



James Wills, Editor

Roots and Branches

Genealogy Club of Montgomery County IN Corp.

First Murder in Montgomery County submitted by Richard Wills

(Excerpts from History of Montgomery County by Bowen)

In the early 1830's, two men by the names of Mayfield and Noggle settled west of Crawfordsville, about four miles in Black Creek Valley.

May Field discovered Noggle had been giving too much attention to Mayfield's wife. He then proceeded to plan revenge.

One day while hunting on top of a high bluff overlooking Black Creek, he spied Noggle chopping wood and shot him. Finding that he had killed his neighbor, he packed all his belongings and fled, (without his wife). He was never seen again.

The body of the murdered man was buried on the hill where he fell. The high bluff has since been called Noggles Hill. It is claimed the hill is haunted. From time to time someone or thing can be heard chopping wood.

During my grade school years, we lived a short distance from said hill. I have heard the sound of chopping from atop this hill, but had no desire to investigate.

Do you know what this bewitching person is doing and with what and where?

Submitted Anonymously

Notice of Meetings

- December
- January
- February

After Hours

- January
- April

Membership Update

- Institutional 1
- Individual 30
- Family 8
- Honorary 1

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Kim Hancock

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Nominating:

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American Revolutionary War Soldiers –

Buried in Montgomery Co. IN. - By Pat Wills

James McArthur (Arthur)

Born: May 1764, Burlington N.J.

Service: April 1781, 1 1/2 years under Capt. Walton in Va.
Under Capt. Pedinger at Albermarle Court House.

Served 3 months under Gen. Stuben, then was drafted into Col. Whites (continental) Dragoons.

Discharged in 1872, Oct. papers signed by Col. Green, Col. White and Capt Yarorough
He applied for a Pension on July 30, 1832, Bulter Co. Ohio.

He had also applied 4 years before in Sept. 1828, proved his service by depositions
in the office of Thomas West, in Ohio Twp., Clermont Co., Ohio by two witnesses.

Died: July 29, 1856

Burial: Old Town Cemetery, Union Twp., Montgomery Co., Indiana
Top of Hill on Covington Street. Grave 3, Row 9, Lot 6, No stone, but name is on
Memorial stone in center of cemetery.

Proof: Cemeteries in Montgomery Co. Vol 7 PPs 176 & 181
DAR Vol 3 pp 143 & 148

Bowens History of Montgomery Co. (1913)
Waters; Rev Soldiers in Indiana, supplement.

American Legion List (1952 ED p18)

Karen Zach, Geneologist.

Virginia Ancestors & Adventures, Vol 1, pp13

Mary Johnson Shannon (3rd Great Granddaughter of James)

James' Father James McArthur Sr, Born in Glasgow, Scotland also served in the Revolutionary War.

James Wife: Rachel Brown

Children: Sarah (Donham)

William

Joseph

James

Francis

Lydia (Martin) [the only one born in Indiana]

Twins

Hannah (Isaac Elston)

Mary (Ferguson)

William James

Elizabeth (Wilson)

Jessie

The Following Annual Recognition Awards were Given

1. Robert Smith, almost perfect attendance at meetings, Missed One.
2. Charles Humphrey's family for their contribution.
3. Richard Wills for his service to restoring old tombstones and work in the O'Neal cemetery, also researching for Revolutionary Soldiers.
4. Pat Wills for her service to the club as Secretary and Helping with Medical records for the library, also with revolutionary solders and O'Neal cemetery.
5. Kim Hancock for her work as Treasurer for the past four years and continuing work in the O'Neal cemetery.
6. Esther Duncan, speaker for her many programs and pursuance of finding the records of William Bratton

Obituary of Toliver Larsh, Buried at the O'Neal Cemetery

Crawfordsville Weekly Journal November 17, 1870

Toliver Larsh

The simple announcement in the last issue of the Journal that Toliver Larsh was dead sent a pang of regret to hundreds of readers; and the news that he had died suddenly cast a gloom over the entire community in which he lived.

Toliver Larsh was born in Mason county, Kentucky, October 11, 1799, and at his death, November 8, 1870, was 71 years and 28 days old. His grandfather, Paul Larsh, was a French trader among the Indians, and tradition has it, was of noble birth. His grandmother was an Irish lady, who married a man by the name of Kincaid. She together with her husband and children and a married sister, Mrs. Bird, were taken captive by the Indians and carried to Scioto River. All were massacred except the two sisters. They were in captivity 19 months when the chief determined that Mrs. Kincaid should wed a Shawnee brave, and gave her the alternative of being burned at the stake. But Paul Larsh, the Indian trader, succeeded in stealing away with the sisters, and effecting an escape down the Scioto River, whence they made their way to the French settlement at Kaskaskia in what is now the State of Illinois. Here the Indian trader, Paul Larsh, and Mrs. Kincaid were married, and the issue of this marriage was one child, Charles Larsh, the father of Toliver.

Paul Larsh emigrated to Pennsylvania where he died, leaving a widow and one child, Charles.

About the year 1780, Charles Larsh was married to Sarah Swearngen, a lady of German decent.

The issue of this marriage was seven sons and four daughters. The youngest of them all was Toliver. Charles Larsh was a farmer by special occupation, but could turn his hand to anything that was honorable. During the war of 1812 he was a spy in the service of the United States.

All his sons except Toliver, served in the United States army during that struggle.

When Toliver was four years old, his father moved to Adams county, Ohio, and established a ferry on the Ohio River, where he remained until 1810, when he returned to Mason county, Kentucky, where he again established a ferry on the Ohio, three miles above Maysville.

At this time, young Toliver was his father's chief ferryman, and it was his greatest delight to be on the water. At the age of 12 his skill as an oarsman and swimmer was unsurpassed. His brothers and sisters who survive him say that he was a kind and obedient son, performing all his duties with promptness and fidelity. These traits were the foundation of his beautiful character in after life.

At the close of the war of 1812, Toliver removed with his father's family to Preble county, Ohio, where he resided till he was 24 years of age. His youth was spent in unceasing toil. Not only in Ohio, but after he came to this State, were his labors prolonged till late at night in burning logs and brush in the clearings. His start in life was obtained by working for others, and when he became an employee himself he knew how to feel for and sympathize with his hired hands.

He came to this county in the year 1823, purchasing of the government the land now owned by Jesse Titus. At that time Montgomery county was a wilderness, and there were not more than half a dozen families living in what is now Ripley township. There were no roads, no mills, no towns, in fact none of the appliances of civilization. Provisions were brought in canoes from Terre Haute by way of Wabash River and Sugar Creek. Toliver Larsh himself made many of these arduous and perilous journeys. The Winter of 1823-24 he spent with the family of John Stonebraker, who lived in a camp, only three sides of which was inclosed, on land now owned by Issac Davis. At night they kept up a roaring log fire and slept sweetly with their feet to the same. Wolves, panthers and catamounts often made night hideous with their yells and cries. In the Spring he built a cabin on his own land, and began the arduous labors of hewing a farm from the wilderness. While thus engaged, he boarded with one of his neighbors, Old Uncle Johnny Stonebraker. He had but two neighbors, Mr. Stonebraker and John Swearngen. The nettles grew so large in those days that he was forced to mow paths through them to the cabins of these neighbors. In his old age he took pleasure in pointing out the location of these foot-paths. Having cleared most of the tillable land on his first location, he found at the end of six years, his farm, too small to occupy his almost boundless energies. He therefore sold it and took a long horseback journey through the wilderness of eastern Indiana and Kentucky, in search of the parties who owned the splendid half section of land on which he resided the rest of his days. He purchased this half action. (80 acres of which is now owned by Col McMacken to whom he traded for the Krout farm) in 1830 for the sum of about \$300.

At the time of the purchase, there was not a stick missing on the half section. Again, he commenced battling with the forest, and many pioneer readers of this, as well as some who are younger, know how much toil is necessary to make a farm in the unbroken woods. Still standing by his pleasant residence, is the little frame building in which in those days, he slept and made his home, through he boarded with a neighbor.

His brother, Joseph Larsh, dying in 1832 of milk sickness, Toliver soon after took his widowed sister-in-law and her orphaned children to his home. One of these children, Frank Larsh, he reared and educated, and his marriage set him up in life on a farm in Benton county.

In April, 1840, Toliver Larsh was married to Jane, daughter of Robert Gilkey. Both were of an age to look at life from a common sence point of view, and the result was that they founded one of the happiest of the many happy homes of Montgomery county. They had seven children, four sons and three daughters, all of them are still living, except one daughter which died twenty-eight years ago.

Queries—send any responses to the newsletter.

I am trying to find a death certificate or some document. That would have the parents names of Oliver A. Camden.

Oliver was born in Rockbridge Co., Virginia, December 1849. He married Lucy Watkins on 9 January 1878 in Vigo Co., Indiana. He die 23 July 1910 in Montgomery Co., Ladoga, Indiana.

The numbers I have associated with his death are H-30, P 45, 4127. The State of Indiana cannot seem to find a death certificate for him. One more piece of information. He is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery and was interned there on 25 July 1910.

Thank you, for any help you might be able to give me. Sheri Hawkins



In photo: E. Maxine Bridge, with son, Michael Bridge, and daughter Marilyn Brown, who, with twin sister, Carolyn Bridge (not in picture) has just published "According to the Record".

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

Castillion springs

December the 13th 1862

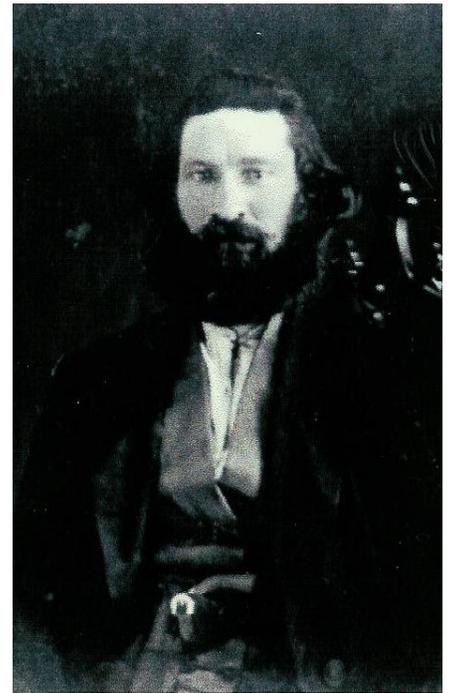
it is with pleasure Dear Wife I now take my pen in hand to inform you that I am well at this time and hope wen this comes to your hand it will find you all enjoying the same blessings I received your kind of the 4th and was very glad to hear from you once more well I am glad to hear that some of the children are fat and harty but sorrow to hear that some of them are so poorly well I got them socks and gloves and the boys say they are the best they have seen in the regiment well I been hearing of one battle that was the battle of hartsville but I was cookin for about 25 men at the hospital and could not go and I felt like I was in a yellow jack-ets nest when the rest of the regiment went but I could not help myself I could hear the cannon roar and the musketry firing all the morning well I suppose you have got all the paticulars of the fight at hartsville before this time and so I will drop the subject well we heard stephen radcliff had diserted and I want you to write and let me know if it is so or not well I am stil cooking for the hospital and I am making a lot 25 dollars per month cooking and washing well if it was so I could I would like to come home and see you all and get to drink some of the good cider you spoke about but I cant get a furlow in co e atall but if thare is any chance atall I will get one in january but I dont know how I will make it then in getting a furlow ten but I will try my best for one well you may sel that young mare but bewure and take notes with good securty if you cant sel her for the money well I want you to write and let me know whither Ferguson has cut that wood or not well I was very glad to hear have got some corn gathered well Tommy you must learn to read so you can read this song well deat wife and children dont think for one moment that I have forgotten for you are on my mind constantly well you must excuse me for not putting stamps on my letters for I hant got them not can get them but and you can pay the postage there for it is all in the family any how well I dont know as I have any more to say this time only I want you to write soon and often so no more at present but remain your affection-ate husband til death so good bye

William G Keys

To Esther keys my companion

*Letters written by William Keys, Spelling as is in letters,

Transcribed by Kim Hancock



O'Neall Cemetery Update - By Kim Hancock

The Genealogy Club of Montgomery County has taken upon the task of the restoration of a cemetery. A cemetery that has possibly not been touch for over 50 years. Last known burial according to the tombstones is 1912. The cemetery is an acre, was an acre of trees, thorn bushes, weeds, a few yellow-jacket nests, mostly a jungle so thick you could not walk without cutting, clipping, or having the thorns pull at your skin on your hands and arms, as you made your way through just to catch a glimps of a stone that has been lying on the ground, flat, some possibly not visible by the naked eye without brushing away the leaves and dirt that over the years have hidden the history of the many families that lived and settled in Montgomery county many years ago. Many scraps and cuts have been endured in order to restore this cemetery back to the way it was when the last family buried its loved one, with what I am sure they never expected it to be forgotten.

Early in the year we had a good crew of genealogy members working on cutting trees, chain saws a buzzing, weed eaters eating. Sam & Ruth Evans, Richard & Pat Wills, John Hooper. In April, almost every Saturday Richard & Pat Wills and I went to the cemetery in an attempt to clear the brush, sometimes joined by Dian Moore on week-ends she was available from work. On Labor Day week-end Richard Wills had an accident, falling off of a ladder breaking his neck and both arms. He is recovering at home but unable to help in the restoration of the cemetery which he was so passionate about. I am sure he will be out there supervising soon.

I, Kim Hancock along with my husband continued the Saturday's at the cemetery, mainly to keep what we had accomplished to not be in vain. With a donated lawn mower, we went out to continue to keep cut down our small area not to get over grown as the rest of the cemetery.

The September meeting at the library brought in people to help, non members, but people in the community that read an article in the newspaper and wanted to help. Mainly a family, the Devitt's and Leonards, two teenage cousins along with their moms and a sister that is a teacher by profession. This family has helped tremendously, and without their help I know we would not be where we are today.

We are happy to report that over 75% of it has been cut down to a walkable cemetery. One more week should finish the last of it. Just to begin the next step of cutting and killing all the stumps and roots left behind by our attempts to clear the thicket. Enough to get it into a condition that the entire cemetery can be mowed. Now that fall has arrived it will be another task to keep the falling leaves raked and clean enough to begin the next steps. Probing for stones and repairing the broken ones and making new bases for them.



Esther Duncan

Private William Bratton
 Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1803-1806
 Corps of Discovery
 Bicentennial Years 2003-2006

William Bratton's Great Grandfather
 (Andrew) Bratton, 1661-1699
 Donegal, Ireland
(Andrew) Bratton's four sons sail to America. One son died, is buried at sea.

William Bratton's grandfather is
 Robert Patrick Bratton
 Born: May 20, 1712
 Donegal, Ireland
 Settled in Augusta County, Virginia
 Died: October 18, 1785
 Married: Ann McFarland, 1745
 Augusta County, Virginia

George Bratton brought his family down the Ohio River to
 Kentucky early in the Spring of 1803.
George Bratton
 Born: (about) 1748
 Augusta County, Virginia
 Died: October, 1819
 Warren County, Kentucky
 Married: 1784, Jane (Elliott), Virginia

Private William Bratton, son of George Bratton.
William Bratton
 Born: 1778
 Augusta County, Virginia
 Died: November 11, 1841
 Wayne Township, Montgomery County, Waynetown, Indiana
 Married: Mary H. Maxwell, November 25, 1819
 Warren County, Kentucky

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| James Bratton 8.25.1800 - 7.1.1841 | George Bratton 3.6.1822 - 3.5.63 | John Bratton 3.4.1824 - 9.12.1846 |
| William Bratton 12.25.1825 - 5.12.1859 | Robert Bratton 4.20.1828 - 9.17.1855 | Adam Bratton 2.19.1831 - 2.4.1859 |
| Gracella Bratton 4.24.1833 - 11.17.1903 | Eliza Jane Bratton 3.3.1838 - 6.28.1838 | Marietta Bratton 7.10.1840 - 5.2.1860 |



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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: