

CANAWLERS AT REST

GAYLORD GRISWOLD BARTON

b. May 23, 1809
d. February 12, 1884

By Carolyn I. Schmidt
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Gaylord Griswold Barton was born May 23, 1809 in Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York to Hale and Esther Pinney Barton. He was educated at Madison University grammar school in Hamilton, New York. He attended Fairfield Medical College and afterward moved to Toronto, Canada to practice medicine for two years. He moved west and ended in Washington, Daviess County, Indiana in May 1834 to practice medicine with Dr. Philip Barton, his uncle and the first physician in Daviess County. He wasn't there long before going to Lawrenceville, Illinois only to return shortly thereafter.

On February 19, 1835 Gaylord married Ann Murphy and that year they moved to Carlisle, Sullivan County, Indiana. He was a Democrat and was active in politics.

In April 1842 Gaylord sued John Hyatt for "trespass on the case for slander." His attorneys were Terry, Law and Watts.

Hyatt was defended by Warner and Smydth but, after many witnesses were examined in front of the large crowds that assembled to witness the proceedings, Hyatt lost. Gaylord was awarded \$55 in damages.

In 1843, after living eight years in Sullivan he, Ann and their children Philip, Enoch and Mary returned to Washington, in Daviess County. There three more children were born to the couple: Gaylord Griswold Barton, Jr., John M. and Florence Ann. Gaylord became a prominently known member of the Daviess County Medical Society. He was a surgeon as well as a physician.

In March 1848 Gaylord's wife, Ann, died leaving him with six children to rear. After mourning her loss for a year, he married Ann's sister, Ellen Murphy, on November 7, 1849. He and Ellen had five more children: Esther M., Josephine A., William, Charles E. and William M.

Gaylord took great interest in all public and private enterprises. He served on the Washington school board for a number of years. He hoped to promote the welfare of Daviess County.

In 1850 and 1851 Gaylord ran for Indiana State Representative but lost. He then ran for State Senator and, in 1853 at the 37th regular session of the Indiana legislature, he was the senator representing Knox, Daviess & Martin counties. He was re-elected in 1853.

In January 1857 Gaylord G. Barton was appointed by incoming governor, Ashbel P. Willard (1857-1860), to replace Austin Montana Puett as one of three trustees of the Wabash & Erie Canal. See sidebar on following page about succession of canal trustees. Gaylord served as canal trustee alongside trustees Charles Butler and Thomas Dowling. His term expired on January 18, 1859. The bondholders elected Richard Raleigh as his replacement.

During Gaylord's two year term, the Wabash & Erie Canal, which had been completed to Evansville by 1853, was now plagued with repairs, reservoir destruction and continual financial failure. During His time the Trustees were working on a plan to lease the canal to private investors in three sections: Ohio state line to Terre Haute, Terre Haute to Newberry, and

| Name | Born | Native | Died | Married | Name | Born | Native | Died |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Gaylord G. Barton | 5-23-1809 | NY | 2-12-1884 | 2-19-1835 11-7-1849 | Ann Murphy | 1-18-1816 | Ireland | 3-16-1848 |
| | | | | | Ellen Murphy | 11-11-1825 | Ireland | 12-16-1915 |
| Gaylord and Ann Barton's children | | | | Gaylord and Ellen Barton's children | | | | |
| Name | Born | Native | Died | Name | Born | Native | Died | |
| Philip H. | ca. 1836 | IN | | Josephine A. | 3-?-1852 | IN | | |
| Enoch Y. | ca. 1838 | IN | | Esther M. | 5-?-1854 | IN | 1-13-1920 | |
| Mary E. | 3-14-1839 | IN | 1-10-1920 | William | ca. 1858 | IN | | |
| Florence Ann | 12-17-1840 | IN | 7-11-1843 | Charles E. | 4-?-1861 | IN | 3-2-1904 | |
| Gaylord Griswold Jr. | 4-11-1844 | IN | 6-18-1906 | William M. | ca. 1863 | IN | | |
| Alice A. | ca. 1845 | IN | | | | | | |
| John M. | ca. 1846 | IN | | | | | | |
| Florence H. | ca. 1847 | IN | 12-18-1884 | | | | | |

SUCCESSION OF CANAL TRUSTEES

In July of 1847, the Wabash & Erie Canal was transferred to a Trust with the headquarters located at Terre Haute. A Board of Trustees was established with three persons. Two of the members were elected by the bond holders and the third one was appointed or elected by the State of Indiana. Charles Butler was elected President of the Board and served the whole period until 1878. Thomas Blake of Terre Haute was also selected by the bondholders and served until his death in Cincinnati, OH of Cholera on November 28, 1849. The bondholders quickly replaced Blake with Thomas Dowling, also of Terre Haute, who served from 1850 until 1878.

Charles Butler remained in New York to deal with the creditors while Blake and Dowling were located in Terre Haute handling the day to day management of the canal. The third member of the Board of Trustee was there to monitor the state's interest, which had largely been transferred to the private bondholders. The position was identified by Paul Fatout in his book *Indiana Canals* as "supernumerary rather than important." The first of these trustees, Nathan B. Palmer, who was appointed by Governor Whitcomb, served from July - Dec 1847. Palmer, a prominent politician had previously been State Treasurer from 1835 - 1841.

In 1848 Austin Puett of Parke Co. began a 3 year term 1848 - 51. (Puett - Mar 2005 The Hoosier Packet) Hopes were high that the canal would at last be completed to Evansville so the position for Trustee was desired by several persons, in fact it took 25 ballots before Puett was finally selected by a Senate majority. His selection made sense since canal construction was proceeding through Parke County at the time. The canal had reached Lodi in 1847, but didn't reach Terre Haute until 1849. Puett was followed by William R. Nofsinger, a politician from Parke County who became State Treasurer 1855-57 during Governor Wright's second term.

Austin Puett also served a second term when Benjamin R. Edmonston of Dubois County, the third senate elected trustee, died in August 1856 during his term. The people of Evansville were furious when Governor Wright appointed Puett, the governor's brother-in-law, to a complete the term. The *Rockville True Republican* said that since Governor Wright was completing his second term and could not be re-elected he probably "felt no compulsion to appoint a trustee from Evansville." This appointment was short as in January 1857 Gaylord G. Barton was appointed by the new governor, Ashbel P. Willard. Barton served until Jan 18, 1859 when Richard Raleigh of Vanderburgh county was elected by the Senate for a three year term 1859-61.

Newberry to Evansville. These contracts were signed in early Mar - May 1859 by Thomas Dowling and Richard Raleigh. In 1861, also during Raleigh's term, the portion of the canal south of Terre Haute was closed. A series of later trustees served in the final years of the canal. Of note was James S. Hinton, a black Hoosier legislator, the last serving trustee of the canal. (See chart below of Trustee list)

In 1860 a list of attorneys and legal firms in Indiana was published. G. G. Barton of Daviess County was listed. He was 72 years old and still practicing medicine.

Gaylord must have forgiving John Hyatt after the law suit for in 1866 he, John and R. A Clements served on the building committee for the Daviess

Table showing the Officers comprising the Board of Trustees of the Wabash and Erie Canal from its organization, in 1847, to the present time, each for the term of three years, except Mr. Palmer.

| | NAMES. | COUNTY. | HOW APPOINTED. |
|------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | N. B. Palmer | Marion..... | By Governor |
| 2 | Austin M. Puett..... | Parke..... | By Legislature..... Died Aug. 1856 |
| 3 | Wm. R. Nofsinger... | Parke..... | " |
| 4 | Benj R. Edmonston* | Dubois..... | " |
| 5 | G. G. Barton..... | Daviess | " Died Aug. 1864 |
| 6 | Richard Raleigh..... | Vanderburgh ... | " |
| 7 | Jos. S. Hanna*..... | Tippecanoe | " |
| 8 | David M. Dunn..... | Cass | " |
| 9 | Robt. H. Milroy..... | Carroll..... | " |
| 10 | Jas. V. Mitchell..... | Morgan | " |
| 11 | Jas. S. Hinton..... | Marion | " Died Nov. 28, 1849 |
| 1847 | Charles Butler | New York..... | By Bondholders..... |
| 1847 | Thos. H. Blake*..... | Terre Haute..... | " |
| 1850 | Thos. Dowling | Terre Haute | " |
| 1847 | J. L. Williams | Chief Engineer.. | By Trustees. |
| 1847 | J. H. Hager | Chief Clerk..... | " |

*Died during time of service.

Source: Journal of the Indiana State Senate During the 49th Session of the General Assembly, 1875.

County Infirmary. The old county farm had become inadequate and this new building was built on the new farm that was established in 1864 on what eventually amounted to 244 acres in sections 12 and 13 of Washington township. It was a large brick building with dormitories, sitting rooms, dining rooms, a kitchen and living rooms for the superintendent and family. In 1915 it was valued at \$40,000.

Many of Gaylord's children as adults lived in his household. The 1880 Federal Census shows the following still living at home and gives their ages and occupations: Enoch Y. 42 has rheumatism and is unemployed, Mary E. 39 is a teacher, Gaylord G. 36 is an attorney at law, Josephine A. 23, Esther M. 21, Charles E. 18 a student, William M. 17 at school.

The 1881 Register of Physicians of Daviess County listed G.G. Barton - Washington, Indiana. He was 72 years old at the time.

Dr. Gaylord G. Barton died at Washington, Indiana, on February 12, 1884. He was 74 years old. He left his extensive library to his son-in-law, John H. O'Neill, with instructions to donate them to the library in Washington, Indiana. Sometime later, O'Neill delivered to the library board over 1,000 volumes of his books and those of Gaylord's left in his custody for library purposes. By 1915 the library had 10,000 volumes and was a Carnegie Public Library.

Although Gaylord was a Roman Catholic and attended St. Marys in Washington, Indiana. Although histories say is burial location is unknown, a director at the Edward L. Lee Mortuary in Washington explained how some of the graves in the old Catholic & City Cemetery were moved to St. John Cemetery in the 1930s to free up land on which to build the city's National Guard Armory and tennis courts. Elizabeth Dowling, Carnegie Public Library reference librarian, located records made of all the old gravestones before the bodies were moved and that were later catalogued by Eleanor Purdue. They showed that Gaylord and Ann were originally buried at the old cemetery and moved to section A in St. Johns. A large grass covered portion of this section has no graves stones to show their exact grave locations. However, we found the stones for Gaylord's second wife, Ellen; his daughter, Esther; and his son, Charles E., in section B, block 131 and stones for his daughter, Mary Ellen; his daughter and son-in-law, Florence H. and David Hefron, and his son, Gaylord Griswold Barton in section B, block 301.

Daviess County death records show that Gaylord died of general debility under the care of J. F. Scudder. His wife Ellen died of arterial sclenitis under the care of Scudder. Gaylord was 74 years, 8 months and 19 days old at the time of his death. Ellen was 90 years, 1 month and 5 days old when she died.

Gaylord's obituary was not found since the microfilm of the newspaper was ruined. However, The *Washington Democrat* of December 16, 1915 carried the following obituary for Gaylord's second wife, Ellen Murphy Barton as follows:

DEATH OF MRS. BARTON
OLDEST NATIVE BORN CITIZEN
OF WASHINGTON DIED
THIS MORNING
WIDOW OF DR. G.G. BARTON
 She Was Born in Washington November 11, 1825 —
 Survived by Three Children

Mrs. Ellen Barton, the oldest native born citizen of Washington, and probably of Daviess county, died at 2:10 this morning at her home at the south-west corner of East Sixth and Hefron street. She was ninety years old.

She was a daughter of John and Ellen [Campbell] Murphy, who came from Ireland to Daviess county when Indiana was but sparsely settled and Washington was but a hamlet with a population of only a few hundred. Mr. And Mrs. Murphy occupied a log house which stood on the present site of Sum Brothers' block, and here Mrs. Barton was born Nov. 11, 1825.

She was united in marriage to Dr. G.G. Barton, who for many years was a leading physician of southern Indiana, the Barton homestead occupying the present site of Temple Court. He died February 12m 1884, To this union six children were born, three of whom are living. They are Mrs. Josephine Hefron and Miss Esther Barton of this city and William Barton, of Indianapolis. Also three

step-children are left to mourn her death, John Barton, of Danville, Ill., Miss Mary Ellen Barton and Mrs. John H. O'Neal, both of this city.

Mrs. Ellen Barton was one of those loveable, motherly souls whom everybody liked. Kind of speech and with always a cheerful disposition the children of the neighborhood loved her as they would a mother, and even the news-boys spoke of her kindness toward them.

She was a devout Catholic, and was a member of St. Simon's congregation. The funeral will likely take place Saturday morning, but the hour has not been fixed. It is the request of the family that no flowers be sent.

Gaylord's Children

Enoch Barton was the Daviess County Recorder. He served in this position from 1862-70.

Mary E. Barton is listed on the roll of teachers of the first County Teacher's Institute. It was held at the Washington courthouse in August 1869.

Gaylord Griswold Barton, Jr. was born on April 11, 1844, at Washington, Indiana and received a good education there. In 1860 he and his sister, Alice Barton, were living with Ellen Murphy age 60, along with their uncle, Michael Murphy age 48, and John Murphy age 30. The census shows him as a merchant clerk at that time. He began teaching school in 1863 at the age of nineteen and continued in this occupation off and on until 1867 at which time he took a position as a deputy in the Daviess County clerk's office. He served there until the fall of 1875 when he began the study of law at the State University at Bloomington (Indiana University today). He was graduated in 1877 with a law degree

Before starting his legal career Gaylord took a trip to Ireland, England and France. His application for and issue of a passport was found. It stated that Gaylord G. Barton, Jr. was born in the state of Indiana on the 11th day of April, 1844. It described him as 33 years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall, with a high forehead, blue eyes, a medium nose, a mustache, a medium chin, dark brown hair, fair complexion and oval face. His passport was paid and issued on June 29, 1877. A letter written on stationary from the Post Office Department, Washington, requesting that a passport be granted to him and his uncle was attached to the application. It read:

June 30, 1877

Hon. H. W. Seward,

Dear Sir: The bearer, Gaylord G. Barton, Junr. desires to procure passports for himself and his uncle, Michael Murphy, to visit Europe.

Mr. Barton is a native of the United States. Mr. Murphy was born in Ireland, but was brought to the U. States by his parents when he was four or five years of age, and his father was naturalized during his minority. They are both residents of the State of Indiana.

The enclosed letter from Hon. Thos. R. Colfax, M. C. of Indiana, is a further evidence of the statement, therein made.

Please afford these gentlemen the necessary assistance in securing their passports, and oblige

*Yours truly
Jas N Tyner**

*James Noble Tyner had been the U.S. Representative for the 8th district of Indiana 1869-1875 and was the U.S. Postmaster General 1876-1877 under the Grant administration.

Gaylord Jr. returned in time to begin his professional career that year and was admitted to the Daviess County Court on October 9, 1877. He apparently didn't have a law partner for the Washington bar list of 1886 shows members/firms and G. G. Barton is listed alone. He was a successful and reliable practitioner. On October 4, 1901, he was commissioned as a notary public for Washington, Indiana. Politically he was a Democrat. He was reared in the Catholic faith. He died at age 62 on June 18, 1906 in Washington, Indiana. He is buried in section B block 301 St. John Cemetery, Washington, IN.

Florence H. Barton was born in 1847 in Washington, Indiana and received her education from St. Mary's Institute. She married Judge David J. Hefron (b. 2-18-1842, d. 1910) on September 10, 1873. He attended State University (I.U.) before entering the law office of John H. O'Neill, who tutored him and became his partner in 1870 (O'Neill & Hefron) after David was admitted to the bar. O'Neill was Hefron's brother-in-law. During his political career David was the mayor of Washington, Indiana in 1871 and re-elected in 1873. He was nominated for the State Senate in 1876, elected, and served the un-expired term of Andrew Humphries, who had been elected to the U.S. Congress. In 1878 David was elected to succeed himself in the Senate for another four year term. He opposed the State constitution providing for woman's suffrage. He was a prominent factor in the congressional apportionment, which was arranged by the Legislature.

Florence and David had three daughters, Josephine M., Ann B., Hellen (Ellen) A., and a son, John David. She was described as a faithful, affectionate wife and an ideal mother. A Christian and devout member of St. Mary's Church she brought up her children in the Catholic faith. She died December 18, 1884 and is buried alongside her husband in section B block 301 St. John Cemetery. Their daughter Josephine purchased the lot in St. John Cemetery.

William E. Barton was graduated in Washington High School's Class of 1882. The high school was organized in 1877.

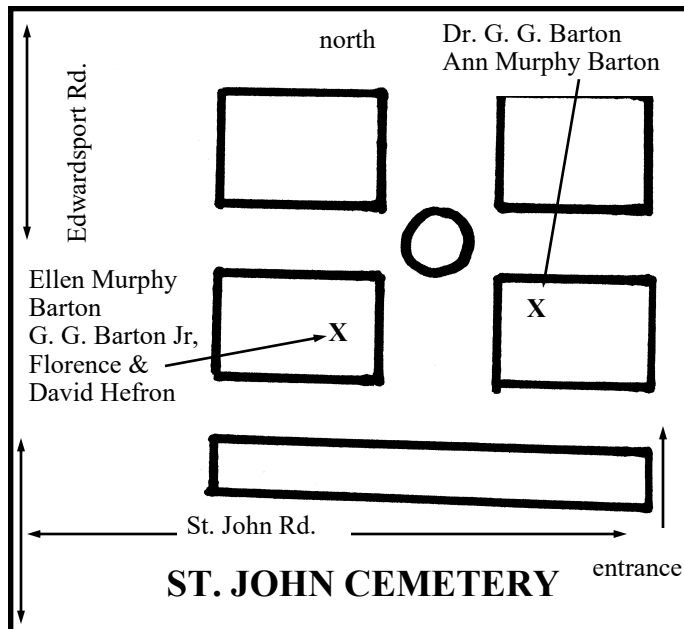
Alice Barton was married to John Henry O'Neill (b. 10-30-1838, d. 7-15-1907) a lawyer, state legislator, and congressman on July 5, 1866. He represented Daviess County and other counties in second district in the Indiana state legislature in 1866; was in the Department of Inspection; was prosecuting attorney for the eleventh judicial circuit in 1873 and also in 1874, but he resigned during the later term; repeatedly on local board of trustees for public schools, in 1887-91 was a representative to

the fiftieth and fifty-first congresses as a democrat, and was on the Committee of Commerce and Committee of War Claims. He was the brother-in-law of David J. Hefron. John H. O'Neill* died at age 69 and was buried in St. John's Cemetery on the northern edge of Washington on Highway 57.

*It should be noted here that both Hefron and O'Neal were sometimes spelled Heffron and O'Neal through the various documents used in this biography.

In an Indiana Supreme Court case on December 9, 1897 (Graham et al. v. Lunsford et. al.) concerning title to a land deed both John O'Neill and David Hefron and their wives were mentioned. John H. O'Neill had purchased land in 1882, a certificate of sale was executed to him by the sheriff, which was assigned to William F. McDougal, to whom a sheriff's deed was executed after the expiration of one year. The court found that on April 17, 1883, McDougal and wife joined O'Neill and David J. Hefron and their wives in a deed conveying the lands in controversy, among others to Thomas B. Graham. Graham lost since he could not establish title to the land.

Josephine A. Barton married Laurence Hefron on 4-27-1881. Their were only married seven years when he died in 1888. We are not sure how he was related to Judge David J. Hefron.



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DAVID & FLORENCE BARTON HEFRON

Photos by Bob Schmidt

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