved to Brookfield, Massachusetts. It is from Mehitabel that we find the source of our name quest. She was the sister to Samuel Huntington, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was later President of the Continental Congress (September 1779–July 1781). Therefore, Elias Murray was the grand nephew of Samuel Huntington through his mother's line.

The relationship becomes more complicated in that Samuel was married to Martha Devotion and Samuel's brother Joseph married Martha's younger sister, Hannah. Joseph and

Hannah had 2 children Samuel H. Huntington and Frances. Hannah died unexpectedly at age 26 in September 1771. Martha, who remained childless, took in her sister's two youngsters aged 6 and 2 and they were reared by she and Samuel. Joseph, a minister, then married Elizabeth Hale in August of 1772, but the children remained with their aunt Martha. They were well cared for. In fact, Samuel Jr. inherited his uncle's farm, which he soon sold as he was already a lawyer in Connecticut. He practiced there until 1800 when he moved his family to Ohio.

By the summer of 1810, when Elias Murray was 23 years old, it appears that he and his older brother, Harvey, moved from New York to the Cleveland, Ohio area and erected a building on Superior Street. The first session of the Court of Common Pleas was held in the store on June 5, 1810. They opened a store on Union Lane and became Cleveland's first general merchants. His brother Enoch & wife Polly (Broadway) were also in the area. Enoch's parents apparently moved to nearby Euclid, Ohio, as well. John Murray died there in 1813 and Tryphena in 1814. Tryphena's 1st cousin, Samuel H. Huntington, had gone into Ohio politics and served as a Judge of the Ohio Supreme Court. He became Governor of Ohio for one term 1808-10. He lived in Painesville, Lake county, Ohio.

In 1811 Elias Murray moved to Delaware county, Ohio and took up a partnership with Moses Byxbe, the co-founder of the town of Delaware. Byxbe and Henry Baldwin had platted the town on March 9, 1808. Moses, who was involved in all aspects of the town development, had hopes that this settlement with its central location on the Olentangy river and its sulfur springs would become the State capital. Although he promoted it widely his proposal was defeated in the legislature by one vote losing to a wilderness area located 24 miles to the south and across the Scioto river from "Franklinton." This new town became the capital of Ohio on February 14, 1812, and was officially named Columbus in 1816. This was a blow to the plans for the town of Delaware and another for Byxbe. He had earlier hoped to establish his son, Moses Jr., in the mercantile business. However, the young man proved to be a failure. Elias, perhaps after hearing of the future prospects for the town, had stepped in to fill Moses Jrs. place.

The war of 1812 proved a boon to Delaware, which was on the direct military route north to the war. It also provided Elias, an ambitious young man (26), the opportunity for adventure. Perhaps through the political connections of his wife's cousin Samuel H. Huntington, who was now the ex-governor of Ohio and had good contact with General William Henry Harrison, Elias was made Captain of a cavalry unit from Delaware County. More likely he received the command due to his close association with Moses Byxbe, who ran the town of Delaware. The 100 man unit Elias commanded was organized in September 1813 and served until November 1814. His brother, Harvey Murray from Cleveland, also became Captain of the militia in that area. Both of these military units were created to defend northern Ohio and did not see much action during the war. Elias' unit ap-

parently did make some raids into Canada. Moses Byxbe became a large contractor for the army supplying the troops all the beef they needed.

Sometime during or shortly after the conflict Elias conveniently married Mose Byxbe's daughter, Dolly. They had at least 3 children. In 1823 Elias taught school for a time when the first teacher was dismissed. In 1824-1825 he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives from Delaware county. Everything seemed to be going well for the family until Dolly became ill and died on March 24, 1825. Elias life was upturned. On May 1, 1826, a year later, he married Henrietta Pond, who lived in nearby Centerville.

Around that time events occurring in Indiana provided promise for new settlers. John Tipton was a moving force in the new state. He had fought at the battle of Tippecanoe, the War of 1812, and was part of the group selected to locate the new capital, Indianapolis. He was elected to the legislature from Harrison county in 1821. In 1822 he was the Indiana commissioner that negotiated the Illinois state line between the two states. In March of 1823 Tipton was appointed by President Monroe as Indian Agent for northern Indiana and moved to Fort Wayne at that time. It was his suggestion that Allen county be named for John Allen, who was killed in 1813 on the River Raisin. In 1826 President Adams appointed Tipton one of the three commission-

ers to negotiate the Treaty of Paradise Spring (October 1826), which provided the lands for a canal to be built. Realizing the canal would open up the frontier and make land more valuable, Tipton moved the Indian agency west in March 1828 to where the Eel River joined the Wabash.

On September 1828 Chauncey Carter, a surveyor, platted the original town that became Logansport, which was named for Indian Chief Logan. Tipton laid out four additions later to the original plan. His first addition just happened to be along fifth street where the canal route would soon be built.

We don't know the circumstances behind Elias moving his family from Ohio, but he did lose the election as representative in 1826. Moses Byxbe, his sponsor and father-in-law, had lost his mind around 1824. He wandered off into the river and died from exposure on September 9, 1826.

Perhaps Elias wanted to start a new life as a settler in northern Indiana. The proposed Wabash & Erie Canal was no secret. The federal land grant for the canal was passed on March 2, 1827, and was well publicized. The Ohio & Erie Canal was under construction in northern Ohio. Elias, following his deceased father-in-law's example that much could be accomplished through enterprise, thought that if he moved west early enough he might be able to create a new town and perhaps a county

ELIAS MURRAY'S FAMILY

NAME	BORN	DIED	MARRIED
Elias Murray (War 1812)	11-2-1787 Montgomery, NY	6-12-1859 Decatur, IL	4 times
1. Dolly Byxbe	9-15-1781 Washington, MA	3-24-1825 Delaware, OH	
CHILDREN			
Byron Murray	?	?	
Julius Abbot Murray (Civil War 6th Wisconsin Iron Brigade)	3-5-1817 Delaware, OH	7-16-1869 Richmond, WI	10-17-1837
2. Henrietta Pond	7-11-1806	8-28-1848 Huntington, IN	5-1-1826 Centerville, OH
CHILDREN			
Harvey S. Murray	© 1829 Ohio		
Marcia (Marsha) Murray	1830 Indiana		
Guilford Murray	© 1834 Indiana		
Matilda Murray	2-21-1839 Huntington, IN	4-23-1870 Wabash, IN	
Marshall Murray	© 1845 Indiana	?	
3. Mary Talbot	1822	1-14-1852	1851 Indianapolis, IN
4. Mary Koman	?	?	1-10-1853 Sheboygan, WI
ELIAS' PARENTS			
John Murray (Rev. War)	1759 MA	1813 Euclid, OH	5-4-1779 Brookfield, MA
Tryphena Webb	4-10-1757 Stratford, MA	1814 Euclid, OH	
DOLLY'S PARENTS			
Col. Moses Byxbe (Rev. War)	5-4-1756 Hopkinton, MA	9-9-1826 Delaware, OH	12-28-1780
Dorothy Witter (Byxbe)	7-15-1759 Massachusetts	6-25-1821 Delaware, OH buried in Oak Grove Cemetery	

seat. Also with the dynamic Tipton now located in Logansport, it is not surprising that Elias and Henrietta first went to Logansport with their family in 1829 to purchase land.

The 1830 Federal Census in Logansport shows the family of Elias Murray with 2 adults, 1 daughter, and 4 young boys. Were they living in Logansport or just there buying land when the census was taken? The specific date of the 1830 census is not shown. They did purchase land in Huntington county, Indiana.

In the spring of 1830 the Murray's became parents of Marcia Murray, the first white child born in (Huntington) county at "The Bluffs." They established their cabin just east of Silver Creek Arch in today's Dallas township. In September of 1830 Elias teamed up with John Tipton to become Tipton's land agent. They made plans for a future town and possibly a county seat near the forks of the Wabash. They were aware that locks along the canal would require stops and potential mill sites.

In 1830 Joel & Champion Helvey settled at the site of the future town of Huntington. On October 12, 1830, Elias Murray and Champion Helvey purchased U.S. government lands for the town. On October 12, 1830, Murray contracted to purchase 195 acres in the northwest quarter of Section 13 for his own farm. Others soon moving into this area were Artemus D. Woodward, a fur trader, and Joseph Cheesbro, later a lock builder & tender.

Elias was elected to the Indiana House in 1831. Tipton, who had been an Indian Agent and land speculator, was also at the time appointed to become a U.S. Senator. Elias participated in the key 1831-32 legislative session that finally agreed to begin the Wabash & Erie Canal. During the same 1832 session of the legislature Elias was successful in getting the new county of Huntington authorized on February 2, 1832, to become effective December 2, 1834. This county was to be named Huntington after his great uncle Samuel Huntington, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Due to his proactive role in promoting the canal to the future town of Huntington, he became a key participant in the groundbreaking on February 22, 1832, in Fort Wayne as noted today on the historical marker on West Main Street in Fort Wayne. The *Cass County Times* of Mar 2, 1832, notes the days event as such:

"Jordan Vigus ... concluded by saying ' I am now about to commence the Wabash & Erie canal in the name and by the authority of the State of Indiana.' Having thus said, he 'struck the long suspended blow' - broke ground - while the company hailed the event with three cheers. Judge (Sam) Hanna and Capt. (Elias) Murray, two of the able and consistent advocates of the canal, in the councils of the State, next approached and excavated the earth; and then commenced an indiscriminate digging and cutting."

The future of the canal now assured, Elias immediately began working with Champion Helvey, to plot the future town, which the Helvey's had previously called "Flint Springs." The plat was recorded as Huntington on June 1, 1832. On December 30, 1834 this land was conveyed to John Tipton. On Feb 24, 1835, Tipton deeded 51 lots of the town to the county so that Huntington would become the county seat. The enabling act required 5 independent commissioners from other nearby counties to meet at the home of Elias Murray in May to select a county seat, which they did, Huntington.

About the same time Tipton and Murray were also establishing Lagro and hoping it would become the county seat of Wabash county. The contest for Lagro did not go favorably for Senator Tipton. David Burr and Hugh Hanna were the proprietors of the town of Wabash and they wanted their town to be the county seat. On January 22, 1835, Governor Noah Noble approved the act authorizing Wabash county effective March 1, 1835. The enabling act also specified 5 men from surrounding counties were to meet at the home of David Burr and select a county seat. Burr and Hanna offered lots and cash, but Senator Tipton said he would match any offer they made. The committee of 5 selected Wabash and on June 15, 1835, Wabash became the county seat. The Lagro faction wanted to petition the legislature and ask for another commission but finally decided to drop it.

Elias Murray became involved in the life of Huntington county. He became the first county treasurer, foreman of a grand jury, a trustee of the county Seminary, and a road commissioner for the state road, which was to run through the county in 1833.

As part of the 4th of July celebrations along the canal in 1835 Calvin Fletcher went to Fort Wayne and joined in the gala celebration commemorating the opening of the canal to Huntington. On the way back to Indianapolis on July 5th he and General Tipton spent the night at Elias Murray's home in Huntington. (See the complete trip enclosed)

In July 1835 just after the celebration in Fort Wayne, a turn events occurred between Lagro and Wabash that required the military skills of Captain Elias Murray. The Irish canal workers along the canal route were of two camps, the Catholic Corkonians were in the Lagro area and the Protestant Fardowners were closer to Rich Valley. Disputes arose between the two groups on religious differences. Both groups had been causing trouble for weeks, but around the 10th of July 1835 a full scale riot erupted as both groups gathered arms and threatened attack on July 12, the anniversary of the battle of the Boyne 145 years earlier. David Burr called for militia from Logansport, Lagro and Fort Wayne. Captain Elias Murray joined forces with Tipton's militia coming from Logansport to quell the riot. Ringleaders were arrested and marched off to Logansport. The rest of the 700+ workers returned to the canal sites. When the 8 leaders refused to cross the Wabash and march to Indianapolis, Murray told the

militia to fix bayonets. It worked. Murray was gone about 3 weeks in this military expedition. In December 1835 David Burr requested payment for expenses incurred by Murray, Tipton and others. The legislature approved the funding of these expenses.

Elias purchased 46.42 acres on March 20, 1837, described as the North East quarter of the North East quarter of Section one in Township twenty-seven North of Range ten, East, in the District of lands subject to sale at Fort Wayne, Indiana and 80 acres on August 1, 1837 described as the East half of the North East quarter of Section thirty-six in Township twenty-eight North of Range line East in the District of Lands subjected to sale at Fort Wayne Indiana.

Elias Murray's business associate, Senator John Tipton, died in April 1839 at Logansport. Elias went on to serve another term in the Indiana House in 1841. He was a great supporter of the canal and was part of the procession marching in the 1843 grand celebration in Fort Wayne, where General Lewis Cass presented his lengthy oration at the Swinney homestead on Fort Wayne's west end. He was chosen by the Miami Indians in 1846 to help resolve claims with traders before the tribe was transported west in October 1846. He was elected to the Indiana Senate in 1847. In 1849 he was appointed by the legislature to be on a Board of Review of claims of damage caused by the construction of the Wabash & Erie Canal.

Still another civic role for Elias was his participation in the Indiana Constitutional Convention in October 1850. He was one of the signers of the new constitution. While in Indianapolis he married for the third time a 29-year-old Mary Houston Talbot. Their marriage was brief. She died January 14, 1852.

On March 17, 1851, President Millard Fillmore appointed Captain Elias Murray to be Superintendent of Indian Affairs northern region in upper Wisconsin near Sheboygan. This appointment was announced in the *Huntington Herald* and then ran in the *Fort Wayne Times* on April 10, 1851.

"Superintendent of Indian Affairs

"The *Huntington Herald*, thus speaks in relation to the appointment of its fellow townsman, Capt. Murray, to the Superintendency of Indian Affairs:

"We have the pleasure of announcing to our readers that Capt. ELIAS MURRAY, of this place, has been appointed by President FILLMORE Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Indian tribes east of the Rocky Mountains and north of New Mexico and Texas.

"This act of the president will afford the numerous friends of Mr. Murray a peculiar gratification, for it will be hailed by them as an act of justice, justly merited by long and ardent service in the discharge of important duties imposed upon him by his fellow-citizens. Mr. Murray is considerably advanced in years, and his long experience in public business — his naturally sound, penetrating judgment, certainly go far in fitting him for the important responsibilities imposed upon him by the President. He has during his life been elevated to many exalted posi-

tions, both in legislative and deliberative bodies, and in every situation he has judiciously faithfully and honorably discharged the trusts that have been confided to him. Not in a single instance have we over heard of an objection urged against him. He is naturally of a peculiarly kind and conciliating disposition. His conduct has always been such as to strongly endear him to all who enjoy the pleasure of his acquaintance with the strongest ties of friendship and esteem.

"We repeat our gratification in learning that merit, deserved by long service and honesty, have been duly rewarded. Our only regret is that we shall necessarily be compelled to part with a good and estimable citizen, and we believe this regret will be universal with our citizens. His long residence in this community has endeared him to all, and they will regret to part with him."

In Sheboygan Elias married his fourth wife, a lady named Mary Komans of whom little is known. While there Elias was involved in a court case back in Huntington, Indiana. Years before (March 1846), acting as administrators of Daniel Johnson's estate, Elias and Patrick McCarty had sued Joseph Buchanan and won. Elias had only received a promissory note for the payment. In 1853 the case was again ruled on by the Huntington Circuit Court. They decided: The surety, who has discharged a judgment rendered against him for a debt of his principal, by executing a note not negotiable by the law-merchant, and a mortgage, for the amount of the judgment, cannot sue his principal for money paid until he has paid the note and mortgage, or part thereof."

Elias purchased 38.58 acres on November 2, 1854, in Wisconsin. It is described as the Lot numbered two, of the North West Quarter of Section twelve, in Township twenty-seven of Range fifteen, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Menasha, Wisconsin.

On September 11, 1855, after his Indian superintendency, Elias was called upon by William Powell at his home to take a sworn affidavit. The Menomonee's were trying to get R. W. Thompson, their lawyer, compensation of \$40,000 (partial payment) paid now, instead of having to wait 12 years for all of it, from the U.S. treasury for his exertions to recover pay for the land that they were defrauded of in the treaty of 1848 made by Colonel Medill, U.S. Commissioner. Another affidavit was taken in which he testified to the veracity of an Indian, John Wau-poose, who spoke English well. After serving as Indian superintendent for several years Elias moved to Kansas for a few years.

When Elias was returning to Indiana he fell sick and died near Decatur, Illinois, on June 12, 1859, at age 72. He lived an exciting and meaningful life — a man of great attainments, a patriot, and highly esteemed by all who knew him. His remains were returned to Huntington and buried in the local cemetery.

Dawson's Fort Wayne Daily Times reported the following on June 16, 1859:

"Capt. Elias Murray, one of the first settlers of Huntington Co. Ind., a few days ago died in the West. His remains reached the village of Huntington on Tuesday last, June 14th, and were interred.

This pioneer was a most exemplary and very polite gentleman, and to those of us who long enjoyed his acquaintance, this sad news brings pleasant memories of other days. He had many reverses in life — lived to a good old age, and died an honest man. His home for many years last past was in the West, where poverty overtook him.

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**CALVIN FLETCHER'S TRIP TO
WABASH & ERIE CANAL CELEBRATION**

In *The Diary of Calvin Fletcher* Calvin notes his trip to and from Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1835 to attend the celebration of the opening of the Wabash & Erie Canal to Huntington. He talks about who was in his party, where he stayed and what occurred. Since he often abbreviated words and only used initials for the names of people after he had established who they were earlier in his journal, an interpretation of his work follows:

Monday 6-29-1835 Calvin Fletcher prepares to go to Ft. Wayne with Mr. Hand and Col. Howard Stansbury to celebrate July 4 and the opening of the canal. Stansbury is about 30 years of age, led the survey for the Wabash & Erie Canal with Col. Asa Moore and Col. James Shriver, and later, as chief of the Engineer corps in Indiana, is detailed by the War department to run the routes of several railroads.

Tuesday 6-30-1835 Although his wife is running a fever Dr. Coe says Calvin should proceed with his plans, however, he is called by Mr. Hand saying Hand must attend to other business and can't accompany him. Calvin writes a letter and prepares to leave. At 9 a.m. he goes to Mr. Hendersons, where Stansbury boards. They leave at 10 a.m. He says the weather is cool, waters are going down and his corn is about waist high and tasseled. They ride to Pendleton passing Thomas Silver's farm where they are making hay. When they reach Pendleton it is very cold and they have a fire made. They are called upon by Thomas Silver, Andrew Shanklin, William H. Mershon and D. S. Noble, early settlers of Madison county.

Wednesday 7-1-1835 The morning is very cold, but the frost has not damaged the vegetation. They leave Pendleton at sunrise and ride to Anderson where they eat breakfast with Andrew Jackson. Calvin notes that the people of Anderson are complaining that the canal feeder to White River passed North of the town on the other side of the River. After leaving Anderson at 9 a.m. they proceed ten miles up the road alongside Kill Buck Creek to Marion. Along the way they meet the surveyors of the canal route. They cross the summit level at Palmers. They arrive at Marion about sundown and stay overnight with Dr. Ezra Trask, who came to Marion from Vermont in 1833, and then leave Trask's home after breakfast. Calvin notes that he could not get grain for his horses.

Thursday 7-2-1835 The weather is cool, pleasant and there are no flies. They proceed to Lagro on the Wabash river arriving there about 2 p.m. They see John Finley, who is from Richmond and is a candidate for Congress. Then David Burr and Hugh Han-

na arrive. Burr and Hanna platted the town of Wabash just the prior year. They all dine and feed their horses before leaving at 3 p.m. for Huntington. En route they meet General John Tipton and all of them proceed along the route of the canal that is under construction. Before reaching Huntington they spend the night about six miles outside of town. They are joined by Burr and Hanna's wives and children. Calvin sleeps with Col. Stansbury.

Friday 7-3-1835 They leave with Tipton following the canal to the lock east of Huntington. There they meet with a military company commanded by Capt. Fate, a Dr. who lives in Huntington. They eat breakfast at Helveys, brothers who were the first white settlers at the Huntington site. They operated a double log cabin as a hotel at Flint Springs. Calvin notes that the canal is finished for 25 miles to Ft. Wayne. At 10 a.m. they are loaded into a boat loaded to the top with deer and fur skins and leave the lock. Two other boats accompany them with 100 male passengers including Samuel Hanna, who is on the committee of arrangements at Fort Wayne, Col. Burr, the canal engineers plus 50 ladies. Calvin's boat becomes grounded since not enough water has been let into the canal, but when they reach water of suitable depth they glide along. Calvin says it is delightful "to glide along upon the Waters that by nature were & had been by the Great Architect from the beginning designed & used to run into the St. Lawrence now by art & science made subservient to the purpose of commerce in the great valley of the Wabash making their way to the Mississippi.

Ten (14) miles before reaching Ft. Wayne they dine at the Vermilyea House, a canal inn operated by Jesse Vermilyea. Vermilyea is a farmer who trades with the Indians, operates a post office out of his home, and becomes one of the first directors of the branch of the State Bank located in Ft. Wayne. After leaving Vermilyea's they soon meet Jesse Lynch Williams, principal Engineer of the canal. Williams had been up all night checking for leaks along the canal's embankments. They then meet several companies of gentlemen from Ft. Wayne about 6 miles before reaching their destination. About a half mile out of town they are met by militia who march them into town because the last half mile of the canal to Ft. Wayne has not been completed. Calvin and Tipton are invited to spend time with Allen Hamilton, who is in partnership with Tipton in investing in Indian lands, is a merchant, becomes a banker and serves in the Constitutional Convention.

Saturday 7-4-1835 Guns are fired saluting the canal. At 9 a.m. companies of the militia and anyone else who is interested get together and march to the canal. There they find five boats, complete with musicians for entertainment, waiting to transport them six miles up the St. Joseph feeder canal. The officers of the day are Cols. Spencer and Bourie. Upon reaching the feeder dam they get off the boats to listen to a speech by Burr after which Tipton gives a toast, etc. At 12 noon they get back on the boats and return to Ft. Wayne at 2 p.m. They walk to the court house where Hugh McCulloch delivers a good speech. McCulloch is a young lawyer who becomes cashier of the State Bank branch in

Ft. Wayne in 1835, president of the Bank of the State of Indiana chartered in 1855, United States comptroller of the currency in 1862, and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in 1865-1869. After dinner a lot of toasts are given.

Canal Park, Canal Park Annex, and at Carrollton. Sending these cards to friends is an excellent way to promote canals.

Sunday 7-5-1835 Calvin leaves Ft. Wayne by canal boat with the company that had come up from Huntington. They reach Huntington at 9 p.m. He and Tipton stay at Capt. Elias Murray's home. See previous article about Murray.

Monday 7-6-1835 Calvin and Tipton leave Huntington at 9 a.m. and arrive at Miamis town (Peru) at sundown.

Tuesday 7-7-1835 Calvin and Tipton leave Miamis town and arrive at Tipton's home at 9 .m. They have breakfast and Calvin does some business in Logansport. He then goes on to Wildcat Creek to continue his journey.

Calvin Fletcher
1798 – 1866

Born in Ludlow, Vermont he moved to Urbana, Ohio in 1817. He was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1820, married Sara Hill in 1821 and moved to the new town of Indianapolis in September 1821. He became the first attorney in Indianapolis, elected to the Indiana Senate in 1825 and served there until 1833. He helped organize the State Bank of Indiana and served as a director for 16 years. He is most noted for the extensive journal he kept from 1817–1866. He never became a great public figure but traveled widely and his journals tell a lot about the life of the times in early Indiana and his adventures elsewhere. From 1972-1983 the Indiana Historical Society published most of his journals in nine volumes.

Source:

Thornbrough, Gayle. *The Diary of Calvin Fletcher Vol. 1 1817-1838*.
Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Historical Society, 1972.

CANAL POSTCARDS

Railroad souvenirs seem to be everywhere with everything from belt buckles, trains in all shapes and sizes, paintings of trains, train whistles, magnets, etc. However, it is difficult to find canal souvenirs such as canal boats, mules, paintings of canals, etc. When visiting a canal park there are usually excellent books about canals and perhaps a good map and a few post cards. Canal parks in Indiana are no exception.

The Whitewater Canal Historic Site at Metamora, Indiana, has very nice postcards. They feature photographs of the Ben Franklin III, Duck Creek Aqueduct, the Grist Mill, the Laurel Feeder Dam, and several of the canal town of old Metamora.

The Canal Interpretive Center in Delphi has recently put all the Wabash & Erie Canal murals painted by Terry Lacy that hang in their lobby on individual post cards outlined in black. They are stunning. They also have great cards of structures in