

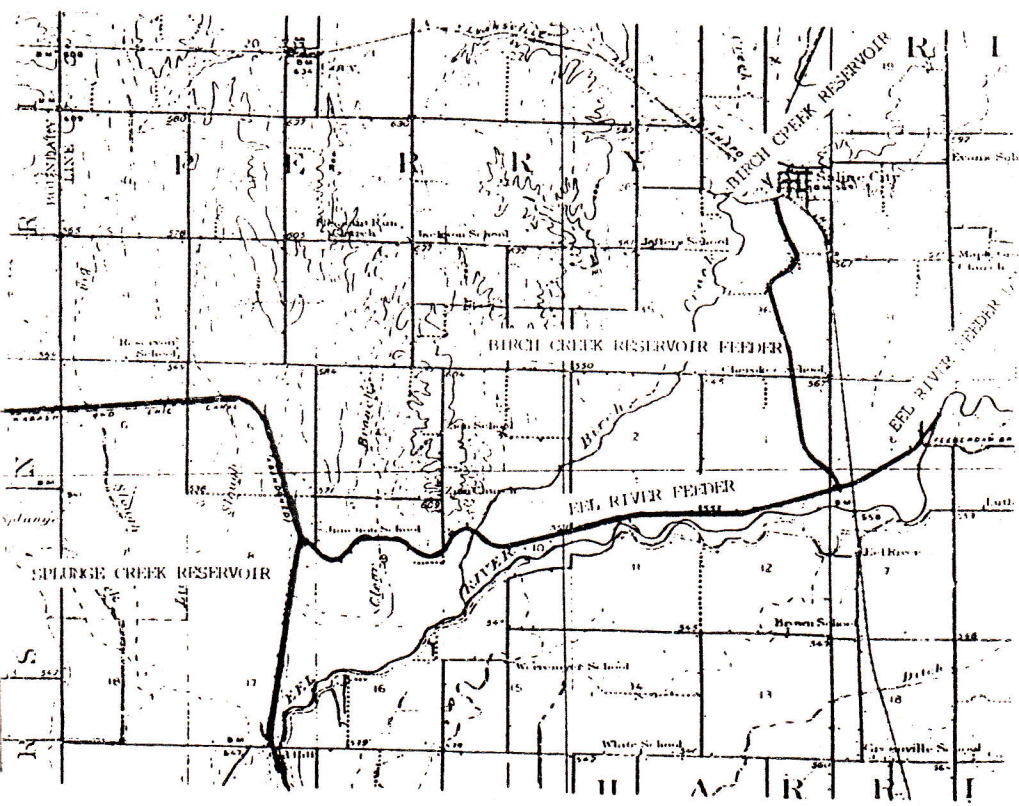
INDIANA

CANALS

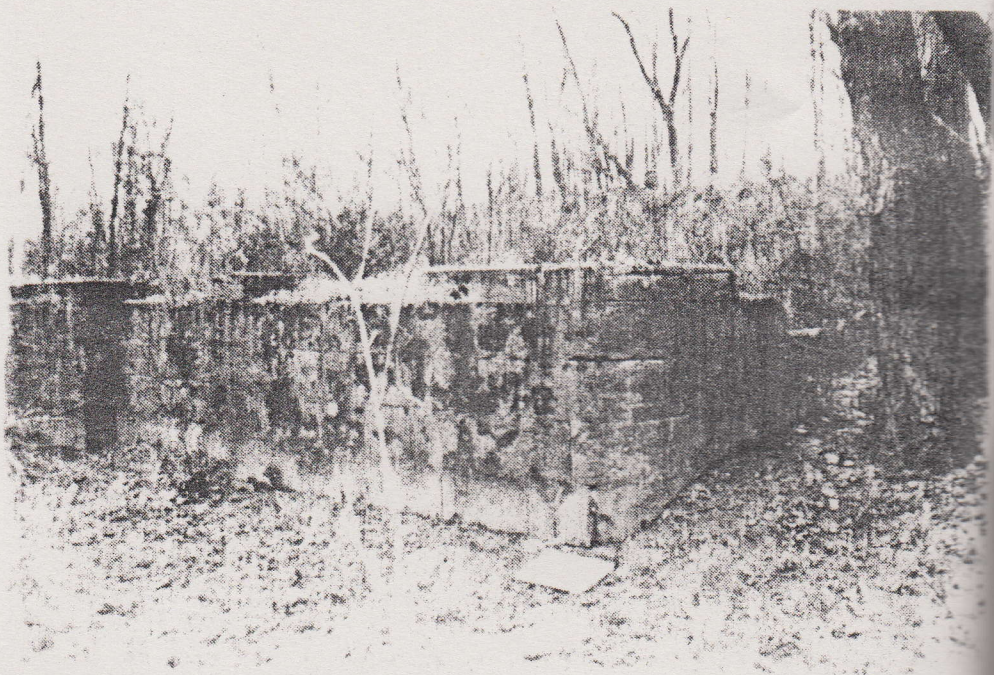
JOURNAL OF THE CANAL SOCIETY OF INDIANA

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Topographic Map of the Clay County Reservoir Area



*Lock #47 near Riley
Canal bed along the Wabash River at Ft. Harrison*



CANAL EXCITEMENT

Quite an excitement prevailed in Terre Haute on Sunday last in the neighborhood of the Canals, owing to the "mingling of the waters" of the Eel river and the Wabash & Erie, on Saturday evening. From early in the morning to evening, all classes of beings were out; men, women, boys, girls, babies, dogs - in fact, everything that had a conscience reconcilable to the contemplation of internal improvements on Sunday. Men squirted tobacco juice into the water, and looked "wise," calculating the beneficial results of the canals to the prosperity of Terre Haute, and the number of boys that would be drowned in the basin during the summer. An enormous quantity of strength was exhausted, trying the gates at the locks, and various improvements suggested in their construction. It is presumed when the locks need repairing, these improvements will be made use of.

On Thursday morning, the fast running, never sink canal boat "Aeolus, Capt. Sperier, had the honor of being the first boat to pass through the locks, and with her deck crowded with citizens, proceeded round to the basin near the Prairie House. The facility with which the Aeolus runs over carts and fences, assures us that if the horses work right, she will raise a foam in the Cross Cut. During this extensive excursion, it must have been apparent to those participating, that this canal will hold water, and when full enough, will float a boat as well as any other canal. Arrived at the end of the trip, the company disembarked, possessing strong claims for immortality by having been on board the first Eel river boat, and perhaps also fully conscious from countless improvements going on here, that Terre Haute is bound to continue taking the shine off all other towns on the Wabash.

Wabash Courier May 11, 1850.

The information in this issue of INDIANA CANALS is printed to coincide with this year's spring tour in Terre Haute. Due to "technical difficulties" the majority of the issue will be in this type face, rather than the above print.

THE EVANSVILLE GUARDS IN THE CLAY COUNTY
RESERVOIR WAR

(AS TOLD BY THE PARTICIPANTS)

Much has been written in canal literature about the so-called Clay County Reservoir War. During the brief operation of the southern division of the Wabash & Erie Canal, there was appreciable opposition by certain elements in Clay County to the canal feeder dam and two reservoirs in their midst. As a result of both their real and imagined grievances a handful of citizens took part in a series of attacks against the structures of the canal company in their county. The climax to these attacks came in 1855. Resident Engineer William J. Ball reported the events of that year as follows:

... on the 10th of May last a large company of men, armed and disguised, assembled at the site of the reservoir, and, after driving off the men stationed there to protect the work, deliberately made an opening in the embankment and discharged the water that had been collected for the summer and fall navigation. After the facts had been duly communicated to Governor Wright, and his Excellency's proclamation had been issued, an attempt was made to repair the breach in the embankment; but the men were driven off and the work stopped. After the work was suspended on the repairs of the Birch creek reservoir, it was supposed other parts of the Canal would not be molested; but such was not the result, for on the 31st of May last a ditch was cut through the berme bank of the Canal near the Birch creek aqueduct, with a view of causing a large breach; and the tow-path of the aqueduct, together with a portion of the trunk, was destroyed by fire. The next attempt at the destruction of property was made on the night of the 20th of June, when the shanties owned and occupied by Baird and Erissman, the original contractors for building the reservoir embankment, were all destroyed by fire. The Trustees sustained no damage from

this wanton outrage, except the loss of convenient places of accommodation for the men to be engaged in the repair of the reservoir embankment, and other work connected therewith, that have been destroyed or injured by these depredators. Governor Wright having been duly informed of these acts of outrage, as they were committed, his Excellency issued a second proclamation, and ordered a military force to be stationed on the work to protect the men engaged in making the repairs, and to prevent further damage....

Upon receipt of Governor Wright's first proclamation a public meeting was called in Evansville for June 6th. At the meeting they pledged a volunteer armed force to assist in restoring order, arresting the ring leaders and protecting the laborers making repairs. Five days later the 6 o'clock train brought a request from General Dodd for 50 volunteers, along with Sheriff Gavitt and a small posse to report to Terre Haute. Mayor Hopkins promptly called for another meeting where a 60 man company under John Gavitt was formed, outfitted and armed by the various banks and businesses of town. When the Evansville Guards gathered at the train depot on June 12th a large part of the town, interspersed with women and children on their way to the Princeton temperance celebration, gathered at 6 am to send them off with three cheers. Because the company included the assistant editors of both Evansville newspapers we still have their daily dispatches from the "Seat of War".

Head Out's, Plague Creek Reservoir,
June 13th, 1855.

Nothing of interest transpired after the writing of my first note from Vincennes until we left the cars and took up our march for the above station. We started out on foot with the prospect of a twelve miles tramp, which was anything but pleasant for the most of us. We had proceeded less than four miles when we met Gen. Dodd with one of his aids, who gave us directions how to

proceed, and furnished us with conveyances to ride to the place of destination. At Lockport, a small town on the Canal, the General provided all hands with dinner, and divided our company, placing 16 men under command of Lieut. Frank Carson, of your city, and the balance under command of Capt. Gavitt. The two Companies then proceeded eight miles by wagon and canal boat to the junction of the main feeder and the canal, where Lieut. Carson's command was directed to remain and watch Plague Creek Reservoir, a beautiful sheet of water of about 4,000 acres and the locks at that point, while Capt. Gavitt's command was sent one and a half mile up the feeder to the noted Birch Creek Reservoir. Thus we were disposed of for the night, myself with the former command. The night set in, and all was doubt as to what the morrow would bring forth as the whole country was full of know nothings, or at least tell nothings, except vague rumors of crimes, depredations and threats, in all which our informants were strongly suspected of being interested. Our little band was divided into four watches, consisting of four men each; one of which was kept patrolling the canal bank and Reservoir embankment for two hours, while the other three were occupying anything but comfortable bivouac, awaiting their turn. The night passed without molestation from any source. J. Ingle, jr., Commissary General remained with us, and did all in his power to render us comfortable. In the morning after partaking of a sumptuous breakfast upon the delicious fish with which the waters of the aforesaid Reservoir abounds, the Commissary and myself started to visit Capt. Gavitt's command at the aqueduct.- We found upon our arrival, that a repair force had been at work there, and had nearly rebuilt that work, (which you will recollect was burned by the Regulators some 10 days since). In about one hour after our arrival the water was let on the aqueduct and the repairs pronounced finished. The repair force was then directed to the Birch Creek Reservoir, a point six miles further up the Feeder, where the greatest mischief has been done,

and Capt. Gavitt's command was detailed by Gen. Dodd to protect the workmen. A draft of six men including myself, was made upon Liet. Carson's company to join Capt. Gavitt. Three repair boats, started immediately with the soldiers and laborers, and arrived at the Reservoir at 12 o'clock M. The afternoon was spent in a cautious reconnoitering of the premises, and in endeavoring to sift something out of the professed friendly Indians themselves, by which a clue could be obtained to arrest some of the guilty parties. The injury done at this point is incalculable, especially in case of a dry season. An immense body of water has been wasted upon the useless swamps of this section of country, which was indispensable to summer navigation. The Birch Creek Reservoir, is the only reliable feeder to 32 miles of Canal, in the direction of Terre Haute, and also contributes to the Canal south, 20 miles to Worthington. The break in the Reservoir embankment can be repaired by the present repair force, during the present week, if properly protected. The work will be vigorously prosecuted and speedily put in complete repair, but how long it will be permitted to stand depends upon plans yet in embryo, which we hope to be able successfully to execute, and which I shall be better able to speak of hereafter. No opportunity has yet offered to send dispatches to the railroad station.

Thursday Morning, June 14, 6 A.M.

No hostile demonstrations made by the natives last night, although we were menaced by many cowardly threats of annihilation. A strong guard was placed at the feeder dam, on Eel river; also over the reservoir embankment at this place. Last night and this morning, handbills were discovered posted in various places, notifying "all whom it might concern" that the feeder dam would be cut to-day, and that the repair force on the reservoir would not be permitted to proceed with their work.

The natives appear to understand our plan of operations perfectly, which they have no doubt learned through the perfidy of some of their number who had professed friendship for us, and a

desire to see law and order prevail.

8 o'clock, A.M.

A force of about forty men have just commenced work on the broken embankment and things are assuming somewhat of a belligerent aspect "around the edges." The natives talk and act much more impudently than yesterday, but exercise great caution, and are evidently acting under the direction of villains deeply skilled in the tactics of their profession. Gen. Dodd has just returned to camp, having been out with a reconnoitering party during the night, for the purpose of obtaining information that might lead to the discovery of some of the ring-leaders. He is of opinion that matters will be brought to a crisis to-day or to-morrow. My own opinion is that the struggle will commence with the first arrests that are made. Our officers and men are in the best of spirits, and eager for any emergency that may arise.

The local authorities of the country are all in the interest of the rioters; the Sheriff has refused to do his duty, and says he will resign his office before he will serve a process or make an arrest. The Common Pleas Judge, County Clerk, Coroner and Magistrate, are all in the same category.

In regards to the grievances of which the natives complained, suffice it to say they have none, and I would give conclusive reasons for that judgement next. The pretext that the collection of water in the Reservoir produces disease & c. is utterly without sense or reason, and even if it were literally true it would be no justification for the destruction of canal property 12 miles distant, against which no objection can be urged.

9 o'clock. All hands are being mustered in expectation of an attack upon the workmen. Gen. Dodd, Capt. Gavitt and their subordinate officers, are all busily engaged drilling their men. I must now close as I have to send a special messenger 15 miles to the nearest Railroad station.

Evansville Journal June 16, 1855.

Seat of the War, Birch Creek. June 13, 1855.

We arrived here yesterday evening after dark, after a good march of ten miles and rather

unpleasant trip on board of a flatboat half filled with water. We met with Gen. Dodd, who has treated us very kindly. Our place of rest last night was uncomfortable. We slept, or some of us did, on the deck of a canal boat, with a little straw under us, but all very cheerful, and enjoy the best kind of time. The State has two or three boats here, but no accommodations with the exception of two cooks. We are the only "soldiers" at present on the ground. There are about fifty men more, who are at work at the aqueduct. They are also prepared for the issue. Some two miles below us, we had to divide our company, part under Capt. Carson. This morning we elected officers for day and night watches. Clay Stinson elected 1st sergeant. We are now only waiting for the "fray." The State has lots of eating, & c. but none of the right kind. There is expected to be some good fighting done, but at present all is dull. The boys are amusing themselves casting bullets. We are determined to have a fight before we leave, and that we will have.

Evansville Journal June 13, 1855.

NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR!

Birch Creek Aqueduct, June 13.

Hall.-We reached our station at the Junction of the Canal and Birch Creek yesterday about 5 o'clock, after a march and ride of some 15 miles, where 16 of us are stationed under Capt. Carson, the Lieut. of the Company, the rest came on here about 2 miles further. The repairs to the Aqueduct, under the direction of Mr. Orsbon with a large force are completed, and the men here with a portion of our force will leave in one hour for the reservoir, where it is said a battle is expected. All are in high spirits, but at our station we are poorly accommodated, having to sleep in an old barn full of air holes and a large open window, without blankets, and last night very cold. This will be corrected to-day we hope. Here the men are quartered in boats and are very comfortable. Mr. J. Ingle takes this and give you full particulars of the state of affairs, as I have only just been told of his intention of going home.

Evansville Enquirer June 14, 1855.

Army of Occupation, Clay County, Ind., Head

Quarters, Birch Creek Reservoir, Thursday evening,
June 14th, 1855.

Dear Journal:

I made every effort in my power to forward my dispatches, up to this forenoon, to Terre Haute in time for the train hence to Evansville, that they might be received on the day of date, but fear they were not in time. Unfortunately for purposes of sending or gaining intelligence, this benighted country, has little communication with the civilized world, but, perhaps in every other respect, the world is quite as well off in knowing as little as it does of both the country and its hybrid population. Of course I make honorable exceptions of all order loving citizens, but those for the most part are composed of persons who have been better bred in other sections of the State and induced to come here as contractors upon the public works and squatted upon or purchased some of the timber lands without the remotest idea of making it their permanent abode. When I tell you upon the authority of those who ought to know, that their county government is exclusively in the hands of a large band who style themselves Regulators, who usurp the control of the entire policy and judiciary; who at least give aid and comfort to the mob violence and incendiarism, and scarcely deny participation therein themselves; and whose officers of the law act constantly under their terror and dictation, you may form some idea of the safety of public property and the necessity of our presence here to protect it.

A meeting of the citizens has been called for this evening, for the avowed purpose I understand, of making preparations to the Canal Trustees for an adjustment of professed grievances. Gen. Dodd and Capt. Gavitt will attend the meeting, the result of which I will give you at the earliest moment.

Our force of armed men at all points in this vicinity number about 65-50 of which are from Vanderburgh County. It is divided into three squads. The main force consisting of 35 men is at this point. A force of 13 men under Capt. Carson is stationed at the Junction, or Plague Creek Reservoir, about eight miles south of us. A small

detachment under the command of Mayor J.W. Hughes is guarding the Feeder dam some three miles from "Head Quarters."

Friday morning, 9 o'clock A.M.

This morning about one o'clock, a message was received purporting to come from Capt. Carson that a large body of men was organizing in his neighborhood to attack our camp and that it would doubtless be attacked before morning. Our "Pickett guards" came in with the messengers, and the intelligence created no little alarm in camp. The men were rallied from their slumbers and were in a manner ready for duty in quick time. Gen. Dodd and Capt. Gavitt were absent at the citizen's meeting, and the command fell upon Lieut. Mosley, and the whole army cannot boast a braver man. He at once had all the out-pasts double picketed and every avenue of approach duly guarded. After the space of one hour, all the men not detailed as above were ordered to their hammocks, to sleep on their arms and be ready at a moment's warning. No attack was made however during the night, but it is nevertheless believed that Capt. Carson's apprehensions were at the time well founded. The repairs are all at work this morning but will not remain without protection.

10 o'clock, A.M.

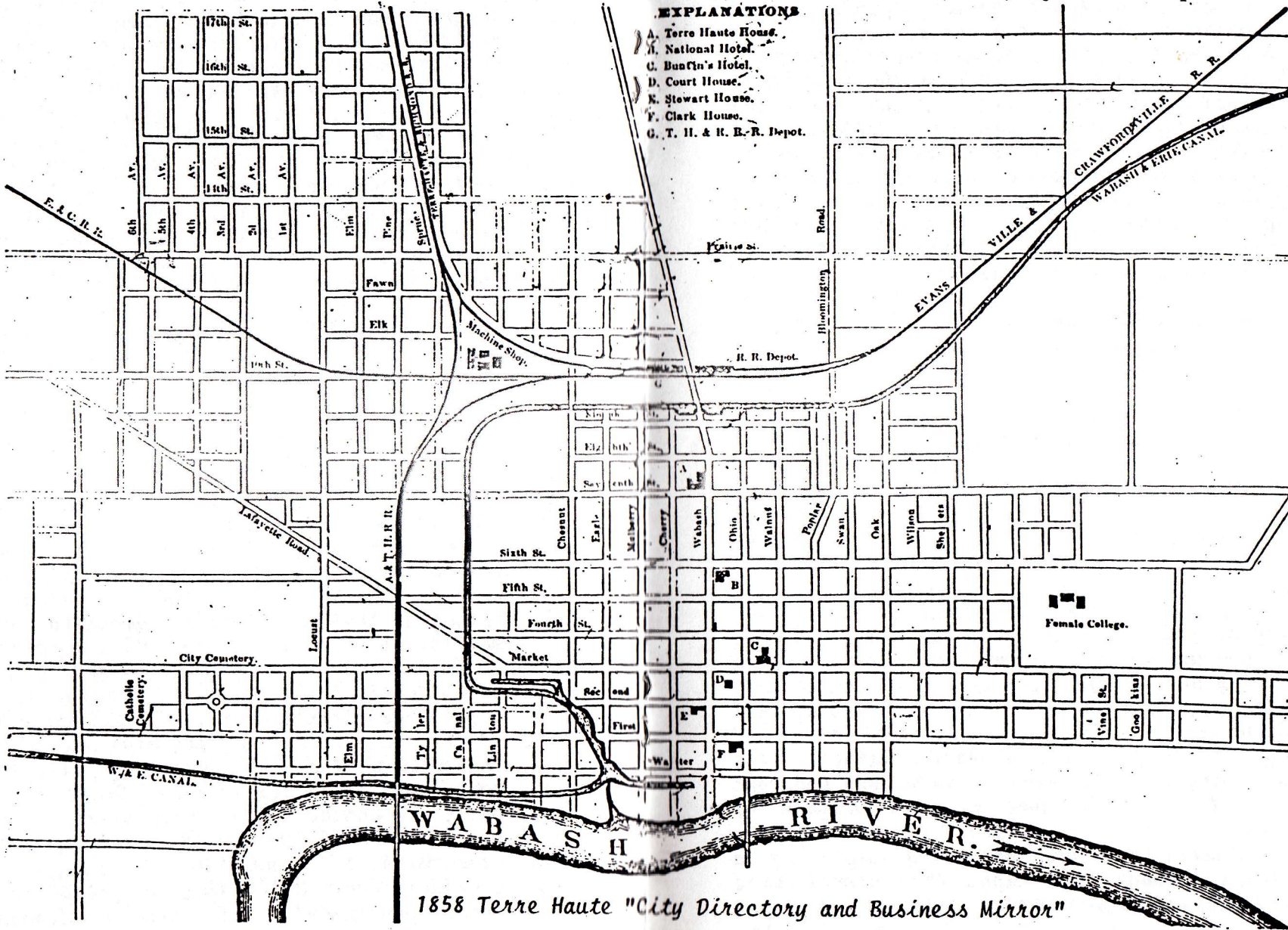
Gen. Dodd and Capt. Gavitt have just returned from the meeting above alluded to. They report it large and respectable, but are at the same time of the opinion that 149 out of the 150 men present, were directly or remotely connected with the outrages that have been committed here. The meeting prepared a sort of "Vienna note" as their ultimatum of reconciliation, and dispatched a committee to Terre Haute this morning, to lay it before the commissioners. Gen. Dodd will also be at the conference, and will urge any adjustment of the matter, that he deems compatible with the honor and interests of the State. For my own part, I consider their proposition a ridiculous piece of cool impudence, and under existing circumstances unworthy of respectful consideration. Until they re-establish their own local government, and show a disposition to

MAP

OF TERRE HAUTE AND SUBURBS,

COMPILED BY H. N. McEVOY.

J. Falnestock, Engraver. Indianapolis.



1858 Terre Haute "City Directory and Business Mirror"

enforce the laws of the land, and are found protecting instead of destroying public and private property, I deem any demand for redress coming from them unworthy of notice. I still insist that this community have not been essentially wronged, and if it has suffered at all, it has been from causes which are incidental in the construction of all the large public works, and temporary nature in their character.

I had intended to write more at length upon this branch of the subject, and furnish the readers of the Journal with the only rational opinions entertained here upon the miasmatic influences of the Reservoir, with or without the water, and as compared with the swamps it occupies, before the Reservoir was constructed, but Gen. Dodd is just leaving for Terre Haute, and furnishes the only opportunity for sending this hurried scrawl.

Evansville Journal June 18, 1855.

NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR

Birch Creek Junction, June 15, 1855.

Dear Hall:

I wrote the day before yesterday stating that the Evansville Guards had arrived at the scenes of the depredations, and that the aqueduct had been repaired, and that the principal part of the company had gone on to the Reservoir. Several small parties of Volunteers have joined us, but none in large numbers and strange to say, only one or two from Terre Haute, unless they have gone direct to the Reservoir, about 6 miles off, from which we have no intelligence today.

The disposition of the whole of the men under Gen. Dodd's command is as follows: At this point we have 14 men under Capt. Carson; at the aqueduct, two miles off, 5 men under the Capt. of a Canal boat lying there; and 4 miles further on at Eel River dam there are 9 men under Dr. Walker. - The remainder are at the Reservoir with Gen. Dodd and Smith Gavitt at a distance of 4 miles from the dam.

So far there has not been any signs of a disturbance, though last night the outposts were on alert, as it was reported that an attack was

contemplated on the main body and that the acqueduct was threatened. Our party have to watch about 4 miles of the canal and to guard two important places, viz: the Junction and Splunge Creek bridge, accordingly our patrols were strengthened. We fully expected a brush with the "Regulators," but none made their appearance, and I presume the night passed off quietly at the reservoir, as we have not heard of any fighting there yet.

I think it extremely probable that the Regulators are intimidated and desirous of coming to some compromise, as I understand that a meeting was to be held last night to agree upon terms, to which Gen. Dodd and Smith Gavitt were invited. It depends greatly upon the result of this meeting whether the repairs will go on without disturbance, and with a security of their being unmolested for the future, but it appears to be the general opinion that the rumored preparations to arrest some of the ringleaders, have rather alarmed the smaller fry.

I have no idea how long our services will be required here, but there appears to be a universal determination on the part of all to remain until Gen. Dodd is satisfied. The work is no child's play—to go during the hot sun carrying a heavy rifle four or five miles—and to patrol, in squads at night for 3 hours at a time, is rather severe to those accustomed to sit at a desk; but all are in high spirits, and ready if not eager for a fray. Our little party is composed of Capt. Carson, Geo. Foster, McCrea, H. Reid, Todd, Harlan, Law, Veale, Seymour, Dennis (of Terre Haute), Burbank, John Clifford, (who came up on Wednesday) McGrew Denby, and R. Robertson, and a most agreeable party they are; all differences of opinion is laid aside and everyone anxious to contribute to the amusement of the whole. It would create a laugh to see us stretched out at night on the floor of an old log shanty, each struggling for the largest share of the quilt and covers. We live well enough at the table of Esq. Lee, on fish, bacon and coffee, the first consisting of

the finest bass from one to three pounds and even of seven pounds are taken daily, sometimes as many as one hundred being found in one net. The crops are backward, and it is said the cold nights have injured the wheat somewhat.

Yours, R.

Since writing the above we hear by a message from the reservoir that the same report of a threatened attack had reached them and great excitement prevailed, the men were ordered under arms and every precaution adopted; but the night passed off quietly.- I have not yet learned what took place at the meeting yesterday, though I expect we shall know to-morrow.

I hear that from information received that arrests of some suspected persons will commence to-morrow, and then some trouble may be looked for. It is said that the sheriff Loving left for Iowa, or some parts unknown yesterday morning.

The repairs it is thought, will be completed by Monday, and that by Tuesday or at the furthest Wednesday, we shall be on our way back, a dirtier but not less merry party than when we departed, as clean linen, razors & c., are not part of our baggage, not anticipating a stay of over a couple of days.

I omitted to say that the people of the neighborhood are well affected, and condemn in strong terms the rioters.

Evansville Enquirer June 18, 1855.

NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR

Birch Creek Junction. June 16th 1855.

Hall:

I wrote you on the 14th and take advantage of Mayor Hughes return, to give you a continued detail of our movements. I have just returned from a visit to Capt. Gavitts head quarters at the reservoir, where I found about 70 men under arms, well quartered, fed and disciplined, with regular guards stationed after night and a strong detachment always kept in readiness should the repairs be threatened. On Thursday

night the rumor of a projected attack (to which I have referred) reached Capt. Gavitt, and the men and officers under his command were called out under arms and strong patrols established, however, as in our case the rumor was without foundation, and the night passed off peaceably, in fact I do not now think that the "Regulators," as the scoundrels call themselves, will make any demonstrations not a little to the chagrin of some of our's who wished for an opportunity of making such arrests as would have put an effectual stop to these outrages. (By the by the letter of your correspondent "C." without a date, is one that should not have appeared in your paper of the 15th. The idea of receiving a whaling at the hands of the rascally fiends who attack like cowards, disguised and under cover of night, even though their force be 3000, is one that never entered the tho'ts of our little force from Evansville, or of those who have joined us, and this opinion as far as I can judge was unanimous.

The feeling of the majority of the people in the neighborhood of the reservoir are in favor of law and order; but if the compromise offered by them is not accepted with the amendments proposed by the Board of Trustees, the same outrages may again take place after the 'Guards' are withdrawn, and the water fills the reservoir once more.

The health of all the men is excellent, though subjected to the usual hard fare of camp life when quartered some 18 or 20 miles from a market, and Capt. Gavitt, Dr. Walker, Maj. Hughes and Clay Stinson, the principal officers deserve great credit for their efforts in managing a set of men of such various pursuits and habits.

The repairs to the reservoir are being rapidly completed, and by Tuesday or Wednesday we expect to leave for home, and I would here mention that to Mr. Watson the conductor of the train that brought us up, the thanks of the Company are due for his courtesy during the trip, which I previously omitted.

Gen. Dodd and Capt. Gavitt attended the meeting on Thursday night when it was agreed that if the Trustees would clear the timber off the Reservoir, they to the number of ninety would use every effort to sustain the canal and works, and now it remains to be seen if the "Regulators" will agree to these terms. From this camp we have no news to report.

Evansville Enquirer June 20, 1855.

FROM CLAY COUNTY

Birch Creek Reservoir. June 17, 1855.

Hall:- I wrote yesterday to you, and today take advantage of a fish cart going to Terre Haute, to send you further news from our camp. At this point there is nothing of interest to communicate, further than that we are under orders to leave for Head Quarters at the Reservoir, and are only waiting for the P.G. O'Riley, canal boat, to proceed to join Capt. Gavitt's command, probably to-night.

I presume this is preparatory to our setting out for home, as by some accounts from the Reservoir this morning I hear that the repairs to the breach in the dam will be completed by to-morrow night.

A conference or treaty has been effected between about ninety (it is said) of the inhabitants of the country adjoining the Reservoir, and the Trustees of the Canal, whereby the latter agree to cut and clear off all the timber between now and the 1st of February next, and the former agree not to molest or destroy the works. but to lend their aid in protecting them against the attacks of any ill minded or evil disposed persons from any other portion of the county. If the Trustees will stand up to their part of the agreement, there is no doubt that the country people will act up to theirs, for as I have already stated, the lawless proceedings of destroying the Dam, originated in the want of faith on the part of the Trustees in not performing their original contract. The burning and cutting away of the Aqueduct, however, and

the destroying the shanties and mill property situated on the reservoir was a piece of wanton vandalism, and admits no excuse or paeliation.

The health of Lieut. Carson's command is excellent, which is more than could be expected from the arduous duties that men not accustomed to roughing it, had to perform. Capt. Gavitt's command are also free from sickness, and the whole company of the "Guards" look forward with pleasure to the near prospect of a dismissal from their voluntary service, as all have ties of other business or family which make a prolonged absence inconvenient; though I have not heard a single regret that they had volunteered, and I can safely say that were it necessary for the public good that we should remain longer, not a dissenting voice would be heard, certainly not from our detachment, the names of whom I gave you a day or two ago.

...I expect we shall be en route for home on Wednesday, and my next communication may be personal.

Evansville Enquirer June 22, 1855.

Head Quarters, Birch Creek Reservoir,
Monday, June 18, 1855.

Dear Journal:- But little of interest has transpired since my last, except that another agreement has been entered into between the citizens of Clay county and the Canal Trustees, but whether that agreement amounts to a settlement or not time only can determine. My own opinion is, that the Trustees are dealing with irresponsible parties who will adhere to their contracts while it suits their convenience, and again violate them upon the slightest pretext of offence. The Trustees have acted upon the propositions submitted to them by a committee on behalf of Clay county, and with slight modifications have acceded to them. In so-doing the parties have only re-iterated another contract, to clear the timber from the Reservoir, which, you have already learned from my letters, the Trustees have ever been ready to

do. The ratification of the treaty took place to-day upon our camp ground, and so far as matters connected with the canal are concerned, the difficulties may be considered settled for the present.-

What has been gained by the Clayites except the carrying of an immaterial point about which little controversy has ever existed, it is difficult to discover. In fact there is so little in it, that it would seem impossible that they should be willing to adjust such Huge grievances as they claim to have sustained for so small a consideration. It is to be hoped in view of the vast importance of the Reservoir to canal navigation, that no further difficulties may ever arise, but it has become a part of the nature of the people of Clay county to believe that their rights have ruthlessly been trampled on, by that "soulless corporation," as they are pleased to call the Canal Trustees. It will be a part of the education of their children, and the spirit of rebellion will long be cherished against the city of Evansville for the interest she has manifested in maintaining law and order, and protecting the canal property.

We had some hard rain which have somewhat retarded the work of repairs.- Gen. Dodd will detain us here until the work is completed, and there is so little confidence to be placed in the assurances of the people not to interrupt the laborers again, that such a course is doubtless necessary. If criminal proceedings are instituted against those implicated in the burning, we shall most likely be detained until Wednesday or Thursday. We all have the utmost confidence in the management of General Dodd, whom we find to be an accomplished gentlemen, and an efficient officer. He will do his duty in any event. Enclosed you will find the resolution which are the basis of the settlement above referred to.

Evansville Journal June 21, 1855.

NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR

Birch Creek Aqueduct. June 20, 1855.

Dear Hall:

The "guards" under Capt. Gavitt's command have made 17 arrests, and the men were taken before Esq. Robertson, of this township, when the examination was adjourned till Wednesday the 27th,- Messrs. Bright and Edmonds, from Terre Haute for the Trustees and Mr. Hanna, of Bowling Green, Clay Co., for the defendants.

I believe we shall turn our faces homewards to-night by the packet boats P.G. O'Riley and Pennsylvania.

Evansville Enquirer June 22, 1855.

On the evening of June 20th the Evansville Guards departed Clay County for Terre Haute via the canal. After a dinner at the Terre Haute Hotel hosted by General Dodd, the company left by train for Evansville. Nine days later, on the night of June 29th, the embankment of the Birch Creek reservoir was again cut and the water drained.

CANAL OFFICE.- The Trustees of the Wabash & Erie Canal have erected a substantial two story building for an office on Ohio street, near the dwelling of Mr. Rice. The rooms are large and well finished. There is also attached a small fire-proof room on the south side. The whole building is of superior finish, containing four large rooms besides the basement. The house is so constructed that at any future day it may be converted into a dwelling. The offices will soon remove from the old office to the new.

WABASH COURIER December 17, 1853.

CANAL CELEBRATION

Opening of the Wabash and Erie Canal to Terre Haute-First Arrival of a canal boat from Toledo.

On Thursday morning last, our citizens were taken by surprise, by the arrival of two canal boats-The E.A. HANNEGAN and G.R. Walker, through the W.&E. Canal from above. The E.A. HANNEGAN, owned by H.B. Smith, and commanded by Capt. M. Robertson, direct we believe from Toledo. On board the boat were many gentlemen from towns, and the Wabash above. Among the number, we noticed the Hon. J.R. Porter, Josephus Collett, Esq., Mr. Robert Barnett, Mr. George Thompson, Mr. Jas. Johnson, Superintendent of the Canal, and others, enjoying the first ride on the W.&E. Canal to Terre Haute.

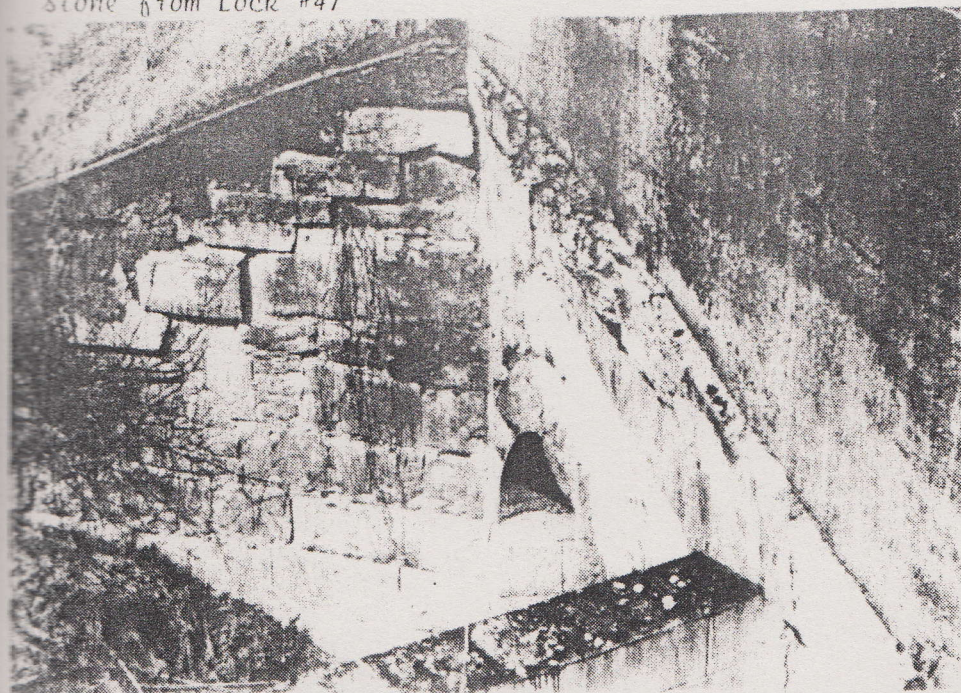
Shortly after landing, through the politeness of the Proprietor, and Capt. of THE HANNEGAN, a band of music from Town, and a crowd of our citizens were given an excursion ride of a mile and back on the Canal. On reaching town the second time, the whole company was greeted with roar of cannon, and cheers from crowds on the bank.

At three o'clock a fine dinner was served up at the PRAIRIE HOUSE-to which the proprietors of the boats, and gentlemen comprising excursion passengers on the HANNEGAN from above, were invited. Some excellent addresses were delivered-and toasts appropriate to the occasion given, in that spirit of hearty good-feeling, which so interesting an event was calculated to inspire. The boats both returned on the following day. Thus opens and commences trade on the W.&E. Canal from Terre Haute north. This is an epoch looked to for years. In the magnitude of the event, many scarcely believed it possible ever to realize the happy consumation. Doubts are now dissipated.-The boats are here, and trade commenced. Occasional breaks in new banks are of course to be expected.-Some delays incident to new works are so much a matter of course, that none should be disappointed at short interruptions in navigation for some time to come. The present season is so far advanced that no great progress in trade can be expected this Fall. The prospect here is fair for Spring business. A fresh impetus will be given to trade, of which our town and country will immediately experience the good effects.

WABASH COURIER October 27, 1849.



"Blue Hole" or Eel River Summit Deep Cut
Splunge Creek flood control structure incorporating
stone from Lock #47



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