Join us for a journey through history and time.
An Odyssey for those beginning or experienced in genealogy.

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In 2015, the Crawfordsville District Public Library received a Library Sciences & Technology Act grant to create digital copies of Montgomery County newspapers. In April 2016, the newspapers went online, and are now available for reference as local history and genealogy resources. Each newspaper issue has been scanned using optical character technology, and the resulting data will be refined over time by crowd editing.

View Indiana’s historic newspapers at: Hoosier Chronicles

Go directly to Montgomery County newspapers:

- **Crawfordsville Daily Journal** (2 January 1890 – 31 December 1894)
- **Crawfordsville Record** (8 February 1834 – 4 June 1836)
- **Crawfordsville Review** (18 June 1853 – 30 December 1899)
- **Crawfordsville Weekly Journal** (16 June 1853 – 27 June 1902)
- **New Richmond Record** (20 September 1900 – 8 July 1915)
- **Waynetown Banner** (17 January 1880)
- **Waynetown Despatch** (8 February 1896 – 25 July 1930)
- **Waynetown Hornet** (28 January 1888 – 11 February 1893)

Feel free to find us and Like us on FACEBOOK!

The Family Bible Project is available on the Crawfordsville District Public Library web site at: http://history.cdpl.lib.in.us/bibles.html. The Bibles have been transcribed and scanned and are searchable by family name.

As of May 2017, there were 135 Bibles online with more being added every month thanks to an IGS grant and club volunteers.
The Genealogy Club of Montgomery County, Indiana, continues to meet the second Tuesday of every month at Crawfordsville District Public Library at 7pm. Visitors and new members are welcome to all meetings.

**Future of the Past.** In November, I gave a presentation “Boxcar to Nebraska” It outlined my research into a family story that said my ancestors homesteaded in Nebraska.

In December, everyone brought snacks to share and we all told stories of memorable Christmas’ past.

In January, Dian MOORE talked to us about how Ripley Township got its name. We also heard from Andrew McCorkle and the treasure he found in his grandmother’s trunk that documented his ancestor, Uriah MCCOY and his time in the Civil War.

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**Extra! Extra! Read all about it!**

- All material submitted for the newsletter remains the property of the author.
- If you see the notation “Dr” in court records, don’t assume it is an abbreviation for “doctor.” In the 1800’s, “Dr” was more likely to be used as an abbreviation for “debtor” - someone who owed money. This was especially common in foreclosure and bankruptcy cases. *From the Indiana Genealogy Society, Inc.*
- **Probate Records of Montgomery County (Index):** An index to the probate records (.pdf) from 1822-1940. Indexed by names of decedents and estate administrators. Volume and page numbers refer to the original ledgers. The library owns microfilm copies of the ledgers, which may be consulted onsite.

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“I cannot remember the books I’ve read any more than the meals I have eaten; even so, they have made me.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803—1882
CDPL continues to provide many opportunities for local and visiting researchers to uncover their family history. Pictured here are Jennifer MCNAY, Isabel LUND, and Leah MCNAY. They came to do research from Missouri. They are researching the RAGSDALE, STATON or STATEN families.

Have you wondered how you might go about starting research on your family in Montgomery County? Let me show you some easy ways to get your family tree started. First of all, start with yourself, writing down all you know about you. Write down your birth date, parents’ names, schools, marriage, military service, divorce, children, anything that may have a legal document. Remember where you lived throughout your life. Then go back to your parents. Do the same for them. See if you can get at least a copy of birth and marriage certificates, baby pictures, school diplomas, old addresses, and if they lived in 1940, the latest released U.S. Census records. Ask your parents about their parents— you might be surprised by what you find out!

Also, through our local history online database are available newspapers indexed for birth announcements, adoptions, marriages, engagements, obituaries, reunions, birthdays, anniversaries, and other significant life events that may have made it into our local newspapers. Cemetery records are searchable, along with having printed records in our local history department.

A very popular section in our local history department is the old school yearbooks. They are searchable by school and name, and the volumes we have in the library are listed. We are always looking for spare old copies that anyone would like to donate.

This is the 1985 Swing Choir for North Montgomery High School. The people in this picture are as follows: First Row (bottom row, crouching, left to right): S. Irvin, M. Bymaster, and K. Evans; Second Row (left to right): T. French, B. Skinner, and ---; Third Row (left to right): J. Stonecipher, B. Wathen, R. White, ---, J. Kirkpatrick, K. Karle, and D. Thompson; Fourth Row (left to right): E. Runyan, A. Clinton, J. Rooze, S. Schenck, B. Crosier, A. Horney, B. Vance, A. Horn, and T. Budd. The names for this photo came from a similar photo of the same swing choir in the 1985 Charger Flashback (the yearbook for North Montgomery High School) on pages 26-27. The photo was taken on the North Montgomery High School stage.
I moved from Colorado to Kentucky almost two years ago. I focused on finding my Uncle Earl HALL’s children: Janet, Sonny (Earl Jr.) and Bobby (Robert). The last I knew my Uncle Earl and his family lived in Indianapolis. I had all but given up finding my first cousins when it occurred to me to try Facebook. On July 3, 2018, I sent private messages to anyone with the name of Bobby (Robert) or Sonny (Earl Jr.) HALL. My effort netted no result. I was disheartened but not defeated.

I planned a trip to Crawfordsville to meet with Dellie in hopes of finding new information and verification of my research of the Hall branch of my family. Dellie and I set a date and time to meet. I was so excited to meet Dellie and look at the information she gleaned from her resources.

The day after I made my hotel reservations, I received a call from my first cousin, Janet HALL. I was so excited I didn’t think I could wait six days, I wanted to leave for Indiana immediately.

It has been at about 50 years since we last had contact. We had a great lunch, walked though and took pictures of family members buried in Freedom and Indian Hills Cemeteries. Janet and I agree that it feels like we have known each other our entire lives. I am so fortunate to have found Janet. My beloved sister died in 2016, we were very close and her death left a significant void in my life. Janet has helped with that void.

I will outline the Hall branch. Please, if you believe me to be in error, contact me at:

bggarstang@aol.com.

6th Great Grandparents: Francis HALL 1725-1765 and Sarah D BAINBRIDGE 1726-1763
5th: Francis Richard HALL 1750-1829 and Rebecka VANNOY 1750-1799
4th: Bainbridge HALL 1784-1855 and Mary Ellender (Polly) NICHOLS 1791-1855
3rd: John Richardson HALL 1817-? and Margery VAN CLEAVE 1822-1903 ****Dellie, did we ever find a death date and place of burial for John Richardson?****

John Richardson HALL’s brother, Samuel Q. HALL is Mary Emmaline HALL’s father.
Mary Emmaline married William Jasper HALL, Rachel Ann HALL’s son. The impact of these interfamilial marriages results in brothers who are my 3rd great grandparents.

2nd: Rachel Ann HALL 1847-1907 and unidentified male who fathered Rachel’s son, William Jasper. William was born illegitimately, I hope to one day identify who his father is. It appears to be a highly guarded family secret.


Grandparents: Glenn HALL 1886-1971 and Genoa COCHRAN 1886-? Glenn and Genoa left Indiana and settled in Montana. Glenn’s siblings, Earl, Allie and Mary HALL CHAMNESS (Albert Ray) stayed in Indiana. Earl and Allie never married. Genoa COCHRAN HALL boarded a train in Baker, Montana to look for work in Miles City, Montana (approximately 80 miles) and was never heard from again. To this day her disappearance remains a mystery.

My mother is Carolyn Elizabeth (Bette) HALL 1924-2008.
If any of you readers have pictures or stories (good or not so good) about any of my people—please feel free to contact me.

I wish to thank Dellie for all the help she provided to me while I was in Crawfordsville. She most certainly went above and beyond. I will return in the spring to continue research on my VAN CLEAVE line and visit more cemeteries where my people are at rest.

It was a fantastic experience! Bella Gulden GARSTANG bggarstang@aol.com 502-450-5236

Driving the 1917 Ford to Chicago

James needed to buy a car when he was building a home in East Cleveland while simultaneously framing a second home twenty miles away in Lakewood. To travel between the two houses, and bring materials to both worksites, James bought a new 1917 Ford Model T (original price: about $500). The family enjoyed riding in the “Flivver,” as Ed called it, for summer excursions to Cedar Point and Salida Beach. Ed snapped photos of their summer trips, using a Kodak camera he received as a gift.

In August of 1917, James packed the Flivver to overflowing with family and luggage for a drive to Chicago. They were going to see the sights and very likely visited James’s sister, Rachel Ellen “Nellie” Kirby, who lived there with her second husband, barber Samuel Arthur Kirby. The Woods began their trip from Cleveland (#1 on map) in a “terrible storm.” Ed wrote in his photo album. They made a stop in Fremont, Ohio, along the way (#2). The boys helped maintain the car by pumping up a tire and fixing the castings near Waterloo, Indiana (#3). Eventually, they arrived in downtown Chicago (#4). On the way home to Cleveland at the end of August, the family made a few stops in Toledo (#5).
New Life Brought to T.C. Steele Boyhood Home

By Nick Hedrick, published January 13, 2017 in the Journal Review

Cindy SMITH tugs on a chipped paint door, pointing up the staircase that famed Hoosier artist T.C. STEELE used to climb. “This is where T.C. and his siblings slept,” said SMITH, standing in the Waveland house where STEELE lived as a boy. The weathered wooden door is one of the relics from the T.C. Steele Boyhood Home, which the federal government has deemed worthy of preservation.

STEELE, an American Impressionist widely admired for his paintings of Indiana landscapes, grew up in Waveland, receiving his first training as an artist. His family moved to the 1,200-square-foot Greek Revival House at 110 S. Cross Street in 1852, when STEELE was about five. The house was built around 1850.

It’s unclear why the STEELE’s came to Waveland, which had a population of about 500 at the time. “Undoubtedly, the high character of the little town, particularly its schools,” played a big part, Theodore STEELE wrote in a biography of his grandfather. T.C.’s parents wanted him and his siblings to have the same educational opportunities as they enjoyed.

T.C. enrolled at the Waveland Collegiate Institute at the age of 12, where his course load included spelling, reading, penmanship, oral geography and composition and oral music. By the second year, he was teaching classmates how to draw and eventually taught drawing and painting in the preparatory department, according to his grandson’s biography. He graduated in 1868.

Art critic Wilbur PEAT is skeptical of the quality of education T.C. received in Waveland. “What examples of good portrait painting, originals or reproductions, he might have seen in that small town, or even in neighboring Greencastle, could not have done much to inspire him or aid in his technical development,” PEAT wrote in “The House of the Singing Winds: The Life and Work of T.C. Steele.” But T.C. himself had warm memories of his Waveland years. “It had the usual village stores and blacksmith’s and wagon and carriage shops typical of the period, but it was a community of more than ordinary intelligence,” he said, “and situated in a charming and pleasant country of prosperous farms.” T.C. later studied in Chicago and Cincinnati. He’s best known in Indiana for his Brown County studio-home, where he died in 1926.

By then, his childhood home had undergone a series of renovations. Two porches and a roofed extension were added sometime around the turn of the century, according to documents filed with the National Park Service. All the original plaster was removed and replaced with plywood paneling. Most ceilings were covered with plaster wood. Over the years, several windows in the rear addition were downsized or changed depending on the room.
Insulation was blown in between interior walls, but the exterior walls were left intact. An electrical fire in the 1950s caused more than $1,000 in damage. The owner, a local pastor, was renovating the house at the time. The last residents packed up in 1999 and, a year later, a group of concerned citizens, art lovers and preservationists formed to save the home. Historic Waveland, Inc. raised the funds needed to purchase the house, saving it from the wrecking ball.

In 2001, the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana put the house on its list of “10 Most Endangered Places of Indiana.” It was added to the national historical register in 2003.

When the local effort to restore the landmark stalled, the organization gained control of it. The roof was replaced and a quick coat of paint splashed on the outside. There were few prospective buyers until 2013, when staff met with Tim SHELLY, a distant relative of Steele’s. Shelly was then chair of the Indiana Landmarks board. He and his wife, Meg, both graduated from DePauw University and were familiar with the area. He purchased the house sight unseen – and without first telling Meg. “Inside, it was a complete gut job,” Shelly said. “I mean, there was nothing inside.”

After hooking up the utilities, the couple started from ground zero restoring the house. Edwards and Van Matre Construction Company was the contractor. SMITH and her husband, Jerry, a local artist, met the SHELLY’s through a mutual acquaintance during the project. “He was looking for volunteers to help paint and we came out and helped paint the walls,” said Cindy SMITH. Jerry admired the crews’ efforts to restore the front porch, replicating the original design. “They very carefully duplicated all of the trim work and posts... and the rest of it, so they made the missing parts look like the original parts,” he said. It took nine months to finish the bulk of the project. Painting is left to do on the north and west sides of the house. “Other than that, we’re pretty much done,” SHELLY said.

The house is open to artists for weekend retreats at no charge and SHELLY wants to get junior high and high school art teachers involved with field trips or other events. Visitors from Texas, Ohio, New Jersey and other states have signed the guest book and posed for a traditional photo outside the house. “We were just really pleased that someone grabbed a hold of the building and saved it,” Cindy SMITH said.


****Did you know—T.C. STEELE, one of Waveland’s most famous sons, donated a painting in honor of the grand opening of the library? It still remains in its intended spot above the fireplace. Visit the Waveland-Brown Township Public Library to see this work of art.
The BANNON family is one of great interest in our area. Merrill Lex BANNON grew up on a farm and each family member had a job, sometimes more than one, depending on age level. Growing up in a large family (two brothers, a half-brother, and four sisters), there was much to do to simply help out with daily life.

Merrill was responsible for putting meat on the table, but it was fine, as he loved to hunt and fish then and for the rest of his life. Merrill and his brother Cliston also hunted honey. They developed quite an elaborate hunting pattern (they tallied the flights of the bees) to find the honey.

Loving the out of doors, he also enjoyed machines (motorcycles early on) and then found his forever love, Ruth LAMB (one of eleven children). He was a farm laborer, worked as a bridge builder, and finally combined his mechanical knowledge to work on automobiles and tractors. He worked in the Chevrolet and Plymouth-Dodge agencies for many years. Two daughters and a son were born to this couple and they retired to Florida after doing some farming for a few years before retiring.

Lewis Wesley BANNON was born in Gainsborough, Warren County, Ohio on the first day of October in 1818 and passed away in Bloomingdale the same month on the 21st, 101 years later. He was a circuit preacher in Montgomery and Parke County, Indiana and is buried in Waynetown. To help raise his ten children, he did some brick laying, following in his father's footsteps. One of the items belonging to this family is good health which results in long life, at least in many cases, certainly in Lewis'. He was just sick for ten days when he passed away.

As a Christian Church minister for more than 65 years, he rode the circuit to marry, bury and preach over many lives. It is said he averaged over 100 sermons each year, married over 300 couples and preached well more than 150 funerals. His wife, Lavonia ASHLEY, was the daughter of Loama ASHLEY who was also a pioneer preacher (in Ohio). They married in 1838 and had six children. Lavonia passed away February 9, 1860 and is buried in Liberty Chapel, here in Montgomery County. Lewis married again later that year to Angeline HELLMANS and they parented four more BANNON children, totaling three sons and seven daughters.

My sweet "adopted" aunt, Ginny KELSEY, stems from Lewis’ brother, James Clark BANNON and his wife, Elizabeth FULWIDER. This comes on through Charles F. BANNON and his wife, Mary Melinda LANE (called Mollie). Their son, Eldo is Aunt Ginny’s father. They were all farmers near the Waveland area. Aunt Ginny had one brother, Max and their mother was Helen Wanetah MONROE. Max, too, farmed his entire life.

This family had a large reunion for so many years. On the Montgomery County INGenWeb page and my Facebook page, we have a couple of reunion pictures with most of the 80 or so in the photo tagged.

One of the sadder BANNON stories was about Richard Lee BANNON, son of Evan and Vera CRANE BANNON, born in Montgomery County Jan 24, 1923. He was drafted into the Army Infantry March 23, 1943 even though he had two small daughters. Not long after he went overseas to France, the family received word that he was Missing in Action. Luckily, he did return home, but on December 18, 1947, he was killed in a train accident.
Working at the B&O Railroad yards, he volunteered to work extra hours for a worker whose car stalled and he couldn’t make it to work. No one knows exactly what happened, but Richard was found angled under one of the trains. Rest in Peace, RLB. The photo here is about the time he was leaving for the service. Thanks to Josh SORRELS for this awesome photo that commemorates Richard and the certificate of his barber great gpa’ (shown below). Love to work with Josh on history!

Many BANNON relations stayed right in the Parke/Fountain/Montgomery County area, but some were more adventurous, including Frank Andrew BANNON who went out west to Kansas and homesteaded 120 acres. However, he missed his girlfriend, Fannie ALWARD and returned home to marry her April 11, 1885. With four young children, she passed away and he remarried Rose BARKER. They would parent seven more children. He owned a large threshing rig in this area. It was a great concern when traveling over bridges. He would make everyone get off the machine and he traveled the treacherous distance alone. Often, he could be heard pulling the whistle on the machine twice, meaning he was venturing across the bridge with the heavy machine, then three times when he was on the other side safe. His children would run to meet him and ride the rest of the way home. They lived near Turkey Run and his children often served as guides in the thick, primitive woods of that time. He is buried in Poplar Grove near Marshall, his funeral in January of 1937, having been the preacher in Lusk Chapel, the little church which is now in the park.

Walter Andrew BANNON ventured to Fresno, California when he was young. He worked for a tractor industry as a salesman and died in Fresno in 1970, having fathered two sons (and daughters, too) who would go forth and populate another state with BANNON children. His son, Dwight was lost at sea during WWII. (photo from findagrave).

Even in our time frame, we hear the name BANNON. My head wraps around Jeff as a great baseball player at CHS. Evan BANNON was a downtown barber for decades and also operated a shop for awhile in Lafayette. Sadly, he was not one of the long-living BANNONs and passed away at the young age of 47, leaving two daughters, one of whom was another of my favorite people, Clela JONES. Another BANNON barber was Pete (Clarence) who was born in Waynetown, son of David and Eliza BANNON. He, as many of the BANNON’s at draft registration time, was listed as tall, slender to medium build, light hair, blue eyes. That of course does not describe every BANNON through the years, but many.

The intertwining names to area families are many, but to tally a few of the major ones, we have: BARKER, BUNNELL, CAMPBELL, CLARK, FULWIDER, HOLLAND, JONES, KELSEY, KEYS, MITCHELL, OWEN, RIDGE, SOWERS, WINTER, YOUNG. There are many wonderful BANNON descendants in and around the Crawfordsville area, and I am sure as with any family, there is a bad apple, but I’ve never known one. Hope you enjoyed this little family history!

Editor’s Note: This is the another installment in the series highlighting notable Montgomery County Families written by Karen BAZZANI ZACH. This article was first featured on the INGenWeb site for Montgomery County that is populated thanks in big part to Karen’s efforts. You can find this and other interesting information about Montgomery County at: The INGenWeb Project, Copyright ©1997-2019 (and beyond), Montgomery County GenWeb site http://www.ingenweb.org/inmontgomery/
One-on-One Family History Consultations Second Saturday of Every Month

Do you need help getting started? Have you hit a brick wall? Need info about what we have and how it can help you with your genealogy research? The Genealogy Collection of the Indiana State Library is offering 30 minute individual consultation sessions with one of our reference librarians on the second Saturday morning of every month.

Email GenMail@library.in.gov to schedule an appointment. All appointment requests must be submitted 5 business days before the second Saturday of the month. Please include topics and questions you would like to have addressed. If you have completed any research please bring it with you.

Free orientation tour enables researchers to learn where the genealogical tools they need are located. Learn what resources the Indiana State Library holds for genealogists, and where to find them in the building.

Indiana Landmarks saves the places that matter to Hoosiers...

We save buildings because they stir us. They're inspiring examples of Hoosier art and spirit, ingenuity and craft. They heighten our sense of place and connect us through the generations. They help us remember what's important in our lives.

Did you know that Indiana Landmarks has many exciting tours available?

Whether you are looking to get in touch with history or just have a good time while you’re doing it, Indiana Landmarks has just the thing.

You can view the tours they have available like French Lick & West Baden Springs Hotel Tours, City Market Catacombs Tour (did you know that there are catacombs under the City Market in Indy?), Monument Circle Tours, and more!

Visit the Indiana Landmarks webpage for more information: www.indianalandmarks.org/tours-events/ongoing-tours-events/

Judith Kleine Architect awarded Best of Houzz 2019

Our own Judi Kleine received a great honor in being named Best of Houzz 2019. This honor is awarded by the community of homeowners for those who are hiring design, remodeling and other home improvement professionals for their projects. See the article posted in The Paper of Montgomery County Online.

https://thepaper24-7.com/Content/News/Local-News/Article/Judith-Kleine-Architect-awarded-Best-of-Houzz-2019/23/22/67418?fbclid=IwAR1RXH8xP8EYo3S4VChz4p7uf2b393biCrGvYxKT9YChnYYz0sTd_5gytSg#.XEya7csXTkg.facebook
Upcoming events

Feb 22, 2019—5pm
4H After Hours Program at CDPL

Mar 12, 2019—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting
Ripley, Alamo, and the ELMORE family

Mar 22, 2019—5-9pm
4H After Hours Program at CDPL

Apr 9, 2019—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting
Some Late Great Lawyers from Mtg. Co.

Apr 26, 2019—5-9pm
After Hours Program at CDPL

May 11, 2019—9am
Alamo Cemetery Cleaning Workshop

May 14, 2019—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

May 24, 2019—5pm
4H After Hours Program at CDPL

Jun 11, 2019—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

Jul 9, 2019—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

Jul 26, 2019—5-9pm
After Hours Program at CDPL

Aug 13, 2019—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

Sep 10, 2019—6pm
Genealogy Club Annual Meeting & Dinner

Oct 8, 2019—7pm
Genealogy Club Organization Meeting

Nov 12, 2019—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

All articles and other submissions for the May newsletter must be emailed to stephief@live.com by April 24, 2019.
The annual dues of the Genealogy Club of Montgomery County Indiana Inc. for the period October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 are due in September 2018. They may be given to Dellie Craig at the Crawfordsville District Public Library or mailed to the Club Treasurer (John Hooper, 1576 E 400 N, Crawfordsville, IN 47933).

You can find current and past Genealogy club newsletters and a membership application on the Crawfordsville District Public Library Website www.cdpl.lib.in.us Find us under the services tab and click on Genealogy Club of Montgomery County