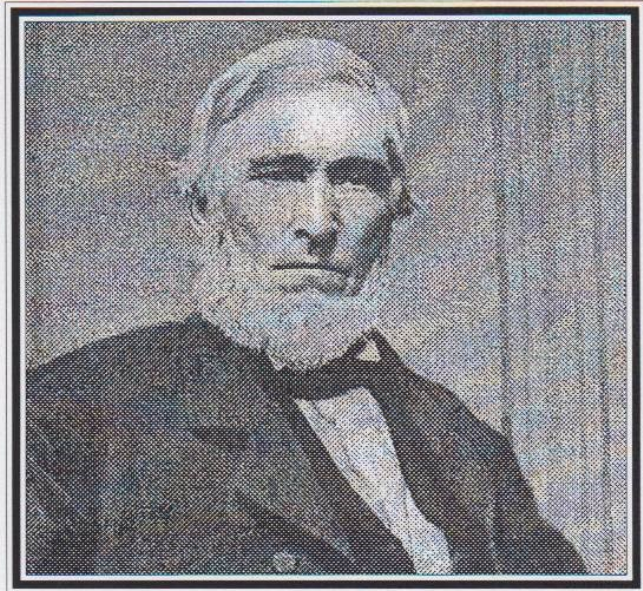


## CANAWLERS AT REST

### HENRY TAYLOR SAMPLE

b. September 20 or 29, 1805  
d. February 19, 1881

By Carolyn I. Schmidt



Henry Taylor Sample was born near Middletown, Butler county, Ohio, to John and Ann (Taylor) Sample on September 20, 1805. John Sample built a saw mill and a grist mill near Middletown where he manufactured flour. He then moved and built Coldrain Mills at Coldrain on the Big Miami River. In 1818 he and his family, including 13 year old Henry, moved to Randolph county, Indiana. There they settled on the White River, built a mill, and started to cultivate a farm on land that was known as the "twelve-mile purchase" on the Indian Reserve line. John and Ann later moved to Henry county, Iowa where they died of cholera in 1851.

Early in life Henry learned about commercial enterprise by selling products from the mill and farm to settlers in Indiana's interior known as the New Purchase. This included the area where Indianapolis is located today. The products were floated down the White River on flatboats.

As the farm and mill's production increased, new markets had to be opened and Henry extended his trade to the Mississinewa river in the Miami Indian country. A distance of eight miles had to be covered by wagons loaded with flour, grain, lumber and vegetables in order to reach the Mississinewa where the products were loaded onto flatboats and sold to the settlers along the upper Wabash river.

In 1822 Henry began an apprenticeship in tanning and currying in Randolph county while continuing his river trade. In 1825 he extended one of his trips down the Wabash river landing at Lafayette, which had just been surveyed and platted one week before. He was impressed with the surroundings.

Early histories describe Henry as a big man in several ways. He was six feet one inch tall and weighed two hundred and twenty-five pounds. He was also a man of unusual intellectual strength with a large executive ability. He had a kind disposition and was an inviting companion. It was no wonder that Sarah Sumwalt fell in love with him.

Sarah Sumwalt was born to Gottfried and Barbara Kleinfelder Sumwalt on August 30, 1802 in Baltimore, Maryland. She and Henry were married in 1826. Two to three years later they moved to the new town of Lafayette, Indiana. By then he had acquired the necessary experience in trade and the skills of a tanner to open a tannery, which was very successful and operated in conjunction with his other enterprises until 1854. In 1833 Henry began to slaughter hogs in connection with his tannery. This would become the Sample Pork Packing Company.

In the late 1830s, a relatively plain Federal/Greek Revival style gable-front house was built for Henry and his family. It was located on the southwest corner of Ohio (now Third) and Alabama streets in Lafayette. Later Robert Sample, Henry's son, sold it to Julia A. Broderick on September 9, 1895. Sometime around 1896-97 she remodeled it. She sold it to Ira J. Howe and William H. Shipley on October 22, 1897. They sold it to Daniel and Mary A. Naughton around 1903. In the mid-twentieth century it was divided into apartments and eventually was so poorly maintained that it faced the wrecking ball around 2000. However, since it was Lafayette's oldest house at the time, it was moved 67 feet to the south in November 2002 to 108 S. Third and renovated for commercial and apartment use. The property on which it had stood was developed



Henry Taylor Sample's home as it appears today.

as Sample Run, a mixed residential-commercial project.

As Henry's tannery and hog slaughtering business grew he went into partnership with Joseph S. Hanna in 1842 establishing Sample & Hanna, a firm which slaughtered and packed pork and beef. This plant was located at the foot of Chestnut Street on the west side of the Wabash & Erie Canal, between the canal and the Wabash River. It gained a high reputation.

On May 7, 1846 a legal notice ran in *The Tippecanoe Journal and Free Press* for the Tippecanoe Circuit Court from May 5. It notified Eliza McCullaugh and Samuel McCullaugh, who were not residents of Indiana, to appear before the Judges of the Tippecanoe Circuit Court on the second Monday in June next. They were defendants along with Philip Harter, James Harter, John V. Harter, William C. Harter, Joseph N. Harter, Sarah M. Harter, George W. Kirkpatrick, John Taylor and Elijah Moore in a suit filed by Joseph S. Hanna, Henry T. Sample, and Clark Williams. This was probably in relation to the firm of Sample and Hanna. We don't know the results.

Sample and Hanna sold their products as far as the eastern seaboard and New Orleans. Henry is known to have taken several cargoes of pork and lard on flatboats via the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans and once there making a good profit on their sale.

The process of flatboating was described by Julia Henderson Levering in her book *Historic Indiana* published in 1909 as follows:

"...the flatboats, which were shaped like scows, sometimes having a shed over the centre of the craft. Of these useful boats, so well adapted to the shallow

stream, it was quaintly said that they drew about as much water as a sap trough, There was a long steering oar at the stern of the boat, and a sufficient number of side oars to propel it, with the help of a pole, which was handled by a man who stood in the stern, to push over sand-bars and obstructions. Wags used to say that these boats, in going down-stream, managed to keep up with the current, Coming up-stream, the boats were cordelled, as the French boatmen had named the process of towing by hand. There was scarcely a man of large undertakings but shipped his fleet of flatboats, rafts, and scows down the Mississippi to market. There he sold his produce, bartered for supplies for his neighborhood, and came back by rowboat, or mayhap [may have] walked the entire distance home, as did Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Henry T. Sample, a veteran pork packer, told the writer that he had walked from New Orleans to the Wabash country sixteen times.

"...Pork-packing for export to the seaboard was, during the winter season, the most lucrative industry of river towns, and it laid the foundation of many early fortunes. Three hundred barrels of pork was the usual load for the average flatboat, and that product was one tenth of the export trade, and another tenth was lard....

"Many boats were collected to make up these fleets. It took nearly a month to pole this type of craft to New Orleans, and the merchant capitalist generally accompanied his cargo and crew. The flatboats were generally sold or abandoned at the end of the journey."

Henry was probably ecstatic when the Wabash & Erie Canal was opened from Toledo, Ohio to Lafayette, Indiana in 1840. He could ship his products by canal boat to the east and not have to travel with the boat or sell the boat when it got to its destination. Unfortunately he could not give up flatboating until 1853 when the canal was finally opened to Evansville, Indiana on the Ohio River.

As Henry's sons grew up, Hanna's name was dropped from the firm's name of Sample and Hanna. It became known as H. T. Sample & Sons.

Henry was a very square dealer. He gained the confidence of all with whom he dealt. During hard times or panic men would place their extra money with him and receive a receipt rather than risk it in the banks. He helped those who were struggling to better their lives if he deemed them worthy.

In 1854 when the Republican Party was organized, Henry joined it and stayed with it for the rest of his life. He had been a Whig since his early life. He had no political aspirations or wanted to be active in the management of politics. He was more interested in his business ventures and the agriculture of Tippecanoe county. However, he was one of the early members of the com-

# LAFAYETTE 1876 MAP

Wabash & Erie Canal

Greenbush Cemetery

Clark & Bartholomew  
Saw Mill

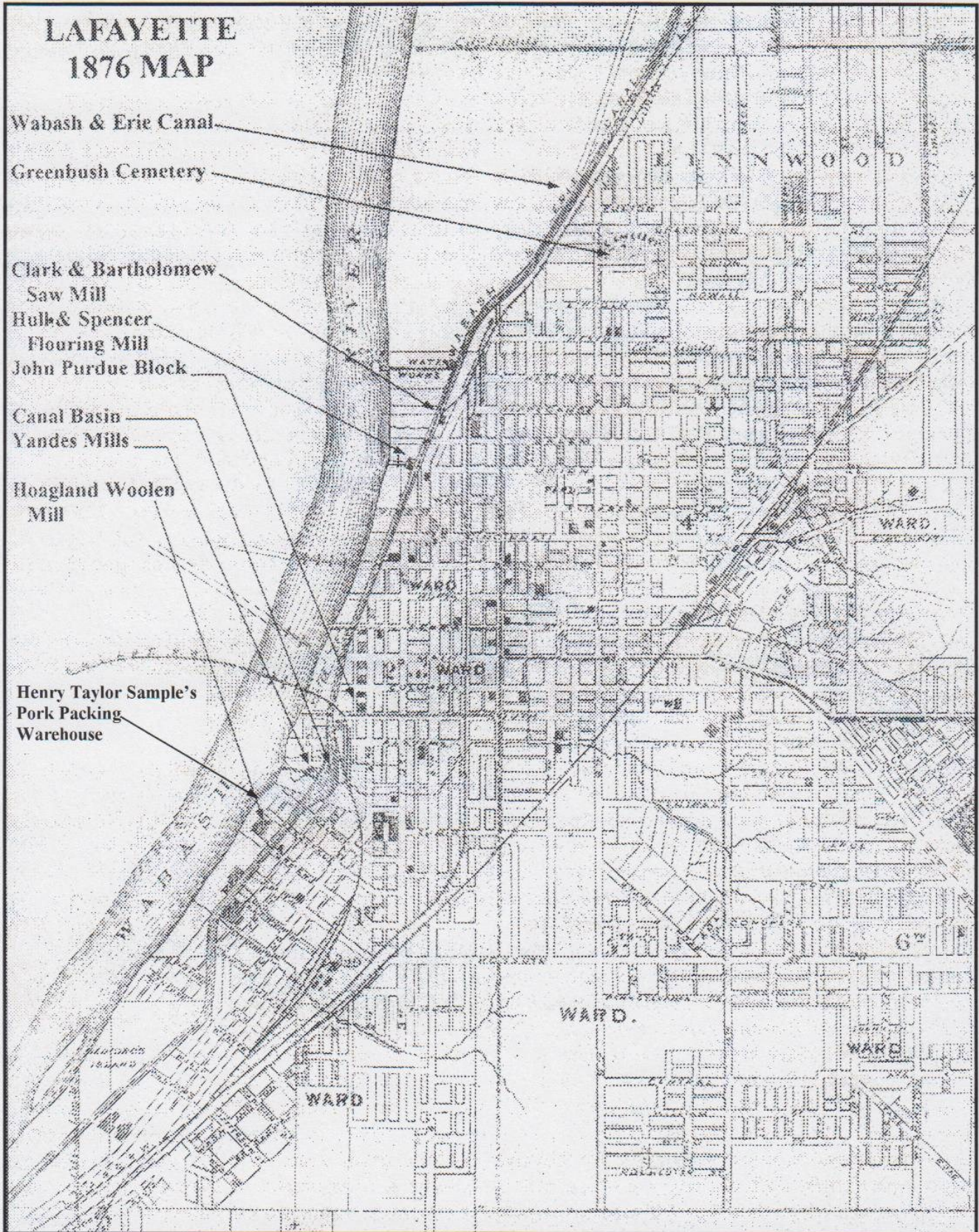
Hulk & Spencer  
Flouring Mill

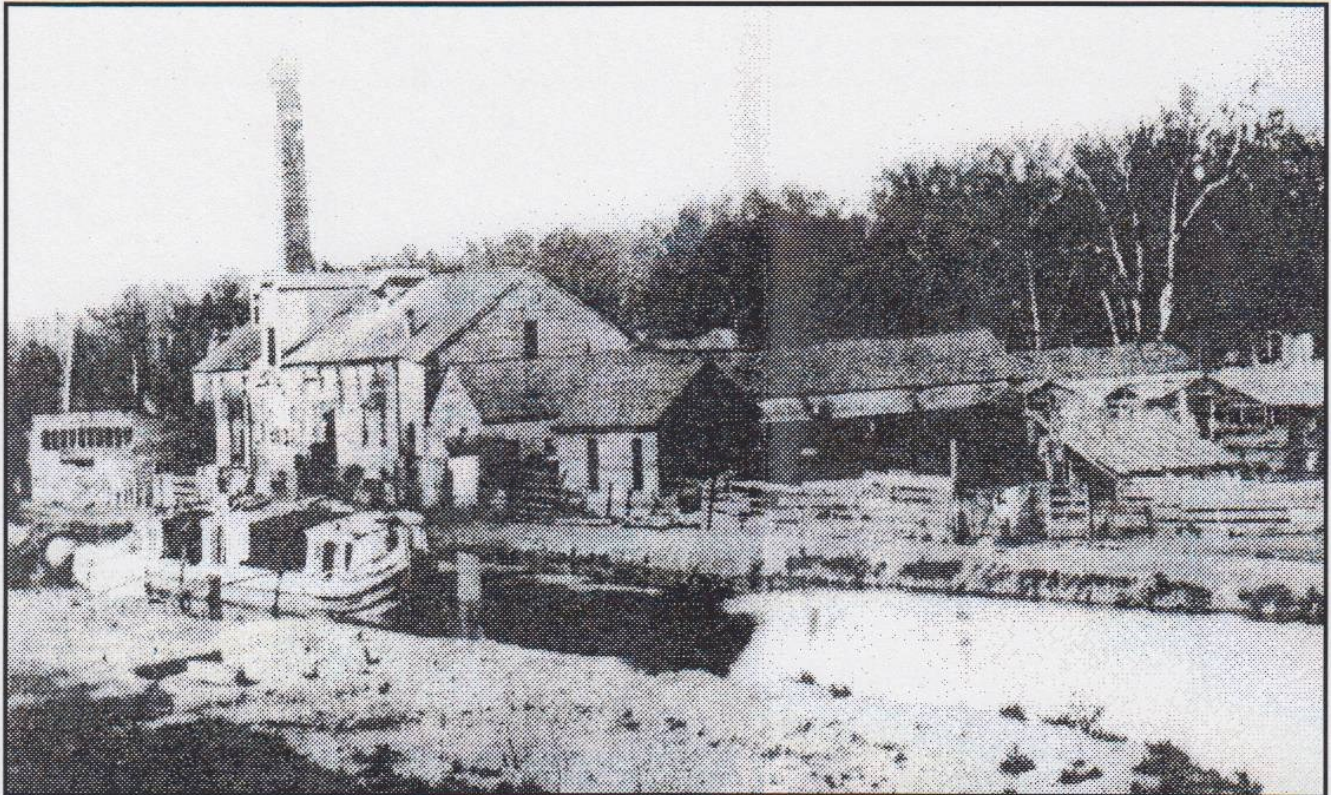
John Purdue Block

Canal Basin  
Yandes Mills

Hoagland Woolen  
Mill

Henry Taylor Sample's  
Pork Packing  
Warehouse





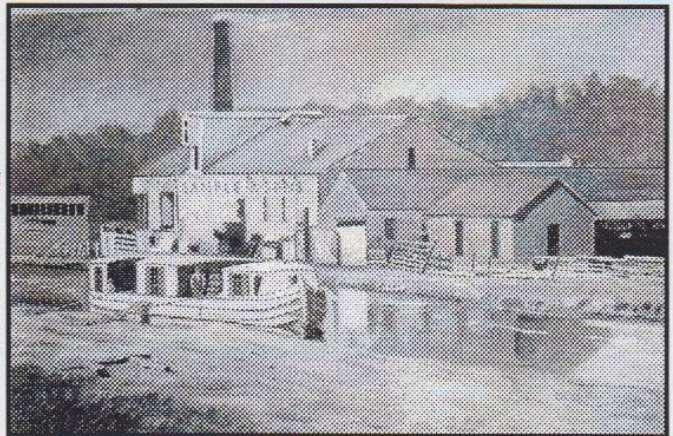
Henry Taylor Sample shipped packed pork and beef from this packing house, which he owned, by this canal freight boat on the Wabash & Erie Canal. The building was built in 1862, eight years before this photo was taken by P. W. Wolever. The 23 men employed here dressed 1,170 hogs a day. The barrels or chimes of pork were loaded onto the open deck of the boat located between the back cabin and mule stable and the mule stable and captain's cabin in the front.

mon council of Lafayette and the State Board of Agriculture.

In 1858 Henry purchased a large farm in Benton county on the Grand Prairie and converted it into a livestock farm. Of all his enterprises he loved this pursuit the most and marketing the cattle was highly profitable.

On April 16, 1861 the Tippecanoe County commissioners appropriated up to \$10,000 to support the families of men who volunteered to fight in the Civil War. Henry was named to a committee to disburse the assistance. Also on the committee were Owen Ball, Lewin Falley, Robert Heath, M. Holstein, William Levering, Martin L. Pierce, John B. Ruger, and Israel Spencer.

Henry also quartered the Confederate prisoners, who were brought to Lafayette in February 1862, in his pork packing warehouse. They were to be quartered originally in W. K. Rochester's "Old Red Warehouse," but it was too small. They were removed to Walsh Hall on South Street and Sample's pork house. Prisoners could see daylight showing between the cracks of the rough siding of the pork house. Before long they came down with "camp diarrhea," typhoid and pneumonia and



Terry Lacy painted this mural that hangs in the Canal Interpretive Center in Delphi, Indiana, from the Wolever photo.

were transferred to the city's 70 bed South Street Hospital.

The National Banking Act was passed as a war measure in 1863. That year the First National Bank of Lafayette was organized with Henry T. Sample as one of the organizers.

In 1867, Henry was solicited by the leading farmers in the Lafayette area to become the president of a group organizing a small county fair. He had been trying to get something like this started for awhile and gladly took the position. The group met for three years with Henry as its leader and then disbanded. However, the idea eventually led to the creation of the Tippecanoe County Agricultural Association, which became the largest and most successful of its kind in Indiana. From its inception, Henry was a big supporter. He offered to find suitable grounds for holding their meetings if they could raise \$10,000. They did, he did and he became its first president serving in that capacity until his death.

Henry's interest in banking continued. In July 1869 Henry was the vice-president of the Lafayette Savings Bank.

It seemed that every business venture Henry began was successful and he amassed a small fortune. He seemed to have sound judgment and unflinching foresight. However, just as things were going well, he was persuaded to invest in manufacturing enterprises not associated with his other businesses.

In September 1869 Henry T. Sample and Moses Folwer organized the Lafayette Manufacturing Company. They built plows, corn planters and other farm implements in a block of buildings. This complex was comprised of a four-story brick and stone, 166-by-46-foot main building with a steam-powered elevator, a 60-by-46-foot blacksmith shop, engine room, store room and "necessary outbuildings" according to Lafayette's *The Courier* of May 13, 1870. This complex became known more simply as Sample's Plow Works. He was in competition with John Purdue's Lafayette Agricultural Works more commonly known as Purdue's Plow Works. Purdue gave the land for Purdue University.

These other enterprises in which Henry invested proved to be disastrous. He lost the small fortune he had accumulated over a 50 year period.

Henry and Sarah Sample had eight children, three who died in infancy. Those who survived were:

John Godfrey

- b. November 28, 1828 Randolph Co., IN
- m. Drucilla Bartholomew November 15, 1853
- d. September 19, 1890 Lafayette, IN

Isabelle Dunbar (elsewhere recorded as Estella)

- b. December 26, 1831 Lafayette, IN
- m. Henry Taylor 1852 Lafayette, IN
- d. November 26, 1918

Robert W.

- b. September 2, 1833
- m. Elizabeth Anderson October 31, 1855
- d. November 16, 1924

Partner to his father in all enterprises and became president of the First National Bank in Lafayette in 1889.

Boyes Taylor

- b. 1836
- m. Fanny Stevenson
- d. November 29, 1886

Sallie A. (Sarah)

- b. 1845
- m. David McBride
- d. December 23, 1923

The 1860 Federal Census shows their children Boyes (age 23) and Sarah (Sallie age 15) living with them as well as Kate Powers (age 28), probably a housekeeper. The 1880 Census shows their daughter Sallie McBride (age 35) and her children Belle (age 15), Robert (age 13), and Spears (age 11) living with them as well as Bridget Clark (age 35), probably a housekeeper.

Henry and Sarah stood side by side during good and bad times. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church through which they provided relief to the distressed with their charity. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1876, which was unusual for that time when people died younger.

In 1877 Colonel R. P. DeHart issued a meeting of soldiers at which a resolution was presented and adopted requesting all soldiers to meet at the Tippecanoe County courthouse to participate in the funeral of the late Father John Doffin. The following day escorts "were formed in the courthouse yard and marched to the Market space. The procession was headed by the police, followed by the Guards, next came old soldiers, numbering about half a hundred or more. Among them were noticed General Reynolds, Henry T. Sample, .... The remains were interred in Greenbush Cemetery." This would have been quite a long walk for a man of Henry's age.

Henry was a member of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture for the last eight years of his life. They sought and accepted his council taking great value in it.

Henry Taylor Sample died on February 19, 1881. Sarah died on February 25, 1886 in Lafayette. A search of Tippecanoe County cemeteries' burial records found no listing for his burial site. If anyone knows where he is buried and can take a picture of his grave stone, we will publish it in an upcoming "Hoosier Packet."

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I AM A HOOSIER

By Robert F. Schmidt

Living in Indiana we are used to being called "Hoosiers." I always thought that it was derived from our frontier experience of calling out "who's there" or was somehow related to the type of corn we grow here. After reading an article about researching the term "Hoosier" by Jonathan Clark Smith, professor of English at Hanover College, I have learned that the term refers to the early boatmen along the Ohio River and was later applied to the canal boatmen. For details of his research see the June 2007 article in the Indiana Magazine of History.

The oldest known reference to the term "hoosier" occurs in a February 11, 1831 letter from a Cincinnati man, G. S. Murdock, to John Tipton in Logansport, IN. Murdock wants to use his new steamboat "The Indiana Hoosier" to bring staples to Logansport if Tipton will agree to give him a contract.

Other uses include a reference to a political race as a "Hoosher," again a boat reference. The Wabash Herald on July 2, 1831 referred to Noah Noble as a "Hoosher" in his support of the Wabash & Erie Canal being proposed. Other references including a poem called "Carrier's Address" clearly associate Indiana farmer-boatmen with the term "hoosier."

Smith concludes: "Thus, known evidence suggests a word of relatively recent coinage, sometime around 1830, associated for some reason with Indiana flatboat or steamboat farmers, given currency by the Wabash-Erie Canal issue, and then rapidly embraced statewide after a celebrated poem on the first day of 1833."

When the Canal Society of Indiana created its new monthly journal of historical information for our membership, we very appropriately adopted the name The Hoosier Packet. We knew the word "packet" referred to a passenger canal boat that carried packets of mail, but we didn't know "hoosier" referred to a boatman. Thus the name The Hoosier Packet could not have been a better fit. Today canallers, boaters, farmers, and all other residents of Indiana are called "Hoosiers" and are proud of it.

DUES OVER DUE?

This is your last issue!

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