

## CANAWLERS AT REST

### ZACHARIAH ROTHROCK

b. October 8, 1814  
d. March 11, 1886

By Mark Smith & Carolyn Schmidt



Zachariah Rothrock's stone is located in Pipe Creek Church cemetery in Monticello, Indiana. Photo by Mark Smith

While researching another person whose descendants visited the Canal Interpretive Center in Delphi, Mark Smith, CSI member from Brookston, came across Zachariah Rothrock in the *History of White County* by Thomas Hammelle and saw that he had a canal connection. Mark then asked Judy Baker at the White County Genealogical Archives on Bluff Street what they had on the Rothrock family. She opened up the Rothrock files, gave him Zachariah's obituary, and said she would copy whatever Mark needed. She also told him that Zachariah was laid to rest in the Pike Creek Church of the Brethren Cemetery. Note that this differs from what the obituary relates. Was the place of burial noted in the obituary incorrect, was his grave moved or was just a stone placed in the cemetery in his honor?

The Monticello *Herald* of March 18, 1886, carried the following obituary:

#### DEATH OF ZACHARIAH ROTHROCK.

"Anther pioneer of White county has passed away. Mr. Zachariah Rothrock, whose illness was noted in our last issue, died on the 11th inst., aged 71 years, 5 months and 2 days.

"Deceased was born in Mifflin county, Pa., Oct. 8, 1814. He came first to White county, Ind., in 1835, where he purchased a tract of Government land for his father. Returning to Pennsylvania he, in 1837, moved his father to White county. Owing to ill health he soon after returned to Pennsylvania where he remained until 1846 when he returned to Indiana, locating at Pittsburgh and engaging in the business of boat building for the Wabash & Erie Canal, then doing an extensive business.

"In the year 1850 he was married at LaFayette, Ind., to Catharine Opp, by whom three children yet survive him. Removing the same year to Attica, Ind., he continued his business of boat building and also owned and operated two or more boats on the canal. Having suffered a severe financial loss through the bad faith of a friend, he, in 1853, disproved [disposed] of his business and removed to his present abode in this county. In 1871 his wife died, and in 1872 he married Mrs. S. M. Heaton, who survives him.

"Deceased was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Honest and straight-forward in all his business dealings; kind and generous to a fault; fearless and out-spoken in his opinions; alive to the spirit of progress he did much toward developing the resources of White county. In his death a family loses a kind husband and father, neighbors an obliging and true friend, the county one of the land-marks of its infancy, and the community an honored, respected and faithful citizen.

"He was buried in the family burying ground on

his farm Sunday, afternoon, funeral services being conducted by Rev. W. J. McKinsey."

Mark then went to the Pike Creek Church cemetery and photographed Zachariah's stone. The cemetery is located next to the church just north of Monticello off SR 39 on 250 N. There is a conspicuous sign on the east side of SR 39 pointing out the location of the church.

Doing further research Mark found that there is a ledger in Delphi that shows that Rothrock did business in Delphi, which is just across the Wabash river from Pittsburg where he built canal boats. He also found that Lazarus Rothrock, Zachariah's brother, was a "boatman," according to the 1850 Census and that he also lived near Pittsburg.

One of Zachariah's brothers became the Superintendent of the Weedburn Sarven Wheelworks at Burlington, Iowa, and passed away in 1878. His obituary was printed on December 12 of that year.

Zachariah's son, John A. Rothrock, became the publisher of the Monticello *Democrat*. He was also the County Superintendent of Schools.

The Rothrocks intermarried with other Germanic families such as the Keevers [Keepers] and Hanawalts. They were notable citizens in White county. Their cousins were the Baums, who were pioneers in Carroll county. Daniel Baum's wife was Ascenath Rothrock, whose grandfather, George, was a brother of Zacharias Rothrock, the grandfather of our subject Zachariah. One of their number, John, donated the ground for the city of Monticello. They were all German Baptists.

### I&M STOCK ON E-BAY

Neil Sowards, CSI member from Ft. Wayne, found this 1840 stock certificate No. 89 for the Illinois & Michigan Canal on e-Bay. They suggested the sale price be from \$250-300. Another site had No. 83 of the same certificate for sale at \$395 and said the normal price was \$495.

The certificate is for 100 pounds Sterling. It is signed by THOMAS CARLIN, Governor of Illinois, and Levi Davis, the State auditor. It was printed by Rawdon, Wright and Hatch & Sons and issued by John Wright & Co. in London. Vignettes include a steamer; a woman; a boy, girl and dog; and a man in a field. Printed on the left hand side are the words State of Illinois, Six Per Cent. By looking closely at the certificate there are red ink stamps across it, which say either Five or Ten Per Cent Paid and give the month and year in the 1860s-1870s. Registered under Certificate 89 Mrs. Margaret Jardine 8 April 1840. Registrar S. The document is over 167 years old.

The I&M Canal was constructed from 1836-1848 and linked Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. This stock was issued four years after the project began to help build capital hopefully from English investors. Chicago soon became the nation's largest inland port.

Thomas Carlin was born July 18, 1789 in Kentucky, moved to Illinois Territory and was in the War of 1812. He helped organize Green county; established Carrollton, where he lived, as the county seat in 1821; was its first sheriff in 1821; was a captain in the Black Hawk Militia in 1832; was a state senator 1825-33; was a land receiver in 1834; was Governor of Illinois 1838-1842; and died in 1852 at Carrollton. His married Rebecca Huitt in Carlinville, a town named in his honor.

