

CANAWLERS AT REST

LEMUEL GODFREY JONES

b. December 19, 1803

d. March 9, 1859

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

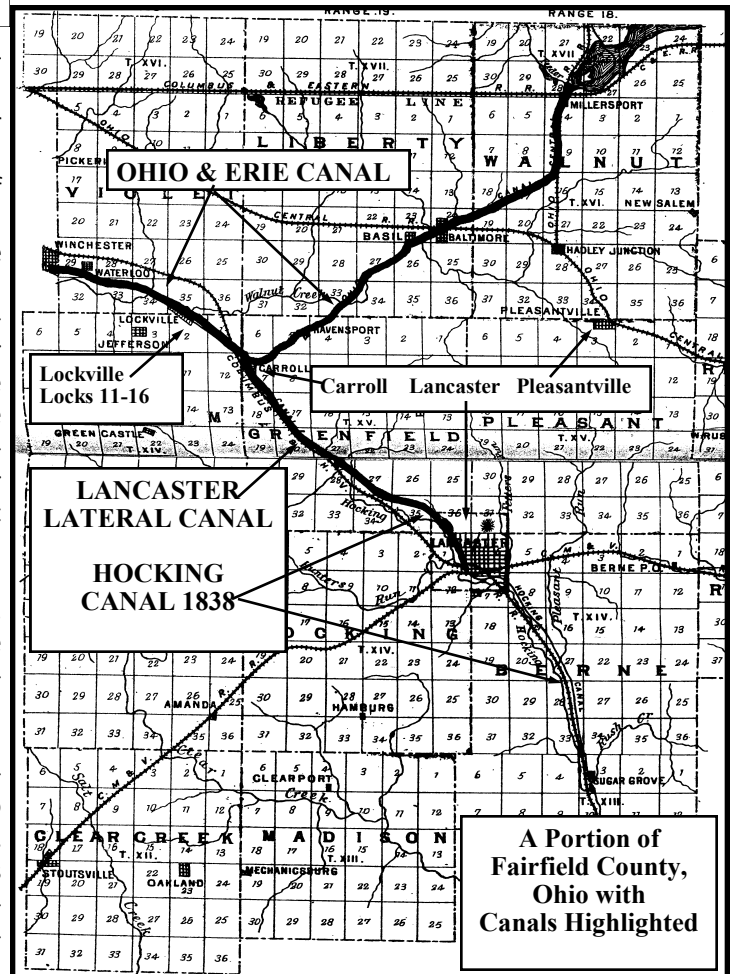
The Federal Government acquired land from the Potawatomi and Miami Indians on which to build a canal and railroad through the signing of the Treaty of Paradise Spring on October 26, 1826. A route for the Wabash & Erie Canal was surveyed in 1833 under the general supervision of Jesse L. Williams, Chief Engineer, with the assistance of Stearns Fisher, Solomon Holman and Charles Voorhees. Then a public meeting was held at the home of Col. David Burr near Paradise Spring. Men came from all over Indiana and other states to present propositions for contracts to execute the canal work, to speculate in land, or just for curiosity as to what was being planned. The proposals were opened and contracts awarded by section on May 4, 1834 at the "Treaty Ground." That day the firm of Myers & Jones (Peter Lewis Myers and Lemuel Godfrey Jones) was awarded contracts for the section of canal adjacent to Wabash, Indiana, and the lock at Wabash.

Lemuel Godfrey Jones was born on December 19, 1803. He was the third child born to William and Mary Magdeline (Castner) Jones in Pleasantville, Fairfield County, Ohio. Pleasantville is located northeast of Lancaster, Ohio. It is about ten miles from the Ohio & Erie Canal that was approved in 1825 and about 15-20 miles from the Lancaster Lateral Canal. [The Lancaster Lateral Canal was chartered by the merchants of Lancaster to join their town to the main canal nine miles away at Carroll. However digging did not begin until 1831 when private investors subscribed to sufficient stock to begin construction. It was purchased by Ohio in 1838, deepened, enlarged, extended to Athens and called the Hocking Valley Canal.]

We assume that Lemuel got experience in lock construction and canal building on the Ohio & Erie Canal in Fairfield County, Ohio since work was being done on it near his hometown. A series of locks were built at Lockville. Although Lemuel is not listed as a prime contractor in that area, he could have been a sub-contractor or canal worker. We also assume

PARENTS & SIBLINGS OF LEMUEL GODFREY JONES

William Jones b 1-10-1775, d 9-16-1841 Fairfield, OH
m - Washington, PA
Mary Magdaline Castner
b March 20, 1780 Donova, Washington Co., PA, d after 1850
father - Peter Castner b 6-23-1733 d 9-21-1819
mother - Anna C Rugh
Children all born in Pleasantville, Fairfield Co., OH
John C. b 4-2-1801, d 4-21-1828
Julia b 7-19-1802, d 10-16-1835
Lemuel G. b 12-19-1803, d 3-9-1859 near Maryville, CA
William W. b 9-4-1805, d circa 1850
Mary b 7-18-1807, d 7-12-1832
Sarah b 9-4-1809, d 9-12-1833
Christina A. b 5-11-1811, d 8-23-1885
Michael b. 5-25-1813, d after 1850 census,
m. Catherine of New York
Mary Elizabeth "Eliza" b 6-30-1815, d 1-8-1891
m. George R. Hartman of Prussia Germany
b 11-26-1803, d 5-8-1870
c. Homer C. Hartman
b 11-3-1837, d 12-20-1901 Ft. Wayne
Rasselas b 7-10-1817, d 4-18-1848



**A Portion of
Fairfield County,
Ohio with
Canals Highlighted**

that Lemuel and Peter Lewis Myers worked together on the canal and were well known to each other since we have documents showing that they invested in property together in Indiana and held canal contracts together at Wabash.

Lemuel and Peter Lewis Myers knew that accommoda-

This is one of the certificates showing that Peter L. Myers and Lemuel Gotfrey Jones jointly owned property. The date on it is not the date the property was purchased. It is the date of its registration at the General Land Office of the United States. Since Myers was deceased by this time, Lemuel had to present a certificate from the Register of the Land Office at LaPorte, Indiana to the General Land Office to prove they had fully paid for this land before this docu-

CERTIFICATE
No. 6926.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS *Peter S. Myers and Lemuel Gotfrey Jones, of Wabash County, Indiana,*

has been deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the United States, a Certificate of the **REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE** at *La Porte,* whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Peter S. Myers and Lemuel Gotfrey Jones,*

according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the *West half of Section nineteen, in Township twenty eight, North, of Range six, East, in the District of Lands subject to sale at La Porte, Indiana, containing two hundred and forty acres and ninety five hundredths of an acre,*

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the **SURVEYOR GENERAL**, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Peter S. Myers and Lemuel Gotfrey Jones.*

NOW KNOW YE, That the **United States of America,** in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, **HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED,** and by these presents **DO GIVE AND GRANT,** unto the said *Peter S. Myers and Lemuel Gotfrey Jones,*

and to *their* heirs, the said tract above described: **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *Peter S. Myers and Lemuel Gotfrey Jones*

and to *their* heirs and assigns forever, as tenants in common and not as joint tenants.

In Testimony Whereof, I, Martin Van Buren,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made **PATENT,** and the **SEAL** of the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESSETH under my hand at the **CITY OF WASHINGTON,** the *twentieth* day of *August*, in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *thirty seven,* and of the **INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES** the *sixty first second*

BY THE PRESIDENT: *Martin Van Buren.*

By *A. Van Buren,* Sec'y.

Do. S. Wilson Acting Hudson M. Garland, Recorder of the General Land Office, ad. interim.

THE HOOSIER PACKET - NOVEMBER 2009

LAND PURCHASED FROM U.S. General Land Office Records									
<u>Name</u>	<u>State of Record</u>	<u>Issue Date</u> (not sale date)	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Certificate</u>
Peter L. Myers Lemuel Gotfrey Jones	Indiana	8-10-1837	2nd PM	Wabash	28-N	6-E	19 W½	240.95	6926
Peter L. Myers Lemuel Gotfrey Jones	Indiana	8-10-1837	2nd PM	Wabash	28-N	6-E	19 SE¼	80	6933
Lemuel Godfrey Jones	Indiana	8-10-1837	2nd PM	Porter	37-N	6-W	15 Frac.	57	10023
Lemuel G Jones	Indiana	8-20-1838	2nd PM	Kosciusko	32-N	7-E	28 NE¼	160	20729
Lemuel G Jones	Indiana	8-20-1838	2nd PM	Kosciusko	32-N	7-E	28 W½	80	20730
Lemuel G Jones	Indiana	8-20-1838	2nd PM	Kosciusko	32-N	7-E	28 E½ SE¼	80	20731
LAND PURCHASED FROM INDIVIDUALS Wabash County, IN									
<u>Name</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Kind of Deed</u>	<u>Date of Deed</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description of Lots/land</u>	<u>Section/Town/Range</u>	<u>Book/page</u>		
Lemuel G Jones	Jacob Walker	warranty	11-5-1836	\$500	SE ¼	28-28-6	A149		
Lemuel G. Jones	Hugh Hanna	warranty	8-23-1837	\$133.75	lot 43 & 86	original plat of Wabash	B118		
LAND OWNED SHOWN IN TAX RECORDS Wabash County, IN									
<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Record</u>			<u>Lots/land</u>	<u>Location</u>				
Lemuel G. Jones	6-10-1837			4	Market St. between Fisher and Comstock				
Lemuel G. Jones	6-14-1838			43	Market St. south side between Cass and Miami				
	“			86	Market St. north side between Cass and Miami				
	“			97	Main St. between Wabash and Miami				
	“			SW	Sec. 18, Town 28, Range 6				
LAND PURCHASED Huntington County, IN									
<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Deed</u>			<u>Lots/land</u>	<u>Township/section</u>		<u>Acres</u>		
Lemuel G. Jones	11-6-1837			S½ NW¼	JA 23		48.22		
Lemuel G. Jones	11-6-1847			E½SE¼	JA 15		40		

tions would be needed to house the canal workers and others employed in relation to the Wabash & Erie Canal. In the summer of 1834 they erected “Jones & Myers Boarding House” in Wabash, Indiana. It was a structure composed of two large hewed-log buildings, each two stories high, with a large space between them. This space was later boarded up and used for the entry. The site of this building was conveniently located near their work on the canal. Later the Whiteside Block was built on the site.

In 1835 David Cassatt built a boarding house/tavern on the northwest corner of Canal and Allen streets. The “Cassatt House” competed with the “Jones and Myers Boarding House.” Both were quite successful for awhile.

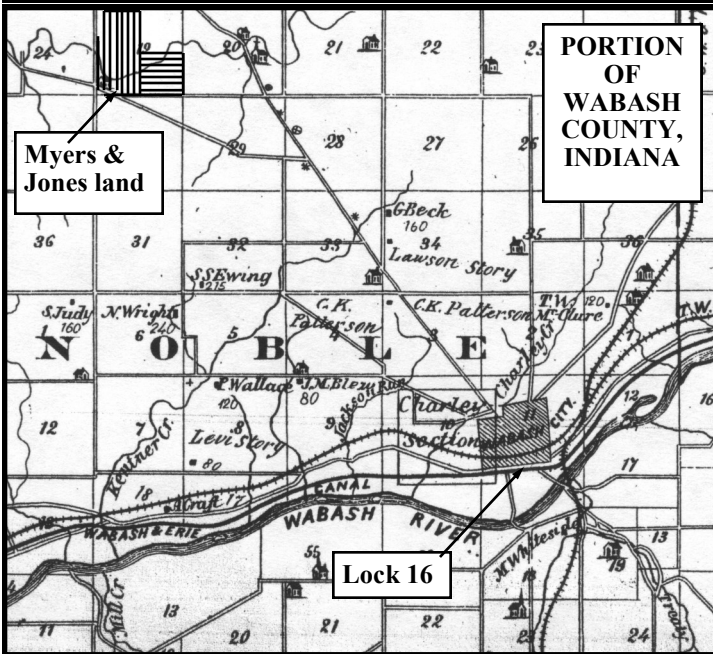
Lemuel and Myers began constructing Wabash & Erie Canal Lock 16, which was located at the back of today’s *Wabash Plain Dealer* along the railroad track in Wabash. However, during its construction Peter Lewis Myers died.

To complete the Lock 16 contract Lemuel worked with David Cassatt and Jacob D. Cassatt, his son. The lock was made of cut stone and lifted/lowered canal boats 9 feet between canal levels.

Most of the locks on the Wabash & Erie Canal were built of timber because stone was scarce. However, the Salamonina Quarry located at Lagro, Indiana, was not too far away and its stone was transported to Wabash to build the lock.

The 1847 Report of the Chief Engineer, Jesse Lynch Williams, says:

“The stone of which this lock is built are very imperfect, and wholly unfit for lock masonry. By frequent repairs, this lock may be made to stand eight or ten years. The wing wall forming the tumble, has fallen down and must be repaired during the ensuing winter. Gates will need rebuilding in 1850.”



W $\frac{1}{2}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19 was owned by Peter L. Lewis and Lemuel Godfrey Jones in Wabash county, Indiana. Lemuel also owned some lots in the town of Wabash.

They had used inferior stone for their lock and it had begun to crumble. At the time of the report the lock had been in service for 12-13 years. With repairs it lasted until the canal ceased operation in 1872. It was never replaced. Its stones are probably beneath the building or railroad tracks today.

Lemuel G. Jones appears again in Wabash history when a grand jury was called for the naturalization of John D. Kuntz on August 24, 1835. Grand jurors brought into court by William Johnson, Sheriff of Wabash county, were Thomas Curry, Solomon Seamans, Ezekiel Cox, Ira Burr, Sylvester F. McClain, Mahlon Pearson, Jacob I. Barretto, Joseph S. McClure, Thomas Hays, Jacob D. Cassatt and Anthony H. Keller. Also placed on the panel to serve as grand jurors were the following bystanders: Lemeul G. Jones, Isaac Finley, Isaac Thomas, Isaac Fowler and Benedict Lowry. The court then appointed Isaac Thomas foreman of the panel of sixteen. Citizenship was granted to eighteen others as well.

On September 22, 1836, during the summer recess of the Probate Court of Wabash county, Lemuel filed an application with the Clerk to be appointed the administrator of Myers' estate. He was appointed and during the courts second term on Monday November 14, 1836, Judge Elmer H. Cox, ratified and confirmed the acts of the Clerk, William Steele, that appointed and issued letters to Lemuel G. Jones, as administrator of the estate of Peter Myers deceased.

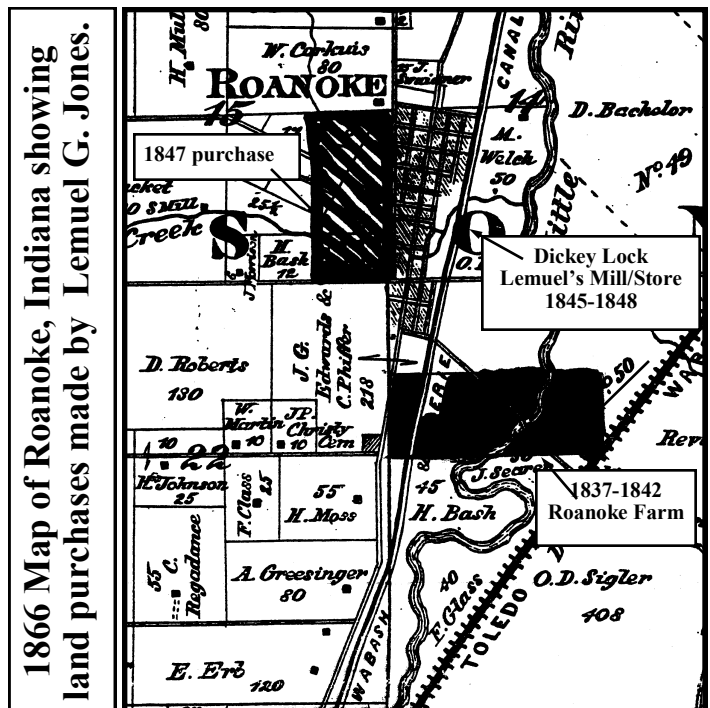
In 1837 Lemuel purchased 48.22 acres in Huntington county. This land later became known as "Roanoke Farm" or "Col. Jones' Farm". The first log-rolling in Jackson township took place on this land. Around 1840 David Voorhis lived on this farm

for a short while until he moved 2 miles northwest of the town. Around 1842 Lemuel leased and then sold the farm to Conrad Viberg. Viberg had known Lemuel when they both lived in Fairfield county, Ohio. He had been one of Lemuel's canal foreman in Wabash, Indiana. Viberg worked with Lemuel for three years, took a year off to farm and then resumed his job as foreman until the canal was completed.

Besides his duties as Myers' administrator, Lemuel had another contact with the Wabash Probate Court. The court was actually held in his home during the February term in 1839. The officers present were Judge James Hackleman, Clerk William Steele and Sheriff William Dickerson. After this term adjourned, further terms were held in the home of Jacob D. Cassatt.

In 1845 Lemuel built the first sawmill in Jackson township, Huntington county, Indiana on land leased from the state. It was powered by water from the Wabash & Erie Canal. It was on the west bank of canal beside Dickey Lock #4. Two years later Lemuel began erecting a large flouring mill. Mr. Bilby opened a small frame store across from it on the east bank of the canal in 1847. Lemuel completed his mill in 1848, purchased Bilby's store and began merchandising. He operated the store for three years. His customers were principally those who ran the canal boats. Lemuel sold "Roanoke Mills" and his lease to Chapman and Horton on November 26, 1849. On February 1, 1850 Chapman sold his interest to his partner, Theo. V. Horton, making Horton the sole proprietor. The mill operated for many years and was the largest and most successful of its kind in the county. It was destroyed by fire in the 1880s. Years later Christopher Mulkins, a Roanoke artist, painted Dickey's Lock and Lemuel's mill and store from his memory.

Lemuel's mill and store became the nucleus of a flour-



1866 Map of Roanoke, Indiana showing land purchases made by Lemuel G. Jones.



Christopher Mulkins' painting of Dickey Lock and Lemuel's mill and store hangs in the museum in Roanoke, Indiana.

Photo by Sue Simerman

ishing settlement that was a prominent shipping point and principal trading place between Fort Wayne and Wabash. George A. Chapman owned the land on which the settlement grew and decided to lay out the town of Roanoke on the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 14, Township 29, Range 10. His original plat of September 11, 1850 shows forty lots, the first four that bordered the canal being fractional lots and the rest varying from 100 x 225 feet to 93½ x 225 feet. The settlement so impressed canal boat captain Dana Columbia that he erected the first home in Roanoke. The original plat was quickly filled and several additions were made to the town.

Prior to 1846 the North Indiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church began working to establish a great institution of learning in Fort Wayne. Initial steps were taken in September of that year at a conference session in Laporte, Indiana. This was followed by a very enthusiastic meeting of Ft. Wayne citizens. Former governor Samuel Bigger presided over this session, which decided to establish the Fort Wayne Female college immediately on grounds donated by William Rockhill at the end of West Wayne street. Those in charge of the building plans were Samuel Edsall, P. H. Taylor and William Rockhill. The cornerstone was laid June 19, 1847.

The session also appointed John S. Bayless and Lemuel G. Jones to memorialize the Thirty-First Session of the General Assembly of the Indiana State Senate held in Indianapolis on December 7, 1846, seeking the passage of an act to incorporate the trustees of the Fort Wayne Female College. At that assembly William Rockhill motioned that the bill to incorporate the trustees be read the first time. He then motioned that the rules be suspended and the bill read a second time and referred to the committee on corporations. Leave was granted.

The first section of the bill that was passed in 1847 reads:

"SEC. 1. That a seminary of learning shall be and the same hereby is established in the town or vicinity of Fort Wayne, in Allen county, and State of Indiana, to be known by the name and style of "The Fort Wayne Female College," which shall be founded and maintained forever upon a plan the most suitable for the benefit of the youth of every class of citizens and every

religious denomination, who shall be freely admitted to equal advantages and privileges of education, and to all the literary honors of said college, according to their merit, under the direction of fifteen trustees to-wit: James Whitcomb, Richard W. Thompson, William Rockhill, William G. Ewing, **Lemuel G. Jones**, John G. Walpole, Samuel Edsall, Benjamin Mason, Wesley Park, Samuel Shyrock, Henry Williams, Thomas Sale, Joseph K. Edgerton, Asa Fairfield, and George M. Boyd, who with their successors shall be trustees of said college, and shall hold their first meeting at the place of its location, on the third Saturday of June, eighteen hundred and forty-seven." They were to meet annually and one-third of them were to go out of office each year.

The Fort Wayne Female College soon united with the Fort Wayne Collegiate Institute, organized for young men in 1852, and became Fort Wayne College, more commonly known as the Methodist College. It eventually became Taylor University and was located in Upland, Indiana. In recent years the Fort Wayne Bible College closed and Taylor University set up its Fort Wayne campus in the Bible College's buildings. Unfortunately Taylor's Fort Wayne campus was officially closed on May 31, 2009.

As Lemuel's canal work waned, he moved to Fort Wayne to live with his sister, Eliza, her husband, George R. Hartman, and their children. The 1850 census shows him in their household. His mother was still alive and she and his sister, Christina, were living in the home of his brother, Michael Jones, in Ohio.

Deadly Cholera crept into Fort Wayne in the summer of 1849, its first victim being a canal laborer. By the end of 1854 it had claimed 600 people.

Upon the discovery of gold in California in 1849 and probably as a means of escaping Cholera, many Ft. Waynians went to seek their fortune in the west. Frederick Becker, who had come to live in Ft. Wayne from Europe in 1848, built many large "prairie schooners" and a local company was formed to go to the gold fields:

Some of the men planned to return to Ft. Wayne while others bid farewell. Many hard earned dollars were spent to no avail.

Lemuel never returned to Ft. Wayne. A brief obituary for Col. Lemuel G. Jones, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio on December 19, 1803 and died in Marysville, California on March 9, 1858, ran in a Fort Wayne newspaper. He was 55 years old.

Marysville is on the Feather River in Yukon, California next to Sutter county, California. It was incorporated and its first mayor elected in 1851. Marysville's Historic Cemetery was established in 1851 but the list of its first 20 years of burials have not been found. Lemuel may be buried there.

THE HARTMANS

The 1850 census shows Lemuel G. Jones (48), a canal contractor with real estate valued at \$28,000, living in the Fort Wayne, Wayne township, Allen county, Indiana home of his brother-in-law and sister, George R. and Eliza Hartman.

	1850 Census	Ancestry.com	1860 Census
George R. Hartman	48		58
Eliza	33		44
Theresa C.	14	b 9-12-1834	on her own
Homer C.	12	b 6-4-1836	23 Attorney at Law
Lemuel Rasselas	9	b 9-26-1839	21 Hotel Clerk
Mary E.	8	b 11-18-1841	19 Housemaid
William H.	6	b 3-27-1844 twin	16 Telegrapher
Henrietta M.	6	b 3-27-1844 twin	16 Housemaid
George B.	11 mo.	b 9-12-1846	13
Lemuel G. Jones	48		deceased
Charles Wilton		b 1-28-1855	deceased ?
Wilton Wesley		b 8-8-1857	2

The 1850 census also shows Lemuel's mother (70) and sister Christina (39) living in the home of his brother and wife, Michael (38) and Catherine (38) Jones in Pleasant township, Fairfield county, Ohio.

Eliza Hartman's obituary appeared in the *Ft. Wayne Weekly Sentinel* on January 14, 1891 and said:

Mrs. Eliza Hartman, widow of Geo. H. Harman, died Thursday night at her home, 167 West Washington street, of heart trouble, aged nearly seventy-six. Mrs. Hartman was born in Pleasantville, Ohio, near Lancaster, and came to Fort Wayne in 1840, the year the Wabash and Erie canal was opened, and has been a resident here ever since. Mr. Hartman died in 1870. Mrs. Hartman leaves six children to mourn her loss. She was a good, kind and true woman, a loving mother, esteemed for her many good traits of character. She leaves a large circle of friends, among whom she will be sadly missed.

No evidence has been found showing that Lemuel served in any military capacity. We assume Col. was an honorary title bestowed upon him by his friends. No records have been found showing that he was ever married or had children.

As mentioned before, prior to Peter Lewis Myers' death, Lemuel and Peter had purchased land in and adjacent to Wabash. Once Myers died and their canal contract completed, these lands probably reverted to Lemuel, the surviving partner.

John Aveline	Dr. John M. Kitchen
Samuel Ballow	Charles Lamb
Myron F. Barbour	Lucien Martin
C. R. Bartlett	William Pratt
J. A. Bartlett,	James T. Shelden
H. D. Bartlett	Dr. William Shelden
Louis T. Bourie	George E. Smith
B. Cocanour	George W. Sutfenfield
Charles F. Colerick	Madison Sweetser
Joseph D. Dugan	Wm. Van Alstine
S.A. Herrington	Sabina Wallace
Lemuel G. Jones	Joseph W. Whitacker

Following Lemuel's death, Myers' nephew, who lived in Wabash, tried to recover his uncle's supposed interest in these lands from Lemuel's heirs. "The matter was eventually compromised on terms not very favorable to the plaintiff's claim."

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Special thanks to the librarians in Huntington and Wabash counties for their help with deed records and location of properties.