

CANAWLERS AT REST

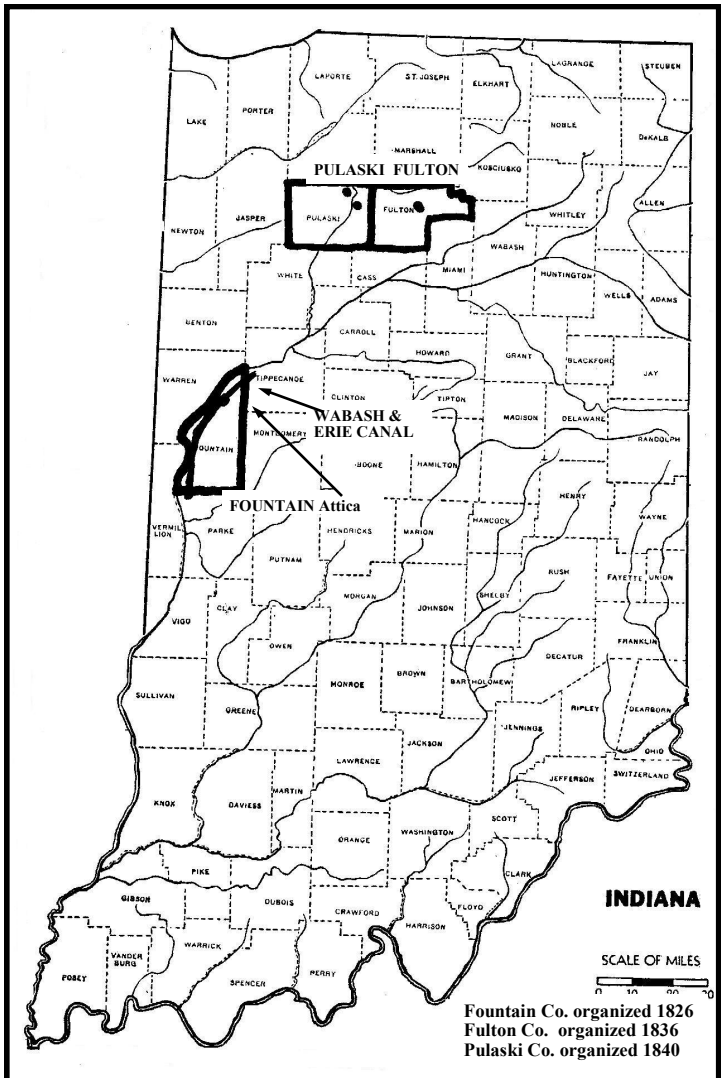
WILLIAM COOPER

b. circa 1815
d. April 10, 1872

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

William Cooper was born in Sussex county, Delaware about 1815 to Mr. And Mrs. Richard Cooper. The 1830 Federal Census shows him living at Little Creek, Sussex county, Delaware. He resided there until he was seventeen years old. At that time he believed that the west offered better opportunities for him. He was an ambitious young man and set off for Indiana arriving in Pulaski county. There he learned the carpenter's trade and worked as a carpenter for several years.

On October 7, 1840 William, who was about 25 years old, was joined in wedlock to Mary Wieble in Fulton county, Indiana. She was about 18 years old. His marriage was recorded at Rochester, Indiana. Mary (also noted as Martha on one census



WILLIAM COOPER'S FAMILY

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
William Cooper	©1815	Sussex county, DE	4-10-1870	Pulaski co., IN	10-7-1840	Fulton co., IN
Mary Weible (Wihle)	©1822	Germany, PA	1855			
CHILDREN						
Anna E Cooper	©1842	Fulton co., IN				
Richard Cooper	4-18-1843	Union twp. Fulton co., IN			12-29-1868	
Margaret Ann Morse	10-13-1847	Rochester, Fulton co., IN				
Ruth Lorena Cooper	10-24-1869	Fulton co., IN	3-3-1880			
Peter Cooper	©1845	Fulton co., IN				
Martha Cooper	©1847	Fulton co., IN				
William Martin Cooper	©@1850	Fulton co., IN				
John Cooper	12-18-1851	Logansport, Cass co., IN			1-23-1878	
Lydia E. Bennett		Huntington co., IN				
Luke Cooper	©1853	Logansport, Cass co., IN	Before 1860			

and Wihle in the Indiana Marriage Collection) was born in Germany and had lived in Pennsylvania before coming to Indiana.

William and Mary lived on a farm in Fulton county, Indiana. There they eventually had seven children: Ann E., Richard, Peter, Martha, William Martin, John and Luke.

While living on the farm William sought and found employment on the construction of a Wabash & Erie Canal section that was being built through Fountain County, Indiana in 1845-46. He worked on it in the vicinity of Attica. Although county histories do not detail what his job was, he might have been

employed to use his carpenter skills to build wooden structures such as wooden culverts, road bridges, Lock #35 at Attica or Shawnee Creek Aqueduct located further to the southwest. Perhaps he was a common laborer on the canal doing jobs like removing underbrush and trees, pulling out stumps, removing boulders, digging, transferring the dirt by cart to the canal banks, etc..

**Condition of Wabash & Erie Canal Structures
in Fountain County, Indiana
as found in 1847 Report on Structures
by Chief Engineer Jesse L. Williams**

Flint Creek Aqueduct No. 8

2 spans, 32 feet each, trunk of wood, resting on one pier and two abutments, also built of timber, the workmanship imperfect, but the structure will probably last six years, when the whole must be re-built, the trunk with timber and the abutments and pier with stone.

Road bridge No. 56

May last seven years

Culvert No. 126

2 spans, 10 feet by 2 feet of wood-submerged
(*Turkey Run or Grindstone*)

Culvert No. 127

over Young's branch near Maysville, of timber, 4 spans, 10 feet by 3 feet-submerged. The waters of Young's branch, are received into the canal by a small feeder six or eight chains in length. The dam across the stream is 60 feet long and two feet high, built of timber (*Opossum Hollow—Young's branch*)

Culvert. No. 128

over the stone quarry branch, or wood, 10 feet by 2½ feet will require an expense of \$10, to submerge it

Culvert No. 129

in Attica, of wood, 2 spans, 10 feet by 2 feet-submerged

In Attica, there are **two road bridges, Nos., 58 and 59**, will last five or six years. An agreement was made by the State officers, and not yet fulfilled, to erect a bridge in the upper part of Attica, in commutation of damages the cost will be about \$400.

Lock No. 35

6.20 feet lift, of timber, built upon the frame plan, this lock appears to be well built and in good condition, may last six or seven years, the gates will last three years. The large horizontal braces were left out in building this lock and must be immediately added. (*In Attica, between Jackson & Washington St. on canal, site of War 1846*)

Road Bridge No. 60

for Williamsport road, will last six years

Culvert No. 130

of wood, 11 feet by 2¼ feet-submerged

Road Bridge No. 61

may last six years

Shawnee Creek Aqueduct No. 9

one span of 80 feet clear. The trunk and superstructure are upon the same plan with aqueduct No. 1 over the St. Marys, to the particular description of which reference is here made. Abutments are of cut stone masonry, the whole work appears to have been well constructed, and may be considered permanent, excepting the trunk, which will need renewal once in 10 years; as a further exception to this remark, it should be stated that the chords on which the whole structure depends are deemed insufficient in strength, and I have advised that additional strength be given it, by adding a strong iron chain or bar extending the length of the chord, and attaching to each foot of the arch. The expense may be \$300, and will be paid in the expenditures of 1848.

(*Covered bridge style aqueduct*)

At the south end of this aqueduct, the Shawnee feeder is received. It is near one-half mile in length and twelve feet wide at the bottom.

Feeder Dam Across Shawnee Creek

80 feet long and 8 feet high, built upon the usual crib plan, is in good condition and may be considered a safe structure. The abutments are of timber and may last seven or eight years.

Culvert No. 131

of wood, 11 feet by 2¼ feet-submerged

Culvert No. 132

over Bear Creek, this is a large cut stone arch of 30 feet chord, and being built of very soft sandstone, there may be some doubt of durability. The stone are not affected by the weather. The workmanship appears to be good and the culvert is at present in good condition.

Road Bridge No. 63

may last six years.

Culvert No. 133

of wood, 11 feet by 2¼ feet-submerged

Road Bridge No. 64

will last six years

Culvert No. 134

one half mile above Covington, of wood, 2 spans, 11 feet by 3 submerged

Flood gates near the same place, all of wood, will last six years.

Lock No. 36

10 feet lift, built of timber upon the frame plan, not well constructed, but with care and some repairs, may last four or five years, gates will last three years. This lock is in Covington. In Covington there are two **Road Bridges, Nos. 65 and 66**, which may last four or five years.

Culvert No. 135

3 spans, 10 feet by 3 feet, built of timber and submerged **Flood gates**, one and a half-miles below Covington, of wood, will last six years

Culvert No. 136

of wood, 11 feet by 2¼ feet submerged

Culvert No. 137

of wood, 11 feet by 2¼ feet submerged

Culvert No. 138

of wood, 11 feet by 2¼ feet submerged

Culvert No. 139

of wood, 11 feet by 2¼ feet submerged

Road Bridge No. 67

one mile above Perrysville, will last six or seven years.

Road Bridge No. 68

for Perrysville Road, of wood, will last six or seven years.

Lock No. 37

9 feet life, just opposite Perrysville, built of timber upon

the frame plan, workmanship exceedingly bad, with occasional repairs, may last three or four years, gates will last three years.

Towing path bridge across the mouth of Perrysville side cut, not finished but in process of construction

Road Bridge No. 69

at head of "swail", now in progress of construction - embankments finished and timber delivered

Culvert No. 140

of wood 6 feet by 18 inches-submerged

Road Bridge No. 70

This bridge is under contract, but not completed.

Road Bridge No. 71

at Lodi, near the crossing of Coal Creek — in good order, and will last 7 or 8 years

Regardless of what type of labor William Copper did on the Wabash & Erie Canal, he was lucky to have lived through its construction. Since the canal closely followed the river and ran through swamps and low lands, malaria and Asiatic cholera, which broke out in 1845, became problems. The Irish laborers who came to work on the canal after being forced out of Ireland by the potato famine (1845-1852) died by the hundreds.

In Fountain County most of the dead were buried in the Maysville cemetery on a plot of land in Shawnee Township on the Bodine farm two and one-half miles north of the village of Fountain. About 600 men, women, and children from another camp near the Fix schoolhouse died. Two hundred of them were buried in the old graveyard at Attica and the rest thrown into a long trench dug in the marl bed near the camp.

In 1850 William moved his family to Logansport, Cass county, Indiana. There his last two sons were born. Then in 1854 he bought a small farm in Harrison township, Pulaski county, Indiana and again moved his family. His wife Mary passed away in 1855 leaving him to rear his seven children approximate ages of 13, 12, 10, 8, 5, 4, and 2. His older children helped him with the farm and family.

In March, 1858 William sold the farm, purchased another

farm in Franklin township, Pulaski county, Indiana, and once again moved his family. William remained there until his death on April 10, 1872.

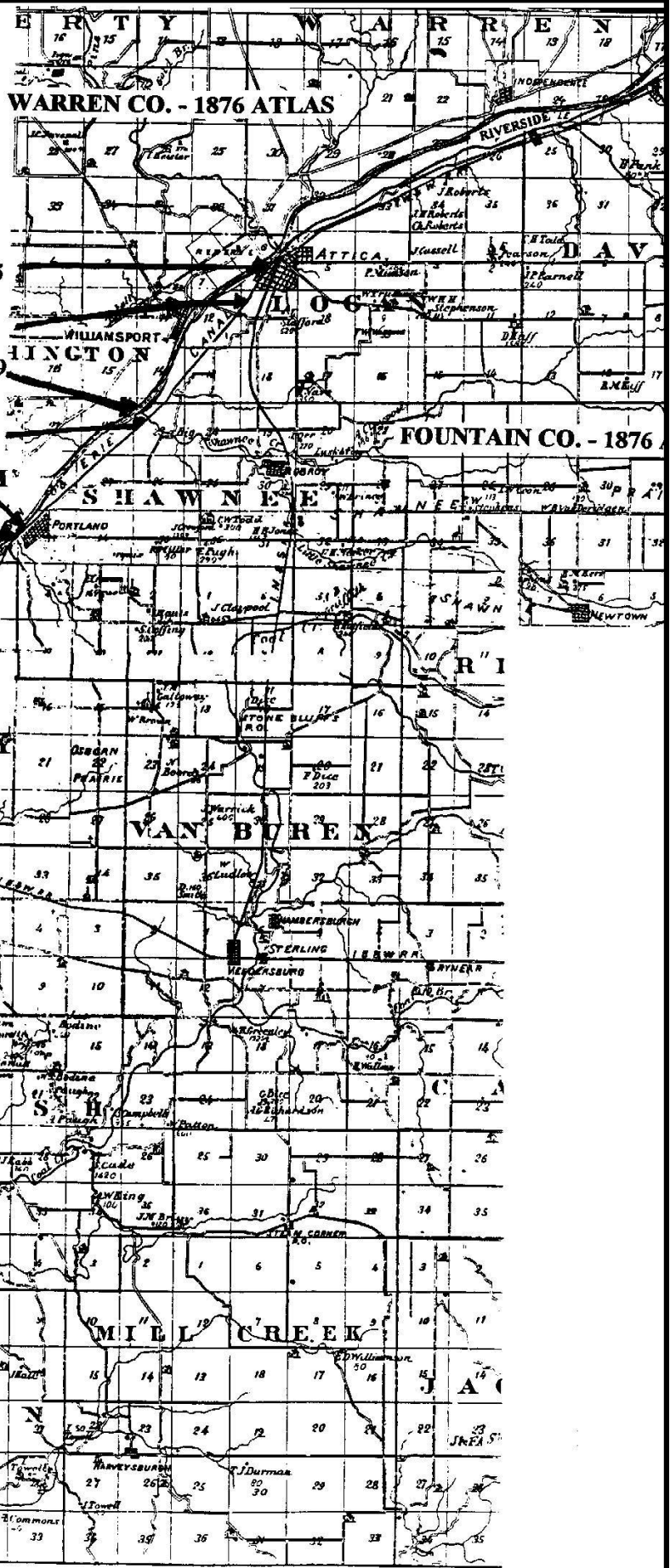
William Cooper was never a wealthy man. The 1850 census shows his real estate valued at \$200, the 1860 census shows his real estate at \$600 with a personal estate of \$50, and the 1870 census taken on July 24 shows his real estate valued at \$1,800 and personal estate at \$500.

William's son Richard stayed on his father's farm until October 1864 when he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Forty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the battle of Franklin, December 13 and 14, 1864, and Nashville, December 15 and 16, 1864. After Robert E. Lee surrendered, Richard was honorably discharged at Indianapolis on July 21, 1865. He married Margaret Ann Morse, daughter of Solomon and Harriet (Baum) Morse on December 29, 1868. They had one daughter, Ruth Lenora Cooper (b. 10-24-1869, d. 3-3-1880).

William's son John remained on the farm until William's death in 1870 and then moved to Benton county, Indiana. He later moved to Franklin township, Pulaski county, Indiana and became the county Assessor. He married Lydia E. Bennett, a native of Huntington County, Indiana on January 23, 1878.

WABASH & ERIE CANAL SECTION THROUGH FOUNTAIN COUNTY, INDIANA

1876 Atlas of the State of Indiana by Baskin and Forster



LOCK # 35

WILLIAMSPORT SIDECUT

SHAWNEE CREEK AQUEDUCT # 9

(Covered Bridge Style)

SHAWNEE CREEK FEEDER

FOUNTAIN "NARROWS" STONE PRISM

BEAR CREEK STONE

ARCH CULVERT

LOCK # 36

LOCK # 37

Politically William was a Democrat. He voted at the State and county election, held at the home of Daniel Freeman, on Tuesday, October 2, 1860. His was one of thirty-one ballots cast that day. Franklin township was not heavily populated. The history books say his son Richard was a staunch Republican and son John a Democrat. Unfortunately little is known about William's other children other than his son Luke preceded him in death.

It is assumed that William Cooper was buried in Pulaski county, Indiana probably in Franklin township. His gravesite has not been found.

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U.S. Federal Census 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900

The Spears and Case Block: A Harbor For Slaves

By Mark Smith

For you in the Department of Natural Resources and your Underground Railroad Commemoration project, I have an amplification of the writing in your files by Sarah Smith Pratt, late of Indianapolis, who wrote a book detailing the Delphi of the pioneer days entitled "The Old Crop".

In the eleventh paragraph of the chapter entitled "Why Dr. Grimes Whispered," there is a reference to both Mrs. Beck and Reed Case, and the Spears, Case, and Company banking firm. Please allow me to explain more fully both of these references.

Mrs. Beck was a daughter-in-law of Samuel Milroy, founder of the county, and wife of Dr. Larrey Beck, who was a noted Civil War medic.

The Spears, Case, and Company banking firm structure was a fixture of downtown Delphi which is still standing, although the banking firm is long departed. Please allow me to give you a history of both the banking firm and the structure itself.

James Dugan, who had come to Delphi from Champaign County, Ohio, and who had operated a warehouse and lending institution, and his brother-in-law James Spears, who had roots in the Rochester, New York area, and who had established ties to the banking community of Lafayette which later on interacted with the likes of John Purdue and who had ties to Attica and Covington, joined forces with Wabash & Erie Canal contractor and banker Reed Case to erect a structure on the corner of Main and

Washington. Reed Case was also known for his role as a pork packer, grain shipper, and builder of the dam across the Wabash as well as the side-slip up to Main Street to serve both a packing house and grain shipping terminal.

This structure covered up what had been an eyesore of a site, which was colloquially referred to as the "burnt corner." There had been a terrible conflagration there, which destroyed a tannery and which could have taken the entire block had the building on the east, constructed by William Bolles in 1851, and the pharmacy of James Hervey Stewart on East Main not served as a fire wall.

On February 10th of 1854, the *Delphi Journal* reported that, and I quote, "NEW BUILDING Spears, Case, and Co. have commenced hauling brick for the new building which they intend to erect on the corner below the *Times* office. They will commence laying up the walls as soon as the weather is suitable. Glad to see it. That old corner has been an eyesore long enough. They will put up a splendid three story business office."

In June of 1855, the same publication notes that "Spears and Case have removed to their new building, where they will be ready at all times to wait upon their old customers. Their office is now one of the finest on the Wabash and speaks well for the enterprise of the builders."

In August of 1865, the *Delphi Journal* noted that "IMPROVEMENT Reed Case is having a new front built to his block. It is a very difficult job, but is progressing rapidly under the superintendence of Monroe Wilder."

In August 30th of the same year, we read that "The new front of Spears, Case, and Co.'s building, has reached near to completion. The scaffolding will be taken down this week."

In September of the same year, further progress is made and recorded thusly "DOWN — The scaffolding in front of Spears, Case, & Co.'s building has been taken down. The new front looks well. How much nicer it will look when the rubbish is cleared away."

The Wednesday, October 4th, 1865 newspaper records the progress to the effect that "Efforts have at last been made to clean the rubbish from the Case corner. The work, however, progresses slowly."

The Spears and Case banking firm was also the site of a relief effort for the troops during the Civil War. It was spear-headed by Case's daughter, Josephine, whose husband, Bernard, was away at the front at Vicksburg as well as other sites of battle.

Unfortunately, the banking firm of Spears, Case, and Company "Was so greatly affected by the death of Reed Case, Sr. on October 28th of 1871 that there was an attempt to operate a National bank out of that facility, and the Crash of 1877 closed that institution" as recorded in the Wednesday, July 11th *Delphi Journal*.

There was another lending institution which replaced that of Spears, Case and Company. It was entitled the Citizen's Bank, which was established in 1877, according to Odell's *History of Carroll County*. "When organized, Henry Gros was the president, E.W. Hubbard was the Vice-President, and W.W. Hubbard (son) was the cashier. The present Citizen's National Bank was successor to the Citizen's Bank and was organized on September 1, 1903. The officers of the bank are as follows: James Shirk, president, W.W. Shirk, vice-president, and C.B. Shaffer, cashier."

James Shirk was in the line of the Shirks from Franklin County, and came from Springfield in that county, according to his obituary of 1932. He had served with the Red Cross chapter, the Farm Bureau, the Y.M.C.A, and was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Franklin College. He also had banking ties to Tipton, Indiana. He was a member of the Phi Delta Fraternity. He passed away while chopping wood on his farm east of Delphi.

Following Shirk's death, the structure was remodeled between 1932 and 1934 as a furniture store and radio shop of Herb Smith. It has also seen use as a bakery and card shop. It is presently used by the Well Ministry of the local Calvary Chapel, a tanning salon, and beauty shop.

