

CANAWLERS AT REST

CARTER BROTHERS THOMAS

b. August 1, 1805
d. March 13, 1873

JOHN NEWLIN

b. March 17, 1819
d. September 29, 1912

By Charles Davis

Thomas Carter was born August 1, 1805 at Orange county, North Carolina to John and Ruth Newlin Carter. He married E. Virena Carter contrary to Quaker discipline and their home site was the SW¼ of Sec. 34 in Howard township, Parke county, Indiana. He bought the site of a quarry, the NE¼ of Section 3, 20.67 acres on March 5, 1853 from John Bowsher. Deed Record 26/56. Although we don't know how far back of this date the quarry was started, we know it was used in the time frame Mr. Coffin operated Foundry Hollow. Although not recorded, Thomas' brother, William. O., owned it later and sold it to Charles F. Maris on Jan. 6, 1860. Deed Record 19/228 He built flat boats at the Coffin boat yard for canal navigation and engaged quite extensively in shipping stone to points of construction along the Wabash & Erie Canal to Terre Haute. By 1872, he and his wife had moved to Vermilion county, Illinois, where he died March 13, 1873.

John Newlin Carter, Thomas' brother, was born near Hillsboro, North Carolina, March 17, 1819. When John was 5 years old his father moved to Indiana, making the long journey from North Carolina through Kentucky in covered wagons. They first located in Orange county, but in a few years moved to Parke county, arriving in the Bloomingdale settlement on the last day of November, 1830. The Carter family spent that first winter in a cabin, which stood near the location of then Oscar Harland's barn.

With other youngsters of the neighborhood, John

attended school in a log house, which was built in the woods just north of where the Bloomingdale Friends Church stands. This was the second school built in the township. The first teacher there was Enock Morrison, the second was Jeremiah Siler. This was the typical pioneer school house, having a puncheon floor, windows and rude benches in lieu of desks. The room was warmed by two huge fire places. The course of study consisted of the three "R's" principally but was thorough and practical as far as it extended.

John Carter, the father of Thomas and John Newlin, entered land near the head of the ravine known as Turkey Run. There the family lived for several years. Many of this family is buried in the Bethany cemetery. For more than three quarters of a century, John N. Carter lived in that community and saw great changes in his life time. When the family arrived there were but four or five houses in what is now the corporation limits. As a boy he attended the first quarterly meeting held by the Friends at the old meeting house in the south of town. This was the 2nd church building, the one at the cemetery being the first. The third church was where it stands today.

As a young man, John assisted at log rollings when great logs of oak, walnut and poplar were burned, because there was then no market for timber, which now would be worth a fortune. He recalled the many incidents of interest within those early times such as long trips on horse back through the woods to the nearest grist mill; driving wagons to Cincinnati and Evansville for merchandise; hauling loads of stoneware from the Mr. Aetna potter shop near Coke Oven Hollow to Chicago; and two trips to New Orleans on flat boats loaded with farm produce. He also spent two summers freighting sandstone from his brother Thomas' stone quarry to Terre Haute via the Wabash & Erie Canal.

John N. Carter died at Bloomingdale Sept. 29, 1912 at the age of 93. He was buried in the Friends cemetery near Bloomingdale, thus ending another link to the past of the Wabash & Erie Canal.

John Newlin Carter headstone made by Charles Davis. P -C. Davis



Sources:

Carter Genealogy in the Rockville Library
 Deed Records in Records office, Rockville, IN, court house
 Rockville Republican April 1906
 Rockville Republican October 2, 1912
 Rockville Tribune, March 20, 1917
 Sample, Dean. John N. Carters' great great grandson.

A PORTION OF PARKE COUNTY, INDIANA

Map drawn by Charles Davis 2001

Sandstone was taken from the quarry owned by Thomas Carter, put on flat boats, sent down Sugar Creek to the Sugar Creek feeder canal, down the feeder to the Wabash & Erie Canal and then to Terre Haute, IN. John Newlin Carter transported the stone on the flat boats.

