



Mary *Dille* Fort

BIRTH 1780
Washington County, Pennsylvania, USA

DEATH 1843 (aged 62–63)
Henry County, Indiana, USA

BURIAL Fort Family Burial Grounds
Henry County, Indiana, USA

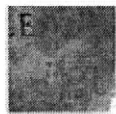
MEMORIAL ID 113896665

Family Members

Parents



Samuel Dille
1753–1829



Ann *Bates* Dille
1752–1829

Spouse



Joseph Fort
1777–1844

Family Dedicates Marker to Forts

Pioneers, covered wagons Indians and log cabins — that seemed in the background as Mrs. Zona White Sunday read the story of how Joseph and Mary Dille Fort came to the spot along Montgomery's Creek, built their home, and reared their family.

Sunday afternoon, October 14th, descendants of this couple gathered on the A. J. Carr farm to dedicate a monument marking the spot where the two were buried — Mary Fort in 1843, and Joseph in 1841. The couple were buried in what was then the home orchard, and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Carr now reside in the old family home. A white silken shawl belonging to Mildred White, and dating from the time Joseph and Mary Fort lived, was covering the granite stone and tablet, and was lifted from it to show the monument placed there by the great-grandchildren to honor these pioneers.

The manner in which the descendants found the spot was the tree in the background just at the top of the climb from a gully. Russell Fort could remember as a child driving by with his parents, and seeing the graves which were then surrounded by a white picket fence — but over the years the fence disappeared. Without telling them his location, he asked other descendants, and they also picked the same spot, in front of the big old tree, which was in the orchard where Mary Fort is said to have grown many flowers and vegetables more than 119 years ago.

Two great-great-granddaughters,

vegetables more than 119 years ago.

Two great-great-granddaughters, Susie Watts and Debbie White, unveiled the stone, and placed a basket of chrysanthemums by the marker. Paul Fort of Greenfield showed a brooch that had belonged to Ellen Taylor, a Negro servant, who came here with the family and lived with them until her death. A prayer was given by Mrs. Ethel Beeson of Shirley, a great-great-granddaughter. Russell Fort read a short history of the lives of Joseph and Mary Fort.

Both people were born in New Jersey in 1777, and moved with their parents to Virginia (now West Virginia) in Wood and Tyler counties. They married there, and with their children came to Ohio and then to Franklin County, Ind., where they entered land in Franklin County at the Brockville land office. They lived there a while and then went to Henry County. In 1824, they purchased from David Loudenback 160 acres which includes the part of present-day Knightstown extending from a half mile south of Jackson Street to a half-mile east of McCullum Street. They sold this land in 1827 and in June, 1827 they purchased 80 acres on the banks of Montgomery's Creek, three miles northwest of Knightstown, where they reared their 16 children, and lived until their deaths.

Joseph's younger sisters, Sarah and Ann, and their families all entered adjoining land from the federal government which has remained in the family ever since, except that purchased by the Carrs in 1940.

Mrs. Odessa McClammer, of this city, one of the great-granddaughters of the Forts attended the dedication.