

**DR. RICHARD M. WATERMAN  
AND HIS WABASH & ERIE CANAL CONNECTIONS**

By Charles Davis

Richard M. Waterman was born in Coventry, Rhode Island, November 3, 1808. He was the son of Caleb Waterman, the grandson of Richard Waterman, the great-grandson of Amaziah Waterman, the great-great-grandson of Richard Waterman, the great-great-great-grandson of Nathaniel Waterman and the great-great-great-great-grandson of Richard Waterman, who came from Bristol, England, to Boston, with Roger Williams in the ship *Lion*, A.D. 1631.

The great-great-great-great-grandfather of our subject resided several years in Salem, Massachusetts; went to Providence in 1638; and was before the general court of Massachusetts in May 1644 where he was found to be "erroneous, heretical and obstinate in his religion" and banished upon pain of death if he ever returned. Richard M. Waterman was also persecuted for his religious views by those who had sought a new home on account of persecution, suffered themselves at the hands of sectarian England, and sought residence in Vicksburg, Mississippi about 1831. Slavery turned him bitterly against that section, so he moved to Eugene, Vermillion County, Indiana in 1832.

Having graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Richard set up a practice in Indiana. It extended twenty miles up and down the Wabash from Eugene and as far as seventy-five miles westward. He was engaged in this practice for twenty-five years.

One of Richard's first activities recorded in history books was his establishment of the first newspaper in Vermillion County in 1837 called *The Eugene News Letter*. It ran only about six months then was sold to J. R. Jones and moved to Perryville, Indiana.

Richard's name appears in the commissioners records of 1838. He was allowed various amounts of money for medical care of the poor in Eugene township, but these amounts were small.

In 1857 Richard purchased 400 acres of land in Fulton township, Fountain County, Indiana, and made his residence there. He built a large home and made other improvements. He engaged extensively in grain, pork, and the dry goods business at Lodi, Indiana.

The first purchase of land in Lodi by Richard was a parcel situated along Perry street. He paid O.M. Conkey \$475 for it. This small tract evidently had a warehouse on it at the time of purchase. Previously it was deeded to George

W. Jones from the estate of Elijah Thompson (deceased) on January 26, 1855. Mr. Conkey bought it from Jones on June 5, 1855. The unusual survey of this small tract of land is in Richard's deed of January 13, 1857. *Deed Record 16/449*.

Charles A Osborn bought Lots #1 and #2 in Osborn's addition from Wm. H. Osborn on July 21, 1849 for \$1,300 indicating a large business here. D. R. 11/330 To recover a mortgage from Mr. Osborn and several others from a 37 acre tract of land south of the lots, the county court ordered a sale of both. Richard was the highest bidder on the above land and lots. These transactions and descriptions can be found in D. R. 17/570, March 2, 1857 and D.R. 18/238-239, March 29, 1859. These give the location of his dry goods store and warehouse on the canal. Richard shipped pork and grain by canal boat. His boat was named "R. M. Waterman" for him. The two commanders of it were William and Job Sabin. One shipment of 117,857 pounds of Lark, Pork and Corn cost Richard at toll fee of \$54.33 at Covington, Indiana, in 1862. *Boat Clearance Record*

When Richard was active at Lodi, starting in 1857, the town changed its name to Waterman post-office. It reverted back to Lodi in 1861.

Southern secession caused his anti-slavery principles to assert themselves, and although fifty-three years of age Richard M. Waterman enlisted in the 31st Indiana Regiment, a sacrifice to his country. On his departure he asserted that "the war would end when the Negroes were freed." His point of departure was at Benson's Basin in Montezuma on the Wabash and Erie Canal. From there he went by canal to Camp Vigo in Terre Haute, Indiana on August 19, 1861. See *Wabash and Erie Canal Civil War Connections by Charles Davis, Canal Society of Indiana Newsletter, Vol. 13, No. 9, September 1999, page 16*.

Richard fought at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Stone River, Chickamauga, Resaca, Rocky Face Ridge, etc. Having fought many good fights he returned to his family. His son, Cale W. Waterman, met him at the Wabash, River and his first words were, "I've come home to die." The fatigue and hardships of army life had proved too much. Dr. Richard M. Waterman expired on August 23, 1864, about six days after his return. He was laid to rest in the Eugene Cemetery.

Richard had been married twice. First to Lucretia Meredith in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 1835. She died on April 18, 1837. He married Pamela Hosford in 1838 in Eugene, Indiana. She was born in Vermont in 1815 and died in October 1870. He and Pamela were members of the

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THE HOOSIER PACKET - JANUARY 2013

**CLEARANCE, No.**

Collector's Office, Covington April 21 1861

I, Job Sabin Master of the Boat 1st Waterman do certify that the following is a true statement of Cargo on said Boat, on which Tolls have not been paid.

ARTICLES	Where From.	Where Bound.	Weight.	Miles.	Rate.	Toll.
Beef	Lodi	St. Louis	53574	189	22	4.23
Pork	"	"	13,216			
Lard	"	"	6578 1/2	189	42	27.65
800 Bush Corn	"	"	440			18.82
						837.50

Job Sabin

**CLEARANCE, No.**

48 Collector's Office, Covington May 13 1861

I, Wm Sabin Master of the Boat R M Waterman do certify that the following is a true statement of Cargo on said Boat on which Tolls have not been paid.

ARTICLES	Where From.	Where Bound.	Weight.	Miles.	Rate.	Toll.
Boat	Covington	Lodi		145	28	41.50
2338 Bush Corn	"	"	180920	"	41	53.65
						85.15

Wm Sabin

**CLEARANCE, No.**

99 Collector's Office, Covington June 17 1861

I, Wm Sabin Master of the Boat R M Waterman do certify that the following is a true statement of Cargo on said Boat on which Tolls have not been paid.

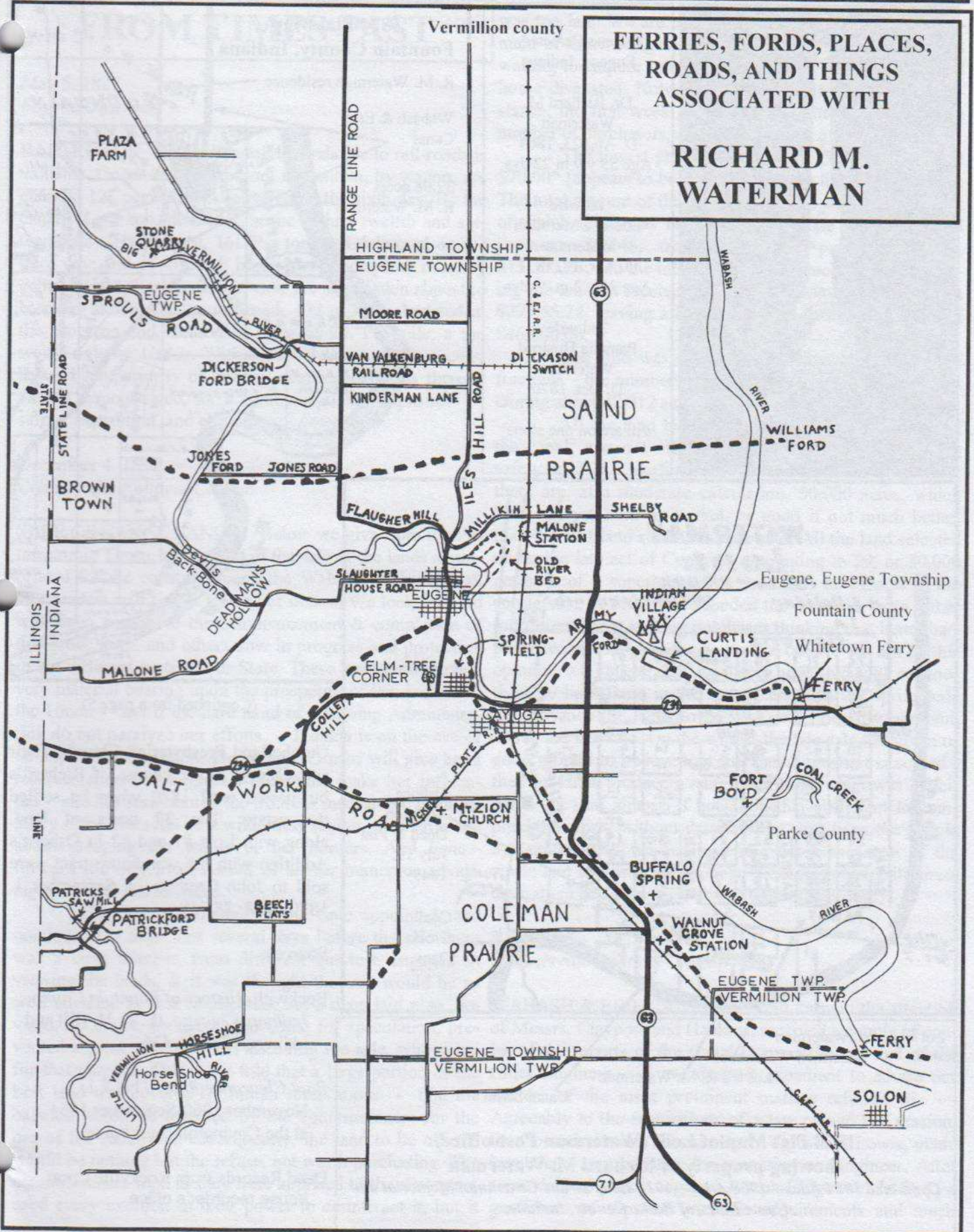
ARTICLES	Where From.	Where Bound.	Weight.	Miles.	Rate.	Toll.
1642 Bush Wheat	Clinton	St. Louis	98370	212	47	44.61
1302 1/2 " "	Lodi	"	7826	189	45	3.52
Rags	"	Lafayette	288	57	6	.16
Hides	"	Lodi	240	189	21	.15
						49.24

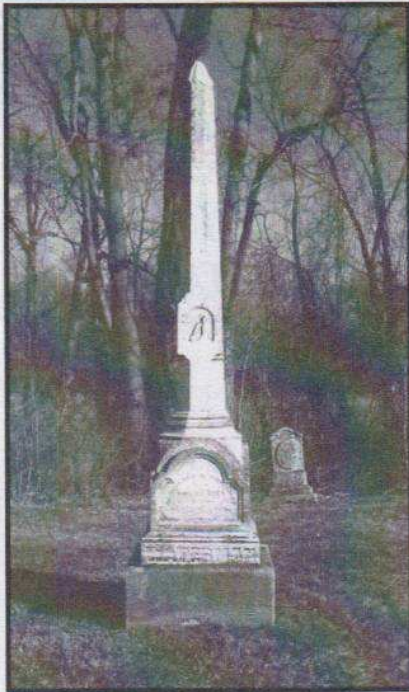
Wm Sabin

Boat Clearance Records showing tolls paid by the R.M. Waterman at Covington, Indiana on April 26, May 13 and June 17, 1861. It carried pork, lard, corn, wheat, rags and hides. Its captains were Job and William Sabin. These show it traveling from Clinton, Covington or Lodi to the Indiana/Ohio state line where it would have had to pay Ohio tolls to continue on to Toledo. Book containing these documents can be found at the Covington, Indiana courthouse.

FERRIES, FORDS, PLACES,  
ROADS, AND THINGS  
ASSOCIATED WITH

**RICHARD M.  
WATERMAN**





Eugene Cemetery  
Eugene, Indiana

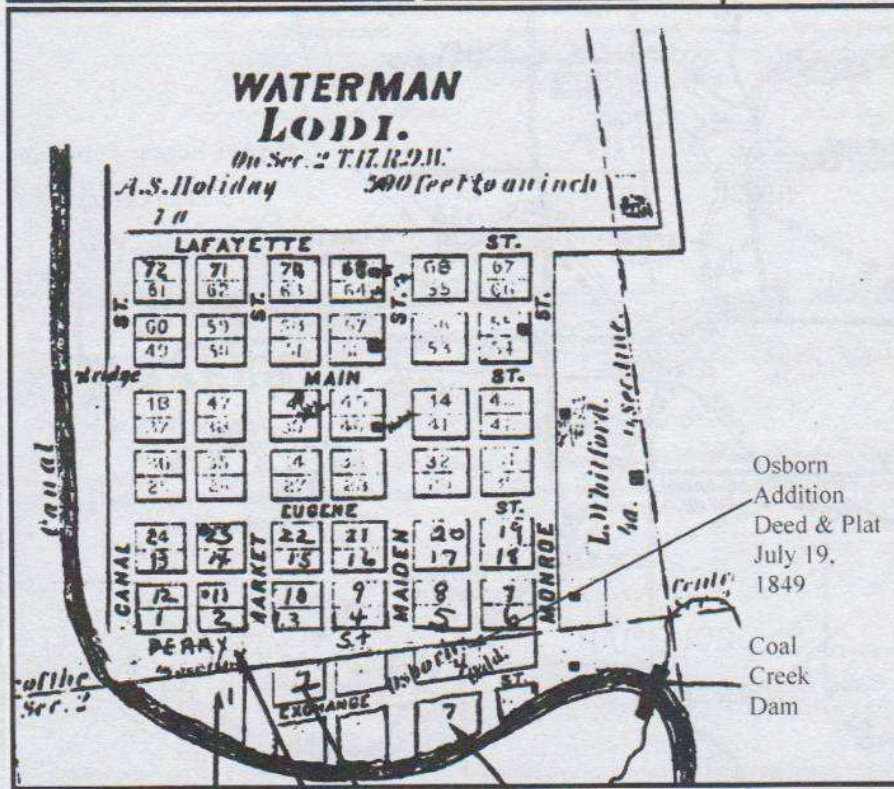
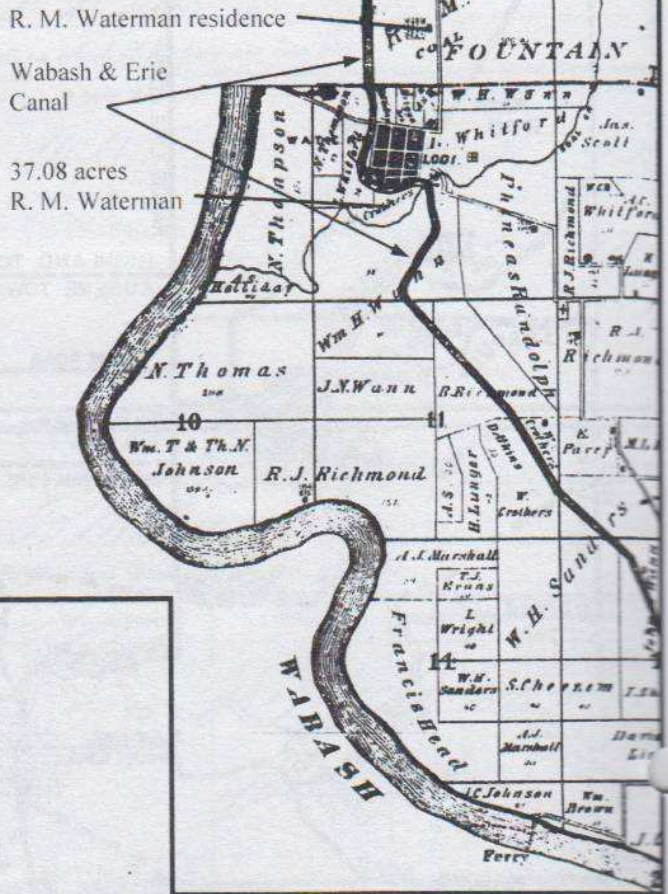
Dr. Richard M.  
Waterman  
D. Aug 23, 1864  
Age 55 y 9 m 22 dys

1st wife  
Lucretia Meredith  
Waterman  
D. Apr. 18, 1837  
Age 23 y 2 m 25 dys

2nd wife  
Pamelia Hosford  
Waterman  
D. Oct. 1870

All are on one stone

1874 Plat Map  
Fountain County, Indiana



Lot #1 R. M. Waterman  
Waterman Warehouse  
Lot #2 R. M. Waterman  
Canal Basin

1874 Plat Map of Lodi (Waterman Post-office)  
showing property of Richard M. Waterman

Combined 1874 Atlas—1908 Atlas—1916 Issac Straus Centennial Memorial and  
Name Index of Parke County, Indiana.

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Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Their son Cale W. took charge of Richard's businesses until 1870 when he settled the estate. The 37 acres of land, along with Lots #1 and #2 in Osborn's Addition with the warehouse tract were sold to John Crothers on September 1, 1870. D. R. 28/218

Sources:

Beckwith. *History of Fountain County, Indiana*. Chicago, IL: N. H. Hill and Iddings, 1881. P. 436.

*Boat Clearance Record* book 1, November 1860-September 1864 at the Covington court house

Deed Records from Rockville Court house recorder's office