

Genealogy
Club of
Montgomery
County IN
Corporation

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

Inside this issue:

Summarized Secretary's Report	2
The Ball School	3
Back to School	5
Library Happenings	7
James Buchanan Elmore	8

Roots and Branches

Volume 18—Issue 3-4

August 2021

The Genealogy Club has had two in-person meetings this year so far. It has been a great joy to see the faces of our friends and to gather again. As fall approaches, the thing I always looked forward to most was a return to school. The summer always seemed so long and I missed all my friends; those last days of the summer vacation flew by with all the preparations to be made to return to school. The joy at seeing all my friends and classmates came to mind recently with the return of the Genealogy Club meetings.



Local History And Genealogy



As the summer winds to a close, remember your school days and share or record your memories. Get those mementos out and consider sharing them with CDPL. Scan and save your history and share it in our Local History databases. Record your stories in an audio or video interview that can also outlive you in the Local History database. Contact the CDPL Reference/Local History Dept. at 765-362-2242 ext. 117 (ref@cdpl.lib.in.us). You can also email Dellie Craig at delliejean@yahoo.com.

- Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County
- CDPL Local History Blog
- Genealogy Club of Montgomery County
- Genealogy Club of Montgomery County Facebook page
- Montgomery County GenWeb

Feel free to find us and Like us on FACEBOOK!

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

Visit FACEBOOK to learn about Genealogy Club activities, upcoming meetings, and to make new friends.

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 now has two meetings in the books for 2021! I feel like that should be a headline in the newspaper it has been such a long time in coming.

At our first meeting in June, we held an organizational meeting to conduct Club business and work through the process of organizing the group and determining who would appear on the ballots for all open positions come September.

Steve Simms

In July when we met, I presented a program on the Society of Cincinnati. On a trip to Washington D.C with my youngest grandson back in 2017, a steamy summer day and the need for a cool spot to stop while in the Dupont Circle area, we stumbled upon the building that housed the Society of Cincinnati. The Society was established by the officers of the Continental Army in 1783 towards the end of the Revolutionary War as a way to preserve the bonds of fraternity among the officers and dedicated to the memory of the heroes who fought for our independence. The Society was named for the ancient Roman hero Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus who embodied civic virtue. I highly recommend a visit if you are in Washington D.C. Those of you researching Revolutionary War veterans will be interested to know that many rosters of soldiers were donated to the Society by the Officers and your ancestor may be among them. You can contact the Society and they will look for you and you are welcome to visit and see the documents. For more information, visit their webpage at <https://www.societyofthecincinnati.org>.



We are highlighting a really great FREE resource available to all genealogy enthusiasts: Montgomery County GenWeb page. <http://ingenweb.org/inmontgomery>. Here you will find a resource that is FREE and provides a look at Montgomery County history. There are stories of all the little towns and dells in the county along with pictures and obits, schools, businesses, stories, submissions of every kind.

“ "The way to be happy is to try to be so."

~James Buchanan Elmore (the Bard of Alamo)

The Ball School By Karen Zach



**Karen
Bazzani Zach**

Ball School House was a school house – no surprise, huh? However, there was also a Ball cemetery (renamed HARLOW for the people who lived there later on) right on the original BALL property (registered with the government on March 5, 1825) in Section 31 and 32 (school house on 650W and 100N today), purchased by Dennis BALL. Solomon and Nathan would purchase smaller sections (Dennis a total of 400 acres, a large chunk for a land grant). Now, wait, there was also a church on what is now in Wayne Township making it a small community and a very active one in the late 1800s and early 1900s, especially.

Dennis was the son of Zopher BALL who passed away two days after the 4th of July in 1803 and is buried of course in the Ball Cemetery, but this time in Delaware Township, Mercer County, PA with this branch of the Ball family originally from Virginia. Zopher and his wife Elizabeth had at least five sons but imagine at least a girl or two. They all came West I believe, Abel and Henry to Parke County, Isaiah to the Waveland area, with several of his sons and their sons becoming doctors.

Saying Dr. BALL took awhile to know to which Dr. BALL someone was referring.

Dennis's brother, Caleb, a young and energetic Revolutionary Soldier remained in Mercer County, as well. Zopher has been accepted as a Revolutionary War soldier but I question that with his age being well over 50, but pretty impressive if so, meaning Dennis had a brother and father in the Revolution. Dennis was the middle of these boys, Zopher being in his late 50s when this son was born and late 60s when the youngest appeared leaving Henry at five years old without a father. They all seemed to survive and continued the BALL name successfully, some buried in PA while the majority around this area. Mercer County PA has over 50 BALLs buried there going way back to Zopher born 1724 to some buried just a couple of years ago. Montgomery County has 53 buried here with about 33 in Waynetown and Harlow (Ball) Cemetery. Can you imagine those families in their little pockets, going to church, school and living right close? Certainly the way I love families, close in all things.

So, let's talk a bit about the Ball School house. It is still showing in the 1917 Montgomery Atlas, but that was the last year of its existence. A school shows in the same place or perhaps across the road way back in the 1864 atlas. Of course with as many children as Dennis' children had, there were many to go through the family school.

When the BALLs came here, the mother likely taught them in a small shack-type place, then advanced to subscribed where a master came to their home for three months to teach the children, living with them which was a wonder to the parents as he provided books they could borrow and read as well as intellectual conversation. Neighbors may have also sent their children to him for money, supplies or whatever could be negotiated. Then, the place of education which we know as Ball School House, the first likely erected right after the Civil War period as many were since this was important to those soldiers returning after so much illiteracy in the South.



This is what the area where Ball School House once stood looks like today— photo provided by Jeanie Walden

The Ball School—cont.

Whether Ball SH was a loud school (every group reciting their lessons at the same time) or one where the teacher remained and listened to a group at a time, it is unknown and perhaps depending on the teacher and the times it may have been both. There would definitely be manual labor for the older boys who would cut wood, feed the fire and most wouldn't have minded as it got them away from the study area and out in the great outdoors for awhile.

In the 1860s-80s when most of this type learning took place, the “professor” (take that lightly as many teachers didn't finish what we consider 8th grade) would charge 75 cents to upwards of \$2 for the child but they might give him food or do work for him vs. actual money. He might even board with a family if the school did not have a room for him and that would be part of the pay.

In the late 1880s (through about the time Ball closed in the 1900's), a few of the schools would have entertainments a night a week, and Ball often had theirs on Friday night, particularly loving hot topics to debate (General JACKSON was a greater man than General HARRISON) or singing, literary readings and discussions or a holiday party. Although I'd probably enjoy any of those entertainments, my favorite would be the one in early December 1901, when Homer BIDDLE hosted a Pie Supper especially since the proceeds would restock the library. Books and pie, can't get any better.

I strongly suspicion that the Ball School was named for James BALL, born in Butler, Ohio March 2, 1817 and came with his parents (Dennis BALL and Margaret LINE) here in 1825. It took the BALL's 14 days to make it to Montgomery County, bringing their six children with them, all remaining here but their oldest daughter who went on with her husband to Illinois. James married Catherine HOFF and they parented at least five sons and a daughter, again all but one son who went to California and another one to Iowa, they remained mostly in the Waynetown and Ball School House area. Most of the grandchildren and greats entered those hallowed halls of Ball.



James Ball headstone, Waynetown Masonic Cemetery—courtesy of findagrave.com

In 1901, an interesting little piece about Homer BIDDLE was in the New Richmond Record, stating that he was one of the most popular school teachers ever in Wayne Township and “wielded the educational rod at the Ball School House southeast of town.” He was said to be a successful instructor and quite popular with not only the scholar but the parents, as well. A few days before (maybe Valentine's Day) he had a photograph taken of the school with all 38 of his pupils present and in the photo. Now, where is that when it's needed? The rest of the article was quite humorous stating that the pic was a good one but the striking feature was that every single one of those pupils were Democrats from the teacher down to the smallest scholar. Once, while at Ball School House, he got deathly sick from eating mushrooms found by someone in the community. Just an FYI – Homer went on to teach at CHS for 37 years after teaching in the county schools for 12 – pretty amazing. Homer was quite smart, attending almost any competition for the brain and almost 100% of the time winning it – spelling, ciphering, geography, you name it he could do it!

Other teachers who taught there were John HOPPING; Ad WOOD; Earl JONES just one year; Ad HARPEL; Elsie FOWLER; Harry TOMLINSON; Naomi SHANNON, the last and Charles SWITZER, grandson of the BALL's. The doors closed at the Ball School House at the end of the 1916-17 school year, but there were a few get-togethers in the years to come. Sadly, all passed at this point! Rest In Peace BSH!

Back to School

By Talya on MyHeritage Blog
<https://blog.myheritage.com/2018/09/back-to-school-then-and-now/>

It's that special time of year again, when summer ends and the new school year begins. Whether you're heading back to school yourself, or have children or grandchildren who are starting the new school year, there's something about the beginning of September that is bound to stir up some childhood memories.

While there are many points of commonality between then and now, there are still some stark differences in the ways in which students were educated in years past versus more recent generations.

In the early 1900s, only about half of children ages 5 – 19 were enrolled in school. At that time, they were mostly needed to help out working on family farms or in the growing numbers of factories founded during the Industrial Revolution.

By the 1970s, however, school attendance increased to over 75%. Today those numbers are well over 90% in developed countries. In the developing world, however, it is estimated that over 264 million school-age children still do not receive any formal education.

In the 1800s, many rural schools had a single classroom, with one teacher conducting grades 1–8. Those studying their ABCs — the Abecedarians — sat in the front rows, while older students sat towards the back. Exercises were written on black slates with chalk, while assessments took place at the front of the classroom, where students would recite what they had memorized. Students brought their lunches in tin pails from home.



One-room Schoolhouse circa 1890
 (Credit: Mary Helen Cissell)

Today the average US elementary school has 624 students, with a campus that provides approx. 188 square feet per student. The average cost per student per year is around \$43,693 including all the books, technology, coursework, etc.

Back in the day, it was common for children to walk or ride their bikes to school, even as far as four or five miles, no matter the weather. Most children today have heard their parents or grandparents share a few tales about the challenges posed by these intrepid walks to school.

Today, most children get to school via bus or carpool. Interestingly, more schools are encouraging students to reconsider walking or biking to school so that they will get more daily exercise.

There's even a new phenomenon known as a walking school bus, where students are supervised by a parent who walks with a group of kids to school together. This way, protective parents ensure that students are safe, but are also getting more exercise.

“Seems like ever feller thet makes a success o’ anything
 never knowed nuthin’ when he went t’ school.”

- - - Abe Martin

Back to School—cont.

Standing in a corner wearing a dunce cap and enduring harsh teacher reprimands are a thing of the past. “Time-outs” and a greater focus on positive reinforcement have become the mainstay of newer educational philosophies of child discipline. Furthermore, there is a shift from typical standardized tests at the end of school terms to a greater focus on creative and critical thinking, meant to prepare children for the ever-changing job market.

While reading, writing, history, and math will always be the core of many educational curricula, there are vast differences in what children studied back then versus today. Gone are the home economics classes of the 60s and 70s which focused on preparing dinner, baking a cake, or sewing on a button.

Contemporary schools rarely place an emphasis on penmanship and many no longer teach cursive writing. Some of these courses have seen a comeback — some schools have reinstated home economics classes, now called family and consumer sciences, which focus on nutrition, child development, food service, and hospitality.

Many other types of coursework from the 60s and 70s have been abandoned today and, in their place, is a new focus on technology, such as researching a paper online or utilizing new online teaching modules and lessons.

Whether you’ve been bombarded by a multitude of Back-to-School advertisements or seen groups of students with brand-new backpacks and crisp, clean school uniforms crossing the street, we just can’t help but take in the scent of freshly sharpened pencils this time of year.



Home Economics class, Bethel Springs School, 1949 (Credit: Mennonite Church)



Steve Simms
Jefferson HS 1966

I always get excited when a new school year begins. It was always exciting to shop for new school supplies and back to school clothes and the promise of seeing friends I hadn’t seen all summer. It was a little less exciting doing those same things as a parent when those costs factor into the equation. The stories from school days past are fun too. I love hearing stories from my dad about his days in school, especially the ones where he walked uphill in the snow both going to school and coming home.

If you have school stories to tell, share them with your children, grandchildren, or write them down. Future generations will be glad to have them.

What are some meaningful memories from your own school days? Tell me about them for an upcoming issue of the newsletter! Email me at stephief@live.com

Library Happenings by Dellie Craig



Dellie Craig

It is very exciting to begin to see more and more people come into the Library bearing gifts that any genealogist would be thrilled to see.

Anita HIMES (pictured right) brought in three photo albums pertaining to the old Whitesville Christian Church which is being demolished and a new church being built in its place. Check out the ALBUMS section —entitled Whitesville Christian Church—Project Butterfly— of photos for this site.



Recently Shirley FRUITS brought in items to be scanned for the Marian Morrison Local History Collection at the CDPL. Most items pertain to Montgomery County, especially Wayne Township. These items will be in the LH database or Image databases in the near future. Thank you, Shirley!

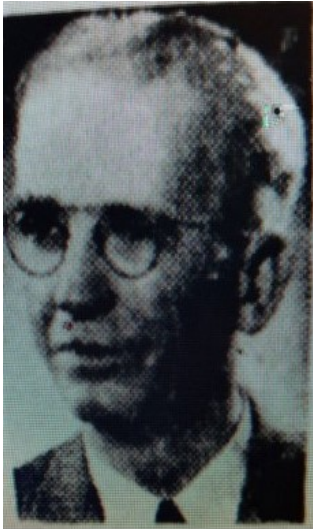
Recently Barbara FECTEAU from Massachusetts and Susan ALLSRECHT from Crawfordsville spent time with me researching Janet LAMBERT (Maude SNYDER) for a program Barbara is planning to do in Massachusetts. They also spent time at the Carnegie Museum with Toni. Maude SNYDER married Kent LAMBERT and had daughter, Janet LAMBERT who is known as a local author of teen girl books and an actress. Check out our LH databases to see photos and much more related to Janet LAMBERT.



Jon and Chris CANINE (both members of the Genealogy Club, from KY) visited CDPL and brought another son and nephew on their CANINE genealogy adventure. From left: Jon CANINE (father), Chris CANINE (son), Chad CANINE (son from TX), and Todd LINEBACK (nephew from Lafayette, IN). Chris took photos of probate files while the rest of the crew took a tour of our LH archives. They were impressed with the large map on the north wall on the second floor. They visited about an hour and a half and enjoyed it very much. Anyone related to the CANINE family in Montgomery County, IN can contact them through me. They would love to see any old photographs or hear any stories anyone might have.

James Buchanan Elmore

From the Indiana (INGenWeb Project), Copyright (c)1996-2019 (and beyond), Montgomery County GenWeb site
<http://www.ingenweb.org/inmontgomery>



In the domain of literature, Indiana has gained a place of distinction and preeminence being now by universal consent, the successor of Massachusetts as the literary center of America. No state has produced such a brilliant galaxy of stars in the literary firmament as has Indiana. In the long list of her native writers we may mention a few such as James Whitcomb RILEY, Joaquin MILLER, Edward EGGLESTON, Lew WALLACE, Booth TARKINGTON, George ADE, David Graham PHILLIPS, Maurice THOMPSON, Gene Stratton PORTER and Meredith NICHOLSON to say nothing of scores of lesser lights. Montgomery County has had her full share of the glory in literary genius, here having been born Meredith NICHOLSON and here the great author of Ben Hur spent practically all his life; but it is as the home of statesmen that this county excels. To give a comprehensive reason for the first place in literature in the western hemisphere being held by the Hoosier state would be indeed quite out of the question, whether it has been the result of the meeting of the sterling pioneer elements of the East and West, or a superior system of education, or whether there is greater natural inspiration and more effort is being made to produce literature here than in other states must be left to conjecture. But the state should be proud of its eminence in this respect. Among those who have contributed materially of recent years locally at least to its prestige as a literary center, stands James B. ELMORE of Montgomery County, well known as "The Bard of Alamo," who is a native son of the locality of which this history deals whose productions marked by depth of thought and adroit polish have given him a staunch following. It is of course extraneous to the functions of this publication to enter into manifold details concerning the careers of the many representative citizens whose names find a place within its pages and in the case at hand it can be hoped to present only a succinct but we hope accurate and worthy tribute to this talented son of the far famed Wabash Valley Country, made familiar to the wide world through the tender but masterful strokes of Paul DRESSER.

Mr. Elmore was born on January 25, 1857 in Ripley Township Montgomery County. He is a son of Matthias and Mary (WILLIS) ELMORE. The father was born in 1809 in Ohio and his death occurred in 1892. The mother was also a native of Ohio. Matthias ELMORE grew to manhood in his native locality and there received a meager education, going no farther than the "rule of three" in mathematics, but being a great reader and a man of quick perception he became well educated.

He took a great deal of interest in politics and was a Whig up to the race of General William Henry HARRISON for Presidency. He was a carpenter by trade, and he helped build the first Methodist Episcopal church in Crawfordsville. His chief life work, however was farming. His family consisted of 7 children by his first wife and six by his second. His first wife was a cousin of William ENGLISH, a well known politician and capitalist of Indianapolis of the past generation. The second wife was the mother of the subject of our sketch. The third wife was known in her maidenhood as Virginia KYLE. Of the entire family of 13 children, only 5 still live.

James B. ELMORE received a common school education, later attending high school but his ambition for a collegiate course was never realized. However, he has remained a student all his life, has done a vast amount of miscellaneous reading and is a well educated man. He began life for himself as a school teacher, which he followed for a period of 20 years prior to his marriage. He gave eminent satisfaction to both pupils and patrons and his services were in great demand. On February 14, 1880, Mr. ELMORE was united in marriage to Mary Ann MURRAY, who was born in Missouri, May 23, 1863 and is a daughter of James and Mary Ann (TEMPLIN) MURRAY, the father a native of Kentucky. The union of our subject and wife has resulted in the birth of 5 children, 3 of whom are living: Maud L, and Nora are both deceased: Roscoe M, born October 1, 1882, married Myrtle LATTIMORE and he is one of the successful public school teachers of Ripley Township; Grace born Jan 17, 1885, married Nathan DROLLINGER and they live in Veedersburg; Albert Murray born Sept 20, 1889, married Lula M. SEITS; they live in Ripley Township and have two children, a son, named after our subject, James Byron (sic - Buchanan), Jr. and a daughter, Margaret Angeline. James B. ELMORE is a lover of what the great Methodist Bishop, William A. QUAYLE would call "God's glorious outdoors" and, having the love of mother nature in "all her visible forms" in him, as do all poets, he has spent his life in the rural districts, starting out on the farm, investing at the time of his marriage the sum of \$400 his total worldly wealth in 30 acres of land a part of his present farm. There he lived for some time in a log cabin and farmed and taught school. Finally, he purchased 80 acres more going in debt for the same; later he traded that 80 for 160 near home and this he still owns. Subsequently, he purchased 80 acres from his father and from who he inherited another 80, later bought 60 south of home and then purchased 160 north of his home farm and at this writing he is owner of an aggregate of 540 acres of valuable land, nearly all tillable, well tiled well fenced and otherwise improved in an up-to-date manner. He has a commodious home and substantial outbuildings and he makes a specialty of raising Poland-China hogs and pole cattle and he also keeps a good grade of medium size horses. Everything about his place denotes system, good management and that a gentleman of industry and taste has the management of this valuable farmstead well in hand and is deserving to rank among Montgomery's foremost agriculturists. Fraternally, Mr. ELMORE is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Waynetown, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Alamo and the Woodmen at Crawfordsville. Religiously, he holds membership with the Christian Church and politically he is a Democrat. When Mr. ELMORE was a boy in school he began writing poetry, which soon proved him to be one of nature's gifted children for even at that early age his verse possessed usual merit and won for him the soubriquet of "The Bard of Alamo," which has since clung to him. Some of his best verse was written when he was teaching school, one of the most meritorious being "The Belle of Alamo" and "The Red Bird." From time to time he continued writing as the muse dictated, and eventfully gathered his best verse into book form, under the title of "Love Among the Mistletoe: and Other Poems" which was well received. He continued to write and two years later put out "A Lover in Cuba; and other Poems." A few years later followed another volume of verse, "25 years in Jackville," and then appeared from his facile pen, "A Romance in the Days of the Golden Circle." His last volume was "Autumn Roses." They all bore the unmistakable stamp of genuine poetic merit and each succeeding volume broadened its author's fame and audience until today his name has not only covered America but is known all over the world, much of his verse being especially liked in France. His name is frequently attached to poems of fine finish and original theme in New York, Indianapolis and other metropolitan journals. Mr. ELMORE's services as a lecturer has been in considerable demand and he has lectured in many colleges and other institutions, throughout Indiana, being especially well received in Indianapolis. The advancing years seem to give him a deeper penetration into nature and the soul as well as rendering his verse finer in every respect and we may hope for greater things from him in the future. "Let our annals be well written, that it stand a scanning test, Those of fame are never hidden, They shall live among the blessed!"

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Find additional
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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, 2021 to September 30, 2022 are due in September 2021.

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**

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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