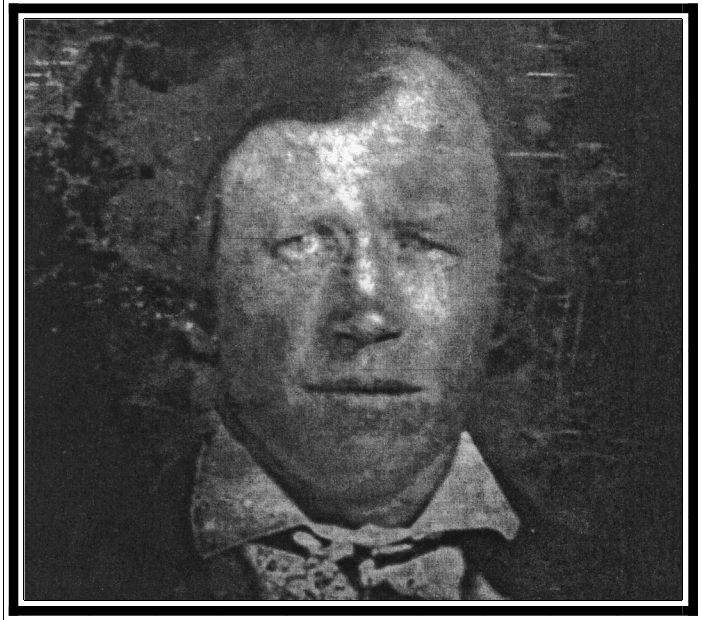


CANAWLERS AT REST

ADOLPHUS WOLF

b. January 17, 1818

d. July 31, 1870



Adolphus Wolf was born on January 17, 1818 in Prussia (Germany). We know little of his early life. He came to the United States around 1838 and found employment on the Wabash and Erie Canal.

As early settlers came into Indiana, they found a landscape covered with hardwood trees, lakes and swamps and saw great potential for agricultural development. Trees could be removed, the swampy lands drained, and bountiful crops grown if there was a way to get them and livestock to market. However, the only transportation routes available were buffalo trails and rivers.

Rivers, especially in northern Indiana, were unreliable. They flooded in the spring, were too shallow for boat traffic in the summer, had rapids that couldn't be bypassed, and mostly flowed in a southwesterly direction. Thus goods could only reach markets via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans.

Eastern markets offered better prices. A canal provided a cheap, reliable transportation system that opened up the Indiana frontier. Its channel was built using pick and shovel and its structures using native materials. It allowed boats to go in both directions. Cash was expended locally instead of flowing to outside interests as in the case of railroads. By building it alongside Indiana's rivers, its water supply was regulated providing a steady flow to keep the level of water in the channel at a constant 4 foot depth.

After much study ground was broken for the Wabash and Erie Canal at Fort Wayne on February 22, 1832. Jesse Lynch Williams oversaw its building. He hired engineers, section contractors and laborers. It took several months to sign contracts and round up the crews before the digging began in June 1832.

Building a canal was like creating a manmade river. A sixty foot path through the wilderness was cleared by cutting trees and removing stumps. The workers began digging a trench. The dirt was put into two wheeled carts. Teamsters took the mule-pulled carts back and forth to the spoil banks in an endless procession. Banks were raised to hold water in the 40 foot wide canal channel. On one side was the towpath where the horses or mules would pull or "tow" the boats. On the opposite side was the berm or heel path.

The canal was built in close proximity to the river. As water was required, a stone-filled timber crib dam placed across the river created a pool of water or "reservoir" that could be diverted into the canal by way of a channel called a "feeder." Waste weirs along its banks allowed excess water to flow out so the banks would not be breached.

Along with the "feeder dams" others structures such as locks, aqueducts, and culverts were built using timber and stone. Since the northern portion of the state had an abundant supply of timber, 53 of the 73 locks of the canal were built completely of timber.

The canal was dug by thousands of Irish and German workers who toiled from sunrise to sunset for seven days a week to receive \$10 a month at first. This was slightly increased later on.

The Wabash and Erie Canal at first was to extend from Lake Erie at Toledo, Ohio to Lafayette, Indiana on the Wabash River. When construction began it was to the west of Fort Wayne instead of to the east as would have been expected since they wanted to reach

Constructing the canal altered the geography of the

from Lake Erie at Toledo, Ohio to Lafayette, Indiana on the 468 miles from Toledo to Evansville, Indiana at the Ohio River. When construction began it was to the west of Fort Wayne instead of to the east as would have been expected since they wanted to reach eastern markets. This was because Ohio was not eager to have Indiana's products shipped through their state in competition with those they produced. Also the Great Black Swamp had to be crossed. It was very difficult to dig through the muck and mire.

Finally in 1837, five years after ground was broken, the canal work proceeded toward New Haven, Indiana. Adolphus Wolf, arriving a year later, easily found work on this portion of the canal, which, when completed, extended

The Indiana Marriage Collection shows that Adolphus married Martha (Marthy) Uhlis (Ulias) on November 6, 1842. They had twelve children, four of which lived to adulthood.

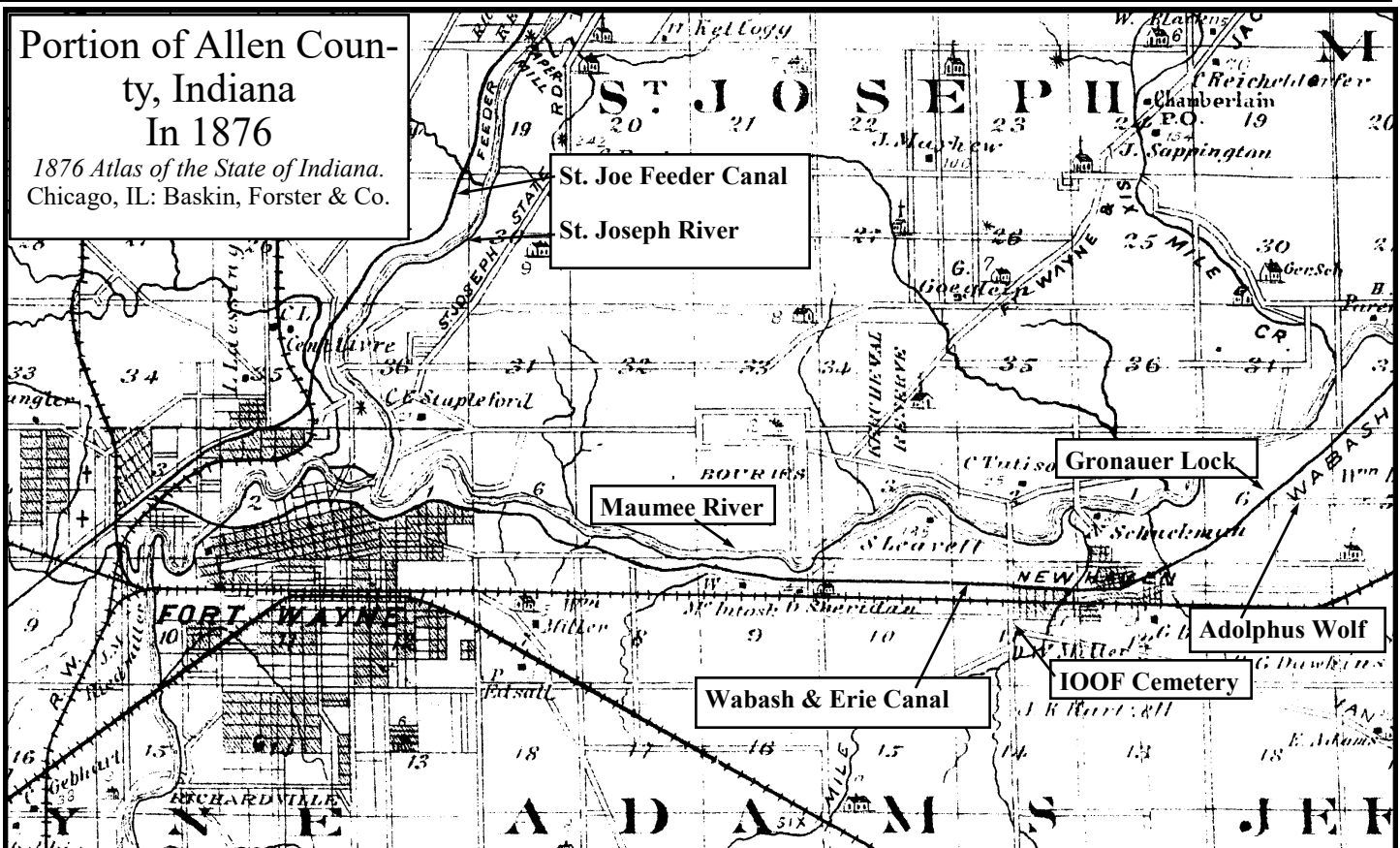
Whether Adolphus came with money or earned it working on the canal, he bought 800 acres of land at \$1 per acre in Jefferson township, Allen county, Indiana. The abstract for the land states that he was given a section of land for his work on the canal. The land was deeded to him on

ADOLPHUS & MARTHA WOLF'S FAMILY

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
Adolphus Wolf	1-17-1818	Prussia	7-31-1870	New Haven, IN	11-6-1842	New Haven, IN
Martha Wolf	8-31-1822	Ohio	1-16-1875	New Haven, IN	11-6-1842	New Haven, IN
John W. Wolf	8-1-1843	New Haven, IN	7-5-1858	New Haven, IN		
Mary A. Wolf Butler	1845	New Haven, IN	12-?-1922	New Haven, IN	(Jacob A. Butler)	
Sarah J. Wolf	8-11-1848	New Haven, IN	3-13-1849	New Haven, IN		
Infant son	12-6-1850	New Haven, IN	12-12-1850	New Haven, IN		
Infant son	5-30-1852	New Haven, IN	7-6-1852	New Haven, IN		
Infant son	7-27-1853	New Haven, IN	8-16, 1853	New Haven, IN		
Samuel Wolf	1854	New Haven, IN	1932	New Haven, IN	(Lavona)	
Macey Wolf son	2-21-1857	New Haven, IN	5-1-1869	New Haven, IN		
Lucy E. Wolf	1858	New Haven, IN	6-?-1895	New Haven, IN		
George Wolf	1859	New Haven, IN	1-?-1937	New Haven, IN	(Charlotte H.)	
Melissa Wolf	5-12-1862	New Haven, IN	7-12-1862	New Haven, IN		
Jane Wolf	1863	New Haven, IN		New Haven, IN		

Portion of Allen County, Indiana In 1876

1876 Atlas of the State of Indiana.
Chicago, IL: Baskin, Forster & Co.



July 22, 1850. He cleared it and became a farmer.

The land is on Harper Road just down from Lock #2, and locktender Joseph Gronauer's home. John Van Horn, Adolphus' great great grandson, still lives on the farm, which celebrated its 160th anniversary in 2010. The attic floor in his neighbor's garage is made of boards from Mr. Gronauer's buildings.

According to the U. S. Federal Census of 1850 Adolphus was a farmer with real estate valued at \$1,200. Living in his home were his wife Martha, his children John W. and Nancy Ann, and Samuel Ulis, a laborer and probably a brother of his wife.

The 1860 census shows Adolphus a farmer with real estate valued at \$2,000. Living with him are his wife Martha, children Mary Wolf age 14, Samuel Wolf age 5, Nancy Wolf age 3, George Wolf age 1, and Jacob Butler age 18. Mary Wolf would later marry Jacob Butler.

Adolphus was listed as a farmer with real estate valued at \$10,000 and a personal estate of \$1,544 in the 1870 census taken on July 16. Living with him were his wife Martha, and children Samuel Wolf age 15, George Wolf age 11 and Jane Wolf age 7. He died fifteen days later on July 31, 1870. His obituary in the *Fort Wayne Daily Gazette* on August 3, 1870 says:

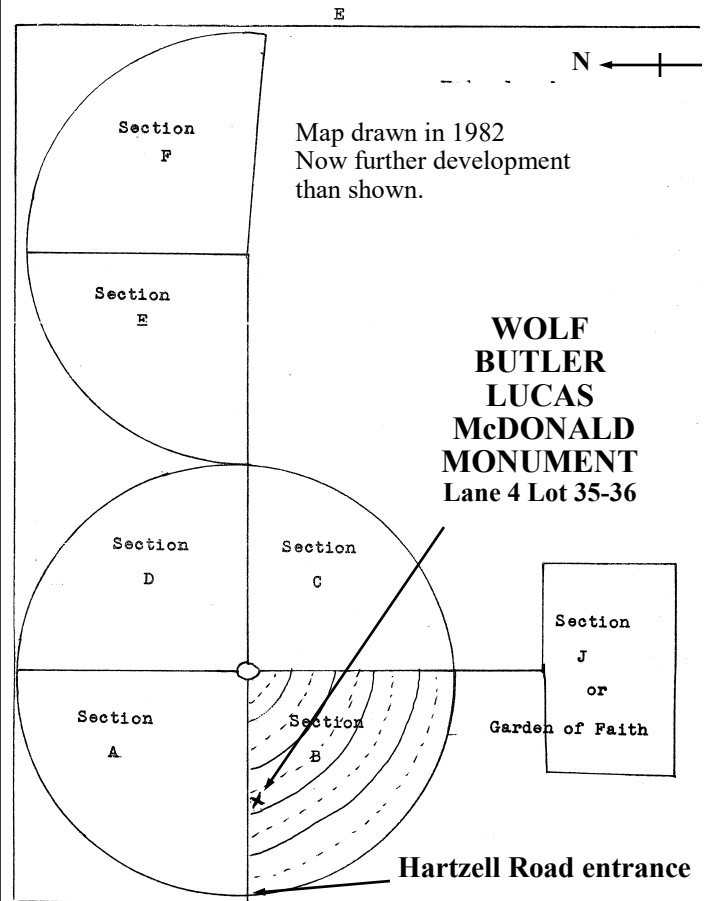
"We learn of the death, on Sunday night last, of Mr. Adolphus Wolfe, one of the oldest settlers in Adams township. He came there thirty three years ago, and settled in the woods near where the town of New Haven now stands, and by patient industry acquired a competence in the shape of a good farm, on which he was living in comfort when summoned to that bourne whence no traveler returns. He died Sunday night and was buried yesterday with the rites of Odd-Fellowship."

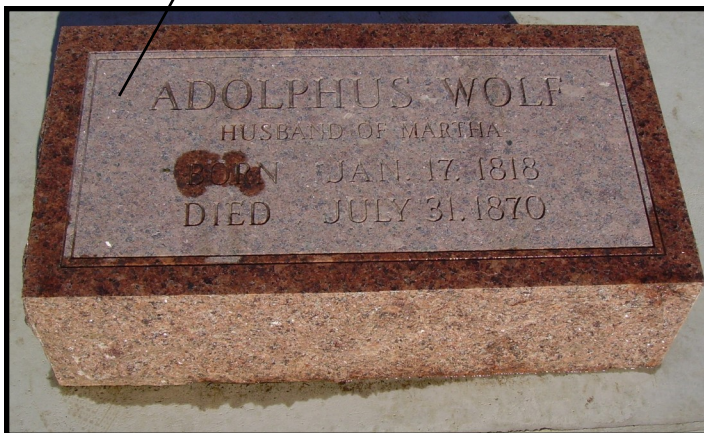
Adolphus is buried in the IOOF Cemetery in New Haven, Indiana. His grave is in Section B on the 4th circle in lots 35-36. A large monument was erected for Wolf, Butler, Lucas and McDonald at sometime and earlier stones removed. When we reached the cemetery to photograph the monument portions of it sat beside a new concrete pad ready for reassembly. When we returned a couple of months later the monument and individual markers were nicely arranged. The monument is for Adolphus, his wife Martha, their 3 infant sons, their children John W. Wolf, Macey Wolf, Melissa Wolf, and Sarah J. Wolf, and Elizabeth Wolf, wife of J. C. Wolf; Edmund S. Butler, Jacob A. Butler, Mary A. Butler, Otto F. Butler, Frank A. Butler, Cora E. Butler Lucas, Lydia McDonald, and Wm. L. McDonald. Two small stones nearby mark the graves of two of his daughters.

Sources:

Wolf monument being rebuilt in IOOF Cemetery. Photos B Schmidt

IOOF CEMETERY, NEW HAVEN, IN





Adolphus' son's wife, son and daughter.

LAVONA
1872-1939

SAMUEL
1854-1932
Photo by Bob Schmidt

LUCY E.
1858-1895



ELIZABETH
Wife of J. C. Wolf
Born
Jan. 18, 1788
Died
Mar. 11, 1848

Adolphus' mother?

Photo by Bob Schmidt

Dau. Of
A & M Wolf
Born Aug 11, 1848
Died Mar 13, 1849

MELISSA
Dau. Of
A & M Wolf
Born May 12, 1862
Died July 12, 1862

SARAH A

Allen County Genealogical Society. *Adams-Jefferson Township Cemeteries, Allen County, Indiana*. Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1983.

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center. *IOOF Cemetery, New Haven, Allen County, Indiana*.

Federal Census of 1850, 1860, 1870.

Fort Wayne Daily Gazette August 3, 1870.

Griswold, B. J. *A Pictorial History of Fort Wayne, Indiana*. Chicago, IL: Robert O. Law Company, 1917.

Indiana Marriage Collection.

New Haven Area Heritage Association. *New Haven*. 2011.

The new A. Wolf monument with markers. Photos by Bob Schmidt