

# CANAWLERS AT REST

## SAMUEL LOVALL

b. 1813

d. December 28, 1879

Samuel Lovall (Loveall, Leavell) was born in Hagerstown, Maryland and spent his early life there. In 1834, at the age of 21, he decided to head west. He shouldered his rifle, packed a few clothes, and made his way to the Indiana frontier. He also was a blacksmith for seven years. He earned enough to purchase land near New Haven, Indiana just a mile north of the Wabash & Erie Canal and began clearing it for a farm.

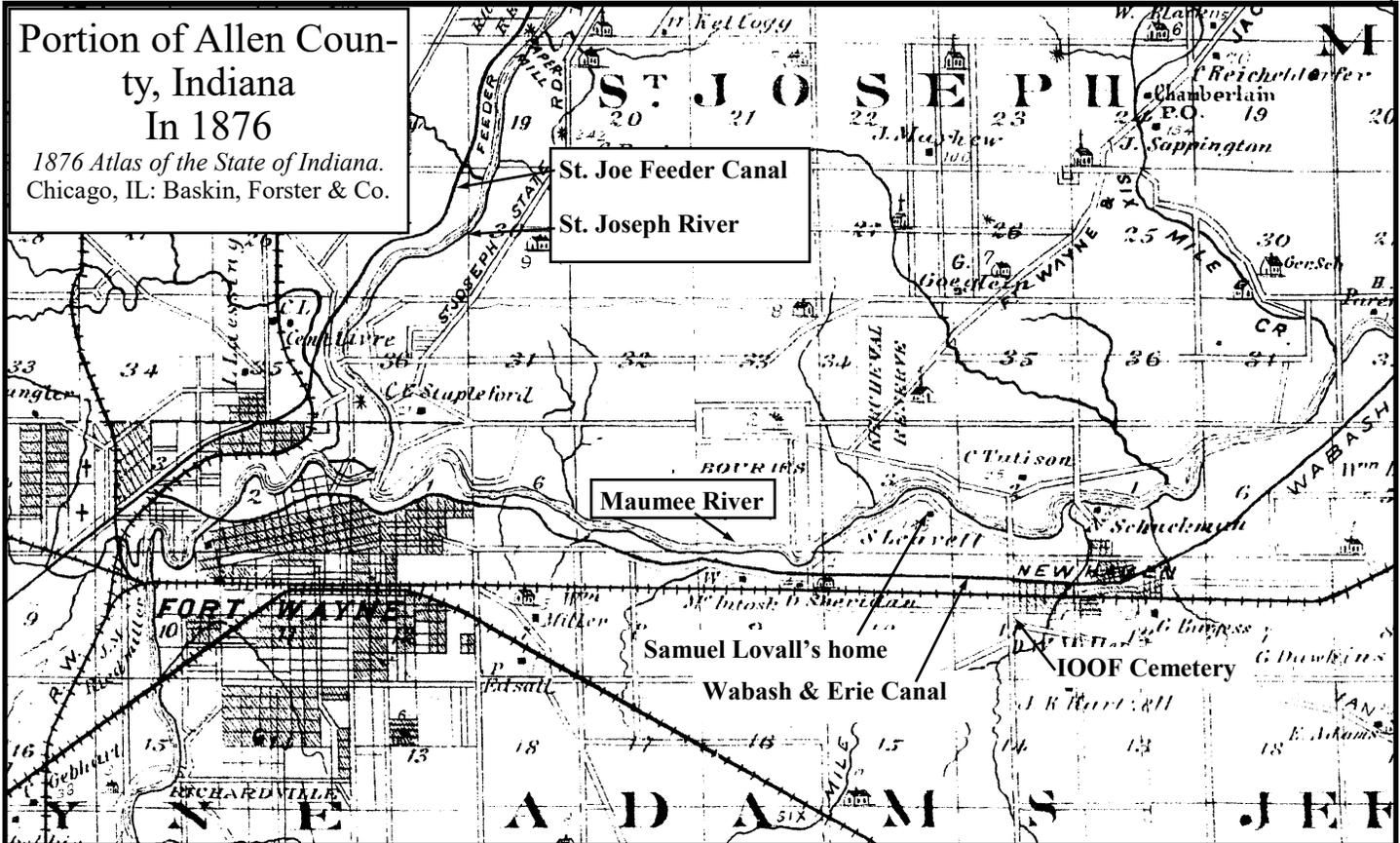
Samuel hauled timber for the locks located between Fort Wayne and Defiance, Ohio during the construction of the

canal from the east of Fort Wayne into Ohio. Some of the timber may have come from his land. This section of the canal was opened to boat traffic in 1843.

John Rogers, owned and occupied a farm near Samuel's land. He was born in Somerset Co., New Jersey on December 9, 1785 to Simeon and Abigail (Howard) Rogers. He was reared in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Ohio. He served in the Ohio militia in the War of 1812. He and his first wife, Jane Harper, moved to Ohio. They had five children: Elizabeth, Benjamin Howard, **Nancy**, Dorcas and Henry. Jane died at Zenia about 1815. In 1816 John married his second wife, Tryphena J. Shipman, and they had seven more children: Lamont Montgomery, Louisa Antionette, Allanson A., Orrin DeWitt, John Shipman, James, H. and Helen M. He moved his family to Vernon, Indiana in 1818, and on to New Paris, Preble County, Ohio in 1822. In 1825 he moved his family to a farm on the south bank of the Maumee River in Adams Township, Allen County, Indiana. Tryphena died April 10, 1848. John died on September 16, 1877 in Kendallville and was buried beside her in the IOOF Cemetery in New Haven, Indiana.

Early on John helped Samuel plant apple trees on the land Samuel had cleared thus creating the first orchard in Allen County, Indiana. One of these apple trees attained a girth of nine feet and eight inches.

One of John Roger's daughters, Nancy, was married to Absolom Holcomb on July 31, 1831. They had one son, Edward Holcomb. Upon Absolom's death (?) she married our subject, Samuel Lovall, on May 12, 1842. Samuel built a log cabin in the



## THE HOOSIER PACKET - NOVEMBER 2010

middle of the forest on what is now S. River Road alongside the Maumee River for Nancy and her son, Edward.

Samuel and Nancy had four more children, Louis Warren Lovall, Jennie Missouri Lovall, Samuel Brenton Lovall and Anna Eliza Lovall, and the cabin soon became crowded. They saw to it that the children were educated in the public schools.

Samuel continued to clear his land and develop his farm. When he cut down a tree that stood near their home, Nancy would run outside fearing the tree would fall on the cabin and injure one or more of their children.

On April 10, 1866 Lewis Warren Lovall, their oldest son, passed away. He was 22 years, 4 months and 18 days old.

Although no tree ever fell on the dwelling to hurt Nancy, she did pass away on December 11, 1867 at the early age of 54 years, 2 months and 1 day. She was laid to rest in the IOOF Cemetery in Adams Township, Allen County, Indiana. She and her son Lewis shared a tombstone, which is now broken and rests on the ground.

At the time of Nancy's death, Jennie Missouri Lovall was about 19 years old, Samuel Brenton Lovall was 13 years old and

his younger sister, Eliza Lovall, was a mere 10 years old. Then Jennie Missouri married Oliver Tustison on October 20, 1868 and left the family home.

Samuel and the two younger children struggled along the best that they could with the children accepting adult responsibilities at an early age. Samuel B. was no stranger to hard work. He had helped Samuel develop and improve the new farm while Eliza helped with household chores.

When the 1870 Federal Census was taken Samuel's real estate was valued at \$12,000 and his personal estate at \$1,671. As the years passed Samuel became an invalid, thus in 1876 when the family replaced their old home with a modern new brick one, Samuel B. and Eliza were in charge of building it. They placed a stone on the front gable that had their father's name and 1876 carved in it. It was one of the finest dwellings in that section of Allen County at the time it was built. This home no longer stands.

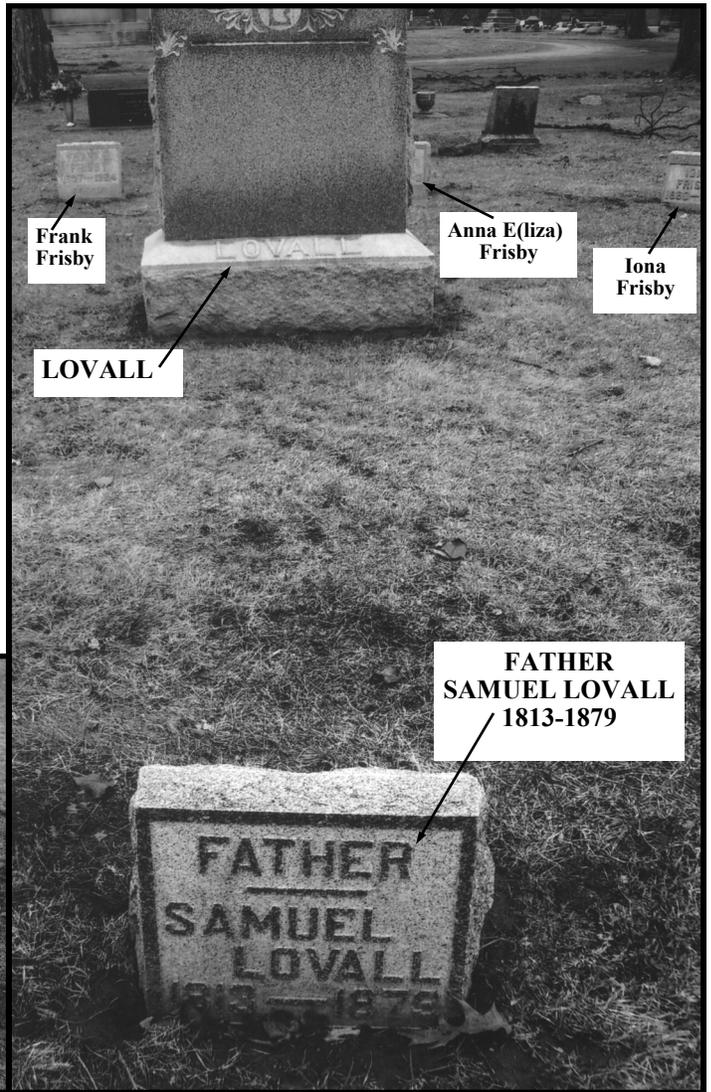
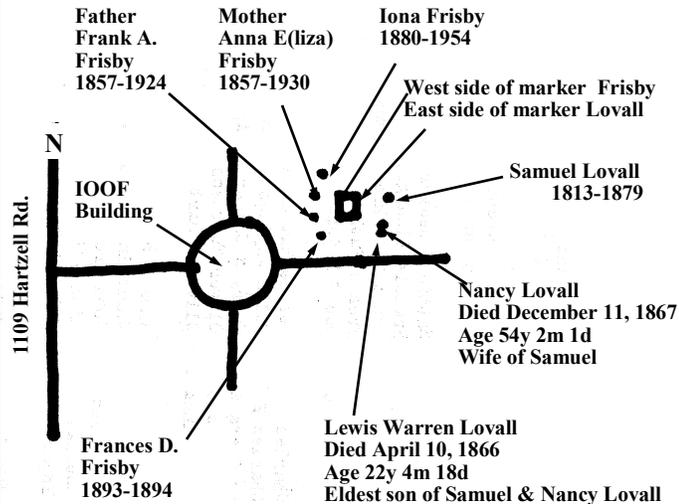
In January 1879 the *Ft. Wayne Weekly Sentinel* ran lists of delinquent taxes for land in Allen County. Samuel owed \$135.18 for the fr (?) ½ se quarter in Adams Township.

Samuel Lovall passed away on Sunday December 28,

### SAMUEL AND NANCY (ROGERS HOLCOMB) LOVALL'S FAMILY

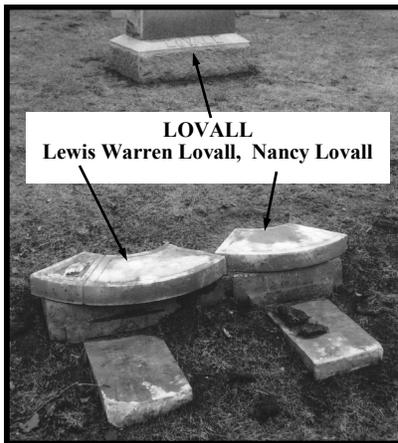
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
<b>Nancy Rogers</b>	10-10-1813	Ohio	12-11-1867	New Haven, IN		
1. Absolom Holcomb					7-31-1831	New Haven, IN
<u>Children</u>						
1a Edward Holcomb	1838	New Haven, IN	(lived in Samuel's home in 1850 Census)			
2. <b>Samuel Lovall</b>	1813	Hagerstown, MD	12-28-1879	New Haven, IN	5-12-1842	New Haven, IN
<u>Children</u>						
2a Lewis Warren Lovall	11-30-1843	New Haven, IN	4-10-1866	New Haven, IN		
2b Jennie Missouri Lovall	circa 1848	New Haven, IN	3-6-1874	New Haven, IN		
Oliver Tustison	4-7-1840	Crawford Co. OH	1894	New Haven, IN	10-20-1868	New Haven, IN
<u>Children</u>						
Ina A.	1-?-1872	Adams, Allen, IN	4-25-1872	Adams, Allen, IN		
2c Samuel Brenton Lovall	8-4-1854	New Haven, IN	5-3-1921	Hopkins, MI		
1. Mary E. Hanley					10-10-1872	New Haven, IN
2. Harriett Miller	1857	Indiana			7-3-1877	New Haven, IN
3. Cerena Anna Miller	1-24-1865	New Haven, IN	3-17-1938	Hopkins, MI	2-12-1887	New Haven, IN
<u>Children</u>						<u>Married</u>
Harley Brenton Lovall	4-24-1889	Hopkins, MI	1973	Hopkins, MI	6-17-1925	Mary J. Hall
Burrell H. Lovall	2-23-1892	Hopkins, MI			5-15-1914	Zillah Leta Moored
2d Anna Eliza Lovall	6-21-1857	New Haven, IN	5-28-1930	Fort Wayne, IN		
Francis Harrison Frisby	6-18-1857		1-31-1924	Fort Wayne, IN	7-3-1879	New Haven, IN
<u>Children</u>						<u>Married</u>
I. Ona Frisby	4-2-1880	Ft. Wayne, IN	8-11-1954	Fort Wayne, IN		
Roger Lovall Frisby	12-14-1882	Ft. Wayne, IN			6-15-1912	Stella L. Helmer
Jennie Bell Frisby	4-8-1887	Ft. Wayne, IN				Fred Berdleman
Ethlan Candis Frisby	9-23-1888	Ft. Wayne, IN			6-9-1915	J. Lloyd Armstrong
Frances Dettie Frisby	9-23-1893	Ft. Wayne, IN	1894 infant	Fort Wayne, IN		

**IOOF Cemetery, New Haven, Indiana**



1879 and was buried beside Nancy in the IOOF Cemetery, Adams Township, Allen County, Indiana. He, with the help of Samuel B., had cleared one hundred and twenty acres and his land had been converted into one of the county's best farms.

*The Fort Wayne Daily News* of December 30, 1879 carried the following obituary:



Samuel Lovall, his wife, son, sister and her husband and child are buried in the IOOF Cemetery on 1109 Hartzell Road in New Haven, Indiana. Photographs by Bob Schmidt

**Death of an Old Resident**  
Samuel Loveall, an

old resident of this county, died Sunday night at his residence near New Haven, aged 66 years. The deceased was born at Hagerstown, MD., in 1813, and emigrated to this county in 1834, where he was engaged in the blacksmith trade for seven years, after which he went to New Haven and purchased the farm on which he lived when he died. He was a man of untiring energy, honest and faithful, and had hosts of friends. He was a prominent Odd Fellow, and will be buried under the auspices of that organization. He leaves two children, Mr. Brenton Loveall and Mrs. Eliza Frizby.

*The Fort Wayne Sentinel* on April 28, 1879 simply stated: Samuel Loveall, of Adams township, died to-day, age 76 (66).

Samuel B. was 25 and Eliza was 22 at the time of their father's death. They sold the farm and brick home.

**Samuel and Nancy's Surviving Three Children\***

\***Jennie Missouri Lovall** married Oliver Tustison, who was born April 7, 1840 to Nelson and Eusebia (Cox) Tustison in Crawford county, Ohio. At age four he and his family moved to a farm two miles west of Hicksville, Ohio. In 1861 they moved to Adams Township, Allen County, Indiana. In 1864 he went to Montana territory for a month and then to Nevada where he was engaged in farming for three years. He then returned to Adams Township to resume farming via San Francisco, Panama and New York in 1867. After Jennie and Oliver's marriage in 1868 they moved to Marion County, Illinois in 1869 and lived there three years before returning to Adams Township in 1872. Their daughter, Ina, was born in 1872 and died three months later in April. Jennie Missouri Lovall Tustison passed away on March 6, 1874 at age 25/26. Oliver then married Clara Dell.

\***Samuel Brenton Lovall** was a cabinet maker and established an undertaking business about two miles from the old home in New Haven, Indiana at the corner of Middle and Broadway Streets in 1872. He purchased it from its original owner,

Henry Tenge. This business he later sold to Edward Harper in March 1889. E. Harper & Son Funeral Home is the oldest continuously family owned and operated funeral home business in New Haven today.

According to marriage records Samuel B. first married Mary E. Hanley on October 10, 1872. They had no children. Then the marriage records show him as Brenton Lovall marrying Harriett Miller on July 3, 1877. We could find no further information about Mary or Harriett. He was then united in marriage on February 12, 1887 to Cerena Anna Miller, who was born near his family farm in New Haven. Her grandparents were among the earliest settlers in that section of the state. He operated his undertaking establishment until 1888 when he was encouraged by friends to move to Hopkins, Allegan County, southwest of Holland, Michigan.

After moving to Michigan, Samuel B. obtained an embalmer's license (No. 91). He opened an undertaking establishment and a furniture store. Shortly thereafter he also added and conducted a harness making business for eleven years. He erected three dwellings, three barns and a store building in Hopkins. His business block was twenty-six by seventy-five feet. Its upper story was used as the town's public hall and opera house.

Two sons were born to Samuel B. and Cerena Lovall: Harley Brenton Lovall in April 1889 and Burl Roy Lovall in February 1892. When they were seventeen and fourteen years old, they opened a grocery store on their own in part of their father's store building thus becoming the county's youngest business firm. They started with four hundred dollars worth of stock.

Samuel B. finally increased his undertaking business by adding branches at Dorr, about ten miles north of Hopkins, in 1897 and then at Wayland. Each had a man in charge and carried a stock of caskets. He also had two funeral cars at Hopkins and one at Wayland. The latter was the finest in the county. He eventually became the funeral director for almost all the funerals in that part of the county and served as the coroner for Allegan County for six years.

Besides being a Republican, Samuel B. belonged to and was active in the local Masonic Lodge, the Odd Fellows, the Woodmen, the Protective Legion and was a Knight of the Macabbes. In 1889 he and Charles Knoblock organized the Hopkins band. They controlled it for fifteen years. Samuel B. played the bass drum and cymbals and Charles played the cornet. The band was in high demand in that part of Michigan and even in Indiana. It put Hopkins on the map.

Samuel B. Lovall passed away on May 3, 1921 and was buried in Lot 501 Grave 1 of Maplewood Cemetery (also known as Hopkins Union & Ohio Corners), 130th Ave and 17th St. in Hopkins Township, Allegan County, Michigan. He was 67 years old. His wife Cerena died March 17, 1938 at age 73. She was buried beside Samuel B. Also in the family plot were buried Har-

ley Brenton Lovall (1889-1973 age 84) beside his wife Mary J. (Hall) Lovall.

**\*Anna Eliza Lovall** (called Lyda) was married to Francis Harrison Frisby in Allen County, Indiana. Eliza and Frank had five children: I. Ona Frisby, Roger Lovall Frisby, Jennie Bell Frisby, Ethlan Candis Frisby and Frances Dettie Frisby.

Frank, her husband, was the chief custodian at Wolf and Dessauer, a large department store in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was also a member of the South Wayne Baptist Church and Odd Fellows Lodge No. 14. He passed away at 10:30 p.m. at their home at 3420 Beaver Avenue from a cerebral hemorrhage on January 31, 1924.

After Frank died Anna Eliza moved to 4217 Arlington Avenue in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she died at 3:30 a.m. on May 28, 1930. She was 72 years of age. She had been ill for seven weeks. She was buried beside her husband in the IOOF Cemetery in Adams Township, Allen County, Indiana. She was a member of South Wayne United Brethern Church. At the time of her death her children were living at the following locations:

- I. Ona Frisby at home, never married
- Roger Lovall Frisby - Kansas City, MO
- Jennie Bell Frisby Berdeman - Huntington Beach, CA
- Ethlan Candis Frisby Armstrong - Ft. Wayne, IN
- Frances Detties Frisby died in infancy

Frances Dettie Frisby died in 1894 just a few months after her birth on September 23, 1893. She is buried in the IOOF Fellows Cemetery in New Haven, Indiana beside her father.

I. Ona Frisby never married. She retired in 1945 from her job in the alterations department of Wolf & Dessauer, where she was a member of its Quarter Century Club. She was a member of South Wayne Baptist Church. She passed away in Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana on August 11, 1954 and was buried beside her mother in the IOOF Cemetery in New Haven, Indiana.

Sources:

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*The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.* 5-3-1921 Samuel Brenton Lovall obituary p. 9 c. 3  
*The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.* 8-12-1954 I. Ona Farisby obituary p. 20, c. 4  
*The Fort Wayne News Sentinel.* 2-1-1924 Frank H. Frisby obituary p. 29 c. 3

*The Fort Wayne News Sentinel*. 5-28-1930 Anna E. Lovall Frisby  
obituary p 12 c. 2

*The Fort Wayne Sentinel*. 12-218-1879.

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1910, and 1920

Website for Maplewood Cemetery, Hopkins Township, Allegan  
County, Michigan.

[www.harperfuneralhome.com/about.html](http://www.harperfuneralhome.com/about.html)

\*These books had lots of information that was a good starting point; however, when compared to census records; birth, marriage, and death records; and obituaries, they had incorrect dates, etc.

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## THE GREAT BLACK SWAMP

By Robert F. Schmidt

Last month, *The Hoosier Packet* contained an article about the Grand Coulee in eastern Washington, where glaciers had left a dry fertile valley that only needed water to turn it into productive farmland. In this issue we will explore another area that was greatly impacted by glaciers about 15,000 years ago that left a flooded forested plain that required the removal of water to become productive.

Indians avoided the area of northwest Ohio because of the swampy soil, heavy forestation and undergrowth. The early whites coming into the area called it The Great Black Swamp. It covered an area about the size of the state of Connecticut, 120 miles long and up to 40 miles wide, and extended from Sandusky, Ohio, to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Although this was a terrible place to build a road, it seemed that a level terrain with plenty of water could be a logical place to build canals. However, digging a channel through the muck and mire made digging more difficult and bogged down the teamsters' two wheel carts loaded with the soggy soil.

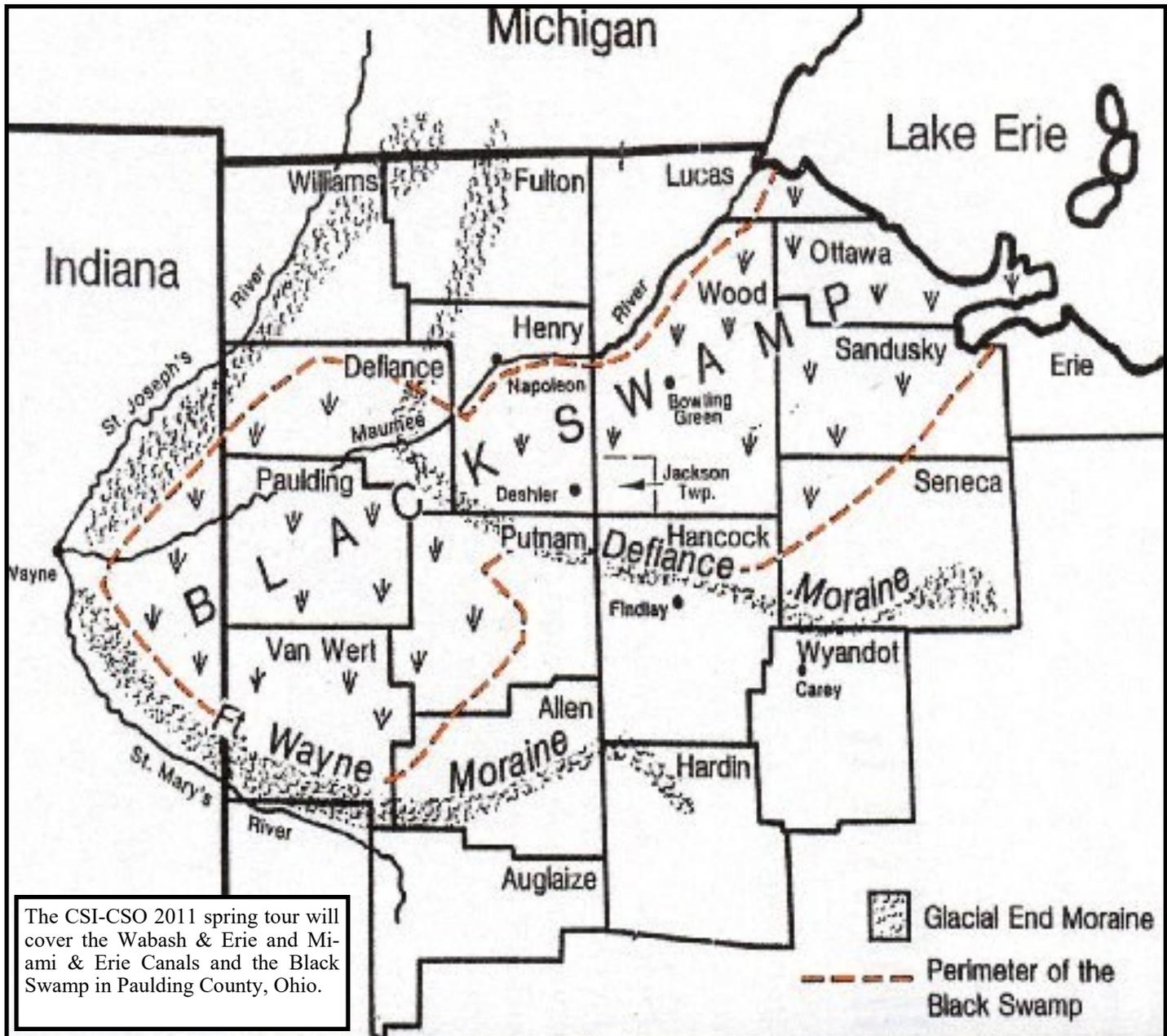
The glaciers that developed in the late Pleistocene, blocked the Saint Lawrence river, formed glacial lake Maumee and forced melting waters to the southwest out through the Fort Wayne trough. The waters poured southwest into the Wabash river. Evidence of this glaciation today is seen in Fort Wayne by the numerous sand and gravel companies in the area, a drumlin known as Fox Island and the wetlands of Eagle Marsh. This sandy wetland extends all the way to Huntington, Indiana, and is about 80,000 acres of marshy soil.

As the glacier retreated, a glacial lake remained over this region for thousands of years rotting vegetation and aquatic life that built up a rich soil in the lake bottom. The lake slowly backed into today's Lake Erie leaving behind old shorelines and terminal moraines that helped hold water into this pear shared region of western Ohio.

When early explorers reached the region it was very foreboding. It was heavily forested with standing water sometimes waist deep and muck that could suck up man and beast. Black flies and mosquitoes were everywhere. Malaria and ague took a toll on human existence. The land was filled with snakes and water creatures. The foliage blocked out the sun during the day and at night it was very black. One early resident of Paulding County remarked: "We read that God separated the land from the water, but here is a place He forgot."

About the only activity here during the early pioneer period was military movement through the swamp. General Anthony Wayne's legions chopped their way through the forest on their way to the lower Maumee and Fallen Timbers in 1794. The scouts of Wayne's troops had a difficult time keeping the segments of the army together as they worked their way through this flooded waste land. Again during the War of 1812, the troops sent to the Erie front, to Fort Meigs and other spots had great difficulty in breaching the swamp.

The Black Swamp is bisected by the Maumee River, which extends from Fort Wayne to Toledo. At Defiance, Ohio, the Auglaize River enters the Maumee from the south and the Tiffin River enters it from the north and provide most of the drainage of the swamp. To the east the Portage River drains into Lake Erie near Sandusky.



**THE GREAT BLACK SWAMP**

Map courtesy of Maumee Valley Historical Society

Before the canal era, there was little reason for settlers to come to this region since there was much more desirable land to be found to its south, north and even west. Also the Maumee was not really good for transportation. It was very shallow in spots, there were 16 miles of rapids at Grand Rapids, Ohio and the river meandered across the swamp, greatly lengthening any journey by canoe or boat. It certainly was unsuitable for steamboats. Even today there is no commercial transportation on this river.

In 1827 the federal government offered Indiana a land grant to build a canal from the Tippecanoe River near Lafayette, Indiana to the Auglaize River at Defiance. Indiana had five years

to begin building the canal. In its 1834 negotiations with Ohio, Indiana agreed to turn over the portion of the land grant in Ohio if Ohio would build a canal to Lake Erie and not charge a different toll to Indiana traffic on the waterway. The fact that this canal was to be built and Ohio's plan to extend the Miami canal at Dayton through the swamp to Defiance added economic value to the swamplands.

Indiana began building the Wabash & Erie Canal in 1832 to the west toward Huntington, Indiana. Although Ohio had accepted the land grant, it had problems of its own with the 1834-35 boundary dispute with Michigan territory. According to the terms of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, the borderline from Lake Michigan was assumed to place Maumee Bay in Ohio. In

fact the geographic location of Lake Michigan was further south thus Toledo and the Maumee Bay appeared to remain in Michigan.

Again the Black Swamp played a role. Michigan claimed the swamp formed a natural barrier for the state of Ohio and that the Toledo strip should remain in Michigan. Ohio needed the bay if it was to build a canal terminus and have a port on Lake Erie. The swamp probably helped to reduce the threat of violence as Ohio had great difficulty in moving a military force of any numbers to the Toledo area. Without detailing the whole conflict, it was resolved by letting Ohio have the 5-8 mile Toledo strip and giving Michigan an additional portion of the upper peninsula.

The Wabash & Erie Canal was finally completed in Paulding County in 1843 and the canal opened between Lafayette, Indiana, and Toledo. The Miami & Erie Canal was extended from the south to Junction, Ohio, where the two canals met in 1845. The economic benefits of the Black Swamp could now be realized since products had a way to reach markets. As the land was cleared trees were cut. Although some were just burned, others were used for lumber products, cord wood, hub and wheel spokes, ship building and barrel staves. Factories developed along the canal, first for barrel staves and then for charcoal and iron furnaces. There were two iron furnaces, one at Antwerp and one at Paulding. These operated from 1865-1880-86. Iron ore was brought by canal boat and smelted using the charcoal produced from the timberlands.

Once the land was cleared they still had to drain it in

order for it to be farmed. In the early years drainage was performed by nailing together two boards at right angles forming a V. This structure was inverted into the ground so that water could pass. Later good clay was found and an industry of tile making developed. At first this tile was laid manually. Then mechanical trenching machines were developed so that fields could more easily be trenched, tiled and drained. Through draining the swamp by 1880 and eliminating the malaria mosquito, the health of the community improved.

Today, this region has some of the best agricultural land in the country. Corn, wheat, soybeans and even food crops like tomatoes are grown commercially. This area remains largely agricultural and has no large cities in the old Black Swamp area. Even though remnants of the old swamp are hard to find, nature would quickly return the land to a swamp again without it being drained.

### Paulding County, Ohio

**John Paulding**, 1758-1818, was a New York militia man during the Revolution. In 1870 he and two others captured British Major Andre, who had papers in his boots showing details of West Point, on his trip back from a meeting with Benedict Arnold. The other two men were David Williams and Isaac Van Wert. They also had Ohio counties named for them. Several other states have honored Paulding with county or city names.

See Wikipedia : John Paulding / Paulding county

**Geography:** Located on the Indiana/Ohio state line directly across from Fort Wayne. Paulding county is extremely flat as it lies in the bed of the old Black Swamp. It has two major rivers, - Maumee and Auglaize - and several creeks - Flat Rock, Blue, Prairie.

**Incorporated :** Aug. 1, 1820

**County Seats :**

1820 -38 Attached to Williams county – Defiance ( Bryan 1840)  
 1839-40 New Rochester (gone) – Maumee River  
 1841-50 Charloe – Auglaize River  
 1851- present Paulding – Flat Rock Creek

**Major Towns :** Paulding, Antwerp, Payne, Grover Hill, Oakwood, Cecil

**Other Towns :** Junction, Knoxdale, Charloe,

**Townships: (12)** W = Wabash & Erie M = Miami & Erie

W	Auglaize	- Tributary river flowing north into Maumee River at Defiance
	Benton	- Thomas Hart Benton, US Senator from Missouri 1821-51
	Blue Creek	- Major creek in this township
	Brown	- Fort Brown (1812) confluence of Little Auglaize/Auglaize
	Carryall	- Large rock in Maumee resembles a French carriage of same name
W	Crane	- Oliver Crane, an early settler
W/M	Emerald	- Irish canal workers, Lyal Tate canal contractor / Tate's Landing
	Harrison	- William H Harrison, General & 9 <sup>th</sup> US president
M	Jackson	- Andrew Jackson, General & 7 <sup>th</sup> US president
	Latty	- Alexander Latty, Resident Judge at time of county organization
	Paulding	- John Paulding, county seat
M	Washington	- George Washington, General & 1 <sup>st</sup> US president