

THE HOOSIER PACKET - FEBRUARY 2014

KILE AND DOLE

And Their Wabash & Erie Canal Connections

By Charles Davis

William Palmer Dole was born in Danville, Vermont on December 3, 1811 at the home of his mother, Abigail Isley Dole. His father, Enock Dole, was from Bedford, New Hampshire. When William was two years old, his parents moved to Bedford, New Hampshire where they remained until about 1818. They then came west to Hamilton or Rossville, Ohio. After remaining there three years, they moved to "Coleman's Grove," two miles north of Terre Haute, Indiana, and about one mile from "Fort Harrison" on the Wabash River. Enock bought lot 84 on November 1822 and lot 88 from James Wasson, where they resided on the southeast corner of 1st and Mulberry streets in a large two story hewn log house until the days of their deaths.

The Doles were quite active in Vigo County. Enock contributed to the building of the "Old Brick" school in 1827, which was intended for both church and school purposes. It was located at the northeast corner of 5th and Walnut streets and was later used by the Catholic Female Academy. He also had a store in Otter Creek township around 1840, in which he had the first post office. About 2½ miles southwest of Atherton, he owned the "Dole House," a tavern that was a hotel for boarders on the "Lafayette Road." Along with these accomplishments he promoted building the covered toll bridge across the Wabash River at Clinton, Indiana near Crabb's Ferry.

Wm. P. Dole received his schooling in a school fronting on Ohio street at the southeast corner of Water and Ohio Streets. In 1831 he left home and started life on his own at Clinton, Vermillion County, Indiana. There he engaged in the business of grocer and dry goods merchant, pork packer and produce dealer during which time he made eight trips down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, Louisiana. Most of the trips were by flat boat. He sold produce at all points from Memphis to New Orleans.

On February 15, 1833 William was married to Susannah Rush in Vermillion County. They had two children.

Starting in 1844, William was elected and served eight years in the House and Senate of Indiana. While at Clinton, he and Dr. William Kile became partners in the mercantile business using Clinton Locks on the Wabash and Erie Canal for shipping.



Dr. William Kile



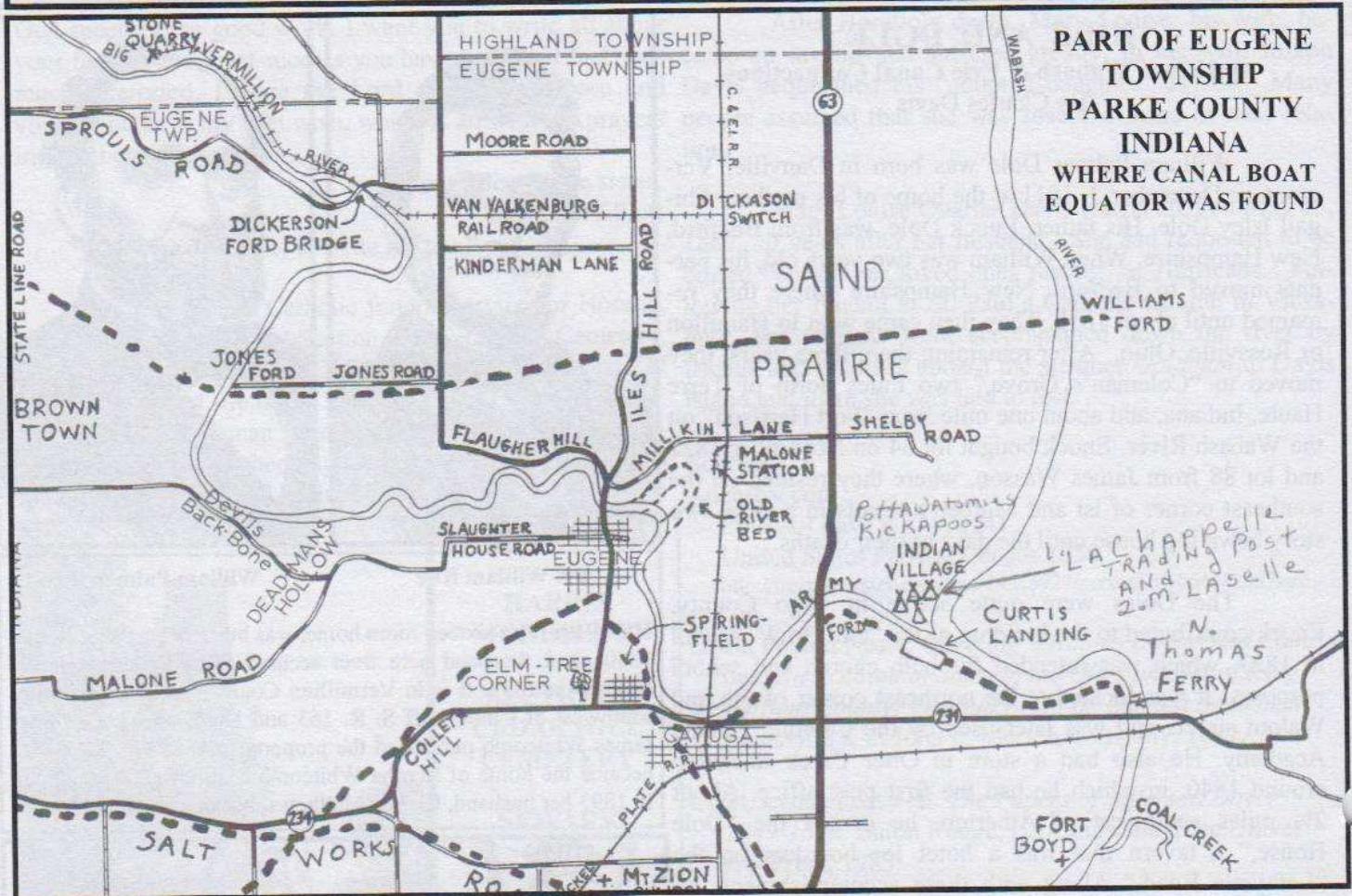
William Palmer Dole

Hazel Bluff, a sixteen room home, was built by Dr. Wm. Kile in 1840 on a thousand acre tract secured from President James Monroe in 1817. It is in Vermillion County, Indiana five miles southwest of Clinton off S. R. 163 and Highway 63. Governor James Whitcomb purchased the property in 1855 and in 1868 it became the home of Martha Whitcomb Matthews, his daughter. In 1893 her husband, Claude Matthews, became the governor.



Dr. Kile was a native of Ohio, born in 1809 to Oliver and Nancy (Jones) Coil (Kile). He was the grandson of Gabriel and Rebecca (Skidmore) Coil. He was first married to Miss Charity Webster, stepdaughter of Col. Blackman of Vermillion County. Upon the death of his father, Oliver, he was bequeathed his medical books. He built a home on Hazel Bluff road in which Governor Claude Matthews later lived. Not much is known of Dr. Kile during these years except that he was one of those involved in the whipping of Silas Bowers. "The Bowers Tragedy," *The Hoosier Packet* December 2005 by Charles Davis.

Around 1854 William Dole and Dr. Kile moved to



Paris, Edgar County, Illinois and opened a store as partners styled as "Kile and Dole." Even at a long distance they continued to use the Wabash & Erie Canal as one of their shipping points at Clinton Locks. One of the canal boats hired by them was the "Equator," that was owned and commanded by Nathaniel (Nat) C. Watkins. Nat was also the master of the "I.R. Youmans" of Clinton Locks and was the owner and master of the "I.L. Sloan." Nat's residence in the 1840s-1860s was at Covington, Fountain County, Indiana.

Evidently Nat was not very reliable, for Kile and Dole filed: "In the Parke County Common Pleas Court, October Term, 1857. Wm. Kile and Wm. P. Dole versus The Canal Boat Equator: Attachment to enforce a lien." It goes on to say, "The said Wm. Kile and said Wm. Dole plaintiffs complain of the said Canal Boat Equator now lying at the mouth of Big Vermillion River, near Eugene in Vermillion county Indiana and say that on the second day of May 1856 at said County, they contracted with one Nathaniel C. Watkins then Captain and Master of said Boat, for the delivery by the said Master and Captain to one Reid and Co.,

Toledo, Ohio of the following property of the plaintiffs to wit, 22 casks of hams, fifty two casks of shoulder, and seven casks of sides, marked "K & D" weighing 8,181.9 lbs. for the sum of \$4.17 per ton, in consideration whereof the said Master and Captain then received said articles on board of said Boat and then and there, undertook with, and promised the plaintiffs to deliver said articles as aforesaid, for the price aforesaid and in good order. Plaintiffs aver that the said Captain and Master of said Boat hath hereto failed, neglected and refused to deliver as aforesaid to the said Reid & Co. at Toledo, Ohio two casks of the said hams of the value of \$85.00 each and both now find neglect and refuse to deliver the same as aforesaid by means whereof the said two casks of hams then became and now are a total loss to said Plaintiffs.." It goes on to say the Captain refuses to pay the plaintiffs and that he has sustained damages to the amount of \$200. The court ordered the sheriff of Vermillion county to seize and take into his possession the Canal Boat Equator lying in Big Vermillion River, then on July 14, 1857 the sheriff states, "I attached the canal boat Equator it being in the Wabash River near B.A.C.W. Curtis Warehouse having in it at the time I took it about 12 inches

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William Palmer Dole's Family

Name	Birth/Place	Death	Burial/Place	Marriage/Place
Enoch Dole	1-01-1788 Bedford, VT	3-14-1855	Woodlawn Cem. D.47 B. 25 Terre Haute	1810 Danville
m. Harriet Pauline Dexter	9-06-1794 Danville, VT	7-25-1855	Woodlawn Cem. D. 27 B. 25 Terre Haute	1810 Danville
Wm. Palmer Dole	12-03-1811	9-30-1889	Washington D. C.	
m1. Susannah Rush	2-15-1833			2-19-1833 Vermillion, IN
Wm R. Dole				
Persus Jane Dole	Vermillion Co.	2-25-1917	Cook Co. IL	
m. Rudy				of Matton, IL
m2. Elizabeth Gorden	1-12-1826	3-00-1900	Washington D. C.	1861 Beloit Rock WI
Harriet Dole	11-16-1817	8-30-1892	Woodlawn Cem. D.47	
m. ? Harding				

Dr. William Kile's Family

Name	Birth/Place	Death	Burial/Place	Marriage/Place
Oliver Coil (Kile)	1775 Pendleton, VA	11-00-1834	Concord, OH	2-29-1808 Ross, OH
m. Nancy Jones	8-03-1788 Maryland	4-13-1853	Perry, IL	2-29-1808 Ross, OH
Dr. William Kile	9-01-1809 Fayette, OH	10-04-1877	Paris, IL	
m1. Charity Webster				
Rachel B. Kile				
m. George Elliot				
Landon W. Kile				
Robert H. Kile				
Carrie Kile				
m2. Widow of A. Jackson				
m3. Mary J. Hoggart	1829			1859 Vigo Co, IN
Susannah Coil	1811	1873		
James Coil	1812	1850		
Elizabeth Earl Coil	1814	1853		
Jacob Coil	1817			
John Coil	1819	1892		
Mary Coil	1822			
George Coil	1826			
Olived Coil (Kile) Jr.	1829	1863		

water, said boat appraised at fifty dollars by said John Dummons, assistant. July 19, 1857. James F. Weller, Sheriff." The case was won by Kile and Dole, the boat was sold and they were given \$30.46 for all their trouble. Watkins had to pay court costs of \$17.00.

piling high enough to keep it above flood water and located just inside the mouth of the Vermillion. The purpose of the landing was to permit steamboats coming up or down the Wabash to land cargo or passengers for Eugene.

The interesting part of this is that the Equator was lying in the mouth of the Big Vermillion River on the Wabash River. At that point was Curtis Landing Warehouse. Why was the Canal boat at that point and how did it get into the Wabash River? Did Watkins put it there to avoid being found during the law suit? The only method I, Charles Davis, can think of, is that he locked into the Wabash river at Vicksburg, east of Perrysville on the canal, then floated down to Big Vermillion. The Curtis warehouse site was called Curtis Landing where a large warehouse was built on

In 1860, William P. Dole was made a Delegate from Edgar County to the Chicago Convention. There he took an active part in the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency, and on his election was invited by him to go to Washington. William Dole participated in the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, March 4, 1861, and was a few days after nominated and confirmed Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He continued to hold the place and was on the most intimate relations with the President as long as Mr. Lincoln lived. According to the Federal Census Willaim P. Dole was living in Bath, W. Virginia in 1870 and Berkley Spring, W.

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Virginia in 1880. He passed away in 1889 at Washington City.

Dr. Kile continued for a number of years in "Kile and Dole" at Paris, Illinois before giving his entire attention to agricultural pursuits and stock dealing. He had been a good financier and accumulated good property, which he left to his wife and family when he died October 4, 1877.

Last Will and Testament of Oliver Coil-Kile

In the name of God, Amen.

I, Oliver Kile, of Ross County and State Ohio, being weak in body but of sound mind and memory, do make this my last will and testament in the following manner.

I will and bequeath unto my beloved wife, **Nancy Kile**, one-third of all my Estate.

I also bequeath unto my son, **William Kile**, his Medical Books.

I bequeath unto my daughter, **Susannah Kile**, one bay mare.

I bequeath unto my daughter, **Elizabeth Earl**, one sorrel mare and one red cow.

I bequeath unto my son **Jacob Kile**, one bay mare and a good education.

I do hereby make **William Kile**, my son, my executor of this my last will and Testament, that he shall dispose of all my estate in a lawful manner by way of making sale of all my property and collecting and paying all my just debts, and the over plus to be laid out in land where he may see proper, and the land to be equally divided, so soon as they may come of age between **Susannah Kile**, my daughter, **James Kile**, my son, **Elizabeth Earl**, my daughter, **John Kile**, my son, **Mary Kile**, my daughter, **George Kile**, my son, and **Oliver Kile**, my son.

H. B. - With the exception of so much of my estate as may be sufficient to give **Mary**, **George**, and **Oliver**, my three youngest children a reasonable education and support during their minority. Where unto I have set my hand and seal, this Fourth Day of November, -- 1834.

Oliver Kile

Attest:-

Isaac Pancake

George Lease

THE STATE OF OHIO Special Court, December - 25th, 1834. ROSS COUNTY

Personally appeared in Open Court, **Isaac Pancake** and **George Lease**, and being duly sworn, say that they saw Oliver Kile on the fourth day of November 1834 Sign and acknowledge the annexed will to be his voluntary act and deed, that at the time of acknowledging the same, he was

of sound mind and memory and fully capable of disposing of his property as they fully believe that they were called upon on the Fourth day of November aforesaid, to attest his acknowledgment, and subscribed their names, respectfully to said will, which they did, then and there, do in the presence, of said Oliver Kile and of each other, and at the time of said acknowledgment, the contents of said will were fully known to said Oliver Kile,

Isaac Pancake

George Lease

Sworn and subscribed in open court December 25th, 1834.

THE STATE OF OHIO ROSS COUNTY

I, Humphrey Fullerton, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify the foregoing is truly copied from the original on file in my office. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & affixed the seal of said court, this 25th, day of December, A. D. 1834 and of this State,

The 33rd.

Humphrey Fullerton, Clerk

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Computer research by Mary Jane Davis

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