

George D. Wagner, General, Commanding Division, US

- 1828 August: Wagner was born in Ross County, OH to John and Margaret Day Wagner.
- 1832 (abt) The Wagner family migrated from Ohio to Indiana. John Wagner was a Farmer.
- 1847 February 4: Married Frances Elizabeth Alexander in Warren County, IN.
- 1850 October 2: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Medina, Warren County, IN showed George, a farmer, and Elizabeth living with their two young children and Elizabeth's fifteen year old brother.
- 1856 Elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. He was a Republican.

After the 1854 Kansas Nebraska Acts and the ensuing chaos, Wagner traveled to Kansas with Thomas Johnson. When he returned he spoke at the Republican Ratification meeting on 20 Jun 1856. Wagner spoke passionately of his experience.

After Mr. Parker had concluded, George D. Wagner, of Warren county, who recently returned from Kansas, took the stand, and entertained the audience for over an hour, with a detailed account of the pro-slavery outrages in that Territory, as they had fallen under his own observation. His narrative corroborates substantially the worst reports that have reached us, of the outrages perpetrated by the so-called "law and order" party, backed up by the power of the Federal Government. He said that the pro-slavery men in Kansas, calculated largely upon the support of their old line friends in Indiana.

Mr. Wagner is well known in this community, and is a gentleman of unquestionable voracity. His speech carried conviction to the minds of all who heard it. It was a plain and unvarnished narrative of facts, many of which the history of the times, when it is written, will fully substantiate.

¹ Lafayette Daily Journal, Lafayette, IN, Monday, 23 Jun 1856, pg. 6 (accessed genealogybank.com)

Just a few days after the ratification meeting he was at another meeting. He helped to raise money to form the Emigrant's Aid Association. The EAA subsidized Warren County citizens who would emigrate to Kansas.

Kansas Meeting at Milford.

There was a large and enthusiastic Kansas meeting at Milford, Warren county, on Saturday last. George D. Wagner and Thomas Johnson addressed the meeting, reciting their personal observations in Kansas. An Emigrant's Aid Association was formed, and an Executive Committee, consisting of George Wolfer, Thomas Johnson and Isaac Bowyer; appointed to receive subscriptions and devise ways and means to carry out the object of the association. \$322 was subscribed on the spot, in amounts ranging as follows:

Thomas Johnson,	\$100 00
George Wolfer,	50 00
N. Morgan,	25 00
J. Mathews,	20 00
George Johnston,	20 00
E. Lemons,	5 00
W. M. Foster,	10 00
T. C. Moore,	5 00

T. C. Moore,	5 00
W. F. Haigh,	5 00
J. A. Haigh,	5 00
S. W. Haigh,	10 00
George Foster,	5 00
R. Foster,	1 00
A. J. Bryan,	5 00
George Davies,	10 00

The remaining names we have been unable to obtain. The following named persons, residents of Warren county, "to the manor born," volunteered to go to Kansas:—A. Stevenson, T. C. Moore, W. F. Haigh, R. F. McGee, Kingsby Ayres, H. Alexander, and Thos. Chinoweth.

Wagner is stumping the country, and the people, without distinction of party, are becoming fairly aroused to the dangers in which our free institutions are involved, and in October and November, Warren will roll up a large majority in favor of Freedom, Free Speech and Fremont.

1858 Elected to the Indiana State Senate.

As near as can be ascertained the Republicans have elected the following Senators:

George W. Wagner, Thomas W. Bennett, Harvey Craven, John R. Cravens, James D. Conner, Rufus Brown, George K. Steele, M. C. Culver, David Turner, and Othniel Beeson
—10.

² Lafayette Daily Journal, Lafayette, IN, Wednesday, 25 Jun 1856, pg. 2 (accessed genealogybank.com)

³ Lafayette Daily Journal, Lafayette, IN, Monday 18 Oct 1858, pg. 2 (accessed genealogybank.com)

1859 George Wagner and his aids were Grand Marshals at the 4th of July parade.

Hon. George Wagner !
of Warren county,
Grand Marshal !
Assisted by his Aids,

1860 July 30: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Medina, Warren County, IN showed George D., a farmer, and Frances E. living with their children

1861 Wagner was president of the State Board of Agriculture of Indiana.

Mr. Wagner declared the State Board duly organized. He mentioned that there would be eight members to be elected to fill vacancies of those who would, under the rules adopted, retire at the close of the present term. There would be additional names added to the standing committees, and he requested members to make suggestions and he would announce the full committees in the afternoon.

State Board of Agriculture.

The Delegate Convention, or the State Board of Agriculture, composed of representatives of the county societies, was organized on Wednesday the 10th inst., at eleven o'clock A. M., at the Supreme Court-room, in the State-house.

The members of the Board proper, present, were Hon. G. D. Wagner, Pres't; J. D. Williams, Vice President; W. T. Dennis, Secretary, and David Rabb, A. D. Hamrick, J. C. Helm, Wm. G. Coffin, Stearns Fisher, Nathan Piatt, Thomas H. Collins, William Duncan, Wm. H. Loomis and William Miller.

Mr. Wagner, President, took the chair, when the counties were called by the Secretary, and the following societies were found to have representatives on the floor:

⁴ Lafayette Daily Journal, Lafayette, IN, Wednesday, 15 Jun 1859, pg. 3 (accessed genealogybank.com)

⁵ The Indiana State Sentinel, Indianapolis, IN, Wednesday, 16 Jan 1861, pg. 3 (accessed newspapers.com)

1862

Col. Wagner Under Arrest.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati Times, writing from Camp Wickliffe, New Haven, Ky., under date of the 8th inst., says that on dress parade the previous day an order was read from Gen. Nelson, placing Col. G. D. Wagner, of the 15th Indiana regiment, under arrest. The cause of this proceeding was not known. In the absence of Gen. Nelson, Colonel Wagner, as senior officer, had been in command of the brigade for some weeks, the duties of which since his arrest will devolve upon Col. Bosley.

June: Promoted to Brigadier General

1863 February:

~~House.~~ The morning session was taken up with routine business. Messrs. Packard and Niblack put in their protest to the endorsement of the promotion of Col. G. D. Wagner, because he believed in the confiscation of the property of Northern traitors. The main feature of the afternoon session was the introduction of Mr. Hanna's bill to create an Executive Council, vesting the executive powers of the Governor in that body. Mr. Cason moved to reject. Not agreed to—ayes 40 (Union), nays (Democrats) 50. Mr. Branham made a lengthy speech against it.

⁶ Lafayette Daily Courier, Lafayette, IN, Thursday, 16 Jan 1862, pg. 3 (accessed genealogybank.com)

⁷ Daily Evansville Journal, Evansville, IN, Saturday, 7 Feb 1863, pg. 3 (accessed genealogybank.com)

1864 November 30: General Wagner commanded a division of the U.S. Army at the Battle of Franklin. Following orders from his commanding officer, Wagner ordered his men to form a line on a slight rise on the Columbia Pke. Two of his brigades formed this advance line. When the Confederates attacked Wagner's men suffered great casualties.

1865 April 22: Wife, Frances Elizabeth, died in Warren County, IN. She was buried at Armstrong Chapel Cemetery. Upon her death she left five children, three of them being under the age of ten.

DEATH OF MRS. GEN. GEO. WAGNER.—
Mrs. General George Wagner died at
Washington, Ind., on Saturday last. The
remains were taken to the residence of
Gen Wagner's father. in Warren county.

1866 January 20: Wagner's father, John, died just a few months after his wife.

1869 February 13: Wagner died of an accidental overdose at the Old Bates House in Indianapolis, IN. His youngest child was seven years old at the time. Wagner himself was thirty-nine years old.

⁸ Daily Evansville Journal, Evansville, IN, Saturday, 29 Apr 1865, pg. 3 (genealogybank.com)



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Sudden Death of General Wagner.

General George D. Wagner died very suddenly at the Bates House, Indianapolis, on Saturday night. It appears that the General had been suffering for several days from nervous prostration, and obtained, on Saturday afternoon, a prescription from Dr. Prunk, composed of twenty grains *quinia*, one ounce *tincture gelsemii*, and a half pint of brandy. It is said this preparation, taken in proper doses, has the effect of quieting nervous irritability and excitement. Its effects in excessive doses are clouded and double vision, and in very large quantities complete prostration and death. General Wagner, on receiving the compound from this prescription, repaired to his room, and in the space of time in which it was prescribed he should take a single dose drank about *half* of the preparation in the bottle, that is, he took about one-half an ounce of tincture of gelsemii in the space of time it was prescribed he should take about one-half of a drachm. The effect was complete relaxation of the whole system, from which no stimulus could rescue him, and resulting in his death at about 10:30 in the evening.

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⁹ findagrave.com/user/Seth Musselman

¹⁰ Cincinnati Daily Enquirer, Cincinnati, OH, Thursday, 18 Feb 1869, pg. 3 (accessed genealogybank.com)

Resolutions passed—A concurrent resolution reciting the public services of Gen. George D. Wagner and his sudden demise, and resolving that both Houses adjourn at half-past ten A. M. to-morrow, to accompany his remains to the depot.

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¹¹ The Evansville Daily Journal, Evansville, IN, Wednesday, 17 Feb 1869, pg. 1 (accessed newspapers.com)