

CANAWLERS AT REST

PETER MYERS

Find-A-Grave 15309091

**b. October 20, 1825
d. 18??**

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

Peter Myers was born on October 20, 1825 in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. He was one of David and Susan Myers' six children. Both of his parents were born in Pennsylvania.

Peter was reared along with his siblings in his parent's home until he was 15 years old. During his youth he attended school where he learned enough to be able to read, write, and solve ordinary arithmetic problems.

Where Peter lived or what he did to support himself for about the next 10 years we do not know. It is probable that he learned carpentry. He could not be found on the 1850 U.S. Federal Census.

In 1851, around the age of 25, Peter moved to Gibson county, Indiana where he was employed for a short time on the Wabash & Erie Canal. This was the last portion of the canal to be completed. It linked the 18 miles of the Central Canal that had been built out of Evansville to the Cross-Cut Canal at Worthington, Indiana. The Wabash & Erie Canal was opened to traffic from Toledo to Evansville in 1853. On July 29, 1853, the first boat, "Pennsylvania," with Captain Sharra arrived at Evansville.

Apparently canal work didn't agree with Peter for a few months later, in July of 1851, he was in Lynnville, Warrick county, Indiana helping build the Baptist Church. In 1852 he helped build the Rigney Mill on Lost River. Then up to July 1853 he was engaged as a house carpenter in Winslow, Pike county, Indiana. After working around

southern Indiana, he finally returned to Lynnville and settled down for about ten years.

On August 10, 1862 Peter enlisted as a private in Company E. Sixty-fifth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers Infantry and was mustered in. During the Civil War he, along with his company, actively participated in the battles at Atlanta, Georgia in 1864; Nashville, Tennessee in 1864; and Wilmington, North Carolina on February 11-22, 1865. He was also in numerous lesser engagements. On June 22, 1865 Peter mustered out at Greensboro, North Carolina. He was honorably discharged.

Peter returned to Lynnville where he again used his carpentry skills. The 1880 U.S. Federal Census shows him living at Hart, Warrick county, Indiana. He is single and his occupation is listed as a carpenter. The 1885 history of Warrick county says he was engaged in undertaking and house carpentering and was "doing a creditable business."

Politically Peter was a Republican. He was in the G.A.R. at Lynnville and served as its Quartermaster.

Peter Myers died sometime after 1885 and was laid to rest in the Lynnville Cemetery. His tombstone gives no date of birth or death but simply reads:

PETER MYERS

CO. E

65 IND. INF.

Sources:

Fatout, Paul. *Indiana Canals*. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 1972.

Find-A-Grave #15309091 Peter Myers

History of Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties, Indiana.

Chicago, IL: Goodspeed Bros. & Co., Publishers, 1885.
United States Federal Census 1880



**A MURDER IN PARKE COUNTY
AND ITS WABASH & ERIE CANAL CONNECTIONS**

By Charles Davis

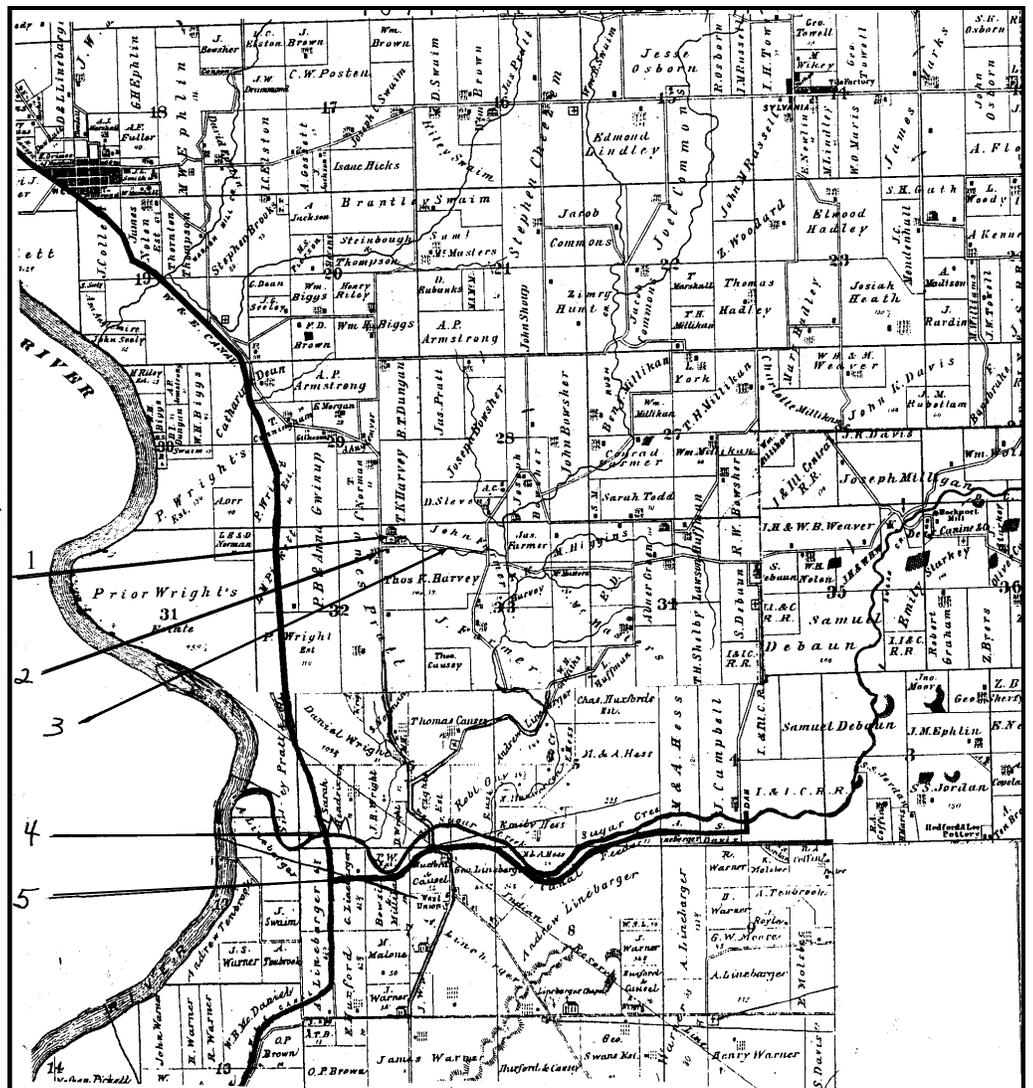
On page two of *The Republican* on February 7, 1856 there was this article about a murder in Liberty township, Parke county, Indiana under the heading "HOWARD, INDIANA, January 30." The article is quoted below in its entirety:

"The supposed murder happened on Thursday night the 17th inst., between the hours of nine and ten, on the road leading from Wrights Mill (Devils Den) and intersecting the main road near the residence of T. K. Harvey (Thomas K. Harvey), Esq. and about three miles from Howard. On said night there was a noise heard in the direction of the place where the shirt was found made by a person apparently in distress. The noise was heard by several persons living in the neighborhood, but they attributed it at the time to some boys who they suppose were in the woods hunting.

"The next morning the shirt was discovered by a small boy. It was concealed in the side of a hill, in a hole formed by a portion of the earth projecting over it. It so happened that a number of the neighbors were passing by at the time who examined the shirt attentively. It was very bloody from top to bottom, several gashes, evidently made with a knife, were on different parts of the shirt. One across the throat, severing the collar band from the body of the shirt; two on the right breast, about the width of an ordi-

nary butcher knife and about the region of the heart, some two or three inches long. There is no doubt, but these gashes were made with a knife, for they were as fresh when discovered as though they had just been made. It appears that the shirt was jerked off the man in a hasty manner, for some of the buttons were freshly torn off and the sewing in one of the sleeves, near the wristband torn loose. The shirt is now at Mr. Craft's house, near which it was found and can be seen by any one that will take the trouble to call.

"Close to the place where it was discovered, there were signs of a scuffle having taken place. There was considerable blood on the snow, some hair, and the print of a man, who was either thrown or knocked down. There were also the foot prints of three men in a fence corner close by, who it seems from their peculiar position being secreted behind a stump, and from the quantity of tobacco spit on the snow, were evidently waiting for something or somebody.



1874 Map of Liberty & Reserve Townships, Parke County, Indiana

1. Harvey School and Cemetery
D.R. 4/424 June 6, 1831
2. Thomas K. Harvey Residence
3. Hollow — Site of Murder
4. Sugar Creek Aqueduct #11 —
Site where body was thrown into the water
5. Sugar Creek Feeder to the main line of Wabash & Erie Canal

“The body, if such it was, was thrown upon a sleigh and hauled off, for the sleigh was tracked, with occasional traces of blood from the spot where the encounter took place, to a house in the vicinity, and from thence to within two or three hundred yards of the Sugar Creek Aqueduct, as near as they could get with the sleigh. It is thought that the villains threw the body off the Aqueduct into the water below as there was blood discovered on the abutments.

“The bed of the creek has been pretty thoroughly searched, but as yet no traces of the body has been found. Some houses of suspected persons were also searched, but without success. It is hoped that time may bring the guilty

persons to light and heap upon them the punishment they so richly deserve. No arrest here yet been made. JUSTICE”

Searching several months of this paper revealed nothing more on this case. There was a band of Regulators operating around in the county at this time administering punishment to various persons they thought committed crimes as reported in this paper. One young man was caught by them at night and was beaten badly. The editor of the paper giving them the credit of the deed. The young man’s crime is that he made “rude” remarks to a woman. It seems like this case and many others at this time in history, they were unsolved. In this time frame, within a year, there were