

**ANDREW SCOTT RUSSELL
AND HIS WABASH & ERIE CANAL CONNECTIONS**

By Charles Davis



ANDREW SCOTT RUSSELL
Rockville Tribune October 3, 1906
When campaigning for
Parke County, Recorder

Andrew Scott Russell was born in Parke county, Indiana on February 28, 1853. His father, James Wakefield Russell, came with his parents, Andrew and Cynthia Russell, from Nelson county, Kentucky in 1845. They bought and settled on a farm in the northwest quarter of section 10, Washington township. Deed Record 11/187-13/6 The Bethany church and cemetery are within this property. They lived on this farm until their deaths and were buried in the Bethany cemetery. James' mother,

Lucinda McCord, was a daughter of James McCord, a pioneer from Madison county, Kentucky, who entered land in Washington township about 1825.

Andrew, our subject, was reared on a farm in Howard township. His father bought land in sections 35 and 36 on January 5, 1844. D. R. 15/79 His first schooling was in the "Litsey" log school house on the brakes of

"Litsey" School built 1844
Photo from Rockville Tribune, October 10, 1928
From picture owned by C. E. Newlin



Sugar Creek on Henry Litsey's farm about a mile northeast of the homestead. This structure was built in 1844 by local pioneer farmers and was typical of that period. Twenty years later the log school was abandoned and a new frame school built on the Newlin farm about one-half mile west of the old one. Almira J. McCluer Newlin was one of Andrew's teachers at the old log school. After this he spent a year at the Waveland Academy, a year at the Montezuma Academy, and later at the Bloomingdale Academy under Barnabus Hobbs' reign. This was the extent of A. S. Russell's schooling.

In 1856, Andrew's father built a house made of brick on the farm located on the east-half of the southeast quarter, section 35. The house still stands. To view it turn off U. S. 47 onto County Road 400E and go south one-half mile to its location on the west side. All of the Russell children were born on this farm.



James Wakefield Russell built this house in 1856
in Howard township, Parke county, Indiana.
Photo by Charles Davis

In 1869, James W. Russell moved from the farm to Armiesburg. Along with his brother, Edward C. Russell, he bought 20 acres and lots 1 and 2 in the town from Flurey F. Keith for \$3,000. D. R. 29/310 They engaged in a general merchandise, pork packing, grain and milling business under the name of J. W. Russell & Co.. Theirs was one of the last old country pork-packing establishments on the Wabash River. In earlier days these products were sent down the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers on flat boats to New Orleans. Later they were transferred from boats to rail cars at Terre Haute. The grain handled at Armiesburg, was shipped on the Wabash & Erie Canal to Toledo, Ohio.

James W. Russell sold his farm in Howard township to his son-in-law, Henry Clay Hanna, on January 19, 1872. D. R. 32/234

Our subject, Andrew Scott Russell, got his first business experience at Armiesburg at a very early age. As a boy he worked for his father and uncle. Later he became

associated with them in a very extensive way in the town. During these years the firm shipped many bushels of wheat via the Wabash & Erie Canal.



The old mill stood on Big Raccoon Creek near Armiesburg in Parke county, Indiana. William Henry Harrison encamped here with his troops on the way to the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. Photo courtesy of A. H. Nurdyke

In 1873 Andrew's father moved to Rockville thus leaving Andrew and his uncle to take care of the business at Armiesburg. D. R. 32/343, 33, 244. Andrew helped load the last six canal boat loads of wheat before the canal was abandoned south of Lafayette in 1875. He also accompanied the last shipment of meat from Parke county by boat to New Orleans. He spent the winters of 1874 and 1875 in Mississippi due to ill health.

James W. and Edward C. Russell sold the lots and land at Armiesburg to Benjamin Phillips, Silas Brown and Aquilla Hixon on December 12, 1876 for \$2,100. D. R. 36/152. Once the business was sold, Andrew went to Utah and assisted in making a survey there for one of the very early irrigation projects of the federal government.

Andrew then joined his brother-in-law, Henry Clay Hanna, at Danville, Illinois in the livery business dealing in horses and mules. From there he went to Yazoo county, Mississippi and married Miss Pauline Simmons on November 11, 1879.

In 1884 Andrew and Pauline moved back to reside in Indiana. For a number of years he was in the office of Fred P. Rush and Company, grain dealers of Indianapolis.

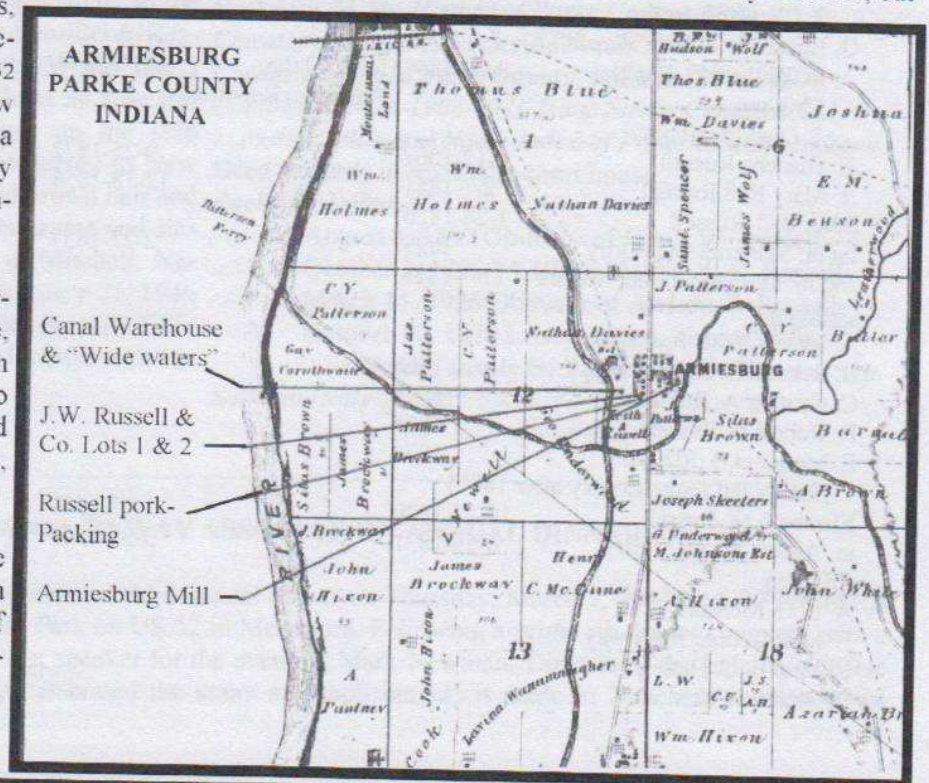
Andrew and Pauline moved back to Parke county in 1894. He took over the management of the Montezuma flouring mill owned by A. H. Nurdyke of Indianapolis. While operating this plant the Newport mill was bought, enlarged and equipped for a corn mill with a capacity of 2,000 bushels per day and added to the Montezuma business. Under his management the West Union grain elevator was built as well as the elevator at Mecca, giving Mecca the first market it ever had.

On July 30, 1887 Andrew's father, James Wakefield Russell, passed away. He was laid to rest in the Rockville Cemetery.

In 1901 Andrew became seriously ill and was confined to his bed for nearly ten months, six of which he was hospitalized in Indianapolis. He was left in such a weakened physical condition that in about a year after leaving the hospital he had to resign his position as manager of the Montezuma Mill Company.

Andrew went south again hoping to recuperate. He spent two years in Louisiana and then six months in St. Louis, where many of his old Parke county friends will remember being entertained by him and his estimable wife in their hostelry near the Worlds Fair grounds. Still in search of improving his health he spent the next eight months in California, Oregon and Colorado before moving back to Rockville in 1905.

In 1906 Andrew ran for Parke county recorder, but



Andrew Scott Russell's Family

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage
Andrew Russell	1-19-1794		5-15-1876	Bethany Cem. Parke Co. IN	
M. Cynthia Russell	1802		9-20-1878	Bethany Cem. Parke Co. IN	
<u>Children</u>					
1. James Wakefield Russell	9-8-1824		7-30-1897	Rockville Cem.	2-10-1848
m. Lucinda McCord	12-10-1823		4-29-1907	Rockville Cem.	2-10-1848
<u>Children</u>					
A. Sophrinia E. Russell	12-20-1848		5-12-1912	Rockville Cem.	10-7-1869
m. Henry Clay Hanna	3-23-1844		1-25-1910	Rockville Cem.	10-7-1869
<u>Children</u>					
1. Scott Russell					
2. Hubert Hanna Russell					(of Terre Haute)
B. Andrew Scott Russell	2-28-1853		3-2-1926	Yazoo, Miss. Rockville Cem.	11-11-1879
m. Pauline Simmons	2-18-1862		7-13-1934	Yazoo, Miss. Rockville Cem.	11-11-1879
<u>Children</u>					
1. Scott Houseman Russell	c. 1880		c. 1880	Mississippi	
2. Wm. Durdan Russell	11-02-1882		10-27-1901	NY Rockville Cem.	
3. James Westbrook Russell	2-19-1888	Ft. Scott, KS	2-19-1960	Mountain View Cem. Billings, MT	S8-154
m. Effie May Russell		Iowa	11-28-1967		
C. Margaret M. Russell	c. 1860		4-25-1939	Greenwood Cem. Ruston, LA	1-21-1880
1st m. Myron C. Stockbridge	10-27-1852	MA	9-23-1882	Rockville Cem.	1-21-1880
<u>Children</u>					
1. Myron Chester Stockbridge	8-30-1881		2-21-1939	Greenwood Cem Ruston LA	
2nd m. Tilghman Howard Bryant	3-19-1847		6-16-1911	Rockville Cem.	6-25-1896
D. Annie Laurie Russell	1-20-1855		4-22-1877	Rockville Cem.	
E. W. Frank Russell	7-7-1861		11-?-1900	Rockville Cem.	
F. James E. Russell	1857(livery & transfer bus.)		7-8-1936	Centeridge Cem. Sullivan, IN	12-27-1882
m. Florence E. Basler	1862		12-?-1935	Centeridge Cem. Sullivan, IN	12-27-1882
<u>Children</u>					
1. Ruth Russell Davis					(of Sullivan, IN)
2. Marie Russell Marsh					(of Indianapolis)
3. Claude Russell					(of Sullivan, IN)
G. Elizabeth "Libbie" Russell	3-6-1864		11-19-1930	Oakhill Cem. Talledega, AL	11-3-1885
m. William E. Henkle	8-20-1860 (founded the Talledego Reporter)		7-16-1938	Oakhill Cem. Talledega, AL	11-3-1885
<u>Children</u>					
1. Died in infancy					
H. Blanche Russell	4-12-1867		9-25-1872	Rockville Cem	
I. Mary Bell Russell	2-?-1851		12-18-1853	Bethany Cem.	
2. Edward C. Russell	1-26-1826				5-29-1856
1st m. Margaret McMurtry	1829		2-27-1857	Bethany Cem.	5-29-1856
2nd m. Margaret J. McPheeters	11-?-1828				
<u>Children</u>					
A. Elizabeth M. Russell					
B. Rebecca J. Russell	1865				
C. Cynthia A. Russell	1866				
D. Robert A. Russell	1868				
E. Margaret B. Russell	1870				
[family left Parke County after 1881]					
3. Elizabeth M. Russell	10-27-1829		1-28-1901	Bethany Cem.	
m. Alexander McMurtry	6-29-1831		3-31-1909	Bethany Cem.	
<u>Children</u>					
A. E. C. McMurtry					(of Frankfort, IN)
B. Mrs. George Hathaway					(of Jennings, LA)
C. Mrs. H. C. Butler					(of Lafayette, IN)
D. Wallace McMurtry					

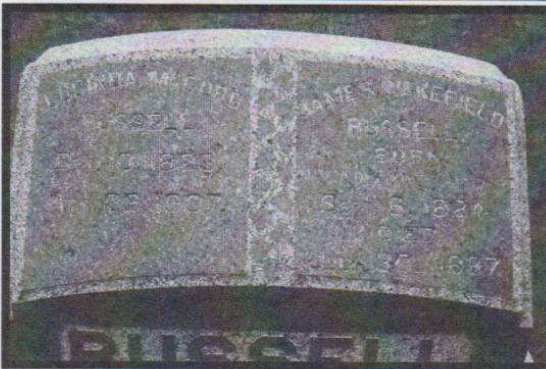
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he lost the election. After this, he and his wife were given the full responsibility for the care of Thornwood, a very large beautiful estate near Tacoma, Washington. They worked there for eight years. He made many staunch friends there, as he did in all his endeavors.

On March 2, 1926, at the age of 73 years and 2 days, Andrew Scott Russell departed this life at his temporary home in St. Petersburg, Florida. For a quarter of a century he was identified with the Presbyterian church. At the time of death he was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church at Montezuma. "His faith in God and in the Bible as the Inspired Word were firm and sure and meant much to him." He was buried in section D of the old Rockville cemetery. No stone marks his grave.

Andrew's wife, Pauline, came from English stock. Her ancestry was Ross, Simmons and Westbrook. She was born near Yazoo, Mississippi on February 18, 1862. She was the second daughter of Wm. and Elizabeth Westbrook Simmons. When three years old her father was killed during the Civil War just before the battle of Atlanta. Her mother died of a physical broken heart on learning of his death. She was reared by her paternal grandparents and educated in a seminary of Southern Convent. She died in Rockville, Indiana on July 13, 1934 and was buried beside Andrew. At that time the only living relatives on her side were a niece in Boston and a nephew in Mississippi.

All of the Russell family were industrious people going to where there was money and making a good living. I (Charles Davis) have tried to trace their genealogy to the present. The closest I've gotten is to Andrew Scott Russell's son, James Westbrook Russell. In the World War I draft of 1917-18 he was living in Rockville as an auto and furnace dealer. In 1921 he was a purser on the ship "American Legion" leaving Camden, New Jersey to New York. He was six foot 2 inches tall and had brown hair and brown eyes. In 1930 he was living in Montezuma and single. The 1940 census shows him living in Mitchell, Nebraska and single. A Deed Record from February 21, 1946 shows him living in Mitchell, Nebraska with his wife Effie May. Lastly he was living in Billings, Montana with his wife on June 17, 1953. D. R. 121/267



Top: Home of James Wakefield Russell on Howard Avenue in Rockville, Indiana
 Bottom: Marker in old section of the Rockville cemetery
 James Wakefield Russell B. 9-8-1824 D. 7-30-1897
 Lucinda McCord Russell B. 2-10-1823 D. 4-29-1907

Sources:

- Beckwith, H. W. *History of Parke County*, 1880.
- Cemetery records in Rockville library.
- Census records of Parke County, Indiana 1870, 1880
- Combined 1874-1908-1916 Isaac Straus Centennial Memorial Atlas and Name Index of Parke County, Indiana.*
- Deed Records in Rockville court house.

Rockville Tribune:

- August 5, 1897 Obituary of James W. Russell
- October 3, 1906 "A Clean Ticket" A. S. Russell
- March 11, 1926 Obituary of Andrew S. Russell
- October 10, 1828 Litsey school, history of the Newlin family by Edgar Newlin, Howard twp.

Sullivan Daily Times: