



James Wills, Editor

Notice of Meetings

- February 8
- March 8
- April 12

After Hours

- January 28
- April 22

Membership Update

- Current
- Individual 30
- Family 5
- Honorary 1

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Roots and Branches

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.

President's Corner

Hello again, we have yet another year behind us in which we have accomplished much. We managed to stay in the black last year, started the "Roots and Branches" our club Newsletter and managed to get the O'Neal cemetery ready for brush pile burning. My hopes for the New Year are that our Club will continue to grow and prosper and I know we will be finishing the O'Neal cemetery as soon as the Ripley Township Fire Department can help us. I would also like to thank the ladies of the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) for allowing us to utilize their facilities for our meeting place the first four months of this new year.

Sincerely Yours

Raymond N. Snellenbarger
President
Genealogy Club of Montgomery County, Indiana Corp.

Stories—by Dian Moore

Most families have stories, and most family stories contain a kernel of truth and some chaff. In my neighborhood there is the story that the first Downing to the Downing farm north east of Crawfordsville was a Confederate prisoner of war who escaped from a railroad train, took shelter with a southern sympathizing family living near the railroad on the future Downing farm, and married into the family.

My research showed that Samuel Downing, Confederate soldier, date and place of discharge unknown, married Nancy Herron. Her father was born in South Carolina.

Nancy's brother was William Parke Herron, captain in the Union Army. The Herron family was living west of town and not on the future Downing farm. Nancy and Samuel were married in 1867 when she was 39 years old.

Samuel died in 1874. The plat map of 1878 shows the farm as belonging to the heirs of J. D. Herron and in 1898 shows N. Downing as owning part of that land and G. Downing, Nancy's son George, as owning the other part. George was Nancy's only son. He farmed the land and was followed by his only surviving son, Harold, who died 1959 without children.

Samuel could have been a prisoner. He could have escaped from a train but he did not shelter on his future home. His in-laws were at best divided on the Civil War and were probably supporters of the Union. The marriage between Samuel and Nancy was far enough after the war for Samuel to have immigrated to Montgomery County, as did many other Confederates. Samuel probably never owned the Downing farm and might not have even lived on it.

The other Downing story is that Harold, the last of the Downing farmers, had never spent a night off the homestead until he got married and left for a honeymoon. He was so homesick that he returned the next day and never spent another night off the place until he was hospitalized as an old man. I'll let someone else sort out the facts of that story.

Officers and Committees.

Executive:

President:

Raymond Snellenbarger

Vice President:

Dian Moore

Secretary:

Patricia Wills

Treasurer:

Kim Hancock

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 Snel-
lenbarger

Membership:

Chairperson: Pat Wills
James Wills, Robert Smith

Public Information:

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

Nominating:

Chairman: Raymond Snellen-
barger

American Revolutionary War Soldiers — Buried in Montgomery Co. IN. - By Pat Wills

SEARCH FOR SAMUEL FIELDS BURIAL PLACE.

He was born around 1740. He was an officer in the Continental Army and served in Battles of Brandywine and Trenton. He died after May 1825. He is one of the most interesting of our Montgomery Co. Soldiers. In two publications "Early Trials and Sketches" and "Executive Proceedings of the state of Indiana, 1816—1836" he is listed with the whole story.

He was living with his son-in-law, John Thompson, in Bath Twp, Franklin Co. IN. near Cope-land School. On a complaint of a neighbor, Constable Robert Murphy was sent on Nov 3, 1824 to arrest Fields, who refused to go with him. Murphy was sent back to carry out his Job. When he returned, Fields stabbed him. Murphy died 10 days later. Fields was in-dicted by the grand jury for 1st degree murder and sentenced on March 24, 1825 to be hanged on Friday, May 27, 1824.

But many people wished to see him pardoned because of his service in the Revolutionary War and his advanced age. There are 13 petitions bearing 730 signatures in the Archives Division of Indiana State Library. There were 82 residents of Montgomery Co. who signed the 5th petition. The 1820 census was the 1st in Indiana. Many of the Fields relatives listed in the 1830 census.

A gallows was erected on Main St. in Brookville, In. and a grave was dug near by. The rope was drawn around Fields neck when a man on horseback cam tearing down the hill. It was governor J.B. Ray, who had ridden all the way form Indianapolis. He was dressed in Uni-form of a General of the Indiana Militia. He dashed up to the gallows, held out a paper and said "Here, I give you your life."

Samuel Fields was taken away by friends to Hamilton, Ohio, where he lived only a short time, he then moved to Crawfordsville. Where he died. We don't know the exact date or where he is buried. Possibly he has some relatives still living in Montgomery co. There was a Stephen Fields listed in 1840 census, Union Twp, Montgomery Co. Possible son.

Thought I would let you know that our February 8th meeting will have Diane Cross speaking on "House Research". Then I just spoke to Robert Williams who will be speaking on his Betsy Ross connection.

Pictures of Past Meetings and After-Hours



Joyce Bever and Raymond
Snellenbarger
October After-hours



November Speakers
Mary and Daniel Immel



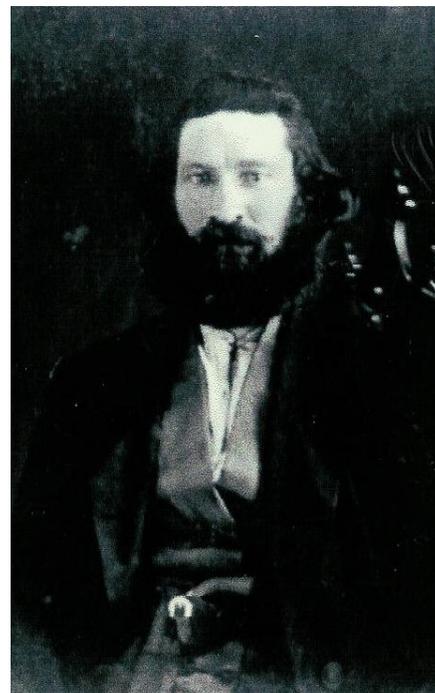
December Presentation of
Honorary Membership to the
Library to Larry Hathaway

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

Frankfort Ky

Oct 9th 1862

My Dear wife I received your letter Dated Sep 26 3 days after date while I was on a march and then found I had no time to answer it we Started ten days ago to go to Elizabeth town Some Sixty miles from Louisville we went there to Save Gen Bowels Wagon Train we Started down be tween the Rebble Arney and wagon trains the train was 18 miles long 1,800 Wagons in it loded with army Stones they all came in safe and we came back with them to Louisville Ky and we cooked 6 days more Rations and Started again for this place we have marched day and night for ten days we got here Just at day light this morning our advancees had a fight here last night the Rebbles barricaded the Bridge over the Ky River at this place and had kindled a fire on it but our men charged them so inforce they gave way and scattered in Every direction we killed Seven and wounded Several we now hold Frankfort the capitol of Ky and Gen Dumount Says we is going to open up communication By Railroad to Louisville be fore he moves his as many from here the army that we came in here with was ten or fifteen miles long we had a ground this to be Shure the Union folks gave us a nice breakfast here this morning Some fed 50 a piece it looks like was rather starving. The Rebbles every ware A day or to before I Started on this march John R Thomas and wife Came to camp to see me I am well and harty but my feet is wore out pretty bad Madarus is well but John G Wood is Sick but not bad he Rode on a wagon here I was Sorry to hear that those loved ones was Sick but I hope when I get answer to this they will be well So you can send me there minatures do it as quick as you can tell Pa to Send me a letter and give me the news of the day I want you to answer this as soon as this come to hand Direct as before and it will follow us no difference we are camped out on a Mountain that looks over the hole City and the artillery is just before us but I must
Wm G Keys to Esther Keys



**The Editor has a
new Email Address.**

**Genealogy47933
@peoplepc.com**



you found WHO in your family tree?

Southwest Montgomery Meanderings— By Karen Zach

“Wilson Brothers specialize in flowers and especially geraniums“

Waveland Independent March 28, 1946 -- Wilson Brothers, Florists, of Raccoon which already have just a fraction less than an acre under glass, and are nearing the nation's biggest Geranium growers, are planning extensive enlargements of their business. The present step has been the purchase of the Poynts garage at Parkersburg which Mr. Cully Wilson, the owner, says he will present to the public one of the best service stations between Lafayette and Bloomington. The garage proper will for the present be used for storage and other purposes now badly needed for his flower and plant service. This is a far cry from the small beginning of a few square feet of a house made of cross ties in the form of a hot bed not so many years ago. To give a more comprehensive idea of the space to be kept warm for growing plants of many kinds and varieties they ran about 300 tons of coal

through their stoker this last winter. While the Wilson Brothers specialize in flowers and especially geraniums, they also are ready to supply garden plants in season to the retail trade. — Anyone from the Waveland area probably went fishing at the old conservation club and this is an interesting discussion of one of the Fish Frys there. Waveland Independent March 28, 1946 -- The Conservation Club Fish Fry given at the school gym last Friday night was a pronounced success. Along with a good feed, there was a reel of the news high spots of 1945 and a fishing picture that showed the catching of nearly every kind of fish from sharks to brook trout. The audience was also favored with pictures of the president and family, Charles M. Moore, taken in Northern Michigan. The profit for the club from the fish fry amounted to \$85.50. There was also 35 new members added to the club mem-

bership roll. Mr. Moore promises a variety of activities and entertainment such as a shooting range for rifles, traps for shot gun shooting subject to the approval of the members at the next meeting. Odd, I went to the Conservation Club with my parents a lot some 10 years later and we were still seeing the news clips, trips of the Moores and having good food. That's it from the SW part of the county.



“Library After Hours”

Those attending will have access to the Local History Department's many files, books, records, maps, indexes and databases, along with the computers to search the many genealogy resources of the library.



FRIDAY, 28 January 2005

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Community Room and History Dept. of the
Crawfordsville District Public Library.

222 South Washington St, Crawfordsville Indiana 47933

Since the library will be officially closed during the meeting, you will need to be in the library BEFORE 5 p.m.

Everyone, Please RSVP by 26 January SPACE LIMITED
A Pizza Supper will be supplied

For More Information or to make a RESERVATIONS please contact either Dellie Graig or Dian Moore at (765) 326-2242 - 9 am to 5 pm - weekdays or e-mail: gen@cdpl.lib.in.us



*Genealogy Club of Montgomery County
IN Corp.*

222 South Washington Street
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
 Renewal \$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: _____

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., 222 S. Washington St., Crawfordsville, IN 47933