

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 20—Issue 2

February 2023

A new year equals new beginnings. It is a chance to close the door on one year and begin fresh in a new year. What genealogy goals do you have for 2023? Do you have an ancestor who presents a brick wall for you to research through? Do you have a family reunion and want to learn more about family members who make up your family tree?

You have so many options; you can join the Genealogy Club and meet with other likeminded researchers once a month to talk and learn, you can come to one of the Genealogy Club's free After Hours events (the last one was Friday, January 27th and for future events, you can register by contacting Dellie Craig, CDPL, [dcraig@cdpl.lib.in.us](mailto:dcraig@cdpl.lib.in.us)). At these events you can utilize CDPL's extensive resources with guidance from local history staff, or you can find a variety of ideas in the pages that follow, like do you have family mementoes you are saving to pass along? Inside, learn about preserving these treasures for future generations.



March is known for basketball madness in Indiana. You could learn about the basketball powerhouse that was Wingate in the 19—teens. Short story inside from a Montgomery County fellow, Chandler Lighty.

There is no shortage of options. Follow after the things that bring you joy and have fun with your genealogy. Whatever you decide to do (or not do), enjoy the year ahead of you!

If you do decide to join the Genealogy Club, the membership application is on the last page of the newsletter. We meet the second Tuesday of the month on the lower level of the library and you can see the program information online on facebook or in the Journal Review or at the library.

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**“Do you have a magic potion to return someone to life?”** Alice asked  
**“No,”** the Cheshire Cat said, **“I’m sorry. Why don’t you tell me about them.”**  
**“Will that bring them back?”**  
**“For Us For a little while. Stories are a different kind of magic.”**

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To make an appointment at CDPL to do genealogy research, reach out to Dellie Craig by calling the library at 765-362-2242 or by email at [dcraig@cdpl.lib.in.us](mailto:dcraig@cdpl.lib.in.us). Appointments can be made for up to an hour and a half.

## Find us and Like us on FACEBOOK!

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

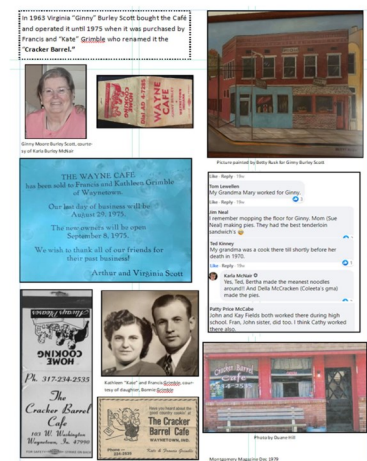
Visit FACEBOOK to learn about Genealogy Club activities, get upcoming meeting info, and make new friends.

## Update from the Club

Hello Genealogy Club Members,

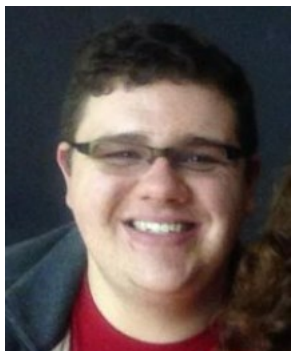
News and updates from the Genealogy Club—

- November meeting featured Jim SWIFT talking about the “Condensed History of Surveying.” Jim is a local surveyor (Montgomery and Boone counties) and one of much anticipated speakers. We had 13 in attendance.
- December found the club sharing treats and stories from Christmas’ past. This is always a fun visit with one another while hearing tales of Christmas’ long ago as well as recent ones. They say that as long as someone remembers you and talks about you, you don’t die. We heard about loved ones, current and deceased, at this one of a kind gathering. We had 9 in attendance.
- January saw the club meeting to learn from Amie COX the story of *Chasing William Bratton*. Amie had a lot of great information about how she wrote the book over 10 years of research which included traveling to many sites important in William Bratton’s life and where she found information along the way. We had 18 in attendance.
- If you missed any of the guest speakers, it’s not too late to hear what they had to say. You can watch recordings of our speakers on the Genealogy Club of Montgomery County facebook page—<https://www.facebook.com/GenClubMontCo/>
- Club member Karen ZACH is the editor of *Montgomery Memories*, a monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. One of *Montgomery Memories’* goals is to get more contributions from local writers. If you have a story or memory that involved a family member— an invention, an adventure, a great love story—maybe you would consider writing about it? You can reach Karen at [karen.zach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karen.zach@sbcglobal.net).
- Club member Jan FAY shared this photo from an upcoming Waynetown history book that will hopefully come out this year. Jan says that the pictures included in the history book have come from people in the community generously taking time to look through their old things to share items that honor the memories of those Waynetown folks who came before. Jan asks everyone, if you have a family member who was a Waynetown business owner or worked for a local business and you have pictures or other memorabilia, please consider sharing those. If you have anything of the people or places in Waynetown that would be a good memory to share, Jan would love to hear from you. You can share your items by email through club President, Dellie CRAIG at [dcraig@cdpl.lib.in.us](mailto:dcraig@cdpl.lib.in.us) or you can reach Jan FAY on facebook.



Jan FAY provided a sample page from the upcoming book of *Waynetown History*. This page is one of hundreds excerpted from the book and it features information on the Cracker Barrel Café.

## Preservation and You by Aaron Simms



**Aaron Simms**

Hello everyone and welcome to the exciting world of preservation! Whether you are looking to preserve an old family letter, photographs, old home movies or other family heirlooms; this article will introduce you to the myriad of ways to preserve these items to pass them on to future generations.

First, a quick introduction. My name is Aaron SIMMS, I am the son of Stephanie SIMMS (Hi Mom!) and grandson of Steve SIMMS (Hi Grandpa!). When I was attending Purdue, I worked in Archives and Special Collections which serves as the repository for historic Purdue artifacts. Among their collection is a glove worn by Eugene A. CERNAN on the Moon during Apollo 17, the last manned mission to the Moon. Another interesting artifact is a plaster cast of John PURDUE's face, shortly after his death; better known as a death mask which was common for the time.

I learned a tremendous amount of information not just about Purdue but how items must be preserved and protected. For this article I have also sought qualified sources to give more information about preserving our heirlooms. Of course, I would be remiss if I did not tout the Crawfordsville District Public Library and the invaluable Dellie CRAIG. The Library and Dellie can answer any further questions you might have after reading this article and I will be mentioning their services as well throughout the article. Stay tuned!

I am going to start with preserving family photographs. The American Library Association (ALA) has an incredible detailed article about preservation of various items called Saving Your Stuff and can be found at [ala.org](http://ala.org). Photos, like everything, will degrade over time. There is no stopping time. However, you can slow down the deterioration and save the photos in various places/ways to preserve them.



The ALA recommends that you handle the photos by the edges with clean, dry hands. The oils in our skin will damage photos over time. Use acid free albums and sleeves to store the photos. Acid free items can often be found in the scrapbooking section. The acid in the glue and sleeves can bond with the photos over time and make it impossible to remove them without damaging the photo. The ALA recommends mounting photos by the corners to avoid using glue or tape.

Finally storing photos, be sure to choose a place that will keep them at the ideal temperature of 68°F and between 30-40% humidity. Granted this is not the temperature that we generally keep our houses but it is important to keep them in a climate controlled location and not in the uninsulated storage unit or your backyard. A closet in an air-conditioned place is sufficient. Avoid attics or basements, they are not as temperate as the living quarters and basements are subject to flooding and mold. I would also recommend having copies made for photos you would like to display. Displayed photos will fade rapidly, I'm sure we've all seen a photo that has been in a frame on display for a while and how faded the part not covered by the frame is. It is important to keep the originals as protected as possible.

Your Ancestors count on you to remember them.  
~Twisted Twigs

## Preservation and You —cont.

This leads to my final recommendation for photos, scanning! Digital photos are not subject to the physical decay can destroy your family photos. There are many benefits to scanning your family photos. Once digitized, you can share the photos with family and other genealogists easily. You can also name the file with the names of those pictures and the location. This makes it easy for you and your family to find a specific photo later. CDPL has a color scanner and can assist you in scanning your old photos that can be saved on a flash drive or emailed to yourself. With your permission, Dellie will add the old photos to the Image Database or in the Local History Dept at CDPL or the Genealogy Facebook page. They can also show you how to rename the scans so that they are not just saved as Scan001, Scan 002, etc. No one wants to have to look through every single scan to find the one they were looking for. And of course, having the names of everyone in the picture means that it cannot be forgotten. Too often, we look back at old family photos and have people we cannot name.



In a similar regard, are old family letters or newspaper clippings. Newspapers, especially, will fall part quickly. It is important to scan these items and name them appropriately so that they are easy to reference. Old letters are some of our biggest treasures, while a photo can tell you a thousand words, a letter takes out the guesswork. Old letters should be stored and treated similarly to photographs. Keep them in a climate-controlled place, away from moisture and sunlight. Try to avoid folding them as the folds weaken the paper over time and cause it to split. Use acid free folders and plastic sleeves for storing. Again, CDPL and Dellie would be happy to assist you in scanning and saving your old letters and sharing them.

Next we have old home movies. Home movies are truly a jewel, allowing us to see our family in action, and in some cases, hear them as well. There are many different types of film and I cannot cover them all in this short article. Dellie and CDPL can give you much more detailed information about your specific home movies. With this in mind, a general rule of thumb is to keep them with your photos and letters in a climate-controlled place. Labels are essential, to prevent names and locations from being lost. Scanning home movies makes them much easier to share and label. I have found it helpful with sites like YouTube where a scanned home movie can be privately uploaded and a link sent to family so they can watch it, as well.



I am going to take a minute to talk about digital storage. While scanning can save your photos, letters, and movies from physical decay or from being lost, you must also make sure to keep up with changes in digital formats. If you had scanned and saved a photo 10 years ago to a floppy disk, you would have trouble now being able to access the scan. The quality of the scan is also likely to pale in comparison to today's scanners. Much like cellphone pictures from 10 years ago, they look blurry compared to today's cellphone pictures.

I mentioned YouTube as a place to share home movies with family however there is no guarantee that YouTube will still be used in 10 years. Similar to Facebook or any other website, they can shut down. It is important that you have your own backups and that you verify your backups are still good. Do not put all your eggs in one basket!

## Preservation and You—cont.

Keep the digital backups separate from the physical originals. If the worst happens, you do not want both to be lost at the same time. For example, I have my scans and saved movies on an external hard drive that I keep at work so that if something happens to my house (knock on wood), I will not lose the things that cannot be replaced. If you update your digital files on a regular basis, you'll have a good idea of what needs to be replaced or changed.

Speaking of websites, do not neglect to add things that you find online to your personal digital archive or library. If a family member shares a scan on Facebook, be sure to download it and save it to your files with the details in the name of the file.

From there you can print your own copy for display or to add to your physical files. The same goes for genealogy websites, if a site shares a photo or letter that mentions your family or has a connection to you, be sure to save it yourself. Never assume that it will always be available on that website. If a website that previously had something you wanted to save on it, you can use a website called the Wayback Machine. If you have a web address, you can plug it in and see the site as it used to be. However, the links will not work. It is essentially a photo of that webpage looked like in the past, not an active page.

Finally, I am going to briefly touch on textiles—saving your old family quilts or clothing that have been passed down. Textiles should be stored just like photos, letters, and movies. Keep them in a climate controlled area, away from moisture and sunlight. If they must be folded, pad the folds with tissue. Just like letters, folds will cause the fabric to fray and split over time. Even if the textile is not being handled regularly. Padded hangers are ideal for historic clothing. Be sure to use a plain cotton cover for items on hangers.

I hope this article helped give you a starting place for preserving your own heirlooms and possibly sharing them with others. As always, Dellie and the CDPL can answer further questions and provide resources for you.



**Aaron Simms is a Purdue grad and 5th generation genealogy hobbyist. By day he works for the State and enjoys spending his free time traveling or learning about the past.**

We're all immortal  
as long as our  
stories are told.  
- Elizabeth Hunter



## Earliest Photo of IN HS Basketball Game

by S. Chandler Lighty



*This may be the earliest photo of an Indiana high school basketball game. Wingate High School vs Kokomo High School, January 16, 1915 at Kokomo Y.M.C.A. Source: Kokomo High School yearbook, The Sargasso, 1915, accessed via [Howard County Memory Project \(howardcountymemory.net\)](http://howardcountymemory.net).*

For all of basketball's cultural worth to the state, finding a photo of a basketball game from before the 1920s is a difficult task. Early basketball team photographs are rather plentiful, and frequently appeared in yearbooks, and newspapers. Action shots are much rarer, likely due to early-20th century Hoosiers having cameras that required long exposure times, which were unable to clearly capture moving subjects.

**The introductory photo at the top of this blog post is the earliest that the Indiana Historical Bureau has yet to encounter of Indiana high school basketball players on the court, and about to play a game.**

The story behind the picture is an interesting one. The photo depicts the teams from Wingate High School and Kokomo High School before a January 16, 1915 game at the Kokomo Y.M.C.A. This moment was photographically commemorated because Wingate was the defending state champion, having won back-to-back titles in 1913 and 1914. Situated in northwestern Montgomery County, Wingate was a small school with only 67 students. Among those enrolled in that student body, however, was one of the best Indiana basketball players of that generation, Homer STONEBRAKER.

The 6'-4" STONEBRAKER was a giant among his competitors. In 15 of the 18 box scores that research could uncover from Wingate's 1913-14 regular season, STONEBRAKER averaged 24.9 points a game. By comparison, Wingate's opponents only generated 17.3 points a game. After leading Wingate to consecutive state titles, STONEBRAKER graduated in 1914, and matriculated at Wabash College where he continued his athletic success and eventually carved out an eleven season career playing with professional clubs and early American Basketball League affiliates like the Fort Wayne Caseys, the Detroit McCarthys, and the Chicago Bruins.

Wingate was hardly the same team after STONEBRAKER's graduation. On the eve of their Kokomo game in 1915 they could not even boast about their 5-6 record. To complicate their season, they cancelled most of their December games as a result of the entire town falling under a small pox quarantine. Despite their struggles, fans and the press continued to hype any contest against Wingate.

## Earliest Photo—continued

Wingate's 1914 championship team. Stonebraker is seated in the middle of the first row.  
Source: Indiana High School Athletic Association Annual Handbook for 1914, accessed via [Indiana Memory](#).



The *Kokomo Tribune* announced:

*This game Saturday will be the most important home game for the locals this season. Wingate's team is a real championship contender again this year and a victory for Kokomo would mean that we also have a team of first class ability.*

The very calm composure of the players in the photo taken before the game hardly indicated the animosity that developed in the ensuing contest. Kokomo lost the contentious game 31-15. The *Indianapolis Star* reported that “Wild scenes, which threatened frequently to break up the game, marked the second period of play and may result in . . . breaking off athletic relations.” The hired referee failed to show up for the game. Consequently, the two schools agreed to let a representative of each of the respective teams officiate, one half each. Wingate led 13-7 at half time with Kokomo's ex-player Tyner Spruce officiating. Wingate's coach Hugh VANDIVIER refereed the second half and according to the newspaper reports showed favoritism to his own team, which drew the ire of the Kokomo fans. Ultimately, both squads would finish the season with disappointing records [Wingate (11-8) and Kokomo (7-10)], and neither team would advance out of their division tournaments to qualify for the state tournament.

You can read more of this article: <https://blog.history.in.gov/is-this-the-earliest-photo-of-an-indiana-high-school-basketball-game/>

Chandler Lighty is the director of the Indiana Historical Bureau. He previously was project manager for the Indiana State Library's Hoosier State Chronicles: Indiana's Digital Historic Newspaper Program, which won the 2015 Outstanding Bicentennial Collaborative Project from the Indiana Historical Society. Also in 2015, he was the recipient of the Thornbrough Award for his *Indiana Magazine of History* article about the origins of Indiana basketball. Lighty worked as a research associate and an assistant editor for the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* from 2008-2013. An Indiana native, Lighty's research interests concern Lew Wallace, Ben-Hur, Indiana basketball from 1890s-1930s, Homer Stonebraker, Abraham Lincoln's youth, the Civil War, and whatever historical marker he is currently researching ranging from indentured servitude in territorial Indiana to Carnegie libraries to soybeans to anti-German sentiment during World War I.

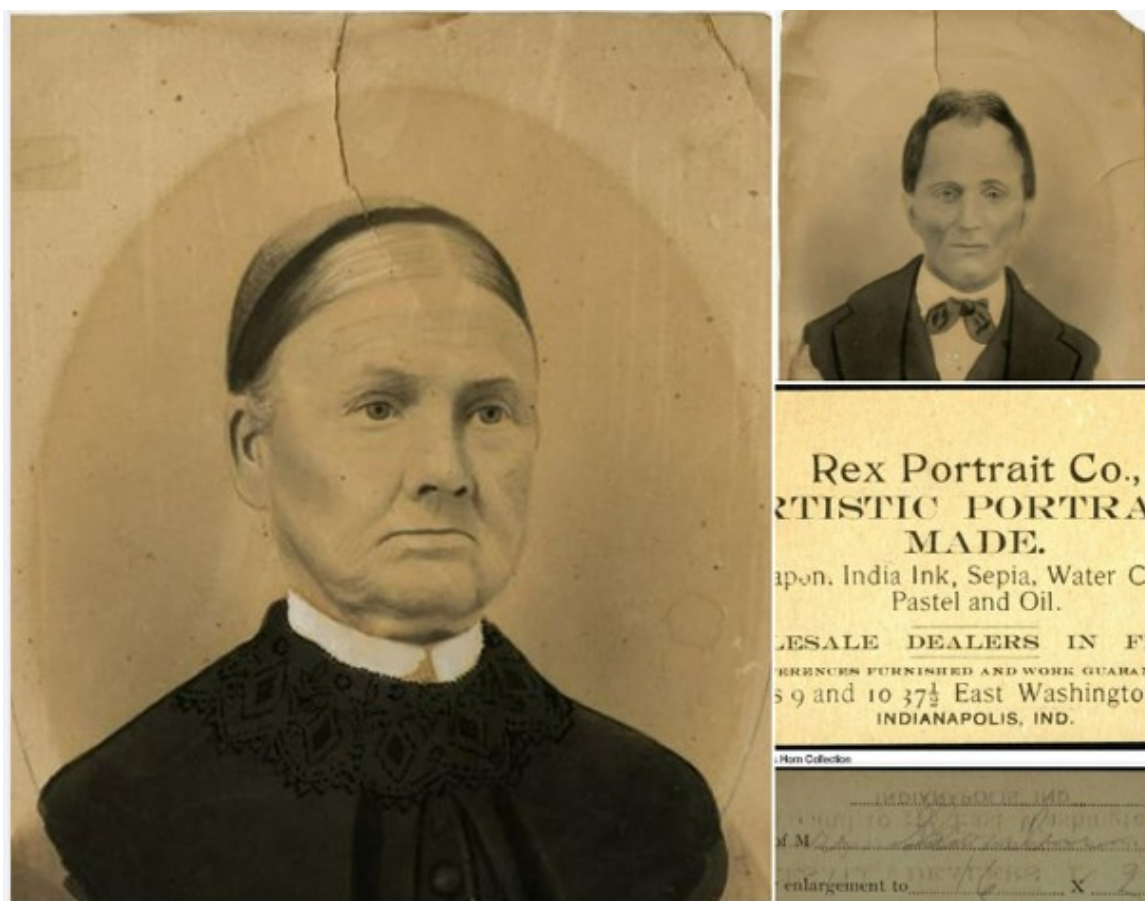


## Crayon Enlargements—Indiana Album

Do you own old portraits that look like a hybrid between a photo and a charcoal drawing? They are likely crayon enlargements, enlarged photos enhanced with charcoal (then known as crayon) or other artists' medium. They were made on thin photo paper pasted to acidic cardboard, often convex shaped. They were popular from 1860—1920 and most often made of older parents or grandparents or deceased loved ones.

Antique dealer Greg Davis recently shared these portraits of Thomas Bridge WARD and Emeline Averel (BROWN) WARD of Pulaski County. A note states that they were made in 1887 by the Acme Copying Co., a business with canvassers who took orders across the country and mailed the old photos to their Chicago studio to be copied and printed.

**From the Editor:** If anyone has crayon enlargements of Montgomery County residents, you are welcome to share them on the Genealogy Club Facebook page or bring them to CDPL to be scanned and shared. I will tell you, I have a family photo I thought must've been damaged and someone hired to recreate as best as could be done; now I know it is meant to look like that.



Our ancestors' feet no longer leave prints in the earth,  
but their stories are still here for us to find  
~ Unknown



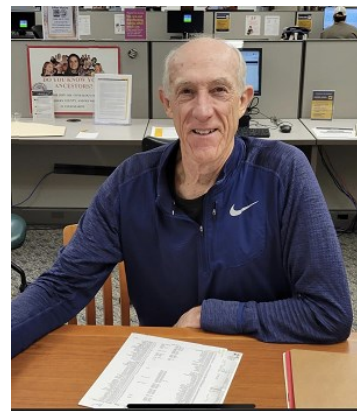
## Library Happenings by Dellie Craig



Dellie Craig

After Hours events are not the only time we see genealogy hunters looking for information (10 in attendance in January with the next After Hours on Friday, 28 April 2023). Take a look at the recent visitors to visit CDPL.

**Pictured to the Right**– Tom REYNOLDS who came in from Indianapolis to research his MOUNT family. Also learned how to use plat maps, probate/guardian records, CDPL local history database, Family Search, Find A Grave, and Ancestry.

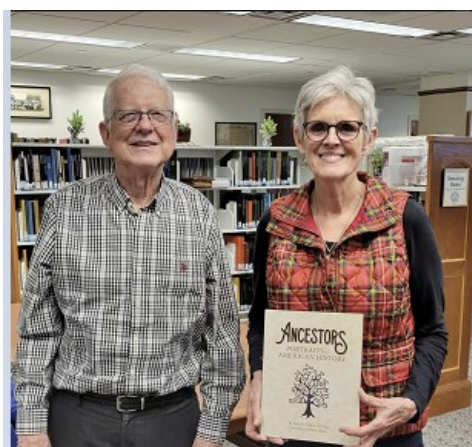


**Pictured Below**– Newest Club member Richard

STROUP from Lebanon, IN. He is interested in learning if President Lincoln stayed in Montgomery County for a night. He heard years ago that Lincoln stayed the night at Urban STOVER’s place north of Ladoga. Richard is also researching the connection between LANE, WALLACE, and BRATTON.



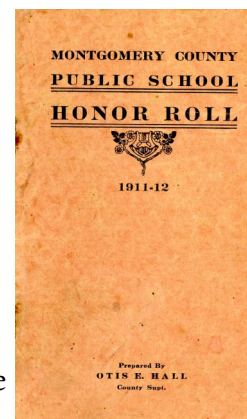
**Pictured to the Right**– Larry MCKINSTRY and Sharon MANN came in to CDPL to learn how to use [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) and to print a fan pedigree chart. Sharon also donated a book entitled *Ancestors: Portraits in American History* by Kathryn Mann HERRING with Richard Ross MANN.



**Pictured to the Left**– Karen and Jim ZACH donated to CDPL some very interesting pieces from local businesses, some journals of the SMITH family from Waveland area and family letters, Darlington newspaper, and a photo titled *Christian Sunday*



**Pictured to the Right**– Martin KEELY brought in a pamphlet *Montgomery County Public School Honor Roll* for CDPL to scan. This is another piece of history preserved. It has a lot of old Montgomery County schools listed that no longer exist. You can see photos on our Facebook page. Look and see if you have family members listed!



Check out the CDPL Facebook page or the Genealogy Club of Montgomery County, IN Facebook page to see more photos and to learn more details. As always, if you have anything you would like to preserve, like Aaron SIMMS said earlier in his article, contact me or CDPL. We would love to scan your items. We preserve them digitally and can return them to you or if you would like to donate them to CDPL, we would be honored to care for your items and make sure they are protected for future generations.

**GENEALOGY  
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interesting articles at  
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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, 2022 to September 30, 2023 are due in September 2022.

They may be given to Dellie Craig at the Crawfordsville District Public Library or mailed to the Club Treasurer, (Vicke Hudson-Swisher, c/o CDPL, 205 S Washington Street, 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](http://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

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

Family/Families you are researching:

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