



James Wills, Editor

Notice of Meetings

- August 9
- September 13
- October 11

After Hours

- July 22
- October 28

Membership Update

- Current
- Individual 30
- Family 8
- Honorary 1

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Roots and Branches

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.

MY GREAT GRANDMA, A WOMAN'S LIBBER By Ruth I. Coats Evans

My Great Grandmother, America Jane Rankin Kerr 333333333 Charlotte Odell Rankin. As a child she heard the stories of her family's trip from Southern Ohio to Indiana, how her Grandfather Daniel Rankin had served in the Revolutionary War, and that her Grandmother Eleanor Tong Rankin had lived near the George Washington estate in Virginia and knew the family.

When America Jane was in her teens her father decided to send her to a select school at Cambridge City IN. The year was 1852. To make the trip, she left by boat from Attica, IN and traveled as far as Terre Haute where she took a train to Indianapolis. From there it was a stage coach ride to Cambridge City, IN. On that first rip, her uncle, Senator John Wesley Odell, was on the same boat for he was on his way to Indianapolis to attend sessions of the legislature. At Perysville, Governor Wright boarded the boat. America Jane was introduced to the governor. When they got to Terre Haute, many passengers got off and stayed overnight at a hotel before boarding the first through train between Terre Haute and Indianapolis. During that trip she and the governor had quite a discussion about women and their civil rights. This was in the early 1850's!

Grandmother remembered the four horse stage coach trip from Indianapolis to Cambridge City. The mud on the roads was deep but the horses went right along. Her homeward trip was by a new railroad train to Thorntown. She then boarded a stagecoach which took her to Crawfordsville where her folks met her.

America Jane was a student at the old Methodist College in Fort Wayne, IN during the years 1854-1855. This college was the forerunner of the present Taylor University. She made the trip on the Wabash-Erie Canal by packet boat. The light boat was pulled through the canal by horses hitched in tandem. The trip took almost 2 days from Lafayette to Fort Wayne. At the college she was a member of the El Dorado Literary Society and she was a great debater. When interviewed by a journalism class from Taylor University when she was 93 years old, she was able to name everyone in her graduating class and told many stories about the college president and college life at that time. She also named, in alphabetical order, every mammal on the North American continent and all the books of the Bible. At the time she was the oldest living graduate of Taylor University.

After college she taught school in a log school house in Tippecanoe County, IN.

She told stories about the abundance of lizards that crawled into her classroom and how she often ended up on a chair to avoid them. This caused quite a stir among the students in her classroom. She was 24 years old when she married Robert H. Kerr in Tippecanoe County on May 5, 1859. They were the parents of 5 children: Lovenia Hedda, Anna America, John Wesley, Mary Grace and Robert Hueston. The youngest son was born a month and a half after his father's death on March 18, 1870. America Jane raised her family on a farm in Tippecanoe County and after her youngest son graduated from high school, she married William J. Marvin. He died in 1913 and America Jane Rankin Kerr Marvin died July 21, 1928. A Huntington, IN new reporter who interviewed her on February 18, 1927, ended his news article with these words, " When thinking of this woman's life, these lines of Jean Blewett seem to apply: It was such a pretty story I wove it into rhyme To read myself, when skies are gray, At the end of summertime."

If you wish information on my Tippecanoe County families of Odell, Rankin, and Kerr, you may contact me at sevans@wico.net.

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American Revolutionary War Soldiers –

Buried in Montgomery Co. IN. - By Pat Wills

In Query to find Burial Place:

ANDREW BOWER (BOWEN)

Born: Feb 16, 1753 York Co. PA
Service: Berkley Co. VA. Fifer Joined 1777
Under Capt Issac Evans — 3 months
Under Gen. Muhlenburgh — 3 months
Under Capt. Porter — 3 months

Died: Nov 3, 1833, Montgomery Co. IN.

Buried: _____

Ref: D.A.R. by O'Byrne Soldiers and Patriots buried in IN. Vol. 1, pp66
Karen Zach, Genealogists of Montgomery Co., IN.
Pensioners List 1835 was 75 years old.
Pension: Cls 16324

Found: 1850 Census, Montgomery Co., Madision Twp.
Henry Bower (son of Andrew) VA.
49 years old, farmer
Wife: Mary (TN.)
7 Children Listed

Abijah O'Neall II House Project

We bought the O'Neall house in November of 2004. Don kept bringing up the idea of looking at the house for a couple of years but I was not interested. Then we went inside the house and that was it. I fell in love with the fireplaces, the front hall and stairway, and the wonderful floor to ceiling cupboard presses. My mother-in-law, Mary Mills, gave me an article that was written by the granddaughter of the builders, Abijah and Eleanor O'Neall. In the article she tells her recollections of her grandparents and the house. I realized then that the house was full of history and one of the few significant buildings left of a once booming milling center. We decided that we wanted the house and would try to restore it back to 1848. Neither of us has undertaken anything like this, but we figure, what the heck, I watch HGTV and This Old House all the time! We decided to spend the winter researching the house and reading up on restoring old homes. We were so very fortunate to have copies of the deeds from the time the land was purchased from the government in 1822 to the last owners given to us. I spent a lot of time at the library and on the internet trying to find out more about the O'Neall family and what they were doing in Yountsville. I know the genealogy club is doing research on the O'Neall cemetery so I won't go into genealogy details as I am sure you already know most of it.

Mr. O'Neall played an important role in the development of Yountsville. In the 1800's Sugar Creek and its tributaries provided good waterpower for the mills that sprang up along the banks. Abijah came from a family of millers and soon began his own milling business. His first attempt was to build a mill approximately three fourths of a mile south of Yountsville on Sugar Creek at Indian Ford. However, he got no further than digging the race when he decided it would be better to locate back up the creek and closer to the settlement. In 1834 he purchased land from William Crook about one fourth of a mile from the mouth of Spring Creek, a tributary to Sugar Creek, and at the edge of Yountsville. Abijah operated Crook's gristmill until 1840 when Dan Yount bought the water rights from the O'Nealls. At the same time the O'Nealls were getting the mill business established they were also tilling ground for farming, planting an orchard and operated a general store. Abijah was also a surveyor and justice of the peace. He served as a state representative in 1839-1840. In 1848 the

Abijah O'Neall II House Project, continued

O'Nealls built their third house, the brick Federal style I- house. He served as county commissioner in 1850. He was a Whig and later a republican. Mr. O'Neall worked hard for his family, wife Eleanor and their ten children. (The eleventh child died at birth.) His loyalties extended beyond that of his family, community and state. Being a Quaker (later a Universalist) he was deeply concerned about the national issue of slavery. Mr. and Mrs. O'Neall continued living in Yountsville until their deaths. Abijah died in 1874 and Eleanor died in 1901. Any article I read that talked about him personally had only good things to say about him. It seems he was a very respected and appreciated leader of the town and a friend to all. I found it humorous when, in *The History of Yountsville*, his granddaughter says that Mrs. O'Neall accused Abijah of standing out on the roadside inviting anyone who passed by to come in.

Most fascinating to me are the connections of the house to the Underground Railroad. Abijah was an outspoken abolitionist. He traveled around to area towns giving talks, trying to convince others of the injustice of slavery. His granddaughter tells of how he hid the slaves in the cellar of the barn. He did not tell grandma when slaves were present so she could not reveal them if questioned. He would just come in and ask for a basket of food. Sadly, the barn fell into disrepair and no longer exists. In the obituary of Mrs. O'Neall it is mentioned that their family was threatened to the point of needing guards at the house. In the same article an account is given of Mr. O'Neall requesting help from Gov. Morton who sent men down to be used at O'Neall's discretion. Abijah had them spy on a meeting of the Knights of the Golden Circle. They heard a plan being made to burn all the homes of the war widows in Ripley Township. The plan was reported to Mr. O'Neall who went to the leader of the circle and demanded the plan be stopped and that all guns be turned in to the sheriff at Crawfordsville or the plot would be exposed to all. The head of the circle was a prominent man of the community and did not want to be connected to the plot so he cooperated. There are other books that make statements connecting to Mr. O'Neall to the URR. One in particular talks about Abijah O'Neall and John Speed working for the same cause. After discussing all of the information we have with Jeannie Regan-Dinius who is working on the Freedom Trail, we feel there is legitimate cause to continue researching and hopefully we will find enough factual information to have his home confirmed as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

We have also learned much about historical homes. We are in the process of applying for the National Register of Historical Places. In doing so I had to write a narrative description of the house. My dining room table was covered with architecture books, a dictionary of old house terms, a sample application, and pictures. Now when we go places we look at houses and try to decide when they were built, what's original, and what style they are.

We have barely begun working on the house. We want to do it slowly and carefully and do a lot of consulting as we go. We have removed a tree that was leaning towards the house. Our son disked the pasture in front so we can plant a field of wildflowers. The chimneys are in the process of being rebuilt and soon there will be a new roof. Once we get the house air and water tight and structurally sound we will start on the inside. This is a huge task for us but we are very excited about it. I have to say that I'm not sure which I am enjoying more, working on the house or working on getting to know the O'Nealls. We have met with the only remaining descendant of the family still in the area, David O'Neall and we have spoken with a great-great-grandson from Indianapolis. I am hoping that word of the restoration will spread far enough and we will hear from other descendants. I would love to have pictures of Abijah and Eleanor O'Neall to hang in the front hall when the house is done.



Brown Township Meanderings & More— By Karen Zach

Although I may have to give up typing old obituaries due to allergies, I LOVE to check out not only the obituaries, but other items as well. Here you have a robbery; 50th anniversary and an obituary that gives an interesting occupation and makes you think how wonderful it is to live in this community. Karen Zach

Crawfordsville Journal & Review, Dec 13, 1931 – Browns Valley Store is Robbed – Working on a number of good clues (sic) Sheriff Frank Hitch Saturday afternoon said that arrests were near in the robbery of the Stephen Deer General Store, Browns Valley. The store was entered and robbed some time Friday night. The burglars, using a wrecking bar, pried open the front door of the store to gain access to the merchandise which they took. The loot consisted largely of cigarettes, gloves and overalls. They refused to take a quantity of pennies which had been left in the cash drawer of the store. Sheriff Hitch was called to Browns Valley early Saturday morning and immediately started an investigation which is expected to end in one or more arrests shortly.

*“Mr and Mrs.
Samuel Graybill
will celebrate
50th wedding
anniversary”*

Crawfordsville Journal & Review, Dec 5, 1931 – On Sunday afternoon, Dec 5, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel GRAYBILL will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, their children will hold open house from 2 until 5 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Ashby, where they will welcome all relatives and friends who wish to call. Dec 7, 1881, at the country home of Mr. and Mrs. Amazon Ward, the late Grant Ward home, occurred the marriage of their daughter, Clara Bell, to Samuel Cline Graybill. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Hayes of the Presbyterian Church of Crawfordsville and was witnessed by 100 guests;; who after the ceremony were seated at long tables and served a turkey dinner. The bride and groom were attended by Mellie Ward, now Mrs. Thomas Wilkins of near Linden, sister of the bride and Marcellus Lidikay, now in Wellsville, Kansas, nephew of the groom. The following day an infare dinner was given by the groom’s mother at her home to all the immediately relatives. After an extended wedding trip in the South the bride and groom started house-keeping at the old Graybill homestead, where Charley Keller now lives. Three children were born to this union: Grace C, who died in 1907 age 23; Nellie, now Mrs. Wallace Ashby and Samuel Cline, Jr. There are four grandchildren, Wilda Grace Graybill, Samuel Robert Grace Graybill (sic) and Marianna Ashby.

Crawfordsville Journal & Review, Dec 5, 1931 – Ladoga Dec 12 – Funeral services for Steve HANIFAN who died in Indianapolis on Friday were held here Saturday afternoon at 2 at the Ladoga Cemetery and were in charge of Rev. WD Sullivan, pastor of St. Bernard’s Catholic Church, Crawfordsville. Mr. Hanifan was 64 and had spent the greater part of his life traveling over the country selling lead pencils for a living. He was born in Ladoga and always regarded this place as his home. He always showed up here on Memorial Day each year to place flower son his mother’s grave. The deceased is survived by 3 brothers; Michael of Lafayette and Daniel and James of Spokane, Washington. After hearing of his brother, death, Michael came here and made arrangement for Steve’s funeral. Steve’s parents and his sister, Ella who lived in Seattle, Washington died a number of years ago. Pall bearers art the short services were Edward Barnes; John Stanley, WV Gill; Mark Shackelford; Dale Hostetter and Edward Rose.

Brown Township Meanderings & More— Continued

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Historical Fiction for Genealogist by Dian Moore

Genealogy without stories is bare bones. Stories tell us who our ancestors were, not just when or where they were born and died. A lucky family has storytellers, writers and keepers of diaries. Most families must rely on memory for stories, but memory is short.

We then turn to history and generalities. If the diaries of Massachusetts 1620 and histories of Pennsylvania 1750 and archeological digs of Fort Ouiatenon in 1800 all show people eating mostly deer and turkey, we may assume that our ancestors in upstate New York in 1790 ate deer and turkey. We can read histories of the big events and know that our ancestors were aware of the Battle of Tippecanoe or voted for or against Lincoln. This is still not as good as stories. We can find out what important people were doing and thinking, but most of us descend at least partly from common folk.

Professional storytellers, novelists, can help us out. My grandmother was born in South Dakota in 1887 in a sod house. She was a storyteller, but the family failed in South Dakota and went back to Wisconsin when she was only three years old. She did not remember the stories of South Dakota. I am lucky. My grandmother was born in the same county and about the time the Laura Ingalls married Almonzo Wilder. Laura Ingalls Wilder told me the stories my grandmother couldn't tell in *The Little Town on the Prairie*. *Caddie Woodlawn* told of life a generation earlier in Wisconsin. In researching this article, I learned that Sterling North, author of *Wolfing*, grew up in the same county in Wisconsin, as did my family.

Kenneth Roberts has taken me to the French and Indian Wars with some of my New England ancestors. I think I have felt colder reading Kenneth Roberts than I ever have in real life.

Some works of historical fiction are, of course, more fiction than history. *Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman* of television a few years ago had some perfectly miraculous jumps in medical advances taking place every show. The characters in John Jake's Bicentennial series starting with *The Bastard* seemed to have influenced every president in our early history. Diana Gabaldon with her time traveling heroines gives modern interpretation and knowledge of the future to characters in Scotland in the 1700s.

Read a good historical novel and see your ancestors in the events of their times.

This is a very limited list from my experience.

Laura Ingalls Wilder-Little House series

Rose Wilder Lane-*Young Pioneers*

Kenneth Roberts-*Rabble in Arms*

Diana Gabaldon-*The Outlander*

James Alexander Thom-*Follow the River*

Conrad Richter-*The Trees*

John Jakes-*The Bastard*

Jessamyn West-*Friendly Persuasion*

Esther Forbes-*Johnny Tremain*

Carol Ryrie Brink-*Caddie Woodlawn*

Harold Keith-*Rifles for Watie*

Irene Hunt- *Across Five Aprils*

Willa Cather-*My Antonia*

John Steinbeck-*Red Pony*

Sterling North-*Wolfing*

Carol Ryrie Brink-*Caddie Woodlawn*

Frank G. Slaughter-*Lorena*

James Mitchner-*Hawaii*

Ole Edvart Rolvaag-*Giants in the Earth: A Saga of the Prairie*

Types of Marriage Records and their purposes—Part 2

By Dellie Craig

Once the requirements for consent were met, the couple was granted a license to marry. Then the couple sought someone authorized to perform the marriage ceremony. The couple received a marriage certificate after the ceremony. The officiating body then filed a "return of marriage", to the county that issued the license on official blanks, each marriage they may perform to the Clerk of the County within five days after the marriage. Very few of these are still around.

MARRIAGE RETURN	
1. Full Name of GROOM <u>Emery Borchfield</u>	11. Place of Residence <u>Crawfordsville, Ind</u>
2. Place of Residence <u>Mass, Indiana</u>	12. Age next Birthday <u>23</u> years
3. Age next Birthday <u>23</u> years	13. Color <u>White</u>
4. Color <u>White</u>	14. Place of Birth <u>Oxford, Indiana</u>
5. Occupation <u>Laundryman</u>	15. Father's Name <u>Robert E. Milburn</u>
6. Place of Birth <u>Crawfordsville, Ind.</u>	16. Mother's Maiden Name <u>Dora Luman</u>
7. Father's Name <u>Charles H. Borchfield</u>	17. No. of Bride's Marriage <u>none</u>
8. Mother's Maiden Name <u>Ethel Kincaid</u>	18. Place of Marriage <u>Crawfordsville, Ind</u>
9. No. of Groom's Marriage <u>none</u>	19. By <u>Rev. Louis W. Beane</u>
10. Full Name of BRIDE <u>Josephine Milburn</u>	20. Date of Marriage <u>Aug. 13, 1932</u>
Maiden Name, if a Widow _____	21. Name of Witness <u>Pearl Milburn</u>

RULE 11. Marriages. All ministers and other persons authorized to perform marriages, shall report, on official blanks, each marriage they may perform to the Clerk of the County within five days after the marriage, and the said Clerk shall report said marriages to the County Health Officer on or before the fifth day of each month for the month preceding, and the County Health Officer shall record each marriage in the official marriage record book. The County Health Officer shall also each quarter fill out the marriage blanks he receives from the State Board, and then send said blanks to the State Board within twenty days after the end of each quarter.

Figure 3.

Then said Clerk shall report said marriages to the county Health Officer on or before the fifth day of each month for the month preceding. Could have also been in the following form.

TYPE OF MARRIAGE RECORDS AND THEIR PURPOSE. A wonderful article by our own Dellie Craig.

Look for Segments 3 and 4 in the next two issue

Types of Marriage Records and their purposes—Part 2, Continued

STATE OF INDIANA, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, SS:

I, Earl Laurimore, Clerk of the Montgomery Circuit Court of Indiana, do hereby certify that the following is a full, true and correct list of the Marriage Licenses issued, together with the returns thereon, during the month of May, 1932, as follows, to-wit:

Okel Hesler and Ruth Cope.....	May 7, 1932
Paul Emmert and Mildred Hooker.....	May 8, 1932
Claude E. Cope and Mina Mae Moore.....	May 7, 1932
William H. Quillin and Willena Newnum.....	May 7, 1932
Wendell Casey and June Lamb.....	May 9, 1932
Ray Emery and Eleanore Louise Jones.....	May 15, 1932
Raymond Cedars and Evelyn Opal Schweitzer.....	May 20, 1932
Arthur Reed Miller and Dorothy Aletha Wells.....	
Harry H. Ball and Alberta Yarbrough.....	May 22, 1932
Vurtus George Perdiew and Helen Lane.....	May 23, 1932
Walter Marion Cowan and Mary Margaret Snyder.....	May 24, 1932

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of said Court, at my office in the City of Crawfordsville, Indiana, this 1st day of June, 1932.

Earl Laurimore Clerk
Montgomery Circuit Court of Indiana.

Figure 4.

The County Health Officer shall also each quarter fill out the marriage blanks he receives from the State Board, and then send said blanks to the State Board within twenty days after the end of each quarter.



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IN Corp.*

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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: