

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.

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# Roots and Branches

Volume 17—Issue 4

August 2020



100 years ago, women won the Right to Vote. Inside you will find several stories about women and their experiences in voting as well as a look at Mary WILHITE who was an active suffragist in Montgomery County Indiana.

While COVID-19 continues to keep us all apart, we look forward to the Genealogy Club getting together again soon, and in the meantime, you can make individual Genealogy appointments at CDPL and continue your work on your family history. As always, know that we miss you all and we look forward to meeting together again one day soon.

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.



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

The Genealogy Club of Montgomery County, Indiana meets the second Tuesday of every month at Crawfordsville District Public Library at 7pm. Visitors and new members are welcome to all meetings.

**Steve Simms**

The Genealogy Club, while not meeting in the last several months, has continued to appear in the Journal Review. We are supporting the Historical Society in securing and erecting the marker for Mary Holloway WILHITE, and backing the 4-H'ers work on their Genealogy projects. We will be waiting to hear how they all did.

I wanted to take a moment to remind everyone that although the Genealogy Club is not meeting, your genealogy research does not have to stop. You can contact CDPL and schedule a one-on-one Local History appointment to do research on the Second floor with help from our very own Dellie CRAIG. Just contact Dellie at [delliejean@yahoo.com](mailto:delliejean@yahoo.com) or call the Library to schedule an appointment at (765) 362-2242.

One of our favorite Genealogy Club local history speakers, Bob QUIRK, passed away in July (See his Obituary on page 9). The losses we experience are sad and it is good to know that his stories remain. You can check out any of his three books at CDPL.



**"WE INHERIT FROM OUR ANCESTORS** gifts so often taken for granted—our names, the color of our eyes and the texture of our hair, the unfolding of varied abilities and interests in different subjects... If all this is ours as an inheritance, then why should we not acknowledge that our own souls may contain portions of other people's souls, intimations of past lives or ancestral memories long buried in our depths?

"Each of us contains...this inheritance of soul. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise. Only when we recognize that we are heirs can we truly be pioneers."

**Edward Sellner**, a professor of theology and spirituality, reflects on the connection between generations in *Mentorship: The Ministry of Spiritual Kinship* (Cowley Publications). The articles that follow will help you be a better "link between the ages" by understanding your heritage (page 18), managing digital photos and documents (page 26) and researching the signatures (page 50) your ancestors left behind.

## Round Hill by Jerry Turner



### Jerry Turner

Author and Publisher of  
the Montgomery County  
History and Folklore  
Magazine

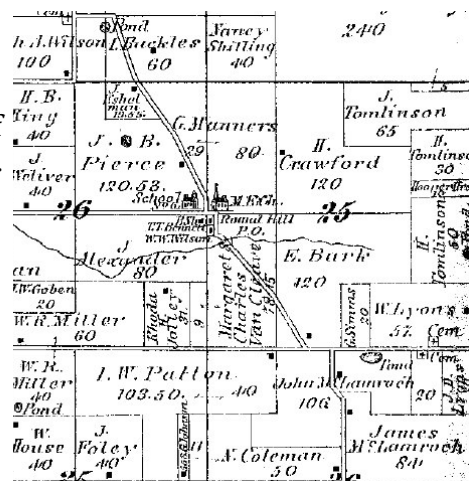
If you ever travel northwest out of Crawfordsville toward New Richmond and take 100 West, the road splits at Hubler Chevrolet, you will certainly get a scenic route. You can see one of the three round barns that existed in the county. This used to be called the Lafayette or Plank Road that people in the early and mid 1800's used to go back and forth from Linden, Romney, and Lafayette. Ah, but I digress....

There was a little hamlet about halfway to New Richmond called Round Hill. More specifically Round Hill was located at the intersection of New Richmond Road and 750 North. The hamlet's name originated from the round hill where a Methodist church and the Round Hill School (Number 6) were located.

At one time a man by the name of Jeff BENNETT ran a blacksmith shop just south of the church and a Post Office was located at the intersection of the roads. Mail was delivered twice a week in the late 1800's.

The Methodist Church closed in 1920 and the old bell was taken to the United Methodist Church in New Richmond. The one room school closed in 1911 and the students were sent to the New Richmond school. One memorable inhabitant of Round Hill was Ralph Lee Wilson, the famous Wabash football player who uttered the words, "Did Wabash win?" His boyhood days were spent here growing up in Round Hill.

From the Wabash College Athletics Hall of Fame, "Ralph Lee WILSON was the top high school athlete in Montgomery County when he graduated from Crawfordsville HS in 1910. Hailing from the Round Hill neighborhood, Coach Jesse HARPER convinced WILSON to attend Wabash and play football for the Little Giants. A tall, lean runner, WILSON caught HARPER's eye for his fierceness and ability to break the big play. After Wabash defeated Georgetown and Purdue, WILSON became a starter and helped the Little Giants defeat Butler 48—0. In the fourth game of the season, at St. Louis University, WILSON broke a 30-yard touchdown run to get Wabash on the scoreboard 5—0. A few plays later, WILSON was terminally injured when he tackled a St. Louis ball carrier. He died of a skull fracture in the middle of the night, but just before his death, he regained consciousness and uttered his now-famous last words, "Did Wabash win?" Indeed, Wabash won 10—0 and the remainder of the season was cancelled. The 1910 Little Giants finished the year undefeated and unscored upon for the only time in Wabash history."



## Women's Right to Vote from the Beginning

By Karen Zach



As far back as 1857 and possibly even earlier, the women in Montgomery County would often get to see a little bleep in the newspapers about women and voting. For instance, the Crawfordsville Review noted in the September 19<sup>th</sup> newspaper that year that “some women vote in Kentucky – if they are a widow and have children between age six and eighteen.”

Twelve years later, in 1869, the actual question of women voting was presented in local newspapers. Articles covered how women (especially if they were widowed, single, paying taxes ...) in some of the other countries were allowed to vote. Lizzie BOYNTON’s suffragette articles began about this time, as well, calling for the gals to rise up and demand to be counted. In June that year, she called for the local women to speak out – “if you can speak brave words, speak them – if you can write brave words, write them!” She encouraged them to remember when “Wallace met Bruce in the Highlands and fought him such a battle with reason and kindness that the name of Bruce was from that hour for Scotland and Freedom instead of England and Oppression.” She insisted their weapons be reason and kindness from then on.

One of the questions presented was “Who will take care of the babies?” How could women be gone sticking their nose in men’s business since no one would be there to watch the young ones? Simple answer – same as when a woman went to a party or to church, or while some had to work. In Vineland, New Jersey, women had been voting in the town election for three years. 221 of them came out in 1869 at the election, and one clergyman and his wife wanted to go together to vote, so they just took their baby along, voted and passed it to the other one!

About this same time, 23 young women petitioned Wabash to be educated there. Although all the men involved agreed it was absolutely necessary for women to be educated, because “her home circle, church, society, and her place as a citizen demanded it” – just not at Wabash! Some states began the process of women voting in certain elections, such as for School Board Members. The women knew the children and the community people, so this of course made sense. The women of our community, as they watched the local newspapers, were quite pepped in the April elections of 1891 when they heard that in Topeka, Leavenworth, Fort Scott and Emporia, Kansas the women’s vote (Municipal Woman’s Suffrage Act 1887) swayed a couple of large races, including R.F. COFFFRAN of Topeka with a 200 plurality over the Republican QUINTON. “His election is a great surprise and is attributed to the white women’s vote.”

By 1898, I saw several Church Resolutions for someone who had died that was signed by women only. Not sure that would have anything to do with women’s suffrage but I had not seen any ever before in my years of research. George W. VANARSDAL passed away in October 1898 and Mrs. Louisa DAVIDSON; Mrs. Flora RHOADS and Mrs. Ida CRAIN resolved to sympathize with the family and that he was a beloved brother in the church. The three women may have just been on a church committee to send condolences but it was more unique than any I had seen.

“They say every generation is defined by a great struggle. Our kids will never know there was a time you had to choose between being on the internet or being on the phone.”

~Hasan Minhaj, comedian

Sadly, in 1901, (19 March) Indiana (Covington, Crawfordsville, Indianapolis, especially but really all over, as well as nationally) lost one of the most amazing fighters for women's rights in Lew WALLACE's stepmother, Zerelda GATLING SANDERS WALLACE. She was the first president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Indiana and a member of the Equal Suffrage Society. She spoke nationally on both topics and was especially impressive in presenting over 21,000 signatures in front of Indiana's General Assembly against Temperance. She testified before the US Senate for the Women's Right to Vote.

Of course, it wasn't all women who wanted the vote. Frederick DOUGLASS and Henry Ward BEECHER were early leaders for the goal. Many husbands (albeit some quietly) backed and even occasionally pushed their wives to get involved in the movement. President Woodrow WILSON himself felt it was time; he aided in special sessions in order to make 1920 "THE YEAR"!

Every woman did not jump on the bandwagon, though as there were organizations against women voting. Mrs. Arthur DODGE (no first name, notice) of New York, president of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, said women weren't seeing clearly what they were doing that the real underlying reason for women wanting to vote was a sex disturbance. She had just heard one woman talking eloquently in front of a large group that women receiving the vote could improve the morals and manners of society. That evening Mrs. DODGE said she saw this girl at a fashionable dance, gowned "in an extremely decollate fashion," and was not only looking but dancing very suggestively. She went on to say that good morals and manners in men and women are the fruits of the minds, not the voting booth.

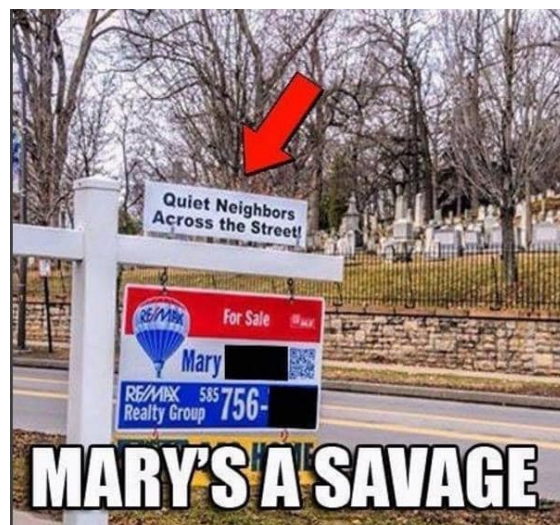
In 1914, in Kansas there were 115 men to every 100 women and the total vote showed 40% as women voters. In one precinct the election officials were all women. It is also important to realize that not only in America at this time were women desiring the vote, but the same was happening in other countries as well. In England, about 6,000,000 were given the vote, but still all women could not vote. They had been desiring the vote for over 50 years. New Zealand was the first country to give women the vote but only white women. Actually, women voting technically went back to 1689 in Friesland where women land owners could vote. Guess it took America a long time to catch up in that aspect! By 1916, women in 12 states were allowed to vote for President (Indiana wasn't one of them).

One item, no matter in what decade I was in that has never bothered me is my age – whatever it is, it is, but it did the women as they began voting. In Portland Maine, the Supreme Court decided (Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 1920) that the women voters only needed to say they were over the age of 21.

## Upcoming Events

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**ALL EVENTS CANCELLED  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



## Women's Right to Vote—cont.

By Karen Zach



**Stella Clodfelter**  
Oak Hill Cemetery,  
Crawfordsville from  
FindaGrave.com

In neighboring Fountain County, there was much excitement as the polls were expecting no less than 10,000 and possibly up to 12,000 men and women voters the first fall election in 1920. In Montgomery County, Stella CLODFELTER, county chairman of the women was widely and constantly urging them to come in and register ahead of time in order to make voting day easier. She had several lady assistants. Since it was the first experience for most, she and her gals were showing them how the form would look and the proper way to fill it out. This began in September and carried on through the weeks before the November election.

There were also several cautionary tales not only to the ladies but the gentleman too, similar to this one – “Vote for BT MERREL, candidate on the Democratic ticket for county treasurer a man who had been tried and has made good in the position. A vote for his Republican counterpart would be a vote to place in the hand of an untried man the funds of our county.”

Constant schedules for especially Democratic speakers were in the newspapers – in example: JM KENDALL, night Waveland Oct 19; Mrs. Foster MCCULLOUGH, night at Ladoga same day. The big one of course was Wabash grad, Thomas R. MARSHALL who opened his local campaign at the Strand Theater Oct 26<sup>th</sup>. The party invited any Democrat, man or woman, who desired to take part in receiving the Vice President to meet at the Monon Depot at 1:30.

Although the League of Women Voters is about the same age as Women's Right to Vote, I'm not exactly sure when the League began around here. But since that time, I think it is safe to say that the gals watch closely what is happening in the wonderful world of women voting!

*I*F YOU LOOK DEEPLY INTO THE PALM OF YOUR HAND, YOU WILL SEE YOUR PARENTS AND ALL GENERATIONS OF YOUR ANCESTORS. ALL OF THEM ARE ALIVE IN THIS MOMENT. EACH IS PRESENT IN YOUR BODY. YOU ARE THE CONTINUATION OF EACH OF THESE PEOPLE.

THICH NHAT HANH

WORDS @ MYBEAUTIFULWORDS.COM

All articles and other submissions for the November 2020 newsletter must be emailed to Stephanie Simms at [stephief@live.com](mailto:stephief@live.com) before the end of October 2020.

Members Sam and Ruth Evans have recently relocated to West Lafayette, Indiana. We thank you both for your years of dedication to the club and wish you continued health and happiness in your new adventure.

## A Voting Snapshot—from some of our Members

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When I was in 6th Grade, I had an experience with a teacher who's negative, frustrated by the moment words have forever replayed in my memory. The first election I was finally old enough to vote in, this very teacher, some 7 years later, was running in her very first state election. I recall my joy and excitement in getting to cast a vote for her opponent...which I have continued to do every single election since then. I feel silly relaying the story since that event happened nearly a lifetime ago, but it still colors my voting experience and it brings to mind a quote that I find much truth in, "People may forget what you said, people may forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel." Even when my one vote fails to swing an election one way or another, my vote means something. I get to have my say, for whatever my own reasons are, in who governs us and who represents me on the floors of the State House and the Capitol Building. I will also share a *fun for me* memory. When my daughter voted in her first election, I stood outside the room she was voting in and took pictures! I just thought back to all my female ancestors and how proud they all would be to see the future generations exercising the right that many of them did not have bestowed on them upon their 18th birthday, and I stood out in the hallway snapping pictures just as fast as my finger could do so. **Stephanie Simms**

The females in my family were very strong advocates for exercising our right to vote and letting our voice be heard. I remember growing up listening to the men in the family trying to persuade the wives, sisters and cousins to vote for "so and so". The women would listen and would let them know they would think about it, but that they would vote according to their decision, not HIS! It made for interesting family dinners and debates. When I was a senior in high school, we had mock debates and an election in Government class which I thoroughly enjoyed. I remember John Anderson winning in our class—which means we did not pick the winner of the actual election. I learned how to objectively look at the facts and not to believe what the majority or the media was "spouting" as fact. When I finally turned 18, I was a bit bummed out because it was off year with no election held. The following year, at age 19, I had to vote absentee in a college administrator's office while being watched. They checked my ID and verified that I was one who was supposed to fill out the ballot. After signing it, they were responsible for mailing back to the county. It was a bit anti-climatic. But I knew from growing up how important it was to vote and not blow it off because it was inconvenient to actually exercise that right. I finally had my first in person voting experience when I was 24. I have not missed an election yet. I hope to continue to let my voice be heard for years to come. **Judi Kleine**

"In many ways, it is hard for modern people living in First World countries to conceive of a pandemic sweeping around the world and killing millions of people, and it is even harder to believe that something as common as influenza could cause such widespread illness and death."

~Charles River Editors, 1918



Dian Moore

## Mary Holloway Wilhite

Mary HOLLOWAY WILHITE was born in Montgomery County, Indiana, on 3 February 1831, to Washington HOLLOWAY, a cabinet maker, and Elizabeth KING. At fifteen, she was confirmed in the Christian Church. At seventeen, her mother died and when she was nineteen, she was on her way as a suffragist by selling subscriptions to *Woman's Advocate*, a women's rights magazine.

She first wanted to teach school and did that for four years before she decided to attend medical school. She also earned money sewing and found a benefactor at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, now part of Drexel University. She graduated in 1856 as one of the first two medically trained female physicians in Indiana.



She came home and set up her medical practice in Crawfordsville. At first, she met resistance from the established doctors in Crawfordsville but her willingness to come out in all weather at any time of day helped establish her. She started by treating mostly women and children. In 1860, she married Eleazer A. WILHITE, a tailor. They lived with her medical practice at 302 W. Wabash Ave on the corner of Wabash and West Street which became Grant Ave, hosting visiting



Dr. Mary  
HOLLOWAY  
WILHITE

suffragists, including Susan B. ANTHONY and Elizabeth Cady STANTON. She wrote regularly for local newspapers on suffrage issues. They had seven children with four surviving to adulthood.

In 1869 she was a leader in planning a women's suffragist convention in Crawfordsville and for forming a permanent suffrage group. She served as secretary to Women's Suffrage Association of Montgomery County. She also organized a convention of Indiana Equal Suffrage Association. In 1870, Susan B. ANTHONY lectured on the Wabash Campus and was a guest in her house.

The 1874 People's Guide listed Mary's "Politic" as Radical. Appalled by children being mixed with adults at the County Farm she worked to established Montgomery County Orphans' Home in 1880.

In the winter of 1892, Mary answered a call on a sub 0-degree night when she had a cold. The cold progressed to pneumonia and Mary HOLLOWAY WILHITE died. By that time, she had won the respect of the other doctors of the community and the love of the people she served. When Mary HOLLOWAY WILHITE died in 1892, after 36 years of practice, the other doctors of Montgomery County gathered to pay her tribute.

A historical marker will be erected soon in honor of Mary. Look for photos in the next issue.

"I hope someday every young man will look into the eyes of his mother and see his equal"  
~Mary Holloway Wilhite



## In Memory of Bob Quirk



Bob Quirk, 92, passed away peacefully at his home on the family farm on July 11, 2020, just a few feet from where he was born on October 8, 1927, near Newtown, Indiana to Griff and Grace McKINNEY QUIRK. He was a 1945 graduate of Richland Township High School, received a BA from Wabash College and an MA from Purdue University. He served in the US Army for one and a half years.

He met his bride, Jeannine PETERSON while cruising the streets of Attica. They were married on August 20, 1950, at the Lutheran Church in Attica. They would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary next month. He is survived by his wife Jeannine, sons Jeff (Carlene) and Jerry, daughter Jill, sister Pat RIVERS, grandchildren Josh (Meg ALCAZAR), Gabe, and Ben (Liz),

Heather LOWEY (Jeremy), Griff (Erica), Tanya FINKBINER (Boone), Cap (Kayleigh KELP), and great-grandchildren Jake and Bryce LOWEY, Jagger QUIRK, Harvey and Crosby FINKBINER, step great-grand-children Clayton & Mariah MILLER and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Griff and Grace, brother Hugh, and daughter-in-law Peggy.

Bob farmed for many years and started teaching in the North Montgomery Corporation in 1958. He taught 5th and 6th grades at Coal Creek Central. He was later an elementary school principal for 10 years and finished his teaching career at Pleasant Hill Elementary, retiring in 1992. Many of his former students often remarked that he was their favorite teacher. He loved history and would share it with anyone willing to listen. His family and community were fortunate that he authored three books: "Real American Stories," "More Real American Stories" and "Still More Real American Stories." Bob and Jeannine enjoyed researching local history and events. He gave countless talks over the years to local groups in the area about local history.

He could remember who scored what basket in a game from the 1950s, but send him to the store with three items to get and he would come home with only two of the items and would have added bananas. He loved bananas, peach pie, and rhubarb marmalade as well as his iPad, watching Jeopardy every night, Facebook, and playing Words with Friends. He loved cheering for his children and grandchildren at their sporting events and their awards banquets at the Beef House. He was a faithful fan of Purdue football and basketball.

Each summer the family traveled to many states while taking his children to nearly every battlefield and historic site in the United States. A two-week trip to California in 1965 only cost \$500 for the family of five! Bob and Jeannine traveled to Ireland in the 1970s to explore his roots and visit family. He and Jeannine loved going on tours after retiring and enjoyed visiting with friends at the Wingate Café and the Subway and McDonald's in Attica.

Bob's many activities included treasurer of the Newtown Cemetery board, secretary of the Fountain County Economic Development Corporation, Master of the Richland Township Masonic Lodge, president of the Montgomery County retired teachers association, president of the Fountain County Historical Society, unofficial Fountain County Historian for many years, and was a member of Festival Singers under the direction of Al STEWART. He was an active member of the Newtown Presbyterian (now Newtown Community Church) teaching Sunday School for many years, was a choir member, and served as chair of the board and treasurer. He was quite thrilled to be a torchbearer for the Indiana bicentennial in 2016 and his most recent honor was to receive the Sagamore of the Wabash award in 2018. He was a recent and long-standing columnist in two newspapers about local history.

To quote Bob "Everyone has a story. Write it down!"

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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, 2019 to September 30, 2020 are due in September 2019.

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**

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\$10/yr \$25/yr \$15/yr \$50/yr

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

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

Family/Families you are researching:

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