

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.



Roots and Branches

"As long as we enjoy each other, educate and promote genealogy and serve the community we should grow and prosper."

Dian Moore, President 2008; 'President's Letter'; Vol 5, Iss 2, Feb 2008

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.

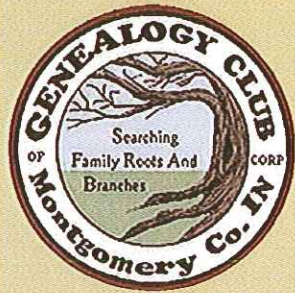
Join us for a journey through history and time. An Odyssey for those beginning or experienced in genealogy.

Who's Who , A Police Lineup & ----- Page 2 See-ner-ee ----- Page 11
Deep Thoughts

Secretary Tells All ----- Page 3 & 4 Tie A Yellow Ribbon 'Round --- Page 12 & 13
The Warfel Family of Ladoga ----- Page 5 The Old Oak Tree
Does This Make Census To You? - Page 6,7,8, & 9 "Dear mother, put my ----- Page 14
This Old House, Then & Now ----- Page 9 little shoes away" & partial 15
It's Suicide, She Wrote! ----- Page 10 & 11 Gary Donation & Club Query ----- Page 15

Inside This Issue :

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.



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Please refer all original queries, questions, comments, answers and information about published queries or club activities and membership, in person, by mail, phone or E-mail per the appropriate contact information in the data block directly above.

Lft to Rt : Joann Spragg, Bob Smith, Linda Templin, Mike Mitchell, Dian Moore, Nelson Wilson [Offices at top of this page]

2012 Executive Officers

President :	Joann Spragg	Vice President :	Bob Smith
Secretary :	Linda Templin	Treasurer :	Mike Mitchell
Activities Director:	Dian Moore	Membership :	Mike Mitchell
Reporter:	Nelson Wilson	Ex Officio Cemetery Committee Director :	Klm Hancock

2011 Committees, Chairpersons and Committee Rosters

Activities:	Chair ; Dian Moore	R : Ruth Evans, Helen Aker
Finance:	Chair ; Mike Mitchell	R : Ted Ratoliff
Membership:	Chair ; Mike Mitchel	R : Sam Evans,
Public Information:	Chair ; Linda Templin	R : Nelson Wilson, Dellie Craig,
Nominating:	Chair ; Joann Spragg	R : Doris Jones
Cemetery:	Director ; Kim Hancock	R : Judy Harvey, Ted Ratcliff, Dian Moore
Grants:	Chair ; Ted Rateliff	R : Kim Hancock
Bylaw Review:	Chair ; Sam Evans	R : Ted Ratcliff
Refreshments:	Chair ; Doris Jones	R : [Monthly Meeting Pledged Volunteers]

2012 Executive Officers



QUESTIONS TO HAUNT YOU

1. What disease did cured ham actually have?
2. If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
3. If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?
4. How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?
5. If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?
6. Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby " when babies wake up like every two hours?
7. If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?
8. Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?
9. If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME junk, why didn't he just buy dinner?
10. Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.
Summarized Secretary's Report

Linda Templin, Secretary



The August, September, and October, 2011, meetings of the Genealogy Club of Montgomery County, Corp. were held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Donnelley Room of the Crawfordsville District Public Library. Joann Spragg, president, presided over each of the meetings. The minutes were presented in written form, approved/corrected, and passed. The Treasurer's reports were given.

At the August meeting the club members had a round table discussion about "A Civil War Ancestor." We all have many interesting ancestors. Ted Ratcliff is researching a type of signage and cost for the club to place a sign for the O'Neill Cemetery. Kim Harvey reported she will begin restoration of tombstones at Yountsville Cemetery every Saturday beginning on August 27. Volunteers are welcomed and needed. Sam Evans has presented to Executive Committee a Final Draft of Club's By-Laws for approval of presentation at the October meeting, which was approved by the Executive Committee. The club made a \$25 donation to the City of Crawfordsville Nature Park in the memory of club member Forrest Crawford, who recently passed away. Refreshments were served by Charlene Hutchison and Judy Harvey.

At the September meeting Amy Hathaway presented the program "My DNA Experience." She had her DNA tested through National Geographic. She shared her family migration results and answered many questions. Ted Ratcliff reported he continues to research various options and costs for signage for O'Neill Cemetery. Annual \$10 club dues are now due. Refreshments were served by Andy McCorkle and Jerry Price.

The Annual Dinner was served by Allen's Catering in October. Helen Aker gave the program entitled "Confederate Prison." She told of the poor conditions of the prisons and the frequent moving of prisoners. Ted Ratcliff continues to search for options for signage for O'Neill Cemetery. Kim Hancock is working every Saturday at Yountsville Cemetery. The Final Draft of the Club's By-Laws was approved by club members. The new officers for 2012 are: Joann Spragg, President; Bob Smith, Vice-President; Linda Templin, Secretary; Mike Mitchell, Treasurer; Dian Moore, Activities; and Nelson Wilson, Reporter. No Annual Award was presented this year since no nominations were made.

The After Hours Workshop continues to occur from 5 to 9 pm on the fourth Friday of January, April, July, and October. To attend you must sign up by the preceding Wednesday. Notify Dellie Craig at CDPL or by calling her at 765-362-2242, ext 118. You must be inside CDPL before it closes at 5pm. Those attending the workshop first meet in the Donnelley Room for pizza dinner. Donations are accepted to cover the cost of the pizza. After dinner, the attendees are escorted to the local history department to work on genealogy research. Computers are available. Assistance is available if you should need some help finding information, using computer, etc. If you desire to leave before 9pm, you will need to be escorted to an exit door..

Continued pg. 4

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.
Summarized Secretary's Report

Linda Templin, Secretary



The November and December, 2011, January, 2012, meetings of the Genealogy Club of Montgomery County, Corp. were held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Donnelley Room of the Crawfordsville District Public Library. Joann Spragg, president, presided over each of the meetings. The minutes were presented in written form, approved/corrected, and passed. The Treasurer's reports were given.

At the November meeting the club members had their annual organizational meeting. Ted Ratcliff informed the club that the only accepted signage for the O'Neill Cemetery will be a mailbox with a sign on the side of the mailbox indicating the location of the cemetery. Jim Spence, Ripley Township Trustee will cover the cost of the sign. Kim Harvey reported she will not be working at the Yountsville Cemetery during the winter months. Ted Ratcliff reported he will write up applications for several grants to be presented next year. Since the club now has 501(c)3 status, we are now eligible to submit applications. Sign-up sheets were routed among members to sign up as volunteers for various committees and refreshments for 2012. There was a discussion about various ideas for club projects for 2012. Will see if any grants are rewarded to the club as to which projects the club might pursue. The cemetery project remains ongoing and volunteers will be needed starting in the spring. Refreshments were served by Mike Mitchell and Ted Ratcliff.

At the December meeting the club had their Annual Christmas Party. Club members shared treats for refreshments. Ted Ratcliff shared pictures of the new signage for the O'Neill Cemetery. He also reported that he has applied for three grants from Indiana Genealogical Society and one from State Farm Insurance Agency. From IGS he has applied for Chapter Resource Grant to hold an Adopt A Cemetery Training Workshop; a Cemetery Restoration Grant to apply to work on Yountsville and maybe Potts, Wilson-Killen and Hurd Cemeteries; and a Resource Development grant to use to abstract Family Bible Records.

At the January meeting Larry Paarlberg, Director of General Lew Wallace Study & Museum, gave a presentation about the "Wallace Family Genealogy." Mike Mitchell announced the club had received a \$100 donation; and that he had sent a 501(c)3 receipt and a thank you to the donor. More volunteers are needed for committee membership and for refreshments during 2012. If you are able to help, please contact Joann Spragg, president.

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THE WARFEL PHOTO



THE WARFEL PHOTOGRAPH

Charlie [the younger] on the Left | George on Right

The Genealogy Club received a photo of Charlie and George Warfel at the ages of 4 and 6 years old with the request that we give it to a descendant. Since no descendant was known to be living in Montgomery County, we gave it to the Crawfordsville District Public Library historic collection and I went to work to find out what I could about Warfels.

Charlie and George were sons of J. F. Warfel of Ladoga. J. F. probably stood for Jacob Francis but he also appears as John and Frank.

J. F. Warfel was a son of Martin Bloomfield Warfel b. 10 Apr 1829, Conestoga Twp., Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania and Indiana McClelland b. 14 Jul 1839, in Indiana. They married 21 Feb 1856 in Indiana. In 1860 they were in Wayne Twp., Marion Co., Indiana, with two children and Martin was working as a carpenter. Martin d. 29 Feb 1868 in Clermont, Marion Co., Indiana.

J. F. Warfel was born 3 May 1857 in Clermont, Marion Co., Indiana, and, on 20 Jun 1883 as the first marriage recorded at the Ladoga Presbyterian Church, married Elizabeth Greg Huntington [aka Lizzie] b. 8 Dec 1862 in Adrian, Michigan. J. F. came to Ladoga to attend the Normal School. He became an educator, a school administrator and a newspaperman. He taught and served as part of the administration at

Old Normal, with limited stints in the public schools in Ladoga, Indianapolis, Frankfort and then returning to Ladoga to teach at Old Normal at night until it closed in 1891, and the Ladoga public schools by day. He owned and edited both the *Ladoga Leader* and the *Crawfordsville Review*. He said that a newspaperman should be versatile enough to teach school as well. J. F. died 20 Dec 1942 and wife Lizzie died 4 Dec 1944. Both are buried in Ladoga Cemetery.

J. F. and Lizzie were parents of six children. George, b. Mar 1884 in Indiana was in Los Angeles, California in 1944. Charlie was b. 5 May 1887 and died 23 Mar 1894 at age six. From the county death records, Louise Francis [the first] d. 27 Jan 1890 at age seven weeks. A Ladoga Cemetery stone reading has Louise Francis [the second] b. 3 Dec 1890 and d. 29 Jan 1907. This birthdate would indicate that the second Louise Francis was a twin to Herbert H. b. Dec 1890 who was in Plainfield, Hendricks Co., Indiana in 1944. And Nellie, b. Feb 1893, married Harold Peffley and was in Sacramento, California in 1944. Of these, only Charlie appears in the library index of obituaries. The 1944 locations are from an obituary listing of Lizzie's family survivors as found in a December 1944 issue of the *Ladoga Leader*.

All this information dates the picture as about 1890 when George was six and Charlie three or 1891 when George was seven and Charlie four.

There may be descendants out there but the family has left Montgomery County and is beyond the scope of this research.



At our regular monthly meeting of the GCMCC on Tuesday, 13 MAR 2012, club Treasurer Mike Mitchell will present the program for the evening titled "1940 CENSUS", just in time for the big government unveiling of this long anticipated trove of information. In comparison to the data to be delivered by the 1940 federal census, you might recall the more recent 2010 census where practicality (or so the government said) limited the data gathered to your name and address. On June 5, 2010, noted genealogist Dick Eastman posted the following on his Internet blog :

Circle this date on your calendar: Monday, April 2, 2012.

Less than two years from now, all genealogists will be able to access the 1940 U.S. Census Records for the first time.

Title 13 of the United States Code governs how the Census is conducted and mandates the confidentiality of information concerning individuals. Aggregate information, including statistical models, may be released, but any information about individuals must be kept confidential for 72 years. The 1940 census was conducted on April 1, 1940 so the information cannot be released until April 1, 2012.

The official date for the 1940 Census should be April 1st, but that day will fall on a Sunday in 2012. As a result, it is unclear whether researchers will have weekend access to film at the National Archives or will instead need to wait until Monday, April 2nd, to satisfy their genealogical curiosity. By sticking to normal business days, the National Archives and Records Administration also avoids the appearance of an April Fools' joke.

There is no announcement yet of whether or not an index will be available on April 1 (although commercial websites will undoubtedly begin producing such an index after the census opens). You may want to check in advance for the Enumeration District in the city or town where your ancestors lived. If you would like to help in this effort, visit for details about the 1940 Street Transcription Project.

1940 was a quieter time for most Americans. While much of Europe and Asia was at war, the United States had not yet been drawn into the conflict. The first military draft number was not drawn until late in the year, in October of 1940, initiating selective service. Living rooms did not yet contain television sets. On the date of the census, President Roosevelt was nearing the end of his second term in office.

The following questions were included on the Population Schedule for the 1940 Census:

1. LOCATION: Street, avenue, road, etc.
2. LOCATION: House number (in cities and towns)
3. HOUSEHOLD DATA: Number of household in order of visitation
4. HOUSEHOLD DATA: Home owned (O) or rented (R)
5. HOUSEHOLD DATA: Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented
6. HOUSEHOLD DATA: Does this household live on a farm? (Yes or No)
7. NAME: Name of each person whose usual place of residence on April 1, 1940, was in this household.
8. RELATION: Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grandson, lodger, lodger's wife, servant, hired hand, etc.

Continued page 7
Roots and Branches

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.
Opening of The 1940 US Federal Census



9. PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Sex — Male (M), Female (F)
10. PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Color or race
11. PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Age at last birthday
12. PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Marital status — Single (S), Married (M), Widowed (Wd), Divorced (D)
13. EDUCATION: Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940 (Yes or No)
14. EDUCATION: Highest grade of school completed
15. PLACE OF BIRTH: If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937. Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State (Eire) from Northern Ireland.
16. CITIZENSHIP: Citizenship of the foreign born
17. RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants. Enter "R" for all other places
18. RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: County
19. RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: State (or Territory or foreign country
20. RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: On a farm? (Yes or No)
21. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Was this person AT WORK for pay or profit in private or nonemergency Govt. work during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No)
22. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: If not, was he at work on, or assigned to,
 1. public EMERGENCY WORK (WPA, NYA, CCC, etc.) during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No)
 2. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Was this person SEEKING WORK? (Yes or No)
 3. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: If not seeking work, did he HAVE A JOB, business, etc.? (Yes or No)
 4. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Indicate whether engaged in home housework (H) in school (S), unable to work (U), or other (O)
 5. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Number of hours worked during week of March 24-30, 1940
 6. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Duration of unemployment up to March 30, 1940 - in weeks
 7. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Occupation: Trade, profession, or particular kind of work
 8. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Industry: Industry of business
 9. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Class of worker

Continued page 8

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.
Opening of The 1940 US Federal Census



10. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Number of weeks worked in 1939 (Equivalent full-time weeks)
11. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: INCOME IN 1939: Amount of money wages or salary received (including commissions)
12. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT STATUS: INCOME IN 1939: Did this person receive income of \$50 or more from sources other than money wages or salary? (Yes or No)
13. Number of Farm Schedule

There also was a list of , which would be asked of those individuals recorded usually on Lines 14 and 29 (although other lines were also designated for such use and were presumably to ensure a random sampling).

The Supplementary Questions were as follows:

35. NAME
36. PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER AND MOTHER: FATHER
37. PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER AND MOTHER: MOTHER
38. MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE): Language spoken in home in earliest childhood
39. VETERANS: Is this person a veteran of the United States military forces; or the wife, widow, or under-18-year-old child of a veteran? If so, enter "Yes"
40. VETERANS: If child, is veteran-father dead (Yes or No)
41. VETERANS: War or military service
42. SOCIAL SECURITY: Does this person have a Federal Social Security Number? (Yes or No)
43. SOCIAL SECURITY: Were deductions for Federal Old-Age Insurance or Railroad Retirement made from this person's wages or salary in 1939? (Yes or No)
44. SOCIAL SECURITY: If so, were deductions made from (1) all, (2) one-half or more, (3) part, but less than half, of wages or salary?

45. USUAL OCCUPATION

Continued page 9

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.
Opening of The 1940 US Federal Census



46. USUAL INDUSTRY

47. Usual class of worker

48. FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED: Has this woman been married more than once? (Yes or No)

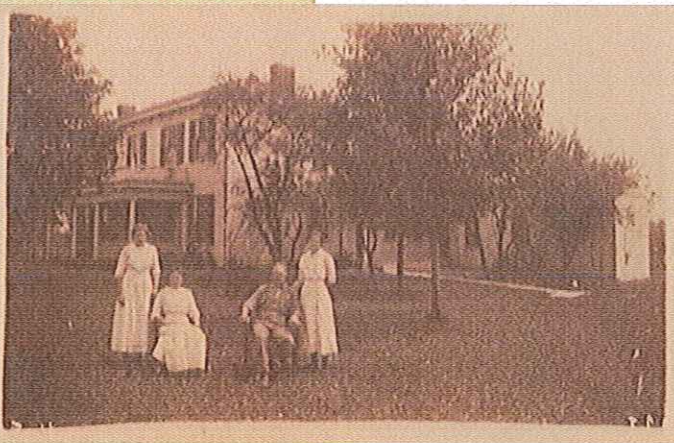
49. FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED: Age at first marriage?

50. FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED: Number of children ever born (Do not include stillbirths)

Another item will be of interest to anyone born on or after April 1, 1930, but before April 1, 1940. For the first time, those people will be able to view their own records in the census enumeration of 1940!

Posted by Dick Eastman on July 05, 2010 in | s

A glimpse of the past



The McClamroch Homestead

A glimpse of the present



In August of 2011, my sister, brother, and I visited Crawfordsville, Indiana. While there, we realized that an old family homestead might still exist in the area. Deciding to seek it out, we went to the Crawfordsville Library and were lucky enough to receive the help of Dellie and Emily. After searching the archives and county maps, they were able to locate the property's probable location. Not knowing "for sure" if the house was still there, or if the occupants were related to us, my sister and I decided to visit anyway. Once there, not only were we able to see and tour the house, but the folks living there were indeed our distant cousins!

Our thanks go out to Dellie and Emily, who so skillfully found this family connection for us. We are grateful for their knowledge and ability to make these searches possible, and hope that others can be successful in finding their families as well.

Thanks again!

Julianne (Wright) Thornton, and siblings Suzanne and Kim

The Harshbarger 3 Legged Pot



There is a three legged iron pot on display at the Henry Lane Historic Home in Crawfordsville, IN. The pot has an interesting story. The pot originally belonged to **Jacob and Maria Harshbarger** and was given to the historic Lane Place by their descendents who moved to Montgomery County, Indiana in the 1820's & 1830's. **Jacob Harshbarger**, grandson of the immigrant **Jacob Harshbarger**, was one of the early pioneers in Montgomery County.

The Harshbarger (Hirshberger & Hershberger) family originally lived in Switzerland, across the Rhine River from Germany. According to family history, **Jacob Harshbarger** (born about 1722 – died before 1792) and his wife-to-be, **Maria Eva Petra** (born about 1723 – died about 1820), were born on farms near Basel, Switzerland and were married there in 1752. They were members of the Dunkard Church; Dunkard being a religion that did not believe in infant baptism. Those folk that did not believe in infant baptism were called Anabaptists. The Rhine country from 1618 into the 1700's had three state churches and anyone not following the doctrines of those 3 churches, was persecuted. To escape this, the **Harshbarger & Petra families**, along with many other Anabaptist families, fled up the Rhine River to Holland. Once there, **Jacob & Maria** worked as weavers on the Dutch looms for 3 1/2 years before they got enough money to secure passage to America.

The ship on which they secured passage was named **BROTHERS**, and was captained by **William Muir**. The ship sailed from Rotterdam, Holland with 251 passengers aboard, stopped in Cowes on the Isle of Wight and landed in America at the port of Philadelphia, PA on September 30, 1754. While they were in Holland, their first child, a girl, was born, which they named **Mary Elizabeth**. During the voyage, little **Mary Elizabeth** became ill with smallpox and died, causing her to be buried at sea. Of course, the family was greatly saddened by the loss of their child.

As part of her daily tasks while aboard ship, **Maria** had to fetch water from the barrels of fresh water on the deck of the ship. The container in which she carried the water back below deck was a little three legged iron pot. According to the story I first heard from my husband's mother, **Mina Saloma Davidson Evans**, (a daughter of **Saloma Ellen Harshbarger Davidson**, who was the great granddaughter of the immigrant **Jacob's** son, **Samuel**), One day when **Maria** was getting water, the ship lurched and she slid overboard. A sharp eyed seaman spotted her billowing

blue dress in the Atlantic Ocean. He immediately grabbed a long pole with a hook on one end and caught the bail of the little pot to which **Maria** was still clinging. With this pole he was able to get her back aboard the ship safely. What a harrowing experience! The Montgomery County Harshbargers could have lost their ancestor and their whole family tree would have had a different set of descendents.

Another story about this event was told to me after my husband and I moved to Crawfordsville, IN (the county seat of Montgomery County) in 1998. The second story stated that because of the death of her daughter, **Maria** decided life was not worth living and she jumped overboard, carrying the little iron pot to add weight. The same results as the first story followed with the seaman rescuing her. One ancestor said that she thought that if **Maria** was really intent on losing her life, she would have let go of the little pot when the sailor hooked it.



Continued page 11

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp. by Ruth J. Coats Evans
The Harshbarger 3 Legged Pot

We will never know what really happened, but we do have the little 3 legged iron pot to remind us of the saving of an ancestor's life!

Jacob & Maria Harshbarger, who landed in Philadelphia, PA, traveled westward some 70 miles and settled in Lancaster County, PA where they lived for many years. They had three other male children, named Jacob, Christian & Samuel. Some of their descendants eventually migrated to



Montgomery County, IN in the afore mentioned 1820 – 1830 time period. Samuel first moved to the Roanoke, VA area in 1792 and established a grist mill on Carvin's Creek. One of the main streets in Roanoke is named Hershberger Road. In 1995 my husband, Samuel Davidson Evans who is a descendent of Saloma Ellen Harshbarger Davidson, and I visited the Roanoke, VA home of Samuel Harshbarger which he built in 1797. It is now restored and is on the National Registry of Historic Homes. At that time (1995) it was the private home of Ed Truitt & his family. Ed Truitt, an antique dealer, had purchased the home and restored it to its present condition. He even found, through one of his antique magazines, a piece of furniture that was made for the home that had been carried to IN in the Western migration. A trip to western IN and the gracious gift of a Harshbarger relative brought the "sideboard" back to its original home in VA.



Seen Along The Way



Above Left to Right : William Campbell , Hellen Aker



Above Left to Right : Joan Spragg , Amy Hathaway , Bill Stieg

Below : Allen's Catering ; Amy Allen at Right



Left : 2011 annual Oct dinner & officer election meeting, Hellen Aker speaking. 100% accurate I.D. of all persons in this photo by the back of their heads could win you 10 Atta' Boy I awards, or the 89th position in the lineup to sign Peyton Manning as your quarterback.

A Civil War soldier's letter home - - - original by Wm G Keys

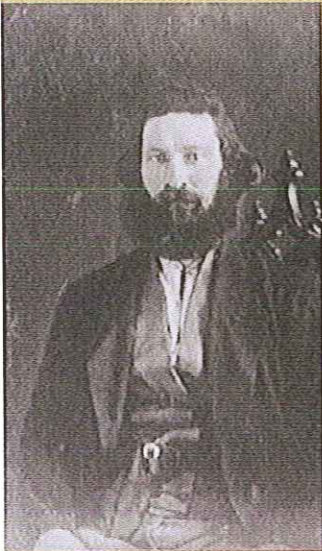
Murfreesboro Ten June 15 1863

Dear wife

I now take my pen in hand to let you know that my health is tolerably good at present and I hope those few lines will find you all well and harty well I received your most kind and welcome letter a few days ago which gave me pleasure to hear from you but was sorrow to hear of your trouble affliction but I hope by the time you get this you all will be well boath in body and mind well we still make it count when we go out for we take some every time we go out scouting well they have been harvesting here for several days and the wheat is generaly good well we are marching or scouting prety near all the time well the citizens say they cant posibly save all of their harvest for we take all of slaves away from them and their horses and mules too so you can see thare ant much chances for them and some of them get down on their knees and beg of us not to take their horses for they say they cant live without something to rase grain with and then we take them and tel them if they will tel their friends to throw down their guns we will not bother them but just as long as they continue to hold arms they need not expect to see any better times soon for we will stay with them for a while yet anyhow. well I captured a very nice pair of boots and a pare of shoes and 8 pare of socks and a big officers overcoat and a shawl the boots shoes and socks I sold for 650 well I dont know as I have anything more to write only I send my best respects to all the neighbors so not more at present only write soon as no more but I still remain your affectionate husband til death

William G. Keys

To Esther Keys



William G. Keys with that promised colt navy revolver holstered at his waist . ref. Vol. 6, Iss 4, Aug 2009



William G. Keys and wife, Esther Matilda Thomas Keys with daughter Elizabeth Keys, circa 1851

A Civil War soldier's letter home - - - original by Wm G Keys

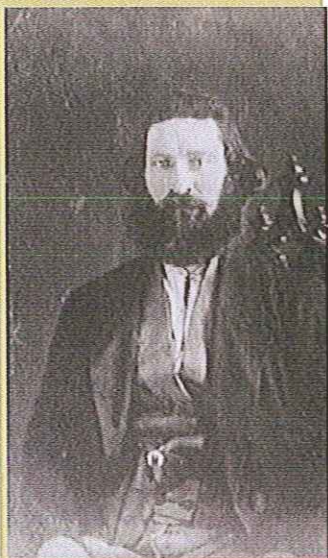
Camp near Manchester Ten Friday morning July 3rd 1863

Dear wife

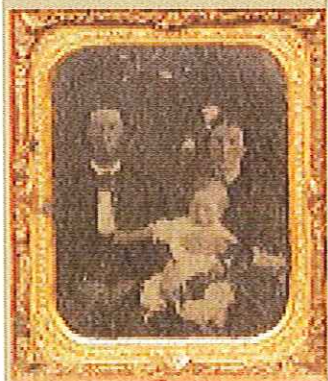
It is with pleasure that I now send you a line to let you know how I am and what is going on here we left Murfreesboro on the morning of the 24 of June the same day about 10 o'clock our little squad commenced skirmishing with the Enemy's pickets which was kept up for several hours us driving them about six miles before engagement became generally our Brigade fought hard till dark we defeated them with higher loss on their side our loss was not to exceed 10 in the Brigade that include both killed and wounded the loss of our Regt was 2 killed and 13 wounded None of our acquaintances were hurt we have not been engaged since at last place although we have begun scouting considerably by the health of the Regt is tolerable good for my health I am only tolerable well it has been very rainy for the last ten days and we have had to ride so hard and been so much exposed that I am nearly worn out Still I think a little rest might get me all right again you asked me to tell you how much money your father owes me he borrowed from me 191 he paid me 41 which would leave 150 dollars yet I must close as the mail leaves in a few minutes I hope this will go safely through and find you and the children and friends I will be sure and write soon and oblige

William G. Keys

***NOTE:** The transcriptions on pages 8 & 9 are copied as is with spelling as it was in the original letters. These letters purport to have been penned by William ; the actual writers are unknown, although it does appear that they have been written by a soldier of common schooling for the period. William has said that he is too slow to write such in the limited time spent in camp, and the previous letter is a really large one. Kim Hancock



William G. Keys with that promised colt navy revolver holstered at his waist. ref. Vol. 6, Iss 4, Aug 2009



William G. Keys and wife, Esther Matilda Thomas Keys with daughter Elizabeth Keys, circa 1851

HOBBS, N.M. — Children's Grave Located

By Levi Hill, reporter for the Hobbs, NM 'Hobbs News-Sun'

Hidden among the prairie grass and mesquite bushes a few miles east of Jal, New Mexico, an old barbed-wire fence and wooden cross were the only evidence that four nameless children lost their lives at that spot more than a century ago.

On Oct. 25, 103 years after the children were laid to rest, the names and faces almost lost to history have been returned to Violet, William, Newton and Earl Sparks.

For their nephews, Jack and Frank Sparks, the story began on March 16, 1957. According to the Sparks family's oral histories and research by local historian David Minton, that was the day the four children's mother, Effie Sparks, broke down crying and told a niece she had four children buried somewhere in New Mexico or Texas but had no idea where.

The revelation set Effie's grandchildren, Frank and Jack, on a quest that would take them more than 50 years [to finish]. "It means closure in a sense," said Jack Sparks, looking across the site where his uncles and aunt were buried. "Our great hope is when we walk through those pearly gates, those children are going to meet us there. If they know what we did now, they are certainly rejoicing. In the hereafter we will certainly be able to share the story." The brothers, along with Frank's son, Joe Bill Sparks, and family members Bobbie Sparks and Marc Bradberry placed a four-foot headstone to honor their long-lost relatives.

Minton, who has placed headstones on unmarked graves across Lea County for years, joined the family in cleaning up the site. "To me, it is just a great thing that these children are no longer lost to history," Minton said. "They have been found and remembered."

The search for his long-buried relatives drew Jack Sparks into the Lea County Assessor's Office one day in 2008 in search of records on the homestead his grandfather, James Monroe Sparks, claimed near Nadine in 1902. It was perhaps fate that Sparks told one of the staff the story of the Sparks family just as David Minton walked into the office. The words, "lost graves" sparked Minton's curiosity and the two began to talk.

It came to Minton's mind — a Jal resident had told him years ago about an unmarked grave east of the small town that was the final resting place of four children who died of scarlet fever on their way to the doctor. The story fit with what Spark's father, Cecil, had told him and a search began. "It was just so lucky I had walked in the door when he had said that," Minton said. "It never would have happened otherwise."

As the story goes, and as Minton writes it, it was 1907 and all six of the Sparks children — Cecil, Violet, William, Newton, Earl and infant Eva Mae — became ill with either diphtheria or scarlet fever. The family loaded them into a wagon and started for Midland, Texas, the closest and best medical help at the time. A rider was sent ahead to get medicine and meet the family on the trail, but along the way four of the children died. They were buried, and the wagon, bedding and other items were burned to prevent the spread of the disease.

James and Effie Sparks returned to Nadine with their surviving children, Cecil and Eva Mae, where they lived until about 1915, when the family returned to Coke County, Texas, along with two new children, Relia and Vera, who had been born in Nadine.

Continued page 15

HOBBS, N.M. — Children's Grave Located

Minton, with the help of Jal area ranchers who still remembered the story passed down from their fathers, found the family grave. It is unknown who put the barbed-wire fence or a more recent pipe-fence around the site and the marker, a wooden cross tied with barbed-wire, was also added by some unknown Samaritan. Around the site, pieces of crockery and shards of glass bottles aged by the sun until they have turned purple are still evident. A single nut and bolt, possibly from the burned wagon, was found not far from the grave.

The headstone reads, "In memory of four children lost to scarlet fever in 1907 along this trail trying to get to a doctor." On the other side are lyrics from a song Effie Sparks was believed to have sung to her children as they lay dying — "Dear mother, put my little shoes away."

Library Receives Donation of BINFORD Photos and Ledgers

by Dellie Craig



Myrna Gary [left], a descendant of **Evangeline Binford Gary**, daughter of **Joseph and Nancy Elizabeth Griffith Binford** is pictured with **Jodie Wilson** [right], a reference librarian at the Crawfordsville District Public Library. Myrna donated several **Binford** photographs and ledgers to the CDPL historic collections. The Carnegie Museum and other area museums also received a number of artifacts pertaining to the **Binford** family. All were given in Sept of 2011.

Club Query Can anyone help? E-mail & Phone Below Name *Dian Moore*

Hi, Dian. I contacted you several years ago about some geneology information regarding the family lines of **Herbert Moffett Pointer (1857-1931)** and **Martha Emiline Routh (1863-1924)**, as well as **Samuel Shaver (1861-1927)** and **Mary Maxwell Shaver (1862-1935)**. At that time, you suggested that you would offer my request to the Genealogy Club to see if anyone there is interested in the same lines. I'm hoping that, with the passage of time, someone is interested now. Could you forward my request again? Thank you.

Nancy Pointer
nipointer@yahoo.com
612.839.1941

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.

205 South Washington St.

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Phone: 765 362-2242 Ext 118

E-mail: gen@cpdl.lib.in.us



Name _____ Date: _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

Membership: New

Renewal

Membership Class & Fee Schedule :

Individual _____ \$10 / yr Family _____ \$25 / yr

Institutional _____ \$15 / yr Business _____ \$50 / yr

Donation for :

Cemetery Project: \$ _____ .00

Total Amount enclosed: \$ _____ .00

List family/families you are / may be researching :

Research activities: _____

Skills/Experience Assessment _____

Genealogical records used: _____

Genealogical resources used: _____

Genealogical computer programs used: _____

Other experiences related to local history, church records, cemetery records and/or preservation : _____

Program suggestions : _____

Projects we as a club could do : _____

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