

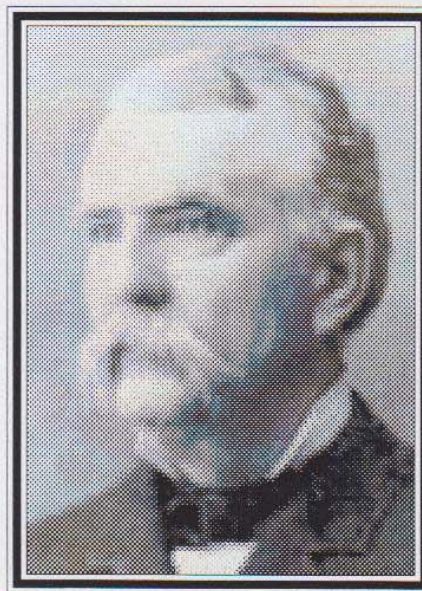
CANAWLERS AT REST

ROBERT NOBLE HUDSON

b. November 7, 1819

d. August 30, 1889

By Carolyn I. Schmidt



Robert Noble Hudson was born in Brookville, Indiana on November 7, 1819. He was the descendant of a decorated British naval captain, who had received the "Hudson grant" of 12 square miles on Maryland's east coast for his service to the navy and merchant marines.

Robert moved to Terre Haute in 1840. On April 17, 1841 the *Wabash Courier* mourned the death of President William Henry Harrison. The paper also ran advertisements. M. J. Reed and R. N. Hudson advertised house and sign painting.

Robert Noble Hudson received a higher education at Greencastle, Indiana. There he was a member of the Delta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at Indiana Asbury (DePauw University). He was graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism in 1844.

Attorney & Legislator

Following graduation he married Elizabeth Jones of Greencastle and they moved to Terre Haute so that Robert could study law in R. W. Thompson's office. The same year Robert was admitted to the bar, Elizabeth died of tuberculosis on October 15, 1847.

In 1846 or 47 Robert was an attorney for the court along with Alexander Thompson, William A. McKenzie, R. N. Waterman and Harvey D. Scott. He was a member of the Indiana legislature from 1847-1849.

In 1852 an election was held to select officers for a temporary organization of the city of Terre Haute. William K. Edwards was elected mayor. Elected councilmen were: Noah Beymer, George F. Lyon, Henry Fair-

banks, Thomas I. Bourne, James S. Wyethe, James H. Hudson, S. R. Franklin, Robert N. Hudson, Henry Ross, and Zenas Smith. Seven hundred and fifty-two votes were cast. Robert served a one year term.

Robert was selected to be a delegate to the 1852 Whig National Convention. During his two terms in the state legislature and as chairman of the House committee on banks and banking, he put forth legislation to establish a free state banking system.

Following the failure of the internal improvements projects of building canals, roads, railroads, etc. Indiana was deeply in debt. The state could not meet the interest payments. Robert proposed a compromise in which Wabash & Erie Canal bondholders forgave half of Indiana's obligations in exchange for canal land deeds. The remaining half was to be paid through the issuance of new bonds, which were to be exchanged for old bonds. The state agent was appointed to reside in New York, exchange the bonds and pay the interest when due. Robert drafted "The State Debt Bill," which was designed to preserve Indiana's fiscal integrity.

In 1851 James H. Craven was elected the first State Agent by the Indiana legislature. When Craven resigned, his clerk D. C. Stover was appointed by Governor Ashbel Willard to fill the position until the next election. In February 1861 Robert Hudson was elected as the new fiscal agent in New York to exchange old canal bonds for new. He sold his newspaper, the *Express*, and took the job. He found that counterfeit bonds worth \$2,538,000 million had been distributed by Stover, who had forged the signatures of the State Auditor and State Treasurer, both of whom had been out of office since 1855. All but \$100,000 of the bonds were issued to

just one person, Hallert. Hudson became famous throughout the state and nationally for stopping the "biggest swindle in Indiana history." Although Stover and Hellert were prosecuted in New York, the court decided that it was not a New York crime to forge certificates that were executed in Indiana. Indiana cancelled the unpaid forged certificates, but the sum of \$1,295,000 had already been paid out for the other forged certificates before the deceit had been discovered by Hudson.

Newspaper Owner/Editor

On May 12, 1851, the first *Daily Express* was published in Terre Haute by David Danaldson, Isaac M. Brown and John B. L. Soule. After they sold to Moses Soule, Soule moved the office to the north side of the courthouse square. He later sold this office to Robert. At this time the partners of the *Daily* and *Weekly American* dissolved their partnership and I. M. Brown became a partner with Robert in the publication of *The Express* in 1856. Robert was its editor until the end of the year. He then was the financial agent for Indiana at New York.

In 1858 Robert bought out Brown becoming sole owner of *The Express* and also started *The Daily and Weekly Union*. In 1859-60 Robert sold *The Express* to General Charles Cruft, who owned it through the Civil War before selling it to a company with Maj. O. J. Smith as editor.

The *Gazette*, which had editions published on Thursday and Saturday weekly, was established in 1868 by Maj. O. J. Smith and C. W. Brown. It was very successful. Smith sold his interest to R. N. Hudson and L. M. Rose and they became partners with C. W. Brown. Then on June 1, 1870 Hudson and Rose started a daily afternoon paper called the *Daily Gazette*. Robert was in charge of the editorial columns.

In August 1859 when Harvey D. Scott filed bond as the Vigo county treasurer, he had to have sure-

ties. They were Robert, W. R. McKeen, S. R. Freeman, S. H. Potter, T. C. Buntin, B. McKeen and J. C. Ross.

In 1860 Robert, a staunch supporter of Abraham Lincoln, was chosen a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He continued to support Lincoln in the Civil War.

Soldier

Near the start of the Civil War, Robert enlisted and was commissioned Colonel and Aide-De-Camp for General John C. Fremont in the 69th New York Regiment. Then he became Provost Marshal General for the Virginia Mountain Cavalry when Gen. Fremont transferred to Virginia.

In 1864 Robert married Mary V. Shaw (b. 1835-36), the daughter of the Reverend Henry Shaw, an Episcopal clergyman of Vincennes as early as 1823. He and Mary returned to Terre Haute.

Shortly after Robert arrived in Terre Haute President Abraham Lincoln received a special request from the governors of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio and Wisconsin to support the war efforts. Lincoln authorized these states to raise a force for General Sherman to use for garrison duties and to guard his communications. They were to serve 100 days. After being organized the following regiments went by train to Nashville, Tennessee, and were used to guard the railroads behind Sherman. Eight of these regiments were raised in Indiana at Governor Oliver P. Morton's request as follows:

1864

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 132nd Indianapolis | 5-17 Col. Samuel C. Vance |
| 133rd Richmond | 5-17 Col. Robert N. Hudson |
| 134th Indianapolis | 5-25 Col. James Gavin |
| 135th Indianapolis | 5-25 Col. William C. Wilson |
| 136th Bedford/Goshen | 5-23 Col. John W. Foster |
| 137th Indianapolis | 5-27 Col. Edward J. Robinson |
| 138th Indianapolis | 5-27 Col. James H. Shannon |
| 139th Indianapolis | 5-27 Col. George Humphrey |

FEDERAL CENSUS

| Name | Age 1850 | Occupation | Age 1860 | Occupation | Age 1870 | Occupation | Age 1880 | Occupation |
|------------------|----------|------------|----------|------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|------------------|
| Robert N. Hudson | 29 | Lawyer | 40 | Editor/Publisher | 50 | Editor T H Gazette | 56 | Retired Merchant |
| Mary | | | | | 35 | Keeping House | 44 | Kp House |
| Eliza (Ashmead) | | | | | 5 | | 15 | |
| Anita (Morford) | | | | | 3 | | 13 | |
| Morton | | | | | 2 | | 11 | |
| Robert N | | | | | | | 8 | |
| Edward Henry | | | | | | | 6 | |
| Robert's Estate | Real | | Personal | Real | Personal | Real | | |
| | 1000 | | 12,000 | 7,350 | 50,000 | 2,000 | | |

In the 1870 and 1880 Census Eliza Shaw, Mary's mother, was living with them.

Robert's service as Colonel of the 2nd Indiana Cavalry and 133rd Indiana Infantry during the Civil War was as follows:

Enlisted Terre Haute September 20, 1861, commissioned Aide-De-Camp (U.S. Volunteers) and promoted to (Full, Vol) Colonel
 Mustered out on November 19, 1861
 Commissioned Aide-De-Camp (U.S. Volunteers) March 31, 1862 and promoted to (Full, Vol) Colonel
 Resigned August 26, 1863
 Commissioned Field and Staff, 133rd Indiana Infantry May 17, 1864 and promoted to (Full, Vol) Colonel
 Mustered out Indianapolis September 5, 1864

Following the Civil War, Robert advocated humane treatment of the Confederacy in his *Terre Haute Gazette*. He hoped to heal the nation's wounds.

In 1868 Samuel Reese built an extraordinary residence for Robert and Mary Hudson at 507 South Sixth Street in Terre Haute. It became the home of the Women's Department Club, which was organized in 1920 to educate and enrich the lives of those women who belonged with an emphasis on appreciation of beauty and the fine arts. Today the club has approximately 300 members.

Abolitionist

Robert, an abolitionist, opposed the reconstruction measures and Kuklux bills that came before congress. The Ku Klux Klan Act was introduced in February 1871 by former Union General and Congressman Benjamin Franklin Butler. President Ulysses S. Grant signed Butler's bill and together with the 1870 Force Act, which enforced the civil rights provisions for individuals under the constitution, was used by the Federal government and the Federal court prosecuted Klansmen. (In 1882, after the Klan was destroyed, the Supreme Court ruled that congress's power under the Fourteenth Amendment did not extend to regulate against private conspiracies.)

Robert also opposed Grant's administration and supported Horace Greeley for election. When the *Indianapolis Journal* criticized his stand he wrote: "As for ourself as editor of the *Terre Haute Gazette*, we do not propose to ask the *Indianapolis Journal* or any other journal how we shall think or how we shall write. If the republican party in the campaign of 1872 intends to sustain the old reconstruction measures, and uphold the fearfully unwise measure known as the Kuklux bill, and oppose all bills looking to partial or general amnesty, as the last congress did, then we are not a republican, and will act with any party or body or men in opposition to those measures." Robert's stand led to other papers calling

him an "assistant democrat." Edmunds of the *Journal*, Smith from other papers and Robert called each other ugly names as their pens flew. It was red hot journalism.

Robert and L. M. Rose sold the *Gazette* to W. C. Ball and John S. Dickerson in November 1872. The firm of Ball & Dickerson continued publication until June 1874 when it was sold to Spencer F. Ball with the firm's name being W. C. Ball & Co.

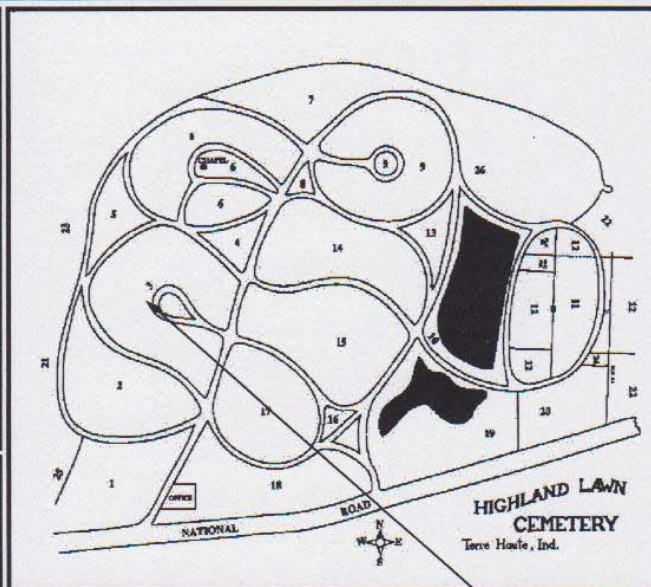
Robert was the editor of the *Terre Haute Gazette* from 1865-1889. He also purchased the *Journal* from John S. Jordan and James Bratt Edmunds. He conducted it until 1873.

In 1875 steps were taken to organize an old settlers' society for the 1876 centennial year. A preliminary meeting ordered that the daily papers give notice of a gathering to be held on Saturday July 12, 1875 for the purpose of organizing the "Old Settlers' Association" in Dowling Hall in Terre Haute. (Thomas Dowling was a trustee of the Wabash & Erie Canal.) It convened and elected R. W. Thompson, president. Robert was one of the old settlers present. At a later meeting he was called upon for a reminiscence. Besides saying that he had lived in Indiana for fifty-three years and in Terre Haute for thirty-seven years, he stated, "Sixty-seven years ago the thirteenth of last month, there floated down the Wabash river by the site of Terre Haute, 400 armed, painted and plumed Indian warriors, led by Tecumseh chieftain and Shawnee Prophet. There then was scarcely a white settlement between here and Vincennes. The whole country was in the possession and under the control of the most warlike Indians this country has ever produced. Not one single civil or religious law presided over the country, and that even in the time in the memory of some who are present."

In May 1885 another attempt was made to organize an Old Settlers' group and a call was made to all who had been in Vigo county for forty years or more. The meeting was held in Naylor's Opera House and Robert was elected secretary of the organization.

On October 24, 1889, "Aunt" Baldy celebrated her 100th birthday at the Home for Aged Women in Terre Haute. Mary, Robert's wife, contributed toward the \$100 gift that was given her.

Robert Noble Hudson died on August 30, 1889 in Terre Haute from a stomach ailment. He was buried in Terre Haute's Highland Lawn Cemetery, Section 3 Lot 142. A large stone marks the family plot. He has an individual small stone the reads: Robert N. Hudson 1819-1889.



Highland Lawn Cemetery is on the east side of Terre Haute along the north side of Wabash Avenue/U.S. 40, which runs through the city. Robert Noble Hudson is buried in Section 3, Lot 142.
Photos courtesy Theresa Young Vaughn

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CANAWLERS AT REST: ROBERT LOGAN UPDATE

CSI member Mary Kelley of Fries, Virginia, noted some discrepancies in the March 2009 issue of *The Hoosier Packet* concerning Robert Logan and his family. Further investigation concluded that the other persons listed on Robert and Elizabeth Logan's tombstone were their children and Henry Gray, the 10-year-old spouse of their daughter Mary. After Mary's early death, age 17, Henry continued to work on the Logan farm and was shown in their household in the 1850 census. He died at age 35 in 1855. The correct information for Robert and Elizabeth Logan, their children and Henry Gray is as follows:

| | <u>BORN</u> | <u>DIED</u> | | <u>BORN</u> | <u>DIED</u> | |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Robert Logan | Jan 29, 1808 | Dec 26, 1872 | *Robert Logan Jr. | 1844 | Oct 4, 1878 | nearby tombstone |
| Elizabeth Logan | Feb 22, 1813 | Jan 4, 1873 | Andrew J. Logan | Feb 19, 1846 | Aug 18, 1858 | |
| <u>Children of Robert & Elizabeth Logan</u> | | | *Alice M. Logan | 1849 | unknown | |
| Mary E Logan Gray | Mar 22, 1830 | Apr 5, 1847 | Linda Logan | Jan 11, 1851 | Jan 16, 1851 | |
| Sarah J. Logan | Sep 19, 1834 | Nov 25, 1850 | Joseph W. Logan | Jan 20, 1854 | Dec 15, 1872 | |
| Amanda E. Logan Thomas | Feb 7, 1840 | Feb 11, 1858 | <u>Spouse of Mary Logan</u> | | | |
| *Albert Logan | 1842 | unknown | Henry Gray | Nov 26, 1819 | Jul 19, 1855 | |
| *Not on their parents' tombstone | | | | | | |