

**JOHN TENBROOK CAMPBELL**  
**And His Wabash and Erie Canal Connections**  
By Charles Davis

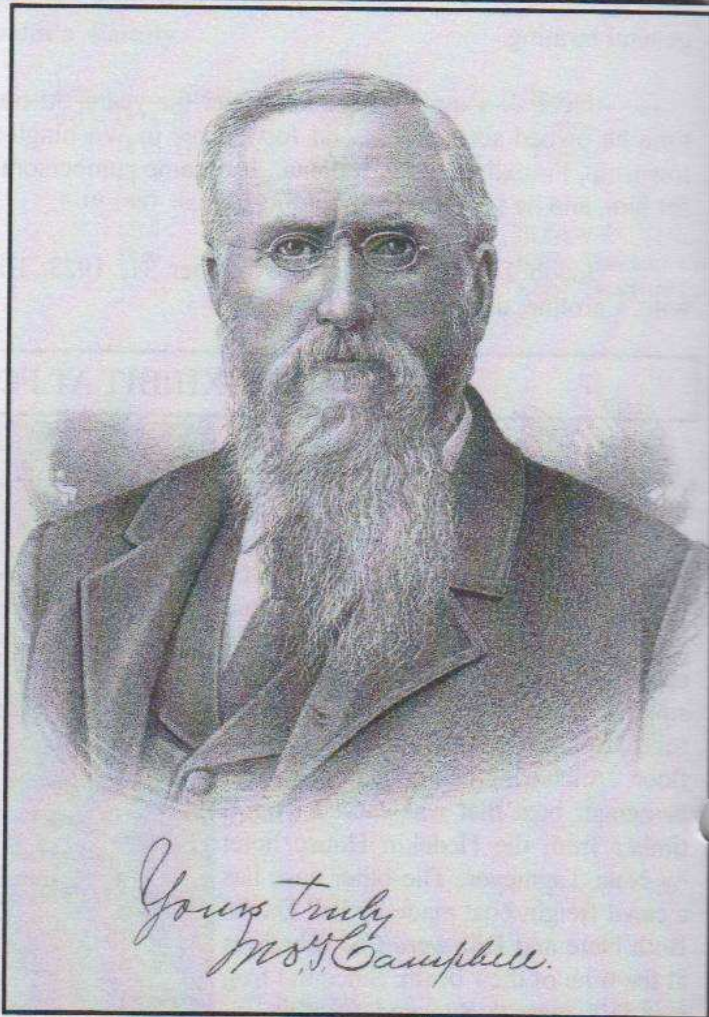
Capt. John T. Campbell was born on a farm about a mile north of Montezuma on May 21, 1833 to Joseph and Rachel (Ten Brook) Campbell. Originally the TenBrooks spelled that name as TinBroech, in Parke county TinBrook and eventually Tenbrook. So the different spellings will appear through out this story.

Rachel Ten Brook, our subject's mother, was a native of Pennsylvania and was born near Williamsport, Lycoming county on June 19, 1814. Her father, Conrad Ten Brook, was born near Trenton, New Jersey and traced his ancestry to Holland. During the Revolutionary War John Ten Brook, father of Conrad and our subject's great grandfather, was Major of a battalion, which he commanded at the battle of Trenton. It was the custom to assign Dutch prisoners to the residences of Hollanders in order that the soldiers in the service of Great Britain might be converted to sympathize with the Colonials and, after the battle of Saratoga, Major Ten Brook entertained at his house the Hessian prisoner and general, Baron Riedesel.

After the war, Major Ten Brook sold his farm at Trenton, taking his pay in Continental money, which was practically worthless. After settling in Lycoming county, he again began the battle against adverse circumstances in an effort to maintain his family. Later Conrad Ten Brook moved to Butler county, Ohio, and, after a residence of three years, moved to Parke county, Indiana about 1826. Rachel Ten Brook grew to womanhood in Parke county and was married at the age of seventeen to Joseph Campbell.

Joseph Campbell, our subject's father, was born in Venice Butler county, Ohio on May 11, 1808. His election as Lieutenant Colonel of the new militia Regiment is recorded in Rockville's *Wabash Herald* on February 11, 1832 page 2. He was familiarly known as Col. Campbell. He, with his brother-in-laws, John R. and Andrew Tenbrook, bought the saw mill at the head of and above the water falls at Devils Den from William Rubottom for \$750. on August 25, 1834. Deed Record 2/106 The mill was run by a "Flutter Wheel" that Mr. Rubottom had built. For some time Joseph engaged in running boats down to New Orleans. He was six feet four inches in height and was a well known wrestler, an unerring rifle shot and a swift runner.

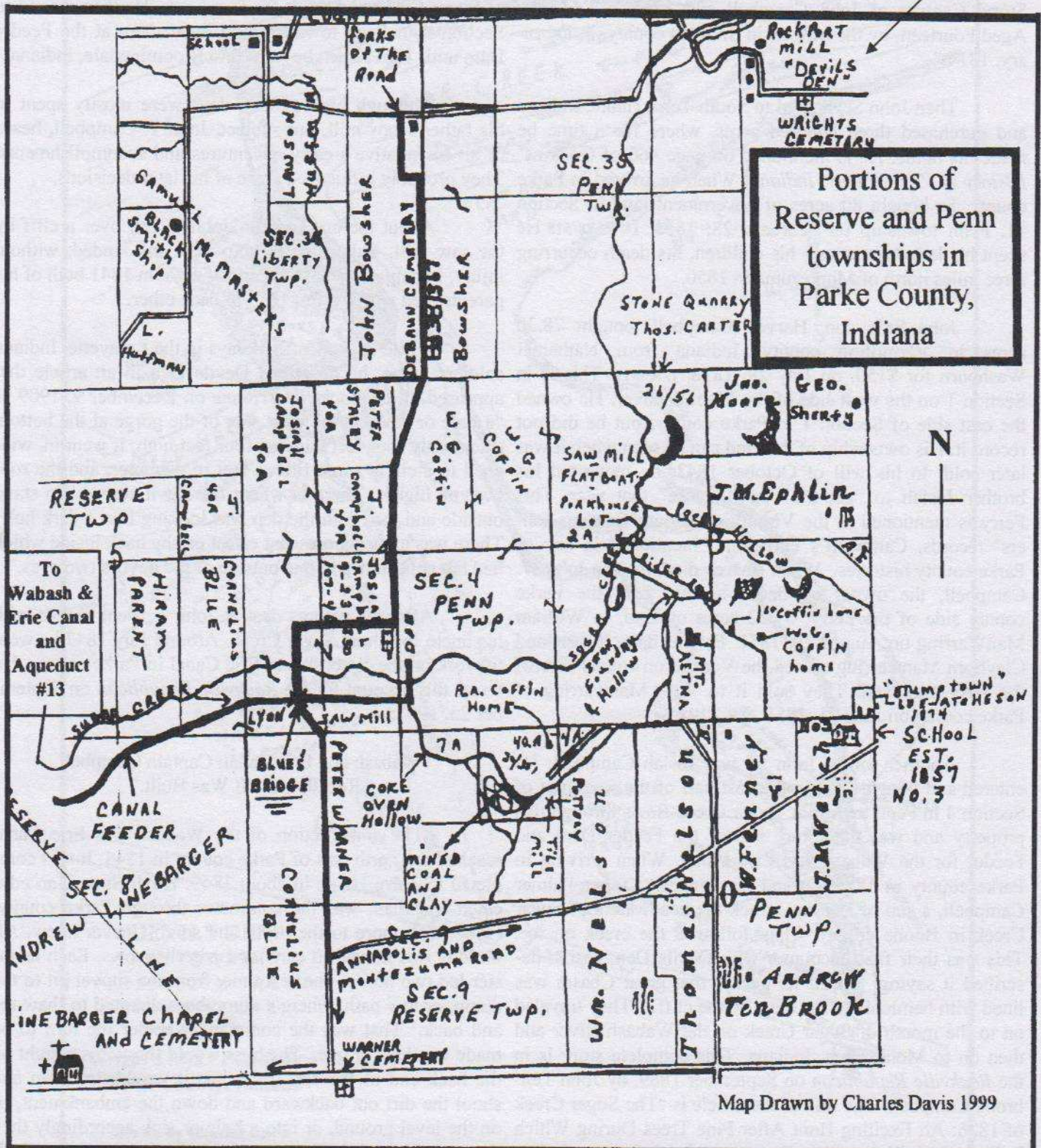
Joseph was the son of John Campbell Sr., a native of Lancaster, Massachusetts, who had moved when young



**JOHN TENBROOK CAMPBELL**  
**Born May 21, 1833 ~ Died April 30, 1911**  
*Portrait and Biographical Record of Parke,  
Vermillion and Fountain Counties, 1893.*

to Lake George and later proceeded west into the Empire State. While there he had a terrible encounter with a bear. During this encounter he displayed his coolness and courage in the presence of danger so characteristic of our pioneer forefathers. The bear came running down the slope of a hill and, dashing at its intended victim, threatened to destroy his life in an instant. Seizing the opportune moment, Campbell thrust the muzzle of his gun down the throat of Bruin and the tables were at once turned. In other affairs John Sr. showed himself the possessor of courage, valor and energy. From New York he moved to Butler county, Ohio where he purchased fifty acres of unimproved land from John Cleve Symmes. Later he sold that tract and bought one hundred and sixty acres at Paddles Run, where he resided for several years. After the death of his wife he moved to Sullivan county, Indiana where one of his sons, John Jr., was stolen by the Indians and never heard of again. This story of John





This map shows the location of Sugar Creek, Canal Feeder, Blue's Bridge, Coke Oven Hollow, Foundry, etc.



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Jr. was published in *the Rockville Tribune* on December 26, 1906 and was told by John T. Campbell: "A War of 1812 Story. Capture of John Campbell and Verison Edwards. Aged Fourteen, by the Indians in Sullivan county, in February, 1814."

Then John Sr. moved to South Terre Haute, Indiana and purchased three hundred acres, where for a time he made his home. He is mentioned on page 460 of Gookins' *History of Vigo County, Indiana*. When he arrived in Parke county, he bought 80 acres of government land in Section 11, Penn township on February 28, 1826. D. R. 88/518 He spent his last days among his children, his death occurring three miles north of Montezuma in 1850.

John Sr.'s son, Harvey Campbell, bought 78.30 acres in Vermillion county, Indiana from Nathaniel Washburn for \$150. on July 28, 1838. D.R.6/110 This is in Section 1 on the west side of the Wabash River. He owned the east side of Section 1 in Parke county, but he did not record it. His ownership of the land can be seen when it was later sold. In his will of October 1842, he requested his brother Josiah to "get the Ferry license" that year. This Ferry is mentioned in the Vermillion county Commissioners' records. Campbell's Ferry isn't mentioned in any of Parke county histories. When Harvey died, his son John W. Campbell, the owner by decent-as-heir, sold the Parke county side of the Ferry, 57.22 acres of land, to William Manwarring on August 29, 1851. By this date, Robert and Clayborn Manwarring owned the Vermillion county side of the ferry and land. They sold it to Wm. Manwarring of Parke county on June 21, 1851. D. R. 12/489

Another son of John Sr. was Josiah Campbell. He entered and bought land in the east half of the west half of Section 4 in Penn township. Sugar Creek flows through this property and was the future site of the Feeder Dam and Feeder for the Wabash and Erie Canal. When arriving in Parke county in 1826, he and his nephew, Luther Palmer Campbell, a son of Harvey, struck the headwaters of Sugar Creek in Boone county. They followed the creek on ice. This was their first encounter with Devils Den. Josiah described it saying, "in all its purity, that great Chasm was lined with hemlock on the crest by the cliff." They traveled on to the mouth of Sugar Creek on the Wabash River and then on to Montezuma, Indiana. This complete story is in *the Rockville Republican* on September 1889, by John Tenbrook Campbell. The title of the article is "The Sugar Creek of 1826: An Exciting Hunt After Pine Trees During Which Indians And Wolves Are Encountered—A Strange Indian Grave—Attacked At Night."

Josiah Campbell and his brother-in-law, David Merriwether, took over Salmon Lusk Mills at the Narrows of Sugar Creek and ran it for four years. He then moved to Section 4 in Penn township and lived there at the Feeder Dam until 1861. Then he moved to Bloomingdale, Indiana.

Although his boyhood days were mostly spent in his father's saw mill, our subject, John T. Campbell, heard of all his relative's early adventures and accomplishments. They probably influenced some of his later decisions.

About the age of four, John T. fell over a cliff by the saw mill, a distance of sixty feet and landed, without injury, in a mud hole. At the age of eight in 1841 both of his parents died within a few days of each other.

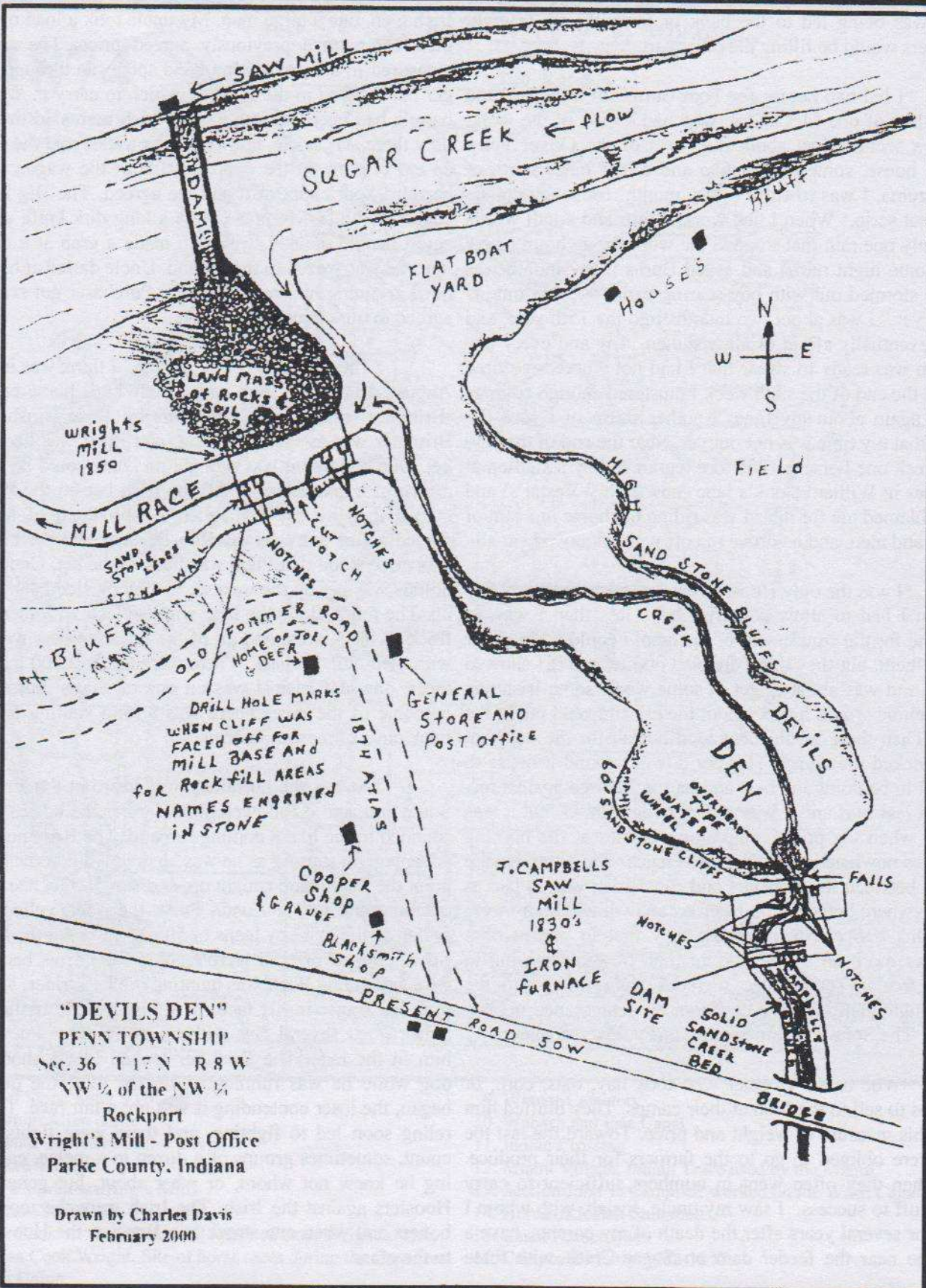
While living his final days in the Lafayette, Indiana soldiers home, he described Devils Den in an article that appeared in *the Rockville Tribune* on December 9, 1909 as "a hole or cave on the west side of the gorge at the bottom (then) only four feet wide by four feet high. It went in, widened to a circle some fifteen feet in diameter, and the roof became higher. There is where the Devil stayed. To stand outside and look into the den was looking into a dark hole. There was a phosphorescent effect on the back inside which had the appearance to one outside of the devil's two eyes."

After his parents deaths, John T. went to live with his uncle Josiah on Sugar Creek. Around July 1847 he went to work on the Wabash and Erie Canal in Parke county. He wrote this account for *the Rockville Republican* on September 25, 1907:

"Wabash and Erie Canal; Captain Campbell  
Recalls How It Was Built."

"The construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal reached the north part of Parke county in 1844. It was completed to Terre Haute in about 1849. Hugh Stuard, an educated Irishman, was the contractor through Parke county. How much more to the north and south I never knew. All the dirt was moved in carts and wheelbarrows. Each teamster led two horses one at a time, from the shovel pit to the dump, or tow path, where a dump boss directed to 'haw tee and back.' That was the command whether the turn to be made was haw or gee. The boss would throw his weight on the back end of the cart bed when it would tip down and shoot the dirt out backward and down the embankment, or on the level ground, or into a hole or sink accordingly they would lead the horse and cart back to the shovel pit and lead the other horse and cart to the bank. While one





"DEVILS DEN"  
 PENN TOWNSHIP  
 Sec. 36 T 17 N R 8 W  
 NW ¼ of the NW ¼  
 Rockport  
 Wright's Mill - Post Office  
 Parke County, Indiana

Drawn by Charles Davis  
 February 2000



## THE HOOSIER PACKET - AUGUST 2014

horse was being led to the bank or towpath, six to eight shovelers would be filling the other cart.

"I led two horses for Tom Burns, an Irishman, and son-in-law of one McCandry, who had a mile of the work, called a section, just about due west of the Oliver Perry Brown house, some two or two and a half miles north of Montezuma. I was to work a 'dry month' for seven dollars in 'Canal scrip.' When I had worked four and a half weeks with only one rain that stopped the work for an hour, (there were some night rains) and asked Burns if my month was up. He stormed out with boy-scaring oaths — "that time is not up yet." I was about two months into my 15th year, and I was eventually afraid of all Irishmen. Any and every one of them was ready to swear that I had not worked my time out. At the end of the sixth week I mustered enough courage to ask again about my time. Another storm of curses declared that my time was not out yet. Near the end of the seventh week one horse got his fore leg kicked by a stallion at the races in William Cook's lane (now Henry Vestal's) and Burns blamed me for it, as I was riding the horse in a jam of horses and men, and he drove me off without any pay at all.

"I was the only Hoosier among 150 Irish. Every day at noon I had to allow two Irish boys less than I was, to whip me for the amusement of the men. I could whip either one of them, but they often doubled on me, and if I showed energy and was about to get in some work, some Irishman from behind would hit me about the ear and send me to the grass. Then there would be a loud hurrah for the boy that had knocked the dournd Hoosier down. I found it better to pretend to be doing my best and let the fight go against me, as I got less hurt and it was sooner over with. O' but it was a sight when the priest came along. Moses at the burning bush was nowhere in his abject reverence. The bitter, hostile feeling between the Hoosiers and canal Irish was as bad as it is anywhere between the Negroes and whites. Many were the fights between them where they met in parties of a dozen or more on a side. Liquor then flowed from jug to mouth freely. Temperance societies were limited to the 'Washingtonians,' a very conservative temperance organization. The Sons of Temperance came a few years later.

"Woe to the Hoosier who took hay, oats, corn, or potatoes to sell to the Irish at their camps. They bluffed him out of his measure of weight and price. Toward the last the Irish were obliged to go to the farmers for their produce. Even then they often went in numbers sufficient to carry their bluff to success. I saw my uncle, Josiah, with whom I lived for several years after the death of my parents, have a hot time near the feeder dam on Sugar Creek with three

Irish men, one a large man. My uncle took a load of corn to their camp on a previously agreed price. The corn was measured in a barrel with a hand spike ran through big auger holes bored in the sides by which to carry it. When five barrels had been carried, the big Irish man said there were only three. My uncle, knowing their tricks, told me to throw an ear of corn on the opposite side of the wagon for each barrel. I kept count also and we agreed. The Big Irishman began his bluff. My uncle drew a long dirk knife which he could handle quickly. Irishman made a grab at a club, but one end was frozen to the ground. Uncle darted at him like a hawk, running him several yards. Purchaser got scared and agreed to our count.

"The racing in 'Cook's Lane,' I think was in July or August, 1847. The Irish had a pony-built horse called the 'Brimmer' raised near Annapolis by Jesse Hinshaw. The Brimmer was as quick as a cat, and Puett was back of the bet. One hundred it was thought no horse could beat him in a race of a quarter mile. All the Irish bet on the Brimmer, owned then by one Gallagher. Austin Puett of Rockville owned a fine sorrel mare. Bob Barnaby did the betting. It was understood that Puett was back of the bet. One hundred dollars was bet by the owners, and many side bets were put up. The fence along the land was as black with men as of a flock of blackbirds, and all of the fence corners were filled with men on horseback. There were easily 2,000 men at the races, one-half Irish. I was on one of Burns' horses at the outcome of the race. There was a long waiting to get the track clear of men and horses.

"At last the hurraing was heard at the start at the South end, and it followed northward as the horses ran, and sounded to me like a coming tornado. The Brimmer got the advantage in starting as he was so quick, but at the half way point the Puett mare caught up, and was 50 feet ahead of the outcome and young Austin Puett, the rider, yelled like an Indian as the mare by leaps of 50 passed under the line. The riders jumped off and were leading the horses back to the wire and young Puett was taunting the Irish rider, and snapping his finger in his face. It was stated the Irishman had struck Puett several cuts with his cowhide as Puett passed him in the race. The Brimmer looked like a short-legged dog while he was running. After the race, the quarreling began, the loser contending it was not a fair race. The quarreling soon led to fighting, and there were fights beyond count, sometimes groups of a dozen in a melee, each fighting he knew not whom, or what about, but generally the Hoosiers against the Irish. The Irish were the most expert boxers and when one struck at a Hoosier, the Hoosier went to the grass.

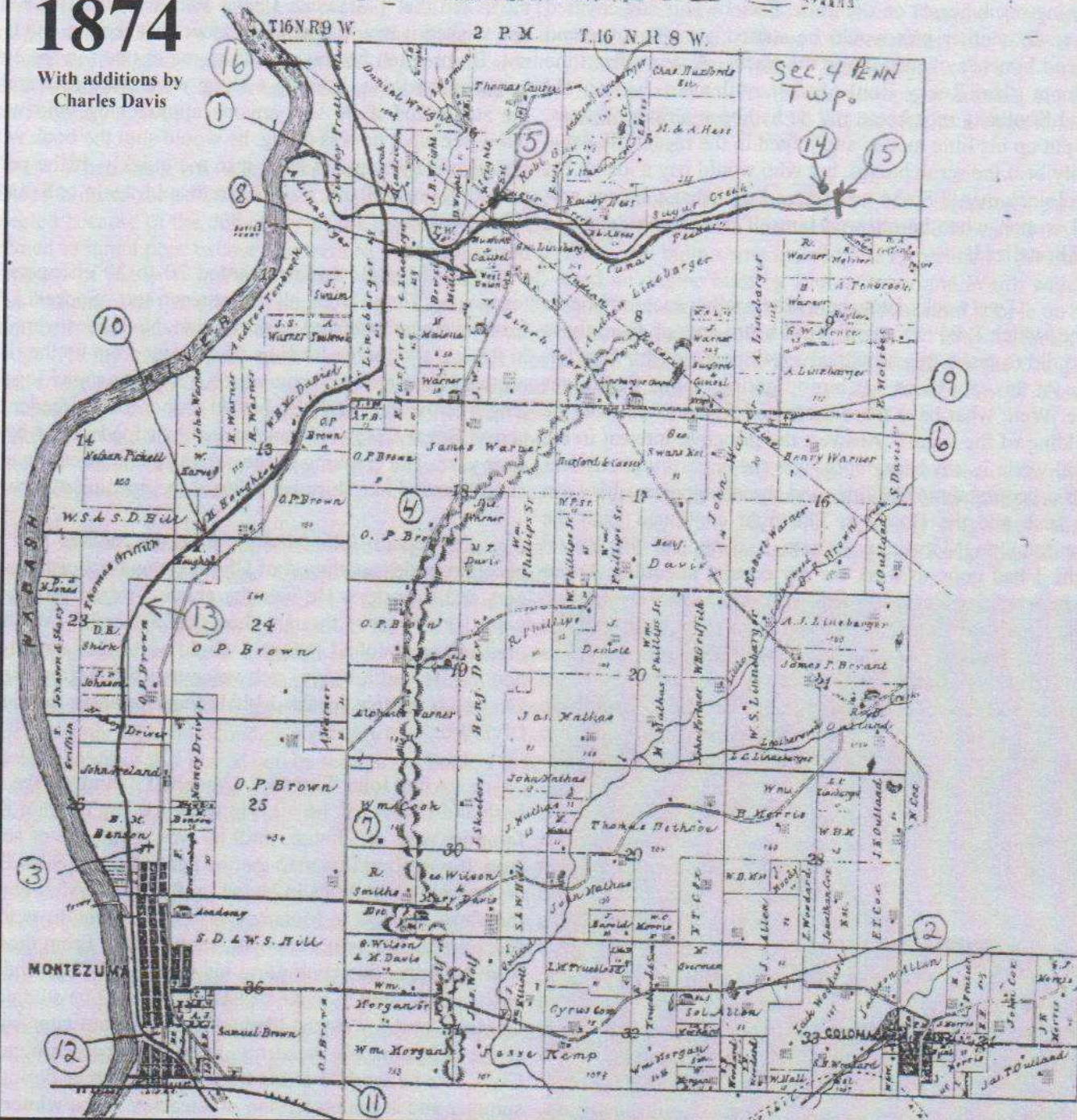


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1874

With additions by  
Charles Davis

MAP OF RESERVE TOWNSHIP



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Chief Stone Eater's village   | 9. Warner Cemetery   |
| 2. Solomon Allen home  | 10. Wabash and Erie Canal                                    |
| 3. Oakland Cemetery/Indian Burials   | 11. Indian Crossing  |
| 4. Yankee Town   | 12. Miami Village, Indian Trace used by the Miami            |
| 5. Beard's/ Manwarring's Mills   | 13. Section John T. Campbell worked on the W&E Canal in 1847 |
| 6. Andrew TenBrook   | 14. Home of Josiah Campbell                                  |
| 7. Wm. Cook or "Cook's Lane," father of Gov. Wright's wife,<br>Louisa Cook Wright. Site of horse races during the Canal era. | 15. Canal Feeder Dam   |
| 8. West Union  | 16. Campbell's Ferry 1838-1842                               |



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"While this fighting was going on, other men were running scrub horses on the track. Ere one pair had covered the track another pair would be started, running over and around bunches of men along the tracks. A negro from the Coloma (then Rocky Run) Quaker settlement, had an old blind Kentucky race horse and he had been a rider of races. He put up his little money and joined in the races. His horse easily beat the scrub horses, but who would pay a losing bet to a [black man]? So he was fleeced. O' what a savage animal is man when he allowed himself to become degraded and brutalized!

"Two weeks later there was another race in Cook's Lane, which I did not attend, but I heard enough from those who did to make this article cover 40 pages of the *Republican*. At this race there was more fighting than at the former race. Well, what have these races and fights to do with the building of the canal? Answer: the principle interest in the canal while it was being built, was the actions and customs of the people along the line, and the antagonisms between the Irish and the Hoosiers. The fight continued from the race track to Montezuma where it continued till late at night. I had gone to work for my cousin, attending Arthur "Patterson" Ferry at the mouth of Big Raccoon [creek], two miles south of Montezuma. I could hear the yelling of the men and hear stones and brick bats strike the houses as sound travels easy on water. At last a few shots were heard and the rioting soon ceased. Single barreled pistols were then in use, but few were carried. One shot then had more terror for rioters than a wagon load of revolvers have now.

"Burns, whom I worked for had a double or log cabin with a partition. The horses were stabled in the east part and the family in the west. An Irishman and I slept in the lower bunk next to the horses, and the hired girl and two children in the bunk above us. Burns and his wife slept in a bunk at the south side. He and his wife quarreled all the time and seemed to enjoy it. One night he went to bed first. I was in bed, and Mrs. Burns was doing something and had a lighted candle in her hand. Burns was cussing and damning her. She was his match. After he had been in bed a few minutes, he yelled out, 'Now ye blasted spalpeen, ye have made me forget to say me prayers!' He raised up in bed, crossed his breast with back on the pillow and went on cursing his wife. When she blew out the light and got in bed the quarrel ceased.

"I had bought a second hand accordion and swapped to Eli Hunt for a three-stringed fiddle. This I swapped to Tom Gilkeson for a New Testament. During the seven weeks of a 'dry month' I worked for Burns I read

much of that Testament and nothing I ever read so affected me as did that Testament. I have read it several times since and wished it would again reproduce that feeling, but it did not. Burns often borrowed it from me at noon in the stable and would read it, keeping a sharp watch thru the crack of the stable and if he saw anyone approaching who would likely see what he was doing, he would shut the book with a slap like a fly trap and hand it to me quickly. If the person passed on out of the way Burns would again call for the 'little book.'

"My uncle Josiah boarded 20 to 30 choppers and teamsters. There were all 'Hoosiers' and 'Suckers.' The teams were two to three yoke of oxen. No horses were used in the log and timber hauling. The hauler went up the ridges north of the Creek and came back with long round logs full length of the trees and also hewed timber for the feeder dam across Sugar Creek. They dragged their loads close by our door yard. The cracking of the ox whips and swearing at the oxen sounded like skirmish firing at the opening of a battle.

"Captain John Lindsay, from the Indiana Iron Furnace five miles southwest of Clinton, was boss of the choppers and teamsters. He was the greatest expert with an ox whip I ever saw. I thought then that if I could ever be as great a man as John Lindsay, I would never seek any greater honors. He had a heavy, rich voice and was a great singer. He was a captain in the 14th Indiana Infantry during the Civil War."

After John Tenbrook Campbell's stint on the Wabash and Erie canal, he went to work for Dr. William Kyle, farming, west of Clinton, until he was at the age of seventeen. It was from this man that he learned about Silas Bowers and his hired thugs in Numa on the canal. After leaving that farm, he went to Montezuma for seven months working at the trade of a carpenter with Aaron Wade. From there he went to Annapolis continuing his trade in Gifford and Evans' cabinet shop to make bedsteads. In 1852 he studied for one term at the Western Manual Labor School later known as the Bloomingdale Academy. Prior to the beginning of the Civil War he worked at his trade as a carpenter during the summer and at the profession of a teacher in the winter season.

He spent another term at the Academy. While there, he first got to know Joe Cannon in the fall of 1853. Cannon was a clerk in Samuel T. Ensey's general store at Annapolis. By the next summer John T. and Joe Cannon became intimate. Joe Cannon, (His full name was Joseph John Gurney Cannon, named for an English Quaker preacher.) had



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learned the art of debating in Annapolis. "It was no uncommon occurrence for the debate to prolong itself to 10, 11, and sometimes to 12 o'clock at night in the winter." For a comprehensive study see the *Rockville Republican* article "Old Annapolis" by Capt. John T. Campbell on January 27 and February 3, 1909.

When the Civil War broke out, John T. Campbell offered himself for enlistment to Captain Foot, but he was rejected because of the deficiency of his upper teeth, which seemed to him a poor excuse. He went to work and raised a company of his own in Parke county called Company H, 21st Indiana. On the 5th of August, 1862, Capt. John T. Campbell was severely wounded at the battle of Baton Rouge. He lay in a hospital until October 29, and after not recovering, resigned and went home. He hobbled about on crutches until the 20th of June, 1863, when he was appointed Provost-Marshal of the seventeenth District, the duties of which called him to Rockville, where he was a permanent resident thereafter.

At this time the Copper Head movement was going strong in Howard and Sugar Creek townships with their base near Jackville or Jacksonville (Wallace) in Fountain county on the Cunningham farm called Devil's or "Hell's Half Acre." John T. was involved in quelling the movements of the Copperheads raiding and killing Union Patriots. One such raid by the Copperheads was on George Lay (Lee) and his wife on Monday night April 18, 1864. The whole account of that period can be read in my book, *Parke County, The Civil War During The Canal Era* by Charles Davis, 2006 in the Rockville Library.

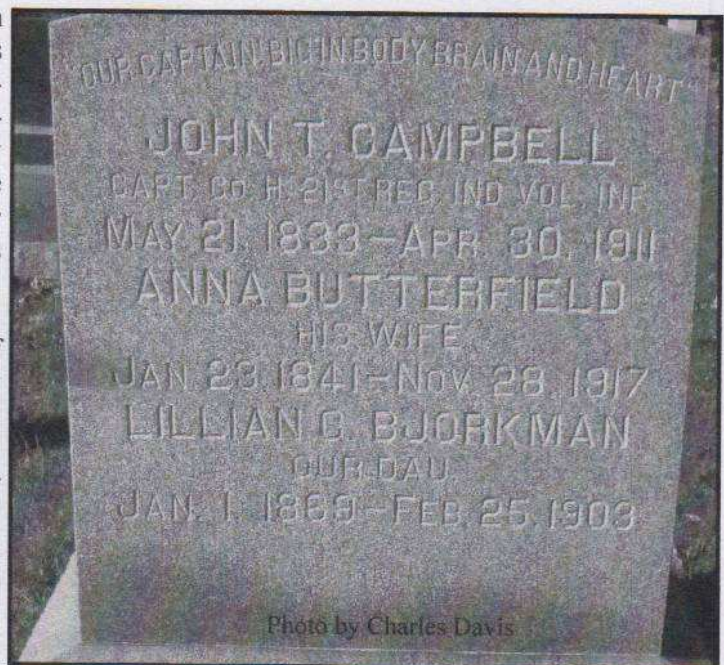
In October 1863, John T. was elected Treasurer of Parke county and served two terms. From 1869, until July of 1870 he held the office of Assistant Assessor of Internal Revenue. In 1878 Capt. Campbell was called to be an assistant in the Indiana Bureau of Statistics and Geology under Professor John Collett. For ten years, 1884-1894, he was Surveyor of Parke county. During that time he worked at civil engineering, ditch, levee, gravel road and railroad construction.

John T. was instrumental in surveying, ditching and draining "Niggerleg" Lake in 1886. This is north and east of Rosedale and covered over a thousand acres. It was named such for it was the home of Chief Negroleg and his Miami village. When the Chief's leg suffered a wound and turned purple and black his Miami family gave him this name. The chief took part in the raid on Fort Harrison north of Terre Haute on September 10, 1812. John T. published an article

on Niggerleg lake in the *Rockville Tribune* on August 19, 1886 at the time of his work there. Then he wrote another about it for the *Tribune* of December 16, 1908 entitled "Rosedale Swamp" and "Peculiarities of Parke county." These were but a few of his newspaper articles. He began writing for papers in 1859. All his articles are too numerous to print here.

John T. had many of his inventions patented. Among them was a new style boat propeller called the "Fish Tail." He built a boat called "The Experiment" in which he used an engine built by Montgomery and Ward, which we called "Monkey Ward." Along with several people on board he tested the propeller on William or "Billy" Creek (Billy Creek Village east of Rockville) just above the Craig ford. For this story see the *Rockville Republican* of June 12, 1895.

John Tenbrook Campbell spent some of his remaining years in the Veterans nursing home at Lafayette where he died on April 30, 1911. His body was taken back to Rockville and he was laid to rest in the Rockville Cemetery.



OUR CAPTAIN BIG IN BODY BRAIN AND HEART

**JOHN T. CAMPBELL**

CAPT. Co. H. 21st REG. IND. VOL. INF.

MAY 21, 1833 - APR. 30, 1911

ANNA BUTTERFIELD

HIS WIFE

JAN. 23, 1841 - NOV. 28, 1917

LILLIAN C. BJORKMAN

OUR DAU.

JAN. 1, 1869 - FEB. 25, 1903



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Campbell Family Genealogy ~ by Charles Davis							
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place	
John Campbell III (Private in Capt. George Kimball's Co. Battle of Lexington)	9-15-1727		11-04-1791	Adamsville Cem. Wash. Co. NY			
m. Hannah Rogers Nickless	1752		1815				
John Campbell IV	10-28-1770		8-31-1850	Warner Cem. Parke Co. IN			
m. Nancy Rugg	1775		1811	Paddles Run Butler Co OH Presby. Ch. Yard Cin. OH			
<u>Nancy Campbell</u>	9-13-1795	Lancaster MA	1834	Bloomington Parke Co. IN			
m1. Tom Coen					@ 1814		
m2. Alanson Church	1794		1834	Iroquois Co. IL	10-26-1818	Vigo Co. IN	
Mary Church							
Alanson Church	1820	NC	1884	Solano Co. CA			
m. Louisa Commons	1827		1903		6-07-1846	Parke Co. IN	
Joel Church	1822		1852				
Josiah Church	1823		1884				
Elizabeth Church	1827		1872				
Jacob Church							
<u>John Campbell</u>			1798 or 1800	(Stolen by Indians, became Chief, married Indian woman and had children)			
<u>Josiah Campbell</u>	7-03-1803		2-15-1876	Rockville Cem. Parke Co. IN			
m. Nancy M. Parent	11-08-1803		3-02-1881	Rockville Cem. Parke Co. IN	1826		
(children all adopted)				(Lived with niece Mary Lindsey at death)			
Joseph Campbell	1836						
Sylvester Campbell	1838						
Anna M. Campbell	1840						
<u>Dr. Harvey Campbell</u>	1791		1842	(Will Oct. 1842 probated Nov. 1843 Parke Co.)			
m. Lucinda Church	1791		1848	(Will probated Sept. 1848 Parke Co.)			
Luther Palmer Campbell	1820		@1851				
Harvey R. Campbell	1826		2-10-1853	Causey Cem. Penn. Twp. Parke Co.			
m. Hannah Shup	1826		1858	Bloomington Cem. Parke Co.	1-17-1850	Parke Co.	
Daniel Campbell	1-09-1850		2-15-1851	Causey Cem. Penn Twp. Parke Co.			
John W. Campbell	1827		@1879	(Will record Parke Co.)			
m. Amanda R. Thomas					1-06-1876		
Andrew Jackson Campbell	1829		@1851				
Alfred Joel Campbell	1831		@1851				
Captain Josiah Campbell	4-01-1837		3-30-1892	Helts Prairie Cem. Verm. Co. IN			
(Capt. Co.C 18th IN infantry Civil War)							
m. Maria Louisa Moore	1846		1925	Helts Prairie Cem. Verm. Co. IN	1872		
Joseph Rex Campbell	1875		1930	" " " " " "			
Ralph Campbell	1861		1956	" " " " " "			
Mary L. Campbell							
Eliza Church Campbell	1862		1956	" " " " " "			
Helen A. Campbell	1885		1939	" " " " " "			
Claude Campbell	1886		1969	" " " " " "			
m. Geneva M.	1891		1970	" " " " " "			
Lucinda (Lucy) Campbell	12-10-1833		1-01-1918	" " " " " "			
m1. John Hoagland			1861			1852	
(5 children only one lived to adulthood)							
William H. Hoagland	2-00-1853		4-11-1915	Marshall IL Poplar Grove Cem.			
m. Elizabeth McIntire	1862		1943			12-21-1893	Parke
m2. Dr. Erastus Mack	1827		1912			2-18-1866	div. 4-03-1878
Mary Campbell							
Fidella Maria Campbell							
Elizabeth Campbell							
<u>Elizabeth Campbell</u>	3-23-1806		11-24-1848	Helts Prairie Cem. Verm. Co. IN			
m. David Meriwether*	1779		1855	Forest Park Cem. Georgetown IL			
Nancy R. Meriwether	8-13-1832		1-06-1879				
m. William F. Bales	1828					11-06-1851	
Emily Bales	1852						
George Bales	1854						
Julia Bales	1859						
Frank Bales	1866						
Carries Bales	1870						
John Meriwether							



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Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
Josiah Meriwether	1838		1900	Bales Cem. Helt Twp. Verm. Co. IN		
m. Susan	1838		1931			
William W. Meriwether	1842					
Joseph Perry Meriwether	9-13-1844		3-22-1912	Vigo Co. IN		
<u>Joseph Campbell</u>	5-11-1808		1-22-1841	Warner Cem. Parke Co. IN		
m. Rachel Tenbrook **	6-10-1814		1-05-1841	" " " " "		
<b>John T. Campbell</b>	<b>5-21-1833</b>		<b>4-30-1911</b>	<b>Rockville Cem. Parke Co. IN</b>		
m. Ann Bartha Butterfield	1841	Hamilton Co OH	11-27-1917	" " " " "	1864	
Mary Evangeline Campbell	7-12-1866					
m. Gustaf August Peterson	10-03-1867					
Ralph Campbell Peterson (another child)	1-13-1891					
Lillian Beatrice Campbell	1-01-1869		2-25-1903	" " " " "		
m. Ernest J. Bjorkman					3-01-1891	NY City div.
1893						
Donald Bjorkman	12-??-1891		aft. 1903			
<u>Joel Campbell</u>	7-07-1810		6-07-1901	Oakwood Cem. Will Co. IL		
m. Mary (Polly) Ensworth***	8-01-1807		8-26-1889	" " " " "	10-29-1837	
Oliver Campbell	1840		1850			
<u>Jonas Campbell</u>	1811		1870			
m. Ann Tinbrook					10-22-1835	
Olive J. Campbell						
Barbara Campbell	12-23-1847		9-05-1924	Danville, IL		
m. ? Long						
William H. Campbell						
Rachel Campbell						
Robert T. Campbell						
Francis F. Campbell						
Nancy Campbell						
* David Meriwether						
m2. Elmira Harkness	1812		3-25-1883	Bloomington Cem. Parke Co.	3-23-1852	Verm. Co IN
Unknown child						
**Rachel's parents						
Conrad TinBrook	1775	NJ	5-30-1839	Warner Cem. Parke Co. IN		
m. Elizabeth Tate	1773		6-15-1866	" " " " "		
*** Polly's m1. Warren Noel					2-03-1833	Parke Co. IN



Home of John Tenbrook Campbell at the southwest corner of Pennsylvania and Michigan Streets in Rockville, Indiana. His wife Anna had her doctor's office in this building.

Photo by Charles Davis 12-4-2004



Harvey R. Campbell B. 1826 ~ D. Feb. 10, 1853  
Son of Harvey Campbell ~ Grandson of Joseph Campbell  
This grave and that of his other son Daniel Campbell  
are not recorded in the cemetery list  
Causey Cemetery, Reserve Twp., Parke Co., Indiana.  
Photo by Charles Davis 2013



# HOWARD AND ITS WABASH AND ERIE CANAL CONNECTIONS

By Charles Davis

As I began doing research for this article, I found two recollections, which I've related below, that gave me clues to help locate old businesses, homes, and owners of lots in Howard. From there I checked deed records, old atlases, and other histories to come to my conclusions about where they were located. I then added how they were connected to the Wabash & Erie Canal, which passed through this area in Parke County, Indiana.

## John TenBrook Campbell

(b. May 25, 1833, d. April 30, 1911)

Captain John TenBrook Campbell was born one and one half miles east of the north end of Montezuma, IN. In 1859 he began writing for the newspapers. He served his country during the Civil War in Company "H" 21st Indiana. In 1878 Captain Campbell was an assistant in the Indiana Bureau of Statistics and Geology under John Collett. From 1884 to 1894, he was surveyor of Parke County.

Among John's inventions was a new style boat propeller called the fish tail propeller. He built a boat called "The Experiment." The engine as built by Montgomery and Ward. He tested it in Williams "Billy" Creek just above the old Craig ford. (Rockville Republican, June 12, 1895)

Campbell grew up at his father's sawmill at "Devils Den." He worked on the Wabash and Erie Canal as a young boy while living with his uncle Josiah Campbell by the Sugar Creek feeder dam, which fed water into the canal. He penned the following story that appeared in **The Rockville Republican** on September 25, 1907.

"W. And E. Canal" Captain Campbell Recalls How It was Built. Horse Race In Cooks Lane. A Big Day in Parke County--The Hoosiers against the Irish--Former Win Fight.

"The construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal reached the north part of Parke County in 1844. It was completed to Terre Haute in about 1848. Hugh Stuard, an educated Irishman, was the contractor thru Parke County. How much more to the north and south I never knew. All the dirt was moved in carts and wheelbarrows. Each teamster led two horses, one at a time, from the shovel pit to the dump, or tow path, where a dump boss directed to 'haw tee and back.' That was the command whether the turn to be made was haw or gee. The boss would throw his weight on the back end of the cart bed when it would tip down and shoot the dirt out backward and down the embankment, or on the level ground, or into a hole or sink accordingly then they would lead the horse and cart back to the shovel pit and lead the other horse and cart to the bank. While one horse was being led to the bank or towpath, six to eight shovelers would be filling the other cart.

"I led two horses for Tom Burns, an Irishman, and son-in-law of one McCandry, who had a mile of the work, called a section, just about due west of the Oliver P. Brown house, some two or two and a half miles north of Montezuma. I was to work a 'dry

month' for seven dollars in 'Canal scrip.' When I had worked four and a half weeks with only one rain that stopped the work for an hour, (there was some night rains) and asked Burns if my month was up. He stormed out with boy-scaring oaths--'that time is not up yet.' I was about two months into my 15th year, and I was eventually afraid of all Irishmen. Any and every one of them was ready to swear that I had not worked my time out. At the end of the sixth week I mustered enough courage to ask again about my time. Another storm of curses declared that my time was not out yet. Near the end of the seventh week one horse got his fore leg kicked by a stallion at the races in Cook's lane (now Henry Vestal's) and Burns blamed me for it, as I was riding the horse in a jam of horses and men, and he drove me off without any pay at all.

"I was the only Hoosier among 150 Irish. Every day at noon I had to allow two Irish boys less than I was, to whip me for the amusement of the men. I could whip either one of them, but they often doubled on me, and if I showed energy and was about to get in some work, some Irishman from behind would hit me about the ear and send me to grass. Then there would be a loud hurrah for the boy that had knocked the dournd (darned or dammed) Hoosier down. I found it better to pretend to be doing my best and let the fight go against me, as I got less hurt and it was sooner over with.

"O' but it was a sight when the priest came along. Moses at the burning bush was nowhere in his abject reverence. The bitter, hostile feeling between the Hoosiers and canal Irish was as bad as it is anywhere between the Negroes and whites. Many were the fights between them where they met in parties of a dozen or more on a side. Liquor then flowed from jug to mouth freely. Temperance societies were limited to the 'Washingtonians,'



a very conservative temperance organization. The Sons of Temperance came a few years later. Woe to the Hoosier who took hay, oats, corn, or potatoes to sell to the Irish at their camps. They bluffed him out of his measure of weight and price. Toward the last the Irish were obliged to go to the farmers for their produce. Even then they often went in numbers sufficient to carry their bluff to success.

"I saw my uncle, (Josiah Campbell) with whom I lived for several years after the death of my parents, have a hot time near the feeder dam on Sugar Creek with three Irish men, one a large man. My uncle took a load of corn to their camp on a previously agreed price. The corn was measured in a barrel with a hand spike ran thru big auger holes bored in the sides by which to carry it. When five barrels had been carried the big Irish man said there were only three. My uncle, knowing their tricks, told me to throw an ear of corn on the opposite side of the wagon for each barrel. I knew there were five. My uncle kept count also and we agreed. The Big Irishman began his bluff. My uncle drew a long dirk knife which he could handle quickly. Irishman made a grab at a club, but one end was frozen to the ground. Uncle darted at him like a hawk, running him several yards. Purchaser got scared and agreed to our count.

"'Famous Race in Cook's Lane.' The racing in Cook's lane, I think was in July or August, 1847. The Irish had a pony-built horse called the "Brimmer" raised near Annapolis by Jesse Hinshaw. The Brimmer was as quick as a cat, and Puett was back of the bet. One hundred it was thought no horse could beat him in a race of a quarter mile. All the Irish bet on the Brimmer, owned then by one Gallagher. Austin Puett of Rockville owned a fine sorrel mare. Bob Barnaby did the betting. It was

understood that Puett was back of the bet. One hundred dollars was bet by the owners, and many side bets were put up. The fence along the land was as black with men as of a flock of blackbirds, and all the fence corners(?) were filled with men on horseback. There were easily 2,000 men at the races, one-half Irish. I was on one of Burns' horses at the outcome of the race. There was a long waiting to get the track clear of men and horses. At last the hurraing was heard at the start at the south end, and it followed northward as the horses ran, and sounded to me like a coming tornado. The Brimmer (Irish horse) got the advantage in starting, as he was so quick, but at the half way point the Puett mare caught up, and was 50 feet ahead at the outcome and young Austin Puett, the rider, yelled like an Indian as the mare by leaps of 50 feet passed under the line. The riders jumped off and was leading the horses back to the wire and young Puett was taunting the Irish rider, and snapping his finger in his face. It was stated the Irishman had struck Puett several cuts with his cowhide as Puett passed him in the race. The Brimmer looked like a short-legged dog while he was running.

"After the race, the quarreling began, the losers contending it was not a fair race. The quarreling soon led to fighting, and there were fights beyond count, sometimes groups of a dozen in a melee, each fighting he knew not whom, or what about, but generally the Hoosiers against the Irish. The Irish were the most expert boxers and when one struck at a Hoosier, the Hoosier went to grass. While this fighting was going on, other men were running scrub horses on the track. Ere one pair had covered the track another pair would be started, running over and around



bunches of men along the tracks. A Negro from the Coloma (then Rocky Run) Quaker settlement, had an old blind Kentucky race horse and he had been a rider of races. He put up his little money and joined in the races. His horse easily beat the scrub horses, but who would pay a losing bet to a 'dammed nigger?' So he was fleeced. O' what a savage animal is man when he allows himself to become degraded and brutalized!

"Two weeks later there was another race in Cooks' lane which I did not attend, but I heard enough from those who did to make this article cover 40 pages of the **Republican**. At this race there was more fighting then at the former race. Well, what have these races and fights to do with the building of the canal? Answer: The principle interest in the canal while it was being built, was the actions and customs of the people along its line, and the antagonisms between the Irish and the Hoosiers. The fight continued from the race track to Montezuma where it continued till late at night. I had gone to work for my cousin, attending ferry (Patterson Ferry) at the mouth of Big Raccoon, two miles south of Montezuma. I could hear the yelling of the men and hear stones and brick bats strike the houses as sound travels easy on water. At last a few shots were heard and the rioting soon ceased. Single barreled pistols were then in use and but few were carried. One shot then had more terror for rioters than a wagon load of revolvers have now.

"Burns, whom I worked for had a double or long cabin with a partition. The horses were stabled in the east part and the family in the west. An Irishman and I slept in the lower bunk next to the horses, and the hired girl and two children in the bunk above us. Burns and his wife slept in a bunk at the south side. He and his wife quarreled all the time and seemed to enjoy it. One night

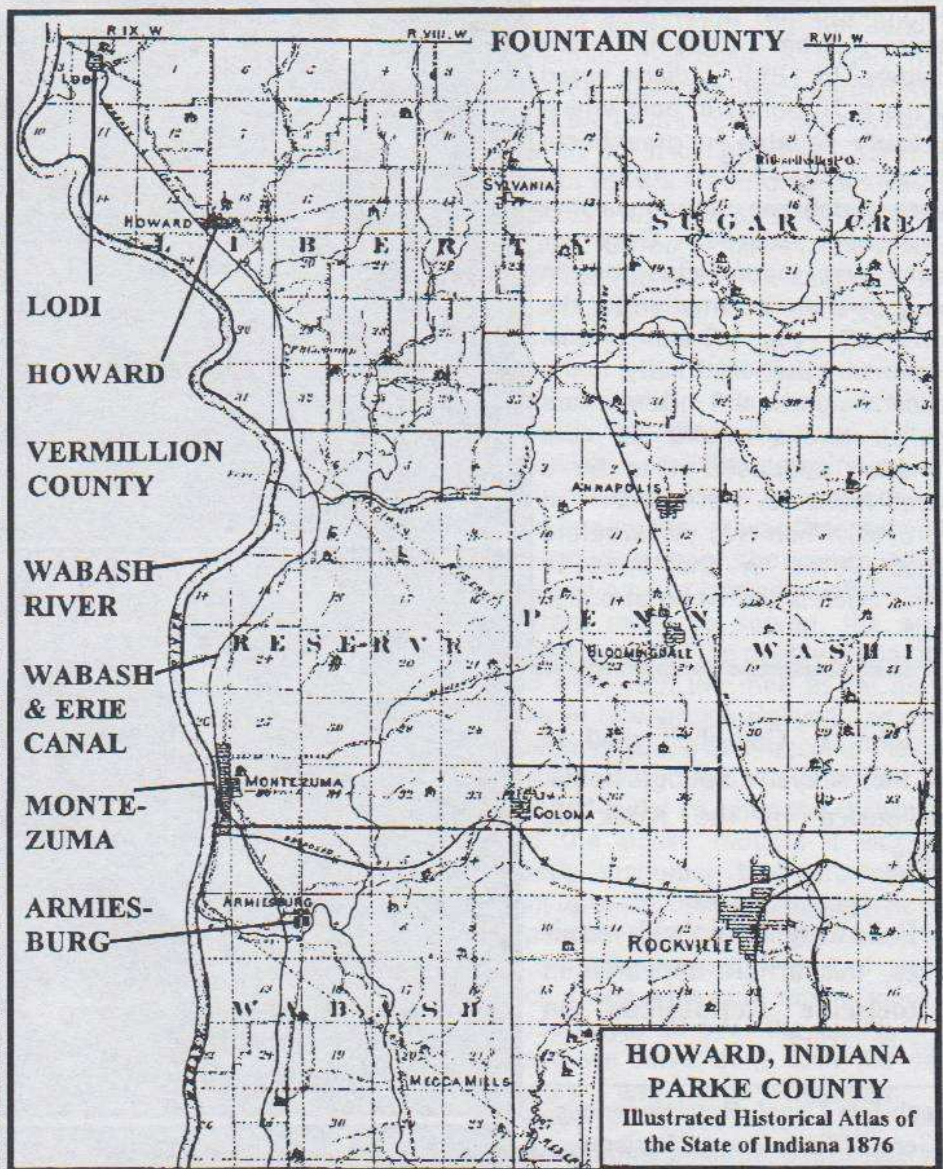


he went to bed first. I was in bed, but Mrs. Burns was doing nothing and had a lighted candle in her hand. Burns was cussing and damming her. She was his match. After he had been in bed a few minutes, he yelled out 'Now ye blasted spalpeen, ye have made me forget to say me prayers!' He raised up in bed, crossed his breast with his hands and muttered a prayer, fell back on the pillow and went on cursing his wife. When she blew out the light and got in bed the quarrel ceased.

"I had bought a second hand accordion and swapped to Eli Hunt for a three-stringed fiddle. This I swapped to Tom Gilkeson for a New Testament. During the seven weeks of a 'dry month' I worked for Burns I read much of that Testament and nothing I ever read so affected me as did that Testament. I have read it several times since and wished it would again reproduce that feeling but it did not. Burns often borrowed from me at noon in the stable and would read it, keeping a sharp watch thru the cracks of the stable and if he saw any one approaching who would likely see what he was doing, he would shut the book with a slap like a fly trap and hand it to me quickly. If the person passed on out of the way Burns would again call for the 'little book.'

"My uncle boarded 20 or 30 choppers and teamsters. These were all Hoosiers and Suckers. The teams were two to three yoke of oxen. No horses were used in the log and timber hauling. The haulers went up the ridges north of the Creek and came back with long round logs full length of the trees and also hewed timber for the feeder dam across Sugar Creek. They dragged their loads close by our door yard. The cracking of the ox whips and swearing at the oxen sounded like skirmish firing at the opening of a battle.

"Captain John Lindsay,



from the Indiana Iron Furnace five miles southwest of Clinton, was boss of the choppers and teamsters. He was the greatest expert with an ox whip I ever saw. I thought then that I could ever be as great a man as John Lindsay, I would never seek any greater honors. He had a heavy, rich voice and was a great singer. He was a captain in the 14th Indiana Infantry during the Civil War.

"The state of Indiana borrowed about \$43,000,000 to build that canal, giving state bonds, but could not pay even the interest. About 1850 the state induced the bondholders to take the canal and give up the bonds, the state agreeing

to protect the canal against injury and also not to charter any competing canal or railroad parallel to and near it. But about the same time the new constitution was adopted which provided for a general law for charters. Under that law the Wabash railroad was chartered, running beside the canal from Toledo to Attica. In the summer when the canal would operate the road reduced freights, then in winter when the canal was frozen up the railroad increased freights to make up and in that way killed the canal. The bondholders then asked the state to take the canal and return the bonds. State refused and passed an amendment



to the constitution prohibiting any legislature from paying the bondholders. In 1868, Indiana voted to pay the 5-20 bonds in gold which were clearly payable in greenback; then two years latter voted to repudiate a debt as sacred as any debt that ever existed. Governor Hendricks was inaugurated just in time to issue the proclamation for the election on the Constitutional amendment, prepared by the Republicans and the Democrats seeing Hendricks name to the proclamation supposed it to be a Democrat measure, voted for it in great droves, when two years before they had voted in the opposite direction. Such is the whim of public opinion."



John T. Campbell died in 1911 at the Lafayette Soldiers home. He is buried in the Rockville Cemetery.

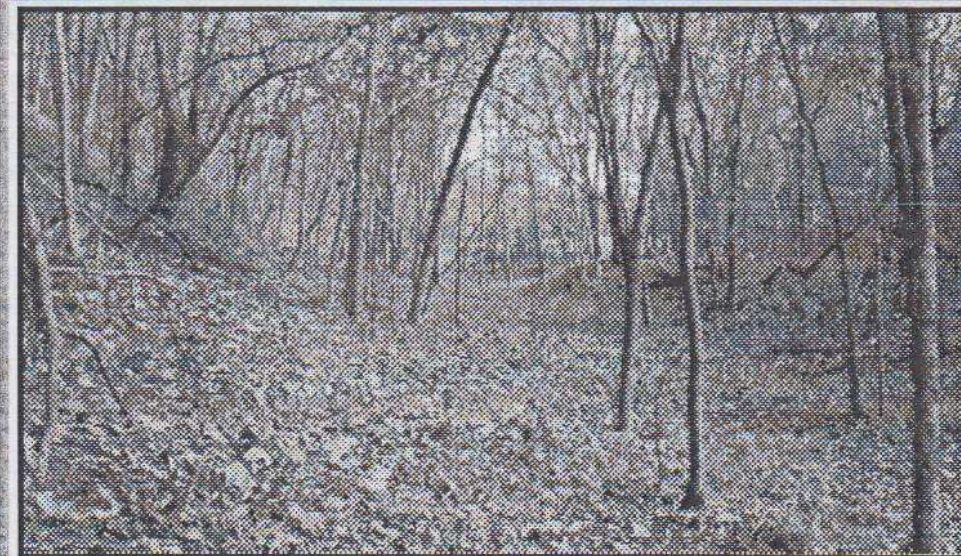
Following Campbell's reminiscences, this article appeared in **The Rockville Republican** on October 30, 1907:



"Wabash-Erie Canal. Reminiscences by Gen. William Henry Harrison Beadle of South Dakota."

Capt Campbell's description of the building of the Wabash and Erie Canal thru Parke county, published a few weeks ago in this paper attracted much attention and favorable comment. It also brought the letter below from Gen. W. H. H. Beadle, a Parke County boy, which Capt. Campbell has kindly forwarded for publication. It explains itself."

"My Dear Capt.. Campbell: - Your remembrance with copy of **The Rockville Republican** has given me much pleasure. I read with much interest your article on the Wabash and Erie Canal. Much that you describe I saw, but of it I was not even a small part. My father (James Ward Beadle)



1. Filson's (Johnson's) Ferry on Wabash River near Howard, IN Sec. 23 Liberty Twp.
2. Northside of Mill Creek Aqueduct #10 Center Sec. 19 Liberty Twp., Parke Co., IN
3. W & E Canal prism 100 yds. north of Mill Creek Aqueduct #10 Sec. 19 Liberty Twp, Parke Co., IN looking south toward Mill Creek with towpath on the right

Photos by Charles Davis