

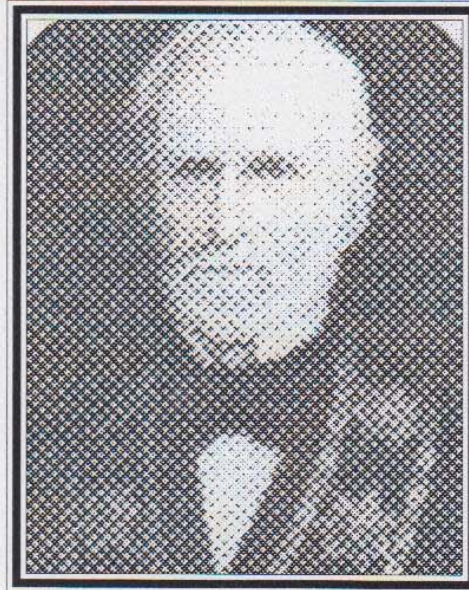
CANAWLERS AT REST

LUCIUS HUBBARD SCOTT

b. March 29, 1794

d. April 22, 1875

By Carolyn I. Schmidt



Lucius Hubbard Scott was born in Weathersfield, Vermont, on March 29, 1794 to Dr. Philip and Martha Scott. He and his family moved to upstate New York. There Lucius earned his livelihood as a lumberjack, merchant, school teacher and general laborer.

At age 23 Lucius and his friend John Wilson Osborn decided to seek their fortunes in the West and left New York on March 4, 1817. They arrived at Vincennes, Indiana on June 6 of that year and sought work. John got a job there (In 1823 John published Terre Haute's first newspaper), but when Lucius found nothing he began walking toward Terre Haute, Indiana. Years later Lucius wrote the following letter:

"June 6, 1817, in company with John W. Osborn, I arrived in Vincennes, after a journey of nearly two months, from St. Lawrence county, N.Y. Osborn being a printer, readily obtained work in Elihu Stout's printing office, in Vincennes, but after spending three weeks vainly looking for something to do, I determined to seek my fortune higher up the Wabash valley, and set out on foot for the newly laid out town of Terre Haute. In Vincennes I had met and formed acquaintance with John Britton, who had been to Terre Haute, and was then making his temporary home at the house of Daniel Barnes, a small log cabin situated on Sec. 16, at the edge of the prairie not far from the present cemetery. Having to walk the whole distance from Vincennes, and carrying my bundle, I made slow progress, and was nearly three days upon the journey. I found my new friend Britton as I expected, and was kindly received by him and his family; but as the cabin was small, and I found the family were not in a condition to receive an additional boarder, I determined to make my stay as brief as possible. I had introductory letters from Vincennes to Maj. Chunn and his officers at Fort Harrison, and to Maj. Markle at Otter creek, which I determined to lose no time in delivering. Accordingly, the second day after my arrival I visited the fort and found the officers at their quarters. Nothing could exceed the

kindness and hospitality with which they received me, the major insisting upon my making my home at the fort until I found some kind of employment. Situated as I was, I most gratefully accepted his hospitality, and removed my scanty baggage to the fort. In a day or two I set out in the early summer morning to cross the prairie to deliver my letters to Jan. Markle. I missed the track and went to Otter creek bridge. I was conscious of my error, but the beauty of the morning led me on until I found myself standing on an eminence in the midst of Otter creek prairie. On casting my eye over the broad expanse, not a tree or fence or other indication of home or civilization presented itself to view, but all was one boundless, magnificent bed of beautifully variegated flowers.

"I stood and gazed until my reason failed, and when about to retrace my steps my eye caught the glimpse of a thin column of smoke curling up among the trees in a distant corner of the prairie. I made my way to it and found a family in a small log cabin, which they had as yet occupied too short a time to have made any improvements around them. I obtained directions which enabled me, without further difficulty, to find my destination. The major was at home and received me with that frank and graceful hospitality for which he was so widely celebrated. I thought him the most magnificent specimen of manhood I had ever seen."

Lucius arrived in Terre Haute on Independence Day. He went to Henry Redford's new Eagle & Lion tavern and took part in the first Fourth of July ever celebrated in that town.

At Terre Haute John Dickson and Isaac Lambert, who were contractors at Fort Harrison and owned a mill on Honey Creek, begged Lucius to set up a school near their mill. Lucius took them up on the idea. Some of the settlers built a small log cabin to be used as the school. However, Lucius ran into trouble when he came down with "river fever" and had to give up his plans. His health required returning to Vincennes.

The year 1818 was a busy one for Lucius. As soon as he had regained his health, Mr. George A. Wasson approached him asking him to manage a branch of the Wasson & Sayer dry goods store in Terre Haute. They would rent and fit up a room and send a lot of goods by water from Vincennes for him to sell. Lucius rented a room from Dr. Modessit, opened the goods, and commenced selling them on January 1, 1818. The store was located at First and Water streets in Terre Haute. These were the first goods opened for sale in Terre Haute.

Truman Blackman, sheriff, gave a power of attorney to Lucius on April 3, 1818. He was appointed the agent [tax collector] of Vigo county on May 13, 1818. About a week later on May 21, 1818, the county commissioners (John Hamilton, Isaac Lambert, Ezra Jones) released and quitclaimed to him eight in-lots in the center of the town on which to erect a court house and other public buildings.

An June 1, 1818 receipt shows Lucius was required to give bonds for the sum of \$25,000. Lucius was to collect the taxes as rated for the year which follow:

First-rate land, every 100 acres	\$.50
Second-rate land	.43¾
Third-rate land	.31¼
Every horse, mare, mule or ass over 3 yrs. age	.37½
Stallions, once the rate they stand by the year	
Every tavern	\$20.00
Every ferry	\$ 5.00
Town lots (on every \$100)	.50

Later, after 4 years as agent, Lucius resigned in August, 1822. James Farrington was appointed to fill his vacancy and received a salary of \$60 a year.

Also in 1818 Lucius was the first man to be elected Vigo County Sheriff. The first acting sheriff, Truman Blackman, had been appointed and not elected. However, a controversy arose over Lucius' election because the election notices were not according to the law. At the August meeting of the Vigo county commissioners in the home of Otis Jones they heard testimony and decided the case in favor of Lucius. The commissioners met again that November and allowed Lucius \$150.00 per year for his service as Sheriff with \$25.00 additional for service in criminal cases.

Sometime between 1818-1819 Lewis B. Lawrence and Lucius H. Scott put up their offices on lot 224 on the corner of Ohio and First streets in Terre Haute. It was the first building in Terre Haute to have lath and plastering.

Lucius and thirteen other men petitioned to establish Terre Haute Lodge #19 of the Free and Accepted Masons on March 10, 1819. Lucius was chosen as its Grand Master three years later.

Early records show Lucius buying and selling property. On August 26, 1819, Curtis Gilbert sold the southeast quarter of Section 7, Township 11, Range 8 to Lucius. Then of November 22, 1819 Lucius, collector, transferred Lots 278, 274 and 298 to Curtis Gilbert. On November 23 of that year Lucius transferred the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 12, Range 8 to Curtis Gilbert. On November 27, George Wright transferred the southeast quarter of sections 5 and 11, Township 14, Range 8 to Lucius.

Lucius entered politics on the state level on August 5, 1822 when he was elected to a two-year term as a representative from Vigo and Parke counties to the Indiana House of Representatives. Later Senator Oliver H. Smith said Lucius was one of the state's early legislators who knew what he was doing.

Chancy Rose asked Lucius to manage his mill at Roseville the same year. Lucius accepted, moved to Parke county and carried out that position for four years. Also in the fall of 1822 Josephus Collett and Lucius opened a store in Roseville where he lived until 1826. With the money he earned he invested in real estate in Terre Haute.

Captain Earle describes Lucius in *Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County* saying that he remembers little about Lucius H. Scott prior to 1823. He goes on to say, "He was a thin, erect man, quick in his movements and precise in his speech. He came to Terre Haute very poor, but prospered. The last time I saw him was in 1853. I happened to meet him on the [railroad] cars and traveled with him nearly 200 miles. Our talk was of the olden time."

In 1826 Lucius moved back to Terre Haute. In 1827 he built Terre Haute's first brick building in which he operated a general store and lived. It was located on the southwest corner of Third and Ohio streets and was known as "Scott's Corner" for about a century.

Lucius invested in the following Terre Haute real estate originally purchasing it at almost the cost of farm land and later sold it for a healthy profit:

- 1826 Purchased town-lot 120 for \$200
- 1827 Purchased adjoining town-lot 119 at Third and Ohio for \$175
- Sold 45 feet of this location to the bank in 1836 for \$1,500 and reserved 30 feet to the east valued at

\$1,000 for his garden

1831 Purchased out-lot 65, containing 49.70 acres and out-lot 68, containing 17.91 acres for \$536.

Out-lot 65 was valued at \$2,200 in 1846

Out-lot 68 was valued at \$5,000 in 1846

Sold 2 acres for \$150 in 1846

Sold .6 acres for \$450 in 1847

Sold 5.9 acres for \$590 in 1847

1833 Purchased out-lot 71, containing 29.4 acres for \$239.20.

1835 Purchased town-lot 6 on south Fifth street for \$100

Sold 3/4 of it to J. H. Hager for \$450

Sold 1/4 for \$300

1846 Southwest corner of Wabash and Third was valued at \$6,000

The Indiana General Assembly on January 30, 1834 elected Samuel Merrill of Indianapolis as president and Calvin Fletcher of Marion county, Robert Morrisson of Wayne county, Seton W. Norris of Marion county, and Lucius Scott of Vigo county as the four initial directors of the State Bank of Indiana. Their duty was to organize the bank. On February 13 they met and elected James M. Ray as cashier and located the ten branches at Indianapolis, Lawrenceburgh, Richmond, Madison, New Albany, Evansville, Vincennes, Bedford, Terre Haute, and Lafayette. An 11th branch was put in Fort Wayne in August 1835. Lucius served as a director for six years making trips to New York and Philadelphia as a bank representative. After he resigned as director of the State Bank of Indiana, Governor David Wallace appointed him a state fund commissioner.

Lucius sold the State Bank of Indiana a lot he owned at 217 Ohio Street on November 11, 1835. They built their Terre Haute branch on the site. The branch eventually evolved into the Terre Haute First National Bank.

Lucius became engaged to Miss Collett, the daughter of John Collet, who surveyed the road while coming west, settled in Terre Haute and became a merchant there. She was a teacher in one of the log school houses near the Durham settlement and was said to be a beautiful young woman. She and Lucius had set the date for the marriage and she had had her bridal gown made when she died. She was buried between two trees the corner of Seventh and Walnut, which was in a cemetery located to the east of Sixth street in Terre Haute.

Later Lucius married. His first wife was Jane C. Breading (Barnet). Jane died on August 18, 1835 at the age of 36. Then he was married on June 18, 1837 to Eliza (Perkins) Linton, the widow of his former business partner at "Scott's Corner," William C. Linton, after whom Linton, Indiana, was named.

When Lucius and others learned through the Internal Improvement Bill (1835-36) that Evansville would be the terminus for the Central Canal they saw an opportunity to make money. In 1837 John and William H. Law, James B. McCall (misspelled Macall and Mascall by several early writers), also of Terre Haute, and Lucius Scott purchased 700 acres of land adjoining Evansville and platted the town of Lamasco in Vanderburgh county. The canal, when completed, would actually end at Pigeon creek on their land and never enter the Ohio river. Their original plan, as seen on a map at the Evansville Central Library, was to develop the entire area from First Avenue to St. Joseph Avenue and from the Ohio river to Maryland Street. They used the first part of their last names to name the new town La Ma Sco. In June of 1836 contracts for the construction of the canal were let and there was a large immigration to Lamasco and Evansville. Real estate prices rose to new heights. Industries grew up along its route. For example: In 1837 Jacob Rice purchased land and erected the first brewery in southern Indiana near the canal terminus in Lamasco. But with the state having money problems in the following years, Lamasco only developed as far west as Pigeon Creek. Business and industry didn't expand to the western side of the creek until after the Civil War.

In 1842 in anticipation of Ex-President Martin Van Buren coming to Terre Haute, a committee of arrangements was established to prepare an elaborate reception. Lucius was appointed its chairman. He invited the mayor and common council to be in a city parade with Van Buren. They said the ex-president should be extended every courtesy but they would not take part in the parade. It was on his way to this reception that Van Buren was tipped into a mud hole on the National road by a stagecoach driver.

Lucius was active in support of the Wabash & Erie Canal. On February 26, 1842, he was elected the chairman of a committee promoting the completion of it to the east. William J. Ball, who became resident engineer for the canal, estimated it would cost \$83,160.84 to complete the canal, exclusive of mechanical structures. He based the cost for all unfinished locks on timber rather than on stone. David S. Donaldson, publisher of a Terre Haute newspaper, was named the secretary.

Lamasco was finally officially incorporated in 1847 with its boundaries as follows: "the western boundary of said corporate limits shall be Pigeon creek,

the north boundary shall be Eighth street to the north line of the same, the southern boundary shall be the Ohio river, including within its corporate limits all the land and ground embraced or contained between Pigeon creek and a line drawn due south from the east end of said Eighth street, to the Ohio river, and not included within the corporate limits of the city of Evansville." Evansville was also officially incorporated that year.

Lamasco was annexed into Evansville in 1857 after much discussion and haggling in prior years. Evansville at the time had a population of roughly 7,000 and Lamasco 3,000 and a great majority in both towns favored the merger. Some years later some citizens proposed changing the name from Evansville to Lamasco since it was unique and there were several Evansvilles in the United States. They said having a unique name would be a good way to get free advertisement for the town. The "old foggy" spirit kept its name from being changed.

Lucius liked to remember the old times. He recounted several intimate accounts of Terre Haute and Vigo County during pioneer times. In 1858 he wrote the following letter describing the first tavern built in Terre Haute in June 1817 by Henry Redford. It was built of hewn logs and stood at the corner of First and Main in Terre Haute. Lucius writes:

"The roof was on and the floors laid and great efforts were made to prepare it for the reception of the large company there to participate in the festivities on the ensuing Fourth of July. The Fourth arrived and so did the company, and a gay and merry assemblage it was. Major Chunn, with his officers, Lieutenants Sturgis and Floyd, Drs. Clark and McCullough, with several other gentlemen, and ladies too, residing at the fort, with the few scattered families of the neighborhoods — made up a party of fifty or sixty gentlemen and more than half that number of ladies. I remember that some young people came from the Shaker prairie. It was altogether a delightful affair. The military band from the fort was on hand, including Billy Hogan with his fiddle. The 'medicine chest' had yielded certain necessary stores — the Declaration was read — speeches made, toasts drunk, a good dinner eaten, and a ball at night, prolonged until the beautiful unbroken prairie began to glimmer in the bright beams of the morning sun. Thus passed the first Fourth of July ever celebrated in Terre Haute."

The 1860 Federal Census shows Lucius as a gentleman with real estate worth \$5,000 and a personal estate of \$2,300. The 1870 Federal Census shows his real estate at \$33,000 and his personal estate at \$15,000. His wife Eliza has a personal estate of \$10,000 and was born in Pennsylvania. A coachman

and two women servants lived with them.

Lucius and Eliza moved to Bucks county, Pennsylvania in 1847 around the time the canal arrived in Terre Haute. There he founded Bristol Gas & Light Company and was involved in several other enterprises. He also joined the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and was chosen its Grand Master in the early part of 1865. He was honored when the Delaware county, Pennsylvania lodge was named for him. Today his portrait hangs in the Masonic Hall in Philadelphia.

Lucius Scott died on April 22, 1875. At the time of his death he owned substantial real estate in Bucks county and in Philadelphia.

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