



James Wills, Editor

#### Notice of Meetings

- November 9
- December 14
- January 11

#### Membership Update

- Current
- New for the month of April

# Roots and Branches

*Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.*

## President's Corner

Hello, this month I would like to relate a story that happened to me last Memorial Day, I am calling it; "We are Never to Young".

The day started out pretty much like any other Memorial Day with my mother, aunt, and I preparing to go visit the cemeteries. Little did we know at the time that my seven- (7) year old nephew was going with us. This later turned out to make the day.

As the four of us ventured forth, surprisingly my nephew took a particular interest in our buried ancestry. One such case took place at the cemetery north of State Road 47 on the east Montgomery County line.

My aunt had been telling my nephew about different family members when she relayed a particular story about the distant cousin who was buried in this cemetery. It would appear that the Sugar Creek bank behind this cemetery had eroded the back of the cemetery to the place that some of the graves had to be moved. Well, as the story goes this cousin refused to be moved because he liked to soak his feet in the cool creek water.

When we got to the cemetery my nephew asked which stone was this cousin's stone. My aunt replied the one the closest to the back fence. Upon arriving at the stone my nephew read the name and immediately asked if this particular cousin has been a basketball player. To which my aunt replied, no why do you ask? My nephew then said, "He should have been, since his headstone is some twenty feet (20') from the fence and that fence is another thirty feet above the creek."

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

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## American Revolutionary War Soldiers — Buried in Montgomery Co. IN.

By Pat Wills

### FREDRICK ARMANTROUT

was born in Rockingham Co. VA in 1764, His father immigrated from Germany.

He furnished supplies during the war and was a Private in the Continental Line. He was at the surrender of Cronwallis at Yorktown.

He married Barbara Munger February 3, 1795. According to the Land grants in Mont. Co., Union Twp, he had land here in 1829. They had 9 children: Daniel, Matthias, Lucy, Mary Anna, Christena, Valentine, Eli, Henry and Joseph.

He died June 1855 and is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery, Union Twp, Mont. Co., South of Crawfordsville. He had a nice stone placed there by Descendants.

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Inquiry:

LOT FRENCH, he was born 1764 in PA. He served during the Revolutionary War as a Private in Bedford County, PA, Militia.

He was married to Elizabeth Miller in 1784. His children listed in his Will were: Ann Cumberland, Mary Reeder, James, Ruhama (amy) Applegate,

Sarah Cowan, Elizabeth Moore, and Adam.

He died in 1828, Mont. Co., Ind. He was buried on the family property next to The Odd Fellows Cemetery on Grant St., in Crawfordsville, IN.

We would like to know where the property was and where he was buried. The last descendant we have listed is Mrs. Samuel W. Kerr, Waynetown, In.

If you know of the whereabouts, please call or write: Richard and/or Pat Wills, 3608 E 500 N, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, 765-794-4194

## Meet the Editor



Hello,

My name is James Wills and I am the Editor for the Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp. I thought that with the first one out and the reviews coming in I would let you know who is behind it. Don't get me wrong I don't plan on writing a lot of articles myself. But I need all of you to do that. Family Histories and Stories about families, you never know when your family tree might mingle with another. Or you might have a piece of a puzzle that you didn't realize you

had for someone else in the group. Did you find a cemetery which has a lot of old stones, share its location via the newsletter. Found one in disrepair who knows we might take it on as a project. Not sure if your story is right for the newsletter. Call me or email me and lets chat. I bet I will have you write it up. This newsletter is to be informative but also fun and something you actually want to read. We also have the Membership application on the back, to generate new members, with in 2 weeks we received our first one back with a

membership. I want all the members to be a active part in the newsletter. Tell about you passion for what research your doing. Do you do one type of research and found an easy way to do it or a excellent resource, don't hold out spill it we want to know.

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It is my great pleasure to get to work with so many talented people

## New Donation to the Local History Room



Left to right: Lucille Smith and John H. Britts, of Charlotte, NC.

John H. Britts -- first ancestors were John Britts and Susannah Eckles in 1829 one of the first settlers in the Ladoga, Clark Township, Montgomery County, Ind. His family was related to most of the first families from that area. He was also related to Capt. William White of Fountain Co, Ind. and Dr Henry Rogers of Montgomery Co., Ind.

Another of his direct line was Mattie Dyer Britts who with

her sister, Eunice were educators at Ladoga Female Seminary at Ladoga, IN. Mattie Dyer Britts while living in Crawfordsville she was an author of many juvenile books, 32 novels and poetry that were published by the Baptist Publication Society.

On 19 August 2004, John H. Britts presented a floppy disc of over 1500 individuals to update his four volumes over a 5 year span he authored on

the BRITTS family. These books are already in the Crawfordsville District Public Library in our local history room under RL 929.3 Bri. He has been donating information since 1998 to our collection. This new information will be added to our Family History program for people to view on the local history room computer.

## Pictures of Past Speakers and After-Hours



Don Proctor, Raymond S. and Peg Proctor June 13th Meeting



July 16th After-hours Gala



August 10th Meeting  
Fredrick and Martha Cantrell



September 14th Meeting  
Mary Ellen Simpers

## Civil War Soldiers the quest to know who they are

By Kim Hancock

Second letter in a series of William G. Keys Civil War letter's, written September 7, 1862. William G. Keys, Private, Co. E 72nd Regiment.

William G. Keys was not fluent in his reading and writing skills, he had other's in his Regiment write the letter's to his

wife. Some are very hard to read, some will have blanks where the writing was just not legible. These letters are over 140 years old, and from the folding and age deterioration, it has been very hard to transcribe them as so many different soldiers helped William write his letter's home which makes it difficult

to compare the handwriting, unlike the census where the same person's handwriting was used. These letter's are transcribed as written and the spelling is as written. Letter 09-07-1862 Written by William G. Keys, was a great help in finding another branch to the family, where he writes, "Cozen James Keys is

here from Clinton county", which James T. Keys was a member of the Famous Wilder's Brigade. Notice the word, hadiben, it took months to figure that one out. Probably enclosed in this letter was a locket, although we have been unable to figure out which one of his children he called "Rasiler"?

Lebanon Junction Ky

Sept 7 1862

My Dear wife I received yours of the 8th and was very glad to hear that you ware well and I hope when I hear from you again that Eliza will be better I am well and all the Boys that came from our neighbor hood and Cozen James Keys from Clinton County is here in this Reg we struck our tents last Friday and we staid till Saturday near Sundown before we got on the train but at last we got about one hundred cars all ready to Start and we came to this place about midnight and laid in the open on till morning but I have got used to laying in the open air with out tents in the rain for we let our tents all go to Louisville and we have not laid in a tent since Sunday Seams to be the most blessing day of any last Sunday we ware all brown up in there of Butter and we laid all day in that condition but about night our scouts came in and we learned then the Rebles had run as usualy and we went to our camp again you ought to hadibin hear to see the long files of men so long in deed that you could not See the end of them and cavelry standing for miles in line of Battle and we have 3 battles after artilerey I dont no how many men we have hear but some say 15,000 but enough to whip all the rebles if they attact as you ought to be hear to see the universal disalation that the army caried with it all the corn potatoes all the fruit the Calvery well we dont know anything But for fur sails Just think of 15,000 men all turned loose to burn fences and kill chicken and calves and sheep they will kill when the owners are watching theirs Sunday when we were all in the line of battle and watching for the rebles to come every minute and there was not a coward to be seen and after the man made a speach to the army and he said he could see the determination in every man face he said he believed in could whip two to one with our army I felt just as cool have at my businys we looked for 3 days for them to come every moment we are at the Junction 40 miles from lebanon the Rebles has burnt a Bridge here and Louisville 12 miles from hear but it will be built this Evening again the colornal Says and he will Either go to Louisville or we will build our camp in an other place last Night all the Evening the cavelry and artillery were going to some place to whip out some Gunvillers but I dont no whare but I hear this morning that we have lost one man but I dont no who was with Regiment he was out of the officers all took dinner with us to day and we had Buisket and honey and chicken and sweet potatoes and coffee and so over all got in a logit matr way that is where we bought them John Woods & My self are named as cooks in our Troop the officers said if them Rebbles could say any thing they would say the dinner was all right we get out\_\_\_\_\_ and on there books we get 75cts apiece from our pays for cooking wich is 17 Dollars a month for per month tell your father to pray & tel Elen McBroom what I am \_\_\_\_\_ Dr Bing also Gr Green and wife and daughter was hear in camp yesterday and I sent some combs home by him for the Boys please stay faithful and right and as before  
Wm G Keys To Esther Keys  
This little locket is for Raisler as a keep sake from his Pa

## Southwest Montgomery Meanderings

By Karen Zach

1-31-1922 Crawfordsville Journal

Word has reached this city that Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. CANINE were in the ill-fated Knickerbocker theater in Washington Saturday night when that large playhouse collapsed killing over 100 persons and injuring scores of others. Joe Canine was formerly a resident of Crawfordsville and is very well known in this city. He and his wife were sitting in the balcony when the crash came and narrowly escaped death. Mr. Canine received a broken arm, while his wife suffered a broken rib and was badly shaken up. IN a letter received by Mrs. William WRIGHT of this city, sister of Mr. Canine, the details of their miraculous escape are given. Canine, while a resident of Crawfordsville, managed a shoe shop. He was originally from Browns Valley. Shortly before the war, he went to Indianapolis where he located for some time. When war was declared he enlisted and was stationed at Hattiesburg, Miss. After receiving his discharge he moved to Washington DC where he is now a chiropractor. Dear Mrs. Wright: This is to tell you that Nelle and Joe are safe and as well as can be expected with a broken arm and Nelle rather shaken up. Joe's arm is set and getting along all right. Nelle has a broken rib that is all bandaged up in place, her nose is decorated and her upper lip has a little bruise as well as her leg. But they are very fortunate in having escaped so well. Nelle and Joe were sitting in the last row in the balcony in the two end seats. The feature was just beginning when Nelle heard a loud swish and they looked up and saw that the ceiling was splitting. Joe says it was as much like a great tree falling as anything he knows of. The ceiling caught them as they started out. Joe said, "Lie still and they will dug us out. Nelle got a breath of fresh air and they

crawled through the crack. Joe's arm was broken but Nelle says that she didn't feel anything much. They managed to get to one of the walls of the theater and climbed over. Nelle says that she is thankful for the training she had when she was a playmate of her brothers for she climbed over the wall like a cat and two young boys helped her get Joe over. The boys were so scared that they couldn't do very much. They climbed down on the other side by clinging to steel rods. There were some stairs on the other side and they managed to get down that way. I think they must have been among the first out of the theater. A taxi was just going by and the driver took them down to Mr. Keblentz's office and he phoned for Dr. Cooley. Nelle and Joe walked back to the house and found that Mrs. Coon had been injured. Nelle lost her coat, gloves and hat and so did Joe, but perhaps they can be recovered as all were removed to the Christian Science church. " Joe Canine is the son of Jack Canine of this city while his wife is the daughter of Fisher Galey of Browns Valley. The young couple were married about ay ear ago in Washington. The letter received by Mrs. Wright was written by Katherine Ramsey, a friend of the injured persons. Both Mr. and Mrs. Canine were reported to be recovering from their injuries. Waveland Independent, Friday, April 3, 1931 – Readers of the Independent will note a letter that HH Lough wrote to his brother, Levi in March 1863. His daughter, Mrs. Frank Gardner, has handed us another dated May 21, 1864, and written from Camp of 31<sup>st</sup> Indiana Volunteers near Kingston, Georgia on the famous March to the Sea. Dear Brother having a few spare moments for the first time in a long time, I will try to let you know how I am getting along. We left Ooltawah May 3<sup>rd</sup> and have been on the march every day since we have just been boot-

ing the Rebs through Georgia, we have had no very hard fighting but we have skirmished with them every day. We have only had six killed and twenty wounded in our regt none in our company. We stopped to rest yesterday and I don't know whether we will stay here today or not but we will leave soon for they are sending all the sick to the hospital. I think that if our Army can hold out successful two weeks longer that this War will soon be over for they are getting in a small pen some of their deserters say that they are in great confusion and some say they are only falling back to a better position but they have left two of the strongest positions that our Army ever fronted, that was Buzzard Gap and the hills in front of Rasaka but then we have a few thousand men too many for them. We can march clear around them and fight them on all sides but that they don't like so they kept moving to the rear all the time. I have come to the conclusion that you have concluded not to write for I have not received a letter from any of you since I have been back. I think it is getting time. I saw the 85<sup>th</sup> regt a few days ago. They had been in a fight and more of the boys was hurt. They looked pretty hard. They are not guarding railroad now and I don't think they will be soon. The boys of the 40<sup>th</sup> are well. I never saw the Army in as good spirits as they are now but we are almost worn out marching but anything to get this war put down. Well I believe I have written all I feel like writing at present but will write as soon as I can get in camp again. This leaves me in good health and I hope it may find you the same. So no more but remain as ever your brother. HH Lough. The letter is addressed to Bethany, a post office that is now off the map.

*“Dear Brother having a few spare moments for the first time in a long time, I will try to let you know how I am getting along. “*

## George Mahoy Donates 5 Volumes of Family History to Library

By George F. Mahoy

George Mahoy was born October 15, 1821 in Rockingham county, Virginia, the son of Joseph Mahoy and Polly Mary Huston. The family resided in Rockingham county, Virginia until sometime after 1830 when the mother dies. Joseph and the family consisting of Archibald, George, Huston, Mary Ann, Caroline V., and Francis M. relocated to the vicinity of South Solon, Madison county, Ohio. It should be noted that Joseph had been in this area previous to this time. He and his second wife, Gracie Huston (sister of Polly Mary), had been here in 1817. Gracie died and was buried in the Old Camp-ground Cemetery located one mile east of South Solon. Joseph apparently returned to Virginia and married Polly Mary prior to 1820.

South Solon is located in the extreme southwest corner of Madison county and is very close to the Madison and Fayette county line. At the time this relocation occurred, George was between 10 and 15 years of age. He was raised in this area and received some schooling.

On October 12, 1844 George married Lydia Doherty in Madison county. Lydia's parents names are unknown. After the marriage, George and Lydia remained in Madison county and started a family. William Henry was born April 29, 1846; Mary Elizabeth was born October 20, 1848; Frances Margaret was born October 12, 1849; Joseph was born January 21, 1851; Daniel was born September 26, 1852; John Huston was born May 1, 1854 and George was born April 5, 1856.

George, Lydia and family relo-

cated to Sugar Creek township, Montgomery county, Indiana in 1858. This date is evidenced by the birthdate entries in the old family Bible and information from the 1860 Montgomery county census. George apparently worked as a farm laborer for Silas Peterson. It was not until December 30, 1871 that he purchased 80 acres from Mr. Peterson. In the meantime the family continued to grow with the arrival of Alice, born August 27, 1858 making her the first Mahoy to be born in Montgomery county, Indiana. She was followed by Luvenia, born December 27, 1860; Sarah Jane, born December 7, 1862, died August 31, 1863 making her the first Mahoy to die in Montgomery county, Indiana. Infant son born unknown, died June 17, 1864; Infant son born unknown, died September 30, 1866; Infant son born unknown, died August 1967 (age 14d); Infant son born unknown, died August 26, 1867 (age 24d); and Iva Mae, born January 20, 1869 completed the family.

After the outbreak of the Civil War, George responded to President Lincoln's call for six month volunteers. He traveled to Lafayette, where on August 17, 1863 he enlisted in Company E, 116th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The unit was sent first to Dearborn, Michigan for arsenal guard duty until September 16. On that date they relocated to Nicholasville, Kentucky and were attached to Mahan's 1st Brigade, Wilcox's Division, Left Wing Department of the Ohio to February 1864. Service included march from Nicholasville, Kentucky to Cumberland Gap September 24—October 3, 1863 and to Morristown October 6-8. Action at Blue Springs October 10. March

to Greenville and duty there until November 6; thence march to Bulls Gap and across Clinche Mountain to Clinche River November—December. Action at Walker's Ford, Clinche River December 2. Duty at Tazewell, Maynardsville and in east Tennessee until February 1864. Action at Tazewell January 24. Mustered out February 29 to March 2, 1864.

George returned to his home in Sugar Creek township, Montgomery county, Indiana. He lived there until his death on April 7, 1875. Lydiana died February 7, 1888. George, Lydiana, William Henry, Sarah Jane, four Infant sons and Perry Oscar (George's grandson) are all buried in Peterson Cemetery. The remainder of George and Lydian's children, Frances Margaret (Hulvey); Daniel; John Huston; and George are buried in the Greenlawn Cemetery at Darlington. Alice (Cook, Shill); Luvenia (Gray); and Iva Mae (Boots) are buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery at Darlington. Joseph is buried in the Triglewood Cemetery in California, Mary Elizabeth (Butcher) is buried in the Rush Lake Cemetery at Curlew, Iowa



*“the family continued to grow with the arrival of Alice, born August 27, 1858 making her the first Mahoy to be born in Montgomery county, Indiana.”*



## Upcoming Speakers

Mary Immell will be our speaker for November's meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. Her subject will be on Unknown Soldiers (Union & Confederate) buried in Greenbush Cemetery.

Mary wrote a book back in 1998 entitled **Beneath These Stones: Story of Confederate Prisoners in Lafayette**. At this time she is working on a book on the Union Prisoners.

## FAMILY TREE

One thing is for certain,  
These are uncertain times;  
And this world in which we are living,  
Offers little peace of mind.

We sail on troubled waters,  
And we walk on shakey ground;  
But there is a source of strength  
that I have found.

There hangs inside my Grandfather's house;  
A picture on the wall,  
Of my Grandfather's father,  
Standing strong and tall;

I stare into his face sometimes,  
And gaze into his eyes;

There's just something there  
That helps me realize,

That there's a family tree surrounding me,  
Reminding me, that I do not stand alone,  
And in my darkest hour, in my greatest time of need,  
I'm strengthened by the roots of My Family Tree.

I think of Grandmother and Grandfather,  
How they worked hard to provide;  
Now I see how much their love was  
Just how much they sacrificed;

To know their love is timeless,  
Though we're far away and grown;  
Help me see that I am > Never all alone.

If God should grant me children,  
To raise upon this earth;  
I pray that I can teach them  
The measure of their worth;

Not in terms of money,  
Or in what they may achieve;  
But in their being one more branch  
Of the Family Tree.

There's a family tree surrounding me,  
Reminding me, that I do not stand alone;  
And in my darkest hours,  
In my greatest time of need  
I'm strengthened by the roots of,  
My Family Tree.

## Guardianship Dockets

By Dellie J. Craig  
Local History Digitizer/  
Genealogist  
Crawfordsville District  
Public Library

Guardianship dockets are now on your library website at <http://www.cdpl.lib.in.us> through the local history site. The library has been in possession of them for about ten years.

The guardianship records are from 1825 –1874 and was in two volumes. That are now in local history room storage. But if you check this site you will be surprised to find index for each volume. Plus actual images for each page of both volumes.

Volume one has two page files. Volume two has two separate pages.

The type of information given is as follows:  
Date of letter  
Names of Guardians  
Names of Wards and ages  
Names of sureties  
Penalty of bond  
Proceedings of court, date of settlement, etc.

In column one if it list File #---. Then there is a good possibility that their maybe additional information available in the Micrographics Dept. of the Court Clerk's office located in the basement of the Montgomery County

Courthouse.

The index for both volumes are just for the names of guardians, deceased, wards, plus surieties are also listed as guardians. Debbie Barry and I spent numerous hours re-doing this index which took both of us awhile with translating old writing as best we could.

Between volumes one and two. There was a total of 499 pgs counting second pages that were attached to another of information now available. Where before all the patron could do was look at it and transcript off onto another

piece of paper. Now from the comfort of there home through the computer they can not only check index put actually see and copy the original.

This Guardianship docket records were all scanned on an overhead scanner so as not to do more damage to these books plus to obtain to best quality copy as possible from what I had to work with. If it wasn't for the grant from the Montgomery County Community Foundation we would not have had this equipment or staff available to do such projects.

## MISTAKE-A CASE STUDY

by Dian Moore

The first rule of genealogy research is that there are mistakes in all sources. I sometimes have new genealogists ask then "What is the point?" if sources cannot be trusted. Any source and the information it contains needs to be evaluated. Why was this record made? Who made it? Who supplied the information? When was it made in relation to the event recorded? Has it been copied? Some mistakes are not possible. If you find an accurate record of your ancestor's marriage in the wrong place it is not a mistake. Mistakes involve misreading, misunderstanding, copying errors and omissions. The person who supplies a birth date for a death record may have wrong information and it is recorded as legal record. Clerks may falsify information for gain. The difference between dying on 30 Dec or 3 Jan may mean an entirely different set of tax laws. Some mistakes are copied and spread by researchers who believe them and then that researcher is cited as an authority. If you find facts that do not seem right, find independent

verification. The Index to Marriage Transcript, Montgomery Co., Indiana 1880-1905 has Jennie Plunket, daughter of John and Marg Campbell, F, W, age 25, marrying 29 JUL 1899. I could not find any Jennie Plunket before that marriage. I could not find John and Marg Plunket before or after their daughter's wedding. The Index to Marriage Record, Montgomery County, 1860-1929 shows Jennie Plunkett marrying Lues Hedge, same date. If I could not find when she had been, maybe I could find where she went. The 1900 Census Crawfordsville shows Lewis Hedge, wife Jennie and seven-year-old stepdaughter Nora Plunkit. If Miss Plunkit was stepdaughter to Lewis, she was daughter to Jennie. The Index to Birth Records, Montgomery County, Indiana, 1882-1929, has a daughter Plunket born to Francis M. and Jennie Stephens, 23 Mar 1893. Francis Plunkett married Jane Stephens 21 Apr 1887. I theorized that Jennie Stephens married Francis Plunket and they had daughter Nora. The marriage of Jennie and Fran-

ces ended and Jennie married Lewis Hedge. Jennie Plunket in the marriage transcripts should have been Jennie Stephens. In physics we learned that a test of a theory was to see if it could predict out comes. Sure enough the 1880 United States Census for Boone Co., IN has John T. Stephens and Margaret L. as mother of several children including Janey age 10. The Newspaper Vital Records Index 1869-1899 reports a divorce of Francis and Jennie Plunkett 27 Sep 1895. Nothing has been proven. There are many minor spelling variations and age discrepancies, mistakes? I am still theorizing but I believe that when Jennie Stephens Plunket was asked for her maiden name to create the record of her second marriage she gave her married name. When asked for her father's name she gave only first name or the clerk did not recognize the difference and routinely recorded only the father's first name. If the information you have does not lead to the information, you want, verify starting facts and try a different route.

*“If I could not find when she had been, maybe I could find where she went.”*



*Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.*

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**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