

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

Inside this issue:

- Update from the President, Shannon Hudson 2
- Waveland Bank Robbery 3
- Ain't God Good to Indiana 6
- Library Happenings 7
- What Do I Call my Grandma's Aunt? 8
- NEW FEATURE: Family Surname Files 9
- In Memory of Kenneth KIRKPATRICK
- Misc News

# Roots and Branches

Volume 19—Issue 2

February 2022

February sees tax season starting in full swing. While we might think of taxes as a modern thing, a newsletter from Hoosier History Highlights says “Even back in the “good old days,” there were state taxes. The book *Indiana Past and Present* by George S. Coffman, published in 1915, provides a look at the tax schedule for 1824. Property taxes were \$1.50 per hundred acres for first-class land, \$1.00 per hundred acres for second-class land, and 75 cents per hundred acres for third-class land. Each horse and mule was taxed at 37 1/2 cents. A two wheeled carriage was charged \$1.00.

One with four wheels was assessed at \$1.50. If you owned a brass clock, you paid a tax of \$1.00. A silver watch was 25 cents, but a gold one was \$1.00. There was also a poll tax of 50 cents for each male over 21 years of age “who was sane and not a pauper.”

I wonder how taxes were collected back then since no one had taxes automatically deducted from their wages. A genealogy research project for another day!



By the time we gather together around this newsletter again in April, the 1950 Census will have been released. Recorded information on as many as 40,000,000 people born and many of those people still living! The 1950 Census will give us a picture of a world after WWII and before the first color television would be available. This will be a tool rich with information. We will have a Genealogy Club program coming up to learn more about what we will find in the 1950 Census.



To make an appointment at CDPL to do genealogy research, reach out to Dellie Craig by calling the library at 765-362-2242 or by email at [dcraig@cdpl.lib.in.us](mailto:dcraig@cdpl.lib.in.us). Appointments can be made for up to an hour and a half.

## Find us and Like us on FACEBOOK!

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

Visit FACEBOOK to learn about Genealogy Club activities, get upcoming meeting info, and make new friends.

## Update from the President

By Shannon Hudson



**Shannon Hudson**

Greetings from the Genealogy Club of Montgomery County!

My name is Shannon HUDSON and I am your new president taking over for the indomitable Dellie CRAIG. I teach middle school science at Crawfordsville Middle School by day, and read and write history by night. My love of history and my own historical roots comes from my mother and maternal grandmother. When I was in high school, they delved into the Shepherd Quaker historical records and found some fascinating family members - and I was hooked! I realized truth truly can be stranger than fiction.

The Genealogy Club is meeting in person and we would love to have you join us in the Donnelly Room of the Crawfordsville District Public Library at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of every month. We do respect the library protocols and masks are required as of January 2021, but the situation is ever changing. We have a full slate of speakers that includes those from the Indiana Historical Society, Indiana DNR, and local experts. If you have any ideas for programs or speakers, please let Dellie CRAIG know via the Facebook page or by email her at [dcraig@cdpl.lib.in.us](mailto:dcraig@cdpl.lib.in.us). We will do what we can to secure the appropriate speakers for future months' programs. Be sure to check our Facebook page for the latest information. We can be found on Facebook by searching for Genealogy Club of Montgomery County, Indiana Corp.

On March 8, 2022, we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary! If you have memorabilia you would like to share, please reach out to Dellie CRAIG. She will make sure your treasures are cared for and we will return them to you if you prefer.

We have two very active committees: the Bible project is committed to digitizing family records found in Bibles and the Cemetery Restoration Project is taking pictures, capturing GPS coordinates, mapping cemeteries and cleaning/repairing tombstones in Montgomery County, IN when appropriate. If you are interested in getting involved, let an officer know. We will get you in contact with the committee chairpersons. If you might have other ideas for projects in which we should be involved, don't hesitate to contact us.

We are looking forward to a safe and normal 2022. We hope you can join us.

Shannon Hudson, President, 2021-2022

Additional 2021-2022 Officers:

Dellie CRAIG—Vice-President

Carolyn PERKINS—Secretary

Amie COX—Treasurer

Dian MOORE—Activity Director

Stephanie SIMMS/Judi KLEINE—Newsletter

## Waveland Bank Robber by Emily Griffin Winfrey

This story comes to us from *Hidden History of Montgomery County IN* by Emily Griffin Winfrey.

For two hours in the early morning of February 6, 1932, a small group of bank robbers worked to blow open the vault of the Waveland State Bank. Armed with high explosives and blasting nine shots of it from within the bank, the criminals had not counted on Waveland's vigilante citizens. Within minutes of the first explosion, the bank was surrounded by the town's quick-reacting and heavily armed vigilantes. In the end, the combination of vigilante fire outside and the robbers' explosions inside nearly destroyed the bank's exterior and interior. But the robbers were both outsmarted and outnumbered. Because the citizens of Waveland courageously protected their bank, the robbers were unable to blow up the interior vault that held the money and ran away without a cent.



Waveland citizens survey the damage to the bank's exterior

In the days after the robbery attempt, it was estimated that the total damage to the bank was \$7,500 (equivalent to \$152,629 in 2022). The damage was so bad that a large piece of the safe had been blown across the street and rested in the kitchen of the McIntire restaurant. The piece of steel landed in a sugar bowl, and despite the much larger damage across the street, the *Waveland Independent* lamented the bowl's "total loss" on February 12, 1932. The *Independent* and the *Crawfordsville Journal Review* covered the story with pride, and many Waveland residents were heralded as county heroes.

The bank's assistant cashier, Theron BANTA, and local businessmen Frank GARDNER and George SLAVENS, each having taken close-range shots at the bank, were credited as being the most successful of the vigilantes. The men took cover behind cars at Ben CANINE's downtown garage and fired shots through the bank's front plate glass windows. The criminals inside the bank were also armed with shotguns, and their return fire narrowly missed the crouching businessmen. In addition to BANTA, GARDNER, and SLAVENS, the *Journal Review* stated that about twenty local men, keeping a watchful eye on the bandits and steady fingers on their triggers, helped to prevent the robbery and any local injuries. Without the presence of vigilantes, the bank certainly would have been completely destroyed, as policemen from surrounding towns did not reach the scene until the shootout was over.

Although the vigilantes saved the bank, it was the quick response of those working at the telephone office, located two and half blocks away, that led the vigilantes out of their homes and into the streets. Howard WORL, the telephone office manager, was awakened by the barking of his bulldog, Queen. WORL knew that something was amiss. At the same time, Ruth MORGAN, 22 and nighttime telephone operator, realized that the telephone lines were being cut because lights were going out inside the office.

## Waveland Bank robbery cont.

The February 6, 1932 *Journal Review* reported that the bandits cut telephone wires, broke streetlight bulbs and cut the rope to a nearby bell before entering the bank. As Ruth MORGAN called townspeople to alert them of the situation, Howard WORL climbed a telephone pole with a headset, planning to spread the word as he fixed the line. Atop the pole, WORL overheard the robbers discussing their getaway as they threw rocks at Queen, who was growling at the culprits. Dressed in white gloves and white pants, the bandits (eyewitnesses believed they saw seven men total) managed to flee in a getaway car that had been parked at J.V. MILLIGAN's farm. The men (believed to be the same gang that had recently robbed the Roachdale Bank and the State Bank at Lizton) were never apprehended.



*Journal Review* reporter (left) stands with George SLAVENS (center) and Theron BANTA (right) in front of the bank hours after the robbery attempt.

In the weeks following the attack, the February 26, 1932 *Independent* reported that the number of vigilantes increased, and many were sworn in as deputies to prevent any future robbery attempts. On April 15, it was announced that the Waveland Bank would operate out of the Alex MOORE storeroom while the steel lining, doors, and an interior vault were replaced. By the end of May, the bank was back in its original building and was completely repaired, according to the May 20, 1932 *Independent*. Although the bank was restored, some of the proclaimed heroes lost their jobs later that summer. On August 5, the *Independent* announced that the Union Telephone Company decided to cut costs by asking Howard WORL to accept a 50% pay cut. WORL declined in favor of retirement, and a new couple took charge of the exchange. Because the couple had two daughters and a son to run the exchange, Ruth MORGAN and all the local girls employed at the telephone office lost their jobs.

The story of the Waveland Bank robbery became a thrilling tale of good guys outwitting the bad guys and appeared in national newspapers. With the headline "Phone Girl Rouses Town to Save Bank," the *New York Times* singled out Ruth MORGAN as the lone hero of the event. The February 7, 1932 *Times* reported that all the telephone lines leading outside of Waveland were cut by the robbers at about 2:20am, MORGAN "sensing the danger to her town and finding the local lines still working, called T.S. BANTA...on his order, she summoned the protectors of the village to mobilize with their rifles." But the local newspaper chose a more surprising candidate as the most important figure of the event: Queen. If Ruth MORGAN saved the bank by alerting the vigilantes, then Queen saved MORGAN by alerting her! After naming individuals and praising their contributions, the *Journal Review* concluded on February 6, that "it is believed locally that had not the dog commenced barking in the telephone office that the men would have taken the night operative captive and left this town of five hundred resident virtually without a means of communication with the outside world."

## Waveland Bank robbery—cont.



Ruth MORGAN JOINER in a 1939 newspaper photo—CDPL photo

Ruth MORGAN went on to have a very colorful life. The book continues to tell the tale of Ruth being held hostage while on a tour of the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City just seven years after the attempted bank robbery in Waveland. Ruth was on a tour as part of her job as welfare worker in Crawfordsville.

As she toured the prison, a man grabbed her arm and said “right this way lady.” She did an interview with the *Journal Review* in June, 1939 and she described the ordeal saying, “I didn’t realize anything was wrong. I thought it was part of the tour. I walked into the office and was bewildered when they started to close the door...they sat me in a chair and threatened me as if I weren’t human. I was frightened, but didn’t scream. Then they called the warden and made me talk to him. They kept threatening me. One would pull my head back by the hair and run the knife lightly across my throat. “That’s what we’ll do if you don’t get guns for us,” one said. I talked to the warden and told him that they would kill me unless he gave them guns, a car, and freedom. I pleaded with them and told them I had a little girl who needed me...it was a terrible, horrible experience.”

Since one of our favorite contributors, Karen ZACH grew up in Waveland, I asked her if she remembered Ruth MORGAN. On the [Montgomery County IN GenWeb](http://Montgomery County IN GenWeb) site that Karen oversees, I found an article from the *Journal Review* on June 28, 1939 that said Ruth was shot in the right shoulder/arm when the hostages were freed by State Troopers. The story says that in 1932, Ruth MORGAN graduated from Indiana State Normal school and taught at Waveland High School. After marriage, she stopped teaching and had a daughter, Geraldine. When Geraldine was 3, Ruth worked as bookkeeper and had worked for 9 months in the welfare office which is how she came to be in the prison in Michigan City.

Ruth’s fascinating life continued. She went on to heal well enough to keep her arm and went back to teaching school. It seems she was a beloved teacher and in 1956, she was surprised by an episode of *This is Your Life* in Hollywood California. The story is amazing. To read more for yourself, visit: [ingenweb.org/inmontgomery/bios](http://ingenweb.org/inmontgomery/bios) and you will find Ruth there.

Thanks to my friend Karen ZACH for sharing your memories and for carefully recording all you know about our ancestors.



## Ain't God Good to Indiana?

by William Herschell  
 Legendary Indiana Journalist

Ain't God good to Indiana?  
 Folks, a feller never knows  
 Just how close he is to Eden  
 Till, sometime, he ups an' goes  
 Seekin' fairer, greener pastures  
 Than he has right here at home,  
 Where there's sunshine in the clover  
 An' honey in th' comb;  
 Where the ripples on th' river  
 Kinda chuckles as they flow--  
 Ain't God good to Indiana?  
 Ain't He, fellers? Ain't He, though?

"Ain't God good to Indiana?  
 Seems to me He has a way  
 Gittin' me all outta humor  
 Just to see how long I'll stay  
 When I git th' gypsy feelin'  
 That I'd like to find a spot  
 Where th' clouds ain't quite so restless,  
 Or th' sun don't shine so hot.  
 But, I don't git far, I'll tell you,  
 Till I'm whisperin' soft an' low:  
 Ain't God good to Indiana?  
 Ain't He, fellers? Ain't He, though?

"Ain't God good to Indiana?  
 Other spots may look as fair,  
 But they lack th' soothin' somethin'  
 In th' Hoosier sky and air.  
 They don't have that snug-up feelin'  
 Like a mother gives a child;  
 They don't soothe you, soul an' body,  
 With their breezes soft an' mild.  
 They don't know th' joys of Heaven  
 Have their birthplace here below;  
 Ain't God good to Indiana?  
 Ain't He, fellers? Ain't He, though?

## Library Happenings by Dellie Craig



Dellie Craig

We continue to help Researchers find out more about their families at CDPL

For 2021, the most Local History appointments by one patron was Lloyd PETTIT of Crawfordsville. He wanted to learn to do genealogy and this picture is what Lloyd has created so far. He is learning to research, chart, file, etc. This photo can be seen on the Local History at CDPL on Facebook and you can zoom in to see part of the 13 generation chart Lloyd is filling out. →



Andy RICE donated some photographs belonging to his grandparents, Dallas and Joyce JONES. This pic is the Homecoming of the Union Christian Church in 1913. You can see names and photo at CDPL.



Several photographs were scanned by CDPL from Kathie WATKINS at the Linden Library. This photo is the 1937-38 County Basketball Champs and includes team members L. MELVIN, R. HALL, G. McCANCE, E. THOMPSON, J. BOWERMAN, L. MARKER, K. SMITH, G. McCORMICK, W. BELL, W. CONRAD, M. HUDSON, and R. DAVIS.

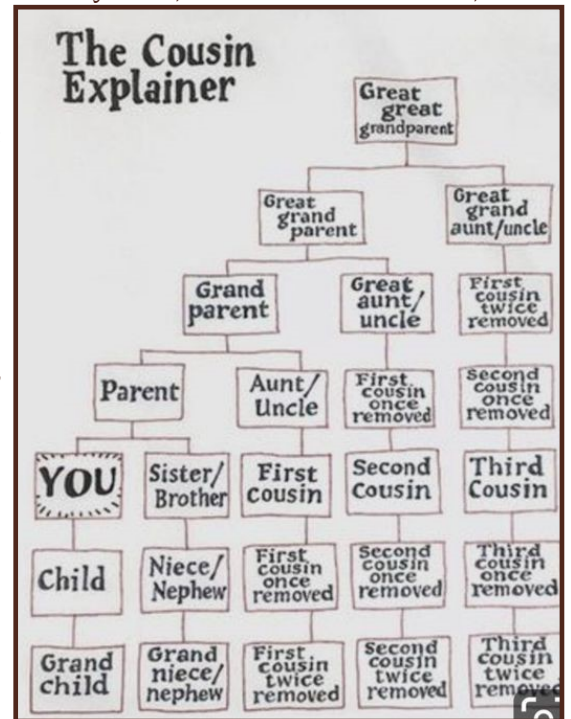
In other news, the Genealogy Club now has their own YouTube account. If you search for [Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN](#), you will find it. We are also recording our programs so people can view later. Go to the Crawfordsville District Public online. Go to Recorded Programs. When you click on that, you will find several icons for different programs. You will want to select Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN and there are two programs there to view: *Black Civil War Soldiers of Crawfordsville* by Shannon HUDSON, and *Finding Archival Goodies in Odd Places* by Amie COX.

## What do I call my Grandma's Aunt? by Stephanie Simms

Now that I have grandchildren, I think about my extended family and I wonder, what do I tell my grandchildren to call their distant relatives? I want my grands to understand our family relationships and how we are all connected to one another but, it is so confusing! For example, my mom would be my grandchildren's Great Grandmother. Easy. But, what about her sister, my aunt? When we go to Kentucky to visit, my grands have to call her something. Do they call her Aunt Cecilia like I do? Is she technically their aunt? What about my dad's sister? We see her and my uncle more often because they live nearby; is she aunt Karen to them? We could come up with fun nicknames, but when I am gone, will my grands know how they were related?

I carefully reviewed the handy "Cousin Explainer" that we shared in the last newsletter. Turns out all the names I have used growing up for the siblings of my grandparents, were wrong! My grandmother, Elizabeth Clark HUGHES, who grew up in Kentucky and Montgomery County IN was the eldest of 9 (5 girls and 4 boys) and I called all of her sisters and brothers, aunt/uncle. They would have technically been my 'great aunt/uncle' so to my grands, they would be 'great grand aunt/uncle.' My grands call my first cousins aunt/uncle, it's all so hard to explain!

Ancestry published an article "[Degrees of Cousin-ness](#)" about cousins that said: "First cousins are as close as you can be and still be cousins. It means that the closest ancestor that two people have in common is a grandparent. Second cousins means that the closest common ancestor is a great-grandparent. Third cousins, then, have a great-great-grandparent as their most recent common ancestor. Removed refers to how many generations different two people are. Their most common ancestor might be the great-grandfather of one and the great-great-grandfather of the other. Since they are not equally distant from the ancestor, "removed" is a way to show how far apart they are." I have found the best policy to be drawing a diagram and comparing it to this chart and then I can figure out what to call them.....though in reality, aunt and uncle work just fine!



### Think about this:

This nation is vast. And at times moves on, coupled with this vastness, we become separated from each other. We will miss our conversations with each other. Familiar faces recede with the decades, leaving only fond memories. The family reunions and holiday dinners will have new faces. Faces who are looking ahead. Looking ahead is the joy of youth.

One day our grandchildren and great grandchildren will take out dusty boxes filled with memories. They will ask "Who are these people?"

We will smile tears and our spirits will whisper to them: "These are your people. So you know. It was with them that I spent the best years of my life." ~ Robert Smith



**NEW FEATURE:****New & Returning Members of the Genealogy Club and Families They are Researching**


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Ivan LANCASTER	Renewed membership
Mike BRIDGES	Renewed membership
Lloyd PETTIT	PETTIT, WHITHAM, SCROGGINS, BARNES

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**In Memory of Kenneth KIRKPATRICK**, one of our Genealogy Club members, passed away December 30, 2021. Kenny was born outside of Wingate/Newtown, he married Barbara Jane SATTLER and she survives. Kenny graduated from Richland Township High School and served in the Army 1953-1955 in Japan and Korea. Kenny bowled with the Tipmont REMC Bowling League (He was a 39 year employee), enjoyed playing cards, genealogy, history, and family. Surviving with his wife Barbara are: daughter Carolyn Dance of Indianapolis, son James Kirkpatrick of CA, Sister-in-law Jill Kirkpatrick of Veedersburg, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



**1902** Dedication ceremonies were held for the Carnegie Library in Crawfordsville. It was the first of 164 libraries in Indiana to be funded by businessman Andrew Carnegie. He built more libraries in Indiana than in any other state. Like many, the Crawfordsville library was started by a local women's organization, The Current Events Club. The Carnegie Building in Crawfordsville became the Montgomery County Museum when the new Library was built across the street in 2005.

Wabash scholars are searching the archives at CDPL to develop a digital map, weaving connections to places, people, and narrative. You can get more information on the Local History project at CDPL on Facebook. Pictured (bottom right) are William GRENNON, Io MAEDA, and Tony BRUNENKANT, who worked with Dr. Ivette de ASSIS-WILSON, Dellie CRAIG, and Amie COX.



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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, 2021 to September 30, 2022 are due in September 2021.

They may be given to Dellie Craig at the Crawfordsville District Public Library or mailed to the Club Treasurer, (Amie Cox, c/o CDPL, 205 S Washington Street, 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  
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Individual  Family  Institutional  Business  
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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