

## CANAWLERS AT REST

### JOHN SMITH NEWMAN

b. April 10, 1805  
d. March 1, 1882

By Robert F. & Carolyn I. Schmidt



In 19<sup>th</sup> century Indiana many persons throughout the state were involved in a variety of transportation projects. Some of them, like John S. Newman, are buried in Crown Hill Cemetery next to governors and distinguished citizens of the Hoosier state. Both John and his wife's family were deeply involved in politics and the early development of Wayne County establishing a place for them there in early eastern Indiana history. A lawyer by profession, during his lifetime in Indiana John was the president of a canal company, a railroad and a bank. Who was this man who played such an important role in Hoosier transportation and banking?

Around the time of the American Revolution many Quaker families had settled along the banks of the Uwharrie River in Randolph County, North Carolina. This location is about 30 miles south of Greensboro. Here we find the family of Andrew Hoover on a large farm of 500 acres, but only 36 acres were in good rich bottomlands, the rest were in poor uplands with pine forest and scrub brush. In 1776 Andrew had married Elizabeth Waymire, the daughter of Rudolph Waymire, his father's old friend. Their first child, a daughter named Mary, was the mother of our subject John Newman. She was born on March 3, 1777, and was the first of the Hoover's ten children.

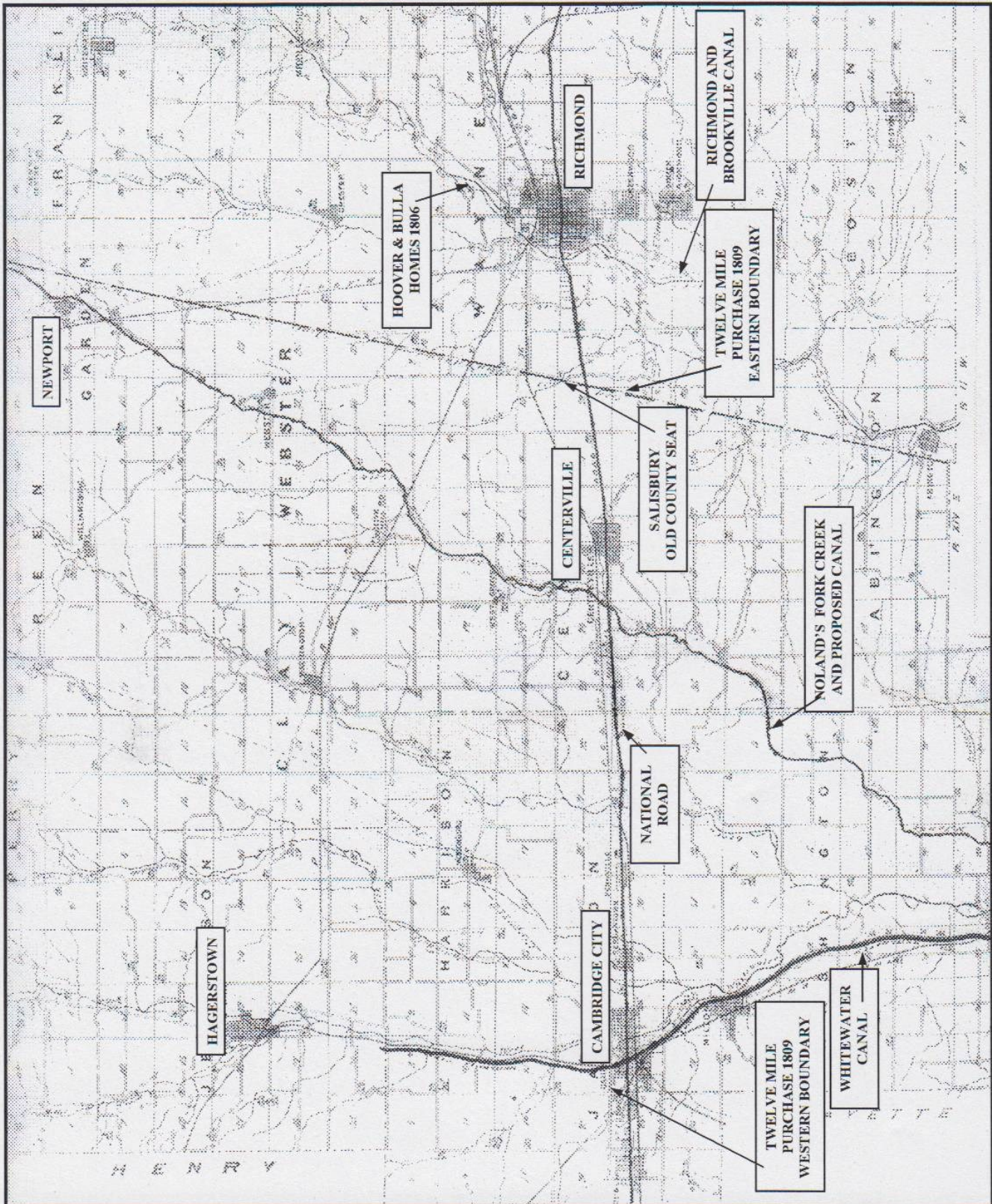
Andrew Hoover's father, also named Andrew, had established a mill at the forks of the Uwharrie. A small community was gathered around this area called "Hoover Hill." Andrew Jr.'s farm was nearby and this is where Mary grew up. She married a local Quaker, Thomas Newman, on April 30, 1796. She was nineteen and he was twenty-two. In 1795 a severe flood in the community had submerged the bottomlands, family homes,

and outbuildings and had carried away crops and livestock. Again this destruction was repeated in 1798.

In 1800, Andrew, at age forty-eight, and some neighbors set out on horseback for the Northwest Territory looking for a better farming location. The Quakers also sought to escape the slavery issues in North Carolina. The Ordinance of 1787, which established the Northwest Territory, forbade slavery. The group explored areas of today's Warren and Montgomery Counties in Ohio (statehood in 1802). It was a strenuous trip. One of the party, Martin Davenport, died before they returned to North Carolina.

Some of the Quaker families in the area set out for the Ohio country in the fall of 1801. That year they wintered about ten miles south of Dayton in Warren County. After additional exploration, some decided to locate on the Stillwater River about ten miles north of Dayton in Montgomery County. The land was flat and looked very fertile so in the spring of 1802 they moved their families there. That September Andrew and Elizabeth set out from "Hoover Hill" with their family of eight children and the families of their two daughters, Thomas and Mary Newman and William and Elizabeth Bulla. They arrived at the Stillwater River but found the community in ill health due to ague and malaria. They stayed through the winter before moving south into Warren County near Waynesville and Lebanon where Andrew purchased 200 acres. It appears that when the Hoovers moved, the Newmans and Bullas stayed in the Stillwater area, in fact they may have come earlier with the Quaker settlers of 1801.

Tom and Mary Newman had three young chil-



### WAYNE COUNTY, INDIANA IN 1876

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana 1876 published by Baskin & Forster Co., Chicago, Illinois

dren when they moved from North Carolina, Joseph (b. 1797), Elizabeth (b. 1799), and Rebecca (b. 1800). Their next son James S. was born in Ohio in 1803 and then John S. born April 10, 1805. Only a year after John's birth tragedy struck with the death of his mother, Mary, on May 18, 1806. She was just 29 years old with five small children ages 1-9. Mary was buried at a Quaker meeting house fourteen miles north of Dayton. Since Tom was unable to care for so many young children by himself, one-year-old John was sent to live with his grandparents, Andrew and Elizabeth Hoover, then in their mid-fifties. John fit right into the family since their youngest daughter, his aunt Sarah (b. 1798) was eight years old and younger than his oldest brother.

The Hoover family was always looking for a better location. Andrew's eldest son, David Hoover (age 24), explored the Indiana Territory from the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville) to Vincennes, the territorial capital, with his friends John Smith and Robert Hill. They didn't care for the area. In March of 1806 David Hoover and some others left the Stillwater River and traveled due west following a section line through the woods for some 40 miles. They arrived in the area where future Richmond, Indiana, would develop. Why did these men stop there? Just three miles west of Richmond was Indian Territory. It was not until 1809 that Governor William Henry Harrison acquired the "Twelve Mile Purchase." This land included much of western Wayne County, Indiana, up to Cambridge City. After the War of 1812 when Indian hostilities were over, Quakers began pouring into that area.

On returning home in the spring of 1806 David described the area he had explored to his father as "a land of promise." In June 1806 Andrew Hoover returned with David to the Whitewater area and they purchased property. In August of that year Andrew moved his family with two-year-old John S. Newman to a site about two miles north of Richmond, Indiana. William and Elizabeth (Hoover) Bulla wanted to get away from the unhealthy situation on the Stillwater and soon followed.

They settled on the Middle Fork of the Whitewater River in what was to become Wayne County and later constructed a mill there. The living conditions for these settlers were very primitive. They lived in log cabins and had to clear the land before they could plant crops. As he grew up young John had to help with the chores on his grandfather's farm.

David Hoover's

DAVID HOOVER 1781-1866



friends, John Smith and Jeremiah Cox, had established towns around 1816. Smith called his old town Smithville and Cox called his town Coxborough. In 1818 David combined Smithville and Coxborough and laid out and named the town of Richmond.

Wayne County had been organized in 1810 by the Indiana Territorial legislature. For sometime there was a disagreement as to the location of the county seat. Finally a court directed that it be located halfway between Centerville and Richmond on the old Greenville Treaty Line. The site selected was called Salisbury, after the town in North Carolina near Greensboro. David Hoover, who was justice-of-the-peace in 1810, associate judge of the circuit court in 1815, and clerk of the circuit court 1817-1831, preferred Salisbury, since it was close to his home in Richmond. When Indiana became a state in 1816, the legislature immediately passed a bill stating that Centerville would be the county seat. It is worth noting that Rebecca Hoover, David's sister married Isaac Julian, who was a staunch supporter of the Centerville faction. In 1818 Centerville, being more centrally located finally became the county seat of Wayne County. The old original log courthouse was moved to Centerville. It is the only remaining log courthouse that remains in the Northwest Territory. By this time much of the legal and commercial interest was gathered around this governmental center.

As Centerville became a magnet for politicians and lawyers, one of the prominent political figures moving into the community in Dec 1823 was Samuel Hannah and his family. The Hannahs had originally moved west in 1815 from Brownsville, a town in Pennsylvania about 30 miles above Pittsburgh on the Monongahela River. Sam's wife, Eleanor, and two daughters Anna (b.1812) and Eliza (b.1813) traveled by flatboat down the Ohio to Cincinnati, and then, like the Hoovers, moved on to Warren County, Ohio. Samuel taught school there for two years. Sam decided to look for better opportunities and in 1817 moved his family into the Whitewater valley and settled on a farm near Milton in

SAMUEL HANNAH 1779-1869 ELINOR BISHOP HANNAH d.1864



Washington Township. When Samuel was elected Sheriff of Wayne County in the fall of 1823, he decided that he needed to move to Centerville. He resigned his post as Sheriff in 1825 and in 1826 was elected a representative of Wayne County in the Indiana House for one term and was elected again in 1843. He was elected by the legislature to serve as treasurer of the State of Indiana for 1847-50.

Since John's uncle David Hoover was the Clerk of the Wayne County Circuit Court when John moved to Centerville in 1827 at the age of 22 to study law, he easily got a job as deputy clerk of the Wayne County courts. He soon met the young little "Liza Jane" Hannah, who was then 14. John was attracted to Eliza and began courting her. John S. Newman was admitted to the bar in May 1828 and began practice with his uncle's firm. Gainfully employed and able to support a family, John and Eliza Jane Hoover were married on Oct 1, 1829. She had just turned 16 on Sep 13<sup>th</sup> and he was 24 on April 10<sup>th</sup>.



ELIZA JANE (HANNAH)  
NEWMAN

It was during this period that Solomon Meredith also appears on the scene. Meredith, who later commanded the "Iron Brigade" at Gettysburg and became a Major General in the Civil War, arrived in Wayne County near Richmond in 1829. He was elected sheriff in 1834 & 1836. He courted Samuel Hannah's oldest daughter Anna (b. 1812) and married her on March 17, 1835. She was almost 23 and he was nearly 25. In 1838 he likewise operated a mercantile business in Cambridge City until 1843. From 1846-48 he too was a member of the state legislature and involved in Whig and Republican Party conventions.

John S. and Eliza Jane Newman became parents for the first time in 1831. Their daughter Mary was born. They eventually had six children, two of which died at an early age. They lived in a large white brick house on North Morton Street known as the Pritchard property. Judge John Newman built the north end of the house and Achilles Williams built the south end.

In addition to Sam Hannah, his father-in-law, and Solomon Meredith, his brother-in-law, serving in the Indiana legislature, several of John Newman's uncles also served in it and were even more involved in Indiana politics. Henry Hoover, David's younger brother, served as

state representative in the first session of January 1825 when the capitol was moved from Corydon to Indianapolis. He also served in 1826, 1829-1831. David Hoover served in the Indiana Senate 1832-34 and 1841-43. John's aunt Rebecca's husband, Isaac Julian, was in the 1822 legislature. Julian's sons, Jacob and George, served in the 1840s. So John had numerous political connections through family members. It is also worth noting that another son of Andrew Hoover, John Hoover, was the great-great-grandfather of the thirty-first president of the United States, Herbert C. Hoover, of West Branch, Iowa.

John S. Newman, at age 29, became a representative from Wayne County in the Indiana House in 1834 probably with the help of his uncles. He was a Whig and later a Republican. He served for one term. It appears after this time that in addition to practicing law, John was also involved with a commercial mercantile business with his father-in-law, Samuel Hannah, who was County Clerk during the period 1830-37. The establishment was known as Hannah & Newman.

A law was passed by the legislature in 1837 that provided "it shall be the duty of the Circuit Court of each county to appoint three suitable persons as examiners of common-school teachers." The Wayne Co. court records show that John S. Newman was appointed as one of these examiners for 1838.

The White Water Canal was authorized by the Legislature as part of the 1836 Mammoth Internal Improvement Bill. As planned it would extend from Cambridge City (platted 1836) on the National Road to Lawrenceburg on the Ohio River. Groundbreaking took place in Brookville on September 16, 1836. Construction was completed from Lawrenceburg to Brookville by 1839. The works beyond came to a halt with the Indiana financial crisis in 1839. On January 20, 1842 the White Water Canal Company was created to complete the canal, which it did. The canal reached Connersville in June 1845 and Cambridge City by October 1845. The Hagerstown extension was completed in 1847.

John S. Newman practiced law in Centerville for many years. He was a law partner of Jesse P. Siddall, who arrived in Centerville in 1843/44. The firm was called Newman & Siddall. They were partners for about 10 years. During this time John Newman was very comfortable in his law practice and was apprenticing others in his law firm. His cousin, Jacob Julian, studied with him and became a lawyer and later a state representative. Oliver P. Morton studied with him in 1846 and later became Indiana's Civil War Governor (1861-1867) and U.S. Senator (1867-1877). Morton was admitted to the bar in 1847. John and Oliver developed a lifetime friendship.

At this time John also began to branch out into other activities. One of the first of these was planning the Noland's Fork Canal. This canal was to run from Centerville and follow Noland's Fork Creek southwest to the Whitewater Canal at Connersville in Fayette County. On January 13, 1845 the Indiana legislature passed a bill authorizing the creation of the Noland Fork Canal Company or, if that proved impractical, a railroad. The company was authorized capital stock of \$75,000 and a beginning construction date within five years of March 1845. Although it looked like it would fit neatly into the transportation network being developed, as far as we know, it never "got off the ground."

In January 1847 John Newman was elected president of the White Water Canal Company that was headquartered in Connersville. His salary was set at \$1,000. The company had acted under state charter since January 20, 1842 and various persons had been its president including James Conwell (1842) and Samuel Parker (1843- resigned 1847). In a contested election for the board of directors in 1848 there were two ticket factions - the Newman ticket & the Parker faction. The Newman ticket prevailed and John remained president for five years.

The state was in a financial crisis in regards to the debt owned for the state's internal improvement projects. Charles Butler, a lawyer from New York, came to Indiana and negotiated a plan to turnover the Wabash & Erie Canal to private control. On July 31, 1847 Indiana transferred the Wabash & Erie Canal to a private trust headquartered in Terre Haute. Hoosiers demanded a new state constitution that would prevent the type of borrowing in the future as had been done for Internal Improvements, which had led to the financial crisis.

A Constitutional Convention assembled in October of 1850 to consider modifications of the constitution. One hundred fifty delegates were appointed by the legislature. Representing Wayne County were: John S. Newman (Circleville), James Rariden (Cambridge City), Othniel Beeson, and John Beard. George G. Shoup of Franklin County was also one of the delegates. John S. Newman was Chairman of the Committee on Special and Local Legislation and Uniformity of Laws.

In the detailed minutes of the convention, Newman is mentioned several times concerning women's right to own and inherit property in their own name. He also was concerned about the protection of Negro rights. These human rights issues were of great concern to all of the Quaker community. Other minutes show that he was vocal on the time for the legislature to meet. He favored the biennial meetings that were proposed but thought the legislature should meet on the first Monday of December vs. the revised first Thursday

after the first Monday in January. He felt that sessions starting in January might not end in time for the members to be "home to attend to the spring business" -- farming. The proceedings of the convention lasted until February 10, 1851 and the constitution was official implemented November 1, 1851 after being approved earlier by the electorate.

In January 1850 the legislature had authorized the sale of the Central Canal. As circumstances would have it, the auction at the door of the Capital occurred on Saturday, November 16, 1850. The sale was to George G. Schoup, James Rariden and John S. Newman, all were members of the Constitution Convention, which was meeting at the time, and also were directors of the White Water Canal. These men were well known to one another. George Schoup from Laurel, Indiana, had married Jane Conwell, daughter of James Conwell, a legislator who laid out Laurel. James Rariden, a lawyer friend from Centerville, had worked with David Hoover.

Why did John Newman, Schoup and Rariden purchase the Central Canal for \$2,425? I am sure it was strictly a speculative lawyer-type adventure for they either found or had a buyer transferring the canal three months later on February 7, 1851 to Francis A. Conwell, who represented the Central Canal Manufacturing, Hydraulic, and Water Works Company of Rochester, NY. All of these negotiations occurred while the Constitution Convention was in session.

The Constitution Convention minutes indicate that John was out of his seat for part of the time. He was probably negotiating with others to purchase the Central Canal. Also during the convention a newspaper column in the *Jeffersonian* was discussed that accused Whitewater Canal men and others of plundering the people. John S. Newman was mentioned as follows, "He has the honor, I believe, to be the President of the White Water Canal; and doubtless he too, will feel greatly complimented by this polite notice through the columns of the *Jeffersonian* -- a paper that circulates extensively among his immediate constituents. But let any man look into the honest face of John Newman, and tell me whether he believes that he could be guilty of plundering the public, and trampling upon the rights of the people for the benefit of a soulless corporation, although he may be the President and a large stockholder in it. Sir, it is an unmitigated calumny, to which no honorable man can give credit for a moment; and I hurl it back with indignation into the very face of the calumniator, whoever and wherever he may be -- there let it stick until it blisters."

John's father-in-law, Samuel Hannah, was in the legislature in 1843-44. He moved to Indianapolis in 1847 when he was elected Indiana State Treasurer and

served until 1850. On January 20, 1851 the legislature created the Indiana Central Railroad Company chartered to build a railroad from Indianapolis to the Ohio state line. On March 3, 1851 Hannah was elected its first president, but he resigned so on July 15, 1851. John Newman became president and served until October 13, 1864. After Samuel resigned as the railroad's president, he remained involved as Treasurer of the railroad from May 1852 - January 1864 when he retired. He died in Indianapolis September 9, 1869.

The Indiana Central Railroad was completed by September 19, 1853 when regular train service began. John S. Newman moved his family to Indianapolis in 1860 due to his increasing railroad responsibilities. John's brother-in-law, Solomon Meredith, was the financial agent for the Indiana Central Railroad. In many ways the company was a family affair.

By the 1850s-60s canals were beginning to feel increased pressure from the railroads. The White Water Canal was plagued with floods and much structural damage. On July 22, 1863 the canal was sold to the Indianapolis & Cincinnati Railroad Company, H.C. Lord president. Fortunately John Newman had moved on to railroads.

The Merchant's National Bank of Indianapolis was organized on January 17, 1865. On September 1, 1866, John Newman became president of this newly

formed bank located at 23 N. Meridian Street. Its headquarters were permanently moved to 48 East Washington St in Indianapolis in 1904. John remained there for several years into the early 70s. During this time he was also on the Indianapolis City Council from 1869-1872.

John and his wife Eliza were both involved in many other activities in their later years. One of these efforts was the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The association held annual meetings to "promote intercourse between those who are cultivating science in different parts of the United States." John not only attended the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting held in August 16, 1871 in Indianapolis, he was one of the local committee of ninety-five that arranged it. Both he and Eliza attended the meeting held in Dubuque, Iowa, in August 13, 1872. They are both listed as members of the early pioneers in a State Board of Agriculture report of 1879.

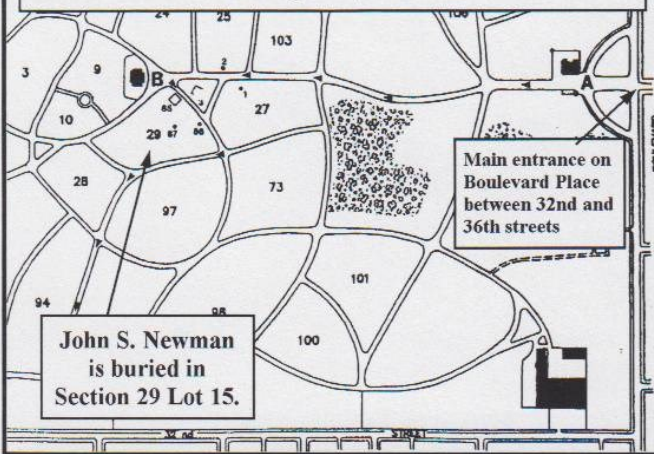
The Federal Census of 1850 shows John's valued real estate at \$3,000 and he was listed as a lawyer. The 1860 census does not give his worth but lists him as a R. R. Pres.. In 1870 his real estate was \$31,000, personal estate \$70,000 and he was a banker. In 1880 he is listed as a retired banker.

John S. Newman died March 1, 1882 at age 77. Eliza Jane (Hannah) died February 27, 1891, also age 77. Both are buried in Section 29 Lot 15 at Crown Hill cemetery near the Gothic Chapel.

SOURCES

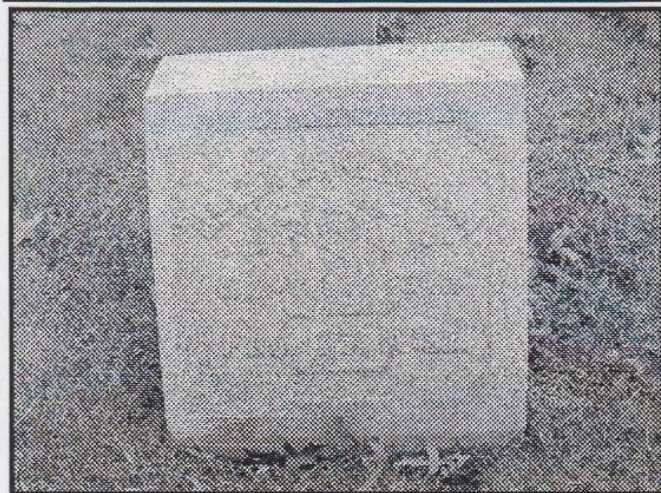
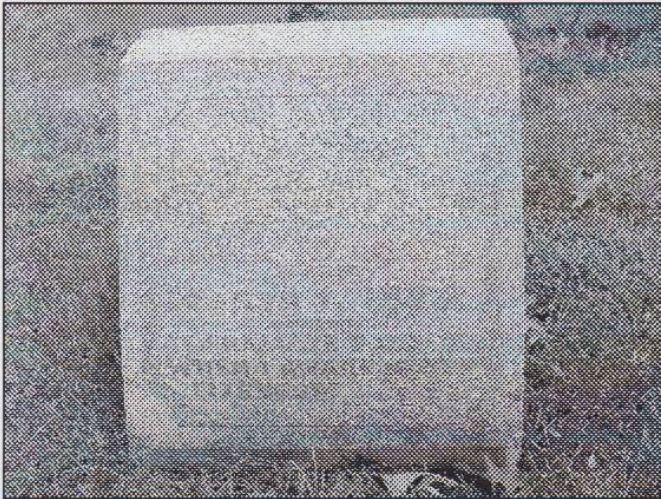
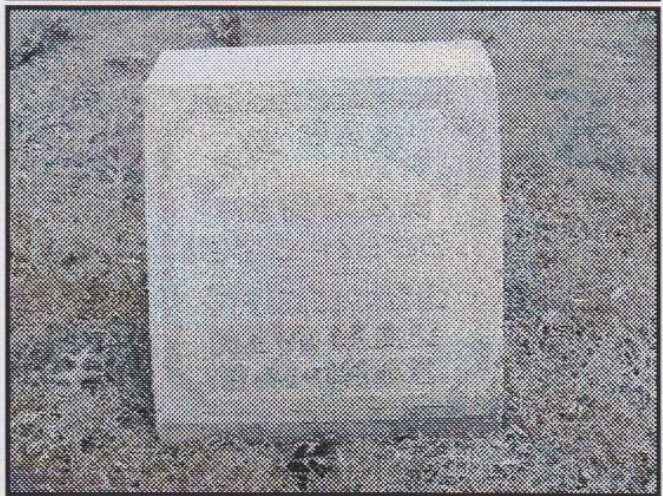
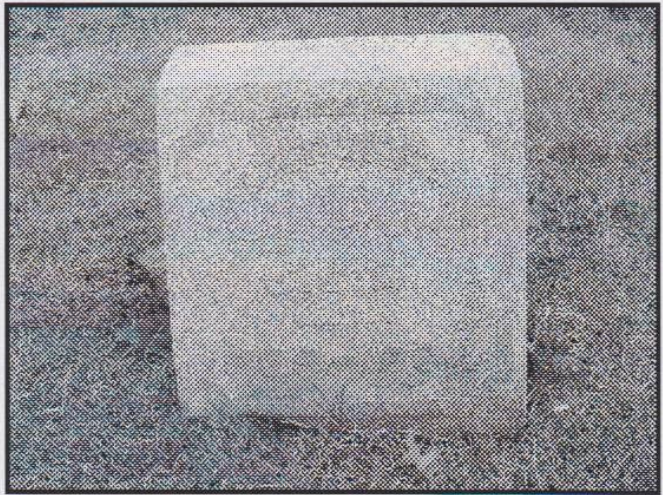
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 www.crownhill.org/locate/

A Portion of  
**CROWN HILL CEMETERY**  
Indianapolis, Indiana



John S. Newman  
is buried in  
Section 29 Lot 15.

Main entrance on  
Boulevard Place  
between 32nd and  
36th streets



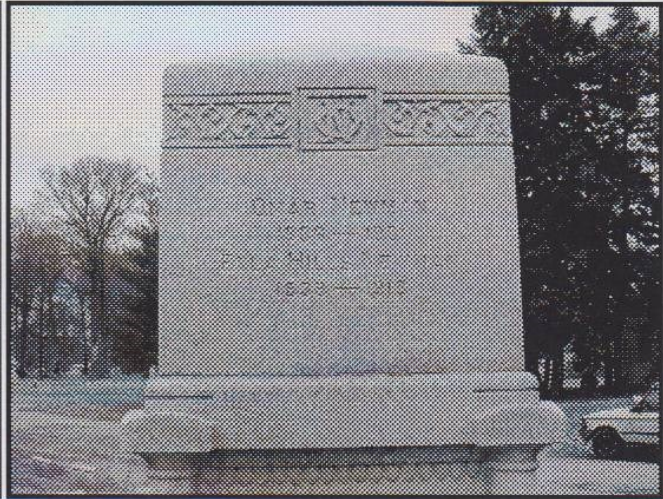
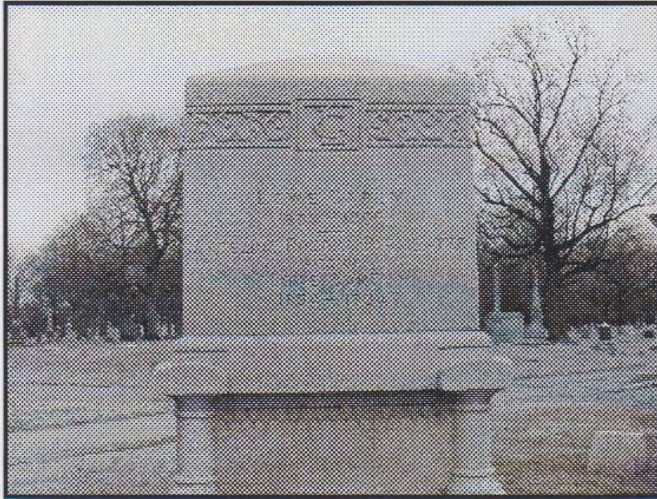
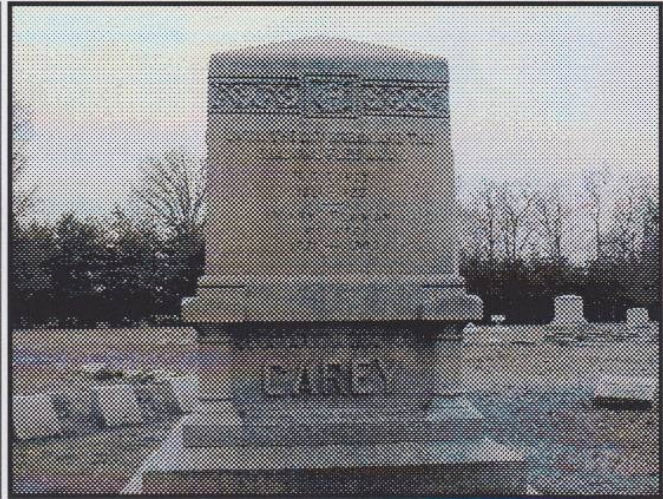
Photos by  
**CHARLES  
HUPPERT**

Walter Newman U.S.A. 1839-1864  
Ann Sarah Newman 1832-1835  
Frederick Newman 1841-1842



John S. Newman April 10, 1805 - March 1, 1882  
I WILL BE SATISFIED WHEN I AWAKE IN THY LIKENESS  
Eliza J. Newman Sept 17, 1813 - Feb 27, 1891

Walter, John, Eliza then Ann and Frederick  
Looking west the stones face north  
NEWMAN  
CAREY



Southeast side:

**NEWMAN**

I WILL BE SATISFIED WHEN I AWAKE IN THY LIKENESS.

Northwest side:

**LOWE CAREY**

1859-1900

**ANGELINE ROXANN PARMENTER**

WIFE OF

**LOWE CAREY**

1854-1934

Northeast side:

**CAREY**

UNTIL THE DAY BREAK, AND THE SHADOWS FADE AWAY.

**H. C. Carey**

1826-1895

**MARY NEWMAN**

HIS WIFE

1831-1900

Northwest side:

**OMAR NEWMAN**

1836-1901

**ELLA HILLS NEWMAN**

1838-1918

Photos by

**CHARLES HUPPERT**

**Children of JOHN S. and ELIZA J. (HANNAH) NEWMAN**

MARY E. NEWMAN 1831-1900 married Dr. Harvey G. Carey of Sidney, OH later Centerville and Indianapolis

ANN SARAH NEWMAN 1832-1835

GERTRUDE NEWMAN Feb. 1834-1910 married Ingram Fletcher, Indianapolis banker and son of Calvin Fletcher, died in Florida

OMAR NEWMAN 1836-1901 married Ella Hills, engaged in lumber trade in Chicago

WALTER NEWMAN 1839-1864 1st lieutenant in the U. S. Army, during Civil War contracted disease, died Indianapolis 1-1-1864

FREDERICK NEWMAN 1841-1842