



NEWS AND JOURNAL OF THE CANAL SOCIETY OF INDIANA

VOL. 6 NO.2

P.O. BOX 40087 FORT WAYNE, IN 46804

FEBRUARY 2007

TOWPATHS LINK TO FUTURE



REED CASE HOUSE

The Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc. received a plaque from the Wabash Valley Trust recognizing their restoration of the 1844 Reed Case house. A plaque hanging ceremony was held on Monday, November 13, 2006. Reed Case was a Wabash & Erie Canal builder and superintendent.

Earlier photo by Bob Schmidt

Features

1. Case House Award
3. Places Named In Honor Of DeWitt Clinton
7. Welcome New Members
8. Canawlers At Rest: Andrew Downing
14. See Britain At 3 M.P.H.
15. Lockkeeper's Desk On E-Bay
16. CSI Board Met In Center Point
19. Indian Removal Topic Of MVHC Annual Meeting
19. George Hedford Dunn
20. Central Canal Improvements
21. News From Delphi: Volunteer Call Out, More Murals Sponsored, Canal Park Gets School House, Collections Recorded, Interpretive Center Winter Hours, Bridge Site Readied, Boy Scouts Improve Trail, Christmas Festival and Log Schoolhouse
23. Wabash & Erie Canal In Carroll County
26. Wabash-Erie Canal Corridor
27. PowerPoint Program For W & E Trail
28. I Remember, Fence Viewers, W&E Toledo Area, In Memoriam: Albert L. Volz

CASE HOUSE AWARD

Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc. was presented a plaque by Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation for their renovation of the 1844 Reed Case house. The green marble plaque was hung on the house at 3 p.m. on Monday, November 13, 2006.

This original two story frame home built for canal contractor Reed Case once stood on Front Street in Delphi. It was donated in 1983 by Jim and June Davis of Delphi and was moved on July 22-24, 1986, to Canal Park, 11 blocks north of the Court House stoplight on Washington Street. Porches and fireplaces

were removed during the year of preparation for the move, which culminated in the event of the century for the Delphi citizenry. Extensive tree-trimming and thousands of dollars worth of utility pole removal paved the way for relocation. Spectators lined the streets along the route sitting in lawn chairs or on blankets as the home inched its way to Canal Park.

During the move it seemed like an impasse presented itself at the Washington Street stone bridge located just yards from the waiting foundation. It was necessary for the truck that was pulling the home to drive on the sidewalk of the bridge in order for the house to clear the bridge's stone sides. Because of the sharp turn into the park, the house had to travel past its destination to make a more direct approach.

After the move it was seen that the northwest corner of the building had received extensive damage when the house and trees along the route collided. The cost of moving the home created an experience similar to that of building the canal over a hundred and fifty years earlier. It put a huge financial strain on the Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal treasury.

Reed Case, the first owner of the home, was born in Nelson County, Kentucky, on January 9, 1808. That summer his family moved to Orange County, Indiana. After moving to Shelby County, Kentucky, for a few years due to Indian hostility they returned to southern Indiana in 1819. In 1836 at the age of 28 Case began work on the Miami County segment of the Wabash & Erie Canal. He came to Carroll County to live in Pittsburg, Indiana, which was located across the

Wabash River from Delphi, and in 1838 completed the Wabash & Erie Canal segment from Delphi to Lafayette after the death of Valerius Armitage and also built the canal sidecut to the foot of Delphi's Main Street.

Case became convinced that the future was brighter for Delphi on the mainline canal than for Pittsburg. He had this two-story Federal-style home built at 221 West Front Street in 1843-44. At the age of 34, he moved into the home with his wife Mariah and their small children. Eventually seven Case children blessed the home although several did not live to adulthood.

After Mariah's death in 1847, Reed married her widowed sister, Huldah Glover Williams, and in 1853 moved his family to a two-year-old Greek Revival brick house at 312 East Main Street. He then added an extension to the former poplar-sided Case House. This was a back parlor with a room above it. When the addition was complete he operated the house as an inn. Canal travelers frequented it because of its proximity to the canal port on West Main Street. It may have been at that time that some Greek Revival touches were added to its architecture.

The Case House was also the birthplace of a famous coronet player. Walter Rodgers was born in it on October 14, 1865.

The Case House is a delight to tour as a "house museum" and now overlooks the Wabash & Erie Canal and towpath in Canal Park. Restoration by volunteers under Anadell Lamb, Coordinator of Restoration and a Canal Board director, is ongoing.

CANAL SOCIETY OF INDIANA

P.O. Box 40087, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Phone & Fax: 260-432-0279

E-mail: indcanal@aol.com

Web: www.indcanal.org

Officers

Robert Schmidt—President
Ft. Wayne, IN
indcanal@aol.com
Speaker—Indiana Canals

Charles Huppert—Vice-Pres.
Indianapolis, IN
cbb@iquest.net
Speaker—Central Canal

Cynthia Powers — Secretary
Ft. Wayne, IN
(260) 638-4291

James Ellis—Treasurer
Ft. Wayne, IN
ruthe1938@msn.com

Directors

Sandy Billing
Terre Haute, IN
(812) 466-2187

William Davis
Rosedale, IN
berkydusa@sbcglobal.net

Don Haack
Ft. Wayne, IN
donbehaack@locl.net

Karl Kettelhut
Indianapolis, IN
(317) 575-0963

Jeffrey Koehler
Center Point, IN
koehler@netusa1.net
Speaker Wabash- Erie Canal

Lynette Kross
Plymouth, IN
lynettelskross@yahoo.com

Bette Lockhart
Marion, IN
(765) 662-1127

Mike Morthorst
Cincinnati, OH
gongoozler@fuse.net

Gerald Mattheis
Cambridge City, IN
obk@infocom.com

Dan McCain
Delphi, IN
mccain@carlnet.org
Speaker, tours -appointment
www.wabashanderiecanal.org

Carolyn Schmidt-Editor
Ft. Wayne, IN
indcanal@aol.com
Speaker Indiana Canals

Sue Simerman
Ossian, IN
simerman46777@msn.com

Charles Whiting, Jr.
Lawrenceburg, IN
cwhiting01@comcast.net

Mick Wilz
Brookville, IN
mick@sur-seal.com
Speaker - tour Whitewater
Canal (765) 647-6457