Bartholomew County, Name Index to the Account Book of
David McClure Branham’s General Store, 1893–1897

Lori Osting and Callie McCune

David McClure Branham was born in North Madison on June 5, 1860, the son of William Hickman Branham and Livia K. Branham. In 1879 the family moved to Elizabethtown in Sand Creek Township, Bartholomew County, nine miles southeast of Columbus.1 Primarily a small farming community, Elizabethtown developed along the tracks of the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad in 1845.2 Here, Branham became a clerk at the store of Edward Springer and Sons in 1880, later owning the business. He married Nettie A. Springer, daughter of Edward and Nancy Springer, on May 10, 1881.3

Branham continued to operate the general store in Elizabethtown and work as a farmer until his sudden death on January 9, 1931.4 The manuscript collections of the Indiana State Library include twenty volumes of his account books, spanning the years 1893–1929.5 The first volume, which is indexed for this article, covers the years 1893–97 and contains the names of 297 customers. Items commonly purchased during this period included hardware and farm supplies, such as sickles, oil, oil cans, twine, canvas, tension springs, sisal, wool, whips, ducking, cold chisels, sway bars, nails, hay carriers, rivets, and knives.6

Branham roughly indexed his customers’ names at the beginning of the account book. Often, though, the name given on the account page is more complete and easier to read than the name in the front of the book. For this index, the most complete version of the name is used. Account entries include the date, item(s) purchased, and amount paid.

Notes
3. “D. M. Branham, Elizabethtown, Dies Suddenly.”
4. “D. M. Branham, Elizabethtown, Dies Suddenly.” Branham was listed as a merchant in the 1910 and 1930 U.S. census and as a farmer in 1920. See 1910 U.S. census, population schedule, Bartholomew County, Indiana, Sand Creek Township, Elizabethtown, ED 24, sheet 1B, dwelling 29, family 29, David M. Branham household; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 340; also 1920 U.S. census, population schedule, Bartholomew County, Indiana, Sand Creek Township, Elizabethtown, ED 20, sheet 3A, dwelling 60, family 60, David M. Branham household; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 422; also 1930 U.S. census, population schedule, Bartholomew County, Indiana, Sand Creek Township, Elizabethtown, ED 23, sheet 1B, dwelling 32, family 32, David M. Branham household; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 577).


**Name Index to David McClure Branham Account Book, 1893–1897**

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*Listed in the account book twice.
† Spurgeon, Lon appears in the index, but the name on the account page is Spurgeon, A. B.