

Genealogy  
Club of  
Montgomery  
County IN  
Corporation

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

**Inside this issue:**

Summarized Secretary's Report	2
Annual Dinner	3
One Fine Family: Caplinger	4
What about THESE Dale's?	6
Local Notes	7
Making Connections and	8
Expanding Our Collection	10
Upcoming Events	11

# Roots and Branches

Volume 15—Issue 1

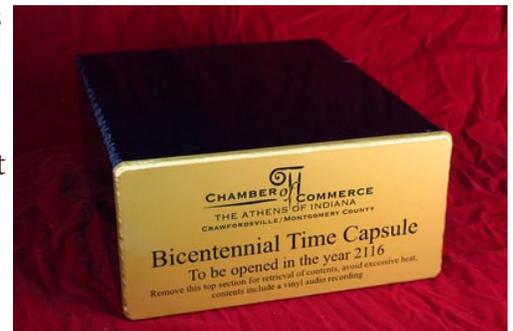
November 2017

## Making our Mark TODAY and in 100 years!



The Bicentennial Time Capsule was recently buried at the City Building in a Ceremony that included information about our club and pictures of several Franklin Township Cemeteries that we submitted. Club members Dian Moore, County Historian, and Judi Kleine were part of the committee that has been working for almost 2 years to make this ambitious project a reality. Information and pictures on events, communities and organizations were collected throughout 2016 in all corners of the county and compiled into the time capsule. It is important to know our history. Not only our family history, but the context of the times that our family lived in. This knowledge helps us understand the efforts families went through to survive and thrive. It makes us grateful for the things our families endured and how blessed we are today. The exciting thing is our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will see what we did to make their lives better. How are we preserving our past for the future generations?

(More Time Capsule pictures located on page 7)



Feel free to find us and Like us on FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/Genealogy-Club-of-Montgomery-County-Indiana-Corp-1814527675437018/>

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.



Steve Sims

### Summarized Secretary's Report By Steve Sims, Secretary

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.

In August, we watched the Potawatomi Trail of Death video and discussed the content. The video was donated to the library after our meeting by Dian Moore.

In September, we had our Annual Dinner Meeting with a program by Steve Frees and Ann Harvey, Montgomery County Historical Society, on "Montgomery County: A Brief History".

In October, the club re-organization meeting took place



Steve Frees and Ann Harvey



#### Annual Dinner Meeting Group Photo

**Seated (L to R): Nelson Wilson, Judy Harvey, Ruth Evans, George Scharf, Lynn Scharf, Amy Hathaway, Dian Moore, John Hooper, Ted Ratcliff and Betty Ratcliff**  
**Standing (L to R): Steve Simms, Judi Kleine, Dellie Craig, Sam Evans, Stephanie Simms, Clifford Thomas, Billie Thomas, Linda Templin, Sharon Champa, David Champa, Anita Arnold, Bud Arnold, Carol Bennett, Scott Price and Larry Hathaway**

## More Faces from the Annual Dinner Meeting



## One Fine Family: Jesse C Caplinger



**Karen  
Bazzani  
Zach**

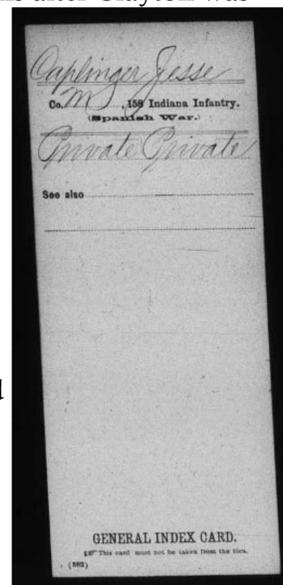
Editor's Note: This is the another installment in the new series highlighting notable Montgomery County Families written by Karen Bazzani Zach. This article was first featured on the INGenWeb site for Montgomery County that is populated thanks in big part to Karen's efforts. Thank you, Karen for your love of genealogy and efforts to preserve our history.

You can find this and other interesting information about Montgomery County at: The INGenWeb Project, Copyright ©1997-2017 (and beyond), Montgomery County GenWeb site <http://www.ingenweb.org/inmontgomery/>

One family with an intriguing background is the CAPLINGER's. The progenitor in the county was Henry who came from Kentucky in 1824. Henry was born about 1795 in Shelby County, Kentucky the son of Henry and Elizabeth Barbara HARPOLE CAPLINGER, both parents died in Shelby County, Kentucky. Although no information from our area says Henry was married before his wife, Mary SWINDLER, it is believed that he was indeed married earlier in Shelby County (3 July 1810) to a Lucy POWELL, since he'd have been 24 when he married Mary. We do have to keep in mind that Henry CAPLINGER was a super common name in that area. It is known for sure that he married Mary SWINDLER, a few years his senior on the 18 March 1819 in Shelby. No other children are recorded (although there easily could be more) but definitely on 1 May 1825, their son Clayton William CAPLINGER was born in Brown Township, Montgomery County, followed by his brother, Franklin two years later. A few months after Clayton was born, Henry purchased another Brown Township land grant about Thanksgiving time in 1825 and another in 1830. Likely they owned about 250 or so acres, a fairly large amount in the time.

Henry CAPLINGER had brought \$100 with him from Kentucky. He went to Crawfordsville, Indiana and entered 80 acres of land. He cut and hauled logs to build his cabin and many a settler in the area were glad to eye his curling smoke and sit at his hearth as they too purchased and built in Montgomery County. Clayton loved to tell stories of the pioneer times, accenting that their food consisted of turnips, corn, wild turkeys, and deer. They also used the turnips as lights, grinding out the center and using oil or grease to light it. Burned all night, too. Of course, the corn was pounded and made into bread. Clayton stressed the hard work, but he also loved the times.

It is not known where Henry and Mary are buried. Many say they died in Montgomery County, while others say they went on to Davies County, Indiana. Possibly, but it seems unlikely as Frank was married here in Montgomery County on 5 February 1849 to Rachel FOSTER, another wow family. Their son, Henry CAPLINGER V, who died at age one year and one day on 16 October 1852, is buried in Indian Creek Hill Cemetery on Hwy 47 near Browns Valley. Frank and Rachel had ten children, but only three sons lived to maturity. The girls married into various Montgomery County families including Swisher, Miller, Huffman, and Goble.



**General Index to Compiled  
Service Records of  
Volunteer Soldiers Who  
Served During the War  
with Spain - 1898**

**Jesse Caplinger was a  
Private at that time.**

Photo from Family Search

Clayton had four sons. He passed away in early February 1890 while his wife, Mary STRANGE (23 Oct 1820 – 20 Oct 1890) passed later that year. Joining his beloved brother, Franklin, they and many others are buried at Indian Creek. About all the other Caplinger's in Montgomery County are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery with a few in Ladoga.

One of Franklin's sons, William C. who also died in 1890 (18 August) and is buried in Indian Creek and his wife, Margaret REIDY, had a very special son, Jesse C. This young man was born in January 1877 and joined Co .A 6<sup>th</sup> US Artillery during the Spanish American War. Stationed in Manila, Philippines, his good friend, Capt. C. O. WILHITE wrote to his family about how he missed Jesse. Evidently, he had written lengthy, interesting letters about what he was doing throughout the war, but the particular letter giving details of Jesse CAPLINGER's death mentioned little of such. It was all concerned with the death of his good friend. "Nothing has occurred that would be of any interest to you except the death by drowning of Sgt. Jesse C. Caplinger."

**"Sgt. Jesse Caplinger was drowned in the Pasig river on the night of Feb 16, 1901."**



Photo by R&S Fine  
Find A Grave

Jesse was slated for a commission and was to appear for this in just a few days after his death. His friends called him "Cap," and he was known as one of the best-ever quartermaster sergeants. Officers and enlisted men alike admired and loved the guy. However, the natives not so much. He was forever taking his own time to break up gambling. It got the local men in a panic and caused much trouble. Some said that Cap fell asleep and dropped into the river, while others say he was murdered. For sure, he was found in the deep water. Directly below the guard closet where he was watching the night doings the water was shallow, the water dropped drastically beyond it.

Jesse could not swim, so perhaps this was accepted as the answer to his demise; however, he had a large bruise on the back of his head as if he had been killed and thrown into the river. It was curious that his uniform, which he kept in perfect condition had loose buttons and was not fastened at the waist. Obviously, the answer was never discovered, as a year later Sgt. Jesse CAPLINGER's body was finally returned home.

Capt. WILHITE wrote, "He's the first Crawfordsville boy who has met his death in the Philippines" I did not see him before he was buried; in fact, he was buried before I even learned of his death." Sounds suspicious to me!

Throughout the census records, CAPLINGER family members can be found as workers, barbers, farmers, business men, even the county auditor. All are of interest but it was "Cap," the sergeant who was loved by all in the Philippines (well, okay, not the natives) who caught my fancy! See ya' next time with another "Family Focus!"

Some Allen County, Indiana Soldiers during the Spanish American War (ACPL photo)



"The greatest weakness of experience as a teacher lies in the fact that truth is so alterable."  
**Meredith Nicholson** (1866-1947) born in Crawfordsville, Indiana; novelist and diplomat



Dianne  
Hatfield  
Combs

## Sure, I Know About the Dales of Darlington, But What About THESE Dales?

We all know about little towns around here that have a preponderance of people with the same last name. The Dales and Hamptons of Darlington is a case in point. Just visit a local cemetery and see the same name over and over. Well, I have found that I'm part of a family that lived in the tiny village of Welborne, in Norfolk County, England for over a hundred years. It is located between Swanton Morley and Barnham Broom--gotta love those names. My mother came to this country in 1956 from Norfolk, recently married to my dad, an American airman. I really do not have much in the way of family artifacts or pictures from over there, and was not sure if I would be able to find much family history on that side of my family.

Recently, I sat down with my mom and asked her about her family, gathering names and places from her memory, starting with her grandmother, Annie DALE GOLDSMITH. I then went to the library, started in on Ancestry.com, and wow! I found my family in original documents--mostly census records and some birth and death records. Not only that, but I went back to James DALE (1774-1864) and his wife, Mary SMITH (1782-1857). Now, "Mary SMITH" made me laugh, and I chuckled aloud when I found out her father's name was "John SMITH." A certain roadblock in genealogy—Mary and John SMITH, seriously? Another interesting document found – "Register of all Persons Charged with Indictable Offences at the Assizes and Sessions held within the County during the Year 1836" – in which the father of James, John DALE, was convicted of larceny, and James, was convicted of "receiving stolen goods."

I love looking at the old census records. Take James' son, William, for instance. In 1851, his family's birthplaces are listed: Welborne, Carbrook, Brandon. Little villages I may never see, but hope to. Mary DALE, wife of William, shows up in 1881 as living with her daughter, Mary ELLIOTT, in another tiny nearby village, Mattishall. Her son, Allen, at age 59, finally shows up in my mother's hometown, King's Lynn, in the 1881 census, where his address is Yd (yard) Purfleet St. Had to correct his age on this one, since I know he could only be 39, but looking at the original, I can see how this could have been transcribed incorrectly. Why did the family move from the middle of the county, where the men were working as "ag. labourers" to a fishing fleet town, nearer the sea? More money? They worked as fishermen in King's Lynn, and lived in a slum, can't imagine that was "better." I love that their district is described as "St. Margaret," as I know exactly where this is. St. Margaret is an ancient church, founded in 1101, and my parents were married there, in 1955. I found in the 1891 census that Elizabeth, wife of Allen DALE, was widowed and living at 7 Broad St., Softley's Yard, with her son, George, 18, a sawyer at a firewood company, and the other younger sons, Frederick, 11 and

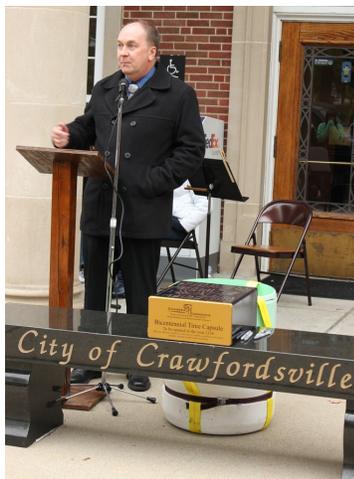
Walter, 4, both “scholars.” By researching this information, I found a genealogy forum for King’s Lynn, and found out that a yard was a way for landlords to have more use of their property. They could shove in a bunch of tiny dwellings and get more money. Yards were dirty, smelly, and generally an unhealthy place to live. How dreadful that must have been. If they could see where I am now, they would be so pleased! I finally got close to names and places I knew when I found my great-grandmother, Annie GOLDSMITH in the 1911 census, living at 39 Sir Lewis St. My nana, Annie, was 6 on this census. Since she was “sold” as a child into servitude twice, I’m not sure if I’ll find her on the next census.

Digging back into time for me has been a humbling experience, knowing where I came from and finding the people who struggled so much in their lives to put food on the table and a roof over their heads.



**My nana, Annie GOLDSMITH BROOKS PEACOCK, outside 39 Sir Lewis St., King’s Lynn, with her little sister. Granddaughters of Allen and Elizabeth DALE. Circa 1911**

Time Capsule pictures continued...



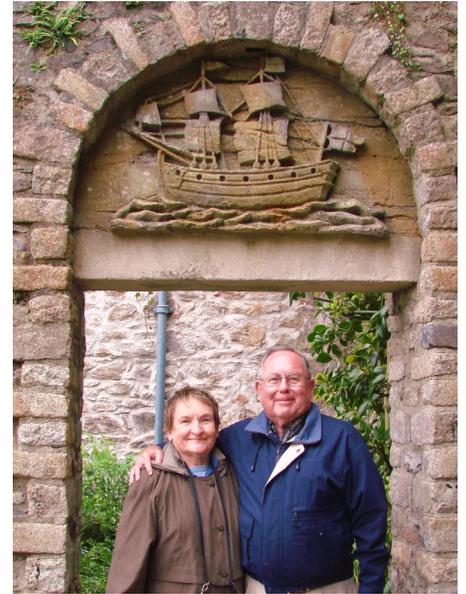
**Collected items in sleeves were welded into a stainless steel box and painted. Community members signed their names on the box before Mayor Todd Barton and others spoke. It was then sealed in a PVC “pill” and buried**



Dellie Craig,  
Local History  
Assistant

## Making Connections and ...

John KEMP and his wife, Martha (Marti), are indebted to Dellie Craig for the discovery of documentation for John's 3rd and 4th Great Grandparents in his KEMP line. Donna SHORT SELF, from Grants Pass, Oregon, was doing research at CDPL when Dellie noticed that one of the lines Donna was researching was the KEMP line. Dellie contacted John and Martha, giving them contact information in case they wished to compare research information with Donna. Fortunately, they contacted Donna and invited her to stay a few days at their home in Urbana, Illinois. Imagine their delight when Donna brought documentation that had been collecting dust at her house in Oregon for over twenty years. Three individuals had sent a great deal of records to Donna regarding her KEMP ancestry, but Donna had found it too confusing to deal with these records - not realizing that she was in



Donna  
SHORT SELF

possession of KEMP gold. Since John and Martha had completed documentation for KEMP ancestors leading up to John's 2nd Great Grandparents, Edward KEMP, Jr. and Elizabeth JACKSON (born in Kentucky but died in Indiana) they were thrilled to see that the records Donna brought would help them document the parentage of Edward KEMP, Jr. plus his grandparent. John and Martha, plus Donna, will always be grateful that Dellie connected them. Without Dellie's intervention, Donna's dusty records would have continued to collect dust and discovery of John's earlier KEMP ancestors would not have happened.

John writes, "In addition to the Kemp line that we have researched through the Crawfordsville Library and other Montgomery County and Indiana resources, we also have researched many other lines for both of us. One of my lines goes back to my 10th great grandfather, Edward Fuller, who came on the Mayflower and was one of the signers of the Mayflower Compact. Attached is a picture of us in the Elizabethan Gardens in Plymouth, England, from which the Mayflower sailed in 1620 on its voyage to America."

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Lee and Gay SCOTT from Montana were in CDPL in September. They were researching George MARQUIS and his son-in-law James SCOTT both in Montgomery County, Indiana.





Mike HOPPER of Marquette, Michigan was in the library for 3 days in October doing research on the SWANK and other family surnames. He had contacted me to see if I could locate a living relative to give this old family photo. That Tuesday night while he was at CDPL, I called LaDonna OLIN HOWARD of Crawfordsville. She called me back and came over to CDPL an hour later. She brought a photocopy of the photo with all the names written on it. Mike only knew the boys names. The two cousins worked together and figured out the names. Then Mike gave LaDonna the photograph to keep. He was happy to find a family member to give it too. He didn't get

a chance to meet Rachel BROWN, another cousin, but maybe next year. (note: LaDonna met Rachel at our October After Hours program—see picture below)

Front row: Effie OLIN, Grandpa Ben SWANK, Etta SWANK, Grandma Mary Ellen, and Amanda CLOUGH.

Back row: Jake SWANK, Rachel GRENARD, William SWANK, Laura HAYES, Elwood SWANK and Blanche SCHELEPPY.



**Photograph of Benjamin and Mary Ellen COWAN SWANK family taken in 1890**

Benjamin and Mary Ellen's children:

1. Blanche SWANK, born 12 Mar 1860, died 17 Feb 1918, married Roland SCHELEPPY, one daughter
2. Rachel Ann SWANK, born 1862, died 1928, married David Rush GRENARD, 4 children (Rachel BROWN's great-great grandmother—member of our genealogy club)
3. Sara Ethelyn "Effie" SWANK, born 13 Jan 1863, died 24 Nov 1915, married Leverett William OLIN, eleven children (LaDonna OLIN HOWARD's great-great grandmother)
4. Phillip Elwood SWANK, born 1864, died 1932, married Emma MOORE, two children (Mike Hopper's great-great grandfather)
5. Robert SWANK, born 1866, died 1867
6. Jacob SWANK, born 1867, died 1954, married Belle PATTON, one child
7. Laura C SWANK, born 1869, died 1954, married John R HAYES
8. William D SWANK, married Effie CALHOUN, three children
9. Amanda SWANK, born 1872, died 1937. married Tipton CLOUGH, four children
10. Etta SWANK, born 1874, died 24 Nov 1894, never married

LaDonna and Rachel at our October After Hours





Dellie Craig,  
Local History  
Assistant

## Expanding our Collection

### Update on Plat Book work:

The CDPL Reference and Local History Departments have been copying and indexing Montgomery County, Indiana Accessor's Plat Map Books, consisting of 12-13 books per township. The original books will be preserved and stored in the archives. The bound copies will be more convenient for our patrons to use while preserving the originals. Brown, Clark, Coal Creek, Franklin and Madison townships are now available for viewing in the Local History Department of the Crawfordsville District Public Library. They do not circulate. However, patrons can get up to 5 black and white copies at no charge per day or take a photo of the pages. Union and Ripley townships are currently ready to go to the Bindery. Scott, Sugar Creek, Walnut and Wayne townships have not been completed.

Each book contains the name of the owner's, plat description, acreage, land value, and value of improvements—indexed. Accessor Plat Books, by township and year, that are currently on the shelves and ready to use include:

Brown Township, Montgomery County, Indiana

1880—1886—1891—1895—1903—1907—1911—1915—1919—1925—1928—1932

Clark Township, Montgomery County, Indiana

1875—1886—1899—1903—1907—1911—1915—1919—1922—1925—1928—1932

Coal Creek Township, Montgomery County, Indiana

1875—1880—1886—1895—1903—1907—1911—1915—1919—1922—1925—  
1928—1932

Franklin Township, Montgomery County, Indiana

1875—1891—1895—1899—1903—1907—1911—  
1915—1919—1922—1925—1928—1932

Madison Township, Montgomery County, Indiana

1875—1886—1891—1895—1899—1903—1907—  
1915—1919—1922—1925—1928—1932

Note: We are slowly adding pdf copies of these books to the CDPL website at

<http://www.cdpl.lib.in.us/services/reference/montgomery-county-plat-maps>



Kim LANAM and Dellie at our October After Hours. Kim has recently started exploring her family history with Dellie's help

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## Upcoming events

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**December 12, 2017—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting, Larry Truitt speaking on the “Boone County Colored Cemetery” - Refreshments: Everyone

**January 9, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting—Refreshments: Dian Moore and Judi Kleine

**January 26, 2018—5-9pm**

After Hours Program at CDPL

**February 13, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting

**February 23, 2018—5-9pm**

4H After Hours Program at CDPL

**March 13, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting—Refreshments: Linda Templin

**March 23, 2018—5-9pm**

4H After Hours Program at CDPL

**April 10, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting—Refreshments: Sam and Ruth Evans

**April 27, 2018—5-9pm**

4H After Hours Program at CDPL

**May 8, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting

**May 25, 2018—5-9pm**

4H After Hours Program at CDPL

**June 12, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting—Refreshments: Lynn Scharf and Judy Harvey

**June 22, 2018—5-9pm**

4H After Hours Program at CDPL

**July 10, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting

**July 27, 2018—5-9pm**

After Hours Program at CDPL

**August 14, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting

**September 11, 2018—6pm**

Genealogy Club Annual Dinner Meeting

**October 9, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting—Refreshments: Mary Cramer and Eva Legg

**October 26, 2018—5-9pm**

After Hours Program at CDPL

**November 13, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting

**December 11, 2018—7pm**

Genealogy Club Meeting—Refreshments: Everyone

All articles and other submissions for the February newsletter must be emailed to [judikleine@gmail.com](mailto:judikleine@gmail.com) by January 26, 2018

**GENEALOGY  
CLUB OF  
MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY IN  
CORPORATION**

205 S WASHINGTON  
CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN  
47933

Phone: 765-362-2242

Ext: 118

Dellie Jean Craig

E-mail:

delliejean@yahoo.com

Web: [cdpl.lib.in.us/  
geneclub](http://cdpl.lib.in.us/geneclub)

Find additional  
interesting articles at  
[http://cdpl-  
history.blogspot.com](http://cdpl-history.blogspot.com)

Join us for a journey through history and time



The annual dues of the Genealogy Club of Montgomery County Indiana Inc. for the period October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 are due in September 2017.

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](http://www.cdpl.lib.in.us) Find us under the services tab and click on Genealogy Club of Montgomery County

**GENEALOGY CLUB OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY CORP  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  New  
 Renewal

Individual  Family  Institutional  Business  
\$10/yr \$25/yr \$15/yr \$50/yr

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check if it is acceptable to email you a pdf copy of the newsletter

Family/Families you are researching:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail application and payment to: Genealogy Club of Montgomery County Indiana Corp., 205 S. Washington St., Crawfordsville, IN 47933