

Olde Rockport Pioneer Cemetery

Compiled by Dakota L. Schmitt

July 2008

Boy Scout Eagle Service Project

Thank You!

Many people helped me complete this project. It wouldn't have been possible without them. I would like to thank them here. I would first of all like to thank my parents, Ken and Theresa Schmitt, for all the time they spent helping me and for their support. I would like to thank my troop, Troop 105, and the South Spencer School Corporation for helping me clean up the graveyard. I would like to thank Steve Sisley and the rest of the Historical Society for the help and expertise they provided. I would like to thank Khris Manley and Erin Strobel of the Rockport Library Genealogy Department for their help in researching the information in this book. I would like to thank the City of Rockport, the Association for a Better Rockport, American Legion Post #254, and Jane Pullins for their financial contributions. I would like to thank David King, the Boy Scout Representative for American Legion Post 254, for his moral support. I would like to thank Mulzer Crushed Stone and Kight Home Center for helping me obtain materials for the project. I would like to thank Butch Myers of Myers Trucking for hauling the gravel to the cemetery at no charge. Lastly, I would like to thank anyone that I might have forgotten that helped make this project possible. I would have never even been able to complete this project without all your help. Thank you!

- Dakota Schmitt

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ROCKPORT, SPENCER COUNTY, INDIANA

Spencer County was formed on January 10, 1818, by the Indiana General Assembly. The Assembly voted to divide Warrick and Perry counties to create a new one. The new county was named after Spier Spencer who died in the battle of Tippecanoe. The county seat was established as Rockport. Rockport had been formally called Hanging Rock. The first settler of the area, James Lankford, lived in the cave under the bluff overlooking the Ohio River in 1808. The bluff side had two tall rock columns that leaned outward from the cliff, hence the name Hanging Rock.

The first permanent settler was Daniel Grass, who made the first land transaction on May 9, 1807. Some time afterward Daniel and his wife built their home on the bluffs in the southern area of what became Rockport. Later settlers in Spencer County included Germans, Swiss, French, and other Europeans. Most arrived from previous settlements in Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky. These people were self-sufficient and hardworking. They had a saying that “the cowards never started and the weak ones died by the way.”

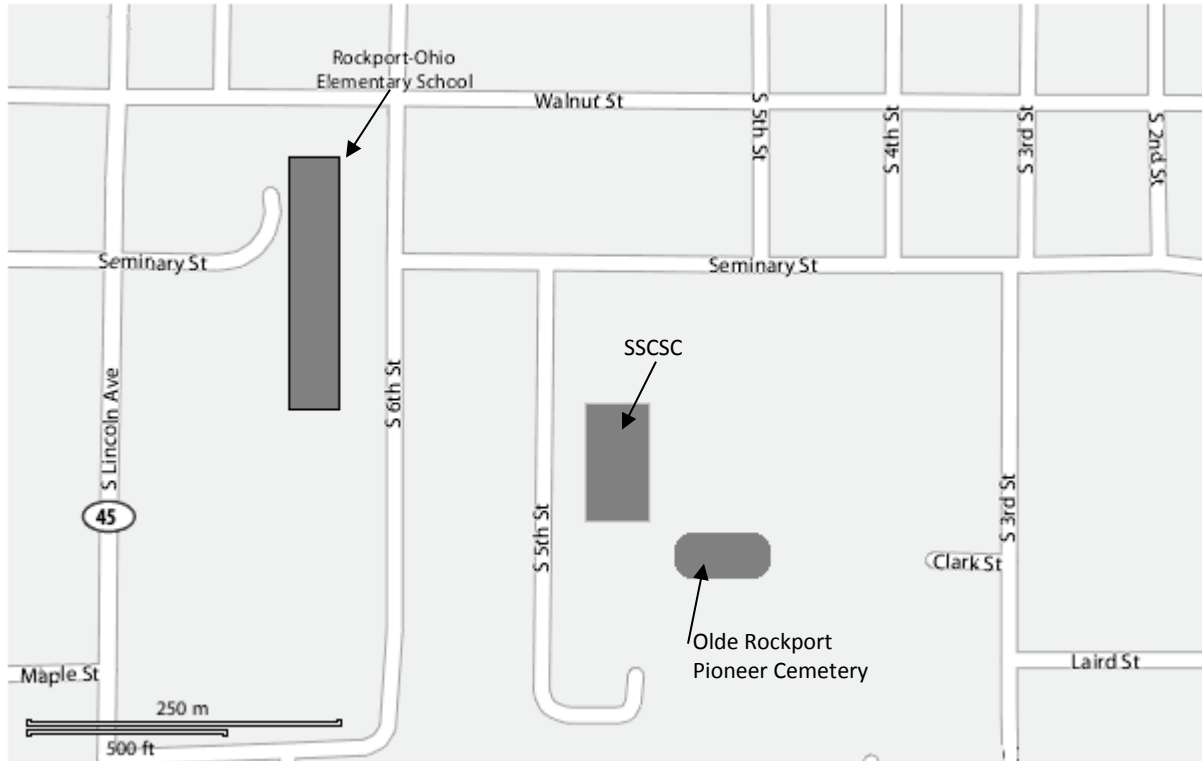
The first buildings to be built were log cabins, barns, etc.—what each family needed to survive. The first generation of children grew up without schooling except in the homes, but within a couple of generations there were schools, churches, and villages with stores, blacksmith shops, and—of course—saloons. Communities worked together to build these buildings. It was not uncommon to turn a major task like erecting a building into a local party.

The primary crops of these settlers were corn and tobacco, although cotton was once grown here too. They raised cattle, sheep, horses, and hogs.

After Spencer County was created in 1818 a county seat of justice had to be chosen. The site which is now Rockport was picked. Families then started building their cabins on top of the bluff, although there still was a thriving village below the bluff. On June 10, 1818, the first public sale of lots was held. This money was then used to build a county library, a temporary log courthouse, and a strong log jail. In 1822 a large brick courthouse was completed. Rockport was incorporated in 1844. By 1856 the town had a population of 1,000, two newspapers, two banks, two wharf boats, and many merchants.

OLDE ROCKPORT PIONEER CEMETERY

The Olde Rockport Pioneer Cemetery is located on the grounds of the South Spencer County School Corporation (SSCSC) on Fifth Street in Rockport, Indiana. A map is provided below.



The earliest Date of Death noted in the Olde Rockport Pioneer Cemetery is Eliza Jan Morgan in September 1821 and the last person buried there is Anna Earl in November 1882. Both are noted in the list recorded in the “Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions, Volume II”. The Olde Rockport Pioneer Cemetery is listed as cemetery number fourteen. A copy of this list is included in the appendix, page 25.

A plot of the cemetery was officially recorded on April 26, 1853 as part of a connected plot record. A copy of this document is in the appendix – “The Platt of the Graveyard near Rockport Spencer Co”, page 26. Note the comment at the top of the page “where Daniel Grass is Buried”.

The Olde Rockport Pioneer Cemetery fell out of use when the Sunset Hill Cemetery opened. In fact, several families moved their relatives from the old cemetery to the new cemetery. Over the years the Olde Rockport Pioneer Cemetery was basically abandoned and fell into disrepair. In the summer of 1926 Louis L. Ray and Robert Simperts did a survey of the cemetery. They recorded the information on nineteen tombstones. A copy of this document is in the appendix,

see page 27. An article recorded in the *Rockport Journal*, June 24, 1927, written by "The Rambler" bemoaned the state of the cemetery.

"How would you like to raise up from your grave sixty years after you were buried to find no marker except some blackberry bushes, on your grave? The Rambler took a stroll through Rockport's first cemetery the other day and found just such a condition. He was able to find only four upright markers, and four lying flat on the ground and badly broken. On these monuments appear the names of John H. Smith, Lucy Smith, Leo Tarleton Smith, S. D. Smith (a soldier), the wife of Daniel Willmot, B. H. Walters, Sarah Walters, Joseph A. Gray, Nancy Gray and Sophia Frederika Ruebenaker.

Sunken spots indicated other graves but no markers were discovered. Where are the graves of Daniel Grass, Doctor Stephen or Joseph P. Cissna and other pioneers who were buried on this plot? Is the city of Rockport showing proper reverence and respect for the remains of those who first settled here? Blackberry bushes are not respectable monuments to the dead. If the graves cannot be accurately located, why not clear away the bushes and erect a large monument which will memorialize all those who are buried in Rockport's first cemetery? Only willingness on the part of the present day citizens is needed to do the job."

Over the next several decades not much was done to repair and maintain the cemetery. People who grew up in the area remember playing there and calling it the "Old Indian Cemetery". In 1957 the school corporation built the building that is currently used to house the South Spencer School Corporation Administration Offices. The building was originally used as the high school and then as the middle school for the community. In 1965 Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Phillips did a survey of the cemetery. Their list is included in the "Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions, Volume II", page 25.

In 2003 the Spencer County Historical Society started the project of cleaning up the cemetery. Several truck loads of brush and wood was removed. They marked stones and gravesites with vinyl markers. During all of this work they located several stones that were not listed on the 1926 or 1965 list of people buried in the old cemetery. They contributed over 125 hours on the project. The South Spencer High School Key Club also contributed to the work effort. Their work is documented on a website-<http://www.sspencer.k12.in.us/history/cemetery/index.html>

In 2006 Dakota Schmitt, as his service project for the Boy Scout Rank of Eagle, continued the cleanup effort. The goal of the project was to make the cemetery accessible for mowing. His project included removal of several trees, brush, and tree stumps. The gravesites were outlined in landscape timbers and covered with white gravel. A map of the remaining visible gravesites

was developed, which is included in the appendix, page 28. Dakota also compiled this booklet as part of the project that was completed in July of 2008.

As an interesting side note the following article brings up a potential coal deposit under the old cemetery. The article is from the *Democrat Journal*, December 13, 1901. The article is as follows;

“Mrs. Rachel Hicks says that over fifty years ago, in boring for oil on her father’s land in the hollow near the old Rockport cemetery, the drill went through a vein of good coal four or five feet thick at a depth of 80 feet. At the time it was not thought worth opening up, but would certainly pay well now. She says a cedar plug was driven into the hole and might yet be found. It should be investigated.”

While the above note is an interesting detail about the land, probably the most interesting facts found in the research for this document was relative to the people buried in the Old Rockport Pioneer Cemetery. In the following pages you will find information on the people from the 1926 and 1965 surveys, and those found in the 2004 and 2006 cleanup efforts. The names are in alphabetical order by last name. Vital information such as date of birth and date of death is listed, and also data like whether the person is listed in a family file in the Rockport Library Genealogy section. If an obituary was available that information is also included. Pictures of any tombstones as of June 2008 are also included.

PEOPLE BURIED IN THE OLDE ROCKPORT PIONEER CEMETERY

ANNA DELILA BRADY

DOB – unknown DOD – 15 SEP 1849 Rockport Library Genealogy Family File - BRADY

Anna Delia Brady is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery as number 6 Andelila Brudy. Her tombstone inscription stated that she was the wife of A. F.

In July 2008 no tombstone was found for Anna Delila Brady.

Below is the obituary for Anna Delila Brady from *The Planter* – September 22, 1849.

“On the 15th inst. Mrs. Ann Delila Brady, consort of Alfred Brady, in the 21st year of her age. The deceased was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and met death with the composure of the true Christian.”

MALINDA CARNES

DOB – unknown DOD – 1 JUL 1839
Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – none



Malinda Carnes is not listed on the 1926 or the 1965 survey of the cemetery. Her tombstone was found in the 2004 cleanup. Her tombstone inscription; “In Memory of Malinda, d/o Peter and C. Carnes, 1 July 1839 in her 11th yr.” Her gravesite is number 13 on the cemetery diagram in the appendix.

No obituary was found for Malinda Carnes.

STEPHEN P. CISSNA



DOB – unknown DOD – 16 MAR 1841
Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – CISSNA

Stephen P. Cissna is not listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery. He is listed in the combined 1926 and 1965 survey in the “Spencer County Cemetery Inscriptions – Vol II”. His tombstone was located in 2004 cleanup, the inscription; “In Memory of Stephen P.Cissna who died the 16th of March AD 1841: aged 56”. His gravesite is number 12 on the cemetery diagram in the appendix.

No obituary was found for Stephen P. Cissna, however Mr. Cissna shows up in several other documents. The “Rockport-Spencer County Sesquicentennial” listed Stephen P. Cissna as the first doctor in Rockport (page 6).

The CISSNA family file contains a “Claim of Widow Pension – War of 1812” filed by Margaret Cissna, aged 88 years, while she was a resident of Rockport, Indiana. She stated that she was the wife of Stephen Cissna, who served in the company commanded by Captain John Entreken, in the regiment commanded by Col. Finley in the war of 1812. Stephen P. Cissna volunteered on or about the 14th day of September 1812 for the term of 30 days and continued in service for 70 days. His service was terminated by reason of honorable discharge. Mrs. Cissna described her husband as about six feet high, dark complexion, dark hair, about 175 pounds. She further stated that she married Stephen Cissna in the city of Rockport, in the county of Spencer, and in the state of Indiana on the 28th day of November 1820. Her name before marriage was Margaret McFarland. In Ohio Stephen Cissna had previously married Mary Moore, who died in Rockport in 1819. Margaret Cissna had been married to William McFarland, who died in Rockport in 1819. Mrs. Cissna also stated that Stephen Cissna had emigrated to Rockport, Indiana around 1817 and remained there until his death.

WILLIAM CROOKS



DOB – unknown DOD – FEB

Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – none

William Crooks is not listed on the 1926 or the 1965 survey of the cemetery. His tombstone was found in 2004. His gravesite is number 7 on the cemetery diagram in the appendix.

No obituary was found for William Crooks.

EZEKIEL DODD

DOB – unknown

DOD – 1859

Rockport Library Genealogy Family File - DODD

Ezekiel Dodd is not listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery. He is listed in the combined 1926 and 1965 survey in the “Spencer County Cemetery Inscriptions – Vol II”.

In July 2008 no tombstone was found for Ezekiel Dodd.

No obituary was found for Ezekiel Dodd, however a notice of estate sale with benefits to go to the widow of Mr. Dodd was found in the *The Planter* – August 13, 1859.

NANCY DODD

DOB – 18 SEP 1830

DOD – 7 DEC 1853

Rockport Library Genealogy Family File - DODD

Nancy Dodd is not listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery. She is listed in the combined 1926 and 1965 survey in the “Spencer County Cemetery Inscriptions – Volume II”. Her tombstone inscription stated that she was the wife of Ezekiel. She was twenty three years old when she died.

In July 2008 no tombstone was found for Nancy Dodd.

Below and continued on the next page is the obituary for Nancy Dodd found in the *The Planter* – December 10, 1853.

“One of those mournful and expected events that frequently darken our pathway through life , has again occurred in our midst. Mrs. Nancy Dodd, by mysterious providence, has been called away to the spirit land.

She died of protracted illness Dec. 7th, 1853, at the house of her brother, Mr. J. Thompson, in Rockport, Ind.

The deceased was born in Pennsylvania, Sept. 24th 1830, where she lived till she was married in 1849, to Mr. E. Dodd after which they moved to Indiana, and settled near Rockport. Mrs. Dodd, having been raised by a pious mother, was early inclined to the ways of piety, and when about seventeen years of age she obtained religion and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. She was exemplary in her life, and held fast the beginning of her confidence in God to the end. Although she suffered much during her last sickness, she was patient, calm and resigned to the will of that God in whom she trusted. Being much attached to her family, she had a desire to live and raise her two little children, but she was willing to die and leave all with God.”

WILLIAM DODD



DOB – 30 APR 1852 DOD – 6 MAY 1852

Rockport Library Genealogy Family File - DODD

William Dodd is not listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery. He is listed in the combined 1926 and 1965 survey in the “Spencer County Cemetery Inscriptions – Vol II”. His tombstone inscription stated that he was the son of Ezekiel and Nancy. He was seven days old when he died. No obituary was found. His gravesite is number 8 on the cemetery diagram in the appendix.

ELIZABETH M. DRUMM

DOB – 14 JUN 1829 DOD – 15 JUL 1847 Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – none

Elizabeth M. Drumm is listed number 7 on the 1926 survey of the cemetery. Her tombstone stated that she was the daughter of William and Rebecca Drumm.

No obituary was found for Elizabeth Drumm. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

ANNA EARL

DOB – NOV 1882 DOD – NOV 1882 Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – none

Anna Earl is not listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery. She is listed in the combined 1926 and 1965 survey in the “Spencer County Cemetery Inscriptions – Vol II”.

No obituary was found for Anna Earl. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

DANIEL GRASS



DOB – 27 MAR 1774 DOD – 25 MAY 1836 Rockport Library
Genealogy Family File – GRASS

Daniel Grass is not listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery. He is listed in the combined 1926 and 1965 survey in the “Spencer County Cemetery Inscriptions – Vol II”. The survey contains the following note on Daniel Grass: “His wife was born ca 1783 at Harford, Kentucky, the daughter of William and Cecelia Smeathers. Daniel and Jane Grass were married 1 Feb 1800 in Daviess Co., Ky. Daniel Grass died before 8 Aug 1836 and Jane died before 31 Aug 1867. Her father, William Smeathers, was a Revolutionary War soldier and died in 1837 in Brazoria County, Republic of Texas.”

The Spencer County Historical Society members compiled and wrote a brief biography of Daniel Grass. It is on their website, www.sspencer.k12.in.us/history/cemetery/danielgrass_bio.html. It is very informative and so is provided here:

“Daniel Grass was born March 27, 1774 in Brownstown, Pennsylvania (or in 1780 or 1781 in Nelson County, Kentucky). Daniel and probably another younger brother were inside the fort where Bardstown, Kentucky is now located when Indians attacked his father, mother, and two sisters who were hoeing corn outside of the fort. The father was killed. The mother and two daughters were taken captive. After five years of captivity, the daughter named Julia, having taken sick, was taken to the fort in Detroit and was exchanged for whiskey and blankets. Her mother had also been held captive and exchanged for whiskey and blankets, and was in the fort. They were reunited. The other daughter’s fate was unknown.

Daniel Grass was two and a half years old when his father was killed and the rest of his family taken captives. Dr. William R. Hynes, a wealthy man of Nelson County, Kentucky, took the child in and educated him as his own son. Dr. Hynes owned much land in Daviess and Henderson Counties in Kentucky and was expanding into what is now Spencer County, Indiana. Daniel came to Hanging Rock as the Indians called it, now Rockport, around 1803 to look after entering land for Dr. Hynes. On May 9, 1807, Daniel Grass entered land on Section 26, southwest of Rockport. He was the second man to take a land grant in Spencer County, but was the first land grant entered by an actual settler of Rockport.

Prior to the land grant transaction, Daniel married Jan Smeathers (Smithers, Smothers) of Yellow Banks, now Owensboro, Kentucky, on February 1, 1800. Her father, William Smeathers, was the first settler of Yellow Banks. Daniel and his wife moved to Hanging Rock in 1807, and built their home on the bluffs in south Rockport. He tried to change the name of the town from Hanging Rock to Mt. Duval, in honor of Colonel William Duval, one of his Kentucky friends. This name was put aside later by the commissioners who called the growing town Rockport.

After he built his home, he journeyed back to Bardstown, Kentucky, and induced his friends with their families to follow him into the wilderness of what is now Spencer County. The Wrights, Morgans, Bernetts, and Greathouses, along with others whose descendants now live in Spencer County, came here through the influence of Daniel Grass in the early 1800's.

He began his political life in 1812, as a Justice of Peace. In 1813, he was an Associate Judge for Warrick County. On January 5, 1816 a bill was reported to the US House of Representatives to enable the people of the Indiana Territory to form a constitution upon which they should be admitted to the Union on equal terms with the original states. The election was held on May 13, 1816. Daniel Grass was elected a delegate to this Constitutional Convention at Corydon, the capital, to represent Warrick County. (There was no Spencer County at that time.) He served on three of its most important committees. On the first Monday in August 1816, Daniel Grass was elected a Senator to the first Indiana State Legislature from Warrick, Perry, and Posey Counties.

Spencer County was organized by an act of the Legislature in session 1817-1818; through the influence of Daniel Grass, who was at the time Representative from Warrick County. After some time, Warrick County was divided. Through the influence of Judge Grass, Spencer County was organized by an act of the Legislature in 1817-1818. It was grass who had the county named Spencer, in honor of Captain Spier Spencer, his very warm friend, who was killed at Tippecanoe on November 7, 1811. Judge Grass was also wounded at this time and walked on crutches the remainder of his days. He also caused the county seat to be at Rockport. In 1818, Judge Grass was elected representative from Spencer, Dubois, and Warrick Counties. In 1822, he was again elected to the State Senate from Spencer, Dubois, and part of Warrick, and served until 1826.

Dr. William R. Hynes, the foster parent of Daniel Grass, along with Wright, Grass and Griffith were the owners of the land where the city now is located, and the surveys of the lots have taken their names from these men. Daniel Grass was appointed treasurer of Spencer County in 1818, but he never served. In the same year, he was appointed County Agent to take charge of these lots. All the early deeds show Grass agent of

Spencer County as grantor. (Grass was one of only four men who held office, which was abolished in 1835.)

One deed record shows that W. R. Hynes released a mortgage on November 1, 1822 on the land on which Daniel Grass and John W. Ogden had erected a grist and saw mill. They were the first merchants in Rockport.

Grass was sheriff of Spencer County from 1833 to 1836. It was in this year he died from a stroke of apoplexy, being found dead in his chair by his wife. Judge Grass had been unable to lie down for some time. He had a chair made for him in which he rested at night.

His remains were laid to rest on the hillside of what is known as the Old Grave Yard (Old Rockport Cemetery), not far from the hill on which he first settled. The records show that buried in the Old Rockport Cemetery behind the South Spencer Middle School (now the Lifetime Education Center) with Daniel Grass are his wife, Jane, and one son, Joseph.

According to the records from the 1820 Census, Daniel and his wife, Jane, had seven children. He had five sons and two daughters. His eldest son, Alfred Hynes Grass, had a son who was given the name of his grandfather, Daniel Grass. This Daniel Grass was a Colonel in the 61st Regiment of Illinois Volunteers in the Civil War. “

JANE GRASS

DOB – 1783 DOD – before 31 Aug 1867 Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – GRASS

No obituary was found for Jane Grass. In July 2008 no tombstone found, however one can assume that she was buried near her husband Daniel Grass.

JOSEPH GRASS

DOB – unknown DOD – unknown Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – GRASS

Joseph was the son of Daniel and Jane Grass. No obituary was found for Joseph Grass. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

JOSEPH GRAY

DOB – 25 JAN 1802 DOD – 21 JUL 1855 Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – none

Joseph Gray is not listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery. He is listed in the combined 1926 and 1965 survey in the “Spencer County Cemetery Inscriptions – Vol II”.

No obituary was found for Joseph Gray. In July 2008 no tombstone found for Mr. Gray.

NANCY GRAY



DOB – 8 JUN 1802 DOD – 24 JUL 1855

Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – none

Nancy Gray is not listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery. She is listed in the combined 1926 and 1965 survey in the “Spencer County Cemetery Inscriptions – Vol II”. She is listed as the wife of Joseph Gray. Her gravesite is number 16 on the cemetery diagram in the appendix.

No obituary was found for Nancy Gray.

DAVID R. HARMAN

DOB – 5 FEB 1850 DOD – 7 APR 1854 Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – HARMAN (Harmon)

David R. Harman is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#5). His tombstone inscription stated that he was the son of Geo. C. B. and Elminda F. Harman.

No obituary was found for David Harman. In July 2008 no tombstone found for David Harman.

BARBARA HAZEN

DOB – unknown DOD – 5 DEC 1849

Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – none

Barbara Hazen is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#4). His tombstone inscription stated that she was the consort of R. S. Hazen. She was twenty years old at the time of her death.

In July 2008 no tombstone found for Barbara Hazen.

Below is the obituary for Barbara Hazen found in *The Planter*, December 8, 1849.

“Died, on the 5th inst., of Consumption, in the 21st year of her age, Mrs. Barbara Hazen, consort of Mr. Robert S. Hazen, merchant of this place.

Thus has been snatched from our midst, one who was universally respected for the mild virtues of her character. Naturally amiable in her disposition; she had sought and obtained the purifying influence of the Holy Spirit upon her heart. Death had been robbed of his power to terrify her by the indwelling of Christ, in her soul. Blessed are the dead, that die in the Lord.

“Calmn on the bosom of they God,
Fair Spirit rest thee now;
E’n while with us they footsteps trod,
His seal was on they brow.

Dust to its narrow house beneath,
Soul to its place on high;
Those who have seen thy look in death,
No more will fear to die.”

N.”

SARAH E. HILDEBRANT

DOB – 14 MAR 1842 DOD – 2 NOV 1862

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – none

Sarah E. Hildebrant is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#13). Her tombstone inscription stated that she was the wife of G. W. Hildebrant.

No obituary was found for Sarah E. Hildebrant. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

MARY J. HUTTON



DOB – 19 JUN 1848 DOD – 29 MAY 1849

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – none

Mary Hutton is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#15). Her tombstone inscription stated that she was the daughter of William and C. L. Hutton. She was eleven months & nine days old. Her gravesite is number 5 on the cemetery diagram in the appendix.

No obituary was found for Mary J. Hutton.

ANN JACKSON

DOB – 1819 DOD – 24 APR 1855

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – none

Ann Jackson is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#16). Her tombstone inscription stated that she was the wife of Isaac W. Jackson and that she was 36 years old.

No obituary was found for Ann Jackson. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

JAMES KERR

DOB – 23 FEB 1807 DOD – 17 ??? 1852

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – none

James Kerr is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#2). The survey notes that he was formally of Lockerbie, Dumfries Shire, Scotland. The tombstone was erected by Jane Kerr.

No obituary was found for James Kerr. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

THOMAS J. LANGDON

DOB – unknown DOD – 28 MAR 1861

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – none

Thomas J. Langdon is listed on the combined 1926/1965 survey of the cemetery. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

Below is the obituary for Thomas Langdon, *The Rockport Weekly Democrat*, April 6, 1861.

“Died at Elizabethtown, Illinois, on the 28th day of March, 1861, after a short illness, Thomas J. Langdon, Esq., Editor of the “Advocate” at Elizabethtown.

Mr. Langdon was an old citizen of Rockport, and father of the Rockport Press. Some twenty five years ago he started the “Banner” which he published for a number of years. Afterwards he removed to Texas and published a paper there. Returning to Rockport, he commenced the publication of another paper called the “Planter”. This publication reached the 10th volume and was then superseded by the “Advertiser”, under the control of father Langdon. The deceased was brought to Rockport for burial, which took place Monday, April 1st, 1861 at the old Cemetery. Thus another one of the “pioneers” of Rockport and of the Indiana press has passed away. Peace to his ashes.”

Mr. Langdon is also noted in the *Rockport-Spencer County Sesquicentennial* on page six; “In 1839, the first newspaper, “The Gazette” was published by Thomas Langdon.” Further down on page six is another mention of Mr. Langdon;

“It was Mr. Thomas Langdon who, through persistent energy, obtained permission to have a channel cut over the bluff at Main street for drainage. This channel from then on, washing as it did, became a nuisance and was made a pretext for almost perpetual appropriations to clear it and blast out rock until late in the fifties the route to the river was established. This was known as Langdon’s diggings. In one article, it states: “Langdon cut a gash through the bluff at Main Street to the river and blew out a part of the face of the grand old bluff and disfigured the view from the river, but in revenge the river changed its channel and swept away the land in front and in the course of time will wash along the wall of the solid perpendicular rock and Langdon’s labor will have been in vain.””

WILLIAM H. MANING



DOB – 4 SEP 1855 DOD – 13 JUL 1857

Rockport Library Genealogy Family File – none

William H. Maning is not listed on the 1926/1965 survey of the cemetery. His stone was recovered in 2006. His tombstone states that he was the adopted son of A. T. and F. D. Bullock. His gravesite is number 15 on the cemetery diagram in the appendix. This stone was found in 2006 by Dakota Schmitt. It was under about a foot of dirt.

No obituary was found for William H. Maning.

JOHN T. MERITHEW



DOB – 25 APR 1852 DOD – 11 FEB 1853

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – MERITHEW

John T. Merithew is not listed on the 1926 or 1965 survey of the cemetery. His name was added after the 2004 cleanup. His tombstone states that he was nine months and seventeen days old, and was the son of Hosea & Mary J. His gravesite is number 17 on the cemetery diagram in the appendix.

No obituary was found for John T. Merithew.

ALZADA J. MITCHELL

DOB – 1849 DOD – 31 DEC 1853

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – none

Alzada J. Mitchell is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#1). Her tombstone stated that she was the daughter of Win. and S. J. Mitchell.

In July 2008 no tombstone found.

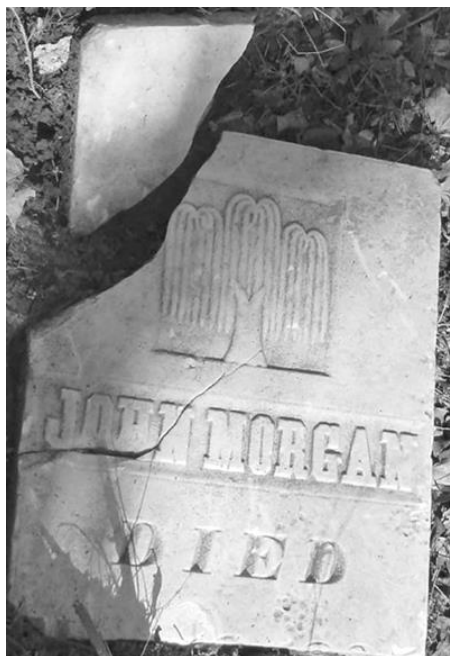
Below is the obituary for Alzada J. Mitchell found in *The Planter*, January 14, 1854.

“Alzada J. Mitchell died December 31st, 1853, of scarlet fever, at the residence of Mr. Morris Sharp, in Rockport, Indiana, in the fourth year of her age.

Little children like the blushing beauties of spring, are fading and dying in our midst. They look innocently gay in death, in the reflected light of him who said “suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.” The glory of their radiant throng lights up a brighter ray upon the face of eternity, while smiles of innocence play sweetly on their lips, and tempt us away from earth, to follow them to heaven.

While we are anxiously gazing on our tender charge the tears half fallen, or lingering on our cheeks, angels receive them on wings of light, and bear them gently to the Savior’s arms.”

JOHN MORGAN



DOB – 26 AUG 1785 DOD – 12 MAR 1825

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – MORGAN

John Morgan is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#17). His gravesite is number 9 on the cemetery diagram in the appendix.

No obituary was found for John Morgan, however the following article appeared in the *Rockport Democrat*, May 24, 1963.

“Mrs. Ruth Morgan Dragoo of Joplin, Mo., writes that she read with great interest the column, “Here Are Your Ancestors”. She has submitted the following on the life of John Morgan, an early pioneer who also was her great-grandfather.

“JOHN MORGAN (First clerk and recorder of Spencer County, Indiana, written by his grandson, David H. Morgan, May 12, 1920)

John Morgan was born August 25, 1785 at Beaver Dam near Pittsburg, Pa. He was the son of Abel and Susannah (Donohue) Morgan. Abel Morgan was a Revolutionary War soldier and served as a private in the 6th Pa. Battalion, in Captain Talbott’s Company 177-77. He was Welch descent. His ancestors came from Gla-Glen-Morganshire, Wales, arriving in America, Connecticut about 1640. They were Baptists and some of the families moved into New York State, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Abel lived in Pennsylvania and after the Revolution, settled in Beaver Dam, where his children were born. About 1806, the family came into Kentucky, settling near Leitchfield, Ky., where John Morgan married Mary Ewing, daughter of Judge William Ewing and his wife, Margaret Paulson, whose mother was Mary McAfee.

John and Mary Ewing Morgan were married in Leitchfield, Ky., May 12, 1812 by the Rev. Martin Utterbach, an early Baptist preacher. About 1816, John Morgan, with his family, moved to Indiana. In 1817, he built a two-story double log building on the southeast corner of 4th and Main Street. This house was standing until after the Civil War. The Morgan home was, for a number of years, the meeting place of the Presbyterians as Mrs. Morgan was a Presbyterian.

After the burning of the county clerk’s office on September 3, 1833, the county board met in the home of Mrs. Morgan until other arrangements could be made. John Morgan was also postmaster in Rockport in 1822. As clerk of Spencer County, he sent to Washington, D.C., a list of Revolutionary Soldiers living in Spencer County at that time.

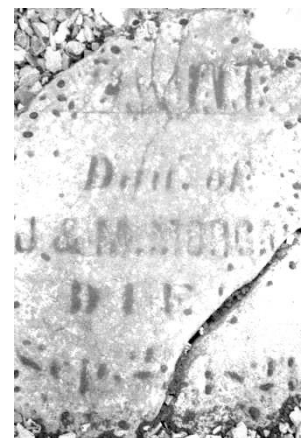
John Morgan was clerk of the county until his death March 12, 1825. He was a Mason. He served in the War of 1812 in a Kentucky Company. His will is filed in the Rockport court house Will Book A p. 57, recorded by John Pitcher clerk April 13, 1825.”

ELIZA JANE MORGAN

DOB – 1818 DOD – 23 SEP 1821

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – MORGAN

Eliza Jane Morgan is listed on the 1926/1965 survey of the cemetery. The survey notes that she was the daughter of John & Mary Ewing Morgan. Her gravesite is number 11 on the cemetery diagram in the appendix. No obituary was found for Eliza Morgan.



CONOSCA ROGERS

DOB – 24 MAR 1848 DOD – 26 JUL 1848 Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – none

Conosca Rogers is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#12). Her tombstone stated that she was the daughter of S. M. and M. J. Rogers. She was four months and two days old. The footstone was marked C. R.

No obituary was found for Conosca Rogers. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

MAGDALENE SHACKELFORD

DOB – unknown DOD – 2 FEB 1854 Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – SHACKELFORD

Magdalene Shackelford is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#14). Her tombstone stated that she was the wife of Thomas Shackelford and was 58 years old when she died.

In July 2008 no tombstone found.

Below is the obituary for Magdalene Shackelford, *The Planter Weekly* – February 25, 1854.

“Died on the 2nd of consumption at the residence of her only son, Mr. John Shackelford, Mrs. Magdalene Shackelford, wife of Mr. Thomas Shackelford.

Mrs. Shackelford was a native of Virginia and when quite young her father's family moved to Boone County, Kentucky where soon after her father and mother both died, leaving her an orphan in a land of strangers. The family records being lost, her age is not known. Here, on the 3rd day of August 1815, she was united in marriage with Mr. Thomas Shackelford. Soon after their marriage they moved to Switzerland County, Indiana, where they both obtained religion and joined the Regular Baptist church in 1819. In the spring of 1832 they moved to Spencer County. Though during most of the time here, she was deprived of the privilege of public worship, the place of meeting being some 10 miles from where she lived, yet she continued a consistent and pious member of the church of her early choice til her death. She was always attentive to the sick and universally esteemed by those who knew her. In this life she was the child of many sorrows but she lived in hope, died in peace and has gained the rest of heaven. She was sensible to the last and frequently spoke calmly and resignedly of her approaching death. Long before she died she had a full assurance that death to her would be great gain. When near the close of her last sickness, she told her weeping companion to live as happily as he could and not weep for her and tell their only living son to meet her in heaven. D. M. “

S. D. SMITH

DOB – unknown DOD – 5 JUL 1866

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – SMITH

S. D. Smith is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#8). His tombstone stated that he was a member of the 25th Indiana Infantry. The tombstone was a government marker. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

No obituary was found for S. D. Smith, however the following article from *“Early Citizens of Spencer Co., According to Death Notices Published in the Umpire, of Rockport, Indiana”* by Daniel Hayford references Mr. Smith.

“On July 5, 1866, Samuel D. Smith, a well-known and prominent citizen of Rockport. On June 28th he was assisting some men in his employ to put up some rafters on a barn which he was building two miles from town. A board on which he was seated broke and he fell twenty feet, striking on his head and right shoulder. He was paralyzed by the fall and died a week later.”

JOHN H. SMITH

DOB – 4 OCT 1812 DOD – 18 JAN 1854

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – SMITH

John H. Smith is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#9). This survey noted that the Smith graves were enclosed by an iron fence.

In July 2008 no tombstone found.

No obituary for Mr. Smith was found, however the obituary of his son (found in the Smith Family File), Lewis Gordon Smith, does mention John Smith.

“Lewis Gordon Smith was born in the city of Rockport, in March 1844, and died at the home of his son, Gordon, at Dallas, Texas, April 6th, 1924, aged 80 years and 8 days. He was the son of John Smith, a member of one of the pioneer families of Spencer County.”

LUCY A. SMITH

DOB – 29 MAY 1814 DOD – 10 FEB 1860

Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – SMITH

Lucy A. Smith is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#10). Her tombstone stated that she was the wife of John H. Smith.

No obituary was found for Lucy Smith. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

LEE TARLTON SMITH

DOB – 16 MAY 1851 DOD – 7 MAY 1857 Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – SMITH

Lee Tarlton Smith is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#11). He was the son of John H. and Lucy A. Smith.

No obituary was found for Lee T. Smith. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

ABEL L. STEWART

DOB – unknown DOD – 1855 Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – none

Abel L. Stewart is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#18).

No obituary was found for Abel Stewart. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

EDMUND THOMPSON

DOB – unknown DOD – 9 JUN 183? Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – none

Edmund Thompson is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#3). He was the son of L. and Ann Thompson.

No obituary was found for Edmund Thompson. In July 2008 no tombstone found.

BERNARD HERMAN WALTERS

DOB – 22 DEC 1815 DOD – 10 OCT 1856 Rockport Lib. Genealogy Family File – WALTERS

Bernard H. Walters is listed on the 1926 survey of the cemetery (#19). His tombstone was made by Yates and Lang in Rockport. His gravesite is located in the large area around Daniel Grass's site on the cemetery diagram, site number1.

Below is the obituary for B. H. Walters found in the *Rockport Democrat*, October 12, 1856.

“Died on the 10th day, B. H. Walters, an old and esteemed citizen of Rockport, after a protracted illness. He leaves a wife and four children to mourn over his demise. He was a member of the Catholic Church. Death came as a messenger of peace, he passed away as if rejoicing at his deliverance from suffering. Many friends will be sorrowful to hear of his departure to the land of rest.”

The "Walters Family History" document found in the Walters family file in the Rockport Genealogical Files gives more information about Mr. Walters.

"Bernard Herman Brinker was born in Hanover, Germany. He was reared by his maternal grandparents after some of his family came to America and settled near Detroit, Michigan. He took their name of Walters. So far as we now there was never any effort to unite the Brinker and Walters families in America, although some visiting was done between them. The Brinkers were devout Catholics, while the Walters, after the death of Bernard Herman and his wife, were Protestants. Their children were reared in Protestant homes and followed that faith.

Bernard Herman (Brinker) Walters, reared in Hanover, Germany, like thousands of other boys approaching his eighteenth birthday and not wishing to enter the German Standing Army for three years, left Hanover for America. He kept the name of Walters because it was nigh impossible to change his name at that age. There is no record that he was ever adopted by his mother's family. But in a letter that great Aunt Lena wrote Aunt Sarah, she said that her father Bernard Herman Walters was born, received his education, and served in the army three years in the Fatherland before coming to the United States. Someone else said that his family came to America and left him over there in the army, and that was the reason he lived with his grandparents Walters, and that he took their name while living with them. Perhaps no one will ever know the real reason why the name was changed.

Somehow he made his way to the Ohio Valley, then to Rockport, Ind. He settled on the Ohio River hoping to seek trade from the heavy water enterprise of the stream. He adopted the mercantile business as his occupation, and made much money for that time and was thought to be the wealthiest man in the city of that day. He built himself a fine business there, and a beautiful home overlooking the Ohio River.

Bernard Herman Walters married Sarah Ann (Davis) McCally or (McCauley) at Rockport, Ind., December 6, 1843. Sarah Ann Davis was born February 11, 1818. She was the daughter of Daniel and Massey Stuart Davis. Her family had come from Scotland and Wales to Virginia. They moved from Clarksburg, Va., to Champaign, Ohio where Sarah Ann was born. When she was two years old they moved to Spencer County, Ind. Her father was the first school teacher and the first Justice of Peace in Spencer County, Ind.

Bernard Herman Walters, died October 10, 1856, at the early age of thirty-nine. After his death, his wife Sarah Ann married Christian Gleanpacker (or Glenshuckle), December 11, 1857. They moved to a very small house on the bank of the Ohio River. During a severe storm the house blew off the cliff and Sarah Ann was killed September 2, 1858.

Some of the children were severely injured. The children were taken to the Inn nearby which is, perhaps the same Inn the Abraham Lincoln stayed in when he passed through Rockport, Ind., in 1844. While there, little Gertrude, the youngest child, got too close to the open fireplace and her clothing caught fire. She died in October 1858, from the burns that she received. The other children were placed in Protestant homes.”

Mr. Walters had a hand in the beginning of St. Bernard’s Catholic Church. From a newspaper article found in the Walters family file;

“Surmounting many difficulties a small brick church was built, the ceremony of laying the corner stone being June 6, 1850, at which time it was named St. Bernards. After a long, intensive search it has been determined that it was called St. Bernard’s due to the fact the Bernard Herman Walters, then a leading merchant of Rockport was largely instrumental in providing funds for the first church.”

Appendix

Page 25 - #14 Old Rockport Cemetery

Page 26 - The Platt of the Graveyard near Rockport Spencer Co.

Page 27 - Survey by Louis Ray and Robert Simper done in 1926

Page 28 - Map of the Gravesites

#14 - OLD ROCKPORT CEMETERY

This is a combined listing made by Louis L Ray and Robert Simperts in 1926 and a listing by Mr & Mrs Oscar Phillips in 1965. This cemetery is located behind the South Spencer Middle School in Rockport. Only one visible marker remains and it is in poor condition.

BRUDY, Anelila		15 Sep 1849	w/o AF; 22y
CISSNA, Stephen P		16 Mar 1841	56y
DODD, Nancy	18 Sep 1830	7 Dec 1853	w/o Ezekiel
William	30 Apr 1852	6 May 1852	s/o E & N
DRUMM, Elizabeth M	14 Jun 1829	15 Jul 1847	d/o Wm & Rebecca
GRASS, Daniel			Lst Lt Ind Mil War of 1812
Jane	ca 1783	see below	
Joseph			s/o Daniel & Jane
GRAY, Joseph A	25 Jan 1802	21 Jul 1855	
Nancy M	28 Jun 1802		w/o Joseph
HARMAN, David R	5 Feb 1850	7 Apr 1854	s/o George CB & Elminda F
HAZEN, Barbara		5 Dec 1849	consort/o RS; 20y
HILDEBRANT, Sarah E	14 Mar 1842	2 Nov 1862	w/o GW
HUTTON, Mary		28 May 1849	e/o Wm & CL; 11m9d
JACKSON, Ann		24 Apr 1855	w/o Isaac W; 36y
KERR, James	23 Feb 1807	17 ___ 1852	from Lockerbie, Dumfrireshire, Scotland. Erected by Jane Kerr(b 14 Jan 1810 Scotland)
KERR, James		19 Oct 1874	bur Kerr Cem (Note: this burial not listed for Kerr Cem, nor those moved to Sunset Hill from Kerr Cem.)
MITCHELL, Alsada J		12 Apr 18__	d/o Win & SJ
MORGAN, John	1775	10 Mar. 1825	from Morgan-Lamb genealogy
Eliza Jane		23 Sep 1821	d/o John & Mary Ewing
ROGERS, Conosca		26 Jul 1848	d/o SM & MJ; 4m2d
SHACKELFORD, Magdalene		2 Feb 1854	w/o Thomas; 58y
STEWART, Abel L		1855	
SMITH, S D			Co K 25 Ind Inf
SMITH, John H or M	5 Oct 1812	18 Jan 18 4 ⁵⁴	(or death date 1854)
SMITH, Lucy A	29 May 1814	10 Feb 1860	w/o John; or died 16 Feb
SMITH, Tarlton	1 May 1831	7 May 1857	or born 16 May 1851
THOMPSON, Edmund		9 Jun 183_	s/o L & Ann
WALTERS, B H or M	22 Dec 1815	10 Oct 1856	
EARL, Anna	Nov 1882	Nov 1882	unmarked

At one time there were about (6) Hale markers in this cemetery.

Note on Daniel Grass: His wife was born ca 1783 at Hartford, Kentucky, the daughter of William and Cecelia Smeathers. Daniel and Jane Grass were married 1 Feb 1800 in Daviess Co., Ky. Daniel Grass died before 8 Aug 1836 and Jane died before 31 Aug 1867. Her father, William Smeathers, was a Revolutionary War soldier and died in 1837 in Bazarie County, Republic of Texas.

to the Daniel Mass is buried. Seed record 15 Sept 60.

Part of the Spruce Guard near Rockport Spunk



Plot towards the N. East includes
with possibility
Road

Hyacinth grass yard
and the adjacent
stone

- 16th. S 8th by 16. 00
- B. C. 15th 11.16
- Q. Q. N 8th E 9.10
- Q. E. W 8th E. 5.15
- Quartz 2. S 12th E 11.20

Beginning at a Bench. See, in the N. corner of the Spruce Guard, 11
inches through, and layed in the N. side, and running toward S 8th
that 16th & lay out some, toward with some line, that the first end of the
and pass yard. 1874 W. 11.20 and 16 feet to a stake, toward N 8th E
9th and 10 feet to a house in the N. side, toward 1874 E. 5.15 and
16th to a stake, toward S 12th E 11.20 and 20 feet to the beginning
containing 1 acre and 13/4 1874
near and Aug 4th 1883

J. M. Winfield R. S.

"The Platt of the Graveyard near Rockport Spencer Co"

taken from the few remaining tombstones in the Old Newport
Cemetery during the summer of 1926
by Louis L. Ray and Robert Simpser

1. Alzada J., Daug. of Wm and S. J. Mitchell. April 12, 18--
2. James Kerr, formerly of Lockertie, Dumfries Shire, Scotland.
Born Feb. 23, 1807. Died -- 17, 1852. Erected by Jane Kerr.
3. Edward, son of L. And Ann Thompson. Died June 9, 183--.
4. Barbara, consort of R. S. Hazen who died Dec. 5, 1849. Age 20 yrs.
5. David R., son of Geo. C. B. and Klinda F. Harman. Born Feb. 5,
1850, died April 7, 1854.
6. Ardella, wife of A. F. Brady, died Sept. 15, 1849, age 22 years.
7. Elizabeth M. daughter of William and Rebecca Drumm, born June 14,
1829, died July 15, 1847.
8. S. D. Smith, Co. K, 25th Indiana Infantry (a government marker)
9. John H. Smith, born Oct. 5, 1812, died Jan. 18, 1854.
10. Lucy A. M. Smith, wife of John H. Smith, born May 29, 1814, died
Feb. 16, 1860.
11. Lee Farlton Smith, born May 16, 1851, died May 7, 1857.

(note: The Smith graves were enclosed by an iron fence.)
12. Gonosca (?) dau. of S. C. and M. J. Rogers, died July 26, 1848,
age 4 mos. 2 days (footstone marked G.R.)
13. Sarah E., wife of G. W. Hildebrand, born Mar. 14, 1842, died
Nov. 2, 1862.
14. Magdalene, wife of Thomas Shackelford, died Feb. 2, 1854, in the
56th year of her age.
15. Mary J., dau. of Wm. and C. L. Hutton, died May 28, 1849, aged
11 mos. and 9 days.
16. Ann, wife of Isaac W. Jackson, died April 24, 1855, aged 36 yrs.
17. John Morgan, died
18. Abel L. Stewart, died 1855.
19. F. M. Walters, born Dec. 22, 1815, died Oct. 10, 1856. (stone by
Yates and Lang, Rockport).

2 3

4

↑ South Spencer School Corporation Office

5

6

1

**OLDE
ROCKPORT
PIONEER
CEMETERY**
Visible Gravesites as of July 2008

7

8

18

- 1. Daniel Glass
- 1. B. H. Walters
- 3. N. A.
- 5. Mary Hutton
- 7. William Crooks
- 8. William Dodd
- 9. John Morgan
- 11. Eliza Jane Morgan
- 12. Stephen P. Cissna
- 13. Malinda Carnes
- 15. William Maning
- 16. Nancy M. Gray
- 17. John T. Merithew

9

10

11

15

12

13

14

17

16



one inch = approximately 20 feet

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