

CANAWLERS AT REST

CHRISTOPHER HAMMAN

**b. September 1815
d. February 12, 1890**

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

Christopher Hamman was born in Bavaria, Germany in September 1815 to Daniel and Barbara (Suiter) Hamman. There he received a fairly good education.

Around 1831, at the age of sixteen, he immigrated with his parents to the United States. After arriving they settled in Pennsylvania. A few years later when he had reached his majority, the age at which he was granted his full civil rights, he left his parental home. His parents remained in Pennsylvania the rest of their lives.

Christopher moved in 1835-36 to Campbell Township, Warrick County, Indiana with \$5 in his pocket. He got a job working on what would eventually become the Wabash & Erie Canal. At that time the 18-mile-long southern portion, known as the Central Canal, was being built from the dam on Pigeon Creek at Rochester [located north of Millersburg and not to be confused with Rochester in northern Indiana] to Evansville.

By being economical and saving his wages from his canal labors, Christopher bought some land and became a farmer. On his land he built a good home. He eventually acquired 183 acres of land.

While working on the canal Christopher met and fell in love with a local Warrick County girl, Rachel Keith. Her grandparents were some of the early settlers in Warrick County moving there sometime after 1813. Grandfather Alexander Keith (b. around 1767) was originally from Baltimore, Maryland, owned land along Kentucky's Muddy River, was an herbal doctor in Muhlenburg County, Kentucky, and married her grandmother Mary Sarah Miller there in July 1808. They had several children, but only information about Rachael's father,

their son, Jesse Keith is known. Alexander Keith lived a long life and died in the home of his granddaughter Sara Ann Keith Hunt, Rachael's sister.

Jesse Keith (b. 3-28-1799 Muhlenburg Co., KY d. 4-2-1847 Warrick Co., IN) married Elizabeth James (b. 7-15-1799 KY, d. 9-20-1880 IN) on June 21, 1819 in Warrick County, IN. Jesse and Elizabeth had nine children: Sara "Sally" Ann, Rachael, Nancy Jane, Jonathon Chineth, George Washington Hinmon, Hannah, Mary Ann, Charity, and William Alexander. Their daughter Rachael was born in Indiana (b. 3-26-1822, d. 4-19-1890). She and Christopher were married on April 29, 1841.

Christopher and Rachael had six children, but all did not live until adulthood. They were: Jesse, John, Daniel, Nancy J., William, and Philip H. To each of his two living sons he gave 100 acres of land in Warrick County and they became farmers.

The Hammans [also spelled Hammon and Hammond in various sources] were Republicans. They belonged to the Christian Church.

Christopher Hamman died on February 12, 1890 and was buried in Crossroads Cemetery. To reach the cemetery from I-164 take New Harmony Road to the east through a strip mined area. Go about 9 miles crossing Pigeon Creek to Weyerbacher Road, turn north (left) and on your right at about 1 mile will be a short gravel road that becomes a circle up on a hill. His grave site is in the very back of the cemetery by the tree line. Rachel's name is on the front of the stone and his name is on the back facing the tree line. The urn that was once atop the stone sits at its base in the front. Nearby are several other Hammon stones.

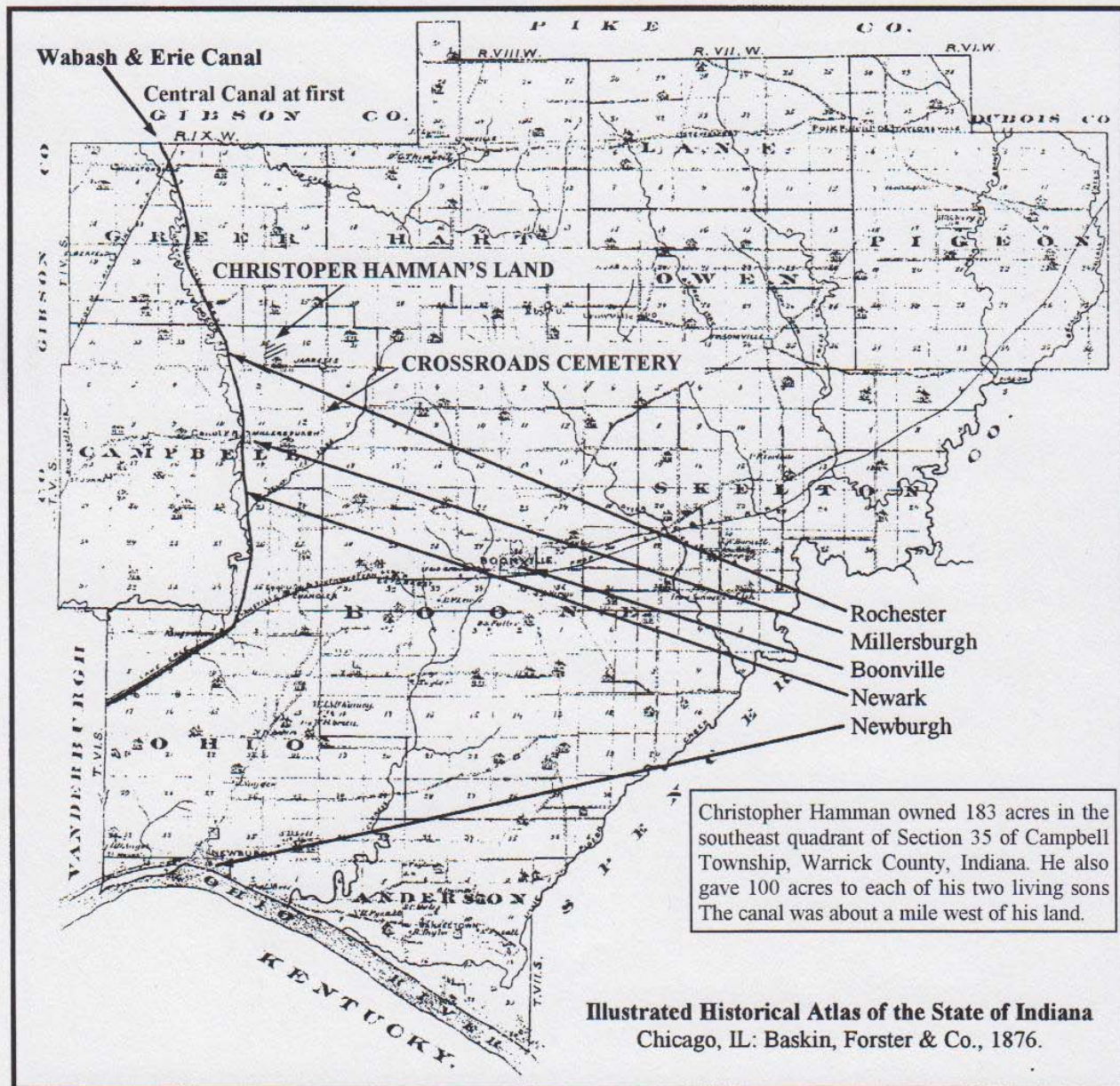
Sources:

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History of Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties, Indiana. Chicago, IL: Goodspeed Bros. & Co., Pub. 1885.
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Index Warrick County Newspapers' Death Notices: Boonville Enquirer.
Lant, Kay and Freels, Katherine. *Warrick County Indiana Marriages 1813-1859*. Evansville, IN: Tri-State Genealogical Society. 1986.
Phillips, Oscar J. "Cross-Roads Cemetery." *Campbell Township Cemeteries, Warrick County, Indiana*. 1966.

www.home.utah.edu/~dsk1/gen/alexander/pafg03.htm
www.marshaswarrickweb.com/marriages/marriageh.htm

WARRICK COUNTY

The route of the Wabash and Erie Canal through Greer, Campbell and Ohio townships of Warrick County is marked with a dark line through the left side of this 1876 map. This portion of the canal was originally dug as a part of the Central Canal in 1836-1839. Indiana had financial difficulties. It never joined this portion of the canal to that dug at Indianapolis, IN. A dam was built across Big Pigeon Creek near Millersburgh to feed this level. This section of canal was joined to the Wabash and Erie Canal via the Cross Cut Canal from Terre Haute, IN. to Point Commerce (Worthington), IN., and from Point Commerce to the dam at Rochester. A large reservoir was constructed at Port Gibson in Gibson County to supplement the canal. The canal became active as the Wabash & Erie in 1853. Note also: 1) Newburgh, which, in its day, was a bigger river port than Evansville; 2) Boonville, which became the county seat; 3) Millersburgh (Canal Post Office).





Christopher's stone has HAMMAN across its bottom and the broken off urn sits at its base. On the back facing the tree line it reads:

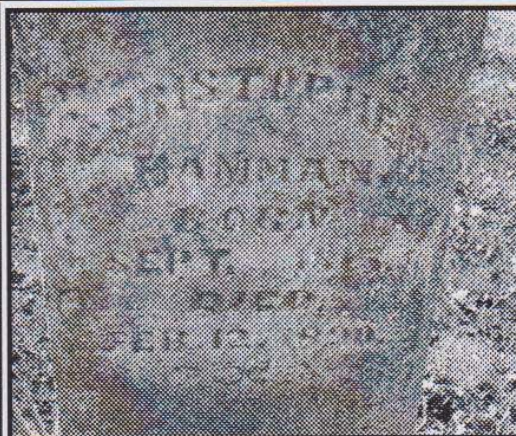
CHRISTOPHER HAMMAN

BORN SEPT. 1815 DIED FEB. 12, 1890

Rachel's information faces the drive:

RACHEL WIFE OF CHRISTOPHER HAMMAN

BORN MAR. 26, 1822 DIED APR. 19, 1890



SONS

Jesse & Mary J. Hamman

Daniel & Elizabeth Hamman

GRANDDAUGHTER

Laura L. Hamman



HAMMAN

Photos by Bob Schmidt

NAME (from history book)	AGE IN 1850	FEDERAL CENSUS		
		AGE IN 1860	AGE IN 1870	AGE IN 1880
Christopher Hammon(d) b.9-?-1815, d. 2-12-1890	35	45 farmer	56 farmer	64
married Rachel Keith 4-29-1841 in Warrick County				
marriage manuscript uses "Hamman"				
Rachael b. 3-26-1822, d. 4-19-1890	29	39 keep house	49 keep house	58 wife
Children:				
Jesse 1842-1919 42nd IN Inf. Co, K	8	18 farm laborer		
wife Mary Jane Woodworth 1848-1904				
married 9-28-1865				
John	7			
Daniel 1846, 8-3-1919 73 yrs.	4	14		
wife Elizabeth 1849-1932				
Nancy Jane	3	12		
husband Jesse H. Keith her first cousin				
married 1-5-1868				
William (died as infant or young child)				
Philip H.		1		
Real Estate	\$350	\$3,500		
Daniel and Elizabeth's children:				
Laura L. b. 10-13-1877, d. 3-21-1880				according to grave stone/recorded as Laura J. b. 10-15-1877
Gracie F. b. 10-21-1885, d. 3-15-1890				