

# THE HOLLADAY BROTHERS AND THEIR WABASH & ERIE CANAL CONNECTIONS By Charles Davis

Gideon Holladay, Elias Gideon Holladay, Ambrose S. Holladay Sr., and Elias H. Holladay established their business ventures on the Wabash & Erie Canal by 1844. At this time the canal was under construction at Lodi, Indiana, the northern border of Parke County. This is their story.

The Holladay brothers were the sons of Gideon and Martha (Coon) Holladay, who had 13 children. Their father was a native of Berkshire County, Massachusetts. He was a farmer and mechanic. He served as justice of the peace for years and at one time was the high sheriff of Schenectady county, New York. He also was a member of Congress for several years. He died in New York about 1829. Their mother was born in Duanesburg, Schenectady, New York and died about 1864 in Cleveland, Ohio. She was a member of the Baptist church.

**Gideon Holladay** lived in Fountain and Parke Counties during the early and mid-part of the canal era. Although I (Charlie Davis) do not have his date of birth I believe him to be the oldest of the sons in this article because he purchased much of the land and then sold it to his brothers. His first recorded deed was in Lodi on July 7, 1844 when he bought three acres on the north side of the future school house lot with lots 49-60 on Canal Street. He next sold the above to his brothers Elias H. and Elias Gideon on March 12, 1845. On August 20, 1847, Gideon bought Lot #1 in "the town of Lodi" from George Rennick for \$50. Deed Record 10/287 I quote the above Lot #1 because it has confused many people. The other Lot #1 is in the "Osborne Addition." This will be a subject in the future. His brothers Elias G. and Ambrose S. helped build a warehouse on this lot. The tax value of it in 1851 was \$1,025. He and his wife Eliza Jane sold the warehouse lot to Ambrose S. Holladay's wife, Abigail K. for \$550 on November 24, 1853. The deed was recorded on March 23, 1864. D. R. 26/179 Gideon's last recorded deed was in 1858. D. R. 17/204 Nothing could be found about Gideon or his wife after this time.

**Elias Gideon Holladay** was born May 8, 1806 in New York. He came with his family to Parke County around 1843 and settled in Lodi. That year he organized a Union Sunday School uniting various Christian denominations with himself as superintendent. At that time there was no church house nor any other available room nearby, so he had his Sunday school class to meet at his residence, where it continued to meet regularly for about three years. It was discontinued for a year or so and reorganized about 1845 at the old "Thompson cooper shop." After it was discontinued,

there was no Sunday school until 1854 when it was taken up again by Elias G. in what was known as the "Colonade." This was the name of a prominent saloon at this time on the bank of the Wabash & Erie Canal. It was built to catch the hard earned dollar of the laborer who wielded the pick and shovel during the construction of the canal in 1844.

Those who bought licenses to sell spirits in Lodi were Vinsant and Taylor 1845-45, Charles Osborn 1847-48, George Zeiger 1851, and Edward W. Taylor. Taylor owned a canal boat name "Spy" and was the commander of it. It was recorded in the Canal Boat Registry on April 5, 1850.

Elias G. and Elias H. bought Lots #37 and #38 alongside the canal from Elijah Thompson on June 16, 1845. D. R. 9/266 Their brother Gideon of Fulton Township, Fountain, County, Indiana sold them Lots #72, #49, and #60 on the canal with a three acre lot adjoining the future school lot on the north side for \$453 on March 12, 1845. D. R. 9/227. E. G. and E. H. had some sort of stores on lots #49 and #60 for the tax value from them in 1851 was \$560. Where E. G. lived I cannot say, most likely on one of the above lots on Canal Street.

Elias G. helped his brothers build the warehouse on Lot #1 on the river. He also bought 120 acres of farm land in section 17, about 2 miles south east of Lodi, the SE¼ of the NW¼ and the W½ of the NE¼. "He shipped large quantities of wheat and pork by flatboats from his warehouse on the Wabash River to New Orleans."

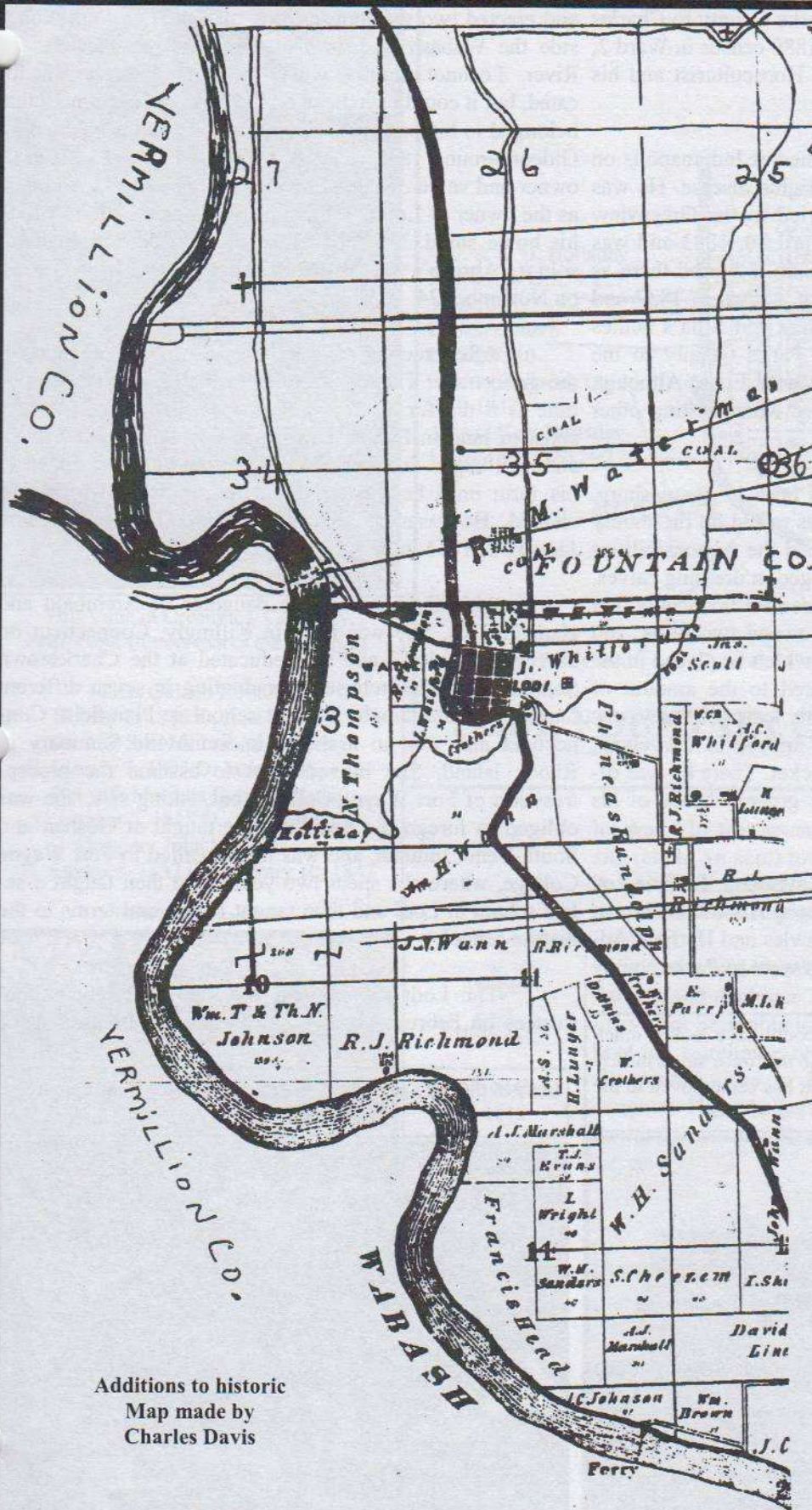
He served in the Indiana House of Representatives in 1851-52. He represented Parke County.

When Elias G. bought a canal boat he named it after his first wife, "Sara Hammond." The date of the boat in the registry is August 25, 1852. He was the owner and commander of it at "Lodiville." His wife Sara died in Lodi on January 31, 1853.

On October 22, 1855 Elias G. married Marietta Berry of Fountain County. In 1859 he and his family moved to Ward 2 of Indianapolis, Indiana. The 1860 census lists him as an attorney. His son Elias G. Jr. left there one year later and moved to Homer, Illinois. The following year he moved to Fairmount, Illinois and was a dealer of drugs, oils and paints. In 1867 he was appointed notary public. On October 1, 1874 he was appointed postmaster.

On July 5, 1867 Elias G., Sr., wife, Marietta, and children Elias G. Jr., Catherine B., or Indianapolis, and Martha S. Cleghorn of Vermillion County, Illinois sold the





Ambrose S. Holladay  
9/21/1882 D.R. 47/27

Wabash & Erie Canal

Silver Island Cemetery

Ambrose S. Holladay 21 acres  
2-2-1885 D. R. 57/463

Norburn Thomas Salt Well  
1865 Lodi Park  
Salt Well 1 acre  
Norburn Thomas Ferry 1832-86  
"Whitetown"

Elias H. Holladay 40 acres  
11-27-1851 D.R. 22/515

Gideon Holladay 3 acres 7-9-  
1844 to E. H. & E. G. Holladay  
3-12-1845 with Lodi lots 49, 60  
Phil. Briggs to School Trustees  
120 ft. square 2-2-1854

Elias H. Holladay 268 acres  
7-11-1846

Wabash & Erie Canal

Additions to historic  
Map made by  
Charles Davis

**LODI,  
FOUNTAIN  
COUNTY,  
INDIANA**



farm of 120 acres in section 17 in Parke County to Charles Poston for \$3,000. D. R. 26/90 The 1880 census in Ward 2, Indianapolis lists Elias G. Sr. as an Horticulturist and his son Arthur as an attorney.

Elias Gideon Holladay, Sr. died at Indianapolis on June 12, 1881 at his residence of Brights disease. He was taken to Fairmount, Illinois and buried in the Greenview Cemetery. His wife Marietta died April 30, 1883 and was buried next to Elias. His first wife Sara is buried there as well as daughter Julia Holladay, born August 1, 1837 and died February 10, 1847. Evidently Sara and Julia's bodies were moved from the cemetery in Parke County to the cemetery in Fairmount to be buried with Elias. Although unusual, I have seen this done before when writing other histories.

**Ambrose S. Holladay** was born in Duanesburg, New York, October 17, 1809. He was raised on the family farm and at his father's death assumed the responsibilities of the home. Early in his life he engaged in dressing calves, buying and selling. He was quite successful financially, but security for others ruined him. He owned two mills, 160 acres of land, and much stock, all of which he placed in the hands of those whom he had secured to the amount of \$13,600. He went west to retrieve his losses. Money was offered him, but he refused and he arrived in Cleveland, Ohio with only one shilling in his pocket. There he was offered a partnership in the wholesale grocery house of his brother, J. J. Holladay, about 1837.

In 1843 Ambrose went to Covington, Indiana and engaged in selling goods for five years. His establishment was on Lots #217 and #218 in the Rawles and Hatfield Addition. Deed Record 623/452 He then went to Parke county

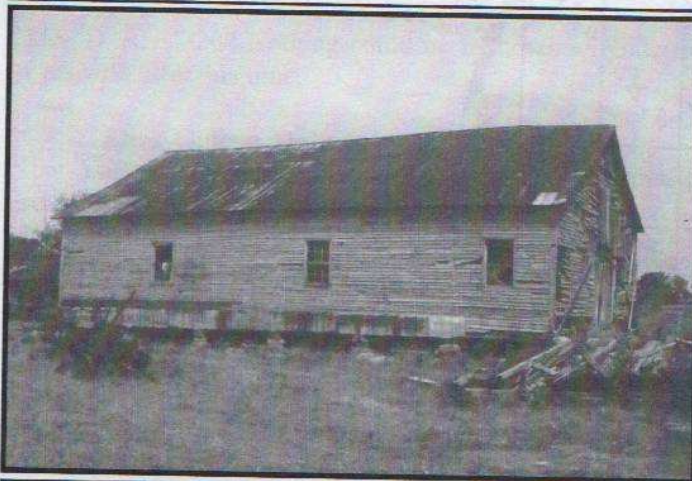
and erected two warehouses, one of Lot #1 in Lodi alongside the Wabash & Erie Canal and one on the Wabash River. I cannot establish where the one of the river was located, but it could have been on the NW¼ of section 10 that belonged to his brother Gideon. Lot #1 was also owned by Gideon around 1848. The 1851 Tax List shows Gideon as owner and value of Lot #1 at \$1.25. It also shows Ambrose as the owner of Lot #20. I assume this was the lot on which his home stood. No deed exists as to when he bought or sold it. Abrose's wife, Abigail, bought Lot #1 from Gideon on November 24, 1853 for \$500. D.R. 26/179

After erecting the warehouses, Ambrose engaged in the grain trade. The failure of the canal destroyed his fortune as it did for a lot of others. He then bought twenty acres of land in Fulton Township, Fountain County, Indiana, and began farming. By industry and care he added to his farm until he owned 180 acres, most of which was cleared. He was a Republican. He married Abigail Kies on January 2, 1851 in Parke County.

Abigail Kies was the daughter of Archibald and Hannah Kies. She was born in Killingly, Connecticut on November 4, 1815 and was educated at the Charlestown Seminary, in Massachusetts, graduating in seven different languages. She taught a select school in Plainfield, Connecticut and was an assistant in Smithville Seminary in Rhode Island. She moved west to assume the preceptresship of Fort Wayne College, but, taking sick, she was obliged to forego the position. She taught at Goshen and South Bend, Indiana, and was then recalled to Fort Wayne College, where she spent two years. She then taught a select school at Lodi and then taught for several terms in the district school.

The Lodi school land was deeded to the school trustees on February 2, 1854 by Philander Briggs and the

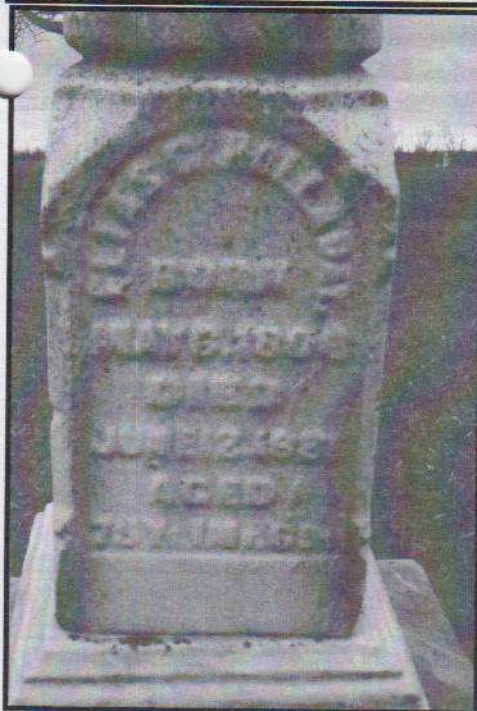
Ambrose S. Holladay Sr.'s warehouse would have looked much like this Wabash & Erie Canal warehouse that once stood in Perrysville, Indiana on the Wabash River but has been moved to the Skinner farm on U.S. 32. Photo by Charles Davis



In 1945 the old Lodi school became part of the Baptist church. Photo by Charles Davis



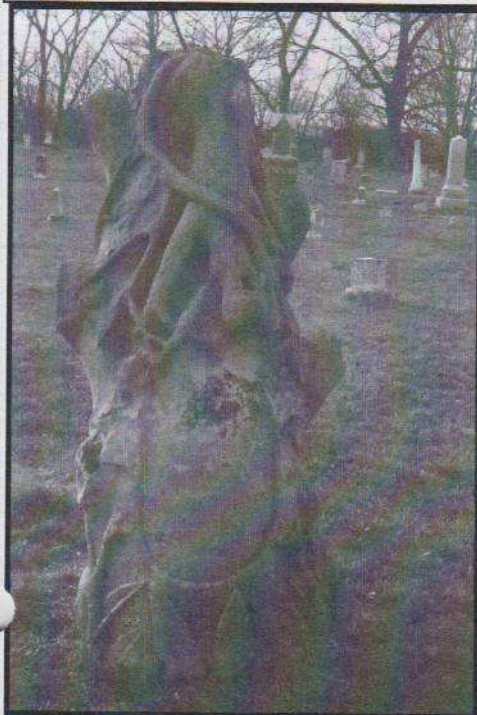




This stone in Greenview Cemetery, Fairmount, Illinois marks the graves of:

Elias Gideon Holladay  
B. May 8, 1806 D. June 17, 1881  
1st wife Sara Hammond Holladay  
B. January 7, 1803 D. January 31, 1853  
2nd wife Marietta Berry Holladay  
December 7, 1818 D., April 30, 1883  
Daughter Julia M. Holladay  
B. August 1, 1837 D. February 10, 1847

Photo by Charles Davis



Abigail  
Kies  
Holladay

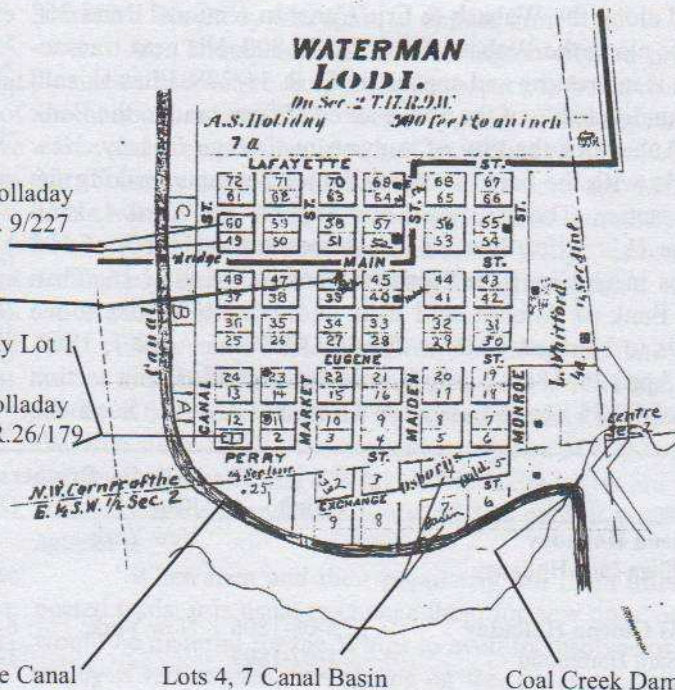
B. November  
4, 1815  
D. March 17,  
1891

Buried  
Silver Island  
Cemetery

Wife of  
Ambrose S.  
Holladay

Photo by  
Charles  
Davis

E.G. & E. H. Holladay  
Lots 49,60 D.R. 9/227  
3-12-1845  
Baptist Church  
D.R. 27/510  
Gideon Holladay Lot 1  
8-20-1847  
Abigail Keis Holladay  
11-24-1853 D.R.26/179



## LODI, FOUNTAIN COUNTY, INDIANA

lot was 120 feet square. Ambrose sold enough land at this site (about an acre) to the school trustees on July 20, 1880. A fine brick school was built and exists today in 2012 as part of the Lodi Baptist Church.

Ambrose and Hannah had two children, Hannah Sara A. and Ambrose S. Jr. Ambrose passed away in 1890. I have not been able to find out where he is buried. Abigail kept the warehouse on Lot #1 and the other property until she passed away in 1891. It was then passed on to her daughter Hannah Sara A. Warren in 1893. D. R. 63/452 Both Abigail and Hannah are buried in the Silver Island Cemetery.

Ambrose S. Holladay Jr. went bankrupt in 1890, transferred his property to Jn. Lyons to secure his debts. His last deed was in 1894, Fountain County. I could not find any trace of either Ambrose Jr. or his wife Maggie.

Elias H. Holladay was born in New York and lived in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. He went into business with his brother Elias Gideon when they bought Lots #37 and #48 on Canal Street in Lodi on June 16, 1845. Their brother Gideon sold them Lots #49 and #60 with three



acres north of the future school house lot on March 12, 1845. These were the store lots. In 1851 the tax value of them was \$560. July 11, 1846, Elias H. bought 80 acres of land along the Wabash & Erie Canal in section 11 and 268 acres along the Wabash River for \$2,800. His next transaction is interesting and appears in D. R. 16/288. Elias H. sold the undivided 1/2 of the above acres of farm land to the Bank of Auburn of the city of Auburn in Cayuga County, New York, with the bank president James Seymour making the transaction. The bank paid him \$8,000. On April 4, 1860 Elias H.'s wife, Susan S., sold the undivided 1/3 of 108 acres in section 10 to Norburn Thomas for \$181.16. Then the Bank of Auburn sold their undivided 1/2 of the above lands to Norburn Thomas for \$2,143.50 on April 7, 1860. On April 26, 1860, Susan S. sold the undivided 1/2 in section 11 of 79.75 acres. Lastly, on October 11, 1861, Susan S.,

guardian of her children declared Elias H. as deceased and sold off the undivided 2/3 of 1/2 of the rest of the above lands. Finding more about Elias H. Holladay at this time ends here.

Sources:  
Ancestry.com Holladay public member trees, birth, death records  
Beckwith. "Elias G. Holladay, Jr. *History of Vermillion County, Indiana*. 1879.  
"Bio. Of Ambrose S. Holladay" *History of Fountain County, Indiana*. Chicago, IL: N. H. Hill & N. Iddings, 1881.  
Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly, Ind. Ref. 920 B615g  
Carolyn Schmidt, Editor Canal Society of Indiana  
Deeds Rockville and Covington court houses  
"E. G. Holladay" *Past and Present of Vermillion County, IL*. 1903  
1850, 60, 70 and 80 Census of Parke Co., IN and Indianapolis  
1851 tax list, Rockville Library  
George Howe, Greenview Cemetery caretaker, Fairmount, IL  
Http://www.papermortuary.com/results.asp January 27, 2012  
Indiana State Library, Indianapolis  
Marriage Records, Rockville and Covington Libraries

The Holladay Brothers and Their Families						
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
<b>Gideon Holladay</b> m. Eliza Jane Holladay		New York			living in Fountain Co. Indiana in 1858 D.R. 17/604	
<b>Elias Gideon Holladay</b> m. Sara Hammond	5-08-1806 1-07-1803	New York	6-17-1881 1-31-1853	bur. Greenview Cem. bur. Greenview Cem.		
<u>children</u> Elias G. Jr. m. Clara P. Short	9-13-1835 1-03-1846	Livingston Co NJ Danville, IL				
Daughter of Thomas Short Elias and Clara living at Los Gatos, CA in 1903	Early settler in Vermillion County, IL					1866 Vermillion Co. IL
<u>children</u> Fred S. Sarah H. Child ?						
Julia M. Martha S. m. ? Cleghorn	8-01-1837 1839 living in Vermillion County, IL in 1867		2-10-1847	bur. Greenview Cem.		
Catherine m. Marietta Berry	1841 12-07-1818		4-30-1883	bur. Greenview Cem.	10-22-1855 Fountain Co., IN	
<u>children</u> Arthur E.	1858					
<b>Ambrose S. Holladay, Sr.</b> m. Abigail Kies	10-17-1809 11-04-1815	New York	1890 3-17-1891		bur. Silver Island Cem. 1-2-1851 Parke Co., IN	
<u>children</u> Hannah Sara A. m. Granville Warren	1852		12-04-1899	bur. Silver Island Cem.	Rec. 10/270 2-22-1891 Fountain Co. IN	
Ambrose S. Jr. m. Mary E.	1834 1857		6-13-1883	bur. Silver Island Cem.		
m. Maggie E. Rennick m. Nathan E. Crothers					6-29-1885 Parke Co, IN 10-10-1897 Parke Co., IN	
<b>Elias H. Holladay</b> m. Susan S.		New York				
<u>children</u> Mary Susan George Samuel	1828					
Names given in Probate Bk2/490 8-19-1861						