

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

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Roots and Branches

Volume 17—Issue 1

November 2019

Oct 26, 1917 the Indiana Supreme Court ruled the state's women's suffrage law unconstitutional. The law, called the Maston-McKinley Partial Suffrage Act, granted Hoosier women the right to vote in municipal, school, and special elections.

Between its passage and the ruling by the Indiana Supreme Court, between 30,000 and 40,000 women registered to vote in Indianapolis alone. The decision shocked the women of the state but they rallied and began to work again for their right to vote. The Indiana General Assembly ratified the 19th Amendment in January, 1920, which granted women the right to vote.



Mary HOLLOWAY WILHITE was born in Montgomery County and received her medical degree from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1856. She and her husband, Eleazer, lived at 300 W. Wabash Ave and in that home, hosted visiting suffragists, including Susan B. ANTHONY and Elizabeth CADY STANTON. Dr. WILHITE practiced medicine in Crawfordsville for 36 years. In 1869 she chaired the organizing committee for the Woman's Suffrage Association of Montgomery County and wrote regularly for local newspapers on suffrage issues. She once wrote "I hope someday, every young man will look into the eyes of his mother and see his equal." The local League of Women Voters have raised funds to erect an historical marker in honor of Dr. Mary HOLLOWAY WILHITE in August 2020. A future edition of this newsletter will carry the story as we move into celebrating women's right to vote for 100 years in 2020.

Feel free to find us and Like us on FACEBOOK!

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

The Family Bible Project is available on the Crawfordsville District Public Library web site at: <http://history.cdpl.lib.in.us/bibles.html> The Bibles have been transcribed and scanned and are searchable by family name. As of May 2017, there were 135 Bibles online with more being added every month thanks to an IGS grant and club volunteers.



Summarized Secretary's Report by Steve Simms, Secretary

The Genealogy Club of Montgomery County, Indiana, continues to meet the second Tuesday of every month at Crawfordsville District Public Library at 7pm. Visitors and new members are welcome to all meetings.

Steve Simms

In August, our program was "How Genealogists of the Future Will Research our Times" by Jill COATES MATTHEWS. Jill is the Executive Director of the Montgomery County Historical Society.



September was our Annual Dinner. It was a wonderful meal and a great time of fellowship with fellow club members and our 4-H genealogy members and their families.

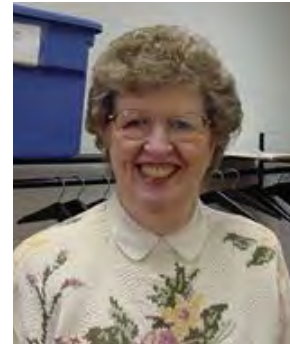


In October, we had our organizational meeting to set goals and outline projects for the upcoming year. Officers are pictured here (L to R): Steve SIMMS (Secretary), Dian MOORE (Activities Director), John HOOPER (Treasurer), Dellie CRAIG (President), Stephanie SIMMS (Newsletter Editor/Reporter), and Bud ARNOLD (Vice-President).

Memories of Past Holidays by Ruth Coates Evans

The holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be here. These special days are celebrated in many different ways by American families. How does your family celebrate? What traditions did or do you celebrate in your family?

When I was growing up in the 1930's and 1940's, Thanksgiving was always celebrated with a big meal with Tom Turkey ruling the roost. Several of my Mother's brothers and sisters would gather at someone's home and every family contributed to the meal. Thanksgiving was often held at our home because my folks owned a garage and filling station and this facility was open any time my folks were at home. They sold gas for 25 cents a gallon or 5 gallons for \$1 so every gallon sold helped feed a family of seven. When we had Thanksgiving at our home, the big oak table was elongated so 12 people could be seated. It was a tradition that the men would eat first. The children would get their plates filled by



Ruth Evans

the moms and we kids would sit elsewhere in the house, often on the stair steps. When the men finished, they went to sit in the living room to smoke and converse. The women then cleared the table, washed the dishes and set the table again. After this, they had their meal and sometimes the meal lingered into late afternoon. Later, the dishes were washed and the food put away. By this time, it was time for the guests to head for home. We kids entertained ourselves by playing games inside or outside or listening to the stories the adults told. Thanksgiving was a fun family time for all.

Christmas was mainly celebrated by our immediate family. On Christmas Eve, we would go to church, come home and have oyster soup with oyster crackers. That was a big deal because we never had oyster soup at any other time of the year. Later, we would gather in the living room and Mom would open the Christmas cards. She did not open the cards until that time. Her birthday was December 22nd, so sometimes we opened her birthday cards, too. Mom was the Postmaster of our small town and she sent cards to all her patrons and relatives so we usually had several cards to open. We would sit in a circle. Mom opened the cards, read the greetings aloud and then sent the cards around the circle. After this we hung up our stockings and we kids went to bed. Christmas morning was always exciting. Of course, we kids were up early but we could not go downstairs to the tree until everyone was ready. Then, we went down the stairs according to our age, the youngest first. Our gifts were under the tree, unwrapped, but we seemed to know which one was ours. During the Depression we were happy to get a toy from under the tree and our sock filled with an ORANGE, a BANANA, (fresh fruits were rare in our town in the winter), nuts and hard candy! It was during the Depression and there was little to spend on toys.

Turkey was the main meat for our Christmas dinner, too, and with it we had the traditional meal—mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, green beans or corn, salad, oyster dressing or escalloped oysters, onion dressing (my Dad did not like oyster dressing), pumpkin pie and minced meat pie. It was a feast! Often my Grandma KERR and Uncle Dale joined us. One Christmas Grandma KERR offered to bring the turkey, freshly cooked. That morning, a glaze of ice covered the roads so Grandma and Uncle Dale, who lived 20 miles away in Lafayette, IN, could not get to our house so we had bologna and all the other dishes prepared for the holiday. King Tom Turkey did not rule at our house that Christmas.

The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us. ~Terri Marshall

Memories of Past Holidays—continued

When Sam and I were married and he obtained his PhD degree from Purdue University, we moved to Morris, MN, located 40 miles from the North Dakota—South Dakota border. We did not get back to Indiana for Christmas very often. After our two daughters were born, we set up our own family traditions. On Christmas Eve we went to church and came home to eat a meal of oyster soup with oyster crackers. (Sound familiar?) We sat together in the living room near the tree and we read Christmas stories. Sam read the Christmas story from the Bible and then I read stories and/or poems like “The Night before Christmas,” “Why the Chimes Rang,” and “The Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever.” Later when the girls learned to read, they chose a story or poem to read on Christmas Eve.

Like all kids they were up early on Christmas Day. The girls got their Santa gifts from under the tree and we opened our other gifts, one at a time by taking turns so we could each enjoy the gift. Christmas breakfast was usually a sweet roll or a “Kringle” made by our neighbor. That was a treat. Bernice was of Norwegian descent married to a Dane and that was a Danish tradition. It is made of sweet yeast bread dough filled with dried fruit and nuts and shaped like a circle. Delicious!

Since there were only four in our family, we always invited guests to eat the traditional (for us) Christmas dinner. We lived in a town where many people were of a Scandinavian or German background and they practiced many traditions from those lineages. The Scandinavians always had Lefse and Lutefisk for two of their traditions.

The lefse was a bread made mainly of potatoes & cream. It was rolled into a 12 inch circle and baked on a lefsa grill (a big flat skillet-like grill). In the early days the lefsa was placed directly on the top of their wood burning kitchen stoves to be baked. The dough was rolled very thin and they used a special board to turn it over on the grill. When it was cooked, the lefse resembled a huge tortilla and this was folded or rolled before placing it on a plate. It was often eaten with butter and sugar. The lutefisk was made from cod that had been stored in a lye mixture. Before cooking, the lutefisk had to be soaked in cold water for several days before eating to rid the lye solution. The fish was either cooked in water or baked in the oven. When cooked in water, it was very smelly and the odor lingered for several days. A typical lutefisk meal consisted of the fish, boiled potatoes, peas, and lefsa. The Scandinavian Lutheran Churches in our county had big Lutefisk-Swedish meatball dinners to make money. Women were known for their tender lefsa.



Holiday time is a time for enjoying families and friends. We hope for each of you a most pleasant holiday season.

~Ruth

This is my wish for you: peace of mind, prosperity through the year, happiness that multiplies, health for you and yours, fun around every corner, energy to chase your dreams, joy to fill your holidays. ~David Dellinger

Deck Cemetery Work Continues

With the weather finally forcing the cemetery crew indoors, it is time to share how much has been done at Deck Cemetery. There is still work to be done which will resume in the spring.



Our Crew hard at work resetting stones

Every time we get a stone repaired, we find buried pieces of another that require work. Preserving our history is why we do this work. Notice the Stone Carver's Name on the broken piece of this stone? Where did the other pieces go?



"If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance."

—George Bernard Shaw

The Melvin Family Migrates to Indiana by Alan Melvin



Alan Melvin

There is no shortage of stories at a MELVIN reunion. Many of which are of the Charles and Emma MELVIN journey to Ripley Township in Montgomery County, Indiana in the late 1800s. These stories could easily have been from a 1950's western television show complete with sod busters, natives and other western figures that were scratching out a living on the frontier. It was these stories that brought my family's history to life and led to my interest.

The U.S. census of 1860 shows the Isaac and Electa WRIGHT MELVIN family farming in Marian Township, Morgan County, Ohio along with two-year old son Charles Henry, Isaac's Grandmother Hannah HOPKINS and a farm hand named Hiram HUGHES. Hannah and Timothy were Isaacs's maternal grandparents who had raised him after the death of his parents Charles and Mary MELVIN in Ohio around 1845.

The population of Ohio was growing rapidly at this time and the open lands of the west were becoming more and more attractive. The U.S. government of the north was interested in increasing the number of Free states. The Homestead Act of 1862 was established by President Abraham LINCOLN to encourage the development of lands west of the Mississippi. A head of household could receive 160 acres of land for living on and developing the land as long as they lived on the land for five years and were "not hostile to the United States."

It was this homesteading act that lured the MELVIN's westward. Isaac and Electa's family were still farming in Morgan County Ohio and the census of 1870 shows 12-year old son Charles MELVIN and 8-year old Francis farming alongside their father with 5-year old Lucy, and 2-year old Simeon at home. Family records indicate that the MELVIN's headed west in the late 1870s.

It is a good bet that the family traveled westward on the National Road. A historical marker along this road indicates that travelers flooded this route from 1830s to the 1850s. Conditions on this road are described as unpleasant with wagon axles deep in mud, clothes wet and backs aching from the rough ride. Stagecoaches, carriages, and wagons would vie for space alongside of foot travelers, noisy cattle, hogs, and geese. Shops, blacksmiths and taverns had sprung up along this route to serve the travelers on their journeys. Family legend has it that a passing traveler asked the MELVIN's... "Where ya headin?" and with their reply "Kansas". The fellow traveler responded "For goodness sakes don't go the Kansas!"

The family did stop in Illinois for about a year before heading on. They carried on to Missouri and can be found again in North Wilson, Audrain County, Missouri. The 1880 Missouri census shows Electa (42) managing the home, Isaac (41), Charles (22) and Francis (18) farming with Lucy (15) in school and Marcellus and the 4-year old twins Maud and Myrtle at home.

The Melvin Family c.1905. (front 1 to r): Fred "Tiny", Charles Henry, Myrtle "Sis", Emma "Maw", Howard "Judge"
(back 1 to r): Augustus "Gus", Earnest "Tex", Glen "Mose", and Clyde "Smalley"



No census records can be found for 1890, but the 1900 Census Callaway County, Calwood Township, Missouri shows Isaac (61), Electa (62) still living in Missouri with son Frank (38), daughter-in-law Virginia (26) and grandson Claude (5). This census shows Isaac owning and operating his farm and Frank working as a coal miner.

By this time, Charles had married Rachel Emma DYKE on December 28, 1883 and they had started their own family. The MELVIN family remained in Missouri for 10 years before continuing on to Kansas. The 1900 Census shows Charles and Emma farming in Finney County, Garfield Township, Kansas on their own homestead and raising their seven children: Ernest, Augustus, Glenn, Clyde, Fred, Myrtle, and Howard.

Families in Kansas in the late 1800s would built their homes with sod, which was the abundant construction material on the prairie. The sod would be turned over with a plow and cut into sections which resembled a large brick. These sod bricks would then stack into walls and be fashioned into a roof. Some of the fancier sod homes would even have windows and finished interior walls.

My grandfather Augustus married Grace Adeline and they built a sod house in Osawatomie, Kansas. My father, Harold, was born in this sod house in 1910. He told me that you never knew what would fall out of that ceiling. He said that he was most uneasy at nights when he would lie in bed and listen to the coyotes howl. It was a sound that would make chills go up and down his back.

The 1910 Census shows Charles, Emma, Glenn, Clyde, Fred, and Myrtle farming together near Garden City with Ernest and Augustus remaining nearby on their own homesteads. Charles' mother Electa also owned property adjoining the MELVIN homestead lands. About this time Charles and Emma had struck a deal with an Indiana landowner for a property swap. As a result, Charles and Emma now owned several acres in Ripley Township in southwest Montgomery County. The property was on Sugar Creek on land which is now a part of the Shades State Park.



Sometime in 1913 the family, their livestock and belongings traveled by train for Indiana. Augustus's family remained in Kansas until his death in 1927 after which his family traveled back to Indiana where they were re-united with the rest of the MELVIN's in Ripley Township. The MELVIN family remained in Indiana where they farmed and ran a sawmill operation until Charles MELVIN's death in March of 1932. His wife Rachel Emma passed away in December of 1942.

The MELVIN family remains in the Alamo area, for the most part, and meets up at the annual family reunion every year to catch up and share memories.

We all carry, inside us, people who came before us.”
~Liam Callanan

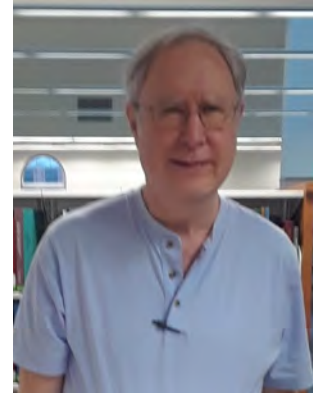
Making Connections



Dellie Craig

Scott McBROOM visited from South Carolina doing research on his McBROOM family, mainly from Fountain County, Indiana. He did find his Edward McBROOM also had land in Wayne Township, Montgomery County, Indiana. Scott is interested in hearing from anyone related to this surname. His email address is smcb03@yahoo.com.

Scott McBroom



Below is a page showing some of Rebecca WALKER BRIGGS ancestors taken in 1907 at the SHACKELFORD reunion held here in Montgomery

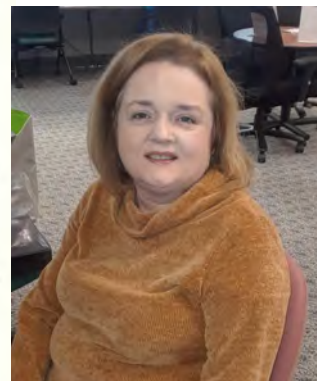
County, IN, with the list of all who appear in the photograph. James Knox SHACKELFORD and Sarah HOFSTUFFER. Rebecca was at CDPL researching her SHACKELFORD, THOMPSON, ALLHUT, and AGEL/LAGLE families. She is going to donate some old SHACKELFORD reunion photos to our Local History Collection in the future. If you have any information regarding her family lines, Rebecca's email is rrw77004@gmail.com.



THE SHACKELFORD FAMILY

1907 in Indiana - Probably at the old Shackelford homeplace
(The names were given to Kenneth Shackelford by Paul Shackelford in 1956.)

1st Row - George Shackelford, Daisy Hale, Claude James Shackelford, Florence Viola Shackelford, Lillian Joyce Shackelford, Edna Shackelford, Virgil Sutherlin
2nd Row - Ruth Byrd, Thomas J. ("Tom") Shackelford, Rhoda Riggles Shackelford, James Knox Shackelford, Estella Ann Thompson Shackelford (holding John Earle Shackelford), Lucy Shackelford Sutherlin (holding Bertha ("Bertie") Sutherlin), Andrew ("Andy") Shackelford, Stella Sutherlin, Nellie Sutherlin
3rd Row - Daniel V. ("Dan") Shackelford, Hattie Dickerson Shackelford, Paul Shackelford, Kate ("Katie") Butcher Byrd, Sam Sutherlin, James ("Jim") Byrd, Jim Byrd's 2nd wife
4th Row - Jesse ("Jess") Byrd, William ("Bill") Byrd, Edgar ("Ed") Byrd



Rebecca Walker BRIGGS—daughter of Claudette Joy SHACKELFORD lives in Houston, Texas.

Making Connections—continued



Carol ALBERTSON (pictured on the right with niece, Lisa NONTE) is interested in comments or assistance in finding her Native American ancestors.

Her grandmother always told her they were part Native American, but she never received any specific details. “I wish I had, as now it would be very helpful.” She believes the father of her Great Grandmother is possibly the link.

Carol writes, “My Great Grandmother was Ivy Lucille BELL McDANIEL, born in Crawfordsville in 1886. She lived in Coal Creek Township, Montgomery County, and died in New Richmond, Montgomery County, Indiana in 1909. She was married to George William McDANIEL and they had two daughters.

We have reason to believe that Ivy’s father, John Paul BELL (or Jonathan) is the link to the Native American. He was born in 1858, lived and died in the same area. He died in 1938 in a poor house in the Crawfordsville area. He was married to and divorced from Lydia Christine VINCENT who was born in 1863 in Montgomery County, Indiana and died in 1938 in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. He lived with Thomas HOLE at age 12 according to the 1870 US Census. No mention of his parents, siblings or other relatives were found; although BELL is a common name in Montgomery County area.

A member of the HOLE family was also looking into John Paul BELL. He was told by his relatives that John’s father was a Shawnee Indian by the name of Mathiar. He has never been able to confirm any information. They have no information on John’s mother.

“If anyone has any advice or information, I would sure be very interested in what you may have. I have worked on this for almost two years. I even took a trip from my home in FL to visit Crawfordsville. We found “tidbits” but nothing substantial.

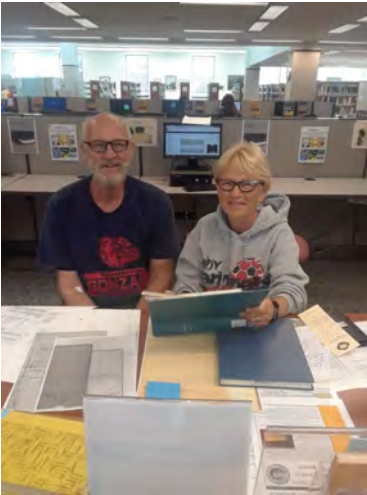
I loved the visit to the library, the resources and especially Dellie who did all she could to help us. Thank you so much for any information you might be able to provide.”

~Carol ALBERTSON

If you have any information or suggestions for Carol, you can email her at

carolyn_albertson@yahoo.com

Making Connections—cont.



Daryl and Julie ULLERY (pictured left) visited CDPL from Winchester, KY, to research their GILBERT, MCFERREN, KAY, and PICKEL families from the Montgomery County area.

Phyllis JONES, 95, (pictured right) drove from Brownsburg to donate old photographs, telegrams, etc. There were a lot great treasures shared. One of the documents donated was an old Western Union telegraph from Lew WALLACE to Col. Isaac C. ELSTON! (pictured below)



Robert and Randi MOORE came from Haymarket, VA researching their LYNN, MARTIN, MANGES, TAYLOR, and ZACHARY lines.



Upcoming Events

Dec 10, 2019—7pm
Christmas Treats and visiting

Jan 14, 2020—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

Jan 24, 2020—5pm
AFTER HOURS—ALL

Feb 11, 2020—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

Feb 28—5pm
4-H AFTER HOURS

Mar 10, 2020—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

Mar 27, 2020—5pm
4-H AFTER HOURS

Apr 14, 2020—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

Apr 24, 2020—5pm
AFTER HOURS—ALL

May 12, 2020—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

May 22, 2020—5pm
4-H AFTER HOURS

Jun 9, 2020—7pm
Genealogy Club Meeting

All articles and other submissions for the February 2020 newsletter must be emailed to stephief@live.com by January 24, 2020.



We inherit from our ancestors gifts so often taken for granted. Each of us contains within this inheritance of soul. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise.

~Edward Sellner

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Find additional
interesting articles at
[http://cdpl-
history.blogspot.com](http://cdpl-history.blogspot.com)

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, 2019 to September 30, 2020 are due in September 2019.

They may be given to Dellie Craig at the Crawfordsville District Public Library or mailed to the Club Treasurer (John Hooper, 1576 E 400 N, 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 Find us under the services tab and click on Genealogy Club of Montgomery County

**GENEALOGY CLUB OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY CORP
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Date _____ New
 Renewal

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

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Check if it is acceptable to email you a pdf copy of the newsletter

Family/Families you are researching:

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