

THE HOOSIER PACKET - JUNE 2015

FRANKLIN RAYL

And His Wabash & Erie Canal Connections

By Charles Davis

Franklin Rayl was born June 26, 1813 in Guilford county, North Carolina to Nathan and Susanne Thomburg Rayl. At the age of twenty years, he went to Wayne county, Indiana. In the town of Richmond, he served an apprenticeship in the moulders trade. After learning how to make the molds in which iron castings are made he moved to Parke county, Indiana in 1837.

After his arrival in Parke county, he went to work for William Garten Coffin, Samuel Harvey and Thomas C. Coffin in Foundry Hollow at "Coffin, Harvey and Company, the "Company" being Wm. G. Coffin's brother Thomas C. Coffin. Foundry Hollow consisted of the Foundry, a steam saw mill, a finishing shop, a blacksmith shop, together with 2 acres containing a pork house and flatboat yard.

The foundry was started in 1835. Wm. G. Coffin built the steam saw mills and all the engines except for the boilers. At this time articles made there were kettles, log chains, cast iron mold board plows and plow shares, which were used in place of the wooden plows of the first settlers.

Franklin Rayl's first job in the shop was that of a general moulder since he had previous experience in that line of work. On December 26, 1842, Coffin, Harvey and Company sold the Foundry with the pork house and boat yard to Franklin Rayl and Albert G. Coffin for \$6,000. Deed Record 11/452 At this time Mr. Rayl lived just west of Foundry on 28 acres, Part E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 3. The 1851 Tax list gives his total value as \$1100.



Franklin Rayl lived in this home when he was a moulder at Coffin's in Foundry Hollow. Photo by Charles Davis 2009

The Wabash and Erie Canal began construction through Parke county in 1844. Some of the articles made at Foundry were wickets for the aqueducts, locks and feeder dam as well as other iron fixtures for them.



Above: This wicket gate from the Wabash & Erie Canal in Parke county, Indiana was in the Indiana Museum Warehouse in Indianapolis.

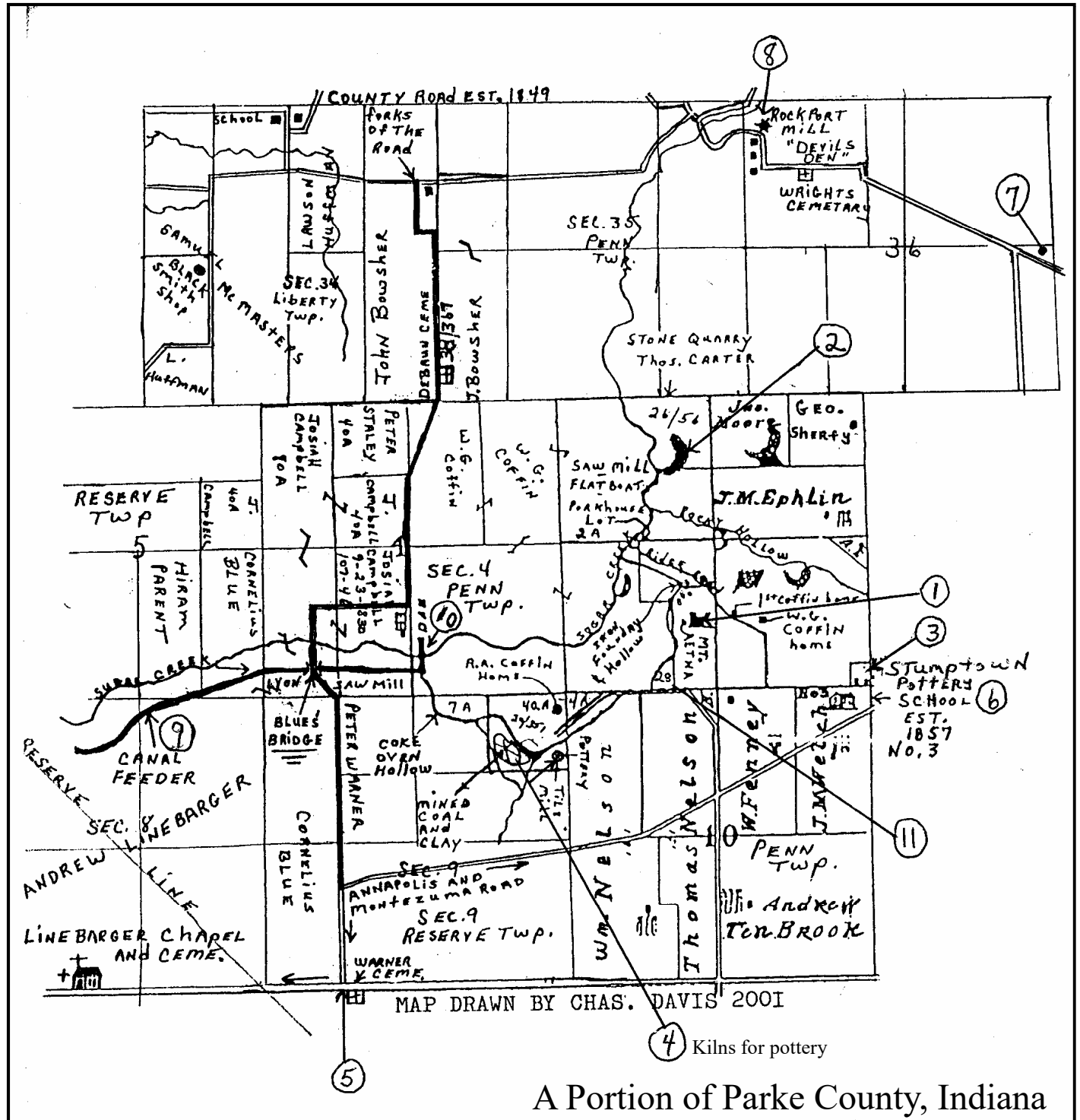
Photo by Chuck Huppert 1999

Below: This feeder canal from the Feeder Dam on Sugar Creek is heading to West Union to join the Wabash & Erie Canal. It is nearing the bluff and getting narrower. Photo by Charles Davis



Before the canal was completed through the area in 1848, Franklin and Albert sold the entire operation back to William G. Coffin for \$6000 on July 9, 1847. DR 11/453 The sellers and the following men retained their jobs at Foundry: Nelson McClure lived there in a log cabin with his family and sawed lumber and timbers for the Feeder Dam. Alexander Burke made patterns for the moulders. Thomas Carter built flatboats at the boat yard for canal navigation. Wm G. Coffin himself was a carpenter, millwright, a moulder and pattern maker, a foundry man, machinist, blacksmith, pork packer, flat boat builder, etc. at Foundry until he left Parke county.

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A Portion of Parke County, Indiana

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aetna Manufacturing Company (pottery) 4/6/1841 DR 7/612 Coffin, Harvey & Co, to David L. Atcheson the right to dig clay, partners: Stephen & James S. Gapen 2. Thomas Carter Stone Quarry, canal boats of stone for canal structures DR 26/56 3. Stumptown (pottery) Shop, Joren, Lee, Redford, Atcheson 4. Coke Oven Hollow—Robert Addison Coffin to Welch & Lee, right to dig clay (for Annapolis Pottery) 11/7/1861 DR | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Road to Sugar Creek Feeder Dam and east to Annapolis 6. School close to Coke Oven Hollow 1857 7. Rockport school, James B. Ewing teacher, 1852 8. Prier Wright, Rockport Mill, Wright's Mill, Devil's Den 9. Canal Feeder 10. Wabash & Erie Canal Feeder Dam on Sugar Creek 11. Residence of Franklin Rayl, 1851. |
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Coke Oven Hollow in Parke county, Indiana in 1991 is seen on the map on the previous page. Photo by Chas. Davis

In 1850 Franklin Rayl left Foundry Hollow and went to California where he engaged in mining for two years. This was probably gold mining for, when the 1849 gold rush hit, several Parke county men went to seek their fortunes.

One company was formed in Rockville as an "Article of Agreement for procuring gold in California" on March 14, 1849. DR 11/55 Another company known as the "Illinois and Springfield" left for California in 1849. William Lusk, brother of John Lusk of Turkey Run fame, left with them and was moderately successful in the mines on the Middle Fork of the American River. His take of gold in three years was \$1800.



FRANKLIN RAYL
Born
June 26, 1813
Died
Aug. 7, 1889
Aged
76 yrs 1 mo 11 ds
Photo by Charles Davis



GILLA
WIFE OF
FRANKLIN
RAYL
DIED
FEB. 21, 1869
AGED
51 YS. 9 MO. & 1 D.

Buried: Poplar Grove Cemetery
Parke County, Indiana
Photo by Charles Davis

Franklin Rayl returned to Parke county and then engaged in farming and stock raising in Washington township on the NWst quarter of section 5. This is where he spent the rest of his life. He died in 1889 and was buried in the Poplar Grove cemetery north of Marshall, Indiana.

Sources:

Beadle, John H., "Franklin Rayl," *History of Park County*, 1880.

Deed Records from Rockville Court House Recorder's Office

"Extinct Villages of Penn Township," Rockville Library.

Lusk, Wm. *Portrait and Biography Record of Parke and Montgomery Counties*, 1893.

Parke Count Cemetery Records, Rockville Library.

Rockville Republican:

Obituary of Jn. N. Rayl, April 9, 1925.
Obituary of Tilghman Rayl, April 18, 1927.

Rockville Tribune:

Obituary of Ester May Rayl, December 9, 1925.
Obituary of Arla Rayl, July 3, 1940.

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RAYL FAMILY GENEALOGY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Location</u>
Rayl, Nathan	04/15/1775	1831+ 01/01/1800			Guilford, North Carolina
m. Thomburg, Susanna	02/22/1780	1831+ 01/01/1800			Guilford, North Carolina
Rayl, Franklin	06/26/1813	08/07/1889	05/04/1843	Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
Parents: Aaron Rawlings	05/??/1780	06/10/1864		Rawlings Cem	Parke Co IN
Rebecca Smith	02/28/1787	09/30/1856		Rawlings Cem	Parke Co IN
1m. Rawlings, Gilla	05/20/1818	0/21/1869	05/04/1843	Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
<u>Rayl, Lewis</u>	04/10/1844	NA			9th Ind Battery
<u>Rayl, Nelson</u>	1845	03/04/1886	08/08/1872	Popular Grove	Parke Co IN / 149 Ind Inf
m. Chamness, Edith	03/24/1853	1940 08/08/1872			Parke Co IN
Newlin, Samuel H - 2nd m	1853	1900 02/09/1886			
Rayl, Arla Henry	08/22/1876	6/28/1940	6/12/1920	Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
m. Sprouls, Gertrude Mae	05/11/1892	01/04/1982	6/12/1920	Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
Rayl, Ester Mae	05/09/1921	12/13/1928		Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
Rayl, John Nelson	03/15/1925	03/28/1925		Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
Rayl, Kenneth Warn	04/18/1920	04/18/1920		Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
Rayl, William L	07/02/1879	01/06/1959		Deer Lodge	Montana
Rayl, Martha Belle	09/??/1881	01/26/1916	12/18/1904	Popular Grove	Montana
m. Hobson, Jesse Grant	09/25/1870	11/02/1949	12/18/1904		Parke Co IN
Hobson, Raymond N	09/21/1908	08/12/1932		Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
Hobson, Vernon L	10/10/1911	02/24/1996	11/08/1942	Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
m. Bratcher, Georgia E	10/07/1922	12/27/2005	11/08/1942	Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
<u>Rayl, Amanda</u>	09/22/1848	01/07/1920	11/23/1871	Bloomington C	Parke Co IN
m. Swaim, John Randolph	07/116/1849	12/26/1940	11/23/1871		Parke Co IN
Swaim, Walter Woody	09/14/1877	05/15/1949		Alderbrook Cem	Arkansas
Swaim, Horace Virgil	02/18/1873	11/28/1891			
Swaim, Verne Frank	04/21/1886	1954			Peoria, IL
m. Diteing, Gladys	about 1886				
<u>Rayl, Serilda</u>	05/17/1853	11/22/1924	04/05/1877	Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
m. Jessup, Caleb Yancy	03/04/1848	06/16/1922	04/05/1877	Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
Jessup, Laura	06/23/1880	10/12/1956		Popular Grove	Parke Co IN
Jessup, George	1881	1883		Discovery Cem	Parke Co IN
<u>Rayl, Tilman</u>	11/17/1856	04/10/1929			Alaska
2m. Lamb, Polly	1832	01/17/1906	07/25/1872	Popular Grove	Parke Co IN