

CANAWLERS AT REST

ULERICK SAYLOR, SR.

b. 1788

d. June 27, 1860

Find-A-Grave #98487682

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

"Saylor" is the English occupational name for a dancer or acrobat, from Old French *sailleor*: dancer, or leaper.

Ulerick, also spelled Ulrick and Ulrich in some sources, was born in 1788 in Fredericks County, Virginia to Daniel and Sarah (Buechlay) Saylor, Jr.. Ulerick moved with his parents to Rockingham, Virginia during the early 1800s. There he met Margaret Early (Earle or Earley) born January 3, 1789. They were married around 1810 in Virginia.

In 1813 Ulerick, Margaret and their sons Ulrick Jr. and Mathias, moved to Preble County, which is located in southwestern Ohio. There the rest of their children were born. On December 19, 1832 their daughter Abigail, at age 16, married Solomon Swisher.

In 1833 the Saylor and Swishers moved further north to New Rochester. It was a speculation town located two miles east of Antwerp in Paulding county, Ohio. While there the families heard that a 320-acre, parcel of land, known as Knaggs Reserve, was going to be sold in a private sale in Indiana. It was located just across the Ohio state line on the northwest side of the Maumee River.

This parcel was bordered on the south and east by a bend in the Maumee River. Within this bend were several acres of rich farm land. Along its east side the North Military Road ran for some distance through wooded highland. After his victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, General "Mad" Anthony Wayne had used this road on his way to Kekionga, now Fort Wayne, Indiana.

James Knaggs had been granted this land described as "one half section of land on the north bank of the Maumee River at the Ohio state line" through the Treaty of Paradise Spring in October 16, 1826 between the Potawatomi tribes, who lived along the Wabash River, and the U. S. Government, but Knaggs had been unable to settle



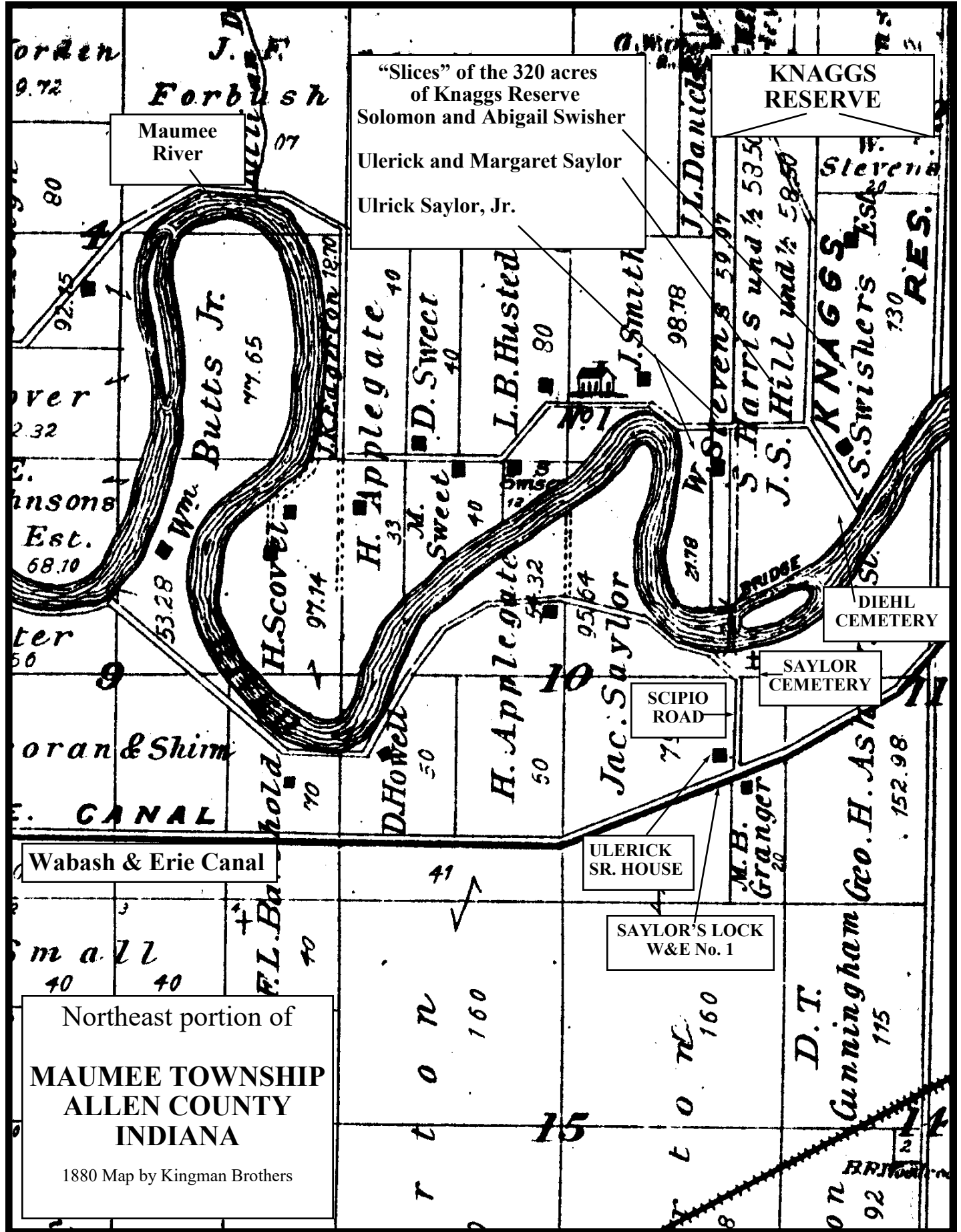
Top: Ulerick Saylor's home stood across the road from Lock #1 (Saylor's Lock) of the Wabash & Erie Canal about ½ mile west of the Indiana/Ohio state line in Allen County, Indiana. The lock would have been to the left of the picture. His home was on old U.S. 24 just west of Scipio Road.

Bottom: Saylor's Cemetery is located on the other side of Scipio Road northeast of Ulerick's home near the Maumee River. This cemetery was not there at the time of his death. He and most of his family are buried in Diehl Cemetery across the river. Only one Saylor tombstone was found in the Saylor cemetery in 2013. Follow old Scipio Road to the river and see the remaining bridge abutments. Photos by Bob Schmidt

in Indiana. Ulerick Sr. purchased this land from James Knaggs on February 6, 1834 for \$640.00 cash having never actually seen the property.

Ulerick Sr. divided the 320 acres into three "slices," which ran north to south. Each "slice" had both wooded highland and fertile, river-bottom, lowland. He retained the middle "slice" of 117 acres for his family. He gave Solomon and Abigail a "slice" of 120 acres that bordered Ohio and the Maumee River. Their "slice" was just across the river from the speculation town of New Harrison, Ohio, which was being promoted by Horatio N. Curtis and being developed on the farm of Oliver Applegate. The third "slice" of 83 acres was given to Ulrick Saylor, Jr. That June the Saylor and Swishers planted orchards on their properties and then settled on the land in the fall of 1835.

Abigail and Soloman developed their 120 acres and reared their five children. Solomon also set aside a plot of land on his "slice" for a burial ground known as Swisher (later Diehl) Cemetery. Abigail was married to Soloman



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Swisher from 1832-1850. Apparently they were divorced because he died in 1888. Around 1850 she married Jabez Phillips, who was the first constable of Maumee township, and had two more children. This marriage ended around 1854 when Phillips died. She later married John Diehl and had another child. Her marriage to Diehl ended around 1862.

A large part of what was to become Maumee township had unsurpassed forests but it was very swampy. Not many people were attracted to it, but Ulerick Sr., Solomon Swisher and Ulrick Jr. headed a list of settlers who petitioned to set it apart as a civil township. The entire congressional township 31 N, 15 E in Indiana was set aside in March 1836 as Maumee civil township. It is smaller than other Allen county townships since it is located at the state line. It held its first election in April in the home of George Platter.

It wasn't long after settling on their slices that Ulerick Sr. and Ulrick Jr. realized their land was not all they had anticipated. Ulrick Jr. sold his 83 acres and moved to Albion, Noble county, Indiana. In June 1837 Ulerick Sr. moved his family to a tract of land that lay on the Ohio/Indiana state line. Whether as a joke or by accident he built his home over this line. He could eat in one state and sleep in the other. This house played an important role in the early history of Maumee township. The first wedding took place in its west room around 1838 (one source says 1836 but the house had not been built by then) when Ulerick Sr. and Margaret Saylor's son Mathias married Ann Maneary. In 1837 their son, John D. Saylor, passed away and his funeral procession left the house for the Swisher cemetery. He was the first to die in Maumee township. Then in 1847 their daughter, Betsey, was married to Charles Harding. It may have been in this house or in the new house that Ulerick Sr. built that year.

Ulrich Saylor's Family

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
Daniel Saylor, Sr.						
1. Daniel Saylor, Jr.	1749		1839			
m. 1. Sarah Buechlay	1751		1820			
<u>children</u>						
A. Mary Saylor	1774		1789			
B. Daniel Saylor	1775		1850			
C. Anna Saylor	1777		1794			
D. Solomon Saylor	1786		1853			
E. Ulerick Saylor, Sr.	1788	Fredericks County, VA	6-27-1860	Diehl Cem. Allen, IN		
m. 1 Margaret Early	1-3-1789	Virginia	3-24-1854	Diehl Cem. Allen, IN	abt. 1810	Virginia
<u>children</u>						
1. Ulrick Saylor, Jr.	1811		12-7-1871	Diehl Cem. Allen, IN		
m. Rachael Shank	1815					
<u>children</u>						
a. Margaret Saylor						
b. Jacob Saylor			3-3-1901			
c. Cynthia Saylor						
d. William Saylor						
e. Franklin Saylor						
2. Mathias Saylor	@ 1813					
m. Ann Maneary					1836 or 38 Allen Co. IN	
3. Abigail Saylor Swisher	1816		1889			
m. 1. Solomon Swisher			10-3-1888		12-19-1832-1850	
m. 2 Jabez Phillips					@ 1850-1854	
m. 3 John Diehl					@ -1862	
4. Elizabeth "Betsey"	1817					
m. Charles Harding					1847	
5. John D. Saylor	1818		1837			
6. Polly Saylor	1820					
7. Henry Saylor	1821					
8. Sarah Saylor	1823					
9. Jacob Saylor, Sr.	1825		8-1-1870			
10. Julia Ann Saylor ?						
11. Margaret Saylor ?						
m. 2. Ellen Gorsehorne			5-15-1856		1854	
F. Jacob Joseph Saylor	1790		1865			
G. John Saylor	1800		1851			

In 1847 Ulerick Sr. and Margaret moved into a new house built across from Lock #1 of the Wabash & Erie Canal, which was constructed about 1839. The canal did not open to Toledo, Ohio until 1843. His home was about ½ mile west of the Ohio/Indiana state line. Thereafter the lock became known as “Saylor’s Lock.” He may have been the lock tender or it may have been called Saylor’s lock because it was across from his home/store/tavern.

In 1853, at age 65, he opened the township’s first store, which carried the “old-fashioned” general stock including liquor. It did a thriving business. He also opened the first post office in it known as “Saylor’s Post Office.” However postal receipts were so small that it didn’t last long. He later opened a tavern/inn in this house.

On March 24, 1854 Margaret Saylor, Ulerick’s Sr.’s wife, passed away. She was buried in Swisher/Diehl Cemetery across the Maumee River in Allen county, Indiana beside their son, John D. Saylor. The Saylor Cemetery had not yet been established. Shortly thereafter Ulerick Sr. married Ellen Gorsehorne.

In March 1855 Ulerick Sr. sold a man a jug of whiskey. The man left the tavern and was injured. He was brought back to stay in the tavern. His daughter, Abigail (Saylor) Phillips took care of the man. Ulerick tried to get reimbursed for the man’s room, board, and care.

After only two years of marriage Ellen Gorsehorne Saylor, Ulerick’s second wife, passed away on May 15, 1856. To add to his troubles, a month later Ulerick’s attempt to be reimbursed for the injured man’s room, board and care was unjustly criticized in the Fort Wayne newspaper as follows:

Fort Wayne Weekly Times
June 19, 1856

“From our Daily of 12th inst.
“A SAD BUT TRUE TALE. — in the history of brutality, we have no parallel to the one which we are now about to record, and which is so base and cruel, that a mere relation thereof will arouse public indignation, so that our purpose is accomplished.

“For nearly three years we have, week after week, depicted the official delinquencies of public officers, from Township Constable and road supervisor, down to a Common Pleas Judge, whom pity elected, and who soiled the ermine by drawing the blood of a dwarfish and unoffending man, while he (the Judge) was, with open Court, pretending to administer justice, and to which blow but a little added force would have caused immediate death. We have also marked what has become a grievance talked of every hour — the morbidity which has seized the public mind and heart, until vice is the rule and virtue the exception; till perjury is the natural state, and veracity only the innovation; till bigotry is the standard, and Christian enlightenment only tolerated as a harmless privilege, and

all this, till the city is a reproach to Indiana, and till her citizens in numbers are threatening to leave, if they can get away and till good people refuse to supply their places, while their own protection and peace is secured elsewhere, and only for the fear of the humiliation of the results to a hopeless minority, forced on them in every phase of life by the majority, which bigotry and ignorance swallows up, and then, to make disaster doubly sure, digests and consumes as the serpent has charmed and seduced prey. But this by way of prelude, and we proceed to the sequel.

“There is no county in Indiana, which for several years has been cursed so bitterly by the ill timed choice of bad men for her Board of Commissioners, as has Allen County, and so it was in the fall of 1853, when Henry Dickerson was chosen by his party in caucus, by the influence of Isaac De Graff Nelson, as a candidate, after which he was elected; but the management of affairs was to be yet worse under him, and so they were till the fall of 1855, when F.D. Lasselle, (a creature who had denationalized himself) was appointed to fill the vacancy of Mr. Robinson, and who was elected for a full term in October of the same year; since which time there has been no prostitution so base but what it has been excelled by the Board, and no effrontery so great as that of those who in trusts, are so wicked, and yet sustained by the lazzarone of party. We blush to think of all, for we know it all, and have but poorly pictured many of them, but today added to official misconduct, we chronicle one while it is fresh as to admit of proof from a thousand lips, and on Henry Dickerson and F.D. Lasselle be all eyes while we relate it.

“In March last a citizen of Lucas County, Ohio, loitering about **Ulrick Saylor’s**, a benighted old liner and whiskey seller living in Maumee Township near the State line, purchased of Saylor a jug of whiskey in the morning and having consumed that, returned about noon with another man, got another jug full off Saylor, stayed till four o’clock, and when getting about a quarter of a mile away he (Gardner) fell from drunkenness and broke his leg, whereupon he was taken to Saylor’s put in the bar-room, his leg dressed and himself regarded a public charge for Allen County. Just, as everyone conceded it to be, that Saylor should take care of him at his own expense for being the immediate author of his misfortune, yet we heard that he (S.) was about to charge up to the County the keeping, and we consequently advised the public and the Commissioners thereof some months ago in order that they might not allow the public to be fleeced by so base a man as one who sells liquor to kill and then charges the public to bury his victims; but our advice did no further good, than to put the Commissioners in possession of facts that they might mould them to testimony to apparently justify an order for allowance. So at the present (June) term of the Board, Mr. S. presented his account for \$35, for attending Mr. Gardner, and then to mix up the matter so that to disallow a claim would evince a niggardly uncharity, he (S.) presented a bill for his daughter, Mrs, Philips (Abigail Phillips), who lives under his roof, for \$20 for personal

attendance on Gardner. The claim not being presented by the endorsement of the Township Trustees of Maumee, Mr. Saylor was dispatched to get that evidence and here it is, as it may be seen in the Auditor's office by any man:

MAUMEE Township, June 7, 1856.

To the Hon. Com'rs. Allen Co. State of Indiana:

SIRS: — There is a man by the name of John Gardner, of Lucas county, O., (who - on the 28th March 1856, came to Ulrich Saylor's in the morning and got a jug of Whiskey, and took it away, and returned with another man about noon, and they started for home between four and five, drunk, and when he got about 100 or 150 rods he fell and broke his leg. He was brought back and laid in the bar room on a bed on the floor, and has been there ever since, and the widow Philips has had to do most all of the attending to him.

G. H. ASHLEY
JOHN HOOVER
Trustees.

"This unique certificate of fact, gave great indignation both to Saylor and the Com'rs. Lasselle and Dickerson, who asked Saylor why the devil he didn't get somebody else to certify &c. but Ashley had given the facts, and refused to give a certificate of what the law would require in a justifiable case, because in this he could not so give a conclusion of law; still regardless of the facts as admitted by Saylor, the Com'rs. allowed the two claims without authority of law, and ordered Gardner to be carried yesterday to the County Asylum, under the care of John B. Rennish who contracted to keep all the paupers of the county for three years from 1st March '55, for \$2,547 and the use of the farm. This done the Trustees procured a carriage last night and placed Mr. Gardner therein in a bed, and sent him by a careful driver to the Asylum, but what shall we say when he reached there at 10 o'clock and awoke Rennish, he would not either assist the sufferer, nor receive him indoors. The driver after much trouble procured a dirty cup, found the well, relieved Mr. G.'s thirst, and then having made his bed as comfortable as he could in the wagon, left him there (because he was helpless,) took his horses and rode home to tell the news to a people who profess to be Christians, we mean — that party.

"Here is the end of it but not to the disgrace and inhumanity, and this morning's sun, found an unfortunate, sensible, and well raised man, but a fallen wayfarer, at the door of the Asylum of Allen county, with authority to be admitted, but refused, and that too after having been refused in the darkness of night and compelled to lay out with no covering, save Heaven's canopy.

"In savage cannibal life, such demonstrations would have excused immeasurable reproof, but how will it be regarded here? Why simply as a story of today, and tomorrow forgotten. — The leaders of the party will pretend to be outraged, but it is only pretense after all.

Lasselle and Dickerson should be scorned by even bad men, and John B. Rennish should be driven from the County Asylum and from the community.

"This man Lasselle is a bigoted Catholic, and so is Rennish, and Dickerson was once his partner in the whiskey traffic in Jefferson township, which accounts for his being there and for his inhumanity toward Gardner a Protestant.

"We have another case for tomorrow, worse in some particulars than this, and therein we shall allow by inference what Catholicism has had to do with these outrages. In the mean time we can but hope, that another Asylum will soon be built where Protestant unfortunates will meet with the tenderness characteristic of their creed and its adherents."

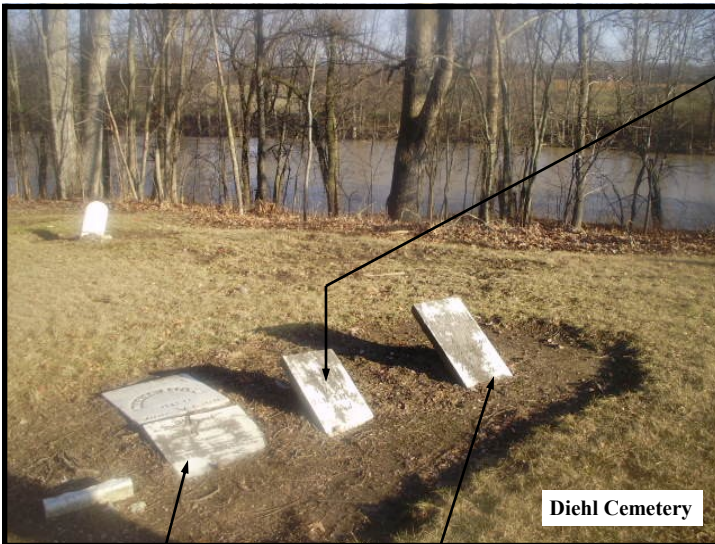
The article said the commissioners allowed both his claims. One for \$35 for himself and the other for \$20 for his daughter Abigail.

Although we do not know exactly when Ulerick Sr. moved to Noble county, Indiana, he died there on June 27, 1860. We assume he moved there due to ill health to live with Ulrick, Jr. and his family. His funeral was held in a public school building and was conducted by Rev. Long from St. John's Lutheran Church in Hicksville, Ohio. His remains were buried in Diehl/Swisher Cemetery in Allen county, Indiana. Psalm 39.4 is on his tombstone. "Lord, let me know my end, and what is the measure of my days, let me know how fleeting my life is." Buried between his and his wife's graves is their son, John D. Saylor.

Saylor's lock continued to be used. The Wabash & Erie Canal ceased operation in 1874 and was auctioned off in 1876. Eventually a gas station was built at the site with its tank placed inside the lock. The gas station was removed years ago.

Sources:

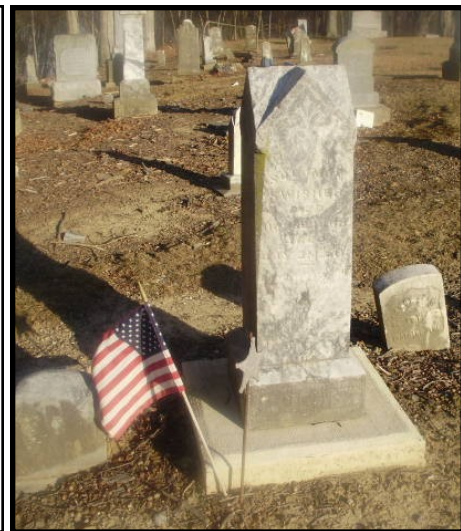
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Above left: (son)
John D. Saylor
Son of
U & M Saylor
Died
Aug. 20, 1837

Above right: (son)
Ulrich Saylor Jr.
Dec. 7, 1871
60 y. 6 m. 16 d.

Right:
(daughter's husband)
Solomon Swisher
Oct. 10, 1888



Diehl Cemetery, River Road, Allen County, Indiana
Located by Pond-a-River Golf Course and Maumee River
Near Ohio state line

Ulerick Saylor (Sr.)
Died June 27, 1860
Aged 72 yrs.

Margaret Saylor
Wife of Ulerick Saylor
Died Mar. 24, 1854
Aged 65 yrs. 2 mo. 21 ds.

Although this cemetery is nicely mowed, the stones are in poor condition and many are missing. All photos by Bob Schmidt

The Knaggs Ohio / Michigan

By Robert F. Schmidt

This month's "Canawlers At Rest" features Ulerick Saylor and his settlement on Knaggs Reserve in Indiana. As we were researching in preparation for the article it became apparent that the Knaggs were a story unto themselves and that CSI readership would enjoy learning more about them.

At the Treaty of Paradise Spring October 16, 1826, the Pottawatomis reserved 33 portions of land that was being ceded to the United States government for tribal leaders and special friends of the tribe. James Knaggs, whose family had worked with the Indians for many years received 320 acres (½ section) of land north of the Maumee river along the Indiana/Ohio state line near Antwerp, Ohio. How did this special relationship develop?

George Knaggs Sr.

The French had claimed and occupied the interior of North America from the Appalachian mountains to the Mississippi river from the early 1700s until the time of the French & Indian War. By 1760 the French had been defeated in North America and the British occupied this territory. That same year 1760, George Knaggs Sr. moved to the Maumee river near the current town of Maumee, Ohio. He had married a Dutch girl from the Mohawk valley of upstate New York named Rachel Sly. Rachel was well educated, had a great force of character and a great business sense. She was fluent in English, Dutch, French and Latin. She was able to provide her sons with an education equivalent to or better than those persons living in the large cities.

The only real mercantile possibility on the frontier at this time was barter trading with the Indians, who were still friendly at this point. The couple began a flourish trading business on the Maumee trading hard goods for furs. Here they began their family in 1763 with the birth of their oldest son Whitmore. Over the following years another seven children were born, with the last being William in 1784.

This was British territory so naturally they developed a close relationship with the British at Detroit and in Canada. During the time of the American Revolution their trading business continued to flourish as the war, centered mostly on the East coast, didn't really impact their lives on the Maumee. After the Revolution things began to change as they were caught in the middle of struggles between the new nation and the British to the north. They were still greatly respected by the Indians so much so that in 1785 the Ottawas granted Whitmore, George's oldest son, 4,000 acres just east of the current town of Maumee.

The Peace of Paris, which ended the American Revolution in 1782, was supposed to have removed the

British from their fort at Detroit, but they remained and continued encouraging Indian depredations of the Northwest Territory. After the Americans' two major humiliating defeats by the Indians, President Washington sent Anthony Wayne west to solve the problem. In order to counter Wayne's approaching army, the British responded at about the same time in 1794 by establishing Fort Miami on the Maumee near the Knaggs trading post. To support the American forces, President Washington selected Whitmore Knaggs as an interpreter for Anthony Wayne's Legion. This was an excellent choice, as Whitmore spoke the Indian language as well as French and English.

Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians at Fallen Timbers on August 20, 1794 and proceeded to Fort Miami. The fort was considered too strong to attack, but Wayne's troops destroyed out buildings including the home and trading post of George Knaggs. It is likely that senior Knaggs' relationship with the British caused this destruction to happen even though Whitmore was working with the Americans. With his business destroyed George Knaggs attempted to establish a trading business in Detroit. The British abandoned Detroit in 1796. His business there was not as lucrative as in Ohio. George was getting up in age, lost his health and died in 1797.

Whitmore Knaggs

Whitmore moved to Detroit as interpreter and Indian Agent in 1796 just as the British were leaving. He was 33 years of age. In Detroit he made the acquaintance of Josette Labadie, a lovely lady of a leading French family. Her beauty fascinated Whitmore. They were married in 1797 at Detroit. In 1803 Whitmore purchased a home and 180-acre farm about ¼ mile from his father-in-law, Francois Labadie. Whitmore and Josette had five children. Later in 1817 he built a fine windmill on the farm, which lay along the Detroit River.

The war of 1812 again put the Knaggs in the middle of conflict. Whitmore's younger brother James was also an interpreter with Wayne at Fallen Timbers. In 1813 James served with Richard Johnson, future Vice-President of the United States as they pursued British troops at the Battle of the Thames. Thus James Knaggs was an eye witness to an event where on October 5, 1813, Richard Johnson killed Tecumseh. James later provided an affidavit detailing this event. Sometimes there is confusion between James, the brother, and James, the son, of Whitmore Knaggs. The latter James we will discuss shortly.

Whitmore became part of the militia that crossed into Canada to seize Fort Malden from the British during the War of 1812. However, General Hull of the Michigan Territory surrendered prematurely with very few shots being fired. Whitmore was captured, but due to some fast talk and the fact that his wife was French, he was released. He was included with the French, who were released, instead of with the Americans, who remained prisoners. During the

Battle of the Raisin his home at Frenchtown was destroyed and his wife and family threatened, but they made it safely back to Detroit.

Later in life Whitmore accompanied Lewis Cass, the Governor of Michigan Territory, as interpreter at the negotiations on several Indian treaties. At the great Indian treaty of Saginaw in 1819, one of his sons, George B. Knaggs, was made chief of a tribe of Indians, and was given a grant of 3,000 acres. Josette, George's mother, was "adopted" by the River Huron Pottawatomis and was affectionately call "Sister of Okeos." On May 3, 1827, being then at the point of death, Whitmore made his will. Among the lands willed to his children, James W. Knaggs received a farm on the Maumee. Whitmore died two days afterward, on May 5, 1827.

James Whitmore Knaggs

James Whitmore Knaggs was born March 17, 1804 in Detroit at the farm on Knaggs Creek. Like his father, Whitmore, he was well educated and spoke many languages. In his early career at 17 he operated a trading outpost with the Indians at Chicago. He also worked from time to time as a translator on the staff of Governor Louis Cass. It was during this period that the Treaty of Paradise Spring was negotiated in the fall of 1826. In appreciation for his work with the Indians, the Pottawatomis reserved ½ section (320 acres) along the north side of the Maumee at the Indiana/Ohio state line for their good friend, James W. Knaggs. This land became known as "Knaggs Reserve."

When Jame's father, Whitmore, died in 1827 James returned to Detroit from Chicago. There he met Therese Campau and they were married on May 12, 1828. That year they returned to the Maumee to operate the farm given to James in his father's will. He and several of his brothers sold their farm lands along the Maumee prior to the Panic of 1837. One of these was the 320-acre "Knaggs Reserve" that was sold to Ulerick Saylor on February 6, 1834.



James W. Knaggs

Summary:

The Knaggs were always fair traders with the Indians and this relationship over three generations resulted in lands on several occasions being given to them by their Indian friends. Originally this family arrived on the frontier at the time of peaceful settlement, but soon they were thrust into the middle of the struggle between British, Americans and Indians. Somehow these families survived and thrived throughout the period. If you would like to learn more about the Knaggs, go to:

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/jeffery.knaggs/index.html>

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Canal Societies of Indiana & Ohio FALL TOUR

"Delphi's Canal Park and Trails" Wabash & Erie Canal in Carroll County

September 20-22, 2013

Headquartered in
LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

Comfort Inn. 4701 Meijer Court, (765) 447-3434
Room rate \$81.75 includes tax

Groups rotate throughout the park and take a trolley to Carrollton See Reed Case house, Pioneer Village with Kuns cabin, Fouts log house, school house, blacksmith shop, school house, chicken coop, Restored Red and Blue bridges, Guard lock, Pivot bridge, Lime kiln, Canal warehouse with scales, Stationary canal boat play ground, Pull me canal boat, and work in progress on Gray bridge, Ride the "Delphi" down a watered section of the old W & E Canal, Tour the Canal Museum
Hike the trails
Ride bikes in the park
And much, much more.....for a fun filled, educational day.