

**RURAL
CEMETERIES
OF
McDONOUGH COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**VOLUME XVIII
SURNAME INDEX**

**COMPILED BY MRS. DAVID C. WARD
RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS**

**PRINTED BY
SCHUYLER – BROWN
HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
AND
THE SCHUYLER JAIL MUSEUM**

Volume XVIII

Table of Contents

Preface	i – ii
Maps and plats	iii – iv
McDonough County, Illinois	iii
Areas Covered in Volumes I - XVII	iv
Corrections	1
Additions	
Banks Cemetery	2-3
Surname Index	4 - 30

Volume Number

Name of Township

I	Eldorado & Industry
II	Bethel & Industry
III	Bethel & Lamoine
IV	Lamoine & Tennessee
V	Bethel & Chalmers
VI	Bethel – Industry – Scotland
VII	New Salem & Eldorado
VIII	Eldorado
IX	Mound & New Salem
X	Emmet – Macomb – Scotland – Chalmers
XI	Colchester & Chalmers
XII	Hire & Emmet
XIII	Tennessee & Hire
XIV	Hire & Blandinsville
XV	Emmet
XVI	Sciota & Walnut Grove
XVII	Blandinsville

TABLE OF CONTENTS: INDEX OF CEMETERIES BY VOLUME

VOL I: Eldorado & Industry

Chockley	1 - 11
Peak	12
Springer Grave	13
Standard	14 - 17
Vail	18 - 21
Vance	22 - 35
Wilhelm	36 - 38

VOL II: Bethel & Industry

Clayton	1
Doddsville	2 - 14
Pioneer	15 - 18
Pennington	19 - 21
Pruitt	22
Stoneking	23 - 28
Stoneking Graves	29
Vawter	30 - 31
Willey	32 - 33

VOL III: Bethel & Lamoine

Scott	1 - 28
Dunkard	29 - 34
Old Plymouth	35 - 37
Friend Grave	38 - 39

VOL IV: Lamoine & Tennessee

Hill's Grove	1 - 13
Hutchinson	14 - 24
King	25 - 31
Rice [White Flock]	32 - 35

VOL V: Bethel & Chalmers

Archer-Bethel	1 - 20
Baptist	21 - 22
Bowlin-Wayland Graves	23
Gibson	24 - 32
Miler Grave	33
Strader-Nankivel	34 - 36
Waymack	37

VOL VI: Bethel – Industry – Scotland

Rigg	1 - 2
Camp Creek	3 - 43
Craig	44 - 45

VOL VII: New Salem & Eldorado

Pennington Point	1 - 41
Dailey	42
Miles	43 - 44

VOL VIII: Eldorado

Harris	1 - 26
Foster Point	27 - 31

VOL IX: Mound & New Salem

Clark-Evans-Woods Graves	1
Mound [Chapel] M E	2 - 12
Upper Mound	13 - 23

VOL X: Emmet – Macomb – Scotland - Chalmers

Old Macomb	1 - 13
Old Catholic	14
Bailey	15 - 19
Simpson	20
Brooking	21 - 22
County Farm [Almshouse]	23

VOL XI: Colchester & Chalmers

[Widow] Moore	1 - 9
Bean	10 - 14
Lower	15 - 16
Neece	17
Barber	18 - 19
Stevens	20 - 21
Murray Grave	22

VOL XII: Hire & Emmet

Argyle	1 - 17
Guy	18 - 21
Simmons	22 - 25
Atkinson [McCord]	26 - 28
Post-Shippey [-Dew]	29

VOL XIII: Tennessee & Hire

Friendship	1 - 16
Mourning	17 - 18
White	19 - 21
Pope [Dye]	22 - 23
Catholic [Sacred Heart]	24 - 28
Central	29 - 31

TABLE OF CONTENTS: INDEX OF CEMETERIES BY VOLUME

VOL XIV: Blandinsville & Hire

Wilson	1
Liberty	2 - 11
Hays	12 - 13
Duncan	14
Huff [Anderson]	15 - 17
South [New Hope]	18 - 33

VOL XV: Emmet

Head Graveyard	1 - 2
Spring Creek	3 - 22
Stickle	23 - 34
Walker	35 - 42

VOL XVI: Sciota & Walnut Grove

Bickelhymer Grave	1
Hamilton	2 - 8
Hickory Grove	9 - 14
Larkins	15
Linn Grove [Hageman]	16 - 18
Prairie City	19 - 21
Pearce [Arberghast]	22 - 32

VOL XVII: Blandinsville

Old Bedford	1 - 7
Mustain	8
Hillsborough	9 - 15
Wesley Chapel	16 - 22

VOL XVIII: Hire

Banks	2 - 3
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TABLE OF CONTENTS: CEMETERY INDEX BY NAME

Cemetery Name	Volume	Pages	Cemetery Name	Volume	Pages
Almshouse	10	23	Liberty	14	2-11
Anderson	14	15-17	Linn Grove	16	16-18
Arberghast	16	22-32	Lower	11	15-16
Archer-Bethel	05	1-20	Lynn-Hageman	16	16-18
Argyle	12	1-17	McCord	12	26-28
Atkinson	12	26-28	Miler Grave	05	33
Bailey	10	15-19	Miles	07	43-44
Banks	18	2-3	Moore	11	1-9
Baptist	05	21-22	Mound Chapel	09	2-12
Barber	11	18-19	Mound ME	09	2-12
Bean	11	10-14	Mourning	13	17-18
Bickelhymer Grave	16	1	Murray Grave	11	22
Bowlin-Wayland Graves	05	23	Mustain	17	8
Brooking	10	21-22	Neece	11	17
Camp Creek	06	3-43	New Hope	14	18-33
Catholic	13	24-28	Old Bedford	17	1-7
Central	13	29-31	Old Catholic	10	14
Chockley	01	1-11	Old Macomb	10	1-13
Clark-Evans-Woods Graves	09	1	Old Plymouth	03	35-37
Clayton	02	1	Peak	01	12
County Farm	10	23	Pearce	16	22-32
Craig	06	44-45	Pennington	02	19-21
Dailey	07	42	Pennington Point	07	1-41
Doddsville	02	2-14	Pioneer	02	15-18
Duncan	14	14	Pope	13	22-23
Dunkard	03	19-34	Post-Shippey-Dew	12	29
Dye	13	22-23	Prairie City	16	19-21
Foster Point	08	27-31	Pruitt	02	22
Friend Grave	03	38-39	Rice	04	32-35
Friendship	13	1-16	Rigg	06	1-2
Gibson	05	24-32	Sacred Heart	13	24-28
Guy	12	18-21	Scott	03	1-28
Hageman	16	16-18	Simmons	12	22-25
Hamilton	16	2-8	Simpson	10	20
Harris	08	1-26	South (Blandinsville)	14	18-33
Hays	14	12-13	Spring Creek	15	3-22
Head Graveyard	15	1-2	Springer Grave	01	13
Hickory Grove	16	9-14	Standard	01	14-17
Hill's Grove	04	1-13	Stevens	11	20-21
Hillsborough	17	9-15	Stickle	15	23-34
Huff	14	15-17	Stoneking	02	23-28
Hutchinson	04	14-24	Stoneking Graves	02	29
King	04	25-31	Strader-Nankivel	05	34-36
Larkins	16	15	Upper Mound	09	13-23

TABLE OF CONTENTS: CEMETERY INDEX BY NAME

Cemetery Name	Volume	Pages
Vail	01	18-21
Vance	01	22-35
Vawter	02	30-31
Walker	15	35-42
Waymack	05	37
Wesley Chapel	17	16-22
White	13	19-21
White Rock	04	32-35
Widow Moore	11	1-9
Wilhelm	01	36-38
Willey	02	32-33
Wilson	14	1

Preface

Within the boundaries of McDonough County, Illinois are more than a hundred cemeteries and gravesites ranging in size from a single burial site to the expansive Oakwood Cemetery at Macomb. Within these cemeteries are the remains of an estimated 40,000 individuals who have died since the first settler arrived here over 150 years ago. Graves of countless others are scattered over the countryside of McDonough County; but, exact sites of many of these resting places are no longer known for various reasons. During the early days of this county, there were obviously no central burial grounds; thus, a pioneer family having the misfortune of losing one of its members placed the deceased in a grave on a family homestead and erected a makeshift marker. A number of these family burial grounds later became public cemeteries, however, many of the grave sites soon became "lost". Crude wooden markers or hand engraved stone soon succumbed to the elements and were never replaced; scores of families moved further west after staying in this area only a short time and the gravesites of their loved ones shortly became insignificant mounds of earth; a number of families passing through this vicinity suffered individual losses. A prime example of the latter is contained in a history of Bethel Township. In 1830, four children of an emigrant family died while en route through McDonough County. They were buried near their places of death which occurred about two miles southwest of Fandon. All traces of those graves have long been gone. During the summer of 1834, a widow lady died at her home in northern Tennessee Township. Her coffin of dressed walnut lumber was built by a local cabinet maker and she was buried in the timber near her home. Within a few years, no evidence remained to indicate the presence of her final resting place. A family who created an excellent farm from the prairies a few miles north of Macomb, maintained a fenced family burial site for several years. This cemetery contained the graves of about 12 former family members. During the early 1900's, the farm changed ownership. Shortly thereafter, the new owner removed all the stones, took down the fence and this graveyard became part of a cornfield. These are only three of the countless incidents involving the total disappearance of burial sites. At this time, it is impossible to determine the locations of hundreds of individual's graves in this county.

Vandalism is responsible for the destruction of many grave stones. Countless markers have been partially or totally destroyed. Inscriptions have been obliterated by gunshot blasts, stones have been broken into dozens of pieces, and some markers have been entirely removed from their original locations.

While weather-wear and vandalism accounts for most of the destruction of individual tombstones, neglect is directly responsible for the eventual deterioration of graveyards. Several local cemeteries have had no protective fencing for a number of years and the grounds have become grazing land for livestock. Groundhogs and other burrowing animals have undermined large portions of various cemeteries. Some areas are nearly invisible because of massive growth of weeds and brush. Stones have fallen, broken, and become completely covered with soil and debris.

The overall condition of our county cemeteries is a pathetic case. While some grounds are well maintained, or at least partially kept-up by various families, many have been totally forgotten. This situation is appalling and should never have come about. Apparently, lack of time, expense, and most of all regard has brought about the present-day poor conditions of many of our rural cemeteries.

Genealogical notes accompanying the various cemetery listings were prepared from a wide variety of sources including: Local area history books and atlases; newspaper files; county, state, and federal archives; family histories. These notes were collected at random from readily available sources and little, or no attempts were made to search for material for more complete genealogies. These notes are presented only for the purposes of identification and/or clarification.

Every attempt has been made to present complete and accurate information. Readers will find errors and omissions. Others will not agree with portions of my findings; however, no information contained herein is based solely on assumption or guesswork. It must be remembered that this information has been prepared for use only as a tool for further research and that nothing must be taken as final and absolute.

The larger cemeteries contained in these volumes are accompanied by grave location charts. These charts in no way are intended to represent any professionally prepared plat or survey that may exist. Their preparation and presentation are solely for general location purposes.

When copying inscriptions from grave markers, it is sometimes impossible to read some portions of the engraving. Names, dates, ages, etc. that were found to be unclear or totally missing are indicated by the use of question marks or dashes, i.e., SPICER, James T., infant son of ?J.B. & S.J.?.; d. ____; age _____. The letters or numbers enclosed in parenthesis following the inscription, indicated general location as indicated on the accompanying chart.

Abbreviations used are as follows:

b. born	m. months
Cav. Cavalry	md. married
Co. County/Company	sec. section
d. died/days	twp. township
dau. daughter	y. years
Inf. Infantry	

Time and space prohibits proper recognition for all those individuals who gave assistance in preparing and publishing these volumes. Deep and sincere appreciation is extended to all concerned, especially to the following: My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lester, and my wife, Rose; and to Mrs. Lavina Walton and other members of the Schuyler County Historical and Genealogical Society for printing and binding the finished product. Thank you.

Duane Lester

ADDENDUM

Mr. Lester's Magnum Opus is nothing short of monumental. It is not easy to gain access to many of these historic family burial sites. By the time of Mr. Lester's survey (1970's) numerous plots were long left abandoned, overgrown with trees and weeds and monuments under attack by weather, livestock, vandals, and property owners who did not care about the burial sites of McDonough County's brave pioneers. Thankfully, we now (2012) have laws to protect our county's historical legacy and these final resting gardens.

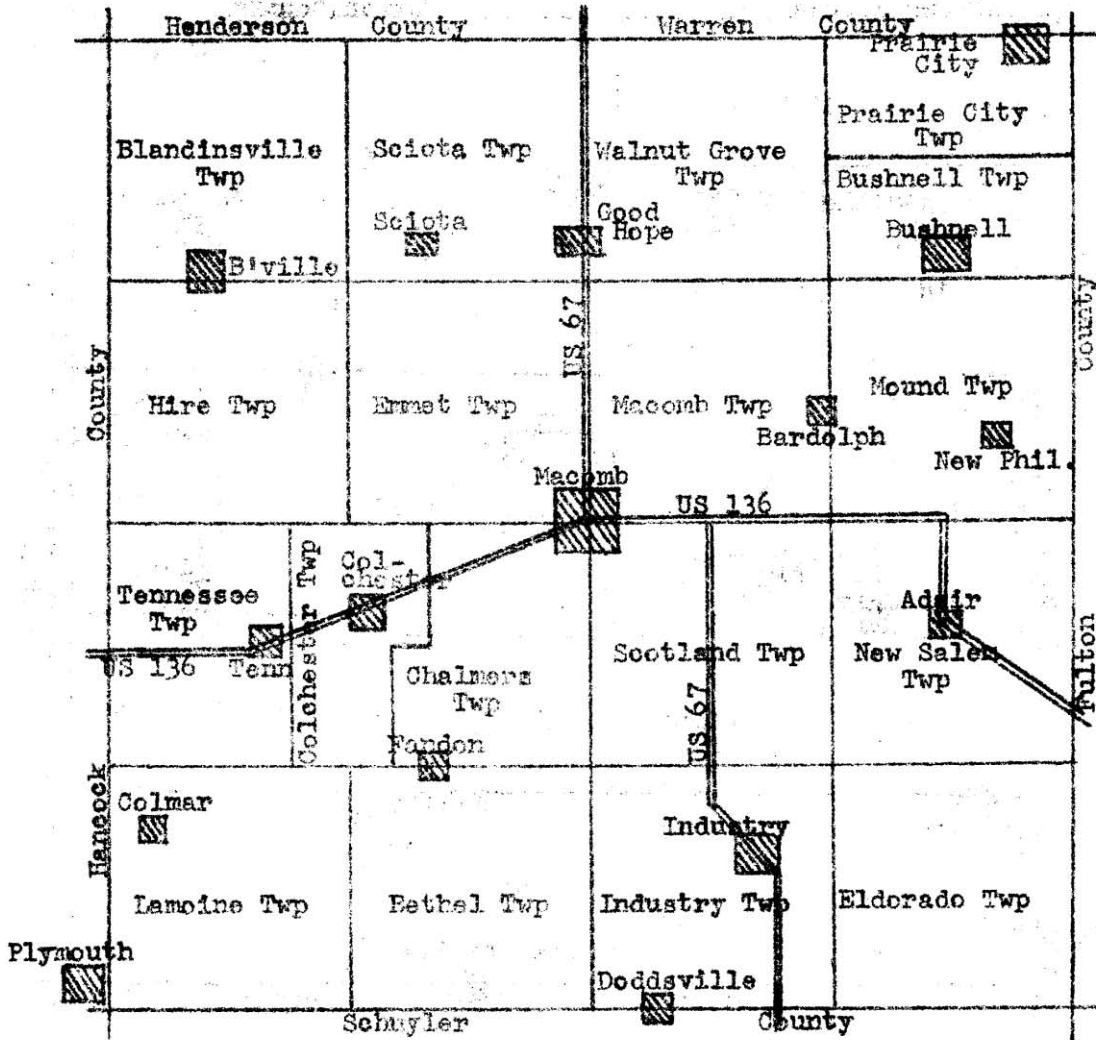
I am in awe of Mr. Lester for his transcriptions of hard-to-read tombstones and his laborious typing of his 18 Volumes of the Rural Cemeteries of McDonough County. He did not have access to a computer. In addition to transcribing information from tombstones, he had to painstakingly access county records (e.g. 1840 county tax list), federal census records, and local newspapers requiring a great deal of time and effort. As a genealogist in 2012, I have access to the internet with fast access to US Census records, Family Search (records kept by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) and numerous other legal documents, books, and family journals. Mr. Lester used an old-fashioned key-strike, ribbon tape typewriter where mistakes were hard to correct and appear as overstrikes. There are very few attesting to his skill as a typist. What an US Census record will not contain are the names and dates of infants who died between census surveys. Mr. Lester's tombstone records give names and dates of children, whose lives were brief, but would otherwise be lost to history without his efforts. Frequently, he provides names of brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers that allows for completion of family group sheets.

Another work of love for those who dared to settle the prairie lands of western Illinois and raise their families is being performed by Dr. A. Gil Belles. He has been able to install signs for each of these rural cemeteries and provide GPS (Global Positioning System) information making it easier for anyone wishing to visit a rural cemetery to help them actually find it. Gil also works closely with Boy Scouts and other civic groups to help cleanup, clear brush and dead trees, locate buried tombstones, and restore stones. My revision of Mr. Lester's document will provide information on all cemetery restoration projects.

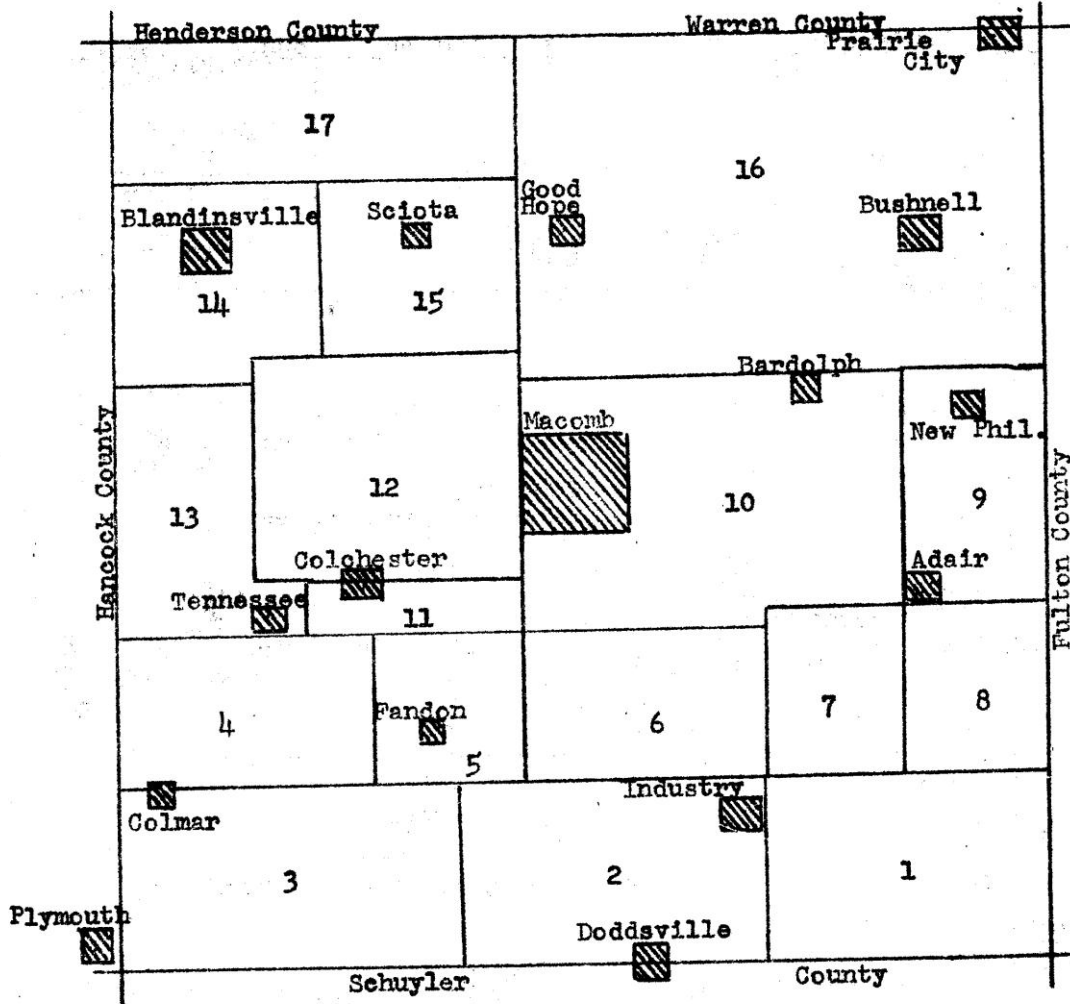
Any changes made to Mr. Lester's original work was done in blue color font. His maps were scanned and copied into the text and remain like his original work and are not subject to editing. His text was transcribed using MS Word, enabling me to control font size and color. Retyping text also leaves room for typo errors. Mr. Lester's rare typo errors are corrected but not displayed in blue. This MS Word document allows on-the-fly editing of any "Notes, Corrections, Additions, and Changes" found at the end of every cemetery. This was Mr. Lester's intent to produce a working document and improve accuracy about the information on those buried. I have retyped state abbreviations as they are now used (e.g. IL, instead of Ill.). On 1840 county tax lists I omitted cents (e.g. \$140, instead of \$140.00). The current MS Word font uses less space, thus, placing more text per line. This shrinks his documents and reduces pages. This, then, changes page numbering in each Table of Contents. Cemetery locations are also found on the internet. See: **McDonough County Illinois Cemeteries** <http://graveyards.com/graveyards/IL/McDonough>



McDonough County, Illinois



Areas covered by volumes I - XVII
 "Cemeteries of McDonough County, Illinois"



CORRECTIONS

Volume II --- Page 15 [p. 12]

MC LAIN: Mary Ann, wife of James (change to) born in Monmouth Co. NJ; maiden name DEY.

Volume VII --- Page 45 [p. 40]

WOODS: James Bird, son of Dan'l and Jemima (change to) HAMMER, not HANNER Woods.

Volume VII --- Page 49 [p.43]

MILES: Martin change Betsy (Mrs. Elish Deach) to Betsy (Mrs. Elisha Keach).

Volume IX ---- Page v

Change Section 8 to Section 3 New Salem Township

Volume XI -----Page 8 [p. 8]

Change LOWERMAN, John to LOWDERMAN, John.

Volume XII ----- Page 3

Change CALE, Melvina N. to CALVERT, Melvina N.

BANKS CEMETERY

Location: Hire Township: SW¼, Section 30; on the old Vandiver Banks farm. [This cemetery about ½ mile north of N1300 Rd on E50 St: 40° 29' 0.32" N: 90° 53' 47.5" W](#)

Remarks: The graveyard is located at the edge of a plowed field; it's completely fenced; the grounds are pretty brushy, but all the stones but one are completely readable --- most are standing upright.

BANK / BANKS:

Amanda S.; d. Sep 26, 1860; age 19y 6m 28d.

Vandiver; d. Jun 26, 1876; age 72y 2m 10d.

Loraner A., wife of Vandiver; d. Mar 9, 1887; age 81y 1m 25d.

Marcisa K., dau of V. & L.A.; d. Jan 3, 1847; age 3y 6m 14d.

George W., son of V. & L.A.; d. Mar 4, 1844; age 5y 29d.

John F.; d. Nov 3, 1854; age 23y 6m 8d.

(One stone is broken and totally unreadable; however, the footstone contains the initials "M.J.B."; probably another child of V. & L.A.)

FOLTS:

Nancy Ellen, wife of W.A.; d. Dec 3, 1863; age 30y 4m 18d.

Willard V., son of W.A. & N.E.; d. Oct 14, 1863; age 5y 6m 29d.

William A., son of W.A. & N.E.; d. Dec 9, 1863; age 11d.

MASSIE:

Thomas; d. Dec 31, 1871; age 89y 8m 28d.

PILE:

Willmuth Jane; d. Nov 16, 1870; age 27y 7m.

Genealogical Notes – Banks Cemetery

BANKS: Vandever Banks was among the early settlers of Hire township, locating there in 1836. He entered the southwest quarter of section 30, and immediately erected a house thereon, and soon afterward purchased other land. Hew as successful in all his undertakings, and at the time of his death had acquired considerable property.

Vandever Bank/Banks was born in Adair Co. KY April 16, 1804; son of Vandever and Elizabeth (Walford) Bank/Banks, the former a native of Maryland, the latter was a Virginian by birth. He was married to Loraner A. Sharpe August 31, 1826. During his early life he worked at the carpenter trade.

Eleven children have been born to Landever & Loraner A., five of whom were living in 1885 --- Elizabeth W., wife of Thomas Massie, of Hancock county; Sarah M., wife of John M. Lyon, deceased, now residing on section 30, Hire township; James C.; Millard T.; and Job V., all residents of Hire. The death of Vandever Banks occurred June 26, 1876, after an illness of some six months duration, and was caused by a cancerous affliction of the stomach.

Notes, Corrections, Additions, and Changes

(NOTE: Vandiver – Vandever and Bank ---- Banks spelled both ways in this write-up).

INDEX: The following Index is a separate document: VOL XVIII Surname Index and the original document without revisions but separated from the previous pages in VOL XVIII. No changes are made in the page numbering within the volumes. As the revision of each volume was retyped page numbers were changed (reduced). Within each volume the first cemeteries are closer in page number than the cemeteries at the end. Revising pages of 4 through 30 has not been done at this time (Dec 2012).