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## Wabash & Erie Canal.



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## Wooden Locks on the Wabash & Erie Canal

The recent discovery of the remains of lock number two near New Haven, Indiana has increased interest in the wooden locks of the Wabash & Erie Canal. The following article is taken in large part from an article written by your editor in 1989 for the AMERICAN CANAL SOCIETY.

One of the most essential structures on any navigable canal is the lift lock. In 19th century midwestern canals timber was often used as a substitute for stone in their construction. The use of wood in lock construction came about for several reasons. The most important of these was the need to reduce construction expenses. As the nation's canal craze moved westward, states without the necessary funding became involved in their construction. In these areas timber was cheap and readily available while stone was available only at great cost. In addition, stone of suitable building quality was often hard to find and had to be transported long distances. On the Wabash & Erie Canal it was originally intended to rebuild wooden locks with stone brought from distant quarries on the finished canal. It is uncertain if this was ever actually done. Labor costs for masonry locks were also high as skilled masons were few and far between. On wooden locks it was possible to use common carpenters for most of the work. Although wooden lock construction was initially cheaper, they were more expensive to maintain than masonry locks. The walls and frames of timber locks needed continued repair and replacement as they rotted from exposure to the air.

Wooden lock construction on the Wabash & Erie Canal occurred in two forms—the "frame lock" and the "crib lock". The former was apparently more common as it required less timber, but more precise carpentry work. On the northern portions of the canal frame construction was widely used. South of Terre Haute, where cost was of special concern, crib construction was common. The construction of both lock types was analogous to early 19th century house construction. The frame lock in simplest terms was not unlike a framed and sided house. On the other hand the crib lock was closest in construction to the log cabin. In at least some crib locks, and possibly frame ones, the wooden structures were filled with stone or earth for stability.

In frame construction a frame work of horizontal and vertical timbers was set up to form the interior and exterior walls of the lock chamber. This frame work was set up on cross timbers laid horizontally cross-wise in the lock pit. These timbers served to level the bottom of the lock and provided the points for securing

the vertical frames of the lock. The 1853 Chief Engineer's report describes lock 38 as follows: "This is built upon the frame plan, consisting of a double set of bents, resting upon the top of the other, and secured by iron rods 1 1/8 inches diameter, placed immediately back of the front posts, and extending first from the foundation timber to the cap of lower bent, and then from said cap to the cross tie, connecting the front and back coping timbers of the lock. The foundation consists of timbers from 37 to 47 feet long, 12 inches thick, placed about six inches apart, covered with two courses of 2 inch plank. The posts of the lower bents are framed into the foundation timbers."

Crib construction began with the same foundation timbers as the frame lock. Upon these timbers a crib consisting of a front and back wall connected by round ties was raised. Timbers used to form the crib needed only to be hewn on three sides. The ties connecting the walls were dovetailed into the crib timbers. Each course of wall timbers was secured to the next one below by 20 inch nails. At regular intervals vertical timbers were set up against the back wall firmly secured to the foundation timbers and supported by a brace footing into the foundation behind the front wall. This tended to make the crib more rigid and prevented the walls from settling inward. The floor of the chamber was covered with two courses of closely jointed oak plank. The upper and lower mitre-sills were secured to the foundation timbers by 18-27 inch spikes. The cribs were faced with two inch planks to create a smooth and water tight chamber. To further prevent inward settling, round ties running the entire length of the lock were secured to the rear wall by ties 12 and 16 feet in length. The same 1853 report describes lock 43 as being "built of timber on the crib plan. The foundation timbers, 12 inches thick, are laid six inches apart on an average. Fifteen and a half feet in length, measuring from the upper end, and 31 feet in length measuring from the lower end, are timbers 36 feet long. Three sticks in the chamber are of the same height, the remainder being 18 feet long. The cribs are 10 feet wide from out to out, the front and back walls being connected by round ties dove-tailed at both ends. On each side there are six posts and braces, placed against the back wall to prevent the cribs from settling inwards. The second stick from the bottom of the back wall projects inwards 2 inches, on to which the posts are notched and prevented from rising. Back of the back wall there are two courses of round timber connected with the back wall by round ties, more effectual to prevent settling inwards. Within the chamber and about the upper gates, the foundation is covered with two courses of 2 inch oak plank, the sides with one course. Foundation planking secured with wrought spikes 3/8 inch square and 10 inches long, sides with 6 inch cut spikes."

## Wabash & Erie Canal Mechanical Structures

Flood gates, with wooden abutments, solid rock bottom-must be rebuilt in 1849.

Culvert No.79, of wood, 10 feet by 18 inches - submerged.

Lock No.23, 8 feet lift, built upon the combined plan - will require new caps, with new uprights, and planking from the top three feet down, during the ensuing winter. The gates must be renewed in 1849.

Road bridge No.32,requires two new stringers and half new floor, with this repair it will last six years.

Culvert No.80, of wood, 10 feet by 18 inches - submerged.

Culvert No.81, of wood, 6 feet by 18 inches-submerged.

Culvert No.82, of wood, 6 feet by 18 inches-submerged.

Culvert No.83, a very small wooden culvert put in as a land drain-submerged.

Culvert No.84, of wood, 10 feet by 18 inches-submerged.

Culvert No.85, of wood, 6 feet by 18 inches-submerged.

Lock No.24, 7 feet lift, built of cut stone-imperfectly made-leaks very much-with some repairs it may answer the purpose of a lock for many years. The gates will last three years. This lock is in the town of Logansport.

Aqueduct No.5, over El River-wooden trunk of 5 spans, 40 feet each, resting on stone abutments and piers, built on solid rock foundation. The trunk was rebuilt last year and the whole structure may be considered permanent for 8 or 10 years to come.

Within the town of Logansport there are three Road bridges Nos.33,34, and 35, all of which need rebuilding within the next year.

Culvert No.86, of wood,10 feet by 18 inches-submerged.

Lock No.25, lift 9 feet built of cut stone. The stone from Lasselle's quarry, of very inferior quality, soft and perishable, wholly unfit for lock walls. The walls of this lock are much dilapidated-the portion of wall from the lower gates around to the end of the wing walls, will probably require to be rebuilt next spring at a cost of some \$2,500. Other portions must be renewed soon, until the whole walls are rebuilt. The gates will last two years.

Road bridge No.36, must be rebuilt during the next winter.

Lock No.26, 9 feet lift, of cut stone, from the same quarry with that in the lock just described. The wall below the lower gates was rebuilt of good stone, during the last winter and spring. Some further repairs will be required next winter, and within a few years the entire balance of the lock wall must be rebuilt. Gates one year old.

Culvert No.87. Rough stone arch-8 feet chord built of imperfect stone. The arch leaks considerably but may stand for several years.

Culvert No.88,10 feet chord-the arch was built last winter of cut stone from the Georgetown quarry, of excellent quality; head wall at lower end not built-to finish the work will cost \$75.

Culvert No.89,to pass water to Lessell's mill, of wood-submerged.

Culvert No.90, of wood, 10 feet by 18 inches-submerged.

Road bridge No.37, with new floor may last three or four years.

Culvert No.91, at the Georgetown stone quarry, built of wood, 2 spans 12 feet by 2 feet-to submerge it fully will cost \$10.

Culvert No.92, of wood,6 feet by 18 inches-submerged.

Culvert No.93, a small wooden culvert-submerged.

Road bridge No.38, should be rebuilt in 1849.

Aqueduct No.6, over Crooked Creek, one span of 28 feet resting on stone abutments. Trunk of wood-must be rebuilt during the ensuing winter.

Lock No.27, 8 feet lift, built of cut stone from Georgetown quarry. The stone are durable but the workmanship very imperfect. The gates are two years old.

Road bridge No.39, may last three years.

Culvert No.94, of wood, 2 spans, 12 feet wide and 2 feet high-submerged.

Culvert No.95, of wood, 6 feet wide,18 inches high-submerged.

Road bridge No.40, will last three years.

Culvert No.96, of wood, 6 feet by 18 inches-submerged.

Culvert No.97, 8 feet by 18 inches, of wood-submerged.

Road bridge No.41, will last 3 years.

Culvert No.98, of wood, 6 feet wide by 18 inches high, not entirely submerged.

Culvert No.99, of wood, 2 spans each 10 feet by 18 inches high-submerged.

Culvert No.100, over Burnett's Creek,an arch of 20 chord feet, built of hammer-dressed stone-in good repair excepting the ring stone at each end, a part of which are of soft stone and are falling to pieces.

Lock No.28, 10 feet lift, built upon the combined plan the plank facing renewed last winter-the gates also new.

Road bridge No.42, will last two or three years.

(to be continued)

## INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT

Celebration at Brockville, September 13th, 1836.

In accordance with previous arrangements, the commencement of the White Water Canal was celebrated at this place on Tuesday last. The preceding days, and the day of the celebration, were very unfavorable for such an occasion, the rain fell in torrents the most of the day, rendering it almost impossible to proceed with the ceremonies. Notwithstanding the elements seemed to conspire against us, yet a very large assemblage of individuals attended from this and the adjoining counties, variously estimated at from 3,000 to 4,000.

At an early hour on Monday (the day previous to the celebration) our public houses were crowded and the citizens very liberally threw open their private dwellings for the accommodation of visiting strangers. Several of the distinguished advocates of Internal Improvements attended; and others were deterred, probably, by the inclemency of the weather, as they had advised the committee of invitation that they would be with us.

On the morning of the celebration, the committee of arrangements selected Gov. Noble, Ex-Governor Jas. B. Ray, Doct. Drake of Cincinnati, and Geo. H. Dunn, Esq. of Lawrenceburgh, as the individuals to perform the ceremony of "breaking ground" on the Whitewater Canal.

About 11 o'clock the rain having ceased a little, a procession was formed on the public square under the direction of the Marshalls, according to the order heretofore published, and marched to a stand erected on the line of the Canal in a grove on the low bottom below the town of Brockville, where his Excellency Lieut. Gov. David Wallace delivered an able and eloquent address, upon which we shall attempt no eulogy at this time, further than to remark, that high as anticipation was, public expectation was more than fulfilled. Although the address will be published, and our readers will have the pleasure of reading it, yet they will be deprived of the soul-stirring eloquence with which it was delivered; yet it contains much valuable information relative to the history and progress of Internal Improvements in Indiana, and will be sought after by those who were unable to attend the celebration.

At the conclusion of the address, the gentlemen selected for the purpose, amid the deafning cheers and shouts of the multitude, performed the operation of commencing the White Water Canal. This was a proud moment for this rich and fertile valley. Joy beamed in the countenances, and glistened in the eyes of all present.

After which the company repaired to the dinner table spread by Mr. Harbin, and 600 or 800 partook thereof. The company then

sat down to the toast table, and the following sentiments were drank, and enthusiastically cheered, many of which were responded to by the distinguished gentlemen present. We shall not attempt to give a summary of any of the speeches as they will all be published.

#### REGULAR TOASTS.

No.1. Internal Improvement—The parent of National wealth, and the grand link by which the union of the States may be preserved. May the public mind appreciate its importance, and all the well begun system continue to progress throughout the Union, until the North American confederacy shall outshine, in wealth and enterprise, the dazzling Empires of Europe.

No.2. The White-Water Canal.—A link in the vast chain of Internal Improvements connecting the atlantic Ocean with the Gulf of Mexico.

No.3. The State of Indiana—Her youthful strides are rapid and gigantic—rich in Nature, unexampled in spirit and enterprise; soon, very soon, like Venus, in glory and splendor she shall, be eclipsed by none of all her fair sisterhood.

No.4. Robert Fulton—The plaudits of the commercial world, are the reward of his labor, and its products is the wealth of Nations.

No.5. The United States Navy—What sea has not borne the Star-spangled Banner, and where is the Nation that dare insult it?

No.6. Our Country—The vast increase of her population, her unparalleled improvement in every useful art, and her steady progress in refinement and literature, entitle her to an eminent rank amongst the nations of the earth, whilst in respect to her civil and religious rights, she rivals them all; May God protect her from the machinations of Demagogues, and preserve her from the lawless outrages of modern Mobs.

No.7. The President of the United States—Honored and revered by his country, for whose liberties he gloriously fought—the pen of the historian will preserve, for the admiration of posterity, the memory of Andrew Jackson.

No.8. His excellency Gov. Noble—Justice, unawed by party strife or party interest, has marked every step of his official career; his enemies admire his prudence; nor has the foul breath of slander ever tainted the atmosphere in which he moves: The cause of internal improvement in this state is deeply indebted to his judicious measures, and Indiana will long cherish sentiments of the most lively gratitude for the able and dignified manner in which he has discharged his official functions.

(After the cheering of the 8th toast had ceased, Gov. Noble rose, evidently under great excitement, affected probably by the

warm reception of the sentiment by his old friends and associates of his earlier days. He spoke for 25 or 30 minutes with force and clearness, upon the subject of Internal Improvement.)

No.9. His excellency Gov. Lucas of Ohio-The people elected him to that high and honorable station for the esteem in which they held his virtues, and they were not deceived in the man.

(Gov. Lucas was invited to this celebration, but no reply has been received from him.)

No.10. His excellency Gov. Duncan of Illinois-We hail him as a co-laborer in the cause of Internal Improvement.

The following is Gov. Duncan's reply to the committee of invitation.)

Elm Grove (Ill.) Aug.23, 1836.

Gentlemen:-Your letter of the 2nd. inst. inviting me to attend a celebration of the commencement of the Whitewater Canal, at Brookville, on the 13th. of next month, has been received, and I regret sincerely that owing to there being no officer in the State at present to administer the government in case of my absence, it will be out of my power to accept your invitation. To have been regarded as one of the distinguished friends of internal improvements, it is an honor to which I feel that I have but little claim, altho my humble efforts have constantly been employed in favor of such works, both by the United States and the State governments; and I consider it a public calamity that the Representatives of the Nation have not been able to agree upon some general system of internal improvement, such as would give to our government the full benefit of all the discoveries of the age, and bind us together by the silken cords of friendship, confidence and common interest. Allow me Gentlemen to congratulate you on the enlightened policy adopted by your State in relation to this great object. The bold measures of the last legislature of Indiana is a high, worthy example, and I hope will be followed by all her Sister States. She will prove the axiom that no country can be impoverished by a tax however great, where the improvements are made and the money expended among those who pay it. If the length of our lives should be estimated more by the objects we are enabled to accomplish, or the extent of our usefulness, than by the mere time we enumber the earth, then indeed would every Patriot and Philanthropist exert himself in a cause which adds so many brilliant and useful days to the short span of human existence.

I beg Gentlemen, that you will tender to the citizens you represent, my best wishes for their happiness and prosperity, and the success of the canal.

The kind feelings and esteem expressed for me in your letter,



I measure you will ever be remembered with a grateful heart.

With great respect, your friend, and obedient servant.

Joseph Duncan.

To Messrs. C.F. Clarkson, John M. Johnson, Rufus Haymond, and Geo. Holland.

No.11. Lieutenant Gov. of Indiana—When Internal Improvement, like the theory of Columbus, was regarded as futile and visionary; when he who gravely talked of the poverty of the state, was a popular statesman, & listened to with applause; then was the inspiring eloquence of David Wallace heard in our hall of Legislation: Our statesmen, aroused from their dream of poverty, began to examine the resource of the state, and the result of that examination let 1836 proclaim: His fame shall be as imperishable as the improvements he has so eminently aided in producing, and Indiana will never forget the one nor neglect the other.

(After the long and loud cheering of this toast had ceased, Gov. Wallace rose and expressed his gratitude for the kind sentiment, and the enthusiasm with which it was received by the company; and remarked, that as he had occupied their attention for some time at an earlier period in the day, he would not now consume the space, which others were waiting to occupy. He therefore closed by offering the following sentiment.)

Indiana.—By her system of Internal Improvements she has prepared for herself a nobler employment, than that of studying the art of trucking to power, or of obeying with obsequiousness of a Slave to that of mere party.

No.12. Hon. Bellamy Storer—A star in the west, devoted to Western Interest: Although a citizen of Hamilton co., Ohio, yet the Mississippi Valley claims him for his enlarged mind; and his laudable exertions in the cause of human happiness cannot be circumscribed by narrow boundaries.

(Mr. Storer was invited to the celebration, and replied to the committee of invitation that he would attend, but was doubtless prevented by the inclemency of the weather.)

No.13. Hon. Robert T. Lytle—The lovers of forensic eloquence cannot but admire the Orator, while the wise and good award him meed of honesty and integrity.

(Mr. Lytle, was invited, but no answer.)

No.14. Hon. Charles F. Mercer—Virginia can boast of a bright constellation of worthies, yet she has none now more worthy than this individual who has grown grey in the cause of his country, for the benefit of future generations: In the cause of Internal Improvements he has no superior.

(After the cheering of this toast, the following letter and sentiment was read.)

Aldin, Va., Sept. 1st, 1836.

Messrs. C.F. Clarkson, Rufus Haymond, John M. Johnston, and George Holland, Committee.

Gentlemen.-

I pray you to offer to the citizens of Franklin county, and accept for yourselves, especially, my most cordial thanks for your flattering invitation to attend the celebration of the commencement of the White Water Canal.

Although indispensable arrangements deny to me the honor of personally uniting with you in the festivities of the day which you have appointed for this interesting purpose, no one more largely participates in the honest pride, with which every American citizen must be inspired, when he contemplates the public spirited measures recently adopted by the State of Indiana, for the improvement of her channels of intercourse.

Next to freedom itself, the greatest social blessings which legislation can dispense, will be found to arise from these internal improvements, which enhance the rewards of labors by increasing the transfer of its fruits; promote the diffusion of knowledge by facilitating the interchange of opinion; and strengthen the bonds of social union, by making the citizens of a country acquainted with each other. May it ever continue, the glory of America, to expend, on such beneficent works, the treasure, which so many nations have criminally wasted on enterprizes, fruitful only of human misery.

Although remote from the scene of your approaching festivity allow me to express my grateful sense of your generous recognition of my feeble efforts to advance the prosperity of our common country, by tendering to the citizens of Franklin, the subjoined sentiment, and to assure you, gentlemen of the sincerest esteem of  
Your obedient servant.

C.F. Mercer.

The State of Indiana, although among the youngest daughters of the Union, outstriping all her sisters in her filial efforts to promote its duration.

No. 15. Col. R.M. Johnson of Ky.-The brave offspring of a noble state. His country admires his valor at the Thames, and will enrol his name among those of her bravest sons.

(When the applause of this sentiment had ceased, the following was read. )

Great Crossings, 16h Aug. 1836.

Gentlemen: I have just received your polite and kind invitation to attend the celebration of the commencement of the White Water Canal, at Brookville, Ind. It would give me very great pleasure indeed to have it in my power to accept your

invitation. My many and multiplied engagements, as well now as in advance of the proposed period of celebration, puts it out of my power to give you positive information as to my ability to witness the commencement of the useful and important Canal in question. Although I may not be present with you, yet I feel a deep and abiding interest in the magnificent and stupendous improvements which are advancing with rapid strides through your enterprising and fertile country, in the extension of the facilities of human comforts, and in the diffusion of all those appliances which are calculated to reward the industrious laborer for his toils, and enhance the happiness and well being of mankind. If I should find it consistent with my other engagements to be with you, nothing will give me more real satisfaction. Accept assurances of my high consideration and respect.

RH:M. JOHNSON.

Messrs. John M. Johnson, George Holland, Rufus Haymond, C.F. Clarkson.

No.16 Gen. Wm. H. Harrison—The wise and able Governor of the "Northern Territory," The Hero of the Thames and Tippecanoe: Indiana, under his auspices ushered into being as a state, now in the full tide of her prosperity, looks upon him as her father and benefactor.

(Harrison was invited but no reply.)

No.17 Hon. Henry Clay of Ky.—To call him a patriot, a statesman, or an orator, is but to pronounce a common sentiment: The acknowledged champion of Internal Improvement—the great Apostle of the Rights of man, his useful life has been wholly his country's and his bright and brilliant career entirely devoted to her service.

(Mr. Clay's letter and sentiment was also read as follows.)

Ashland, Aug. 20, 1836.

Gentlemen: I am honored with your invitation to attend the celebration of the commencement of the White Water Canal. I regret that other engagements will not allow me the gratification of being present. I most heartily wish the enterprize complete success, as I do all the other plans of Internal Improvement which have been adopted by Indiana, so creditably to her enterprize, and which are likely to redound so profitably to her citizens. Instead of my personal presence, suffer me to offer a sentiment:—

Governor Noble—Under whose wise administration a system of Internal Improvement has been adopted that will form an epoch in the annals of Indiana.

With my respectful acknowledgements, and my highest respects, I am gentlemen, Your obedient servant, H. Clay.

To Messrs. Haymond, Clarkson, Holland and Johnson.

No.18 O.H. Smith, Esq.—A firm friend of those measures which

make the "Wilderness blossom as the rose:" The friends of the White-Water Canal cannot this day forget his valuable and efficient aid in bringing round the event we are now celebrating.

(It will be seen that Mr. Smith was prevented from attending by the following, which was read at the table, in reply to the above sentiment.)

At Centreville, 10th Sept, 1836.

Gentlemen:—Your very polite note in behalf of yourselves and fellow citizens of Franklin county, inviting me to join you in celebrating the commencement of our White Water Canal, on the 13th inst. has been received, and until today, I did fully hope that I could so arrange my business in court, now here in session, as to enable me to be with you, but I regret to say that paramount professional indispensable duties prevents me from joining you in the festivities of the day.

To you I need not say, that the cause which you meet to celebrate, is one which I have long advocated, and that the White Water Canal is a work in the success of which I feel deeply interested. The cause is of the greatest moment to the people. It is one of the principles that distinguishes civilized from savage life, and if carried out to the extent of the surplus means of the country, it must result in permanent prosperity and happiness of the people, and the perpetuity of the Union.

As the friends of internal improvement we have great cause to rejoice. The policy for which we have long contended is triumphing in every direction. The people of all political parties in every part of the country are awaking to their true interest and marching forward with a quick step to their destined greatness. Let those who have doubted, hesitate no longer. The passage of our Internal improvement act of the last session, and the act of Congress for the distribution of the surplus revenue, leave no room to doubt the final triumph of our policy and the completion of our works of internal improvement.

Suffer me gentlemen, to submit a sentiment:—

The state of Indiana—Young in years, but wise in policy. She is rapidly advancing towards a high station amongst the members of this confederacy. Let us, regardless of party, unite in our exertions to promote her prosperity and accelerate her march to greatness.

Accept, gentlemen, for yourselves and the citizens of Franklin county, my thanks for the invitation to unite with you in the celebration.

Very respectfully,

O.H. Smith.

Messrs. Rufus Haymond, John M. Johnson, George Holland, C.F. Clarkson, (Committee.)

No.19 Hon. Jona. M Carty—Vigilant and preserving in his conduct; honest and patriotic in his intentions; bold and open in his course: The cause of Internal Improvement is proud of such an advocate.

(Mr. M'Carty was invited and attended, but the day being wet, he left the ground as soon as dinner was over. When the above toast was drunk, a speech was loudly called for, the company not knowing he had retired from the ground.)

No.20 George H. Dunn—The able Lawyer, the enlightened statesman, the gentleman and man of integrity: Whether in the Legislature or in private life, the public good has been his great object; the welfare of the state his first & highest motive: Whilst gratitude inspires our hearts, the name of George H. Dunn will be remembered by the people of Indiana.

(Mr. Dunn replied to this sentiment in a speech of about 20 or 25 minutes, in his usual able manner. His remarks will be published.)

No.21 Hon. Amos Lane—A gentleman of talents and experience, his services to the country are treasured up in sacred recollection, and the friends of education and internal improvement are sensible of his exertions in support of that glorious act of the last Congress, the division of the surplus Revenue.

(Mr. Lane was invited, and was in Brockville on the day, but took no part in the celebration.)

No.22 Hon. Henry Morse, late Senator from Hamilton co. Ohio—His exertions in the last Ohio Legislature in behalf of the White Water Canal, will long be remembered and appreciated by the citizens of Indiana.

(The following is Mr. Morse reply to the committee of invitation, which was read and also cheered with enthusiasm.)

Springfield, (Hamilton Co.) Aug.21st, 1836.

Gentlemen:-

I have been honored by the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. inviting me to attend the celebration at Brockville, on the 13th of Sept. next, by the citizens of Franklin Co. Ind. on the commencement of the White Water Canal.

Be assured, Gentlemen, that nothing would be more gratifying to me than to attend with you, and the "friends of Internal Improvement," in celebrating an event so auspicious to the people of Indiana, and especially so to the White Water Valley, and shall avail myself of the pleasure of doing so, will circumstances at the time permit.

Accept my thanks Gentlemen, for the very flattering terms you were pleased to speak of my Senatorial duties, as a member of the

Ohio Legislature in favor of the White Water Canal. Yet I cannot flatter myself that I done more than my duty as a servant of the people in support of that measure.

Could Ohio do less than permit the White Water Canal to pass some seven or eight miles through its territory when the implied faith of the State was pledged by the Legislature of "33"34 granting leave to "survey and locate the same" if found practicable? Yes she did refuse by a subsequent Legislature so small a favor to a sister State—did (to her shame be it spoken) agree to a report made by the Chairman of the Committee to whom that subject had been reported on the principles of "dollars and cents" in the hurry and bustle of business near the close of the session! But thanks to the magnanimity and good feeling of reciprocity that prevailed the halls of the last Legislature; so foul a blot was "Expunged" from the Statutes of Ohio. And the White Water Canal permitted to wind its way down the valley of the White Water without being interrupted by an Ohio "Hill."

Should unforeseen circumstances prevent my attendance, allow me through you to offer the following sentiment.

Your humble servant, Henry Morse  
Messrs. C.F. Clarkson and others, Comt.

The White Water Canal, May it soon be completed and joined by a Canal from the "Queen of the West" and remain to the end of time as a living likeness to the good feeling and reciprocity existing between two Sister States.

No.23 Dr. Drake of Cincinnati—The friends of Internal Improvement in Indiana, cordially greet the able and vigorous advocate of the great work of Improvement; his exertions in behalf of western interest deserve the approbation of every citizen of the Mississippi valley.

(After the cheering had subsided sufficient to be heard, Dr. Drake, rose and addressed the company for 30 or 35 minutes, with much talent and clearness. During which he was often interrupted by loud cheers. Whoever has seen or heard Mr. Drake speak, knows that the company enjoyed a rich treat. His remarks will also be published.)

No.24 J.L. Williams, Esq.—Indiana owes him a debt of gratitude for the able manner in which he has discharged the important duty of Principal Engineer in the location of her public works.

(After the cheering, Mr. Williams remarked; The kind and flattering allusion to the manner in which my public duties have been discharged which has just been made, was wholly unexpected, and I find myself without language to express, to the full extent, the obligation under which I am placed by the manner

in which it has been received. The approbation of the community must always be grateful to public officers, and to none can it be more so than to those charged with the prosecution of public works. Perhaps no station involves greater responsibilities, and certainly none requires oftener the indulgence and the generous confidence of the public. But I presume an attempt at a long speech from me, is scarcely desired, especially as it is known that nearly the whole of my life has been spent in the dull business of levelling your ditches rather than in speech making. The best return that I can make will be by increased diligence and zeal in the prosecution of our public works, so far as the Board of Internal Improvement (on whom the chief responsibility rests) may commit them to my charge.

Allow me to propose the following sentiment:

The citizens of the White-Water valley—Among the first to propose, and advocate the policy of internal improvement—always in the first rank of its supporters—may they speedily realize the advantages which await them as the reward of their foresight and their public spirit.

No.25 James Rariden, Esq.—The interest of the White-Water Valley is dear to his heart, nor is he idle in exerting his vigorous talents for her cause.

(Here is Mr. Rariden's reply.)

Centerville, Sept. 11th, 1836.

Gentlemen:—Until this minute, I had contemplated the pleasure of joining you in celebrating the commencement of our Whitewater Canal. But untoward and unforeseen occurrences of a private character, renders it not only inconvenient but almost impossible without subjecting me at the same time to a charge of desertion and abandonment of private engagements. Our Court is now in session and cannot be induced to adjourn for this occasion.

But believe me gentlemen heartily and sincerely with you in the great work, and that nothing shall be wanting on my part, if exertion may be called for, to bring it to a speedy completion. Harmony of action, and determination of purpose will make a short and glorious job of it. Be pleased to present, on my behalf, this sentiment.

The White Water Canal.—Whilst the produce of its valleys floats down its bosom may its blessings eternalize the memories of its patrons and projectors.

Very respectfully, gentlemen, Your obedient servant, James Rariden.

C.F. Clarkson, R. Haymond, John M. Johnston, & George Holland, Committee of Invitation.

No.26 Milton Stapp, Esq.—Gentlemanly in his department,

faithful as a public servant, his service in the field and in the councils of the state, entitle him to the gratitude of an enlightened and generous public.

(To this toast Mr. Stapp replied in a very splendid and able speech of about 15 or 20 minutes.)

Nb.27 Caleb B. Smith, Esq.—The able member and dignified presiding officer of the Legislature which has cast undying lustre around their names—a firm and decided friend of western improvement—long may his service be remembered.

(To this sentiment, Mr. Smith also replied in a short speech with much ability and honor to himself.)

Nb.28 Wm. R. Morris, Esq.—Although his residence is not now with us yet he is not forgetful of the beautiful White-Water Valley which was once his home, but he is ever ready with his talents to defend her honor and advocate her interest.

(Mr. Morris was invited to the celebration, but no reply.)

Nb.29 M.T. Williams, Esq.—His fame will be as durable as the works which have been constructed with the aid of his unceasing exertions.

(The following is Mr. Williams reply to the committee of invitation.)

Cincinnati, Sept. 10th, 1836.

Gentlemen,—Your obliging favour of the 2d of August, inviting me on behalf of the citizens of Franklin County, Indiana to be with them on the interesting occasion of the commencement of the White Water Canal was received a few days since. My absence from home prevented its receipt at an earlier day.

It would afford me the highest satisfaction to be present on such an occasion, and nothing but the most imperious obligations of business will prevent my enjoying that satisfaction. I fear, however, I shall be unable to avail myself of your very flattering invitation. In any event my constant wishes will be with you for the success of this work. It is one of unquestionable importance to our whole country, and in all respects worthy of the public spirit and laudable enterprize which has so conspicuously characterized your State in the bold and enlightened system of Internal Improvements she has marked out for herself, and now begins.

With my thanks for your kindness,

I remain, very truly,

your obedient servant,

M.T. Williams.

To Messrs. C.F. Clarkson, John M. Johnston, Rufus Haymond, George Holland, Committee, & c.

Nb.30 Hon. Thomas Corwin—In him, looking upon the past, Ohio has much to admire, looking to the future, much to anticipate.

(Mr. Corwin was invited, but no reply.)



No.31 Jeremiah Morrow, Esq. Ex Gov. of Ohio—A faithful friend of Internal Improvement relieved from a toilsome and faithful service.

(Invited, but no reply.)

No.32 James B. Ray Ex Gov. of Ind.—His name is identified with the Improvement and prosperity of Ind.

(When this sentiment was drunk, Gov. Ray rose to reply, but the rain commenced falling in such heavy torrents that the company were obliged to disperse and seek shelter. He offered the following sentiment.)

The People: They must govern themselves now and for ever; for in this has mainly resulted our high prosperity, including even internal improvements.

No.33 Thomas J. Evans—Chairman of the Committee of Canals and Internal Improvements of the H.R. at the last session of the Legislature—His able and faithful services in the cause of Internal Improvement will long be remembered by the citizens of the state of Indiana.

(The committee received no reply from Mr. Evans.)

(Just as the company was dispersing in the rain, John Finley, Esq. editor of the Richmond Palladium offered the following sentiment.)

The meeting of the Waters

There is not in this wide world a valley so sweet  
As that vale where the branches of Whitewater meet  
Oh! the last picaune shall depart from my fob  
Ere the East or West Fork shall relinquish the job.

The above was taken from thre Sept. 16, 1836 issue of the Brookville, Indiana, AMERICAN. After standing in the rain most of the day, listening to hours of speeches, and drinking 33 or more toasts, the participants of the White Water Canal commencement program must have presented a rather strange site returning to their homes at the end of the day.—ed. note.

In the same issue of the paper was the following article:  
Canal Letting.—The contracting for the White Water Canal from this place to Lawrenceburg took place on Tuesday last. We understand that most of the sections were let, and that the heavy sections were contracted for. A few sections were not taken, but will be let next in time to be finished as soon as the others. All the sections were bid for, but some were too low to be let.

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