

CANAWLERS AT REST

WILLIAM ROWLAND NOFSINGER

Find-A-Grave #45981747

b. 1815

d. March 1880

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

William Rowland Nofsinger was born in Botetourt, Virginia in 1815 to Joseph and Mary (Harshbarger) Nofsinger. He was their first son and second born of their eleven children. His grandparents on his father's side were Peter and Elizabeth (Stover) Nofsinger and on his mother's side Samuel (1759-1849) and Elizabeth (Gish) (1766-1847) Harshbarger. Little is known of his early life other than his sister Nancy died at age 5 when he was 23 years old. The rest of his siblings had normal life spans.

Clark and Scott townships in Montgomery County, Indiana were the last to be settled due to the heavy forestation and the presence of a tribe of Indians, who claimed the territory for their hunting grounds. Ladoga was the first settlement in Clark Township. It was laid out by John Myers in 1836. When David D. Nicholson arrived in 1837 four or five houses, two of which were used as stores, had been built. Silas Grantham kept a log boarding-house. John Steele and William R. Nofsinger were the merchants. Dr. Carey dispensed pills and provided medical aid. Nicholson opened a forge and Humphrey Rice made plows and wagons. Other citizens were Taylor Webster, Caleb H. R. Anderson, Zack and James Mahorney, Joseph Ellis and John Masterson.

At age 21 William married Mary Myers, age 19, on December 18, 1836 in Ladoga, Montgomery County, Indiana. They had two children Francis B. and Wallace both born in Montgomery County. In 1840, while residing in Clark township, Mary died.

On February 1, 1844 William, age 29, married Evaline Howard in Rockville, Parke County, Indiana. She was the daughter of General Tilghman Ashurst Howard, a lawyer who served in the Indiana Senate, was a candidate for the governor of Indiana but was defeated and was a U.S. congressman and minister to Texas. William and Evaline had a daughter born around 1846. We assume Evaline died shortly thereafter and was buried in Rockville.

On December 18, 1846 the Committee of Elections reported that they had examined those elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. Those elected representing Parke County were William R. Nofsinger and James Kerr.

Besides his involvement in politics, William was interested in education. In 1847 he made a report to the Indiana Legislature from the Parke County Committee on Education.

In August 22, 1850 William was living in Rockville, Indiana. That October he, along with Samuel Davis, attended the Indiana Constitutional Convention as delegates from Parke County.

In 1851 the Indiana Senate was invited to the Hall of the House of Representatives to elect a Trustee of the Wabash & Erie Canal. On the first vote William R. Nofsinger received 117 votes, Mr. Scattering received 19 votes, and Mr. Blank received 10 votes. Since William received a majority of all the votes, the President of the Joint Convention, declared him duly elected Canal Trustee on the part of the State of Indiana, to serve a three year term on the Board of Trustees of the Wabash & Erie Canal from and after the term of services of the present incumbent, Austin M. Puett. Nathan B. Palmer and Puett had served as trustees prior to this time. After William's term ended he was followed by Benjamin R. Edmonston, G. G. Barton, Richard Raleigh, Joseph S. Hanna, Lot S. Bayless, David M. Dunn, Richard H. Milroy, James V. Mitchell and James S. Hinton. Later in 1859 a report was laid before the Indiana House of Representatives showing the amount each trustee had received for traveling expenses, which included food for their horses, up to January 1, 1859 or when their term expired. Their expenses were as follows:

Charles Butler, 11 year and 9 months.....	\$4,151.52
Thomas H. Blake, 2 years and 7 months.....	1,754.50
Nathan B. Palmer, 7 months.....	121.19
A. M. Puett, 3 years.....	1,149.59
Thomas Dowling, 8 years and 9 months.....	4,151.42
W. R. Nofsinger, 8 years.....	803.03

THE HOOSIER PACKET - JANUARY 2014

B. R. Edmonston, 1 year and 7 months.....431.04
 A. M. Puett, 1 year and 9 months.....244.30
 G. G. Barton.....1,433.95

sum of six hundred dollars for his services.

William, age 38, was married a third time on June 16, 1853 to Emmeline B. Baldwin, age 20, in Edgar, Illinois. They had two sons, Rowland and Joseph Lewis Nofsinger. Later in 1880, Emmeline, then a widow, and her son Joseph Lewis Nofsinger lived at 2027 E 8th in Kansas City, Missouri in the home of her brother Aleander Baldwin.

According to the 1860 Federal Census William, his wife Emmeline, their children Francis B. Mary, and Rowland and his father Joseph, age 74, were living in the Center North part of Marion County, Indiana. On this census his occupation is given as physician with real estate valued at \$15,000 and a personal estate of \$15,000. Francis B. is a lawyer and Joseph is a farmer. In 1863 and 1864 William was found on the U.S. Internal Revenue Tax Assessment Lists.

William R. Nofsinger, a Republican from Parke County, was elected Indiana's State Treasurer. He served in this position for two years from February 9, 1855 through February 9, 1857. He and his family probably moved to Marion County, Indiana at this time.

The 1870 Federal Census shows William, his wife Emmeline, and their children Mary E., Rowland, and Joseph living in Indianapolis, Center Township, Marion County, Indiana in the home of farmer George Wright, his wife and six children, along with Elizabeth, a domestic, and Johanna Curran, a domestic. William's real estate is valued at \$125,000 and his personal estate at \$75,000. His occupation is given as a beef and pork packer.

When the Bank of the State of Indiana was investigated in 1857, William was one of those examined. He was an original stockholder in the Indianapolis Branch of the bank. Apparently he was clear of any corruption.

During the 1879 May term of the Indiana Supreme Court William R. Nofsinger was involved in *Root et al. v. Hibben et al.* The complaint was that Deloss Root, William R. Nofsinger, James II. McKernan, William H. A. Dell, Paul D. Pratt and George H. Wilmer, partners in the firm of George Wilmer & Co., executed two promissory notes, of different dates and amounts to James P. Hibben, Franklin

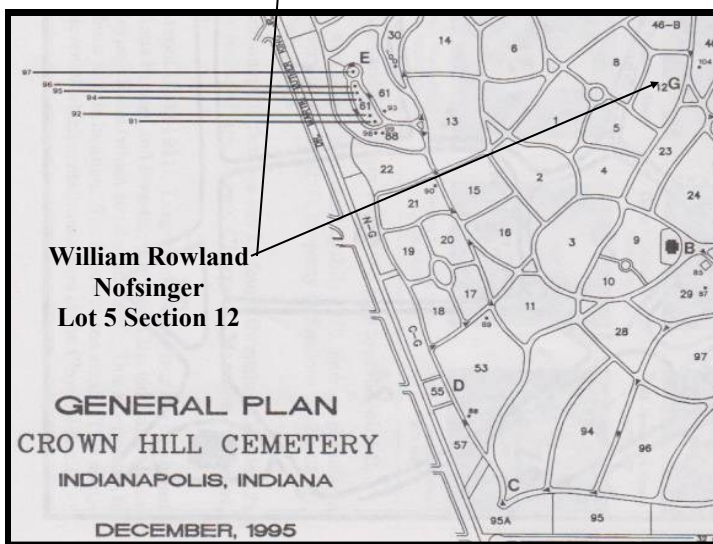
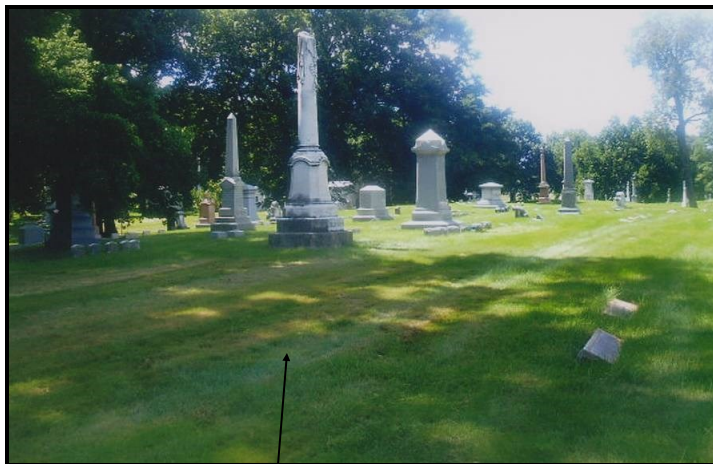
William R. Nofsinger's Family						
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
Peter Nofsinger	1775		1841			
m. Elizabeth Stover	1768		1864			
Joseph Nofsinger	@ 1786		after 1860			
m. Mary Harshbarger	12-26-1796	Botetourt, VA	1850	Roachdale, IN		
Salome Nofsinger	1813		1880			
William Rowland Nofsinger	1815	Botetourt, VA	1880	Indianapolis, IN		
m1. Mary Myers	1817		1840		12-18-1836	Ladoga, IN
Francis Bacon Nofsinger	11-??-1837	Ladoga, IN	1909	Kansas City, MO		
Wallace Nofsinger	@ 1840	Montgomery Co, IN		Young Co, TX		
m2. Evaline Howard		Rockville, IN		Rockville, IN	2-01-1844	Rockville, IN
Mary E. Nofsinger	@ 1846	Rockville, IN		Indianapolis, IN		
m3. Emmeline B. Baldwin	7-??-1833	IL		Kansas City, MO	6-16-1853	Edgar, IL
Rowland Nofsinger	5-13-1859					
Joseph Lewis Nofsinger	11-19-1864	Indianapolis, IN	1905	Kansas City, MO		
Elizabeth Nofsinger	1817		1889			
Samuel Nofsinger	1821		1900			
Peter Nofsinger	1823		1871			
Jacob Nofsinger	1825		1905			
Susan Nofsinger	1827		1902			
Catherine Nofsinger	1830		1904			
Nancy Nofsinger	1835		1840			
Hannah Nofsinger	1837		1906			
Caroline Nofsinger	1838		1884			

THE HOOSIER PACKET - JANUARY 2014

Landers, Robert F. Kennedy, Augustus E. Pattison, Willis S. Webb, and Coleman B. Pattison, partners doing business under the firm name of Hibben, Kennedy & Co.. They were sued for non-payment. However, because Wilmer had entered into a partnership with the Illinois Furnace Company in January 1878, the defendants were no longer responsible for the debt and were improperly sued. William wrote three paragraphs answering the complaint and swore to them. An insufficiency of facts to constitute a defense was sustained to the third paragraph of William's answer and several paragraphs of the others' answers. Exceptions were reserved to all the rulings.

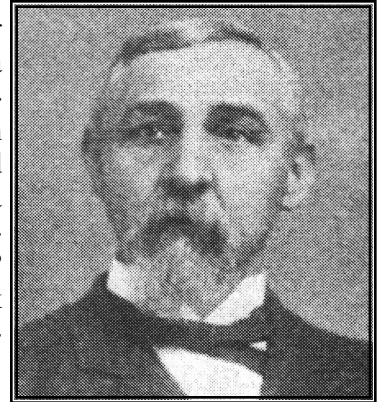
William Rowland Nofsinger passed away in 1880 at the age of 65. He was buried in Lot 5 Section 12 of Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana on March 19, 1880. There is no grave marker and only a grassy plot.

Photo by Bob Schmidt



Researching William was interesting. One family tree on Ancestry.com shows him as the Rev. William Row-

land Nofsinger, but no other sources note that he was a preacher. One Federal Census lists him as a physician and another as a beef and pork packer. If he was a physician where did he obtain his medical schooling? He worked in beef and pork packing in his son's business as will be seen below.



Dr. Francis Bacon Nofsinger
Kansas City Postmaster

William's son, Dr. Francis Bacon Nofsinger, followed in his father's footsteps in public service. While studying medicine the Civil War broke out and he served one year in the medical department without pay. After graduating from the Nashville Medical University in 1863, he was appointed an assistant surgeon and remained in the army until the end of the war. In June 1869 he moved to Kansas City, Missouri and went into the pork and beef packing business. He was elected president of the city council in 1873. In 1874 he was elected and served four consecutive years as president of the board of trade. In 1889 he was appointed postmaster of Kansas City. He was a champion chess player for the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan.

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