

Samuel G. Sisco

by Bede Donald Cisco
Saint Meinrad Archabbey
<bcisco@saintmeinrad.edu>
July 1998

My interest in my family's history was awakened in the fall of 1997 when my cousin, Sharon Cisco Parish, visited me at Saint Meinrad Archabbey and told me that we had a family genealogy homepage (<http://www-epi.soph.uab.edu/cisco/htm>). On the homepage, I learned that I had relatives who had lived in Spencer County, Indiana, in the nineteenth century. Spencer County is the county in which Saint Meinrad is located; I have lived there most of the time for almost 30 years. My interest was captured, and I set about to find out as much about Samuel G. Sisco (born around 1795 at Newark, Essex, NJ) and his family as I could, making use of the resources near at hand. Given the fact that we have not been able to trace our direct ancestors back before Samuel's brother Moses, I had hoped that learning more about Samuel might lead to information about their parents. (Other siblings include Robert, Stephen, Gilbert, John, and Phebe.) I have not yet found anything about the parents of Moses, Samuel and their siblings, but in the process I have found some of Samuel's descendants still living in the Spencer County area, including a distant cousin who works at Saint Meinrad Archabbey! Samuel himself has proved to be something of an enigma, as I have not been able to find his death date or place of burial. Since we do not have his birthdate either, he reminds me of the priest Melchizedek as described in the Letter to the Hebrews (7:3, *NAB*) as "without father, mother or ancestry, without beginning of days or end of life..."

In the 1850 Indiana Census, Samuel is listed in Spencer County, Hammond Township (household #0940) as "Samuel G. Sisco," a shoemaker, 55, born in NJ, living with **Mary W.**, 56, born in NJ, and **William H.**, 13, born in OH. In the 1860 Indiana Census, Samuel is listed as "Cisco," in Spencer County, Ohio Township (household #0074), Rockport, a shoemaker, 66, born in NJ, living with Mary, 66, born in NJ, and William H., 22, a plasterer, born in OH. In the 1870 Indiana Census, Samuel is listed as "Sisco," in Spencer County, Hammond Township (household #162), a shoemaker, 75, born in NJ, living with **Sara**, 43, a housekeeper, born in OH; **William**, 33, a plasterer, born in OH; Emma Rice, 10, born in IN; Mary Rice, 8, born in IN; **Annie**, 2, born in IN; and **Samuel**, 9m, born in IN (in Oct). The copy of the Census in the Rockport/Spencer County Public Library has penciled entries identifying children Annie and Samuel as Sisco. (*1860 Spencer County Indiana Federal Census*, transcribed by Sharon Patmore and Kristine Manley, 1992; *1870 Spencer County Indiana Federal Census*, transcribed by Kris Manley and Sharon Patmore, 1994) There are no entries for Cisco, Scisco, or Sisco in the *1880 Spencer County Indiana Federal Census* (abstracted by Kristine Manley and Sharon Patmore, 1990), nor do the names appear in the 1880 Census of the Kentucky counties directly across the river (Daviness and Hancock). The Samuel Sisco family "disappears" from the death of "little" Samuel in 1871 until the marriage of Annie/Anna and William's Civil War enrollment in 1886.

On page 297 of *Our Hoosier Heritage: Spring Station – Chrisney Community, 1865-1987* (1987, compiled and written by Chrisney's Heritage Committee of Hoosier Celebration '88),

Samuel Sisco is listed among the Postmasters of Newtonville IN. He was appointed November 30, 1869. The next postmaster was appointed January 10, 1870.

Other occurrences of Samuel G. in US Census data show him in Hamilton, Butler Co, OH, in 1820 (*Francisco Researcher* #20, page 433; Search Results on Miami Valley Ohio Genealogical Index, <http://www.pcdl.lib.oh.us/cgi-win/cgitest.exe>); in Clermont Co, Chilo, OH, in 1830 (*1830 Federal Population Census – Ohio – Index*, reprinted 1976); and as S.G. Cisko in Clermont Co, Felicity, OH in 1840 (FRA township in v. 1, p. 183, of *Index to the 1840 Federal Population Census of Ohio*, compiled by Cleo Goff Wilkens, 1975). The names “Cisco,” “Scisco,” and “Sisco” do **not** appear in the *Clermont County Ohio Wills, Estates and Guardianships, 1800-1850* by Aileen M. Whitt (1986) nor do the names appear in *Monument Inscriptions prior to 1900 from Cemeteries in Clermont County Ohio*, volumes I-X, except for a Clementine Sisco (1879-1900) in volume IV. Samuel G. does not appear in the *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*.

The details on the 1820 Ohio Census given in the *Francisco Researcher* #20 (page 433) present the following on the household of Samuel G. Sisco:

Butler County, Hamilton Twp, p 47; 1 male 26-45 [SG], 1 male 18-26 [his brother Moses, who married in 1821 & whose son FW is born in this location?], 1 male under 10 [a son?], 1 female 26-45 [Mary W], and 1 female under 10 [a daughter older than Mary Ann, who was born in 1820?]

Mary W. Bonnell¹ was Samuel's earlier wife. In the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, Volume II, No. 3, January 1927, is an article entitled “Revolutionary Soldiers of New Providence,”² contributed by Chester Neville Jones. It includes the following on page 114m:

BONNELL, GILBERT, (or Caleb Gilbert Bonnell), Private Morris Co. Militia and Continental Line, pensioned 1827; son of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Allen) Bonnell; b. Nov, 1758; d. May 2, 1834; m. at Springfield, Feb, 1787, his cousin, Joanna b. March 10, 1757; d. Dec 17, 1846; dau. of Elijah Woodruff.

Children: Caleb W, b. June 3, 1788; m. 1823, --.
Elijah, b. Oct 3, 1789; d. Dec 18, 1821; m. 1815 --.
Lewis, b. Jan 15, 1792; d. April 22, 1792.
Mary, b. July 10, 1793; m. Sept 24, 1814, Samuel G. Sisco.

In the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, Volume 12, page 89m, in an article spread over several non-consecutive pages listing marriages is the following:

Essex County Marriage Records, Liber A, p. 180 – “Samuel G. Sisco, of Newark, & Mary W. Bonnel, of New Providence, at New Providence, Sept 24, 1814.” By Rev. Elias Riggs

According to *Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions* (Compiled by Spencer County Historical Society, Rockport, Indiana, 1987), Volume 2, page 153, **Mary W. (Bonnell) Sisco** is

buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery (#35), located off of Highway 45, south of Rockport (Ohio Township). The inscription indicates her birth (as 12 July 1793), her death (1 Nov 1865), and “wife of SG.” The grave is located in Section 9, which is on the right beyond the first road that crosses the road at the gate (about 2 o’clock position when looking from the gate). Research compiled by the Rockport/Spencer County Public Library states: “plat book for Sunset Hill shows 3 graves bought by Wm Sisco with only the 1 burial of Mary W. recorded.”

The 1850 Indiana Census for Spencer County, Hammond Township (household #0965) lists a **Mary A. Sargeant**, 30, daughter of Samuel and Mary W. Sisco (see footnote 1 for evidence), living with **James J.**, a farmer, 42, born in Ohio; **Julia**, 8, born in IN; **Thomas**, 7, born in IN; **Samuel**, 6, born in IN; **Ellenor** [*sic*], 3, born in IN; **Edward**, 1, born in IN. The 1840 Ohio Census (Wilkins, Vol 1) lists two “James Sargent” in Clermont County, FRA township, and 12 other “Sargent” in the same county and township. The 1880 *History of Clermont County* (p. 122) states that James Sargent, presumably an ancestor of Mary’s husband, “had freed his slaves in Maryland ere he moved to the county, and both [Philip Gatch, a Methodist preacher] were elected on account of their uncompromising position in opposition to slavery...” Several Sargents were veterans of the Revolutionary War from Old Clermont (*Early Days in Clermont County* by Robert K. Slade, 1964, p. 46, in *Historical Souvenirs of Clermont County, Ohio*, published in 1977).

The 1860 Indiana Census for Spencer County, Hammond Township (household #0284) lists James T. Sargent, a farmer, 52, born in Ohio, and Mary Ann, 39, born in Ohio, together with Thomas J, 17, farm labor, born in IN; Samuel, 16, farm labor, born in IN; Oliver [*sic*], 13; Edward, 10; **Eveline**, 9; and **James**, 5.

The 1870 Indiana Census for Spencer County, Hammond Township (household #386) lists James Sargent, 65, farmer, born in Ohio, and Mary A, 49, housekeeper, born in Ohio, together with Edward, 21, a farm laborer, Evaline, 19, w/o occ; and James, 15, a farm laborer. [This Census lists the children’s place of birth as OH, but that seems to be an error.] See household #399 of the 1870 Census, Spencer County, Hammond Township, for Julia (Hancock) (below). See household #385 of the 1870 Census, Spencer County, Hammond Township, for Thomas J. “Sargent” (below). See household #400 of the 1870 Census, Spencer County, Hammond Township, for Samuel “Sargent” (below).

The age of the Sargeant children and the fact that they were all born in IN indicates that at least the James and Mary Sargent part of the Samuel G. Sisco family moved to IN around 1841.

Mary Ann Sisco, daughter of Samuel G. and Mary W. Bonnell, was born 19 November 1820 in Ohio and died 17 November 1903. She married James J. Sargeant in Clermont County Ohio on 29 August 1840 (James J. Sargent to Mary Ann Scysco [*sic*] by W. B. Utter, J.P., in *Marriage Records of Clermont County Ohio, 1800-1850*, published in 1979 –record #3-233) and they had seven children – Julia, Thomas, Samuel, Eleanor, Edward, Eveline, and James. In the 1880 Spencer County Indiana Census, she is listed as living with her son, Edward (below). She is buried in Sargeant’s Cemetery, Hammond Township (#5 in *Spencer County Cemetery Inscriptions, Volume 1*, p. 151), Spencer County, located 1 mile south of Newtonville on County

Road 600E, on west side of the road on a knoll south of 700N. Her grave, and that of her husband James is marked by a large modern shared headstone, visible on approaching the cemetery along a service road. Her obituary was published in the 20 November 1903 *Rockport Journal*; it says she died in Chrisney, at the residence of her son, E.C. Sargent, on High Street. She was a member of M.E. church. Her Death Record in the Spencer County Courthouse gives her father's name as Samuel "Cisco," born in MD, and indicates that she died of senility after 6 months of illness.

James J. Sargeant was born in Ohio on 5 September 1807 and died 13 October 1877. He was a farmer. He married Mary Ann Sisco in Clermont County Ohio on 29 August 1840 (James J. Sargeant to Mary Ann Scysco [*sic*] by W. B. Utter, J.P., in *Marriage Records of Clermont County Ohio, 1800-1850*, published in 1979 –record #3-233) and they had seven children. In *Indiana Tax Lists, Volume 2* (compiled by James Eaglesfield Parlington, 1990), he is listed as owning the following property in Hammond Township, Spencer County, Indiana, as of 1846 Spencer County Tax List, James C. Veatch, Auditor:

40 acres in SE NW 23, 6, 5
80 acres in WNW 23, 6, 5
80 acres in WSE 23, 6, 5

He is buried in Sargeant's Cemetery, Hammond Township, Spencer County (see above). His will is on pp. 493-494 of *Will Records #1 (1853-1880)* in the Spencer County Courthouse.

Julia Sargent, daughter of Mary Ann Sisco and James J. Sargeant, born in Indiana around 1842. In her mother Mary's 1903 obituary, she is listed as Mrs. Julia Hancock, living in Newtonville. In the 1870 Indiana Census for Spencer County, Hammond Township (household #399, preceding Samuel Sargent), she is Julia Hancock, 29, living with George, 38, a farmer born in MD; **Sargent T**[obias], 10 (male); **Mary E**[lla], 8; **Annie M.**, 6; **Thomas L.**, 4; and **Leonard M.**, 2. The 1880 Indiana Census for Spencer County (household #07-126, 07 indicating Hammond Township) [household #125 in this Census was her brother Edward – see below] lists Julia, 38, as head of a household including Tobias S, 20, her son; Ella, 18, her daughter; Annie, 16, her daughter; Thomas, 14, her son; Leonard, 12, her son; **Clifford**, 8, her son; **Julia**, 5, her daughter; James Sargent, 25, her brother; Samuel Sargent, 35, her brother; **Edward Sargent**, 9, her nephew; **Laura Sargent**, 9, her niece; and **Samuel Sargent**, 1, her nephew.

Thomas J. Sargent, son of Mary Ann Sisco and James J. Sargeant, born in Indiana around 1843. He is listed as a farmer, 27, living in the household (#385, Spencer County, Hammond Township) preceding his parents in the 1870 Indiana Census. With him are **Elizabeth**, 23, a housekeeper; **Feylor B.**, 3 (male); and **Mary L.**, 4m, born in Jan. In his mother Mary's 1903 obituary, he is listed as T.J. Sargent of Greely, Kansas. The Marriage Record for Samuel G. Sisco and Sarah A. Rice lists "TJ Sargent" as pastor.

Samuel G. Sargent, son of Mary Ann Sisco and James J. Sargeant, born in Indiana in 1844. He was listed in the 1870 Indiana Census for Spencer County, Hammond Township at household #400, as 24, a farmer, together with **Sarah**, 22, a housekeeper,

born in IN; **William C.**, 5, born in IN; **John M.**, 3, born in IN; and **Ulysses G.**, 1, born in IN. Sarah died 5 November 1873 (*Spencer County (Ind.) Newspaper Abstracts 1844-1925, Volume 1*, by Sharon Patmore and Kris Manley, published in 1988, page 175). Samuel is listed in the 1880 Indiana Census for Spencer County as living in the household headed by his sister, Julia Hancock, John N and Grant, presumably his sons, living with his brother Edward. He was a carpenter who died September 20, 1920, in Grandview (Death Record #169) and is buried in Sargeant's Cemetery. The *Spencer County (Ind.) Newspaper Abstracts 1844-1925, Volume 1* records that his widow, **Amanda J.**, died November 27, 1920 and is buried in Sargeant's Cemetery (but she is not on the list of inscriptions). In his mother Mary's 1903 obituary, Samuel is listed as living in Fordsville, Ky.

Eleanor Sargent, daughter of Mary Ann Sisco and James J. Sargeant, born in Indiana in 1847. Listed as "Ellenor" in the transcription of 1850 Indiana Census and as "Oliver" [!, a son] in the 1860 Indiana Census. She does not appear by this name in 1870 Indiana Census. In her mother Mary's 1903 obituary, she is listed as Mrs. Eleanor Sutton of Newtonville. She is buried in Sargeant's Cemetery, with **Aaron Wayne Sutton**; her dates are (1847-1926) (*Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions*). This couple are the ancestors of Shirley Cravens, who has traced her ancestors from them (see *Tri-State: Southwestern Indiana, Southern Indiana and Western Kentucky Connections at Evansville, Indiana*, published in 1984 by the Tri-State Genealogical Society, c/o Willard Library, Evansville – Five Generation Ancestor Chart Committee, Kenneth Willard Franks, Charman). According to Shirley's ancestor chart, Eleanor was born March 31, 1847 and died in Spencer Co IN on March 9, 1926. Her husband, Aaron W. Sutton was born July 26, 1843 and died October 29, 1913 in Spencer Co IN. They were married January 14, 1866.

Aaron Wayne Sutton, Eleanor's husband, was the son of Benjamin Sutton (b. June 8, 1818; d. February 4, 1863) and Barthenia Kellems (b. June 23, 1818; d. February 19, 1880); they were married May 1, 1842. Aaron's grandfather was also named Aaron Wayne Sutton. He was born Aug 10, 1791 in New Jersey and died September 4, 1865 in Spencer Co IN.

Eleanor and Aaron's son, **James Jefferson Sutton**, was born January 11, 1868 and died on June 8 (no year given). He married **Virgie Lee Talbot** (b. 1879; d. February 20, 1959) on April 24, 1898. Their daughter, **Edna Mae Sutton**, was born March 27, 1914, in Spencer Co IN and died September 4, 1949, in Spencer Co IN. She married **Charles Clayton Harris** (b. January 26, 1915 in Warrick Co IN) on Jun 1, 1934. Their daughter, **Shirley Mae Harris** was born November 7, 1934 and married **Earl Francis Cravens** (b. June 6, 1932, in Spencer Co IN) on May 30, 1953.

Edward C. Sargent, son of Mary Ann Sisco and James J. Sargeant, born in Indiana around 1849. He was still living with his parents in the 1870 Indiana Census. In the 1880 Indiana Census for Spencer County, he is listed as the head of household #07-125 (07 indicating Hammond Township); household #126 is his sister Julia Hancock (see

above). Living with him were his wife, **Annie**, 25; his mother, Mary Ann, 59; a nephew, John N., 14; and a nephew, Grant, 11. [John and Grant may be the sons of Samuel, who was listed in the following household of his sister Julia.] His mother Mary's 1903 obituary indicates that she died at his home on High Street in Chrisney, about 5 miles from Newtonville.

Eveline Sargent, daughter of Mary Ann Sisco and James J. Sargeant, born in Indiana around 1851. She was still living with her parents in the 1870 Indiana Census. Her mother Mary's 1903 obituary identifies her as Mrs. Evaline Sidwell of Elwood.

James C. Sargent, son of Mary Ann Sisco and James J. Sargeant, born in Indiana around 1855. He was still living with his parents in the 1870 Indiana Census. In the 1880 Indiana Census, he is living in the household headed by his sister Julia Hancock. His mother Mary's 1903 obituary indicates that he was living in DeGonia (probably the current DeGonia Springs in Warrick County IN, about 13 miles mostly west of Newtonville).

William H Sisco, presumably the son of Samuel G and Mary W Bonnell, was born 4 February 1837 in Ohio and died 25 August 1900. (His middle name is given as "Henry" in a chart prepared by Wm Leon Cisco.) He was a plasterer and served in the military during the Civil War – Co E 23 IN Inf (see documents #111 & 112). He was mustered in July 29, 1861 and mustered out July 23, 1865, as a veteran (*Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, Volume IV, 1861-1865*, Indianapolis: Samuel M. Douglass, 1866). The microfilmed card file *Indiana Civil War Volunteers* at the Indiana State Archives has the same information, and adds that he was enlisted by Capt. Clark and mustered in New Albany by Jeff. C. Davis. The *1886 Enrollment for Spencer County, Hammond Township* gives his name as "William H. Scisco," indicates no children under 16, no "Disease while in Service," and "Piles scurvy and heart disease" as "Contracted Disease while in Service." According to research compiled by the Rockport/Spencer County Public Library, "Co.E 23 In. Inf was organized and mustered into service for three years at New Albany on the 29th of July 1861, Wm L. Sa[n]derson as Colonel, on the border of Harrison and Floyd counties." (See also *Indiana Battle Flags and A Record of Indiana Organizations in the Mexican, Civil and Spanish American Wars* by the Indiana Battle Flag Commission, Indianapolis, 1929 for a lengthy description of the regiment's activities and *A Compendium of the War of Rebellion* by Frederick H. Dyer, Copyright 1908 <http://www.thnet.com/~liggetkw/incw/rgmnt/23ind.htm> for a short description.) There are no entries for Cisco, Scisco, or Sisco in the *1880 Spencer County Indiana Federal Census* (abstracted by Kristine Manley and Sharon Patmore, 1990). He is listed as "Scisco" in the 1900 Spencer County Indiana Census, Grandview Town, Hammond Township (household #215) with his wife Martha, and the Silverthorn family: Samuel C, 27, a painter; Anna V, 23; and James C, 1. His death record (#215) in the Spencer County Courthouse indicates that the cause of death was "chronic diarrhea, and disease of heart," length of last illness as "a chronic condition." His father is given as "____ Sisco" and there is no mother's maiden name. Another record (in *Grandview R-3, 1882-1938*) gives no father's first name or mother's name, and indicates that his last illness was 12 days, and included, besides the above, "seizures like epilepsy." He is buried in Grandview Cemetery, Hammond Township, Spencer County, in Section 3, south of the EW blacktop. It is #28 in Volume 1 of *Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions* (Compiled by

Spencer County Historical Society, Rockport, Indiana, 1987), and the listing for William is on page 240. The inscription indicates the dates of his birth and death. The gravestone, located alongside the road, has "SISCO" on the base, and lists William as well as Martha and Isibell Jones (see below). There is a second stone, presumably a Civil War veteran's marker, with only William's name, and the last name apparently spelled "Scisco."

"Marriage Records" in the Spencer County Courthouse lists in book 10, page 112, a **23 December 1889 marriage of William Sisco to Martha L. Figgins**. The wedding was witnessed by FG Ellis, M.G.

Martha L. Figgins, William H's wife, was born 4 March 1865 and died 26 March 1921, according to the Death Records in the Spencer County Courthouse, #172, which identify her father as John Figgins. Her obituary appeared in the *Rockport Journal*, "Grandview Monitor," for 8 April 1921, which says that she died at the home of her nephew, Fred Morris. She is listed as "Scisco" in the 1900 Spencer County Indiana Census, Grandview Town, Hammond Township (household #215); she was born in Arkansas and her parents were born in Tennessee. (Her birth is given as March 1866 in the 1900 Census.) She is probably the "Eliza Sisco," 54, born in AR, living alone in Spencer Co, Grandview, listed in "1920 Indiana Sisco Soundex" in the *Francisco Researcher* #61 (November 1997), p. 873. She is buried in Grandview Cemetery, Hammond Township, Spencer County, in Section 3, south of the EW blacktop. It is #28 in Volume 1 of *Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions* (Compiled by Spencer County Historical Society, Rockport, Indiana, 1987), and the listing for Martha is on page 240. The inscription indicates the dates of her birth and death.

There were no children.

[Isibell Jones nee Figgins, born 31 March 1855, died 7 Oct 1909, is listed under "Sisco" in Volume 1 of *Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions* (Compiled by Spencer County Historical Society, Rockport, Indiana, 1987). She is buried in Grandview Cemetery, Hammond Township, Spencer County, in Section 3, south of the EW blacktop. Isibell is possibly Martha's sister.]

"Marriage Records" in the Spencer County Courthouse lists in book 5, page 353, a **16 December 1866 marriage of Samuel G. to Sarah Rice**. The record indicates that the wedding was witnessed by "TJ Sargent, Pastor," presumably Samuel G's grandson. The census records indicate that Sarah brought two children into this marriage. She and Samuel had two children of their own, Annie and Samuel.

Sarah A. Haines (Rice) Sisco was Samuel G.'s later wife. She was born 16 August 1827 in Ohio and died in 17 June 1911, according to her Death Record (#256) in the Spencer County Courthouse. That record states she died of "paralysis" after an illness of 5 days; her father was Joseph Haines and her mother "unknown." (I have been told that a man by the name of Levi Haines donated land for the Newtonville church and is buried in Sergeant's Cemetery.) There are no entries for Cisco, Scisco, or Sisco in the *1880 Spencer County Indiana Federal Census* (abstracted by Kristine Manley and Sharon Patmore, 1990). According to the 1900 Spencer County Indiana Census for Hammond Township, District #63, she was living with her daughter

Anna's family (household #49). Her father was born in Kentucky and her mother in Maryland. She is buried in Fairview Church Cemetery, located about 5 miles north of Grandview (east and somewhat south of Newtonville) on Highland Road (300/250E). It is #19 in Volume 1 of *Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions* (Compiled by Spencer County Historical Society, Rockport, Indiana, 1987), and the listing for Sarah is on page 203. The inscription indicates the years of her birth and death. The stone is located on the north side of the drive that goes up to the church.

Annie/Anna Sisco, daughter of Samuel G. and Sarah Haines Rice, was born in 1867 in IN and died in 1950. She married John C. Conner in 1886 (see below) and they had three children, **Ira**, **Casper**, and **James D.** According to the 1900 Spencer County IN Census for Hammond Township, District #63 (household #49), John C. and Anna's children Ira [W.] (13) and [Wm.] Casper (6) were born in Indiana. Also living with them was Sarah A. Sisco who was Anna's widowed mother, born August 1827 in Ohio. Anna is buried in Grandview Cemetery, Section 3. It is #28 in Volume 1 of *Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions* (Compiled by Spencer County Historical Society, Rockport, Indiana, 1987), and the listing for Anna is on page 241. The inscription indicates the dates of her birth and death. The stones for her, her husband John, and their son James are located at the corner of roads in the cemetery, near the edge of the cemetery. There is no entry for Anna in the Death Records for 1950 in the Spencer County Courthouse. Anna appears in a picture in *Rockport Democrat Centennial Anniversary Edition 1955*, page 59, labeled "The Ben Hur lodge was at the peek [sic] of its activity around 1900 when the above picture was taken."

"Marriage Records" in the Spencer County Courthouse lists in book 9, page 196, a **22 March 1886 marriage of Anna Sisco to John C. Conner.**

John C. Conner was born in 1854 and died in 13 February 1926 (*Index to Newspaper Obituaries 1926-1949 taken from weekly newspapers, Spencer County, Indiana*. Loose-leaf binder at Rockport/Spencer County Public Library). He married Anna Sisco in 1886 and they had at least three children. In the 1900 Indiana Census for Spencer County, he is listed as a farmer. His obituary was published in the 19 February 1926 *Rockport Journal Weekly*. He is buried in Grandview Cemetery, Section 3. It is #28 in Volume 1 of *Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions* (Compiled by Spencer County Historical Society, Rockport, Indiana, 1987), and the listing for John is on page 241. The inscription indicates the dates of his birth and death. The stones for him, his wife Anna, and their son James are located at the corner of roads in the cemetery, near the edge of the cemetery.

Ira W. Conner, son of Anna Sisco and John C. Conner, born 11 October 1886. A child of Anna and John C is listed as born on this date in the *Index to Birth Records, Spencer County Indiana 1882-1920*, and Ira's name was penciled into the copy in the Rockport/Spencer County Public Library on 12/12/97. In his father's 1926 obituary, he is listed as living in central Indiana.

Wm. Casper Conner, son of Anna Sisco and John C. Conner, born 2 February 1894. A child of Anna and John C is listed as born on this date in the *Index to Birth Records, Spencer County Indiana 1882-1920*, and Casper's name was penciled into the copy in the

Rockport/Spencer County Public Library on 12/12/97. In his father's 1926 obituary, he is listed as living in Illinois.

James D. Conner was born 6 February 1908 and died in 27 January 1924. He is listed in the *Index to Birth Records, Spencer County Indiana 1882-1920* as the son of Anna Sisco and John C. Conner. He is buried in Grandview Cemetery, Section 3. It is #28 in Volume 1 of *Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions* (Compiled by Spencer County Historical Society, Rockport, Indiana, 1987), and the listing for James is on page 241. The inscription indicates the years of his birth and death, and that he is the son of John C and Anna. The stones for him, and for his mother and father, are located at the corner of roads in the cemetery, near the edge of the cemetery. His drowning "while skating on Big Sandy creek in the suburbs of Grandview" was recounted in a front page article in the February 1, 1924, issue of the *Rockport Democrat*.

Samuel Sisco, son of Samuel G. and Sarah Rice, was born 4 October 1869 and died 7 September 1871. He is buried in Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery [Woodburn Cemetery] (Hammond Township), located on the north side of Highway 70, west of Newtonville. It is #1 for Hammond Township in Volume 1 of *Spencer County (Ind.) Cemetery Inscriptions* (Compiled by Spencer County Historical Society, Rockport, Indiana, 1987), and the listing for Samuel is on page 145. The inscription is said to be on a footstone. Personal inspection of the stone on 21 March 1998 found what may be a small headstone, perhaps sandstone; it is barely legible. The stone has "SAMUEL G" on the horizontal top, "SISCO" on the top line of the vertical side. The next line on the vertical is "BORN," below which is the date; the third line is "DIED," below which is the date. Some indecipherable text follows. The inscription is on the west side of the stone. The stone is located on top of a ridge in the cemetery, under an evergreen. There are no other stones nearby for at least a 10 foot radius. There are no other stones in the north-south row until the downslope of the ridge. The cemetery was entered from the east, going through a cow pasture, through another pasture to a large gate at the southeast corner of the cemetery. The gravestone for Samuel is located northwest of the entrance.

Resources considered

According to Becky Middleton at the Rockport/Spencer County Public Library, there are no tax records or school records available for the period during which the Samuel Sisco family "disappeared," 1871-1886.

Questions for further exploration

1. Who were Samuel G's (and Moses's) father and mother?
2. When did Samuel G die? And where is he buried?
3. Did Samuel have children in addition to Mary Ann and Wm H (?) with Mary W? Were they veterans of Mexican/American war?
4. What can be learned from William H's military record? Is he definitely the son of Samuel G and Mary W?

5. Where were Sarah, Annie/Anna, and William H in 1880? Were they simply missed in the 1880 Spencer Co IN Census, or were they elsewhere?
6. Is there information on the church record of Samuel G's 1866 marriage to Sarah Rice? (Samuel G's parents?)
7. Sarah Rice Sisco, Samuel's later wife, was living with her daughter Anna Sisco Conner in 1900; where was she in 1910?
8. Check for obituaries on later deaths – William (1900), Sarah (1911), Anna Conner (1950) [where did she die?]. From when are newspapers available? **1837 for Spencer County**
9. Where was Anna Conner after 1926? And her family?

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Becky Middleton, genealogy librarian at the Rockport/Spencer County Public Library, and to the genealogy librarians at Willard Library in Evansville IN for their assistance in research. I am grateful for Robert Matthews for his fine work in developing and maintaining our family's homepage, for his support and encouragement in this research, and for trodding through muddy Spencer County cemeteries in the spring of 1998 where, as he noted, we stood on the ground hallowed by the generations before us.

¹ A chart on page 149 of *Tri-State: Southwestern Indiana, Southern Indiana and Western Kentucky Connections at Evansville, Indiana* (published in 1984 by the Tri-State Genealogical Society, c/o Willard Library, Evansville – Five Generation Ancestor Chart Committee, Kenneth Willard Franks, Chairman), compiled by Shirley Cravens of Tell City on March 24, 1984, gives Mary's maiden name as "Munroe," her birthdate as 12 July 1793, and her death date as 1 November 1865. This record also indicates that Mary was married to Samuel Sisco who was born in Maryland [corresponding to the death record of her daughter Mary Ann in the Spencer County Courthouse], and that they had a daughter, Mary Ann Sisco, born 19 November 1820 in Ohio, died 17 November 1903, buried Spencer County IN.

² The following note about the Presbyterian Church of New Providence, Union County appears at beginning of article in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, 2:114m – the "locality was originally known as Turkey, and until 1857 was within the bounds of Essex County." (p.113) That is important because it is more evidence of this Sisco family's roots in Essex County NJ.