

## INDIANA GENEALOGY

### The Old Wilson Cemetery on White River

EUGENE STUDEBAKER WIERBACH

Delaware County, like many other counties in Indiana, is dotted with old abandoned cemeteries. The average motorist speeding along country lanes and byways seldom gives them more than a passing glance, but to the local historian or "family researcher," these burial grounds are storehouses of information. Here, cut in stone and marble, are records usually copied from Bibles many of which have disappeared. The Old Wilson Cemetery, which is situated four miles east of Muncie on the Smithfield Pike,<sup>1</sup> is one of many in Delaware County with an interesting history. Here, buried along with others of his family, lie the remains of Muncietown's first writing teacher, Anderson R. East.<sup>2</sup> There is very little recorded information relative to this man. We first hear of him back in 1832 in Liberty Township. There Asahel Thornburg,<sup>3</sup> one of the early landowners in this section, built a small log building for school purposes. In this place Mr. East taught school for two winters, the Thornburg children attending as well as other children of the neighborhood. In 1835, he opened his first "Writing School" in the old frame Court House in Muncietown, having from fifteen to twenty pupils at all times. Later, when a small brick schoolhouse was built on east Main Street, he transferred his classes to that building.<sup>4</sup> He numbered among his students many of the younger members of the Gilbert, Anthony, Kirby, Jackson, Blount and other representative families of the village. No doubt older persons availed themselves of his "running style" of penmanship, which he offered along with lessons in drawing and painting.

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<sup>1</sup> More exactly, the Wilson Cemetery is located on the old Muncie and Winchester Turnpike, about four miles east of Muncie on the farm formerly known as the Dr. Jump Farm, but now owned by Arthur Ball. The acre of land, more or less, included in the Cemetery lies between the road and White River.

<sup>2</sup> T. B. Helm, *History of Delaware County, Indiana* (Chicago, 1881), 205.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 256.

<sup>4</sup> The issue of *The Muncietonian* for June 15, 1837 (Muncie Public Library), states that Mr. East had been appointed School Commissioner of Delaware County to succeed Thomas Anthony who had resigned.

*The Tombstone Records:*

- John Wilson—d. Sept. 26, 1856; aged 45 yrs.  
 Martha E. Wilson (wife of John Wilson)—b. April 9, 1822; d. July 29, 1861.  
 Malinda B. Imlay (w. of J. C. Imlay)—d. March 26, 1858; aged 22 yrs., 2 mos., 13 days.  
 John C. Imlay (son of J.C.&M.B.Imlay)—d. Nov. 16, 1857; aged 4 mos.  
 Sarah Catherine Cook (dau. of Benj. Cook)—d. April 21, 1852; aged 1 yr.  
 Mahala Cook (w. of Gilpin Cook)—d. Aug. 10, 1854; aged 33 yrs.  
 James Osker McCall (son of Ezekiel and Hanna McCall)—d. Sept. 2, 1866, aged 8 yrs.  
 William Edgar McCall (s. of E. and H. McCall)—d. Sept. 16, 1866; aged 8 yrs.  
 Elizabeth Jackson (w. of Mahlon Jackson)—d. May 20, 1852; aged 34 yrs.  
 James Jackson—d. July 22, 1835; aged 52 yrs.  
 Martha Jackson (w. of James Jackson)—d. May 3, 1831; aged 62 yrs.  
 James A. Goings (s. of David and Jane Goings)—d. in service of his country, April 10, 1863; aged 35 yrs.  
 Margaret Goings (w. of David Goings)—d. April 8, 1853; aged 35 yrs.  
 Sussanah [*sic*] Goings (w. of David Goings, Sr.)—d. Sept. 29, 1855; aged 71 yrs.; 2 mos.; 27 days.  
 John H. East (s. of A.R. and M.East)—d. Nov. 23, 1845; aged 23 days.  
 Martha East (dau. of A.R. and M.East)—d. May 13, 1835; aged 4 yrs.  
 Andrew R. East—d. May 13, 1872; aged 25 yrs. 3 days.  
 Elmer East (s. of A.R. and M.East)—d. Nov. 28, 1871; aged 9 days.  
 Crockett East (s. of A.R. and M.East)—b. in Delaware County, Ind., Oct. 15, 1832; fell at Gettysburg, Pa., July 1, 1863; aged 24 yrs.; Second Lieut. in Co. K. 19th Ind. Vol.  
 Eliza Luella East (dau. of J.H. and C.East)—d. Oct. 12, 1855; aged 2 mos.  
 Mollie East (w. of D.C.East)—d. May 12, 1865; aged 25 yrs.  
 Mary East (dau. of J.H. and C.East)—d. April 11, 1864; aged 9 yrs.  
 Mary East (w. of A.R.East)—d. July 23, 1877; aged 69 yrs., 5 mos., 24 days.  
 A. R. East<sup>5</sup>—d. Nov. 28, 1880; aged 77 yrs., 4 mos., 27 days.

<sup>5</sup> There are four additional graves marked only with flat stone slabs that carry no inscriptions. The above records were copied by Eugene S. and Elizabeth M. Wierbach on July 7, 1940. The form has been somewhat modified to make the items uniform.

<sup>6</sup> Anderson R. East.