

# CANAWLERS AT REST

## CONRAD VIBERG

**b. March 6, 1808**

**d. June 5, 1893**

**By Carolyn I. Schmidt**

Conrad Viberg was born near Hanover, Germany on March 6, 1808 to Conrad and Caroline Viberg. He was their second son. He came to the United States in 1831 at the age of 23 intending to stay for four to five years. After making many new friends and realizing he could fairly easily acquire land, he settled in Fairfield County, Ohio. He lived there for six years during which time he met Angeline Mariah Abright. She was also from Hanover and had emigrated in 1834 to Fairfield County with one of her three sisters after her parents Christ and Dorth-ea Abright had died. Conrad and Angeline were married on March 6, 1835.

Conrad and Angeline moved to Williams County, Ohio and began clearing a farm of eighty acres on which he lived for three years. However, he was not at home much, for when he heard from his friend Col. Lemuel Jones, who he knew back in Fairfield county, that the Wabash and Erie Canal was being built in Indiana he sought work on it. He became a canal foreman under Jones, who was in charge of building the lock at Wabash, Indiana, in 1834 and building the section of canal adjacent to the east side of Wabash. He worked with Jones for three years, took a year off to farm, and then resumed his job as foreman with Homes until the canal was completed.

In 1842, Conrad moved to Huntington County, Indiana. He purchased the "Roanoke Farm" from Col. Jones and was one of Jackson Township's earliest settlers. There he served as township trustee for two years.

Conrad also kept a hotel near Roanoke prior to 1852. In all likelihood it served canal travelers. The *History of Huntington County* says "his house was a favorite stop-

ping place for several years."

Roanoke in Huntington County, Indiana, resulted from the Wabash and Erie Canal being built through the county. The building of the Dickey Lock No. 4 in 1834-35 began settlement in the area

Roanoke became the major canal shipping point between Ft. Wayne and Wabash, Indiana. However, the town was not platted until September 11, 1850. In November 1851 and June 1852 additional lots were platted. In 1853 "additions were made to Roanoke by Messrs Viberg and Dinius, the former's consisting of twenty-one and the latter of eight lots."

Conrad and Angeline had nine children. They were Lucinda, Harmon B., Sophia, Mary E. Russellas, Eliza A., Lemuel A., George H. and Sarah J. By 1889 only 4 of them were living - Sophia, Russellas, George and Sarah. Eliza A. died in 1846 and was buried in Roanoke Cemetery, Huntington County, Indiana. Her sister, Mary E., died in 1852 and was also buried there.

Around 1855-57 the Vibergs moved to Cedar Creek Township in Allen County, Indiana. They were both prominent members of the New Lutheran church. Conrad was a Democrat in politics.



Conrad and Angeline's daughters Eliza A., age 2 Y 6 M 21 D died on Nov. 25, 1846, and Mary E., age 12 Y 8 M 20D died on Feb. 28, 1852. They lie at rest in the old Roanoke Cemetery on Roanoke Rd. and 850 N.

Photo by Bob Schmidt

The Cedar Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church built a frame building on land purchased from Mr. and Mrs. George

### Jackson Township, Huntington County, Indiana - Early Settlers

John & Isaac Ager  
Joseph Blount  
Benjamin & Leonard Bowers  
Andrew & James Branstrator  
Artis Campbell  
Thomas F. & Elias Chaney  
Joseph Collins  
Charles Comstock  
Benjamin Ebersole  
Peter Erick  
Jacob France  
John & Thomas Hackett  
William Hall

Charles Haywood  
Benjamin Hoover  
John Jester  
John H. McTaggart  
Ellsworth Morrison  
John Newman  
William Parrott  
William Peyton  
James Purviance  
S. C. Putnam  
Charles Robbins  
D. H. Rose  
James Salsbury

George Shank  
Peter & Abraham Simons  
Andrew Sours  
William Tate  
L. D. VanBecker  
**Conrad Viberg**  
David Voorhees  
John Weaver  
Daniel Welker  
Jonah Wire  
Frederick & Emanuel Yahne

West for \$10 on June 9, 1862 on the west side of Viberg Road. It was finished about 1867. Its first trustees were John Stoner, Conrad Viberg, John R. Moody, Edmund Freeman and Samuel Douglas. Although records show Conrad Viberg was a New Lutheran by faith, he apparently attended this church later in life.

The 1860 and 1880 United States Federal Census' show Conrad's family living in Cedar Creek Township, Allen County, Indiana with the post office at Leo. See chart below

The Agricultural Schedule of Allen County Indiana for 1860 shows Conrad owning 319 acres in Cedar Creek Township. The 1880 schedule shows he owned 120 acres in Cedar Creek Township. According to the 1880 census Conrad was a retired farmer.

Conrad was also a Mason and belonged to Leo Lodge No. 224. He was one of eight Master Masons who attended the first three meetings of the lodge: Edwin L. Knight (W. M.), Jacob Brickart (S. W.), Conrad H. Viberg (J. W. ), John W. Hollowpeter (Treas.), William M. Daily (Sec.), John Dever (J. D.), Samuel Mercer (J. D.) and his son, Harmon B. Viberg (Tyler). The lodge received Dispensation on February 1, 1859.

In 1871 George H. Viberg, Conrad and Angeline's son who was also a farmer, married Mary Schambaugh, a native of Ohio born July 1853. They had two children:

Russellas b. Jan. 1872

Daisy C. b. Dec. 1882

George H. worked for the Democratic party and was a Mason and a member of the Knights of Pythias. In 1887 he was appointed sheriff of Allen County to fill a vacancy. Then in November 1888 he received a majority of 4,286 votes to remain sheriff. He was re-elected to the position once again in 1890, when he, along with Chief of Police Frank Wilkinson, Deputy Sheriff Thomas Wilkinson and Officer John Kennelly of the Fort Wayne police force, captured Marvin Kuhns after Kuhns had severely wounded Kennelly in a hand-to-hand revolver fight.

Marvin Kuhns, who had been born near Churubusco, Indiana and had already served a penitentiary sentence at age

eighteen, had broken out of jail at Albion, Indiana, been arrested at Huntington, Indiana, and escaped while officers were putting him in jail, then had been arrested at Prospect, Ohio for horse stealing, had drawn his revolvers and scattered the crowd at his trial in Ohio. He then murdered William Campau, his companion, for money. He went to Fort Wayne on December 6, 1890, and was riding in a road cart with James Mease toward Churubusco when the Fort Wayne officials overtook them. He received four shots from their guns but managed to escape after wounding Kennelly. They later took him into custody from a farmhouse. Kuhns served a term in the Ohio penitentiary, was involved in several criminal enterprises, escaped from the Columbus, Ohio prison, was recaptured near Lafayette, Indiana, and eventually was killed at Van Wert, Ohio, during a running battle with officers.

Conrad and Angeline's daughter Sophia Charlotte married Torrence Samuel Douglass, who was born in Allen County, Indiana in 1837 and died in Red Bluff, California on August 7, 1915. He was a minister in Anderson in 1898, a minister in Red Bluff, California in 1902, and a capitalist in 1908. They had three daughters:

Hettie M. Douglass Peterson born 1865 in Indiana, married October 22, 1888 in Tehama County to John Edward Peterson, born 1856 in New York, died May 16, 1908 in Red Bluff California.

Flora Douglass Woods born February 9, 1871 in Indiana, died March 24, 1950 in Red Bluff, California, married June 2, 1893 Arthur E. Woods, born February 15, 1862 in California, died September 24, 1927 in Red Bluff, California.

Irene E. Douglass Madison born 1876 in Indiana, married March 6, 1902 in Tehama County to George W. Madison, Jr. born 1867 in Illinois.

Conrad's wife, Angeline Mariah Viberg, died on August 28, 1884 at the age of 73 years 6 months and 20 days. She was laid to rest in Viberg Chapel Cemetery. She was a member of the New Lutheran Church.

*The Ft. Wayne Daily Times* Monday, September 1, 1884

The funeral of Mrs. Conrad Viberg, mother of George Viberg, occurred at Leo, yesterday. Many persons from this city

	1860	1870	1880	Occupation	Born	Birth Date	Death Date	Married
Conrad H. Viberg	52	62	71	farmer	Hanover	3-6-1808	6-5-1893	Angeline Mariah Abright 3-6-1835
Angeline Mariah	49	60	69	keeping house	Hanover	1810	8-28-1884	
Lucinda					Ohio			
Harmon B.	25			farmer	Ohio			
Sophia Charlotte					Ohio	2-14-1836	2-9-1924	Red Bluff Torrence Samuel Douglass
Mary E.					Ohio		2-28-1852	12y8m20d
Russellas L.	18			laborer	Ohio			
Eliza A.					Indiana		11-25-1846	2y6m21d
Lemuel A.	13				Indiana			
George H.	12				Indiana	7-8-1848		Mary Shambaugh
Sarah J.	8				Indiana			Samuel McCrory
Sarah J. Park	13				Ohio			
Andy Yahne			12	serving grandson				
Elizabeth Klinger			16	house keeper				



Conrad Viberg's inscription is on the south side of the large grave stone and faces Schlatter Road to the right of the picture. Angeline's information is on the north side of the stone.

Photo by Bob Schmidt



This building replaced the first frame Viberg Chapel. It is now occupied as a family residence and is on the west side of Viberg Road across the road from the grave stone.

Photo by Bob Schmidt

attended.

Conrad Viberg died at age 85 years 2 months and 25 days on June 5, 1893. He was laid to rest in Viberg Chapel Cemetery near the corner of Viberg and Schlatter Roads in Cedar Creek Township, Allen County, Indiana. The cemetery, which is no longer in use, was the cemetery for Viberg Chapel 1838-1906 located across the road. The brick chapel which replaced the earlier frame building still stands and is occupied by a family as their home.

Conrad's obituary was not found. The Ft. Wayne newspapers of 1893 were destroyed. An old county history said he was a prominent farmer of Cedar Creek township, one of the prominent citizens of Allen county since his residence there, and was universally respected.

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