



Roots and Branches

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.*

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

Inquiry

Unable to find this Soldier even though he is listed as in Montgomery Co. IN. ———-HELP—————

Gillis Hitch

Born: 1758 Bridge Branch, Sussex Co. Del.
Service: Enlisted Aug
Began in Del, under Lt Charles Kid and Captain Joseph Vaughn. Served 2 years.
Died: 11-7-1847
Buried: (poss.) Odd Fellows Cemetery (Grant St)
From Am. Leg. List.
Ref: Orig Pens Appl Lost as letter of 7-10-1839
Appl again 2-19-1847 age 89 Mont. Co.
Pension No. R5049 Del.
Supp List Pp 412
Waters: Roster Rev Soldiers in IN. Supplement.

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James Wills, Robert Smith

Public Information:

Chairperson:
Dian Moore, Dellie Craig

Nominating:

Chairman:

In her book, *Times & Seasons*, Anna (Titus) Pennington has traced her ancestors back to Revolutionary War patriot, Sebastian Stonebraker. The Titus family history includes a chapter on her mother's side of the family, the Cedars of Montgomery County. This indexed edition includes birth, death, marriage and miscellaneous records as well as family photos.



**LEBETTE COUNTY, KANSAS – THE GARDEN OF EDEN ON
EARTH**

According to an early settler from Indiana
Submitted by Ruth Evans

This letter was written by Lafayette Odell Rankin to his father, Samuel Rankin, of Fountain County, IN. Lafayette was one of those Indiana persons that emigrated to Kansas in its early years. Lafayette Rankin was Ruth Coats Evans' great uncle. This letter is in the Kerr family archives.

Labette County
Parsons, Kansas
June 18,, 1878

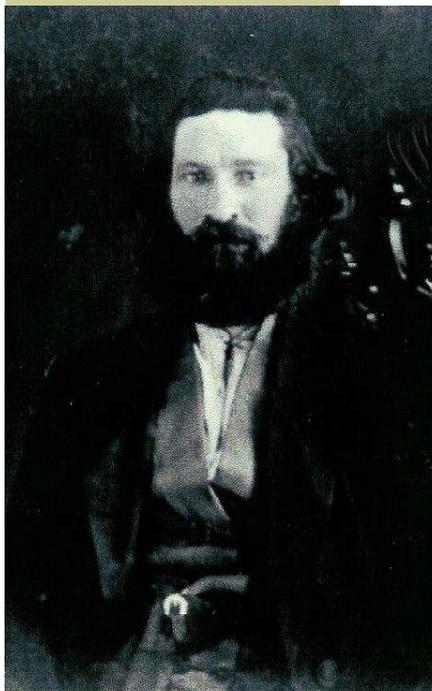
Dear Father,

As I had not time a Sunday and sick this afternoon, I thought I would try to answer some of your questions as best I could. I have just seen now but a small portion of Kansas therefore would be a poor hand to give a description of the country. I have saw a part of Labette County. I will describe it as best I can. It lies thirty miles west from the west line of the state of Missouri and the (can't read the 3 words) joins its south line. It possesses abundance of timber for fuel and inexhaustible fields of bituminous coal. For fertility of loam, magnificence of landscape and ever mildness of climate, it has not rival. Thirty seven degrees north latitude at the south limits of the county. Speak to the halting immigrant of the place to steer for. Labette County is 26 ¼ miles north and south and 24 ¾ miles east and west. It contains a sum total of 415,800 acres of land. The upland raises good wheat and oats, the bottoms fine corn. I can tell better in the fall how the corn will pan out. We have corn in tassel and from that down to the length of your finger. The county is abundantly watered its entire length, being traversed by the lovely Neosho and the rippling LaBette Rivers besides a network of creeks, large and small.

The school system throughout the county is complete and very ample provisions for educating the growing youth excite the surprise and win the admiration of all who tarry to look around. Good school houses, large commodious and airy, with every modern improvement, dot the landscape throughout the country districts and are viewed in the hamlets and villages. The Kansas husbandman must have his school house where his children can learn to read of how Hayes gave away Pacard and the Southern Republican. The growing youth of Kansas will never dishonor the State so long as her glorious schools loom up to discipline their feeling, restrain their passions, inspire worthy motives, instill religion and inculcate morality.

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

Murfreesboro Tenn Jan 29th 1863



Dear Wife A good while has passed since I sent you a letter I received one from you No doubt you have been going crazy on this account not being able to hear anything from us but not as one rebel John Morgan tore up the rail road between here and Louisville about Christmas so that it was not possible to send letters or get any from home. On the next day after Christmas we started from near Gallitan back into Kentucky. One day we had it rain on us all day and it was terribly sloppy an disagreeable. The balance of the time the weather has been very fine. We marched five days northward and got up near cave city. There our Cavalry left us and went on in pursuit of Morgan, while we was getting in that a terrible battle was going on here; got our little army on the cars as fast as train could be sent up to take us and next Monday winning at last our regiment; the last one to come got off the car. With wagons, mules, horses and all we had and got to Nashville about daylight the next morning. We spent all day and night a little way out of nashville, Making preperations to come on out here: and on Wenesday we started and marched about 25 miles. On the day which was yesterday we went to our present camp, marching through the battle field. The dead were all buried, at least we saw none. We saw a great many graves and dead horses in abundance as many as seven lying dead in one heap. there was lots of guns scattered about and stacked up against trees and cannon balls, shells and fragments of cannons, wagons and the like scattered as far as we could see. I am well at present although tired. I trust you and my children are too. I am thankful that you live in a land of peace. It is awful to behold such devastation that we saw between here and Nashville, But few houses are left standing. the farms are burnt cities and country almost turned into wilderness. The people here gone, to know not whear; without homes or shelter from the wind. this is what they get for decession. But I must close up my letter that is about full. I want you to get a letter from you very fast. Write often. I hope the march will not be interrupted again.

Yours affectionatley William G. Keys

**LEBETTE COUNTY, KANSAS – THE GARDEN OF EDEN ON
EARTH**

According to an early settler from Indiana, continued

Parsons at the conflux of the Big and Little LaBette Rivers is the center of the 3 great divisions of that immense thoroughfare, the Missouri Kansas and Texas Railroads. It lies in center of LaBette County east and west, near its north line. The immense machine shops, round houses, etc. are located here and give employment to hundreds of mechanics and laborers. A new narrow gauge railway has been projected from Parsons east and west and now is in process of construction and will be completed from Cherokee to this place by the first of July, a distance of 40 miles.

The Labette County goose roosts among the top branches and sleeps with the stars. There are no homesteads near here. The green back tidal wave is rolling over this part of Kansas but don't suppose they will send one to congress this fall. The Murphyites are very numerous here, success to them. Old Blue Jeans was signing some bills and there was some old farmers present. He laid down his pen and crossed his legs and says "Gentlemen, how is crops. I would like to know how is crops in the river bottom?"

I could write a little volume but it would be of no use. I must close for the present. Write soon.

Your Kansas Boy,
Lafayette

O'neall Cemetery Restorations by Kim Hancock

Article as Printed in THE PAPER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, July 2, 2007

O'NEALL CEMETERY RESTORATION

Since the spring of 2003 the Genealogy Club of Montgomery County Corporation has been cleaning and restoring O'Neall Cemetery. The cemetery is owned by Ripley Township and surrounded by private land. We are working with the cooperation of the Ripley Township Trustee. The first recorded burial was James D. McClelland in 1828 and the last was Michael Fruits in 1912. We know of 14 soldiers from the Civil War and one from the War of 1812 buried there. There are 107 legible tombstones.

We started by removing trees and brush. We can now mow around stumps and fallen tombstones. Club members have attended training offered by the Indiana DNR and the Indiana Historical Society to learn how to restore stones. Under the leadership of Kim Hancock members are finding, cleaning, resetting and restacking stones. We supply gas, mortar and cement. A work crew is on the job nearly every Saturday morning.

The Club plans to record the information found on the recovered stones and locations of graves. We would like to hear from descendants of people who are buried in O'Neall Cemetery. We will accept offers of labor and money for supplies. Contact Dian Moore, gen@cdpl.lib.in.us or call 765-362-2242 extension 4 at Crawfordsville District Public Library.

CORRECTED

O'NEALL CEMETERY RESTORATION

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**GENEALOGY CLUB OF
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY IN CORP.**

**205 S. Washington St.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933**

**Phone: 765-362-2242
Email: gen@cdpl.lib.in.us**

New _____ Individual _____ Family _____ Institutional _____ Business
 Renewal \$10/yr \$25/yr \$15/yr \$50/yr

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Family/Families you are researching:

Name _____

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