CANAWLERS AT REST

DIEDRICH **MEYER**

b. July 15, 1829 d. January 14, 1911

Find-A-Grave 34879676

After receiving a basic education he became a miller.

In 1856, at the age of 27, he emigrated to America and took employment as a circus hand. When the old-time go railroad. After awhile he gave that up and became a dren shown on census records or in their obituaries. boatman on the Wabash & Erie Canal. He only worked on the canal for two years.

In 1853 the Wabash and Erie Canal had been road. He was living at 190 E. Lewis St. opened from Toledo to Evansville and on July 29 the canal boat "Pennsylvania" arrived in Evansville under the command of Captain Sharra after having completed the 468 until 1889. He was able to retire early at age 60 by frugally mile journey. This was thought to be the heyday for the amassing a comfortable fortune. The 1900 Census shows canal, but shortly thereafter it began to decline. Not only him as a collector. did natural disasters take their toll, boatmen often forgot to close gates and drained off a level or logs rolled into the canal and became a menace to boats. Cheap construction idential vote for Stephen A. Douglas. and mismanagement, dynamiting of reservoirs, loss of water by seepage, floods, etc. etc. plus cheaper freight rates by rail became major problems. By 1857 expenditures exceed- cough. It left his heart in a weakened condition. ed income. In March 1859 the entire canal was leased out: the northern portion to the Wabash and Erie Canal Compaoperating sections of the canal closed down by 1874.

County Directory shows him living at 55 W. Berry Street and being a laborer. The 1870 U.S. Census shows him living in a boarding house owned and run by Elizabeth Mennewish and her husband, Frederich Mennewish, a carpenter. Diedrich was shown to have real estate valued at \$600 and a personal estate at \$600. He served on the police force for 12 years, five of which he was the "turn key" (jailor).

The 1880 U.S. Census shows Diedrich, a jailor, boarding in the home of the Allen County sheriff, Charles A. Munson, who had earlier been a grain dealer. Living in the same household were Eleanor Cooper, who was Charles Munson's mother, Lucretia Munson, Charles' sister, and William P. Cooper, his step-brother by his father's second marriage, along with three other boarders. Thus Diedrich got to know Lucretia Munson by living in the home of his boss.

On May 12, 1881, when it became necessary to choose a deputy city marshal, Diedrich Meyer was selected. Diedrich Meyer was born in Germany on July 15, He served in this position for nearly three years. When 1829 to John and Margaret Meyer. He was the youngest of Marshal Frank Falkner resigned, Diedrick was appointed to their seven children, all of whom preceded him in death. fill the vacancy. Diedrich was then elected city marshal in 1881 and re-elected to that position in 1887. His deputy was Henry C. Franke, who later became marshal in 1894.

Diedrick was married on November 16, 1882 to wagon show drove majestically into Fort Wayne, Indiana, Lucretia Munsen in Allen County, Indiana. Lucretia had Diedrich found the town quite pleasing and abandoned the been born in 1845 and was 37 years old. Diedrich was 53 roving life for a career. He settled in Fort Wayne where he years of age. They were members of Trinity English Lufound employment on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chica-theran Church in Fort Wayne. They did not have any chil-

> The 1882-83 Ft. Wayne/Allen County Directory shows Diedrich being a carpenter on the P, FW and C Rail-

> Diedrich continued as Fort Wayne's city marshal

In politics he was a democrat. He cast his first pres-

In 1908 Diedrich had a severe attack of whooping

For about two weeks in late December 1910 Dieny, the central portion to Chauncey Rose, William P, Gris- drick complained that he wasn't feeling well. On January 4, wold, James H. Turner, etc, and the southern portion to the 1911 he had severe chest pains near his heart. Then over Southern Indiana Canal Company. They were optimistic the following days he seemed to grow better. On January that under private enterprise they would see immediate im- 14 he felt so much improved that he ate a hearty meal and provement. However after a painfully slow decline the last later that night felt well enough to walk around his house with the assistance of a nurse. While taking a drink of water he suddenly collapsed in his home at 122 West Wayne In 1866 Diedrich was elected to his first position on Street. He was carried to his bed and Dr. Hamilton was the Fort Wayne police force. The 1866-67 Ft. Wayne/ Allen called and waited upon him, but he died of heart failure in a

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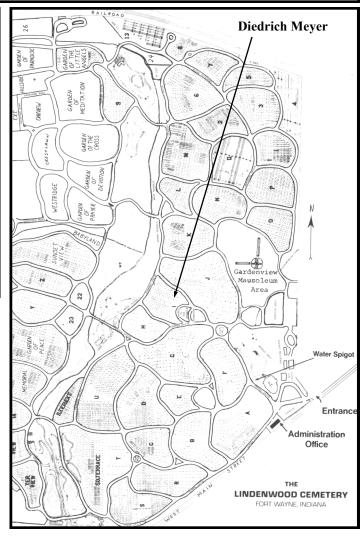


DIEDRICH MEYER JULY 15, 1829 JAN. 14, 1911 Sec. I Lot 66 Lindenwood Cemetery Ft. Wayne, Indiana Photos by Bob Schmidt

few short minutes at 7:45 p.m. He was 82 years old and perhaps one of the best-known citizens of Fort Wayne.

The Rev. Samuel Wagenhals was in charge of the funeral. Diedrich's remains were taken from his home at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning to Trinity English Lutheran Church, where they laid in state until 2 o'clock, when funeral services were held. Pall bearers were William A. Bohn, George Becker, C. F. Pfeiffer, P. A. Randall, A. E. U.S. Federal Census: 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 Melching and G. H. Loesch. He was then laid to rest in Section 1 Lot 66 of Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Lucretia Munson Meyer died on July 20, 1917 at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana from anemia. She was 72 years, 6 months and 9 days old. She had been a devoted member of Trinity English Lutheran Church and a charter member of the church society. She was survived by a half brother, William P. Cooper of Fort Wayne; two nieces, Mrs. Frank E. Winstrup of Cincinnati, Ohio and Mrs. Ellen Remlin of Covington, Kentucky; and two nephews, William Cady of Los Angeles, California and Brown Copper of Fort Wayne. Her brother Charles Munson had pre-



ceded her in death. She was laid to rest beside Diedrich in Section 1 Lot 66 of Lindenwood.

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