CANAWLERS AT REST

DAVID SANGER III

b. September 17, 1782 d. 1851

& SONS:

LORENZO PALMER SANGER WILLIAM ALONZO SANGER JAMES YOUNG SANGER **LUCIEN PALMER SANGER**

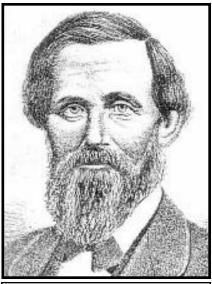
In telling the history of canal building during the mid-19th century in the United States, we often mention that canal Sanger III was born in 1782 in a small town near the White ry reservoir. Mountains. There he apparently learned the stone trade, because he went on to be a canal lock builder and his sons folvery little of David's early life.

At age 24 David married Mary "Polly" Palmer in July of 1806. It is through Mary's line that the family is tied to a May-Roosevelt.

1821 while living in the states of New Hampshire and New York. city. Their family's genealogical details are included in this article.

attended older bovs school for a while. During summer Lorenzo worked on the farm or at a local saw-mill.

The construction of the Erie Canal required workers and contractors from all around to complete this grand undertaking by the State of New York. David Sanger at age 42 contracted to build a portion of the canal and around 1824 moved his family nearer to Rochester. Later he contracted for portions of the locks at Lockport, New York.



LORENZO PALMER SANGER 1809-1875

The Erie Canal begun in 1817 was completed in the fall of 1825.

Seeing the Erie Canal as a threat to commerce, the Pennsylvania legislature authorized the building of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal in February 1826. The Sanger family, apparently prospering from working on the Erie Canal, moved to Pittsburgh in 1826 for David and Lorenzo to work on the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal.

By 1829, at the age of 20, Lorenzo was called "the boy workers moved east to west from one canal project to another contractor" and had a lock contract near Livermore, Pennsylvaas work progressed. Few canawlers are as well documented as nia on the Conemaugh River between Blairsville & Saltsburg in the David Sanger family of Littleton, New Hampshire. David Westmoreland County. This lock is now covered by a 20th centu-

After Lorenzo completed his canal contract he went lowed in the stone quarry business. It is interesting to note that into the mercantile business in nearby Blairsville. Rachel Mary the word "sanger," a British term, means a small temporary Denniston, who lived in Denniston's Town (called New Alexanfortified position with a breastwork made of stone. We know dria in 1834), became his wife on February 3, 1830. Both of them were still only 20 years of age. In 1831, Lorenzo moved his store to Denniston's Town.

Also in 1831, while working on his canal contracts, Loflower immigrant, Richard Warren. Other descendants of the renzo joined J. Noble Nesbitt in a joint-venture at Freeport, Richard Warren line include Ulysses S. Grant and Franklin Delano Pennsylvania. Nesbitt was a lawyer and at one time a canal toll collector on the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal at Freeport. There the "Main Line" crossed the Allegheny River on an aqueduct David and Polly had 8 children during the years 1807- about 10 miles northeast of Pittsburgh and proceeded to that

The two venture capitalists planned to drill a salt well. We are particularly interested in the four boys, Lorenzo, At that time most of the region's salt was being imported from William, James and Lucien, for they, like their father became Canandaigua, New York, near Rochester, at \$10-20 per barrel. canal and railroad builders. Sometime around 1816 the family There were indications that a rock salt ledge extended as far moved into Livingston County, New York. This is in the finger south as Pittsburgh so drilling a well made sense. Salt brine could lakes region about 50 miles due south of Rochester. Here the be boiled down to produce salt for preservation and table use. A

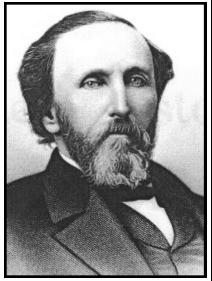
good brine source could be quite profitable as was seen from other sources producing in the region. But after several hundred feet of drilling they ended up hitting oil and water. The venture was abandoned since oil had little value at that time.

From Freeport, Lorenzo went on to build Rock Point Lock #8 and Dam #3 on the Beaver Canal twelve miles above Beaver, Pennsylvania, at the mouth of Connoquenessing Creek. (See map on p. 10) Nearby was Metheney's Tavern built in 1836. For canawlers, this lock is near the site where 17-year-old, future U.S. President, James Garfield fell from the *Evening Star* into the canal in November 1848. His fall became the crucial turning point for him to seek other employment.

With the completion of the canal contracts on the Beaver Division, Lorenzo and family moved to Indiana near Miamisport (Peru) in 1834. There he, and his father, David from Pennsylvania, and E. Durgin and Thomas Beale of Ohio held the contract to build Dam #3 across the Wabash River and the Guard Lock #1 on the feeder canal to be begun by Sept. 1, 1835 and completed by Oct. 10, 1836. (Map p. 9) Little else is known of their time spent there except that Lorenzo's brother, James Y. Sanger, established Sanger & Company, a merchandising firm, in Peru on March 3, 1835.

By Dec 1835 and early 1836 the family had moved on to St Joseph County in Michigan. Both Lorenzo and his brother, William A., purchased land in Cass County, Michigan at that time.

Lorenzo joined into a merchandising, warehousing and steamboat business with Col. Hart L. Stewart. Hart was one of the early settlers and a large landholder in St Joseph County near Mottville. In 1829 he married Hannah Blair McKibben, whose sister



JAMES YOUNG SANGER 1814-1867

James Garfield and the Beaver & Erie Canal

John Clark Ridpath LL.D. in *The Life and Work of James A. Garfield* published in 1881 describes Garfield's fall as follows:

"The position of bowman on the Evening Star was rather an unsafe one. The place where James stood was narrow and often slippery, and, in a brief period of time, he had fallen into the water fourteen times: One night as the boat approached a lock (Lock 8) the bowman was hastily awakened, and tumbled out half asleep to attend to his duty. Uncoiling a rope which was to assist in steadying the boat through, he lost his balance, and in a second found himself in a now familiar place at the bottom of the canal. The night was dark, and no help near. Struggling about, his hand accidentally clutched a section of the rope which had gone over with him. Now, James, pull for your life, hand over hand; fight for yourself, fight for another visit to home and mother. Strength began to fail. The rope slid off; swim he could not. Jerk, jerk; the rope has caught. Pulling away with a will, he climbed back to his place, and found that he had been saved by a splinter in a plank in which the rope had caught by a knot... When the boat neared home again, James bade good-bye to the Evening Star.... Four hard months of life on and in the canal had told heavily on the young man's constitution."

The 31-mile-long Beaver Division of the Beaver & Erie Canal was begun in 1831 and completed in May 1834 extending northwest from Beaver, Pennsylvania on the Ohio River to Pulaski, Pennsylvania. At mile marker 21 it joined the 83-mile-long Pennsylvania & Ohio "Cross-Cut Canal." This privately funded Ohio canal was completed in April 1840 and went from Youngstown, Ohio through Warren, Ohio and joined the Ohio & Erie Canal at Akron, Ohio. This is the route that the *Evening Star* was following to Cleveland, the home port for James Garfield, when he fell in.

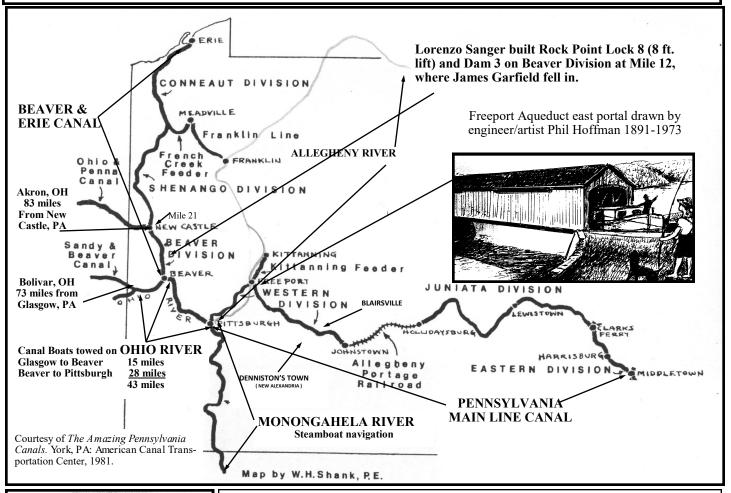
When completed in 1844, the Beaver & Erie Canal was 137 miles long and extended from Beaver on the Ohio River to Erie, Pennsylvania on Lake Erie. Boats entered the Ohio River at Beaver and were towed up stream via steamboats the 28 miles to Pittsburgh.

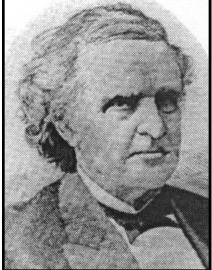
Canal route of James Garfield on the Evening Star

<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	Canal/River	Mileage	Opened	Locks
Pittsburgh	Beaver	*Ohio River	28		
Beaver	New Castle Junction	Beaver Div	21	May 1834	14
New Castle, Pa	Akron	P&O Canal	** 83	Apr 1840	54
Akron	Cleveland	Ohio & Erie	38	1827	42
			169 miles	1	110

^{*} Canal boats were towed up & down the Ohio River by steamboats

^{** 73} miles in Ohio + 10 miles in Pennsylvania = P&O Canal





COL. HART L. STEWART 1803-1882

Pennsylvania's Western Main Line Canal & Beaver Division of the Beaver & Erie where the Sangers' worked 1826-1833

wife of James Y. Sanger, brothers. Lorenzo's brother. Hart earned his title of Colopointed by the Michigan governor to the Board of vention.

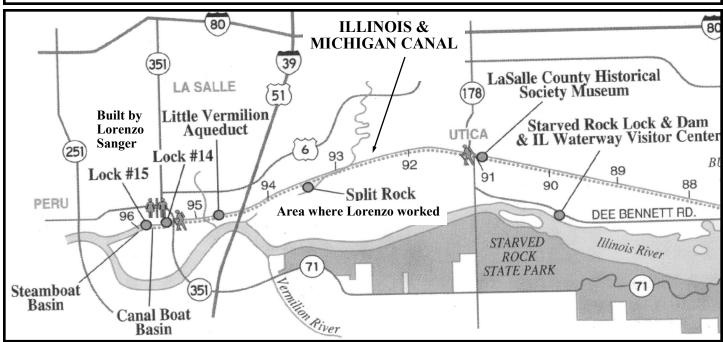
Lorenzo P. Sanger and Hart Stewart contracted for a until 1848. He became a Chicago industrialist and future railroad

Mary later became the builder and developed a long term relationship with the Sanger

David Sanger and family also moved to St Joseph, Michinel with the Michigan gan around 1834/35. There James Y. Sanger met Mary Catherine Militia during action in McKibben. Her father had died in Pennsylvania and the family the Black Hawk "war" of moved to Michigan when she was a child. James (age 27) and June 1832. He was ap- Mary were married in LaSalle, Illinois in the summer of 1841.

In June of 1836, Lorenzo, his family, and Hart Stewart Improvement went to Chicago for the contract letting of the Illinois & Michigan and was a commissioner Canal. The Sanger's formed a consortium for Sec 156 & 157 near for the roads being built Lockport on the I&M. They also held contracts on Sec 190-194 in the county. He was near LaSalle, which included the gap through a rock ledge now also a member of Michi- called "Split-Rock" that was earlier called "Camp Rock." These gan's constitutional con- sites ended about 1500 east of the Little Vermilion River. Lorenzo contracted for the final Lock 15 at LaSalle, where the I&M reaches into the Illinois River.

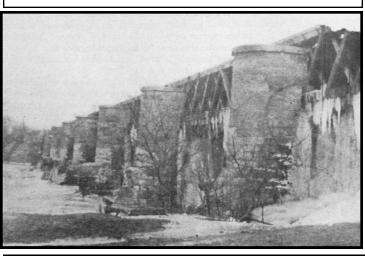
David Sanger & Sons constructed the Fox River aqueroad from Centerville, in St Joseph County, Michigan through duct at Ottawa from 1840-42. This was the longest aqueduct on Cassopolis and Berrien, to the entrance of the Galien River into the canal. It was 464 feet in length, had eight spans and had sev-Lake Michigan. Hart moved to Chicago in 1839. He was appoint- en piers built of Joliet limestone. The I&M was finally completed Chicago's Postmaster in 1844 by President Polk and served ed in 1848 so that basically ended canal building for the Sangers.

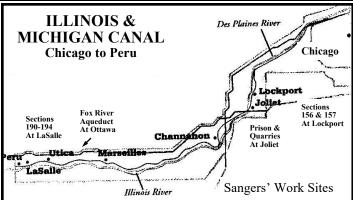


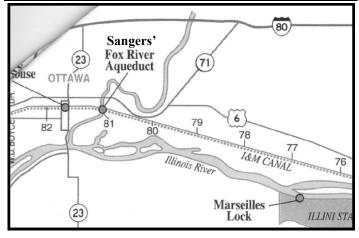


Illinois & Michigan Canal between Split Rock near LaSalle and Utica, Illinois. The Rock Island Railroad is also seen.
The Sangers built this aqueduct across the Fox River near Ottawa, Illinois for the Illinois & Michigan Canal.

Historic Postcards







Due to the financial collapse nationwide many of the canal contractors remained unpaid for their work for several years. As late as February 1855, the state of Illinois was still processing the final partial payments to the contractors, which included the Sanger brothers. Since they were only partially reimbursed, they were left with a loss on this venture.

Around 1842-43 Lorenzo formed a company and took a

contract to improve the rapids of Rock River at Sterling, Illinois. Then in March 1843, he joined Smith Galbraith in a line of stages Northwestern Stage Co. that served the mid-western states.

died a few years later in 1854. The boys, Lorenzo, James and anaola, Chillicothe, Etleh. William moved to St Louis in 1851 to contract for the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad. Then, with their friend Hart Stewart and William Truesdale, they contracted for the North Missouri Rail- tional Iron Works Battalion of 450 men. He was commissioned a road on May 18, 1854 that stretched 156 miles from St Louis to Major and placed in command of the battalion that protected St. Macon, Missouri. A few months later they contracted for the Louis for the remainder of the war. Bellville & Alton Railroad Company to construct a 35-mile-long stretch of rail between Bellville, through East St. Louis to Alton, Illinois.

building. The State of Illinois had its first state prison built at Al- quested that he be sent to join the army in Tennessee and Kenton, Illinois in 1833. Due to overcrowding this prison needed to tucky for staff duty. Sanger immediately laid aside business venbe replaced. The warden at Alton was Samuel K. Casey. Lorenzo tures and joined the war. Sanger, forming a partnership with Casey, was successful in obtaining the contract for a new prison at Joliet. They began work on the 72-acre-site in August of 1857. There was such good Point from 1848-50, then stone at Joliet that the stone for the prison came right out of the became an officer in the prison grounds. The prison was built on a solid stone foundation Illinois 55th Infantry. Deand had solid stone cells. In June 1858 Sager & Casey leased pris- clining a field lieutenanton labor from Alton to assist in finishing the new prison at Joliet. colonel position for the The new prison was partially opened in 1858 and completed by 55th Infantry, he served as April 1860. (See The Hoosier Packet June 2010 for the 1860 visit Indiana a lieutenant-colonel and officials paid to the Joliet prison when selecting Michigan City for Indiana's prisa aide-de-camp on the staff on.)

Earlier in 1855, William A. Steel, a young man of 19, came to Missouri to work on the North Missouri Railroad. There he became associated with Lorenzo P. Sanger. In 1857 he transferred to Joliet to work as a cashier for Sanger & Casey's prison construction firm. In 1858, when they received the prison labor contract, William became the Deputy Warden at Alton, while Samuel Casey remained its Chief Warden but was busy at Joliet most of the time. In July 1860 the Alton prison was closed and all the prisoners transferred to Joliet.

William then went to St Louis to obtain his law degree, from Chicago to Galena, via Dixon. While at Galena, he was which he did in April 1861 and entered the law office of Judge elected Illinois State Senator 1846-48. In 1847 he formed the Newton D. Strong. He married Frances Louise Sanger, daughter of his business associate Lorenzo Sanger, in Joliet on January 16, 1862. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he contracted with the David Sanger III died in Illinois in 1851 and his wife Mary government to build 4 iron-clad monitors — Tuscumbia, Indi-

Joining the Union forces, William established the Na-

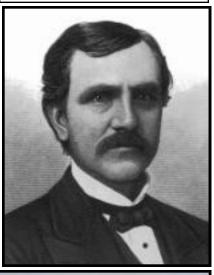
Lorenzo Sanger must have been well known by President Abraham Lincoln from his Illinois days with railroads and canals. At the outbreak of hostilities Lincoln requested Illinois A new enterprise presented itself in 1857 — prison Governor Yates to give Sanger a commission as Colonel and re-

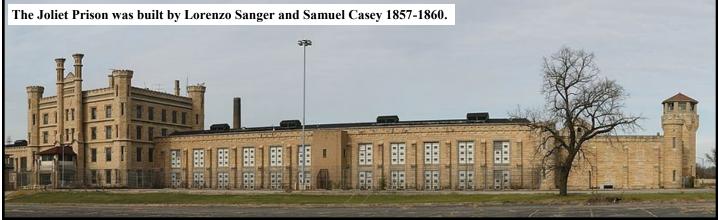
Lorenzo's son William D. Sanger, who had been at West

of General William T. Sherman. Sanger is pictured with General Sherman and his staff in the summer of 1862 at Memphis in *The Photographic* History of the Civil War.

Just after the war in 1865, Lorenzo Sanger and his son-inlaw, William A. Steel, be-

WILLIAM ALEXANDER STEEL 1836-1879





gan a new venture that was somewhat related to what they learned building the Joliet prison. They opened stone quarries north and adjacent to Joliet. Limestone in this area proved to be the best limestone found in America. Building the Illinois and Michigan Canal had greatly boosted the industry and by the mid-1850s there were nine guarries in the Joliet area. The canal provided cheap transportation for the stone. They soon developed a large business employing 300-400 men. Stone from various dolomite limestone quarries in Joliet were used for the United States Rock Island



Prison at Michigan City, Indiana.

In 1865 Sanger & Steel also worked at deepening the rock sections of the I&M canal at Chicago and Jack's lock near Lockport. This was to eliminate some of the locking required.

Lorenzo's wife, Rachel died in 1870 in Joliet, Illinois.

After her death

WILLIAM D. **SANGER** 1835-1872

Major William Sanger, Lorenzo Sanger's son. second from the right, is pictured with General William T. Sherman on the far left. He was Sherman's aidede-camp. Memphis 1862



Lorenzo moved to Oakland, California. His son William D. Sanger, the civil war veteran, died in 1873 in Illinois.

Lorenzo was in poor health for some time and died in California on March 23, 1875. His remains were returned to Jo-

liet for burial in the Sanger-Steel plot in Oakwood Cemetery where most of his family are at rest.

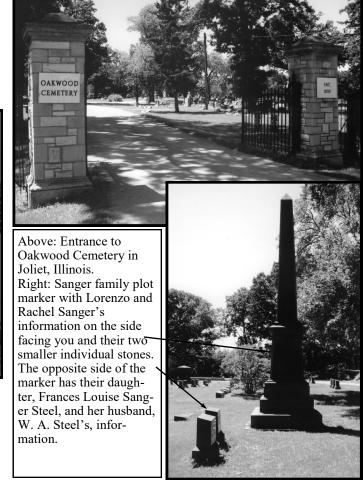
William Steel went on to serve three times as the Mayor of Joliet in 1869, 1872 and 1875. He died at age 61 in a freak accident on March 28, 1879 when he was thrown from a sleigh onto a picket fence. Lorenzo's daughter Frances Louise "Sanger" Steel died the following year on July 30, 1880. Lorenzo's remaining son Henry A. Sanger lived until 1917.

There are several other interesting connections with the David Sanger family:

Mary Louisa Sanger, David's daughter and Lorenzo's sister, was a convert to the Church of Latter-Day Saints. She was reportedly sealed in a plural marriage to Hyrum Smith, older brother of Joseph, the church founder.

James Young Sanger, David's son and Lorenzo's brother, had a daughter, Hattie Amelia Sanger, who married George M. Pullman. George was the man who created the Pullman Palace luxury rail coach.

Harriet Aurelia Sanger, David's daughter and Lorenzo's sister, married Dr. John A. Hendricks of South Bend, Indiana, Arsenal, Marine Hospital in Chicago, several custom houses, the who apparently met the Sangers while they were in St Joseph Water Tower (1869) in Chicago and of course the Indiana State Michigan. John was born in Kentucky in August 1811. His first



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wife was Julia Comparet on December 2, 1833. Julia was a half-sister of Frances C. Comparet, the wife of Alex Coquillard, who was a founder of South Bend, trader, and business partner with Francis Comparet, the fur trader in Fort Wayne., John entered the dry goods and warehouse business with the Sangers, probably continuing the business when they left for Illinois. Harriet died slightly before 1854. Then John then married Julia Appleby. His relationship with the Sangers continued. He worked with Lorenzo Sanger on the Joliet prison contract in the late 50s. He returned to South Bend and became President of the First National Bank of South Bend. He died on February 19, 1876.

The David Sanger family played a key role in the transportation development of the nation. They also had many interesting contacts with important people from the beginning of the country through its development in war and peace. They certainly were entrepreneurial and creative, leaving no stone untouched.



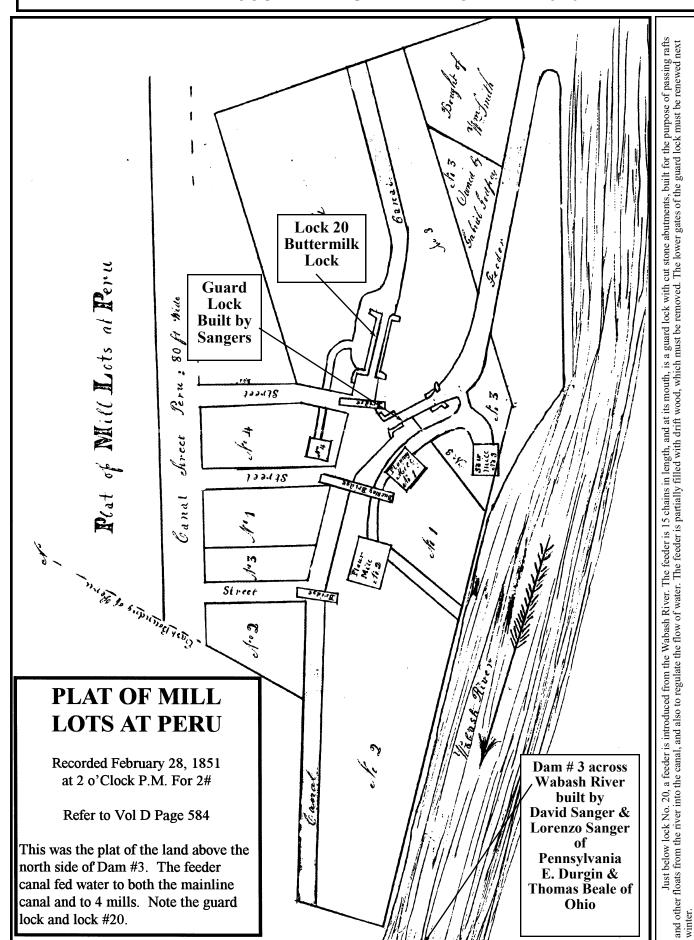
W. A. and Frances Louise Sanger Steel side of the Sanger plot marker with Lorenzo and Rachel's stones on the right.

EXHIBITS

The Beaver & Erie Canal (Erie Extension Canal)

From Lake Erie to Ohio River

Miles	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
45	Conneaut Division	1838-1844	Conneaut Lake	Erie
61	Shenango Division	1836-1844	Pulaski	Conneaut Lake
31	Beaver Division	1831-1834	Beaver	Pulaski
137	Beaver on Ohio River –	Erie. PA		
===		,		
28	Beaver – Pittsburgh boats	towed on Ohio Riv	/er	
	Side Canals	/ Feeders off Bea	ver & Erie Canal	
25	French Cut Feeder	1827-1834	Meadville	Conneaut Lake
22	Franklin Line to feeder			
	Trankin Line to recuer	1027 1054 Trank	Franklin is on Al	
47	French & Franklin feed	ar.	Trankiii is on Ai	negnerry river
	FIERCII & FIARKIII IEEU	: 1		
===				
83	Pennsylvania & Ohio	1835-1840	New Castle, PA	Akron OH
65	Route to Cleveland,		s at mile 21 on Bea	,
	Route to Cleveland,	On begin	s at tille 21 off bea	vei Div.
	Λ.Co.	mpeting Route to	Dittshurgh	
73		-	-	var OU
/3	Sandy & Beaver 1	055-1040 Glasg	•	var, OH
15	Classes to Decise on 6	Ohio Divor	Glasgow is on th	ie Offio River
15	Glasgow to Beaver on (
28	Beaver via Ohio River to	o Pittsburgh		
43	Towed on River Glasgo	ow – Pittsburgh		



Wabash Dam No. 3, at the town of Peru, erected for the purpose of the feeder just described, is 400 feet long and 11 feet high. A part of this structure is on rock bottom, and part on a coarse gravel. The foundation up to low water is formed of brush and trees, covered with an apron of hewn timber, on which is erected a timber crib filled with stone. The dam may be called a safe and permanent structure, with the exception of the abutments, which are of timber and much decayed. One abutment must be renewed during the present summer, and the other during the next season. A portion of the covering timber, on the lower

DESCENDANTS OF DAVID AND MARY SANGER

David Mary	Polly	Sanger III Palmer	Born 17 Sep 1782 1783	Location Hopkinton, MA Concord, NH	<u>Married</u> 8 Jul 1806	Location NH NH	<u>Died</u> 1851 1854	Location Joliet, IL	Occupation Construction Mayflower Ancestor Related to Grant & Roosevelt
Family of [<u> Javid Sanger</u>	Family of David Sanger & Mary Palmer	<u>Jer</u>						
Laura		Sanger	2 Sep 1807	Littleton, NH			Died Young?		
Lorenzo Rachel	Palmer Mary	Sanger Denniston	2 Mar 1809 25 Oct 1809	Littleton, NH Denniston, PA	3 Feb 1830 " "	РА	23 Mar 1875 9 Feb 1870	Oakland, CA * Joliet, IL *	Construction
Dr.William Mary	Alonzo M	Sanger Miles	9 Aug 1810 Apr 1812	Littleton, NH Newburgh, OH	17 Apr 1833 " " "	Ю	11 Dec 1887 Unknown	Florence, KA IL	Physician
Mary Hyrum	Louisa	Sanger Smith	26 Mar 1813 9 Feb 1800	Littleton, NH VT	Plural Marriage - Mormon Brother of Joseph Smith	- Mormon oh Smith	3 Aug 1877 27 Jun 1844	Joliet, IL * Carthage, IL - killed Mormon Leader	i Mormon Leader
James Mary	Young Catherine	Sanger McKibben -A	14 Mar 1814 1815	Littleton, NH PA	5 Apr 1841 Lockport,IL	ockport,IL	3 Jul 1867 After 1891		Construction
Lucien Elizabeth	Palmer B.J.	Sanger Reynolds	14 May 1816 9 Nov 1828	NY Ottawa, IL	17 Sep 1851	LaSalle,IL	1881 11 Nov 1920	Ottawa, IL Oakland, CA	Construction 2nd marriage
Harriett Dr.John	Aurelia A	Sanger Hendricks	16 May 1819 10 Aug 1811	ጅጅ	1840's? 2nd wife " " "	ife	Before 1854 19 Feb 1876	South Bend, IN South Bend, IN	2nd wife South Bend banker
Emmaline		Sanger	13 Apr 1821	ž			Died Young?		
Family of I	Lorenzo P. S	anger & Rach	Family of Lorenzo P. Sanger & Rachel M. Denniston	ci					
William Mary	∡ ن۵	Sanger ?	1835 1835	MO F	1862		Nov 1873 after 1897	St Louis, MO 1875 rema	vuis, MO Aide General Sherman 1875 remarried Paul Viel 1841-1883 Shravanort I a marchant
Francis William	Louise Alexander	Sanger Steel	9 Nov 1842 11 Oct 1836	IL Blairsville, PA	16 Jan 1862 " " "		30 Jul 1880 28 Mar 1879	Joliet, IL * Joliet, IL *	Stone Business
Henry Mary	A Alice	Sanger Tonner	27 Feb 1845 25 Sep 1844	∃ A	17 Jan 1872 " " "	-	8 Feb 1913 19 Dec 1897	Florence, AL * Florence, AL *	Bookkeeper for father-in-law
							Joliet, II* - C Lot 4 Bloc	Joliet, II* - Oakwood Cemetery 1200 E Cass St Lot 4 Block 8 near Indian Mound - center	200 E Cass St ind - center

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Born <u>Location</u> Married	Location	Location		Married		Location	<u>Died</u>	Location	<u>Occupation</u>	
틹	es Youn	g Sanger & M	Family of James Young Sanger & Mary Catherine McKil	IcKippen - A						_
Amelia Mortimer	ia ner	Sanger Pullman	16 May 1843 3 Mar 1831	IL Brocton, NY	13 Jun 1866 Chicago,IL	Chicago,IL	28 Mar 1922 19 Oct 1897	Passadena, CA Chicago, IL	Graceland - Chicago Pullman Palace car	
McKibl Edoica	bben a	McKibben Sanger Edoica Foster	16 Mar 1844 16 Dec 1851	⊒ ¥	28 Jun 1871	Chicago, IL	28 Jun 1871 Chicago,IL 19 Sep 1877 " " " 1923	1886 remarried W	1886 remarried Walter Scott Cheesman 1838-1907	
		Sanger	1846	=			Infant death		Denvel oo lall & water developer	
>		Sanger Cooper	1848 5 Sep 1862	IL Cincinatti, OH			Unknown 30 Jul 1940	St Louis, MO	St Peters Cemetery	
rine M	CKibi	Mary Catherine McKibben's sister -A	۵I							
Blair L.		McKibben Stewart	1810 29 Aug 1803	A Y	5 Feb 1829	MI 2nd wife	1851 1882	Chicago, IL Chicago, IL	Rose Hill Cem - Chicago Contractor / Postmaster Associated with Sangers	

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freeport, PA

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