

CANAWLERS AT REST

THOMAS GOOD BRADFIELD

b. October 27, 1815

d. March 22, 1893

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

Thomas Bradfield, the father of our subject, was born in the parish of Bradfield, England. His ancestors were devoted to the Church of England and many of them were prominent Protestant ministers. He emigrated to Ireland in 1809 and married Constance Good, our subject's mother. They were wealthy freeholders.

Thomas Good Bradfield was born on October 27, 1815, reared in County Cork, Ireland, liberally educated and became a farmer. On April 14, 1842 he married Mary Deane, the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Lanktree) Deane, also Ireland natives. They had six children: Thomas Deane, Constance, John W., Richard D., Benjamin D. and Mary E. All of them were born in Ireland except for their youngest, Mary E. Bradfield.

He emigrated to Logansport, Indiana circa 1850 seeking work on the Wabash & Erie Canal as a civil engineer. According to Biddle's *Biographical & Genealogical History of Cass, Miami, Howard & Tipton Counties, Indiana 1898* he "was placed in charge of forty-two miles of the Wabash & Erie canal, Logansport being a midway station on that part of the water-way. He continued in that position for seven years..." Although Thomas Bradfield is not on the list of "Internal Improvement Contractors March 1, 1832-August 10, 1865" published by the Indiana State Archives, this does not mean that he was not a contractor as many of the contracts did not survive to the present.

After living for 5 years in Logansport, Thomas moved his family to Elmwood farm, 170 acres of excellent farmland south of Logansport. He was a farmer for the rest of his life. Politically he was a Democrat and took interest in the public affairs of his community. He belonged to the Episcopal Church.

Having had a good education himself, Thomas saw to it that his children were also well educated:

Thomas Deane Bradfield

His eldest son Thomas Deane attended two courses in the medical department of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In June 1869 he graduated in the first class of the Detroit Medical College and took a position as the surgeon of the Copper Falls Mine in Keweenaw County, Michigan. On October 11, 1870 he married Sarah Virginia Parks, the eldest daughter of Capt. Robert Smith Parks, in Grand Rapids. While serving in Keweenaw County for ten years he also filled the position of surgeon for all the other mines in the northern peninsula east of Copper Harbor.

In 1879 he began practicing medicine in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but the following year returned to Keweenaw County to work as surgeon for the Conglomerate Mining Company. He served as United States Pension examiner and county physician there. He was elected twice to the Michigan legislature from 1875-79. He represented Keweenaw, Baraga, Ontonagon and Isle Royal counties.

He returned to Grand Rapids in 1884 where he was a member of the Board of Pension Examiners, was president of the Grand Rapids Board of Health in 1887-88 and was a city health officer from 1891-96. Serving on the Grand Rapids Board of Education for 8 years, he was its president in 1897.

Thomas Deane was a charter member of the Michigan Masonic Home. He was on its executive and building committees until it was taken over by the Masonic Grand bodies.

Three of his children lived. They were Thomas Parks Bradfield, a Grand Rapids attorney; John Charles Bradfield, an Indianapolis physician; and Helen C. Bradfield, who lived with him.

Constance Bradfield

Constance married James W. Morrison (1846-1903), who is buried along with their infant Willie in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Logansport.

John W. Bradfield

John W. died of Typhoid fever in Taberville shortly after graduating with a law degree from the university at Ann Arbor.

Richard D. Bradfield

Richard D. married Cora Stafford. They lived on the old farm, which he farmed. They later moved to Minneapolis, Kansas.

Benjamin D. Bradfield

Benjamin D. attended a Presbyterian academy in Logansport and then went to Logansport high school graduating with the class of 1871. In 1877 he was graduated from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and began practice in Deer Creek, Carroll County, Indiana. In 1878 he married Mariette Carney of Cass County. From 1881-85 he was township trustee of Washington Township, Carroll County.

In 1891 Benjamin took a post-graduate course at Chicago Polyclinic and then went back to Logansport to continue his practice of medicine. He was the president of the Cass County Board of Pension Examiners. He was a member of the Cass County Medical and the State Medical Associations.

Benjamin belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. He had four living children in 1898 — two sons and two daughters.

Mary E. Bradfield

Mary E. was born in Cass County, Indiana. She was still living at home in 1886 at age 32. The 1880 census lists her as a dress maker.

The death of Thomas Good Bradfield was announced in the local paper as follows:

The Logansport Daily Pharos No. 176 March 22, 1893

SUDDEN SUMMONS.

Thomas Bradfield of Washington, Found Dead in Bed.

Thomas Bradfield, of Washington twp, father of Dr. Bradfield, of this city, was found dead in bed this morning.

The deceased was 77 years of age and had been in poor health for some time past.

His death is thought to have been due to heart disease.

He was an old settler in that locality, and was universally respected and admired.

The time of the funeral has not been set.

The Logansport Daily Pharos March 23, 1893

William Bradfield, of Thomasville, Ills.: B. G. Good, of Bradford, Ills.; Dr. Bradfield, of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Richard Bradfield, of Minneapolis, Kan., are expected to arrive here this evening to attend the funeral of the late Thomas Bradfield, of Washington township.

Funeral of Thos. Bradfield.

The funeral of Thos. Bradfield, of Washington township, mention of whose sudden death was made in last evening's Pharos, will be held at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow from Trinity Episcopal church, Rev. Hobbs officiating. the cortege will leave the house at 10 o'clock.

Thomas Bradfield had been a resident of Cass county for nearly 40 years, living all of that time at the old home place, where he died. He leaves a widow and five children: Dr. B. D. Bradfield, of this city; Miss Mary Bradfield and Constance Morrison, of Washington township; Richard Bradfield, of Minneapolis, Kan., and Dr. Thomas Bradfield, of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Thomas Good Bradfield was laid to rest in Section 13 Lot 0568 Space 1 of Mt. Hope Cemetery in Logansport, Indiana.

Photo by Bob Schmidt



Bradfields buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery or mentioned in 1860-1880 Census

	Born	Died	Age	Sec.	Lot.	Space	1860	1870	1880	Native
Bradfield Thomas Good	Oct 27 1815	Mar 22 1893	77	13	0568	01	41	51	61	Ireland
Bradfield Mary Dean	Jan 12 1812	Aug 23 1894	82	13	0568	02	43	53	63	Ireland
Bradfield Thomas Dean	Jan 12 1843	Grand Rapids ?					17			Ireland
Bradfield Constance	Feb 10 1844	Feb ? 1928	84	13	0568	09	16	25		Ireland
Bradfield John W	Sep 5 1845	Jul 17 1870	24	13	0568	03	14			Ireland
Bradfield Richard D.	Dec 22 1847	Jan 20 1917	69	13	0568	05	11	22	32	Ireland
Bradfield Benjamin D.	Jul 9 1850	Apr ? 1927	76	12	0232	01	10	20		Ireland
Bradfield Mary E.	Apr 10 1854	Mar 17 1941	86	12	0275	03	6	15	29	Indiana
Bradfield Cora R.	Nov 18 1863	Aug 29 1925	61	13	0568	06				
Bradfield Constance	May 12 1832	Mar 16 1905	72	13	0568	04				

Some histories disagree slightly from the dates above, which were on their tombstones.

Cora R. (Stafford) was the wife of Richard Bradfield and is buried in the Bradfield plot.

The second Constance buried in the Bradfield plot is a relative of Thomas but not his daughter.

Thomas G. and Mary D. Bradfield's grave markers are at the right of a line of six smaller stones that are behind the Bradfield monument near the corner of Newman and Pleasant Hill drives in Mt. Hope Cemetery off of Grant Street in Logansport, Indiana.

Photos by Bob Schmidt



Sources:

Abstracts From The Logansport Journal 1849-1870. Logansport, IN: Cass County Genealogical Society, 1984.

Biddle, Horace D. *Biographical & Genealogical History of Cass, Miami, Howard & Tipton Counties, Indiana.* Chicago, IL: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1898. Vol 11.

Goss, Dwight. *History of Grand Rapids & Its Industries.* Grand Rapids, MI: C. F. Cooper, 1906.

Helm, Thomas B. *History of Cass County, Indiana.* Chicago, IL: Brant & Fuller, 1886.

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[Http://incass-inmiami.org/cass/cemeteries/mthopoe/MH132434.JPG](http://incass-inmiami.org/cass/cemeteries/mthopoe/MH132434.JPG)