

## THE HOOSIER PACKET - OCTOBER 2015

### SAMUEL CONNER

#### AND HIS WABASH & ERIE CANAL CONNECTIONS

By Charles Davis

Samuel Conner was born November 6, 1819 in Garrard, Kentucky to Caleb and Susannah Teter Conner. His father married his mother in Garrard on May 4, 1815. She was the daughter of William Teter and grew up in Garrard county her first 19 years. Caleb Conner had been born in Kentucky in 1796 where learned the trades of a millwright and blacksmith. He and his family moved to Montgomery county, Indiana around 1828 and he was a pioneer of the county. There he entered land from the government on May 30, 1828 in sections 17 and 18. On this land he started a farm. On October 10, 1829 Caleb and partner, Thomas Glen, bought the east half of the northwest quarter of section 7, 79.67 acres, in Brown township. There they built a grist mill on Indian Creek.

The location of the mill was about 2 miles southwest from where Indian Creek empties into Sugar Creek. On the west side of Sugar Creek at the juncture of the two creeks is a cave that was used by the Miami Indians. This was written about in the *Rockville Tribune*, April 22, 1886. The cave is now in the Pine Hills Nature Preserve that borders Shades State Park on the east.

He and Susannah were the parents of seven sons and three daughters. He was interested in politics and was first a Whig and later a Republican. He served in the office of Justice of the Peace. Being civic minded he donated land for burials on which Freedom Cemetery sits at Waveland, Indiana. Upon his and Susannah's deaths, they were both buried in Freedom Cemetery.

Samuel Conner, our subject, learned the trade of a carpenter. He married Elizabeth Deer in 1839. They moved to Parke county around 1839-1840. They had nine children born to them.

Samuel's first land purchase in Parke county was in Howard township in 1841. Deed Record 8/42 He then sold this land in 1849. D.R. 11/159 It seems that they moved around a lot in search of work. In the 1850s Samuel was located in Reserve township, Parke county according to the 1850 census. He is listed as a carpenter with wife and four children. Deeds show he bought and sold many properties along with lot #90 in Montezuma, Indiana.

When they started construction of the Wabash & Erie Canal in Parke county, Samuel was hired as a contrac-

tor using his trade. Canal construction started in the county in 1844. It was opened up for use through here in 1848. According to the 1860 census, Samuel was the "Lock Tender." He bought the northeast and southeast fraction of section #1 on January 3, 1860. D.R. 20/180 This is located in Reserve township and contained 33.14 and 57.22 acres. The land was purchased at auction at the county courthouse and sold because of delinquent taxes against John Manwaring. The purchase price was \$16.90. The Wabash and Erie Canal ran through this land that was north of the Manwaring Canal Basin, Sugar Creek Aqueduct #11 and Lock #38. Samuel's home would have been a short distance from the lock.

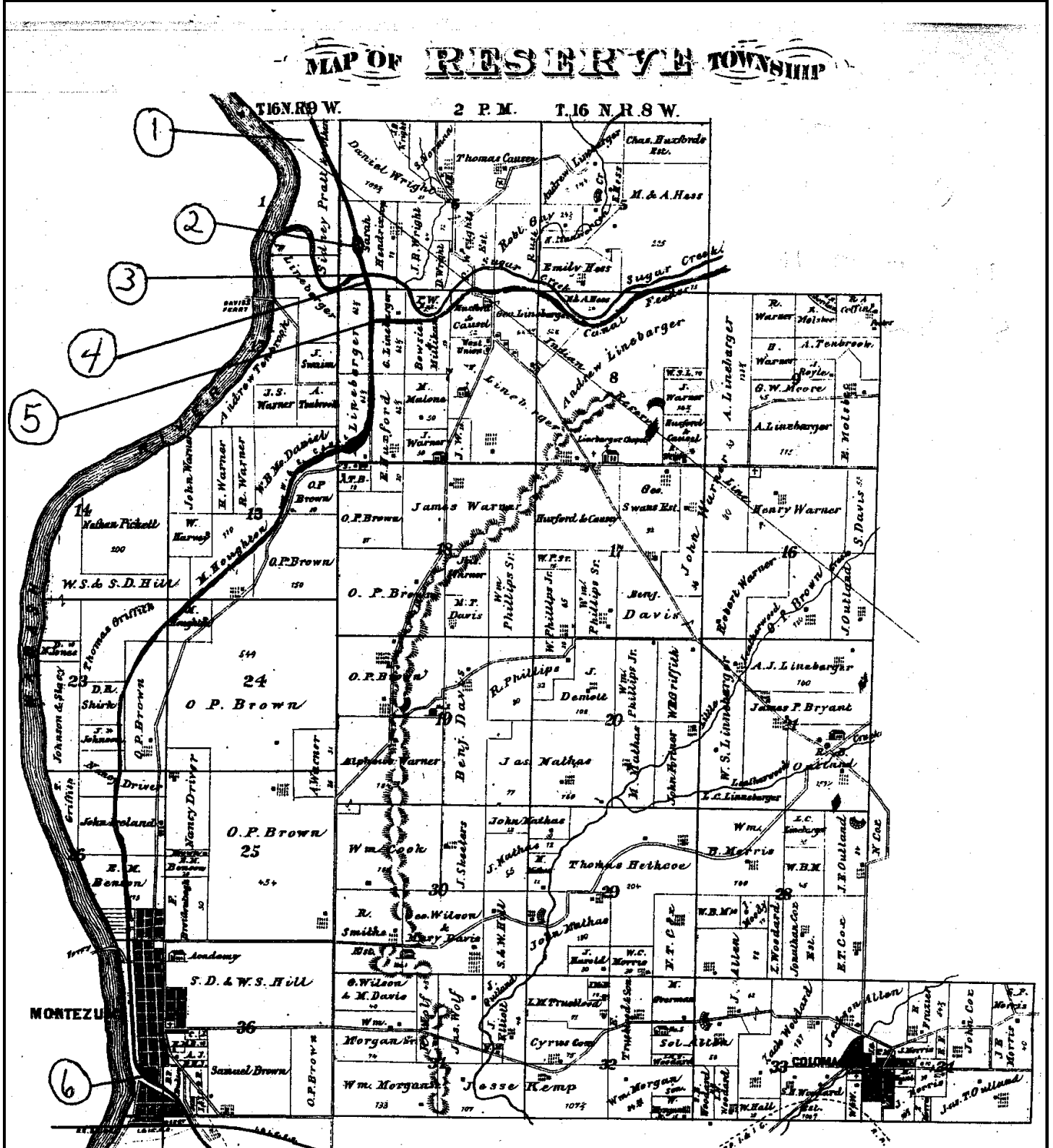
I found the following note of the amount owed to Samuel Conner by the Canal Trustees in the Rockville Library in a drawer under the heading of Wabash & Erie Canal. This, along with many other documents, were found in the walls and floors of Canal Superintendent James Johnston's house and were in the possession of James Reeder. Reeder had told me before his death that he had donated several boxes of these documents to the library. This and a few others copied on the following pages are all that remain.

W. & E. Canal to Samuel Connor		
Bo(a)rding Number of Meals		
March 13th to 19th	58 at 10 cents.....	5.80
March 29th	6 " " " .....	.60
April 5th to 9th	56 " " " .....	5.60
" 14th to 18th	38 " " " .....	3.80
		\$15.80

On February 25, 1862, shortly after the Civil War began, Samuel enlisted as Sergeant of the Indiana 9th Light Artillery Battery. He served until his death at Union City, Tennessee where he was in the Regimental Hospital. His mortal remains were brought to Parke county, Reserve township and interred in the Causey Cemetery, a short distance from where he lived.

Samuel's wife, Elizabeth, passed away in the spring of 1861 leaving six children. She was buried next to Samuel. John C. Thompson, the subject of a future article, was appointed the guardian of these children.

Samuel's gravestone was severely broken and nothing marked his military service. I (Charles Davis) ordered a government military headstone several years ago and placed it on his grave as a thank you for his service. Thus concludes another man's life and his Wabash and Erie Canal connections.



Reserve Township, Parke County,  
Indiana

1. Land owned by Conner
2. Manwaring Basin on W&E Canal

3. Aqueduct #11 on W&E Canal
4. Lock #38 on W&E Canal
5. Sugar Creek Canal Feeder
6. Benson's Basin in Montezuma for W&E Canal

# THE HOOSIER PACKET - OCTOBER 2015



Samuel Conner  
SERG 9 IND BATTERY  
CIVIL WAR



Louisa Conner Davis  
1860-1937  
Daughter of Samuel Conner



James F. Davis  
1849-1929  
Husband of Louisa Conner

## Wabash Erie Canal Material Collected by James Reeder Montezuma from original documents

List of property belonging to the Trust on District No. 5  
W&E Canal Jan. 1, 1859

### On Repair

18 Bed comforts \$9.00	8 sheets \$1.60	10.60
9 Bed ticks \$2.70	7 pillows \$1.40	4.10
1 Small coal stove		4.00
1 Hatchet & candlestick		.85
2 Long handled augers		1.25
1 2 inch auger		1.25
5 Long handled shovels		5.00
2 Scoop shovels & chains		4.00
21 lbs. Nails		1.25
1 Cook stove nearly new		16.00
1 Table bench		2.50
8 Boot stools		3.00
1 Dish		.20
18 Plates .90	12 cups and saucers .60	1.50
2 Dish pans \$1.21	1 Coffee Mill .20	1.55
17 Knives	10 forks	1.25
1 Water Cask		1.25
9 Wheel Barrows		18.00
12 Shovels		9.00
1 Crow Bar		1.75
2 Picks		1.50
1 Old axe .50	1 Wood saw .75	1.25
2 Wrenches		.50

3 Wooden Buckets	.60
500 Ft. Wheeling plank	3.75
One repair boat and lines rebuilt in 1858	400.00
Forward	\$495.00

### Left in Covington

34 Shovels left in Collector's office	17.00
18 Wheel Barrows	18.00
2 Good barrows at Mr. White's	4.00
1 Pick .75 1 bucket .25	1.00

### Left with Lock tender (Coal Creek)

6 wheel barrows	12.00
1 at Irons	2.00
7 Old wheel barrows	3.50
3 Augers \$2 4 stone barrow frames \$2	4.00
2 Doz. Shovels new	25.00
16 Shovels nearly new	16.00
24 Shovels	14.00
23 Shovels old	4.60
20 Bed ticks 4 Comforts	6.60
1 Set of blocks and rope	10.00
18 Plates, 20 cups 30 saucers	2.20
20 Knives 13 forks 33 iron spoons	1.50
10 lbs. Bolts	10.00
1 Let iron for Lock gates	46.40
	\$730.95
About 200 lbs. of old aqueduct iron in Montezuma	40.00
Worth 2 cents, 1 old level worth	25.00
1 old Compass	25.00
	\$820.95

(papers continued on page 28)

# THE HOOSIER PACKET - OCTOBER 2015

## SAMUEL CONNER'S FAMILY

Compiled by Charles and Mary J. Davis

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Place</u>
Conner, Caleb	1796		9-12-1884	Freedom	Waveland IN	5-04-1815	Garrard Co KY
m. Teter, Susannah*	1798		1872	Freedom	Waveland IN	5-04-1815	Garrard Co KY
Conner, Samuel	11-06-1819	KY	10-02-1863	Causey	Union City IN	12-05-1839	Montgomery Co IN
m. Deer, Elizabeth**	10-03-1816		3-23-1864	Causey	Parke Co IN	12-05-1839	Montgomery Co IN
Conner, William H.	9-06-1840		9-27-1840				
Conner, Susan	9-21-1841		1-25-1920	Evergreen	Ben Hill GA	10-19-1858	Parke Co IN
m. Stever, Davis	2-02-1832		10-25-1919		GA	10-19-1858	Parke Co IN
Stever, Vinson Vernon							
Stever, Samuel	1861		1899			3-24-1887	Vermillion Co IN
m. Dowdell, Agnes						3-24-1887	Vermillion Co IN
Stever, Lizzie	1864						
Stever, Sarah Ann	1866						
Stever, Davis Elmer	1867						
Stever, Joseph Allen	4-05-1871			Fitzgerald	Ben Hill GA		
Stever, Susan B.	1873						
m. Coates, Otho							
Stever, Caleb Rutherford	4-24-1876		8-10-1966		OH	2-12-1893	Parke Co IN
Conner, Hettie Ann	8-07-1843		8-19-1926	Mt. Hope	Independence KS	2-12-1893	Parke Co IN
m. Pratt, Sidney Alonzo	12-26-1835		3-27-1908		Montgomery Co KS	1-11-1865	Parke Co IN
Pratt, Myron Allen	9-01-1862		1-21-1926	Ephlin	Lib. Twp Parke IN	1-11-1865	Parke Co IN
m. Pilkenton, Josephine A.	12-13-1865		11-16-1928	Ephlin	Lib. Twp Parke IN	7-29-1884	Parke Co IN
Pratt, Golda Evaline	4-04-1886		4-28-1944	Ephlin		7-29-1884	Parke Co IN
Pratt, Chloe Dulcia	7-16-1888		9-10-1930	Ephlin			
m. Bond							
Pratt, Alma May	6-??-1892		5-03-1918				
m. Swaim							
Pratt, Herman Hill	12-14-1895		7-??-1944				
Pratt, Edison A.	9-10-1865		2-25-1945	Miller		7-15-1888	Parke Co IN
m. Rodenbaugh, Emma E.,	7-06-1879		10-07-1930			7-??-1888	Parke Co IN
Pratt, Clyde L.	4-20-1889		3-09-1938	Miller			
Pratt, Hattie Ellen	9-03-1899		1-26-1925	Miller			
m. Farley							
Pratt, Zina A.	2-05-1867		3-14-1933		Missouri KS		
Pratt, Hiram Wilson	10-??-1868				Lived Golden CO		

# THE HOOSIER PACKET - OCTOBER 2015

Pratt, John	12-01-1869	12-25-1947		
Pratt, Samuel	1874			
Pratt, Olive W. Alice Nona	3-17-1882	6-24-1952	Independence KS	
m. Breweington				
Conner, Arthur***	1843	1884		
Conner, Nancy J.	8-07-1845	5-27-1863	Causey	11-25-1866 Parke Co IN
Conner, Allen****	12-14-1847	1-27-1926	Green Hill	11-25-1866 Parke Co IN
m. Hadley, Retta	1851	1920		
Conner, Francis	1867			
Conner, John*****	8-23-1850	1884		3-29-1866 Parke Co IN
m. Newton, Linnea				3-29-1866 Parke Co IN
Conner, Mary Elizabeth	9-21-1851	1863		
Conner, Louisa	3-10-1860	5-23-1937	Evergreen	11-25-1877 Parke Co IN
m. Davis, James F	10-??-1845 VA	10-29-1929	Evergreen	11-25-1877 Parke Co IN
Davis, Mable J	6-14-1881	5-05-1950	Evergreen	
m. Massey				
Davis, Charles F.	8-??-1883	2-25-1947		
Davis, Ethel Florence	2-28-1886	1-04-19927	Evergreen	
m. Bales, Benjamin F.	3-07-1882	1-04-1927		
Davis, Raymond R	8-31-1888	8-??-1977		3-03-1916 GA
Davis, Jessie C.	7-??-1890	1929		3-03-1916 GA
m. Sims, Elizabeth				
Davis, James S.	2-03-1894	12-22-1963	Evergreen	Ben Hill GA
* parents Teter	1776 GA	1823		
m. Ross, Nancy Ann	1775 KY	1840		Garrard KY Montgomery Co IN
**parents Deer, Andrew	2-22-1780 VA	1840		Montgomery Co IN
m. Dekoph Sussanah	10-07-1781 Spain	1840		Montgomery Co IN

\*\*\* US Civil War Vet PVTR Ind. 53rd

\*\*\*\*Stone cutter in Parke Co

\*\*\*\*\*Civil War 85th Ind. Inf. Widow filed for pension 7/27/1887 MO, an invalid in Maine

## THE HOOSIER PACKET - OCTOBER 2015

(continued from page 25)

Trustees Office

W. & E. Canal  
Terre Haute, Feb. 12, 1851

Dear Sir:

I enclose, for your information and guidance, two orders of the board of Trustees, adopted at the semi-annual meeting in December 1850.

They explain themselves. These orders were deemed essential to create uniformity in the repair service, and to avoid the multiplication of small accounts, and when practicable to lessen them.

The allowance for board of hands employed on repair boats, it will be seen, is the same amount heretofore paid, with but a single exception. That sum has been deemed ample by the various superintendents, and is so by the Board.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Thos. Dowling  
Res. Trustee

Jas. Johnston, Esq.  
Sup. Dis. No. 6  
Terre Haute, Ind.

### Orders for 1850-51

Ordered that the several Superintendents be allowed \$1.75 per week for the board of hands employed in the repair service, to be charged in their abstracts, which is understood to cover the cost of furnishing the bedding, cooking utensils, table furniture and fire wood, the Trust furnishing only the Repair Boat and necessary stoves, each Superintendent to have the use of the articles now on hand belonging to the above enumeration, as given in his schedule made up on the first October last and reported by the chief Engineer, leaving the same value of like articles on the boat in case he should at any time leave the service: Provided, that in case of any extraordinary break of other large repair, requiring suddenly a large increase of force, the Superintendents may at their discretion, either purchase the additional articles necessary for boarding, reporting the same to the Trust office and making afterwards the best disposal thereof, under the advice of the Resident Trustee; or the Superintendent may in such cases, if he thinks it more economical, procure boarding at the neighboring farm houses upon the best terms practicable.

Ordered that hereafter, on the first of October in each year, a minute comparative schedule of all tools, boats, materials and other property on each district belonging to the trust, be re-

ported to the Resident Trustee by the Superintendent showing the number of all such articles on hand, with the value thereof at date, and also the number and value of same class of articles on hand the year previous with the number purchased in the meantime.

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of orders adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Wabash and Eire Canal, on the eighteenth day of December 1850.

Witness the seal of the said Board of  
Trustees this twenty eighth day of  
January 1851.

S. G. Dodge  
Clerk

Ordered, that in case of injury to any crop by the occurrence of a break in the canal, it shall be the duty of the Superintendent in charge, immediately thereafter to inspect the premises and if possible come to an understanding with the owner as to the value of the injury, but; if no such agreement can be made, then the Superintendent shall call in two judicious men to inspect and estimate the damages with a view to the preparation of testimony; the fact in either case to be reported to the Resident Trustee.

### No. 389

In view of the extension of navigation during the present season as far south as Maysville, and the prospect of opening the entire line to Evansville by the close of next year, it is deemed proper at this time to make a new arrangement of the districts for the purpose of superintendence fixing the length and terminal of each with reference to economy and efficiency in the repair service and for this purpose it is.

Ordered that Districts No. 1, 2 & 3 remain as heretofore established; that District No. 4 be extended south to the Shawnee Feeder; District No. 5 to extend from Shawnee to the lock opposite Clinton; District No. 6 from Clinton to the lower lock at Splunge Creek Reservoir, including Eel River Feeder; District No. 7 from Reservoir Lock to Owl Prairie (when this portion of the Canal shall have been completed) including the Reservoir; District No. 8 from Owl Prairie to the Patoka Locks; District No. 9 from the Patoka Locks to Evansville.

Ordered that A. J. Morley be appointed Superintendent of District No. 4; James Johnston of District No. 5, and Richard Strout of District No. 6.

### No. 403

Ordered that each superintendent of repairs be instructed to examine frequently the several canal bridges in his district at the crossing of the State or county roads, inspecting very carefully their condition and working such repairs to the floor and other parts thereof from time to time as may be necessary to keep said bridges in good and safe condition.