



James Wills, Editor

Roots and Branches

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.

Correction: Joan Griffis Not Judy Griffis Donation to Library—Sorry for the miss information

Upcoming Programs

Scrapping Your Family Tales program by Karen Zach pertaining to scrap booking. Everyone is suppose to bring a copy of picture or photocopy for this program.—May 9th, 2006

“Annotated Genealogy bring History to Life 500 Questions & Activities” author: Phyllis Hornback Myers and son, Len Myers, Jr. will be giving a free genealogy workshop. June 13th, 2006.

Pvt Bratton “The Civilian” by Ester Duncan at our Annual Meeting. October 10th, 2006

Something New for Local History Patrons

Love to use Heritage Quest at the Library well now via the Internet we can now access it from home as long as you have a library card.

Go to the Crawfordsville Public Library, then go to new things @CDPL. Now go to local history department with a place to click on for Heritage Quest then put your barcode from the back of your Library card.

Notice of Meetings

- May 9th
- June 13th
- July 11th

After Hours

- April 28 th
- July 28th

Membership Update

- Institutional 1
- Individual 34
- Family 8
- Honorary 1

Inside this issue:

American Revolutionary War Soldiers	2
Civil War Soldiers	3
Soldier's Letter	4
Soldier's Letter, continued	5
Poem	6
Pioneer Days	7

Private William Bratton

Mr. Rob Durrett of Crawfordsville, IN. gave a presentation on March 14th, 2006, for the Genealogy Club of Montgomery Co., IN. at the Crawfordsville District Public Library. He has participated in 11 trips during the reenactment of the Lewis and Clark expedition. He joined the trip at St. Charles, MO. In October 2002 through November 2005. He will be going on 4 more trips this year. He gives his presentations in full costume like the clothing worn on the expedition.

Private William Bratton was a great asset to the expedition he was 6 foot tall and stocky and could survive in the out of doors. He was an accomplished Gunsmith and Blacksmith, he was described as a reserved man of strict moral principals.

Private Bratton was among the frontiersmen referred to as “The Nine Young Men from Kentucky”. He was paid \$178.33 and received a land grant for his three years service with Lewis and Clark Expedition. He also served in the War of 1812. He and his wife Polly, raised 8 sons and 2 daughters. He is buried in the old Pioneer Cemetery, east of Waynetown, IN. Montgomery County.

Submitted by Pat Wills

Officers and Committees.

Executive:

President:

James Wills

Vice President:

Dian Moore

Secretary:

Patricia Wills

Treasurer:

Kim Hancock

Membership:

Dian Moore

Reporter:

Dian Moore

Activities Director:

Dellie Craig

Newsletter Editor:

James Wills

Committees

Activities:

Chairperson: Dellie Craig
Archie Krout, Ruth Evans, Sam Evans, Mary Mills, Sharon Howell, Raymond Snellenbarger

Finance:

Chairperson: Kim Hancock
Alberta Krout, Raymond Snellenbarger

Membership:

Chairperson: Dian Moore
James Wills, Robert Smith

Public Information:

Chairperson: Joyce Bever
Dian Moore, Jim Wills, Dellie Craig

Nominating:

Chairman: Raymond Snellenbarger

American Revolutionary War Soldiers –

Buried in Montgomery Co. IN. - By Pat Wills

Recently, after a visit with a friend, she loaned us a cookbook with her family's history. After reading it, obtained her permission to use it in adding to what I knew about Alexander Foster. He was a direct ancestor of 3 separate lines of the Servies families. At the age of 17 he immigrated to America, shortly after his arrival he enlisted in the Revolutionary War. He then made his way to Hanover Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He married his first wife in Pennsylvania. Her Name is unknown. They had 5 children. After her death, Alexander then married in 1795, Sarah Campbell. They had 6 children in Shelby county, Kentucky. In 1828 the family moved to Montgomery county, Indiana, lived near Browns Valley.

ALEXANDER FOSTER

Born: 2-10-1759 Dongeal Co., Ireland.
Service: Volunteer under Capt. George Dreaaf's Co. fought in battle of Flatbush, Eastchester, Westchester, Rocky Hill, White Plain and Brandywine
Died: June 26, 1843, 83 years old.
Buried: Indian Creek Hill Cemetery, near New Market, In., St. Rd. 47 S.
Proof: Montgomery Co., In., cemeterys (Blue Book) Vol. 4, PP39
Pension No#S32252
1830 Census listed as Pensioner, PP197
Pa. Archives Series 5, Vol. 4, PP229
Soldiers and Patriots buried in Indiana, by O'Byrne PP148

Families: By #1 Wife: Sarah (Casper), Mary (Hollman), William, Ann (Trailkill), Elizabeth

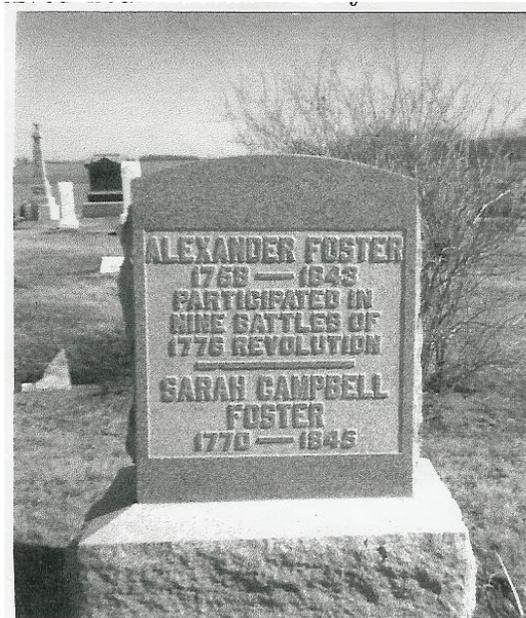
By #2 Wife Sarah Campbell: George, Hannah (Smith), Sallie (Ramsey), Robert, Martha (Hindman), Rebecca (Jones), and Phoebe (Jones)

Now direct line to my friend Doris Hendricks.

Alexander Foster Married Sarah Campbell

1. Their daughter, Phoebe married John Jones
2. Their daughter, Nancy Campbell married Wm Thomas Servies
3. Their son, John Anderson Servies married Mary Catherine Peters
4. Their son, John Riley Servies married Mamie E. Stout. They had 10 children: Edward, Ollie, Frances (Lane), Mary Pauline (Grantham), Leslie, Doris (Hendricks, John Jr., Gordon, Lee Roy, Dorothy.

Also another Ancestor was Stephen Foster, the Songwriter.



Contact information for newsletter submissions

Newsletter Editor, James Wills
4757 N 360 E
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
(765) 225-8006
genealogy47933@yahoo.com

Civil War Soldiers the quest to know who they are—By Kim Hancock

scottsville ky nov 18 1862

it is with pleasure Dear wife I now take my pen in hand to inform you that I am well at present and hope when this comes to your hand it will find you all well well I got a letter from daed Nov the 19 and was very glad to hear that you was all well well I want you to write and let me know how your stalk is doing and how your arm is turning out and if you have any of it gathered or not and that corn at Sk diggers I want it pulled as I dont get any of the pasture well I want you to write and let me know what you have done with the hogs and if you have sold them or not and if you have fattened and sold them or sold them before fattening or not well I am still cooking for the sergants fat and they all call the old woman well it would have made you laugh to have seen me on our last march a running after an old cock I think he was one that was in the ark with noah for he had spurs 3 or 4 inches long well that was not all the fun for when we got into camp I dressed and cooked him and broke up some crackers and had a fine mess of soup well you wrote elisa and tommy getting new boots and pappa says Tommy and roseila must have a new pair of shoes well we dont get up stich neck socks hole through there was four of us went out one knight and fell five stand of bees well I went out the other morning and took in a hog and rapped it up in a sack and brought it into Camp well I wake a many a knight and think of the hardships you have to pass through well I am many miles from home through that dont keep me from thinking about home Well I will have to bring my letter to a close so write soon and often

Wm G keys

To Esther keys



ATTENTION:

If you have a red dot on your mailing label this is the last issue you will receive before renewing your membership.

Soldiers Letters

Soldiers wrote many letters during the war and we are lucky that so many of them have been preserved. When we read those letters, we can get an idea of what the soldiers were like and what they thought of while they were away from home. Letter writing was the main form of communication with loved ones at home and letter writing helped to relieve **boredom**. Almost all soldiers begged for their parents, friends, wives and sweethearts to write back right away as there were few pleasures greater than receiving mail from home. Civil War soldiers missed many of the special things they took for granted while at home, especially home cooked food. Families packed boxes with a soldier's favorite food like pies and cakes that he could not get while in the army and it was a special day when such a package from home arrived in camp, as you will read later in our series of letter's written home by William G. Keys



To write their letters home, soldiers purchased paper, envelopes, ink and pens from sutlers. Stationary makers printed many styles of patriotic stationary and envelopes with engravings of camp scenes or political humor and these were quite popular among soldiers. Envelopes, also known as "covers", with elaborate printed patriotic scenes or political statements were some of the most popular to use. Some enterprising businessmen manufactured envelopes for specific regiments serving in the army. Here is an example of one of the "covers" sent home.

The Union Army had a post office near forts and camps, and a mail service that followed the armies for the men could purchase stamps and mail their letters. Later in the war, organizations such as the U.S. Christian Commission and U.S. Sanitary Commission gave out paper and envelopes to Union soldiers free of charge. In 1864, the U.S. Mail Service announced that Union soldiers could send their letters home for free as long as they wrote "**Soldier's Letter**" on the outside of the envelope. Confederate soldiers never had such a luxury. Shortages of paper, stamps, and even writing utensils in the South became acute as the war progressed and it was often left up to the soldiers to find writing paper, including stationary taken from Union prisoners.

Almost every soldier in service made an effort to write letters home to describe their experiences, give their opinions on local matters and politics, and to assure their families not to worry. But not all soldiers could write

Soldier's Letters, Continued

very well or spell words properly. Rural education in America was not like it is today and most Civil War soldiers only had an education up to the fourth grade level. Poor education led to many words being misspelled or sentences left incomplete. Many young men from rural areas had never attended school and could neither read nor write so they asked comrades to write letters for them, as did William G. Keys, but later we will find that in fact William could write as his last letter home was written in his own hand. It had come to our attention that he could indeed write, probably took him quite awhile so he had his comrades write for him, here is an example of one of those letters written by one of his comrades. As you can see this is an excellent example of the humor of William G. Keys, and it is one that was written on stationary. Soldiers sometimes spelled words as they heard them- "knight" for night, "daedl" for dad. Here is a copy of a letter written by William G. Keys, a Union soldier from the 72nd Infantry, Regiment, Indiana with some misspellings:

Dear wife I now
 take my pen in hand
 to inform you that I
 am well at present
 and hope when this
 comes to your hand it
 will find you all well well
 I got a letter from daedl
 the 10 and was very glad
 to hear that you was all
 well well I want you to
 write and let me know
 how your stalk is doing and
 how your corn is turning
 out and if you have

any of it gathered or not
 and that corn it all
 dugges I want it pulled as I
 dont get any of the pasture
 well I want you to write
 and let me know what
 you have done with the hogs
 and if you have sold
 any of them or not and if
 you have fattened and
 sold or sold them before
 fattening or not well I am
 still a cooking for the
 servants for and they
 all call the old woman
 well it would have
 made you laugh to have

seen me on our last march
 or in my after my old cock
 I think was one that was in
 the war with me
 for she had spurs 3 or 4 inches
 long well that was not all
 the fun for when we
 got into camp I dressed
 and cooked her and broke
 up some crackers and a fine
 mess of soup well you write
 Eliza and Tommy getting new boots
 and pappys says Johnny and
 ronald must have a new
 pair of shoes well we dont
 get much jack rabs here
 though there was four of us

went out one knight
 and fell five stand of bees
 well I went out the other
 morning and took in a
 hog and rapped it up in
 a sack and brought it
 into camp well I want a
 man a knight and think
 of the good things you have to
 get though well I am many
 miles from home though
 they dont keep me from
 thinking about home well
 I will have to bring my
 better to get close to white war
 and often I see a
 So Esther says

A POEM FOR GENEALOGISTS

Submitted by Mr. Steig

Alas my elusive kinsman, you've led me quite a chase
I thought I'd found your courthouse, but the Yankees burned the place.

You always kept your bags packed, although you had no fame
and just for the hell of it — twice you changed your name.

You never owed any man or at least I found no bills.
In spite of eleven offsprings, you never left a will.

They say our name's from Europe, came stateside on a ship
Either they lost the passenger list, or granddad gave them the slip.

I'm the only one that's looking, another searcher I can't find
I play maybe that's his father's name, as I go out of my mind.

You first married a ——— Smith, and just to set the tone
The other four were Sarahs and everyone a Jones

You cost me two fortunes, one of which I did not have
My wife, my house, and Fido, God how I miss that Golden Lab.

But somewhere you slipped up, Ole Boy, somewhere you left a track
And if I don't find you this year, well, next year I'll be back.

Original Poem by—Wayne Hand, 1999

Pioneer Days in Middle Township

Originally From Danville, IN Paper; Submitted by Mr. Nelson Wilson



Some months ago, among papers left by the late Samuel Hill was found the following article. Prepared by him and read at a Fourth of July celebration in 1876 when Pittsboro served the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This year, when the celebration of Indiana's centennial as a state is so general. It is timely to reproduce "Uncle Sammy's" paper as follows:

I came here July 9, 1834. At the time of my arrival there was scarcely a stick amiss in this township. Here and there were visible traces of the Indians. Near where I now reside was the stump of a large oak tree supposed to have been cut by the Indians. It bore the marks of age and showed to have been felled in a different manner from the way the early settlers of this township "tackled the forest." or rather the wilds.

Coming from the "Sedge fields" of North Carolina, as I did. Perhaps made the dense forest look more savage than it really was. On arrival here, I found only seven or eight families in the township, named, Adam, Aaron and Abraham Spicklemire (which from their Scriptural names gave me evidence of civilization). Joshua Kennedy, Franklin Barber, Benjamin Davis and Hiram Huddleston,. Kennedy and Huddleston are the only two now living out of that number.

At this date there was but one road through the township. That was the Indianapolis and Crawfordsville dirt (or rather mud) road.

In the fall of 1835 or '36, Simon F. Hadley and William Matlock (better known as Big Bill) laid out the town of Pittsboro. By this time we began to feel and be quite a people and had a county road opened from Danville to Pittsboro. As yet we had nothing but log houses to live in, there being no saw mill in the township.

Churches and school houses were unknown at this date. However we had preaching and began to educate our children. The first sermon I ever listened to in the township was preached by old father Rammell in a log cabin on the Franklin Barber place, and the second was preached by Benjamin Harris at Adam Spicklemire's house. From this date we had occasional sermons throughout the township by Uncle Tommie Lockhart and others, said sermons delivered at the different log cabins in which we resided, there being no churches yet in the township.

The first school taught in the township was by Alfred Lineberry in a log cabin which stood on the farm where I now live. I hired him myself unbeknown to any one and agreed to pay him ten dollars per month and board him. This was in the fall of 1837. I then got up an enrollment of fifteen scholars which was all that lived in reach of the cabin. The next year we built a log cabin a little more in the center of the settlement and employed Lineberry for six months. In that cabin is where all the older children of the township, together with Dr. Wm. Hoadley got their first schooling. The seats were split logs with the flat sides up, one log left out of the side for a window, with greased paper pasted over the vacant place, clapboard roof, mud and stack chimney with a door hung on wooden hinges.

Our next teachers were Eldred Huff, Baalam Wells, Frankie Keath, Job Davis and John Scearce.

By this time we had advanced in civilization and improvements enough to have a saw mill in the township. Then of course we began to get "tony" and erect buildings out of lumber.

We now have eight school houses in the township. Two of them are brick and I understand that two more are to be rebuilt with brick this year. The first church building in the township was built by the Baptist organization near the stream of Little White Lick, I think about the year of 1839. The next was built by the Methodists soon after. We now have five churches, three Christian, one Methodist and one Baptist.

On until 1840 or '42 our nearest postoffice was Danville, about eight miles from the center of the township. We had no market nearer than Indianapolis and frequently wagoned over wheat to Lafayette and Lawrenceburg, used to "tug" though the "soap factory" to Lafayette after our salt in the fall of the year and buy the boys their seal skin caps. We now have a good market at home for all our supplies.

We have a splendid railroad though the township with a survey for another. In the town of Pittsboro we have four general stores, two drug and grocery stores, two blacksmith and wagon shops, one grist mill, one stave factory and one saw mill, one tile factory with three more in the township, one livery stables, three doctors or medicine and three of law.

We number about 2,000 in the township and 76 families in the town of Pittsboro. Total Population of the town, 310.

We have about 19,000 acres of land in the township, 11,500 of which are in cultivation and the balance mostly pasture land, all enclosed except about 80 acres.

During the 42 years of my life in Middle township there has been some very radical changes, both as to the county and the people.

At times starvation would stare us in the face but by the grace of God, some of us have been spared to celebrate the centennial Fourth of July with much brighter prospects in the future than when we first settled this county.



*Genealogy Club of Montgomery County
IN Corp.*

222 S. Washington St.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Phone: 765-362-2242
Email: gen@cdpl.lib.in.us



Membership application for: *Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp*

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

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Family/Families you are researching:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Skills/Experience Assessment

Genealogical records used:

Genealogical resources used:

Genealogical computer programs used: