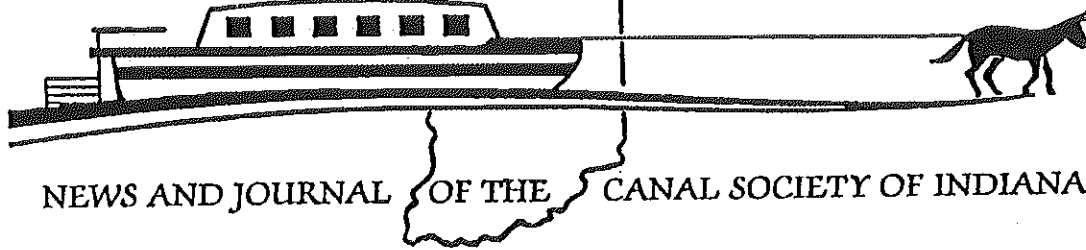


THE
HOOSIER-PACKET



VOL. 5 NO. 1

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JANUARY 2006

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



L to R Back Row: Don Haack, Jim Ellis, Chuck Huppert, Mike Morthorst, Chuck Whiting, Mick Wilz, Dan McCain
Front Row: Lynette Kross, Sandy Biling, Cynthia Powers, Sue Simerman, Jerry Mattheir, Bill Davis, Carolyn and Bob Schmidt
CSI directors wish you a Happy New Year!

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CSI BOARD PLANS FOR 2006

The Canal Society of Indiana (CSI) board of directors met November 5, 2005, at Peace U.C.C. Church in Ft. Wayne, IN, to review the past year's accomplishments and plan for 2006. Two exciting tours will cover the Wabash & Erie Canal from Toledo, OH, to Grand Rapids, OH, on May 4-6 and the Whitewater Canal in the fall.

We ask for your help in writing articles or contributing news articles, pictures, maps, diagrams, etc. about Indiana's or other canals for inclusion in "The Hoosier Packet." We also ask you to submit names of people who might be interested in joining our society. Contacting your local historical organization about prospective members would be of great help.

**"THOMAS WELL" AND ITS
WABASH & ERIE CANAL CONNECTIONS**

By Charles Davis

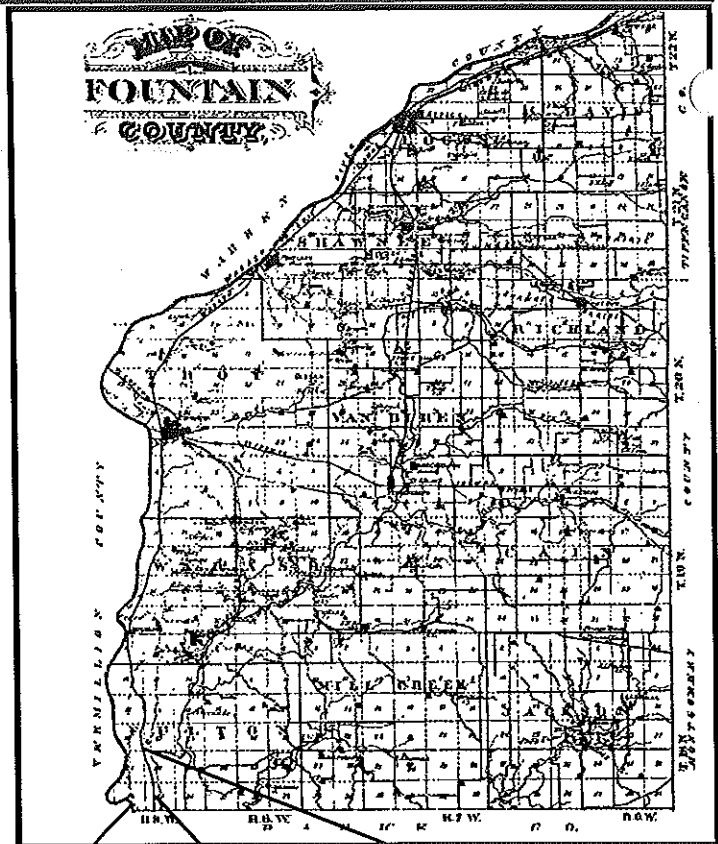
Just north of Lodi, IN, is the dividing survey line between Parke and Fountain counties. North of this line the village known as Silverwood is located and to the west of it is Silver Island, Fountain county, IN. The land subject to this story is in Section 35, Fulton township, 18 N of Range 9 W. The East half of the Northwest quarter of Section 35 was entered by Norbourn Thomas in 1830. Mr. Thomas was the one to establish the ferry across the Wabash river, west of Lodi, the area later known as Whitestown, north of the present bridge.

On February 25, 1865, the Articles of Association were written that created the Wabash Valley Petroleum and Mining Company. The first directors of this company were Norbourn Thomas, Samuel C. Wilson, Addison L. Roach, James M. Allen and William H. Nye. There were 15 stockholders with 4,500 shares each. These stockholders were prominent wealthy individuals, such as Judge Chambers Y. Patterson, son of Arthur Patterson of Armiesburg Mill fame; Professors Joseph and John Collett; and Alexander Puett, farmer of 1,000 acres of land. In article VII of the Articles of Association, it states "the corporation shall continue and exist for 50 years." At this time William H. Nye was the surveyor of Parke county, his term being from 1861-1865. The board of directors of this company got mineral rights leased to them by land owners all over the two county area as recorded in the Misc. Records in Parke and Fountain counties.

In this year of 1865, the Corporation started drilling a well on Wm. H. Wanns' property, on the east bank of the Wabash & Erie Canal. By the end of November, they reached a depth of over 900 feet. They struck salt water, which they thought would pay as well or perhaps better than oil. The water from this well yielded about 17 ounces of salt to the gallon. Although they reached a depth of 1,155 feet before the year ended, they never struck oil.

On February 10, 1868, Wm. H. Wann sold this tract of land to Norbourn Thomas. As described in the deed, "which is located the Artesian Well, commonly known as the "Thomas Well," begin at point on the East bank and line of the Wabash & Erie Canal 20 feet, go east line of canal 511.25 feet, go south parallel with said east line of canal 511.25 feet, go west 511.25 feet to canal, go north with east line of canal 255.62 feet to place of beginning, containing six acres more or less.

The Indianapolis News of August 31, 1881, carried the following notice:



Ferry Thomas Well (Lodi Well) Wabash & Erie Canal

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana. Chicago, IL/Baskin, Forster & Co., 1876.

"DEATH OF A FOUNTAIN COUNTY PIONEER

"Norbourn Thomas, one of the old settlers of Fountain county, died this morning aged 73, after a lingering illness. He was one of the best known men in the Wabash valley and had been prominent and devoted in the improvement and development of that section of the state. He was once a resident of Terre Haute and was well known in Masonic circles. He was the life long friend of Prof. Collett and the latter today went to attend the funeral."

Salt was produced here and was shipped by canal from 1865 to when the canal closed. For a time, this ended any real financial gain from the salt well. The force of this well was enormous. It bubbled over the top of a four-inch wooden pipe, eight feet above the surface, the estimated output being 30,000 barrels per day. The temperature of the water as it left the well was 69.1 degrees Fahrenheit.

New life was given the well when Mary F. Safely from New York bought the six acres on September 5, 1883. Mary was born in Rockville, IN. on February 27, 1840 and was the daughter of James McEwen. After graduating school there, she went to Waveland Academy in Indiana. She moved to Iowa during the Civil War to

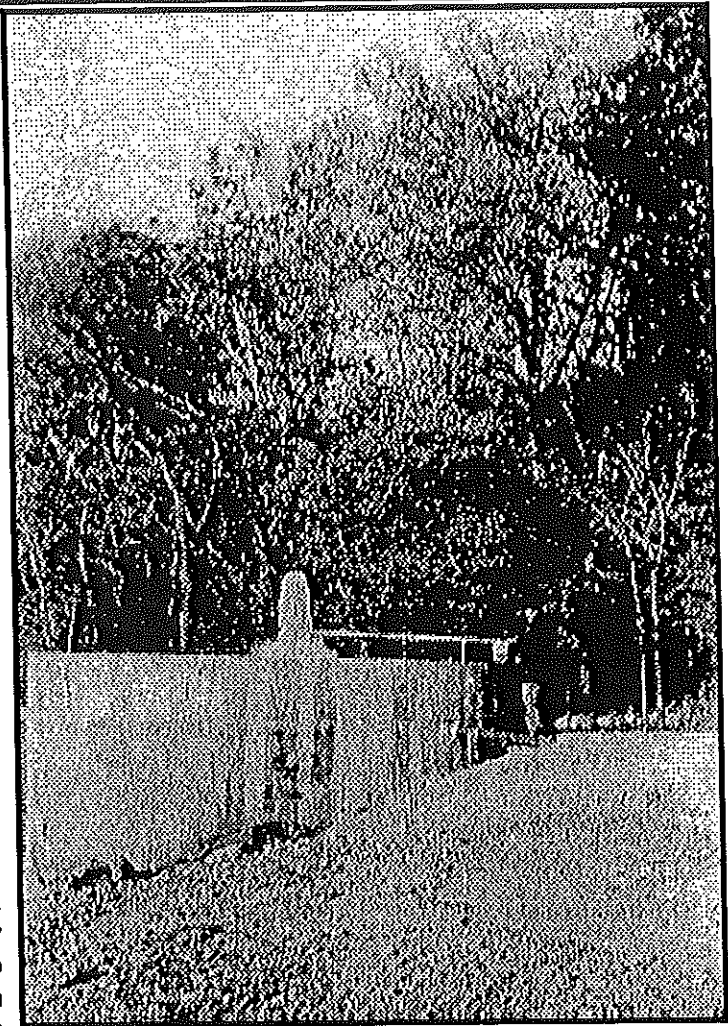
nurse the wounded soldiers. It was there that she met her husband, Major John J. Safely, a member of the 5th Iowa Volunteers. Later they returned to Indiana and lived in a house they built on the hill above the well within the 6 acre tract. In 1938, it was said "that the flow has decreased little if any in the 73 years since it was discovered."

Major Safely was a prominent person on the St. Louis railroad in Fountain county. He also had land speculations with the old north and south railroad in Raccoon township, Section 36, in Parke county. He did well in Iowa before he left, making \$1,500,000 in a mining deal.

A recent historical account said there was a hotel built near the well in 1880 (wrong date). Another source says it was built in 1888, the latter date is when the Safely's built their 50 from home. These accounts also say the Safely hotel burned down in 1897, which is the exact date that the house burned down. It is possible that they rented rooms in their home.

Important information about the well was recorded in the Rockville Tribune, June 30, 1887, in an article entitled "A talk With Major J. J. Safely Concerning His Last Trip East, and the Lodi Artesian Well":

"We had a long and interesting interview with Major Safely, who was one of our callers, Saturday morning. Last week he returned from a business trip to New York, Washington and other eastern cities, which demanded his time for something over a month. Before the Military Carnival, at Rockville, in which he took a great interest and so effectually aided to make it a success, he made a tour of the Indiana Gas Fields. Taking notes as to their advantages for the investment of eastern capital. An interview published in the New York Tribune in which Major Safely gave Indiana a flattering 'send off,' has already resulted in the location of at least two factories and promises to be the means of bringing the gas belt many more. He was at Washington during the Military Encampment being a spectator of this 'second review' of the Nations' citizen soldiery. Twenty-two years before he had marched with the steel-clad column of Sherman's veterans down the same street, an actor in the grandest scene of the grandest drama the world has ever looked upon — The grand review, in Washington's chiefest avenue One-hundred thousand men in blue — I think they said was the number.' A few years ago, Mrs. Safely, who in anticipation of what might be made, of the wonderful well, bought the ground around it with a view to its improvement. Other business occupying his attention, the Major has not until now had an opportunity to carry out the plans which, when completed, will make this a splendid health resort. Last Thursday he was in Covington, perfecting the titles of the tracts of land



The Lodi Park Resort featured the "Thomas Well," which became famous for its water. Historic photo

recently purchased of Mrs. Wann and Waterman, in all nearly 400 acres. Never having seen the place we cannot give an accurate description of the surroundings; but from a rough drawing shown us we conclude that it is admirably adapted to the purposes in view. The well is located in a valley back of which is a hill eighty feet high and from its summit a magnificent view of twelve miles may be had in three directions. It is now a subject of discussion whether or not to put the residence, which will be built a once, on the hill or in the valley. If it is built in the valley near the well, fresh water for domestic use can be siphoned from the hill—the natural incline being sufficient to force it into all apartments of the house, but this is an advantage that if taken will be at the sacrifice of the magnificent prospect from the higher ground. By the aid of a dynamo run by water from the over-flow at the artesian well, power sufficient to run 160 incandescent electric lights may be had. This will make the electricity cheaper than kerosene. Beside the residence a bath house will be erected, and for the present this is all that is contemplated. Next season, or in time, a large hotel will be built, and the place opened

up and its advantages advertised on a large scale."

The Rockville Tribune of July 24, 1887 ran an article entitled "Major Safely's House":

"The contract has been given to Crawfordsville builders, and when finished the Safely's will have one of the finest residences in the West. The Crawfordsville Argus says: The other day the Argus News stated that a Rockville man with more money than he knew what to do with was to erect a mammoth hotel at Lodi and Sakson Bros., of this city, had the contract. We were slightly in error. Instead of a hotel he is only going to build a house. But for its style of architecture it will take the entire pantry. It will require about 100,000 feet of rough lumber and will be 100 by 40 feet; two stories high and will be heated by stoves. The floor will be made of two-inch pine, while the walls will be a foot thick and filled with brick. The studding will be 2 x 8. The sheathing will be two inches thick and the entire structure will be built on the Jesse Cumberland plan. There are several mineral springs there and next season the eccentric old gentleman will build a mammoth hotel. This house which he will erect this summer will have about 50 rooms. We hope the eccentric old gentleman may build a mammoth hotel, and that the Lodi well will prove a benefit to him as it is sure to be to those who use its waters."

June 23, 1887, the Rockville Tribune reported:

"Not long ago Cale Waterman went into a drug store at Terre Haute and enquired for a drink of Lodi artesian water. They had no artesian water, but could give him 'Blue Lick,' so Cale took some. The 'Blue Lick' was simply Lodi water, which is sold in that city as coming from Kentuck, sah."

June 28, 1888, the Rockville Tribune said:

"The vicissitudes of a newspaper man's life made it necessary for the writer and Harry Strain, a Tribune typo, to make a trip to Northwestern Parke and Southwestern Fountain, in which 'pocket' are situated the towns of Waterman, Lodi and Silverwood. There only two towns, but three names. Before the railroad was built, the old town was named Lodi and the post office Waterman. The new town was located at the railroad station and called Silverwood, and as it was but a few minutes walk to the old place no post office was established, until Major J. J. Safely built his house near Silverwood. As he had christened his well (in its own wonderful waters) 'The Lodi Well,' he naturally desired the name of the town to correspond with it, and so when the petition was presented with the recommendations of the Major's friends the ancient name of Lodi was restored to the new town. Although on paper we have thus found ourselves at Waterman and Silverwood, in reality it took us about six hours to get there. The road is long and tortuous. It resembles Jordan as completely

as any other road left to the watchful care of the American supervisor and his corps of conscripted time-killers. To Leatherwood the gravel, or 'pike,' is as fine a drive as one could ask for. Indeed on no other road in Parke county are there more nicely kept farms and neat country residences than on the one to Lodi as far as Linebarger's. Then misery begins. This route over clay hills and stretches of un-endings and into which the wheels of a buggy sink a third of the way, catching on each spoke pounds of the sand, which is carried upward until it falls in a continuous stream on hub and axle, is bad enough in winter but in summer it is torture. The writer's recollections of the route, are two trips over it: the first made some nine years ago, when he was devil in the Tribune and was sent as envoy extraordinary from Jo Cheadle to Cale Waterman. It was in early spring, before the first part of the road had been graveled, and mud was knee-deep, away from the sand. I started early on horse-back, taking along a small double-barreled shot gun, expecting to kill some ducks. I had not ridden a horse for a year or more, and naturally suffered the consequences. I got off the road twice and one pulled up in a corn field on the banks of the Wabash a mile due west of Howard! I got to the Waterman homestead an hour or so after dinner time, and as I possessed but three copper cents, as a matter of course, didn't go to a wayside inn and 'order' to any great extent. The first thunder storm of the season caught me about Sugar Creek on the way home where I arrived about 10 p.m. and the family history does not record that there was anything in the cupboard next morning.

"The next time I proceeded J. H. Beadle and J. E. M. Bright, they in Bright's hack and I in a buggy in front, going to a Republican speaking in Fulton township. Instead of turning to the right at Mill Creek, I went to the left, and traveled six miles out of the way. Beadle and Bright thought I had gone on the right road, and it was dark before they found that I was lost. They then hunted me up, but our supper was late, and the assembled crowd had to wait an hour before Mr. Beadle could get to the grove. The moral of this is, that the county commissioners should keep good sign boards at every cross-roads.

"Millions of mosquitoes swarm along the road and at one place, where it leads through a jack-oak woods, they fairly covered both occupants of the buggy and were almost as thick on the back of the horse as the hair, which furnished him little protection from their ravenous bills. We found little time between the slappings and brushings, by which we vainly sought to keep them away, to look at the growing crops on each side of the road. On the uplands this side of Sugar Creek, and in the bottoms around West Union, the wheat was full an average crop, and the corn is tropical in its luxuriance, besides being remarkably free from weeds. In

fact along the whole route from Rockville to Lodi, the prospect for all kinds of crops is good, and in this connection we must not forget watermelons for they are getting to be the main crop on the low sandy hills surrounding Howard. This was the first time the writer ever saw them growing for market, and he was not a little surprised to see twenty acres of watermelons in one field alone. Judging from what one sees by the roadside, I should say that the area planted in this commodity in Liberty township would equal the whole section of land. To all appearances, they grow out of the bare sand, and it produces melons of size and flavor equal to those of Georgia. How anything can grow out of such ground is a mystery to one whose idea of a desert is so fully met by these conditions, but watermelons and other crops do flourish and the former to a remarkable degree.

"It was after twelve o'clock when we arrived at the Silverwood Hotel, where we took dinner with C. E. Lea, the proprietor, and left our 'sacristan' at Hudson's livery stable. After dinner we walked up to J. J. Safely's new residence, and were hospitably received by Mrs. Safely and her niece, Mrs. Charles Kinnell, who were out among the flowers, which they were encouraging to grow amongst the luxuriant blue grass. The blue grass at present seems to have the better of the flowers, which is but natural, as the whole place was a pasture a year ago. Now it surrounds the prettiest country residence in Indiana. Nature and art have combined to make this new home of Major and Mrs. Safely, all that could be desired. It is located in a grove of forest trees on the summit of a hill and from the windows of the house one can see over twelve miles of land, fair as a garden of the Lord. The Wabash Valley, transformed by the work of the pioneer, is today as beautiful and to us far fairer than any other country on earth.

"Major Safely once told his wife to chose from the many localities they had visited a place suited to her idea of a home and he would build on it a house which they together should plan. After years of travel, she selected this blue grass hillside of western Indiana and is now the mistress of 'Oak Hall,' to which the friends of this amiable lady are always welcome. In architecture no set style has been followed, as it was built according to the plans and drawings of its owners, and if conventionality is sacrificed at all it is to comfort. With the exception of the drawing room, which is finished with mahogany, the woods are all native, and it is surprising through what an extent of exquisite workmanship some of these otherwise homely woods can be taken. Major Safely's private library consists of a suite of rooms done in sycamore, which, to our fancy is by far the prettiest work in the house, though made out of wood that for years has been considered good for nothing. The library proper is in red oak, and also the sleeping apartment next to it; the dining room in white

walnut, the stairway in the grand hall is of quartered oak and the room upstairs above the drawing room contains the most beautiful specimens of cherry wood, we ever saw. The workmanship on the mantle in this room is most artistic, all being done by Indiana carpenters. There are two sleeping apartments called the 'chestnut' and 'sassafras' rooms, which are also very pretty. It will be impossible to describe half of the house in the limits of this article. Although, to all appearances the building and furnishings are completed, yet they are not and a full description of all its beauties and conveniences will be reserved for the future.

"From Safely mansion we strolled over to the old Wann Homestead, in which Mr. And Mrs. Charles McEwen live. It is an ideal old house built nearly sixty years ago, and for all its age is comfortable and convenient. Here we were kindly received by Mrs. McEwen and Miss Mary, who from the little girl of a short time ago, has grown into a bright and handsome young lady. Mr. McEwen has charge of the farm, and he and Garry are tending extensive crops. Harry also finds time to devote to study preparatory to entering the Rose Polytechnic school.

"Willie Nye, who is spending the summer with his aunt, Mrs. Safely, went with us to the famous Lodi Well. Now in charge of Charles Kinnel, lately of Arizona. It is running as it has without an instant's cessation, for a quarter of a century, as constant was the waters of Niagara. During all these years this interminable stream has sent its crystal waters upward, falling a twirling, eddying, foaming fountain, like the water of Lodore, a cascade of thousands of gallons every hour. The work of building bath rooms is in progress, and in a few weeks will be completed; then the Lodi well will begin to be patronized from every section of the country. Lodi will celebrate the Fourth of July and we are authorized to invite everybody and his dog. There will be baseball in the day time, and a grand dance at night. The new bathhouse at the well is expected to be completed and opened to visitors for the first time that day. Besides, there will be good speakers and above all a hearty welcome from the hospitable people of Lodi and Waterman."

Major J. Safely died September 1, 1891 at his home above the Lodi Well. His wife carried on the business there for campers, selling the well water and having other events.

The Parke County Journal on September 17, 1897 reported this tragic event at Lodi Park:

"Some ten or twelve years ago Major J. J. Safely, who was then interested in the coal railroads of Parke county, bought the tract of land surrounding the Lodi artesian well, and built thereon the finest residence

in western Indiana. The house was large. The finish in native hard woods and mahogany, and the work done in the best possible manner, no residence in the state being better finished. That elegant mansion is now in ashes. Last Saturday morning between 3 and 4 o'clock Will Nye and Charles McEwen, nephews of Mrs. Safely, were awakened by a terrible roaring noise, and it took but a moment to discover that the house was afire, and already burning rapidly. Mrs. Safely, an old lady named Ovis and the two boys were the only persons about, and as there was no means at hand to put out the fire, attention was turned to saving the contents. The house was large, and by working away from the flames practically everything was gotten out, though the McEwen boy was compelled to jump from an upper window, where he had been cleaning out the finest room. Even some of the fine mantels, gas fixtures, etc., were saved. Many neighbors arrived in time to render excellent service in this line. The loss is about \$25,000, which is total, there being no insurance. The cause of the fire is a little peculiar. The earthquake felt in this section two years ago was much more severe at Lodi than about here, and made several large cracks in the house, one being in a chimney, through which the fire caught. Mrs. Safely came down Sunday night to see her sister, Mrs. Margaret Nye, and one would not know from her actions or conversation that she had suffered this severe loss. She says it is over, and worrying will not remedy it." She has another residence on the farm, so she will not rebuild the house on anything like its former scale, but may later build a neat modern house on the site of the destroyed mansion."

The Rockville Tribune of July 12, 1899, stated that "the Covington Friend had a large write up about the Lodi Well and its salt springs dating back to 1830, when N. Thomas bought the land, but I (the reporter) didn't make the trip to Covington to get the story, figuring it was a repeat of Parke county's accounts. Even though the house burned down, this didn't dissuade people from all over to enjoy Lodi Well and its park.

The Tribune, July 17, 1901:

"Great many camps at the Artesian Well at Lodi are testing the merits of the health benefits of the water."

A big change took place shortly thereafter as described in the Rockville Republican July 8, 1903:

"THE FAMOUS LODI WELL. A Company Organized to Make It a Summer Resort. It now looks like there would be something big doing in the near future at the Lodi artesian well near Silverwood. Shortly after the close of the war a number of Parke County and other capitalists chipped in and bored for oil. Instead of oil they got a splendid artesian well, the water of which has well regarded medicinal properties. The stockholders sank

considerable money in the enterprise from which they realized but little."

Before I go any further, there was a story in the Rockville Tribune on April 28, 1914, which tells about Mrs. Safely:

"SIXTY YEARS OF ROCKVILLE SOCIETY. Mrs. Nye and Mrs. Safely recalled that once a bobsled turned over on its side in Wildman's Hollow (this is where I live) while attempting to pass another bob sled. The occupants were thrown on the ice covering the little branch (Big Pond Creek) which flows through the hollow (it flows north); the ice broke and although none were injured, all were immersed as thoroughly as any Baptist or Christian minister could perform the ceremony. James Strain immediately thought of his sister's welfare, and with mingled excitement and brotherly devotion started to take her to his bosom, but put his arms around the wrong girl. Whether the latter became angry, or merely exclaimed, 'This is so sudden!' is not recalled by these ladies."

This episode happened in 1854.

"When Major J. J. Safely was living near the well a short distance from which he constructed a veritable home with many rooms, beautifully grown native woods, which after was burned down he bought out the interest of every stockholder save Mr. W. H. Nye of Rockville. He held out to exploit the place as a summer resort and especially the water, and had he lived, the place would now be much famous. Six acres of ground surrounding the well, comprise the Lodi Well property. For some time Postmaster Marshall Nye of Crawfordsville, with others have been making efforts to organize a company with enough capital to make out of the place a comfortable and attractive health resort. The desire seems about to be realized. Wednesday of last week a noted company visited the place and this is what the Crawfordsville Journal says of the meeting: 'Last Wednesday Mr. Nye and a few railroad men and eastern capitalists met at Silverwood and organized a stock company which proposes to make Lodi one of the most attractive resorts to be found anywhere in the county. The party consisted of Thomas H. Bell of Cleveland, representing the Provident Life Trust company of Philadelphia; Mr. P. Nash, capitalist and real estate dealer of Cleveland; C. D. Whitney of Toledo, general traffic manager of the Cloverleaf; E. L. Brown of Toledo, traveling passenger agent of the Cloverleaf, and Mr. Nye. The organization is to be known as the Silverwood Land and Improvement Company and is incorporated under the laws of South Dakota, with \$500,000 capital stock. Steps will be taken immediately toward improving the ground owned by the company which consists of 364 acres. A landscape gardener will soon visit the place and make plans for beautifying the grounds. A Sanatorium will be erected, lots will be sold for cottages, a Chautauqua assembly will

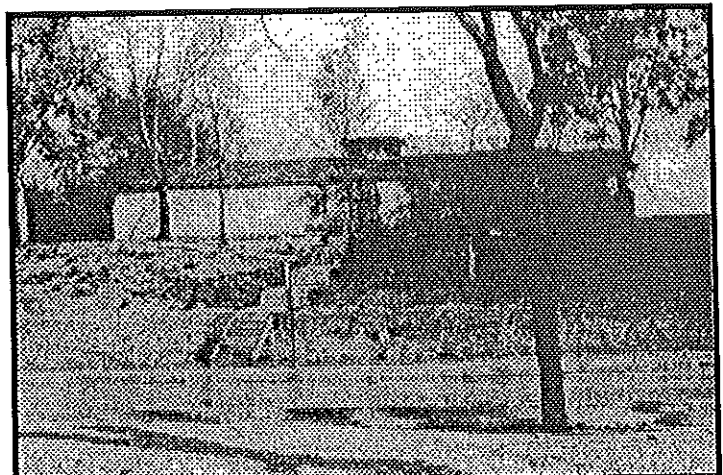
be arranged and religious and other organizations will be encouraged to meet there. The water of the famous Lodi well which flows at the rate of 75,000 barrels per day will be used to the utmost in swimming pool and private baths. An electric light plant will be constructed. It will not be possible to get ready for business of a large scale this season, but by next summer the company will be ready to accommodate the largest crowds that will come."

The next description of the progress of the "Thomas Well: was in the Rockville Republican on August 16, 1905:

"LODI MINERAL WELL. It was Developed While Indiana Citizens were Hunting Oil. In an article on the probabilities of Indiana oil, the search for which began as far back as 1865, the Crawfordsville Journal has the following about the fine artesian well at Lodi, which will no doubt be read with interest by many in this county: 'In Fountain county about 40 miles from Terre Haute, is one of the finest artesian wells in the state. It is known as the Lodi well, so called from a nearby village of that name. It is about 1,200 feet deep and flows a stream four inches in diameter eight feet above the ground 75,000 barrels a day of water said to possess valuable medicinal qualities. Lodi water has an established local reputation and those who know it say it would justify a sanitarium better than some more famous waters. The well is a result of boring for oil made 40 years ago. In the winter of 1864-65 a company was organized to bore for oil near Terre Haute. That was before anything was known of Trenton rock in Indiana, and the real oil-bearing region of this state had not been discovered. This company went by surface indication. Its article of incorporation were filed in March 1865. Among the incorporators were Judge A. L. Roach, of Indianapolis, a well known lawyers of that day; S. C. Wilson of Crawfordsville; James W. Black of Terre Haute; John Collett, afterwards state geologist, and his brother Joseph; Joseph E. McDonald, former United States senator; William H. Nye of Rockville; and others to the number fifteen. They put in \$1,000 (4,500 shares) each and organized with a capital stock of \$15,000. After prospecting over a considerable part of Vigo and Fountain counties (also Parke county) they finally decided to sink a well where the 'surface indications' were thought to be promising. They sank their well and their money, too. At a depth of several hundred feet they struck a strong vein of salt water, and thought of establishing salt works. Abandoning that idea, they went deeper, but got only a fair show of oil, for there is an undeveloped oil field in the western part of the state. This well is now principally owned by Mrs. J. J. Safely, an aunt of Marshal M. Nye of this city. She was the wife of Col. J. J. Safely who at the time of his death was making extensive preparations to improve the Lodi well. He had built one of the finest homes in western Indiana.

This dwelling afterwards caught fire and was burned to the ground. The water from this well is equal to or superior to any mineral water in the state and it is strange that a sanitarium has not been built there long before this time. It was more than 20 years after the boring of the Lodi well before oil was finally discovered in paying quantities in Indiana.____"

As I mentioned before the old Safely home was in "my opinion" used for guests at the Lodi Well Park, instead of a Hotel. All the information shown thus far as recorded in the newspapers, deeds, etc. has not shown that there was a hotel there, from 1905 back to the park's beginning. By the early 1920s Lodi Park was still thriving. Its management named the place "Lodi Mineral Water Sanitorium Company." An example is the July 4th, 1921 event at the park, the opening of the new pleasure and health resort. Estimates of the crowd present that day was 5,000 to 7,000 persons as recorded by the Cayuga Herald, and "taxed the capacity of the golf field with automobiles up to the edge of the baseball grounds. The big swimming pool was alive with people, and bathers swamped the place from early morning till late into the night. The pool was constructed of concrete, measuring 50 feet wide and 150 feet in length. A large bath house nearby gave bathers an opportunity to secure bathing suits. The "Red Man" bank of Covington furnished music during the day and a dance orchestra from Danville, IL, played during the evening for dancers. A game of baseball between Kingman and Cayuga furnished the afternoon pleasure with Cayuga's winning score of 6 to 2. Wm. J. Wright of Indianapolis, one of the leading promoters of the Company, addressed the crowd, then later a swimming match was indulged in at the pool for a cash prize. At this time a large dance floor was under construction, but wasn't finished for the opening day. Mayor Claude Madden of Danville, Illinois has all the concession rights of the resort." By this time Mary F. Safely was living at her home in Rockville, with



This bath house and a swimming pool was built in 1921 in Lodi Park. Historic photo

the company running the resort.

In July of 1922, Judge West of the Montgomery county court rendered a decision in the case of Ralph Darling against the Lodi Mineral Springs Company. He gave Mr. Darling a judgment for \$2,300 and ordered the receiver to sell the leasehold and all the buildings to satisfy the judgment. Mr. Darling furnished most of the material which went into the buildings and upon failure to pay, he filed a mechanics lien against them.

Mrs. Safely leased to the company erecting the buildings. Several thousands of dollars raised by stock salesmen were put into this venture. These investors, it was said "stand an excellent change of losing practically of of their money." I didn't look into the Montgomery county records to see the outcome of this decision but Fountain county deeds show Mary F. Safely selling the resort to her nephew William H. Nye, Jr., June 11, 1923, a Quick Claim Deed for \$1.00 was made.

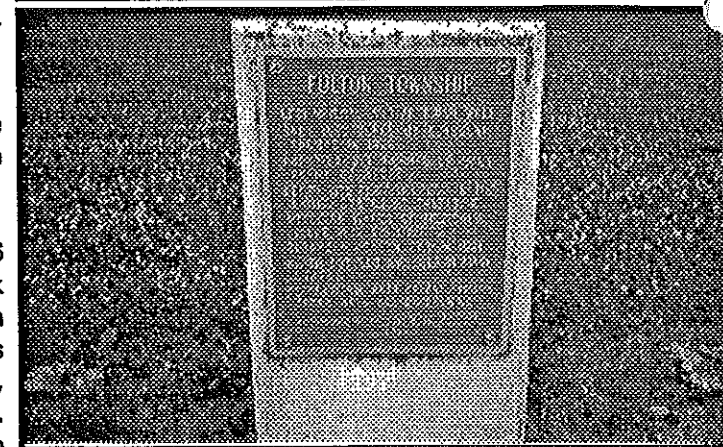
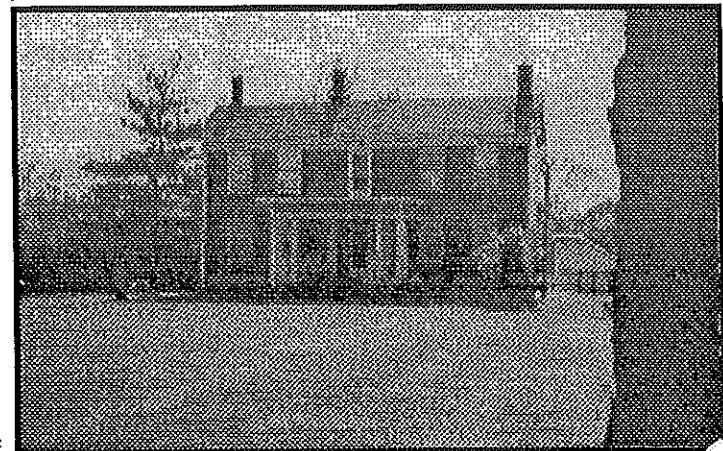
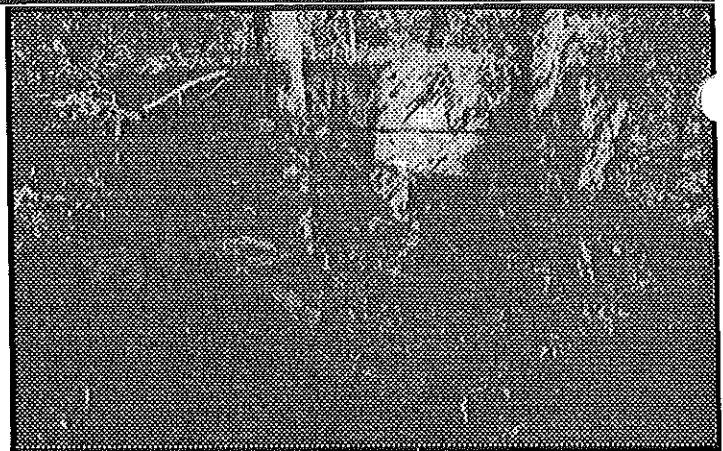
The Rockville Tribune had this to say,
 " Wm. H. Nye, manager of Lodi Park, as noted in the Attica Tribune, has installed an extensive outlay of play ground devices for the young children as well as the old, among them being slides, swings, barrel on the bar, horse shoe courts, a new and interesting game called "Battle Ball" and many other devices in the way of amusement for his patrons. Also plenty of new tables for the convenience of picnickers."

Mary F. Safely died September 7, 1928 at the age of 88 in her home in Rockville. This was the old Nye homestead where she was born.

On May 14, 1931, Mr. Nye sold the resort of 6 acres with the artesian well to Samuel Levin of Cook County, Illinois. Mr. Levin added a roller skating pavilion with a lighting system to make the pool and grounds enjoyable at night. For approximately 100 years, "Thomas Well" provided activities for the general public. Swimming, ball games, horse shoe contests, coon

Samuel Levin built this skating rink in Lodi Park in 1931.

Historic photo



Top: "Thomas Well; or Lodi Well was a famous salt well and resort. It is now owned by Phil Sams. Photo by Charles Davis

Center: This home was built in the 1860s by Cale Waterman, who ran a business of the canal at Lodi and had the town named for him. The marker is the dark area on the right. Photo by C. Davis

Bottom: This marker commemorates the Lodi Well. It reads:

FULTON TOWNSHIP
LODI MINERAL AND ARTESIAN WELL. SALT DISCOVERED BY NORBOURN THOMAS IN 1829. CAPACITY: 200 BUSHEL OF SALT EVERY 24 HOURS. DEPTH: 1,135 FEET - DEEPEST IN THE UNITED STATES AT THAT TIME. ARTESIAN WATER OF MEDICINAL VALUE WAS DISCOVERED. BECAME HEALTH SPA IN 1921. WATER BOTTLED AND SOLD YEAR AFTER WELL CEASED FLOWING.

FOUNTAIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1976

Photo by Bob Schmidt

chases, dancing, golf, and drinking the "healing" waters at Benson's Basin. of the well continued until the well was accidentally plugged by a man, who was re-drilling the well. His drill bit broke off and couldn't be retrieved. This stopped the water flow. No attempt was made to drill a new well.

A special note should be given here from the Rockville Tribune of June 10, 1897. There is a lost cemetery at the Lodi Well property that was called the Baker Cemetery. Nothing marks the area where the cemetery was located.

While researching "Thomas Well" I found several articles connecting the Wabash & Erie Canal to the general area nearby. The Rockville Tribune on April 13, 1893 said:

"Charles Clickener while exploring a sand bank above and overlooking the old Wabash and Erie Canal, found some English sovereigns coined during the reign of George IV, worth about \$5.00 each, but as rare coins are very valuable, as most of the coins of the above reign were re-coined."

Just west of the Safely resort was the Silver Island Park. It was situated on the south east fraction of Section 34 on the land of David Shirk, who served in the 21st Indiana during the Civil War. This park was on the high land, just above the Norbourn Thomas Ferry across the Wabash river. It had a view far up and down the Wabash river and westward across the fertile bottoms of Cayuga. This resort offered fishing, hunting and boat riding. Nearby was the largest coal mining works, at this time period in this part of the country, called the Blue Goose. Another large coal mine operated nearby was the Mud Hen.

Many occasions were held at Lodi Park, such as the reunion of Co. A 31st Regt. on September 1, 1897. This is the Civil War unit I earlier wrote about that had a huge send off at Montezuma on the Wabash & Erie Canal

The Canal Society of Indiana saw the "swale" between Whitestown and Lodi during its "Canal Connections" tour of Parke County in March 2004. This is a swampy area on the east side of the Wabash river where the Wabash apparently once flowed before changing its course. An article appeared in the Rockville Tribune about this swale on August 25, 1897:

"Cale W. Waterman and others have been making a survey thru the swale at this place, Waterman, the object in view being to get a ditch across the swamp along the old canal which would be a great benefit."

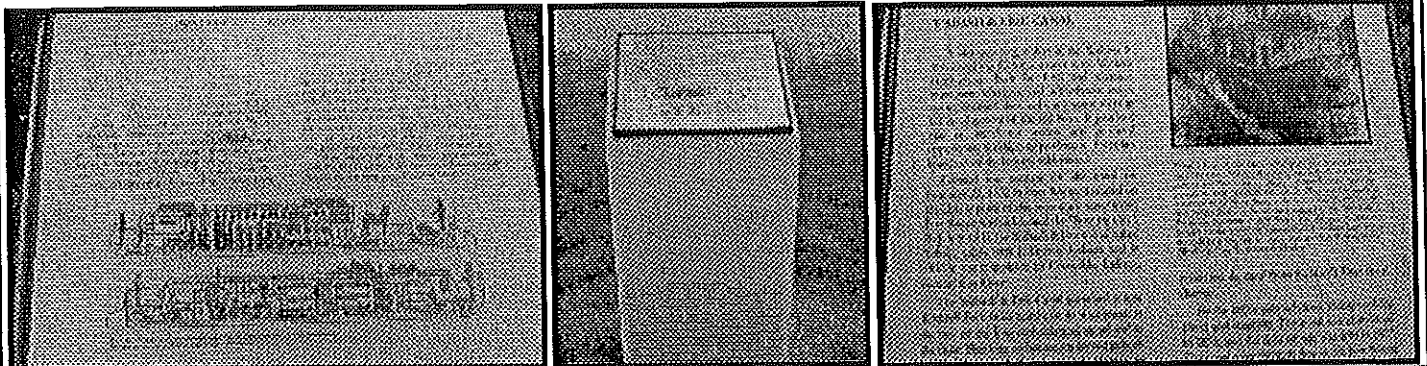
This area along the canal and Thomas Well hold many memories for me, Charles Davis. I walked across this swamp back in 1966 to view the coal mine, which was still in operation at that time. I sank up nearly to my knees in places. There was a sucking sound with each foot pulling up at a time. My shoes and pants were black as coal like a thick mud.

I remember going to the old skating rink in 1967, just before I went to Viet Nam with Dennis Boyd, my friend. This is where I "tried" to learn to roller skate. Also I was one of the last ones to skate across that tired old floor before it was closed down forever. The rink floor was like the old hand washboard going around the turns from the wear of the skates, but boy it was fun! All this was torn down and a new home built there by Richard Bush, ending a wonderful era.

In 1976, a memorial commemorating the Lodi well was placed on the front lawn of the nearby "Waterman House," then owned by Ralph Wilson. Mr. Harvey lives there now. From shipping salt from the well on the Wabash & Erie Canal to a swimming pool in "the good old days," "Thomas Well" made its mark in history and on the many thousands that visited it, including myself.

ROCKHILL PARK W & E CANAL MARKERS

The Wabash & Erie Canal markers for which Tom Castaldi, CSI advisory council and Allen County Historian, wrote the text are now installed atop the concrete pillars along the trail in Rockhill Park in Fort Wayne, Indiana. They include a cut-away views of a freight boat and a passenger boat and a picture of a canal boat, "The Col. Humphrey." Photos by Bob Schmidt



CANAWLERS AT REST

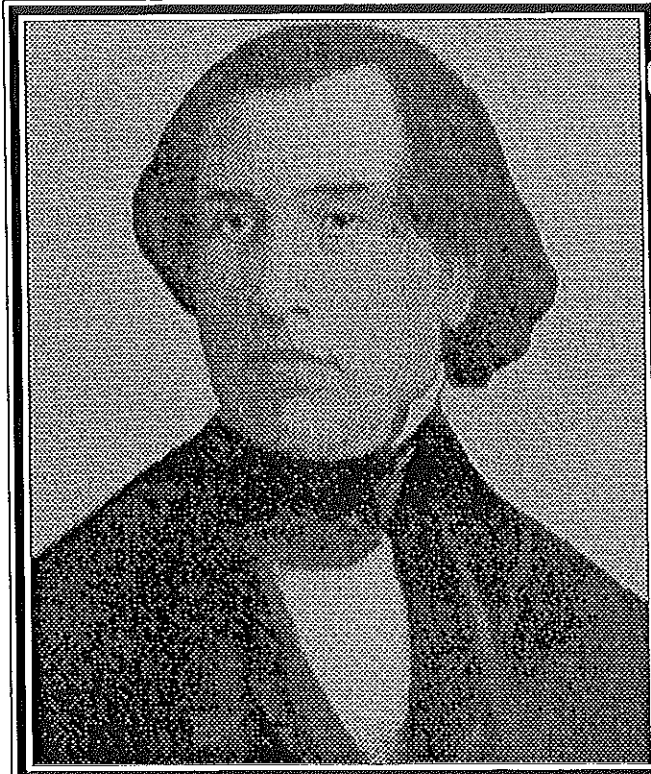
GOVERNOR JAMES WHITCOMB

b. December 1, 1795

d. October 4, 1852

By Sue Simerman

Portrait from Indiana 1930. Indianapolis, IN/The Board of Public Printing. 1930.



James Whitcomb was born December 1, 1795 near Windsor, Vermont, which is located on the Connecticut River. His father moved the family and settled on a farm near Cincinnati, Ohio, when James was quite young.

As a young boy James had a thirst for knowledge. He would borrow books and read as much as possible while helping on the farm and attending school on an irregular basis. He managed to educate himself to the point he could go to Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky. By teaching during vacation breaks he was able to pay for tuition.

James continued his education by studying law. He was admitted to the bar at Fayette county, Kentucky in 1822.

In 1824 James settled in Bloomington, Indiana, where he commenced a law practice and became well respected. He was the prosecuting attorney for Monroe county, Indiana, from 1826 to 1829, having been appointed by Indiana Governor James B. Ray (Indiana's 4th governor 1825-1831). This allowed him to travel many miles around Indiana and to meet people of note.

James Whitcomb was elected to the Indiana state senate in 1830-1831 and re-elected in 1833. He served on the judiciary committee and was very influential.

President Andrew Jackson appointed James

Commissioner of the General Land Office and he served in this position from 1836 to 1841. He learned Spanish and French so he would be able to read the old land grants.

James' next move was to Terre Haute, Indiana. There he resumed his law practice and wrote a pamphlet, "Facts for the People," in 1843. It was a highly recognized argument against a protective tariff.

Also in 1843 James was nominated for governor of Indiana at the Democratic State Convention. He defeated incumbent Governor Samuel Bigger (Indiana's seventh governor 1840-1843) by a majority vote of 2,013. He was re-elected for a second term by defeating his Whig opponent Joseph G. Marshall.

Indiana was deep in debt during Governor Whitcomb's term of office. He pointed out in a message December 2, 1845 that more than two thirds of the state tax paid by the people was given to the payment of public debt. This debt was incurred by the extensive public works under the Internal Improvements Act of 1836. The commissioners were empowered to borrow 10 million dollars for 25 years.

On the first Monday in December 1845 Governor Whitcomb asked for a survey for the southern division of the Wabash and Erie Canal. This division extended from Terre Haute to Evansville, Indiana. The act was approved on January 19, 1846.

Burdened with financial difficulties, the governor also had to cope with war. On May 13, 1846, the U. S. declared war on Mexico. Five regiments of infantry were organized in Indiana. The son of Governor David Wallace (Indiana's sixth governor 1837-1845) was studying law and turned away from his books to form a group of Marion county volunteers. First Lieutenant Lew Wallace and his company heard an address from Governor Whitcomb before getting into farm wagons and going to Edinburgh to continue their journey by rail.

The year 1847 held much in store for Governor Whitcomb. Indianapolis became an official city in February and later, on October first, the Madison Railroad had its last spike driven and a great celebration ensued. A circus was in Indianapolis at the time and its band and bugler led the governor through the streets. He gave an empowering speech from the train roof. There was boisterous activity and fireworks. This probably seemed an extreme expenditure to him since he once reproved the state auditor for wasting a match on a cigar instead of lighting it at the grate fire. But these things did not compare to the importance of his setting in motion things to help solve the state's financial problems.

Indiana had hope and an outlook that things would improve financially. The bondholders of the Wabash and Erie Canal hired attorney Charles Butler of New York to represent them. After hearing Butler's suggestion to surrender the canal with unsold land and tolls to the bondholders as part payment of the debt Governor Whitcomb recommended to the state legislature that it be passed. This would pay for one-half the existing debt and the rest would be paid by the issuance of bonds at a lower rate of interest. The "Butler Bills" were passed and on July 31, 1847, the Wabash and Erie Canal was handed over to the Board of Trustees—Charles Butler of New York City, Thomas H. Blake of Terre Haute, Indiana, and Nathan B. Palmer, who was appointed later during the recess of the Legislature. (See document in the next column). This was something to be excited about after the years of concern and worry over the heavy debt of the state. Although Governor Whitcomb and the legislature were a little slow at deciding how to decrease the debt, he later was likened to Moses because he helped to lead Indiana out of financial ruin.

The canal "trustees promptly made several appointments. (Jesse Lynch) Williams was named the Chief Engineer of the canal and his brother-in-law, William J. Ball of Terre Haute, was selected as Resident Engineer. At Blake's urging, the canal headquarters was moved to Terre Haute; Blake became the Resident Trustee. Butler returned to New York where he was a liaison man for the creditors. Blake's total dedication to

THE STATE OF INDIANA

To all to whom these presents shall concern send Greeting.

WHEREAS the General Assembly of the said State at their session commenced on the first Monday of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five did pass a certain act, entitled "An Act to provide for the funded debt of the State of Indiana, and for the completion of the Wabash & Erie Canal to Evansville: which said Act was approved by James Whitcomb, Governor of the said State, on the nineteenth day of January eighteen hundred and forty-six reference being thereunto had will more fully appear.

AND WHEREAS the General Assembly of the said State, at their session commenced on the first Monday of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, did pass a certain other Act, entitled "An Act supplementary to an "Act to provide for the funded debt of the State of Indiana, and for the completion of the Wabash & Erie Canal to Evansville, approved January the nineteenth eighteen hundred and forty-six" which said last mentioned act was approved by James Whitcomb, Governor of the said State, on the 27th day of January one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, reference being thereto had will more fully appear.

AND WHEREAS the Bonds of the said State of Indiana referred to and contemplated in and by the aforesaid acts of the said General Assembly of more than five millions five hundred and forty-five thousand dollars of principal exclusive of interest, have been surrendered for exchange and cancellation as contemplated by the said acts and the holders of not less than four millions of dollars of said Bonds exclusive of interest, have subscribed twenty per cent on said amount, prior to the date of these presents, and notice thereof has been given to the Governor of the said State.

AND WHEREAS the subscribers aforesaid towards the completion of the said canal in the said acts mentioned, have in pursuance of the said acts, and in accordance with the provisions of the same elected Charles Butler of the City of New York and Thomas H. Blake two discreet persons and Trustees both of whom are citizens of the United States one of them towit Thomas H. Blake is a citizen and resident of the State of Indiana.

AND WHEREAS notice of the said election together with a copy of the said subscription to the said canal was given to James Whitcomb Governor of the said State on or about the twenty-second day of May last: and the said Governor in pursuance and by virtue of the said acts, did thereupon on the ninth day of June A. D. eighteen hundred and forty-seven, during the recess of the Legislature of said State appoint Nathan B. Palmer a citizen of the State of Indiana as a third discreet person to act as Trustee with the said Charles Butler and Thomas H. Blake and to constitute with them a Board to be known by the style and description of "The Board of

his work is well documented. In addition to managing daily affairs and traveling to construction sites around the state (the closest of which was about 40 miles), he wrote detailed letters to Butler in New York several times a week" according to a CSI canal tour publication by Michael B. McCormick.

Under Blake's supervision, the Wabash and Erie Canal was pushed forward as rapidly as possible. It reached Terre Haute from Coal Creek in October, 1849. This was cause for celebration. A cannon boomed, a excursion trip was made down the canal, a band played, and a banquet was held at the Prairie House. Then floods and cholera caused such delays that the canal was not completed to Evansville until the spring of 1853. It was the longest canal every built in the United States.

However, "from the viewpoint of the bondholders to whom it was deeded, the canal proved to be a 'white elephant.' ...they lost heavily. In the twenty-seven years of their control, the expenditures for construction, repairs, and other incidents amounted to more than \$8,000,000. The receipts amounted to less than \$5,500,000.

It was in James' house that the Raper Commandery of the Freemasons was organized and it held its meetings there for a while. James reached the highest rank of York Rite Masons on May 20, 1848. He was the first man to be knighted in Indiana.

As a man that greatly understood the need for education, Governor Whitcomb pushed for the need of having schools for everyone. He signed the Common School Bill on January 17, 1849. He was also instrumental in creating benevolent institutions; one for the mentally ill and another for the education of the deaf and blind.

In 1849 James Whitcomb resigned as Indiana's governor when he was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate. He began serving in this capacity on March 4, 1849 and continued until his death in 1852. In the Senate he was chairman for the Commission on Claims and also on the Commission on Public Buildings.

Having married late in life, James' only daughter, Martha, was only 5 years old upon his death. She later married Claude Matthews on January 1, 1868. Matthews also was a politician. He served in the Indiana legislature, was secretary of state, and was elected Indiana's twenty-second governor in 1892.

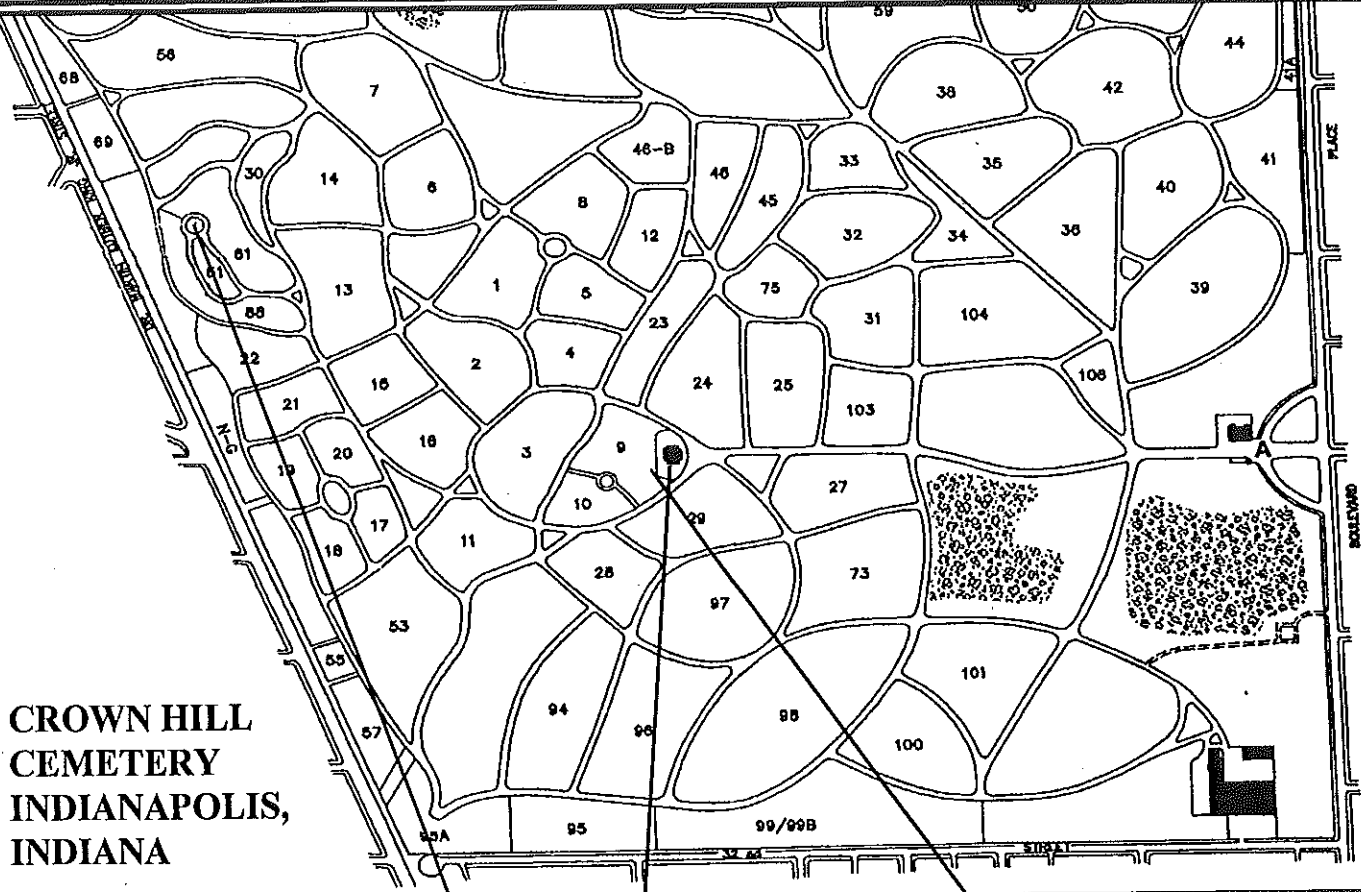
James Whitcomb died in New York City on October 4, 1852, having been in poor health for a long time. His body was returned to Indiana for burial at Greenlawn Cemetery in Indianapolis. Forty years later his

Trustees of the Wabash & Erie Canal" which said Board is in and by the said acts made and created a body politic and corporate by the name and style aforesaid.

AND WHEREAS the said three Trustees have before entering on their duties, each taken the oath required by the said acts, and have also each of them, given bond with surety, which has been approved by the Governor in the penal sum of one hundred thousand dollars conditioned as is required by the said acts.

AND WHEREAS the said Governor is satisfied from proper evidence submitted to him that Bonds to the amount of more than five millions, five hundred and forty-five thousand dollars exclusive of interest have been surrendered for exchange and cancellation, and are in the hands of the agent of the State for that purpose and that five percent on certain of the said Bonds, amounting exclusive of interest to more than four millions of dollars has been paid over by the said subscribers to the said Charles Butler and Thomas H. Blake the two Trustees elected by them as herein before mentioned, as provided and required in and by the staid acts.

NOW THEREFORE KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the State of Indiana, in consideration of the premises and in pursuance of the provisions of the said acts, and in fulfillment of the pledge therein given by the said State, and in consideration also of one dollar to the said State in hand paid by the said "The Board of Trustees of the Wabash & Erie Canal" hath given, granted, bargained, sold, conveyed, confirmed, as signed and transferred and doth by these presents give, grant bargain, sell, convey, confirm, assign and transfer unto the said "The Board of Trustees of the Wabash & Erie Canal" their successors and assigns forever, upon the terms and conditions in said acts named, the bed of the Wabash and Erie Canal and its extension by whatever other name the same may now be designated, finished and to be finished from the Ohio State Line to Evansville including its banks, margins, tow paths, side cuts, feeders, basins, right-of-way, lots dams, water power, and structures and all materials provided or collected for its construction, and all the property, right, title and interest of the State in and to the same, and all its appurtenances AND ALSO ALL THE LAND AND LOTS (NOT SOLD OR DISPOSED OF) HERETOFORE GIVEN, GRANTED, OR DONATED, BY THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE STATE TO AID IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAID CANAL OR ANY PART OF IT OR WHICH MAY HEREAFTER BY ACQUIRED UNDER OR BY REASON OF ANY EXISTING GRANT, and all moneys due and to grow due and remaining unpaid on account of any sale or sales heretofore made of any canal lands so donated, and all monied due or to grow due on account of any existing leases or any waterpower or other privilege on said canal its sidecuts, feeders, basin, or other appurtenances. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the said "The Board of Trustees of the Wabash & Erie Canal" and to their successors and assigns forever, as



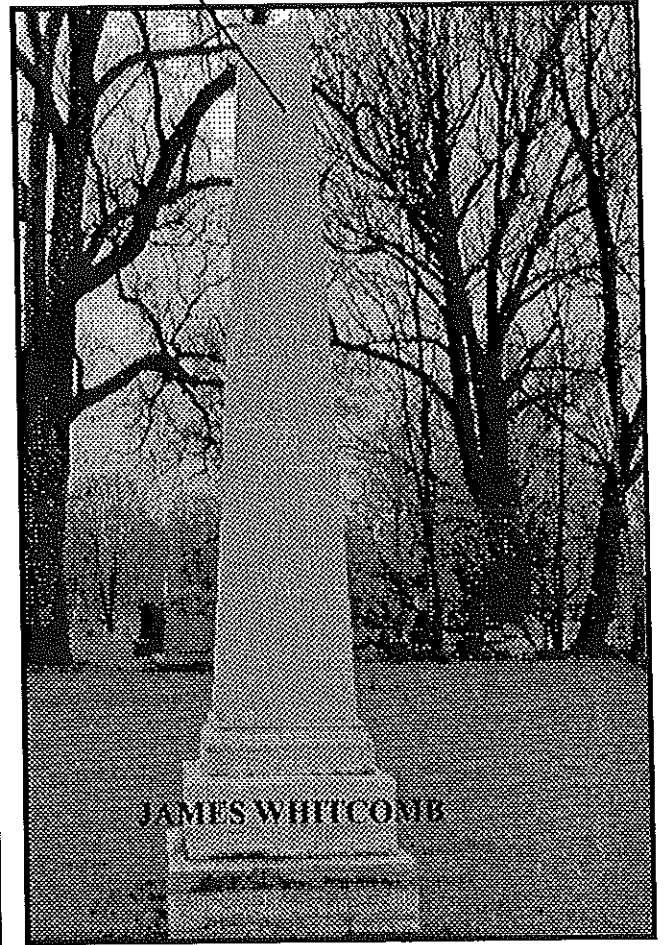
**CROWN HILL
CEMETERY
INDIANAPOLIS,
INDIANA**

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

Photos by Sue Simerman



GOthic CHAPEL



JAMES WHITCOMB

body was re-interred at Crown Hill Cemetery at 700 W. 38th Street in Indianapolis, IN. He is buried in Section 9 Lot 38. His grave is behind the Gothic chapel near the marker for Gov. Oliver Morton (Indiana's fourteenth governor 1864-1867.) His obelisk marker is difficult to read, but two things stand out; James Whitcomb and self taught. I could read b 1795 - self taught - at ___ Ind - general land office - Gov of In - died Oct 1852 - at the city of N York - while ___ state

At the time of his death in 1852, James was vice-president of the American Bible Society to which he donated his wealth. He gave his extensive library to De Pauw University at Greencastle, IN.

James Whitcomb influenced many lives and held the respect of many individuals as seen by the following:

In 1902 a celebration took place marking the completion of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis. It is a stone shaft of Indiana limestone rising 284 feet with a statue of Victory at the top. On the outer area of the plaza are four subordinate bronze statues of men who represent four periods of Indiana history. They are George Rogers Clark, Wm. Henry Harrison, Oliver P. Morton and James Whitcomb. Gov. Whitcomb's statue is for the time that Indiana was involved with the Mexican War. It is at the south west edge of Monument Circle. The bronze statue was done by John H. Mahoney, an Indiana resident. The monument was dedicated on May 15 of that year with Governor Winfield T. Durbin (Indiana's twenty-fourth governor 1900-1904) presiding. Banners were flown, speeches given and music played. On the platform with Governor Durbin was the nationally known and acclaimed Indiana poet, James Whitcomb Riley (1849-1916).

Reuben Riley, a lawyer who was elected to the state legislature in 1844, admired and respected James Whitcomb to the extent that he named his third child in his honor. James Whitcomb Riley is buried beneath a columned Grecian memorial on a high hilltop in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Thomas A. Hendricks (Indiana's sixteenth governor from 1873-1877) said the following of James Whitcomb, "Governor Whitcomb.....declared what he believed to be the truth, and trusted to its influence upon men's minds to bring them into common action. He led legislators because it was safest for them to follow. His manner was grave and serious, his voice was full and musical, and his delivery almost without gesture."

Paul Fatout in his book Indiana Canals describes James as follows:

"James Whitcomb, an accomplished lawyer, eloquent speaker, master of French and Spanish, and

fully as the said State can or could be, subject nevertheless to all the existing rights and equities against the State on account of the same or any part thereof, or liabilities of the State growing out of or in relation thereto. UPON TRUST however to hold and apply the said herein above granted and described premises and the tolls and revenues of the said canal and the proceeds and produce of the said lands sold and unsold after first defraying thereout all needful and proper expenditures for repairs attendance and other necessary things appertaining thereto in security and for the uses and purposes particularly declared expressed and set forth in the said several acts of the said General Assembly as by reference to the same will fully and at large appear.

AND IT IS HEREBY declared and provided and these presents are executor and delivered by the said State of Indiana and accepted by the said "The Board of Trustees of the Wabash and Erie Canal", with this express intent, and upon these express conditions, that is to say that these presents, and the grant, conveyance and assignment herein and hereby made, and everything herein contains are designed and intended to the end and for the purpose of fulfilling the directions and requirements of the said several acts of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana and upon the terms and conditions therein set forth, according to the force and effect, true intent and meaning of the said several acts, as the same are now in force; and that all and singular the provisions of the said acts, as the same are now in force, touching and concerning the nature, continuance and termination of the trusts herein before declared and set forth, the powers, duties, proceedings and liabilities of the said Trustees; the termination of the offices of the said Trustees and the appointment of new Trustees; the rights, privileges and liabilities of the subscribers in the said acts mentioned, the time to be allowed for the completion of the said canal, the application of the tolls and revenues thereof and of the proceeds of the canal lands in the said Acts mentioned, the powers and rights reserved by the said State of Indiana and all other the provisions of the said several acts as the same are now in force, are to be deemed and taken and are hereby declared to be, a part of these presents with the like force and effect as if the same were herein particularly recited and incorporated, according to the true intent and meaning of the said several provisions.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the said James Whitcomb Governor of the State of Indiana has caused these presents executed in triplicate to be made patent and the great seal of the State to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at Indianapolis, in the State this 31st day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

(STATE SEAL) Jas. Whitcomb, By the Governor,
Jno. H. Thompson, Secretary of State.

skillful amateur violinist. A social being, he became known for elaborate entertainments in the governor's mansion, his urbane conviviality aided by distinguished bearing, strong features and black hair in ringlets to his shoulders...A marked idiosyncrasy was a habit of taking snuff according to a meticulous ritual. A satirical observer described such precise tappings of the snuff box, such nice pouncings with thumb and forefinger, such melodious snuffles that his manner when in full costume and under the eye of magnates was equal to Lord Chamberlain's - it made you sneeze to witness it...Another eccentricity was concern for petty economies, like smoking a cigar to the ultimate stub by sticking a pin through it."

STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE

I, J. O. Henderson, Auditor of State of the State of Indiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and complete copy of Letters Patent executed and issued on the 31st day of July, 1847, by the State of Indiana to the Board of Trustees of the Wabash & Erie Canal as the same appears from the original said Letters Patent now on file in my office and of which I am the legal custodian.

(SEAL) Witness my hand and official seal, at the city of Indianapolis the 23rd day of July, 1892.

J. O Henderson (signature)
Auditor of State.

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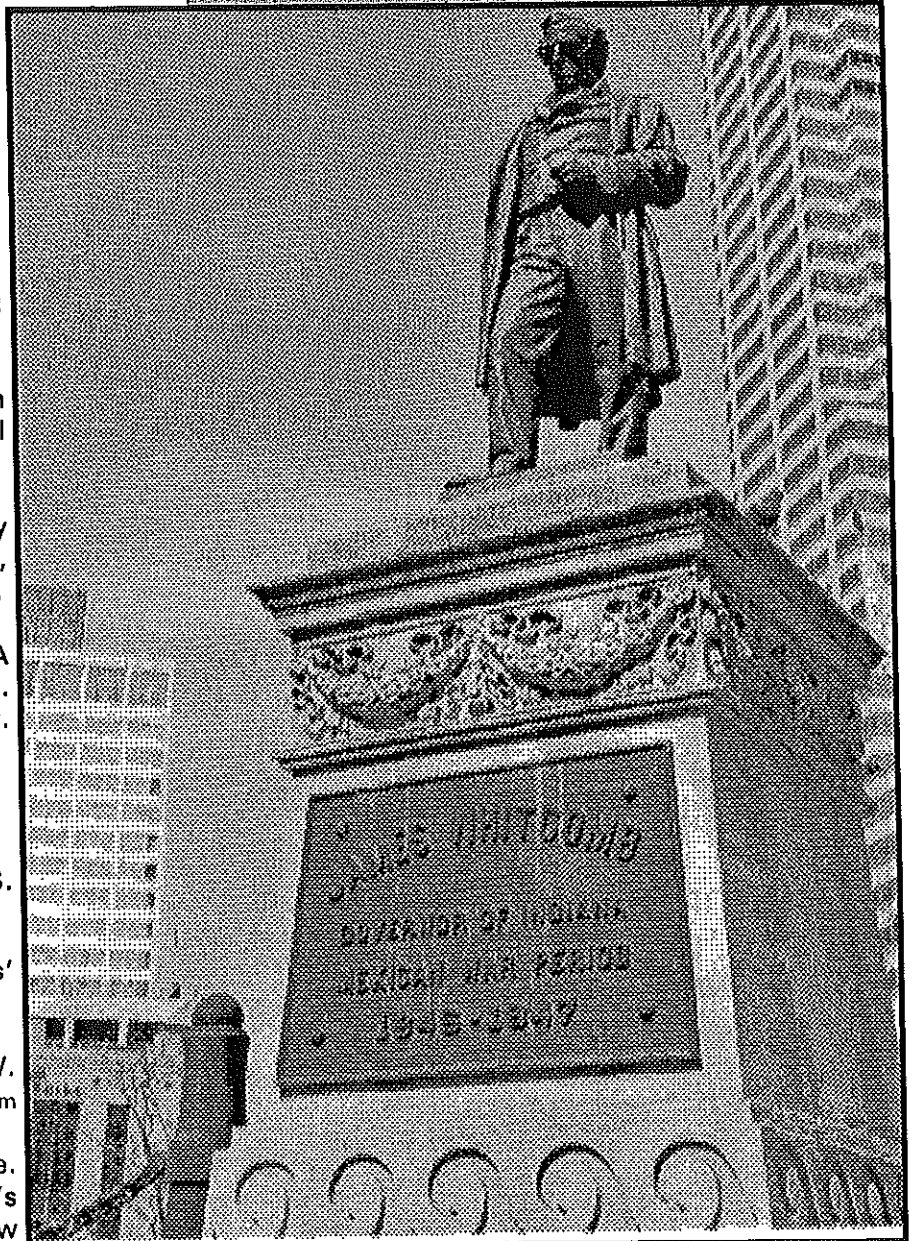
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Statue of James Whitcomb at the Soldiers & Sailors Monument in Indianapolis, Indiana, was erected for his service as Indiana's first war governor.

Photo by Lynette Kross

ADKINS FINDS OLD NEWSPAPER

While taking up the old linoleum on his back porch on September 24, 2005, Kreig Adkins, past CSI director, found a section that had been lined with newspaper before the flooring was installed. The newspaper was tacked to the floor and in perfect condition. Besides a 1927 Indianapolis Star, there was a Peru Tribune dated Monday June 13, 1927, which carried the following article about the Wabash & Erie Canal in Peru, Indiana:

Farms Blotting Out Traces Of Old Canal

A thing of historical importance to Peru and Miami county, and of civic interest to Peru citizens, is the grass grown bed of the old Wabash and Erie Canal, which in days gone by was an important waterway connecting Peru with Toledo, Ohio, and Evansville, Indiana. Although it has been long since the canal was abandoned, its bed is plainly visible in many places.

Parts of the bed have been filled to make farmlands and foundations for homes, and nature has done her part in depositing earth and stones in the hole, so that now the old canal is merely a roadside ditch. Where it is most plainly to be seen is bordering the Paw-Paw Pike, east of Peru, directly beyond Main street. Even the towpath at some places can be discovered.

Peru people and those who live in towns in Indiana and Ohio, which border the canal, give never a thought to the significance of the rather large and unnatural ditch beside the road and most of them upon being questioned would probably reveal very little about its history.

When was the canal built, and why? When was it abandoned, and why? How long was it, and of what importance was it? Who owns it now?

These and similar questions would puzzle Peru people. Who owns the section of land between the canal and the Wabash river? Does the government have any direct charge over the canal lands?

Becomes Farmland

Inquiring, a Tribune reporter found that most of the bed and the sections bordering the canal its entire length are privately owned, with the exception of the sections held either by purchase or by condemnation proceedings by electric railway lines and other interests. When in 1876 the government, represented by a United States marshal, sold the waterway to William Fleming, Peru citizens purchased the ground from Lagro to

Lafayette and later the part which passed through Peru. Time passed, and the canal lands were sold to farmers and companies. Most of the canal land near Peru is owned by farmers, while parts are still owned by citizens of Peru. West of the Kelly Avenue bridge, the land is owned by the Indiana Service Corporation. Sections between the canal and the Wabash, large enough for cultivation, are sold to farmers, while the narrower strips are the properties of those who own the section of the canal adjoining them.

The canal has a most interesting history. In 1827, by an act of congress, strips of land in Indiana and Ohio were granted for the building of the Wabash & Erie Canal, which was to connect the navigable waters of the Wabash river with Lake Erie. A land office was established in Fort Wayne and was later moved to Peru, where it had its headquarters in a building on the northeast corner of Miami and Second streets. At this office canal lands were sold and their sale attracted many immigrants to the border of the new waterway.

Long In Building

When work was begun on the canal in 1832, the progress was slow at first, but after three years it was announced and confidently expected that it would be opened for navigation as far as Peru from Toledo, Ohio, (sic Fort Wayne, IN) on July 4, 1837. Before twelve o'clock of that day, the town was filled with people of the county, to witness the grand display on the occasion. Unfortunately the boats did not arrive. The banks being porous, absorbed the water much faster than was anticipated. The packet boat Indiana, had arrived at the head of the lock about one mile above town, but could not reach the basin because the canal was not sufficiently filled with water to buoy her up. The passengers in the Indiana were forced to leave the boat. They "arrived," some on foot and some in vehicles that came to meet them from Peru.

However, the Indiana was the first boat to make the trip through Peru. The total length of the canal from Toledo to Evansville was 460 miles, 379 miles of which were in Indiana. (sic 468 miles, 380 in Indiana) The canal was of untold benefit. As an example of the effect of the great waterway is the fact that in 1844, the zone of the Maumee and upper Wabash valleys had sent toward Toledo only 5,622 bushels of corn. Five years later the exports from the same region, sent to that port, reached 2,755,149 bushels.



**BALL STATE STUDENTS RESEARCH
WHITEWATER CANAL & FEEDER DAM**

Don Burden and Jacob Morris, graduate students studying historic preservation at Ball State University spent their summer wading in mud, hiking through wild rose bushes, and rummaging through tall weeds, all for the sake of historic preservation. They are completing an internship at the university's Center for Historic Preservation, an outreach arm of Ball State's Department of Architecture and Historic Preservation Graduate Program.

Museum and Historic Sites and by Ball State's Building Better Communities initiative, which strives to spur economic development and improve quality of life in Indiana by applying the university's strengths in applied research and hands-on learning to projects across the state.

NEWS FROM DELPHI

PROGRESS ON THE CANAL "WEED WHACKER"

By Dan McCain

Work continues on reclaiming the recently purchased aquatic weed harvester. The Wabash & Erie Canal Association in Delphi, Indiana, purchased in Wisconsin (at a bargain) a used ailing, floating, mechanical harvester -- much like a farmer's hay-making machine. The metal bottom that carries the harvester had suffered damage and problems with its pontoon

Since May, the young men--along with the center's project coordinator, Susan Lankford--worked on completing historic structures reports (HSRs) on part of the Whitewater Canal and the Laurel Feeder Dam. They studied the length of the canal between the feeder dam and Metamora, including the restored Lock 25 near the Metamora Mill and Locks 26, 27, and 28, which are in a state of ruins.

The team looked for evidence of the canal's original path, original towpaths and banks, and the remains of any structures that historically stood along the canal. The end reports, which will be used by the staff of the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site and the Indiana Division of State Museum and Historic Sites, will include the histories of the canal and feeder dam, condition assessments, measured drawings, maintenance plans, options for interpretation, options for restoration, and contemporary and historical photographs.

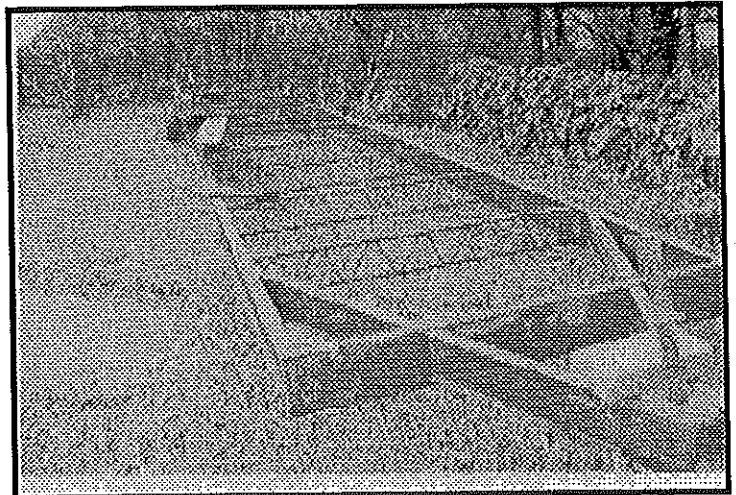
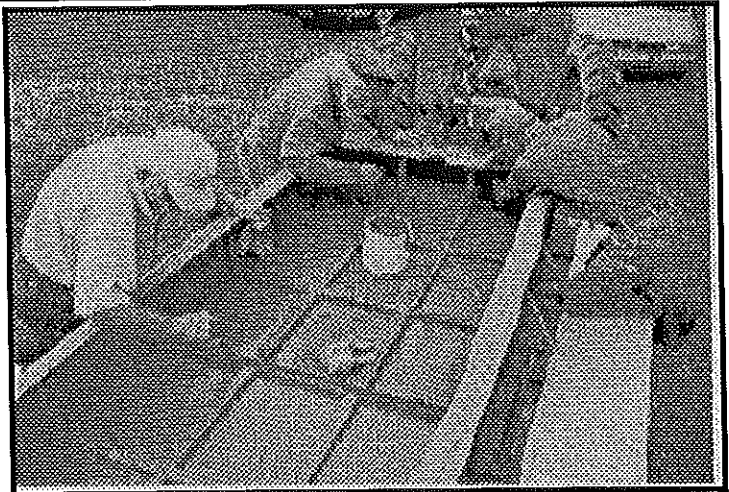
Burden, Morris, and Lankford photographed and measured the Laurel Feeder Dam. They took field notes for a condition assessment of the structure.

When asked about the project, Morris said, ".....project is a great opportunity to mix hands-on field-work and rigorous historical research....We meet unique and interesting people from across the state..."

Burden said, ".....has been a unique and exciting experience; the Whitewater is one of the better-preserved canals from the 1830s and 1840s. Surveys of the existing lock structures have yielded valuable information about the nature of their construction.....we have made a few new discoveries about the processes employed during the construction period of the Whitewater Canal."

The project was funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund, and administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Additional funding for the project was provided by the Indiana State

1. Painting the bottom of the "Weed Whacker"
 2. The mobile home trailer base
- Photos by Dan McCain



barge. When new this unit cost considerable money and the crafty volunteers at Canal Park believed they could resurrect its utility.

Taking important parts from one of the pontoon pleasure boats that were donated to the Canal last fall, these volunteers are carefully stripping down the harvester's old barge and cutting away the damaged portion. With some caucusing of ideas and lots of "elbow grease," these men have begun work from the underneath side of the old floatation section. They cut through the metal walls of the air chambers and removed the failing "foam" that had been applied by the former owner.

After removing the old foam in sections (sometimes with a chain saw), the metal skin was cleaned and painted. Soon the salvaged aluminum (round) pontoons from one of the donated boats will be retrofitted onto the barge and then it will be turned over. Later the mechanical portion of the harvester, including the propulsion source (outrigger paddle wheels), will be reinstalled.

To make a trailer to haul and launch this giant "weed whacker," an old frame from a mobile home was secured. The length and width will both be altered and the tandem wheels will remain. It is early yet to predict the full impact of this enterprise, but looking at the ingenuity of these volunteers makes one impressed with their skills, knowledge and resourcefulness. Much less than \$1,000 will be needed to make this a useful tool -- saving about \$20,000 that dealer repairs might have cost.

The one mile section of re-watered Wabash & Erie Canal alongside Canal Park needs removal of the "wads" of algae and water weeds to make it useful for the coming of a "Replica Canal Boat" in a year or two. With some luck this floating "miracle" will be on the historic waterway this fall for a trial run.

CANAL HIT WITH A "BIT OF CLASS"

By Dan McCain

Some Sunday afternoons this past fall offered carriage events at Canal Park in Delphi. Marble Moore and her three daughters came to Delphi to practice their horsemanship. Pulled by a pair of draft horses a beautiful two-seated, white carriage was pulled through the streets and parks of Delphi with the sisters at the reins. The team even seemed right at home at the local McDonald's restaurant as they "bellied up" to the order station and waited for everyone's treats to be picked up at the take-out window.



Visitors view the old Wabash & Erie Canal in Delphi, IN, for a white horse-drawn carriage. Photo by Dan McCain

Marilyn Moore owns these horses and they seem quite obedient even when her two daughters Audrey and Charlene call out commands. You might say they are in training for towing the replica canal boat that is in the planning stage. Mable, their mother, just loves to ride comfortably in the carriage and let the siblings run the show.

INTERPRETIVE CENTER HOSTS AIM

The Association of Indiana Museums (AIM) presented Help! Effective Volunteer Management Roadshow Workshop at the Wabash & Erie Canal Conference & Interpretive Center in Delphi, IN, on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 1-4 p.m. Speakers included:

Mike Kraft, Director of Volunteer Services, Indiana Historical Society: Recruiting, inspiring, sustaining, and leading volunteers in today's museum

Dan McCain, President of the Wabash and Erie Canal Foundation: How an all-volunteer organization has established a conference center, interactive exhibits, tens of thousands of dollars in grants, and more!

Tina Hepworth, South Bend Regional Museum of Art Volunteer: Volunteering from the volunteer's perspective

Amy Belcher, Graduate of the IUPUI Public History Program and Kendra Clauser, IUPUI Public History Graduate Student: Student interns: volunteering for practical experience & class credit

A behind-the-scenes tour of the Wabash & Erie Canal Conference Center's interactive exhibits, outdoor trails and a ride on a pontoon canal boat were offered to attendees arriving at 11 a.m. They were asked to provide their own sack lunch.

WHITEWATER CANAL TRAIL

CANAL TRAIL COMMITTEE BUSY

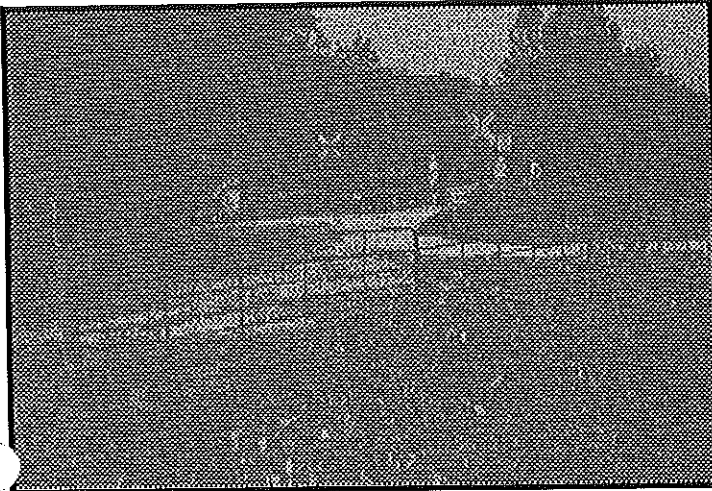
The Whitewater Canal Trail Committee met at the end of Shack Road at 8:30 a.m. on October 1, 2005, to put up the last section of fence on a new section of the trail. They also put up some signage, did some trimming and picked up trash getting ready for the grand opening of this section of trail.

located between Brookville and Metamora on US 52. More than 100 volunteers have worked to create the latest addition to Franklin County's recreational offerings. When complete, the Whitewater Canal Trail will link Metamora and Brookville with an 8-mile hike/bike trail.

For the second section grand opening event, a shuttle was offered to walkers who wanted to walk just one length of the trail. This service was generously contributed by Morgan's Canoe.

It was a picture perfect fall day. Visiting artists from a club in Oxford, OH, set up their easels along the trail just south of the rest park in Metamora to paint the excellent autumn landscape near the "good luck fishing grounds."

For more information about the Whitewater Canal Trail call (765) 647-6457 or visit the website www.whitewatercanaltrail.com



This gate and fence were built by the Whitewater Canal Trail Committee on September 24, 2005, for a new section of trail.
Photo by Mick Wilz

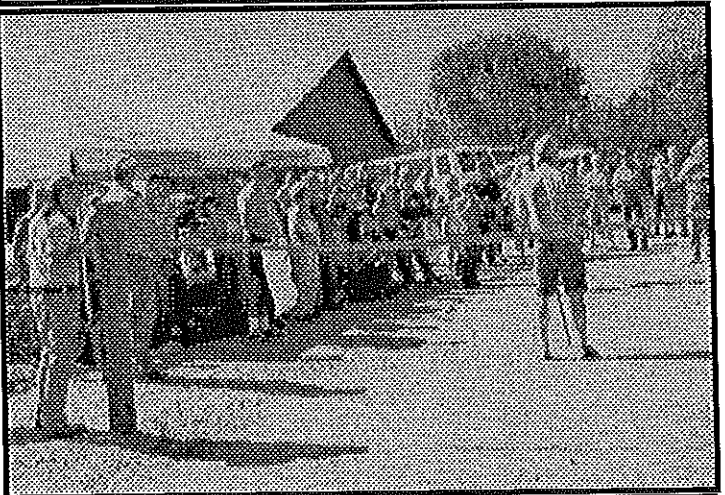
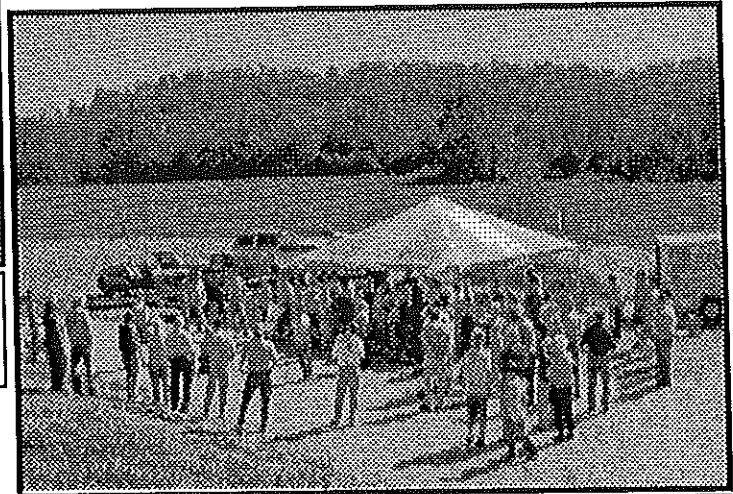
METAMORA SECTION OF WHITEWATER CANAL TRAIL OPENED OCTOBER 15, 2005

By Mick Wilz

First it was the canal boat, then the railroad and then the car. On Saturday, October 15, another mode of transportation rolled into Metamora. The second section of the Whitewater Canal Trail was opened for hikers and mountain bikes with great fanfare at noon. The public was invited to the ribbon cutting, which was held at the DNR red barn at the East end of Metamora.

The latest section opened includes 2.6 miles of primitive trail. It takes the hiker along the canal and has excellent perspectives on its way to the ruins of Locks 22 and 23. The trailhead is located in Metamora. To access it, enter Metamora from US 52, cross the Whitewater Canal and turn left (east) to the historic Duck Creek Aqueduct parking area.

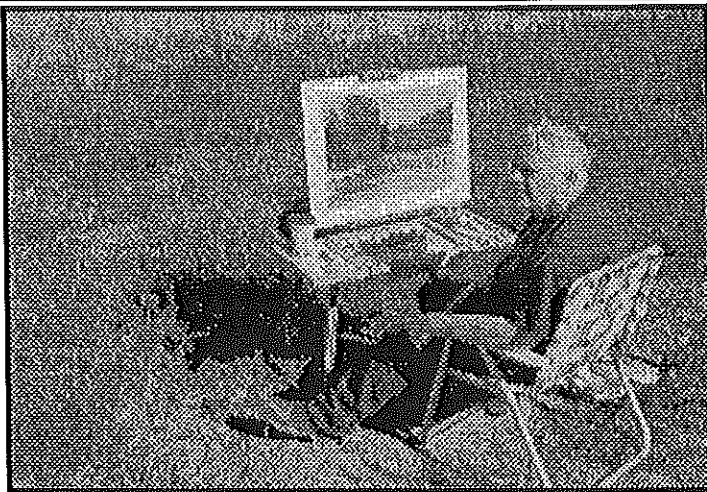
In the spring of 2005, volunteers opened the first 2 mile section of trail at the Yellow Bank Trailhead,



Top: Around 59 people and a dog gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the second section of the Whitewater Canal that has recently been completed by the Whitewater Canal Trail organization in Metamora, IN, on October 15, 2005.

Bottom: The ribbon awaits cutting while the crowd gathers.

Photos by Paul Baudendistel



Top: An artist from an Oxford, OH, art club captured the fall landscape just south of the rest park in Metamora.

Bottom: The art club set up easels along the trail on the beautiful autumn day. Photographers were also shooting scenes of the Whitewater Valley and the Whitewater Canal as Paul Baudendistel says, "in the tradition of T. C. Steel."

Photos by Paul Baudendistel

CANAL VIDEO IN THE MAKING

By Carolyn Schmidt

In September, CSI Headquarters was contacted by Matt John, an independent television producer in Indianapolis. Matt produces such shows as The Hoosier Millionaire and is involved with projects and sports for ESPN. He wanted to make an hour long documentary about the canals of Indiana and start shooting when the leaves began to turn.

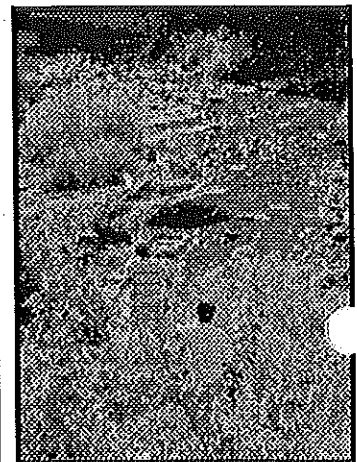
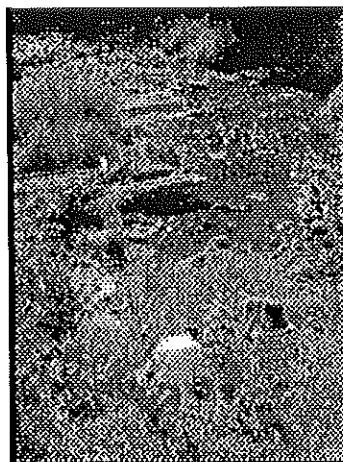
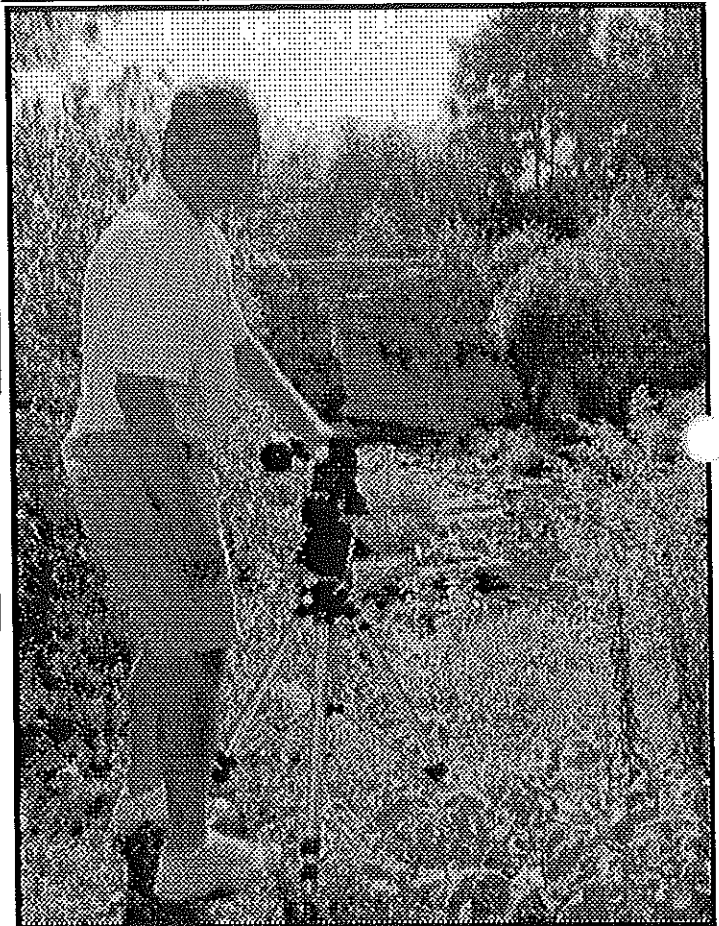
The project is being funded by Matt, who owns his own broadcast production equipment. He asked for help from CSI in the way of names of 5-8 canal experts for interviews to tell the story of the canals and to physically explain what went on to build them and how they functioned at various sites. He also asked to video old pictures, paintings and writings from our archives.

There should be no cost to CSI other than our time and transportation to sites. We should benefit from having the society's name on the video. We will have

access to the video to show at a society function.

Matt and his brother went to Delphi to see the Wabash & Erie Canal and the Canal Interpretive Center the day before they came to Ft. Wayne to interview Bob and Carolyn Schmidt. Following a 2 hour interview in their home, the Schmidts took Matt to the Vermilyea House and the aqueduct remains at Aboite Creek.

Matt John shoots the Aboite Creek aqueduct from above and then scrambles through weeds down the hill with his brother to shoot the remaining timbers in the creek. Photos by Bob Schmidt



IN MEMORIAM



SARAH "SALLY" BAKER
April 19, 1929 - October 9, 2005

Sarah Baker, better known as Sally by her friends, died at 3:45 a.m. on Sunday, October 9, 2005, at her home in LaPorte, Indiana. Sally made the decision to go home from the hospital on Monday October 3 and stop all treatment. Her family came to be with her for her final week, cooked everything she liked and spent quality time with her. She died at home in her sleep. She was 76 years old.

Sally was born on April 19, 1929, in Rensselaer, Indiana, to William L. & Hortense (Winks) Jordan. She was a graduate of Wheatfield High School in 1947 and the Lafayette Home Hospital School of Nursing in 1950. On September 7, 1952, she married Kenneth Baker. She was a nurse at the LaPorte Hospital and retired in 1991.

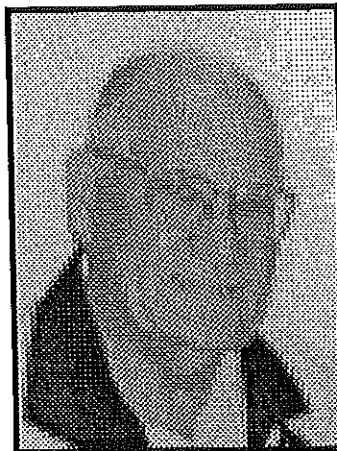
Those who survive Sally include Ken, her husband; their five children, Karen (Jim) Deutsch of Marshall, MO; Linda (Gordie) Heinold of Lexington, KY; Donna (Shane) Yoder of Mishawaka, IN; Keith (Laurel) Baker of Lafayette, IN; and Terry (Cynthia) Baker of Lafayette, IN.; her sister, Margaret (Russell) Brower of Hagerstown, IN; and 12 grandchildren, Jeffrey, Kimberly, Loren, Anna, Samuel, Jacob, Timothy, Seth, Ryan, Jill, Jessica & Johnathan. Her parents, five brothers and a sister preceded her in death.

Sally was an active member of the Door Village United Methodist Church, Door Village Lions Club, and LaPorte County Historical Society. She was the secretary of the LaPorte Pioneer Cemetery Commission. She and Ken belonged to the Canal Society of Indiana, Indiana

Covered Bridge Society, and Society for the Preservation of Old Mills. She was a past member of the LaPorte chapter of DAR, LaPorte Hospital Retirees and LaPorte Chapter of People to People.

Viewing was held at the Cutler Funeral Home on October 11, 2005 from 3-8 p.m. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday October 12 at Door Village United Methodist Church with the Rev. Jeff Jones officiating. Burial was in the Door Village Cemetery. Memorials were to the Door Village UMC Elevator Fund, 3502 Joliet Road, LaPorte, IN 46350 or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Sally and Ken have been active members of the Canal Society of Indiana since 1992. They participated in many CSI tours, often, these past few years, between her dialysis treatments. She and Ken encouraged members of the Covered Bridge Society to join CSI. We will miss her smile and visiting with her on the tours.



JOE YORK "J.Y." McCLUNG
May 10, 1917 - September 28, 2005

Joe McClung, better known as "J.Y." by his friends, died September 28, 2005, at his home in Country Charm Assisted Living of Greenwood, IN, following several weeks of declining health. He was 88 years old.

Joe was born to Oliver Sessor and Eola Dencifield (Gann) McClung in a two room farmhouse near Dallas, Georgia, on May 10, 1917. He was one of eight children. After his graduation from Dallas High School in 1937, he worked in Indianapolis, IN, where he met Miriam Esther Lee. They were married on May 9, 1941.

Joe was inducted into the Army Air Force on April 21, 1943, and, after training, served as a crew chief for a C-46 cargo plane in the South West Pacific as part of the 55th Troop Carrier Squadron until the end of World War II. He was presented the American Theater Ribbon, EAME Theater Ribbon W/4 Bronze Stars, Good

Conduct Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon W/1 Bronze Star, and the World War II Victory Medal.

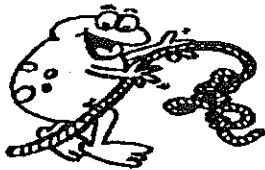
After the war, Joe received a diploma from the Air Conditioning Training Corporation of Youngstown, OH. He joined Local 44 of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union and worked at Johnson Controls, Inc. as a technician until he retired in 1976.

Joe took an active part in the Southport Baptist Church as a deacon and teacher. He also loved to garden and was interested in canals.

Surviving Joe are his children, Patricia Ellen (Harry A.) Tilson of Ft. Myers, FL, James Edward (Rebecca) McClung of Martinsville, IN, and Kenneth Glenn (Theresa) McClung of Greenwood; his brothers, Sam Jackson, James Nolen and Ores Clyde McClung; his sisters Georgie Ruth and Atha Mae all of Nashville, Tennessee; eight grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brothers Oliver Nall and Bennie Ray, sister Vassie Lou and his parents.

Visitation was from 4-5 p.m. on Sunday October 2, 2005, at the Forest Lawn Funeral Home in Greenwood, Indiana. The following day the Reverend Lesley Krieger conducted a service there followed by burial in Forest Lawn Memory Gardens. Memorials were to Southport Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN.

Joe was on the CSI "Forks to Paradise" tour in 1996 and helped with the "Tracking the Central" tour in 1999. In years past, he and Jerry Sargent, also of Greenwood, set up tours of the Central Canal for other organizations.

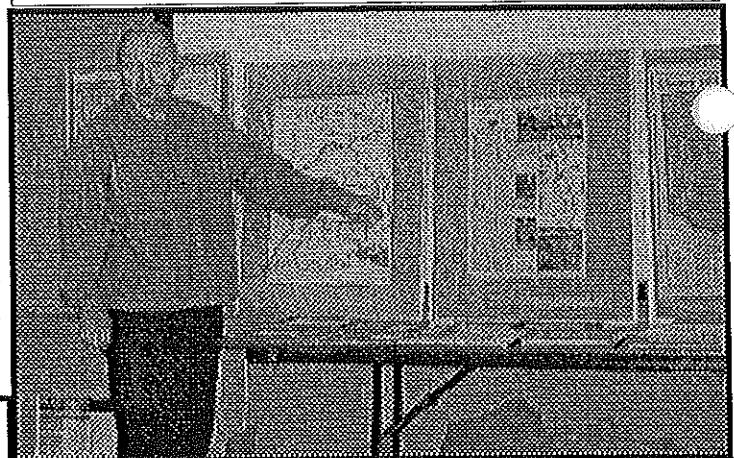


*Straightening
the Ropes*

Dennis McDaniel, CSI member from Washington, D.C., found an error in the "Canawlers At Rest: Nicholas Chistman" article in the October 2005 issue of The Hoosier Packet. The source used by your editor said the Christman's left their home in 1846 due to warfare from the Franco-Prussian War. Dennis points out that the Franco-Prussian War ran from Sept. 1870 into 1871, at the close of which, part of Alsace and Lorraine were transferred to German sovereignty. It is therefore impossible for that war to have had any affect whatsoever on the decision of the Christmans to emigrate from Lorraine in 1846, twenty-five years earlier. It is perfectly true that from 1815 to 1870 France was

badly governed by several kings and one emperor and voting was highly restricted to just a few citizens. Is that why they left?

After further research, Don Haack, CSI member from Ft. Wayne who is researching the Christmans, has concluded that the Christmans came to America in 1848 versus the 1846 noted in the article. He has also found in church records that Michael Christman, Nicholas' father, was born in 1804 not 1805. He has been able to fill in two of the children's birth and death dates that were in question at the time the article was written. Mary was born in 1861 and died in 1934. Catharine was born in 1871 and died in 1958. The roof of the barn has 1862 on it. This was when Nicholas was renting the farm. He did not purchase the farm until 1866 according to a property abstract. Does anyone know if building on land before they owned it was common in those days?



Canal history was the topic of Linn Loomis' presentation at Roscoe Village on August 20, 2005. Photo courtesy Linn Loomis

August 20, 2005

Linn Loomis, CSI member from Newcomerstown, OH, gave a canal presentation during the Canal Days Festival at Roscoe Village, Coshocton, OH, on August 20, 2005. As always, Linn displayed maps, articles, and pictures of canal structures he's taken. He stressed the Walhonding Canal and the Ohio & Erie Canal that join at Roscoe Village/Coshocton, OH.

Linn is the author of *Here and Now—Ohio's Canals: The Background of Ohio's Canal System* and *Here and Now—Ohio's Canals: The Sandy and Beaver Canal*. That day he signed his books at The Village Bookworm, which replaced the John Dredge Bookstore.

2005 CSI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ARCHIVES

Books, videos, newspaper clippings, canal notebooks and a great number of photos from tours donated

ASSISTANCE

CSI was contacted numerous times by people researching their ancestors

CSI provided information and help to several authors writing novels, college students for papers, other students for projects and several museums for displays

Members participated in a video filmed by Matt John, who produces the Hoosier Millionaire television show

Members were interviewed for numerous newspaper articles about canals

BOARD MEETING

November 5, 2005, Peace United Church of Christ, Ft. Wayne, IN. Bob & Carolyn Schmidt hosts. Lunch provided by Betty Haack, Cynthia Powers, Carolyn Schmidt. Tour of Canal Overlook, Eagle Marsh, Rockhill Park W & E Canal markers, Moots Lock site

15 directors present 6 guests Representative from ICON Rockhill Park guide - Tom Castaldi

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Billing - Terre Haute

Bill Davis - Rosedale

Jim Ellis - Ft. Wayne Treasurer

Don Haack - Ft. Wayne

Chuck Huppert - Indianapolis V-Pres.

Karl Kettelhut - Indianapolis

Jeff Koehler - Center Point

Lynette Kross - LaPorte

Bette Lockhart - Marion

Dan McCain - Delphi

Jerry Mattheis - Cambridge City

Mike Morthorst - Cincinnati, OH

Cynthia Powers - Roanoke Secretary

Bob Schmidt - Ft. Wayne President

Carolyn Schmidt - Ft. Wayne Editor

Sue Simerman - Ossian/Poe

Chuck Whiting - Lawrenceburg

Mick Wilz - Brookville

COUNTY HISTORIANS OF CSI

Allen Co. - Thomas Castaldi

Clay Co. - Jeffrey Koehler

Miami Co. - Kreig Adkins

Wells Co. - Craig Leonard

Vigo Co. - Mike McCormick

CSI ACTIONS

16 CSI members attended CSO tour of the Miami & Erie Canal "Awe Reservoirs"

14 CSI members attended the CSO tour of the Ohio & Erie Canal "Across The Licking Summit"

9 CSI members attended the American Canal Society meeting in Heath, OH

8 CSI members attended the Maumee Corridor annual meeting in Grand Rapids, OH

IN MEMORIAM

4-06-2005 Margaret "Peg" Zimmerman age 76 Yardley, PA

7-04-2005 Paul Cormican age 80 Upland, IN

9-28-2005 Joe "J.Y" McClung age 88 Greenwood, IN

10-09-2005 Sarah "Sally" Baker age 76 LaPorte, IN

NEW MEMBERSHIPS (9 family, 7 individual)

Richard & Karen Brown - Okemos, MI

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip English - Green Valley, AZ

Lowell Goar - Cosa Mesa, CA

Michael & Linda Hutchison - Huntington, IN

James & Jeanine Isham - Greenwood, IN

Reba McFarland - Warren, IN

Ron Morris - Centerville, IN

Fred Patterson - Anderson, IN

Ted & Pat Ratcliff - Burnettsville, IN

Mike & Shirley Reber - Huntington, IN

Michael & Cecily Schneider - Lafayette, IN

Bob Shaffer - Burnettsville, IN

Rex Trautman - Lafayette, IN

John Weddell - Leo, IN

Bill & Deborah Wepler - Anderson, IN

Donald & Roberta Whitney - Edmond, OK

THE HOOSIER PACKET - January 2006

PUBLICATIONS

The Hoosier Packet Vol. 3 No. 1-12, Carolyn Schmidt Editor

Canawlers At Rest Columns

Thomas &	b. Aug. 1, 1805	d. Mar. 13, 1873	Shipped stone for W & E Canal construction
John Newlin Carter	b. Mar. 17, 1819	d. Sept. 29, 1912	Shipped stone to Terre Haute via W & E
Nicholas Christman	b. Feb. 5, 1834	d. Oct. 23, 1900	W & E towpath driver, ate at Vermilyea House
Abraham B. Conwell	b. Aug. 15, 1796	d. Nov. 1, 1886	Whitewater Canal investor and promoter
John R. &	b. ?	d. 1858	Constructed W & E Canal
John Cunningham	b. Apr. 1, 1826	d. Jan. 8, 1888	Schooled at Americus on W & E Canal
Robert Deardorf	b. Nov. 10, 1808	d. Jul. 5, 1891	Superintendent on Ohio's Miami & Erie Canal
Elisha Embree	b. Sept. 28, 1801	d. Feb. 28, 1863	Platted Port Gibson on W & E Canal
Austin M. Puett	b. 1803	d. June 3, 1879	Trustee of W & E Canal
Nathan Rowley	b. Sept. 28, 1788	d. Jan. 12, 1872	Contractor Central/Wabash & Erie Canal
Marcus Sherwood	b. May 28, 1803	d. Feb. 10, 1880	Contractor on Central/Wabash & Erie Canal
Thomas Smythe	b. 1824	d. May 14, 1880	W & E Canal boat captain
Robert Stuart	b. Feb. 19, 1802	d. Oct. 23, 1842	Contractor on W & E Canal, Fountain Co.
Gov. Joseph Wright	b. Apr. 17, 1810	d. May 11, 1867	Governor during Clay Co. Reservoir Wars

Tour guides - Past years' tour guides were sold so members could complete their collections.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Date	# People	Event	Presenters
2005	450	24 Narrated school hikes / talks	Dan McCain
2005	275	9 Narrated public hikes	Dan McCain
2005	350	12 Outdoor events, programs, etc.	Dan McCain
2005	240	11 Local service clubs, organizations	Dan McCain
2005	800	16 Canal background info. before group's mtg.	Dan McCain
2005	400	9 Out of town / out of state speeches	Dan McCain
TOTALS	2,060	57 Events	Dan McCain
Weekly	42,000	WBNI-WBOI Historical Minutes (audited weekly tune-in number per program)	Tom Castaldi
2-09-2005	140	Vigo County Soil & Water Conservation District	Jeff Koehler
3-10-2005	50	Union United Methodist Church Father-Son	Jeff Koehler
5-04-2005	26	Huntington County Genealogical Society	Bob Schmidt
5-09-2005	84	Aboite Elementary School 4th Grade	Bob & Carolyn Schmidt
7-07-2005	48	Wells County Public Library	Bob Schmidt
8-20-2005	?	Roscoe Village Canal Days Program	Linn Loomis
10-28-2005	2	Terre Haute Elks Club Groundskeepers	Sandy Billing
11-4-2005	126	Illinois Valley Labor/Management Banquet	Gerald Hulslander
11-10-2005	42	West Terre Haute Consolidated School 4th Grade	Sandy Billing

TOURS

Spring April 8-10 23rd Annual Meeting, Comfort Inn, Indianapolis/Zionsville

Theme: "Towpaths to Trails" Central Canal

Friday Night: Registration & Dinner at American Legion Post 79 in Zionsville

Saturday Noon: Lunch on own in Circle Centre Mall in Indianapolis

Saturday Night: Banquet at Zionsville Lion's Club

Hosts & Docents: Chuck Huppert, Bob & Carolyn Schmidt

Tour refreshments: Jim & Ruth Ellis donated cookies; Bob Schmidt

Logo: Carolyn Schmidt

Tour Books: Carolyn Schmidt, Chuck Huppert

Goodie Bags, Name Tags, Recognition Gifts, Table Decorations, Door Prizes: Carolyn Schmidt

Saturday Program: "Revitalization of Central Canal in Downtown Indy" - Kathy Davidson, Nathan Robinson, "Development of Indianapolis Greenways Trails" - Ray Irwin

Tour:

THE HOOSIER PACKET - January 2006

Friday Night: Stroll the revitalized Central Canal Walk

Saturday: See Gronauer Lock and other exhibits in the Indiana State Museum, see IMAX movie "The Human Body," see the Central Canal by the museum, see the new exhibits in the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, see the Indiana War Memorial Museum

Sunday: Hike the Central Canal from Butler University to Broad Ripple along the Greenways Trail

Board Elections: Don Haack presented slate. Newly elected Sandy Billing, Karl Kettelhut, Mick Wilz. All other directors and officers re-elected.

Kicks and Kapers Award: Dan Schuster, presented by Carolyn Schmidt

42 attended States represented: IN 38, OH 4

Attendees: Sally Bancroft, Carl & Barbara Bauer, Pat Beilke, Paul Brandenburgh, Sue Burger, Tom & Linda Castaldi, Curt Debra & Asia DeBaun, Bill & Betty Easton, Jim & Ruth Ellis, Ed & Cleone Gruber, Don & Betty Haack, Chuck & Lynda Huppert, Lynette Kross, Dick & Martha Kudner, Jerry & Phyllis Mattheis, Charlotte May, Dan McCain, Paul Moffett, Bob & Carolyn Schmidt, Dan Schuster, Steve & Sue Simerman, John Staton, Mike Staton, Brian Stirm, Michael Thrall, Larry Turner, Dan & Ceri White, Chuck Whiting

Fall September 16-18, Days Inn, Princeton, Illinois

Theme: "A Little Too Late" Hennepin Canal

Friday Night: Registration & Dinner at Days Inn - Poor Boys Catering

Saturday Noon: Box Lunch - Poor Boys Catering

Saturday Night: Banquet at Days Inn

Hosts & Docents: Gerald and Jean Hulslander, Steve Moser

Tour refreshments: Leon & Sandy Billing donated peppermints, Jim & Ruth Ellis donated cookies, Bob Schmidt

Logo: Carolyn Schmidt

Tour Books: Carolyn Schmidt, Gerald Hulslander

Goodie Bags, Name Tags, Recognition Gifts, Table Decorations: Carolyn Schmidt

Friday Program: "Native American & French Colonials in the Starved Rock Area" - Mark Walczynski

Saturday Program: "The Hennepin Canal" - Steve Moser

Tour:

Saturday: Green River Lines, Inc. bus tour of Owen Lovejoy Home/Underground Railroad Station, At Rock Falls see a guard lock, regular lock, kevelar pillow dam, go to Hennepin Canal aqueduct over Green River, see summit level and feeder junction, see lock 22 with lift bridge, tour Hennepin Canal Visitor Center, see locks and bridges in canal's historical section to Illinois River, canal era bridges, plate glider bridge, lock with Marshall gate

Sunday: Visited LaSalle County Historical Museum, Gerry Hulslander walking tour of tornado scars, blacksmith shop, farm machinery display, grain elevators, etc.

Kicks and Kapers Award: Maurice Bonecutter, presented by Carolyn Schmidt

34 attended States represented: AL 2, IL 2, IN 27, OH 3

Attendees: Pat Beilke, Leon & Sandy Billing, Maurice & Dorothy Bonecutter, Sue Burger, Bill & Betty Easton, Larry & Margaret Eggleston, Ernest & Helen Ellis, Jim & Ruth Ellis, Don & Betty Haack, Gerald & Jean Hulslander, Lynette Kross, Mike Morthorst, Ed & Cynthia Powers, Bob & Carolyn Schmidt, Dan Schuster, Steve & Sue Simerman, Neil & Diana Sowards, Michael Thrall, Larry Turner, Charles & Bonnie White

ACTIVITIES FOR EACH CANAL BY AREA

(Miami) Wabash & Erie Canal

Grand Rapids, OH - Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor directors met aboard "The Volunteer" at Providence Metropark

New Haven - River Greenway connected to canal sites and Ft. Wayne Canal Days held in spring

Article about Greenway system and Moser Park where a culvert remains

Ft. Wayne - Allen Co. Ft. Wayne Historical Society toured the Feeder Canal on their St. Joseph River tour Historic Landmarks reported on Swinney Homestead (Grand canal celebration)

CSI article written for Allen County History Book

Ft Wayne Audubon Society article about Charles Stockbridge who arrived via the canal

Aboite Trails under construction to eventually join Eagle Marsh towpath trail

Rockhill Park markers and portion of Greenway Trail completed

Eagle Marsh purchased 680 acres with \$1,200,000 grant, \$250,000 grant and \$650,000 match

Historic status sought for Maumee River article in Ft. Wayne News Sentinel

- 102 Fiberglass mastodons painted for Mastodons on Parade
- Canal mentioned in "The Week in Local History"
- CSI tour guides donated to public library
- Roanoke - Rich history includes Native Americans and W & E Canal article in The Huntington County TAB
- Roanoke Basin photo found
- Peru - Prairie Creek Arch in danger of collapsing when contractor removed three timbers
- Bridge toll house surroundings cleared with plans to restore the building
- Downtown trail along canal with signage
- Logansport - Canal featured in Logansport Pharos-Tribune article
- Delphi - Old Monon railbed cleared for trail
- 25 docent led canal/trail walks given to public plus additional private ones
- Christmas ornament folklore program held
- Pontoon boat "Delphi" refitted as canal boat for canal rides
- Riley Park suspension bridge completed/ribbon cutting ceremony
- Canal Christmas in Canal Park
- Ladies Tea Party at Canal Center
- Halloween party at Canal Center
- Children's water color painting project of canal
- Five murals placed in Canal Center
- Received grant for hands-on games on canal-era life for fourth grade,
- Offer Wabash & Erie Canal Notebook III by Tom Castaldi for sale
- Smith writes canal monologue
- Received \$57,375 grant for planning replica canal boat and supporting facilities from Indiana Rural Development Council
- Burnett's Creek Arch studied for restoration
- Received \$1000 from CSI for pontoon boat refurbishing
- Burnett's Creek Arch received \$500,000 grant for restoration
- Earth Project W.E.E.D. accomplished trail clean-up/restoration
- Earth Team shirts given at National Trails Day to 100 volunteers for over 3,800 hours
- Grassroots Preservation Roundup held at Canal Center
- Psi Ota Xi provided workday lunches
- 250 White Amur stocked in canal
- Received \$57,375 Rural Development Grant for canal boat planning
- Father's Day at Canal Park
- Carrollton bridge to be saved
- Canal Days 4th of July festival & parade
- "Live Character" session held
- Dan McCain received national ARSCSE Presidents Award
- \$554,900 INDOT grant received for canal boat and storage
- Used algae harvester purchased and reworked
- Case House received rope beds
- Trail benches donated,
- Lafayette - W & E article in Lafayette Journal and Courier
- 67 Fiberglass frogs painted for Frog Follies
- Attica - Historic Landmarks article on Cottrell Village and said town flourished because of canal
- Clay County Cross Cut - Old canal related newspaper article found
- Clinton - Article in The Daily Clintonian about Whitewater Canal
- Terre Haute - Liggett's photographed W & E Culvert 151
- Evansville - Historic Landmarks reported on Captain Marcus Sherwood home and F. J. Reitz home
- Ohio River Scenic Byway received \$48,750 grant
- Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage received \$250,000 grant
- Canal House for sale,

Central Canal

- Indianapolis - Frog Hollow area by canal hit with flooding
- River Greenway includes canal trail

Central Canal Walk in 2005 recreation guide
Canal Beautification project to reconstruct canal bank, create pedestrian traffic flow and bio-swale
Clarian Health "People Mover" to have station on canal
Concerts given on canal
"Waterways" performance given at canal
Eleven topics identified to place signage/art on canal bridges

Whitewater Canal

Brookville - Journal of Amos Hannah published
Butlers Run Culvert rapidly deteriorating
Cambridge City - Historic Landmarks article on Huddleston Farmhouse
Overbeck pottery symposium held
Canal Days fall festival
Mattheis' develop Whitewater Canal brochure
Whitewater Canal brochure placed in Vinton House
"Traces & Trails" exhibit on long-term loan at the Vinton House
Connersville - Whitewater Valley Railroad awarded \$245,400 ISTEA grant
Laurel - Ball State students study feeder dam
Lawrenceburg - Medical building opened on Whitewater Canal Basin site,
Metamora - Duck Creek aqueduct repaired, Gordon's Lock 24 gates replaced for \$250,000
Section Whitewater Canal dredged
Special craft program in conjunction with Celebrate 1838 festival
Whitewater Canal Trail Committee opened section of Whitewater Trail near aqueduct
Canal boat rides June 30 - October 31,
Ball State Students study lock
Wayne County - Ball State University students studied Whitewater Canal and produced "Traces and Trails" video
& exhibit for county museum
One "Traces & Trails" project, John's Whitewater Canal Trip, published by CSI and in local paper
Yellow Bank - Section of Whitewater Trail opened by Whitewater Trail Committee

Cincinnati & Whitewater Canal

Cleves, OH - Open house and tour at Cleves Tunnel

Articles and Activities on Canals Elsewhere

Coshocton, OH - Roscoe Village, Wolhonding Canal and Ohio & Erie Canal flooded
Roscoe Village Foundation put up buildings for sale,
Dayton, OH - Miami & Erie Canal restoration under way in Auglaize County, Shelby County, New Bremen, St.
Marys, Sidney and Delphos
Geneseo, IL - Article on Hennepin Canal
Falls of the Ohio - Clarksville has scenic byway called Historic Pathways
Hamilton, OH - Butler Co. received \$714,000 grant and Hamilton a \$214,000 grant for 150-foot bridge
Metroparks received \$500,000 for 1.4 mile paved trail on Miami & Erie Canal
The Journal News ran article about last canal boat pilot on Miami-Erie Canal,
Middletown, OH - Port Middleton \$450,000 project dedicated
Muhlenberg township, PA - Article on Schuylkill locktender in Reminisce Extra
Pennsylvania Delaware Canal State Park restored Lock 11
Piqua, OH Article about canal & boat ride as tourist attraction
Romeo, IL John Lamb I&M Canal historian honored
Syracuse, NY - Erie Canal museum issues license plate

Other Canals Visited by Members

Chemung (NY) - Don & Betty Haack, Bob & Carolyn Schmidt
Delaware & Hudson (NY & PA) - Don & Betty Haack, Bob & Carolyn Schmidt
Goshen Hydraulic (IN) - Richard Brown, Jr.
Hennepin (IL) - See CSI Fall Tour

Illinois & Michigan(IL) - See CSI Fall Tour
 Lake Okeechobee Lock (FL) - Steve & Sue Simerman
 Ling (China) - Neil & Diana Sowards
 Miami & Erie (OH) -Leon & Sandy Billing, Carl Bauer,
 Scott Bieszczad, Nancy Gulick, Tom Morthorst,
 Bob & Carolyn Schmidt, Dan Schuster, Kay &
 Bruce Sheldon, Steve & Sue Simerman, Neil &
 Diana Sowards, Larry Turner
 Ohio & Erie (OH) - Dave Barber, Robert Barth, Nancy
 Gulick, Don & Betty Haack, Dan McCain, Mike &
 Tom Morthorst, Bob & Carolyn Schmidt, Dan
 Schuster, Kay & Bruce Sheldon, Larry Turner
 Pennsylvania Main Line & Allegheny Portage Railroad
 (PA)-Don & Betty Haack, Bob & Carolyn Schmidt
 River Preserve Millrace Hydraulic (IN)-Richard Brown, Jr.
 Santa Fe (NM) - Steve & Sue Simerman
 Savannah-Ogeechee (GA) - Bob & Carolyn Schmidt
 Sturgeon Bay Shp Canal (MI) - Ed & Cynthia Powers
 Three Gorges Dam on Yangtse River (China) - Neil &
 Diana Sowards
 Waldo (FL) - Steve & Sue Simerman
 Williamsburg (VA) - Jim & Ruth Ellis, Don & Betty Haack,
 Bob & Carolyn Schmidt

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**ARE YOUR DUES
CURRENT?**

Yearly membership January 1 - December 31, 2006

- \$ 15 Libraries
Not individuals (CSI subsidizes)
- \$ 25 Basic Single Individual/Family Membership
- \$ 50 Contributor
- \$ 75 Patron
- \$100 Frog Prince
- \$500 Canal Commissioner

All donations above the basic membership are greatly appreciated even if they are not at the specified levels.

OUR SYMPATHY

CSI wishes to express our sympathy to Sally Bancroft and Charlotte May for the loss of their son and grandson respectively in an automobile accident. Trey Bancroft III was killed when the vehicle he was driving was struck by a truck. Memorial services were held on October 22, 2005, at the Canal Interpretive Center in Delphi, IN. Over 125 friends and relatives attended.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Don & Ann Hutzal - Tiffin, OH