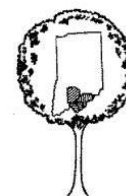


Southern Indiana Genealogical Society Journal



Volume XXXIII May 2014 Issue 1

P. O. BOX 665, NEW ALBANY, IN 47151 – 0665 | SIGSVOLUNTEER@GMAIL.COM | ISSN 0747-8453

Message From The Editor

Greetings, everyone! As you may remember, in 2012 SIGS decided to convert our quarterly publication to a newsletter format due to the unexpected closure of McDowell Publishing Company and the lack of any cost effective publishing alternatives. While we had hoped to continue providing this newsletter, until now we have not had the resources to continue providing any publication at all without raising membership dues substantially.

Now we're halfway through 2014 and I hope to change all of that! We want to make sure all of our members are getting their bang for their buck, so to speak, so this journal will now be published online semiannually.

However, if we don't have any articles then there is nothing to publish so this still means that we need submissions from **YOU!** If you have any articles, research, transcriptions, or queries to submit, please send them to us at sigsvolunteer@gmail.com.

Here's to turning over a new leaf!

Allison Fredrickson, editor

**Become a member of the First
Families of Floyd, Clark, and
Harrison Counties!**

See page 3 for more details

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Download Indiana Sanborn Maps for FREE!

Submitted by Allison Fredrickson

Most genealogists are aware of the great value of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps™ to help place your city-dwelling ancestors in context. They can help answer questions about when a particular building was constructed or when streets were renumbered or changed names, which can help you narrow down when and where someone was living in a particular place.

In order to view these maps you often need to go to a library in the city you are researching, or else go to a local library with a subscription to a database like "Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970" from ProQuest.

However, if you have Indiana ancestors, you are in luck! In 2011 Indiana University partnered with an organization called Historical Information Gatherers to archive IU's digital Sanborn Map™ collection, which has made digital color images of almost all of the public domain maps for Indiana cities available online for free!

You can access this collection through the **Union List of Sanborn Maps** on the website of Indiana University – Bloomington's libraries: <http://libraries.iub.edu/union-list-sanborn-maps>. This allows you to browse for maps by city name, and will have links to individual sheets for each year when available.

Keep in mind that only the public domain maps are available for free. This means that any maps after 1923 are still copyright protected and so your best bet would be to contact local libraries to be able to view them. ♦

2014 SIGS Programs

Our **January 2014** program was cancelled due to winter weather.

In **February 2014** we hosted the Genealogy Tea program we had originally hoped to put on in January, where members discussed their current research.

For **March 2014** Donna Foster hosted a program comparing several genealogy software programs for PC: The Master Genealogist, Family Tree Maker, and Roots Magic.

In **April 2014** we had 2 living history presenters: Melissa Wiseheart as Mrs. Olivia Butterfield, first librarian at the New Albany Library, and Mandy Dick as Harriet Scribner.

At our **May 2014** program we had Allison Fredrickson from the Jeffersonville Township Public Library, Melissa Wiseheart from the New Albany – Floyd County Public Library, and Kathy Fisher from the Harrison County Public Library present on resources at their respective libraries that will help you do research on First Families in Clark, Floyd, and Harrison counties.

In **June 2014** we will screen Philip Collins' and Daniel Frank's documentary "New Albany: City by the River."

In **July 2014** we will have a "Kaleidoscope Genealogy" event with three speakers: Norma Lincoln on "Beginning Your Genealogical Research"; Allison Fredrickson on "Citing Your Sources"; and Donna Foster on "Using Free Online Research Resources."

Remember to save the date for **October 2, 2014**, when we will be hosting our "History and Heritage Celebration" in honor of the First Families of Floyd, Clark, and Harrison Counties! ♦

**SIGS programs are held the first Thursday of
the month at 7 pm in the Strassweg
Auditorium of the New Albany – Floyd County
Public Library.**

First Families of Floyd, Clark, and Harrison Counties



First Families of Floyd, Clark, and Harrison Counties is a new project of the Southern Indiana Genealogical Society designed to discover, honor, and preserve the memory of the tri-county pioneers. Membership in First families is open to anyone proving direct descent from a settler living in the tri-county area prior to December 31, 1840. The project hopes to document the lives and contributions of some of the counties' early Native Americans and pioneer African Americans, women, immigrants, and children.

Approved applicants will receive First Families certificates and be honored guests at the **History and Heritage Celebration** on **October 2, 2014** which will include re-enactors, pioneer artisans, frontier period entertainment, historians, and genealogists. Applications will be archived for use by other researchers.

Applications for the First Families Project, as well as more information, may be obtained through the SIGS website: http://bit.ly/sigs_ff ♦

First Families FAQ

How do I know if I qualify?

If you can trace your direct lineage back to a person who was living in Floyd, Clark, or Harrison County, Indiana before December 31, 1840, then you qualify!

How do I apply?

Download application forms from the SIGS website: http://bit.ly/sigs_ff. Fill out **both** parts of the application and submit it along with your supporting material to:

Southern Indiana Genealogical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 665
New Albany, IN 47151 – 0665

Can I get help with my application?

Absolutely! You can always contact SIGS at sigsvolunteer@gmail.com. In addition, libraries in the three counties will be hosting workshops to help you learn how to research your pioneer ancestors and fill out the application. For information on when a workshop will be held in

your county, visit the website for the First Families project: http://bit.ly/sigs_ff

How much does it cost?

The registration fee *per applicant* is **\$15** for the first ancestor and **\$5** for each additional ancestor.

When is the deadline?

If you wish to receive your certificate in the 2014 ceremony, we must *receive* your application by **September 1, 2014**. However, if you submit it after this date you will still be eligible to participate in the First Families program for the following year!

When do I get my certificate?

You will receive your certificate in person at the "History and Heritage Celebration" on **October 2, 2014**. If you are unable to attend this ceremony, we will mail your certificate to you afterwards.

New Albany Bicentennial, 1813 – 2013

Submitted by Donna Kepley Foster

Over 100 people attended the first annual First Families of Floyd County, Indiana Celebration on Thursday, October 3rd, in the Strassweg Auditorium of the New Albany-Floyd County Public Library.

Educational and nostalgic items were on display. Photographic displays featured the 1913 Centennial, 1917 Cyclone / Tornado, and the 1963 Sesquicentennial, as well as Floyd County boundaries and names of towns and villages no longer in existence. Re-enactors included **Melissa Wiseheart** who portrayed Mrs. Olivia Butterfield who was the first Librarian in New Albany, and **Mandy Dick** portraying Harriet "Hattie" Scribner.

First Families certificates were awarded at 7 PM to persons who had proven direct lineage to an ancestor living in Floyd County prior to December 31, 1840.



Mrs. O. M. Butterfield
(Melissa Wiseheart)



Margaret Lamb Atchley listens to the dulcimer
of Geraldine Neely.



Hattie Scribner
(Mandy Dick)



The following is a list of Pioneers of Floyd County and the applicants who were able to become a First Families member through them:

AKERS, Thomas, Sr.

John William Akers

BAKER, Benjamin

Deborah Ann Moss Spurlock

CHEW, Sarah

[Sarah (Chew) McCafferty]

Mark McCafferty

COLE, Stephen

Beverlee Stuart-Borok

COLEMAN, Sarah "Sally"

[Sarah (Coleman) Sampson]

Kay Woodward Dean

ENGLEMAN, Phillip

Donna Kepley Foster

FISKE, Peleg

Linda Lane Blevins

Dorothy Florence Bickel Richardson

GRAVES, Mary

[Mary (Graves) Fiske]

Linda Lane Blevins

GRAY, Robert

Constance McCafferty Strandberg

GROCE/GROSS, David

Constance McCafferty Strandberg

GULLETT, John Wesley Sr.

Sharon Gullett

GULLETT, John Wesley Jr.

Sharon Gullett

HEY, Joseph

Constance McCafferty Strandberg

LaFOLLETTE, Robert

Sarah Ann Neely

Vicki Lynn LaFollette Neely

Matthew Scott Neely

LAMB, Henry

Olivia Anderson

Margaret Lamb Atchley

LEACH, John S.

Sharon Gullett

McCAFFERTY, Abraham

Constance McCafferty Strandberg

Mark McCafferty

MAYFIELD, Levi

Beverlee Stuart-Borok

PIERS, Susanna

[Susanna (Piers) Vernia]

Barbara Tegart Warman

Elizabeth Lynn Tegart

William Peter Tegart

PIERS, Thomas

Elizabeth Lynn Tegart

William Peter Tegart

RENN, Joseph

Sharon Gullett

RENN, Peter

Sharon Gullett

SAMPSON, William

Kay Woodward Dean

SCOTT, John

Mark S. Nicholson

SCOTT, Moses

Elva Keach Swift
 Gayle Keach Owen
 Elizabeth Baker Murphy
 Robert Parker Keach
 Amy Elizabeth Grover
 Mary Helen Keach Baker
 James Eugene Baker

SCRIBNER, Joel

Beverly McCollum
 Tracie Suttles
 Scott McCollum
 Jennifer McCollum
 Jesse Suttles
 Noah Suttles
 Sherry Sue Scribner Brown
 Heather Melissa Brown
 William Eitel Brown III
 Benjamin Robert Brown
 Alexander William Brown

SMITH, Joseph T.

Sharon Doughty Dukes

SMITH, Martin

Ed Hornback

TULEY, Preston Floyd

Eugene Paul Tuley
 Linda Tuley Westbrook

UTZ, Mary

Norman Jack Wolfe

VERNIA, Peter

William Peter Tegart
 Barbara Tegart Warman
 Elizabeth Lynn Tegart

WHEELER, George

Beverlee Stuart-Borok

WOLFE, David

Norman Jack Wolfe

WOLFE, Peter W.

Norman Jack Wolfe

WOODRUFF, Mary Crane

Eugene Paul Tuley
 Linda Tuley Westbrook



Floyd County First Family Celebration Committee

Chairman: **Doris Byrd Leistner**

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Susan Covey

Donna Kepley Foster

Dan Bays

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Sue Pearson Carpenter

Alex Clements

Norma Windell Lincoln

A special thank you to the Stuart Barth Wrege Indiana History Room at the New Albany – Floyd County Public Library: **Matt Eidem** and **Melissa Wiseheart.** ♦

Kenneth Hall Fiedler: the early years

Submitted by Susan Covey



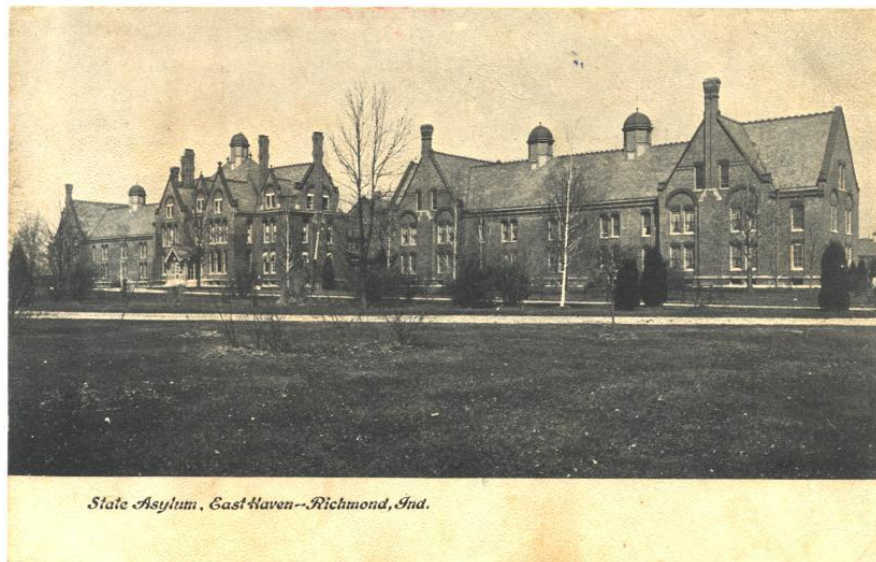
Kenneth Hall Fiedler

Kenneth Hall Fiedler's story begins with the chance meeting of his parents, **Delmar White Fiedler** and **Ollie Lee Hall**, in the bathroom of a lunatic asylum! It is a story that the family has always enjoyed telling, as much for its randomness as for its outrageousness. Carried along by the economic and social currents of their day, Ollie's and Delmar's paths would cross in 1906, after beginning their lives over 400 miles apart.



Ollie Hall

Delmar was born to **Ira Fiedler** and **Mary Ann White** in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, on February 21, 1876. Ollie was born five years later on December 7, 1881 to **Uriah Hall** and **Hannah Eyres** in Derby, Indiana. They were raised in the towns where they were born, and it wasn't until Ollie turned 21 that she traveled outside her birthplace and began the journey that would introduce her to her future husband.



State Asylum, East Haven--Richmond, Ind.

Postcard image of the mental institution in Richmond, Indiana, site of Ollie's first job

Between 1902 and 1907, Ollie and her younger sister **Jennie** traveled around the Midwest, working in mental hospitals. Ollie and Jennie first traveled to Richmond, Indiana, where they worked in the kitchen for two years. They would begin work every morning at 4 a.m. and they made \$18 a month. Ollie would have been 21 years old, Jennie two years younger. Their next job took them to Beatrice, Nebraska, to the Institute for Feeble Minded Youth. In the fall of 1906, after a brief return trip home, the girls moved on to Mount Pleasant, Iowa. There they worked at the Mount Pleasant Hospital, which in those days was simply called "the lunatic asylum."



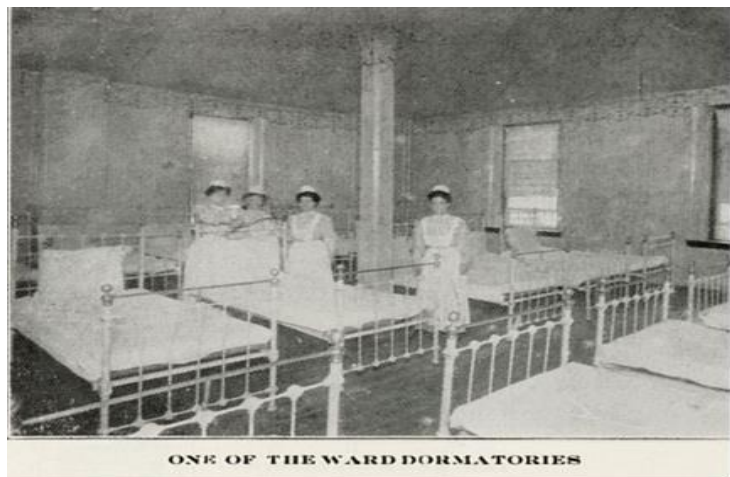
Postcard to Ollie from a friend in Beatrice, Nebraska, with the note "I thought you would like a picture of your old home." Postcard was sent on July 6, 1907

Mental health was a burgeoning field during the early 1900s, and efforts were expanding to humanize care for a previously little understood and largely mistreated segment of the population. There must have been a network of communication for institution employees that alerted them to work opportunities throughout the Midwest. Indeed, Delmar had saved a postcard from a friend notifying him about employment at a different hospital in the region.



Postcard to Delmar about job opportunities, April 1907

The turn of the century was a progressive period marked by an increasingly vocal struggle to give women the right to vote. Although the suffrage movement reflects the growing independence of women, few women worked outside the home after marriage. For a few short years between young adulthood and marriage, women had the freedom to work and travel. Even so, employment choices for women were mainly limited to the domestic sphere. Certainly work at an out-of-state mental hospital, as exciting it must have been to a twenty-one-year-old woman in 1902, was



Photograph of a women's ward at the Mt. Pleasant Mental Hospital in the late 1890s. This is probably very much like the ward run by Ollie.

still considered within the realm of "acceptable" female work.

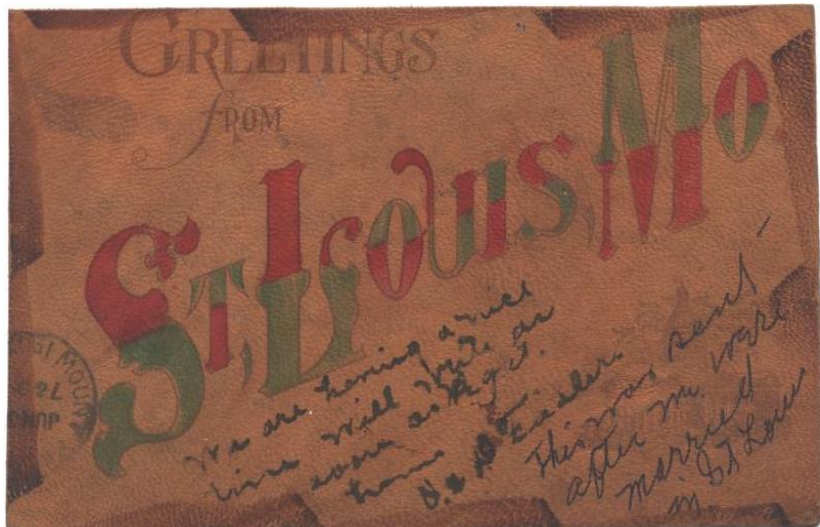


Early photo of Ollie and Delmar, c. 1908-9. Ollie is pregnant with Ralph Robert.

Ollie must have been a very responsible and capable young woman, because in five years she had worked her way up from kitchen staff to ward manager. Indeed, a friend gently admonished Ollie to not work so hard: "Take life easy now," her friend wrote. "You've had enough toil to last a lifetime." At the Mount Pleasant Hospital, Ollie was in charge of Ward 13. One auspicious day the toilet in Ollie's ward stopped working and the plumber was called in. His name was Delmar Fiedler. Ollie led him to the bathroom

and while he worked, she held the door open to keep the patients out. It must have been quite a conversation, for this is how their courtship began.

Ollie had arrived in Mount Pleasant in the fall of 1906. Since she and Delmar were married in the summer of 1907, the attraction must have been immediate and their romance proceeded at a rapid pace. They were married on Saturday, June 29, 1907 in St. Louis, Missouri. St. Louis was a major city between Delmar and Ollie's hometowns, but why they chose to marry there remains a mystery. We do know that they were married by a Baptist minister, and family history holds that the ceremony was disrupted for a short while when the baby upstairs fell out of its crib. The very evening they were married Ollie and Delmar sent a postcard to his mother in Mount Pleasant. "We are having a nice time," Ollie wrote. "Will write as soon as we get home." She signed the postcard "O. & D. Fiedler." The postcard arrived at its destination the next day. How happily Delmar's parents must have received that postcard! Following their marriage in St. Louis, Ollie and Delmar traveled on to Derby, Indiana, where Delmar would meet his wife's family for the first time. Postcards indicate that the newlyweds stayed in Derby for the month of July before heading back to Iowa.



Postcard sent from St. Louis, Missouri, to Delmar's parents on the day of their marriage.



Delmar holding Ralph, three days old.

The newlyweds first traveled to Moline, Illinois. History doesn't record where Delmar found work, but there was a mental hospital called the Illinois Western Hospital for the Insane nearby. Given both Ollie and Delmar's work history, we might assume that they found work there. Postcards indicate that they lived in Moline from September to December of 1907 at 136 5th Street. However, they were soon out of work and returned to Mt. Pleasant hoping to find employment. They found no work there either. They then traveled to southern Indiana where Ollie's family had settled three generations earlier. Her forbearers were many of the original pioneer families that had settled between Derby and Rome. She had five sisters and one brother plus many cousins in the area, so it must have been a very happy homecoming, despite the stress of unemployment.

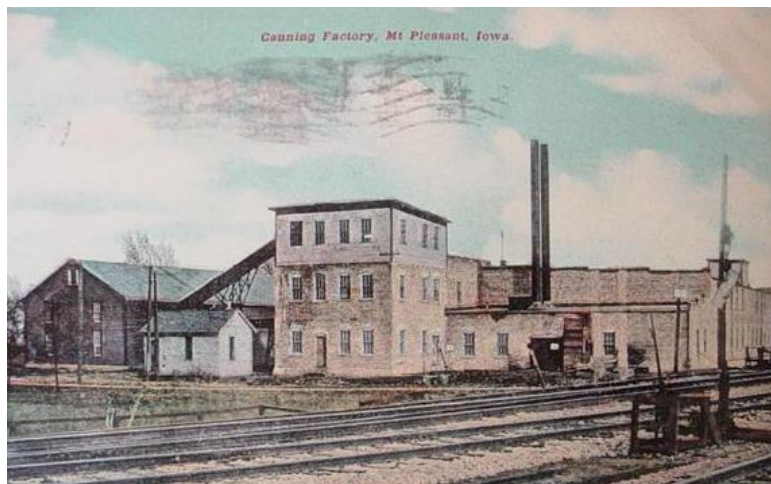
Delmar had secured a job at a Hub and Hame Factory in Tell City. They rented a small home in Tell City on 12th Street. It must have been a happy time in their lives – they were newly married, living near Ollie's dear family, finally secure in job and home. They were also expecting their first child. **Ralph Robert** was born in Tell City on October 6, 1908.

Ollie's mother and Aunt **Molly** were with her for the birth. Ralph was a sickly baby from the start. In later years, when Kenneth would retell this story, he always said that Ollie's milk "never agreed with him." Ralph lived nine months. He died at Grandpa Hall's on July 10, 1909, and was buried at Carr Cemetery. Delmar and Ollie sold their cow for \$25 and used the money to buy his headstone. His death was a terrible loss. Kenneth later would say that "it killed them." Even in Ollie's old age she still mourned the loss of this dear baby.



Ralph Robert Fiedler, 1908-1909

After Ralph's death, Delmar and Ollie decided to move back to Mt. Pleasant where they were welcomed with open arms by Delmar's parents. Delmar got a job working on a farm for a corn canning factory. The



Canning Factory, Mount Pleasant, Iowa

factory owned many farms and hired men to work them. Farm work didn't agree with Delmar. Kenneth told us that "he wasn't a farmer to start with." And so Delmar went to work inside the factory where he earned about \$1 a day. May through July was the canning season with fresh corn to can while during the off months he would repair the machinery.

To top it off, Ollie became pregnant again in 1911 at the age of 30. On June 22, 1912, **Kenneth Hall Fiedler** was born at home. He was as healthy as a baby could be, weighing in at 12 ½ pounds. The baby was healthy, the birth was safe, and Ollie and Delmar again found happiness after the sorrow of baby Ralph.

Ollie's sister **Velva** was with her at Kenneth's birth. The very next day, she sent a joyful letter home reassuring her family that all was well for both mother and baby. Attached to the top of the letter was a brown lock of hair from this very big, healthy, hairy little baby, who apparently still renamed unnamed.

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

June 23, 1912

Dear Folks,

Suppose you are over the shock by this time and would like to hear some of the particulars. Well it is certainly a big boy. It weighed 13 ½ lbs. dressed. It has real dark hair an inch long or more. I don't hardly know who it looks like but think it will be real pretty. It has the fattest little face and deep wrinkles around its wrist and neck. So many people say it is the biggest baby they ever saw. Ollie and the baby are just fine.

Dear Fern: Well what did you think when you heard about this boy. He's a "Buster". We tried that little silk cap on him that Ralph wore up home the last time and it was a good fit. Ollie says he has the most hair of any baby she ever saw. I think if I came home on a visit before Ollie does I'll bring him along. How would that suit you? He has had the colic several times and sure has good lungs.

Velva

Ollie's family must have been very anxious about the health of this child, despite Velva's reassurances. Undoubtedly Ollie was eager to return to Bear Creek to introduce her beloved family to her precious baby. That Christmas, when Kenneth was six months old, Ollie returned to Bear Creek accompanied by Velva and Jennie.



Aunt Jennie holding baby Kenneth, 9 weeks old

Since Delmar was working, he planned to meet his wife and child in Indiana and bring them back to Mt. Pleasant. The sisters and baby Kenneth came by train to Louisville, and then took a boat named the "Fariscan" to the Sodrel Landing. The captain of the boat told the women that they wouldn't be leaving for a few hours. Velva and Ollie decided to do some shopping in uptown Louisville, leaving baby Kenneth with Jennie. Their trip must have taken a bit longer than expected, for they heard the whistle blowing and rushed back, just making the departure. As Ollie approached Jennie and Kenneth, she noticed that Jennie was holding the strangest looking baby. It took her breath away and must have been a horrible shock. Fortunately, it was only a bad practical joke, as Jennie and another lady had switched babies to give them all a laugh! After Ollie had recovered from Jennie's prank, they did have a laugh about it, but I bet Ollie held her baby tightly that entire boat ride home.

Shortly after Christmas, the Ohio River began rising. By the first of January, the river had overflowed its banks all the way up to the Cody House. This precipitated the historic flood of March 1913, a tragedy eclipsed only by the 1937 record-breaking flood. As their stay lengthened, Delmar's absence began to take a toll on Ollie. Despite the unfavorable travel conditions, she decided on an early return to Mount Pleasant. She arranged for her cousin Noah Sodrel to come get her and her baby with his mail boat. He took them to Stephansport, where Ollie and Kenneth caught the train that would take them back to Delmar. As wonderful as it was being home with her family, Ollie must have missed Delmar terribly to undertake such a journey with a small baby in those conditions.



The Mt. Pleasant train station

When Kenneth was two, he and Ollie traveled again to Derby. They journeyed to Stephensport by train which was situated just across the Ohio River from Rome. From there, they planned to cross the Ohio River in a row boat to Rome. Kenneth walked with his mother down to the river, Ollie probably holding his small hand in hers, and her suitcase in the other. As all parents know, two-year-olds are fickle creatures with surprisingly strong opinions, and apparently they were even this way one hundred years ago. Kenneth decided that he did not want to be in that boat. He somehow managed to get his little two-year-old body out of that row boat and took off running up the bank. After a long day of travel, Ollie was probably not very amused, especially when he continued to refuse to get into the boat. As a last resort, Ollie had to get an extra man to hold Kenneth down while they crossed the river. This story was a big joke with Ollie's sisters; Aunt Jennie especially would tease Kenneth about his old-fashioned temper tantrum.



Mary Ann White Fiedler, aka Grandma Fiedler

Over the next few years, Kenneth returned several times to Rome, as Ollie came back to visit her family almost every year in the summer or fall. At some point he actually began to look forward to these trips, as he had discovered that there was a special kind of candy that he could buy, maybe at the station or aboard the train. It cost 25 cents, which was a lot of money back then, especially considering that Delmar made only about \$1 a day. Kenneth would pester his mother about that candy and it used to drive her crazy. He must have been pretty good at pestering since it would seem that he developed a taste for it.

Returning to Mt. Pleasant was a happy occasion for Ollie, despite the sadness of leaving her Indiana relatives. Ollie once wrote that she "enjoyed [her] in-laws more than words can tell." She felt like a daughter to her father-in-law, **Ira Fiedler**. She also held Delmar's mother, **Mary Ann**, in great esteem. "Mother Fiedler was such a Christ-like person," she later recalled. "I longed to be like her."

Grandpa and Grandma Fiedler lived close by on Broadway in a two story house. They must have spoiled Kenneth terribly as he was the only little one around to love on. Kenneth's descendants would later hypothesize that his status as only child and grandchild would indelibly influence his character. When Grandma and Grandpa became sickly, it was decided that Delmar's family would move into the house on Broadway to help care for them. They lived there for three years, providing Kenneth with some of his most precious childhood memories.



Grandma and Grandpa Fiedler's house on Broadway



Kenneth on his first day of school at Willowbrook.



Iowa Wesleyan College



Kenneth riding his trike with Ollie

In 1917, at the age of five, Kenneth began kindergarten at Willowbrook School. That same year, the United States entered into World War I. One block away from Grandma and Grandpa's home on Broadway was Iowa Wesleyan College where Ira Fiedler had attended college for three years, a school which helped earn Mt. Pleasant the moniker "Athens of Iowa."

The dormitories at Wesleyan were taken over by soldiers that had come to Mt. Pleasant for basic training. The soldiers would march up and down Broadway, about 50 of them in formation, 5-6 men wide and 6-8 men long. For a five-year-old boy, these soldiers marching up and down the street in front of his house must have been mesmerizing. Sometimes Kenneth would join in alongside, marching up and down with a few friends, waving a little flag. Other times he would attach the flag to a tricycle that he had gotten one year for Christmas and ride up and down Broadway with the soldiers. It must have been a bittersweet image for anyone watching -- young men, hardly more than boys themselves, preparing to off go to a war from which they might never return, being chased by children waving their little flags... an image that seemed equally innocent and ominous. Those soldiers certainly made quite an impression on little Kenneth.



A horse-drawn ice wagon



A horse-drawn water wagon

Another favorite childhood memory of Kenneth's was the ice wagon. A horse-drawn wagon would drive up to the houses and deliver ice. How he looked forward to it! The children were given a handful of ice chips to munch on. Even as an old man, Kenneth would reminisce about those ice chips. How he had loved the ice truck!

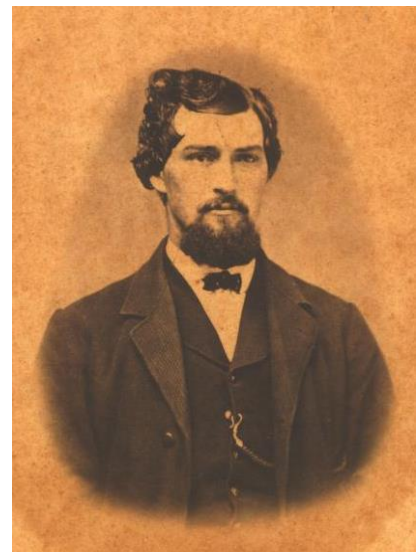
Broadway was a wide dirt street. In summertime, when the road was dusty, a horse-drawn water wagon would go down the street, wetting down the dirt to minimize the dust. The front porch at Grandma and Grandpa's home must have been a fine spot for a young boy to watch all the action.

In the alley behind the Broadway house was a two story shop. Grandpa was a cabinet maker when he was young, and indeed the 1879 census lists "Ira Fiddler, carpenter." Kenneth loved the shop, with the big carpenter work bench and tools. It was a refuge for Grandpa as well, for when someone came to call that he didn't care for, he would retreat to his shop. Kenneth must have spent some happy times in that shop with his grandfather, maybe watching him work, fetching his tools, or building toys with scrap wood.

Another favorite spot for young Kenneth was the second floor at Grandma and Grandpa's house. He wasn't allowed upstairs during the daytime; it was used only for sleeping. But upstairs there were boxes that he loved to rummage through. Kenneth loved to get up there when he wasn't supposed to and nose around. For a young boy, these boxes held treasures. He remembers Japanese fans - frequently used by women in those days - a toilet bowl and lots of penny items. Kenneth would also amuse himself with a phonograph. It had tubes, not records, and he was allowed to play the tubes and listen to music. As an only child in the early 1900s, Kenneth probably had to play alone much of the time, given that the adults had so much work to do without the modern conveniences.

Ollie spent her days caring for her ailing in-laws. Grandma was the first to get sick. In those days, they said she had a lung infection, but in later years Kenneth would say that she probably had tuberculosis.

She was bedridden with her illness, and she died in 1917. "She died in her sleep, just like she wanted to go," Ollie later said. Grandpa died of cancer in 1919. "I realized that I suffered a great loss at their



Ira Fiedler, aka Grandpa Fiedler,
as a young man

deaths," she recalled as an old woman. "The sweet association had impressed my life deeply." After Grandpa's death, they sold the furniture, house, and lot. Delmar, Ollie and Kenneth moved back to their own home at 500 East Street.



Christian Church, Mount Pleasant, Iowa



Ladies Aid of the Christian Church, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Possibly Ollie Hall to the right of child wearing white hat.



Sunday School class of the Christian Church in Mt. Pleasant.
Delmar Fiedler is in the back row, fourth from the left.

Delmar and Ollie belonged to the Christian Church in Mount Pleasant, which Kenneth remembered as a very big and beautiful worship space. He also remembered a big tank at the front of the church that was used for baptizing. Delmar and Ollie were very active in their church community and they never missed a Sunday service. Ollie taught Sunday School for about 40 to 50 people who would gather after the service in the back part of the church. Every Wednesday Ollie attended church meetings. On Thursday afternoons the Ladies Aid group met, and "Ollie was nearly always president."

Delmar and Ollie had many friends from church, and it must have been one of their main social groups. Even in old age Kenneth remembered Christian Church family friends, particularly Mrs. Ina Trout and Mrs. Ungram. And after all those years, Kenneth still remembered so well the delicious chicken suppers at church. There were two or three chicken suppers every year, plus a church bazaar to look forward to. No doubt Ollie, Delmar, and Kenneth participated in all those events. The Christian Church played an important role in Kenneth's early life, from both a religious and social standpoint.

For a while two of Ollie's sisters lived nearby, which must have been a great comfort for her as she so often suffered from homesickness. Jennie and Velva had a milliner's shop, first in Mt. Pleasant, later in New London, located about eight to ten miles away. Back then, a woman would always wear a hat when she stepped outside. She would have a fancier hat for trips to the store and church and a bonnet if she was going outside to work. Each woman would have one or two dozen hats. Jennie and Velva made hats from scratch with felt and feathers. **Robert Harris**, Velva's son, later recalled a story that his mother had told him about their hat shop. One day a woman came into the shop looking for a hat. She tried on every hat in the shop but left without buying anything. She then went down the street to another shop, and bought a hat at that store instead. "The sisters promptly fixed up a hat just like it and put in the window with what would have been a very cheap price for that time," recalled Robert.



Jennie and Orba

Despite the company of her sisters and her frequent trips back home, Ollie was still homesick. In his recorded interview in 1989, Kenneth repeated over and over how homesick Ollie was in Mt. Pleasant. He recalled that she had known so many people in Derby, having attended the Cummings School and coming from a large family. By Kenneth's count she had about 50 cousins, as both Grandma and Grandpa Hall (**Uriah and Hannah Hall**) had several sisters. She missed them terribly. Traveling about as a young woman was one thing, but marrying and settling down far from home was quite another. And with the death of Delmar's parents, there were few ties to keep them in Mount Pleasant.



Hall Family

Left to right: Ollie, her brother Rob, her father Uriah, her mother Hannah, sisters Fern (next to doll), Orba, Velva, Jennie and Grandpa Hall



Early photo of Ollie on Bear Creek

In early 1922, motivated by Ollie's homesickness, Delmar and Ollie decided to find a place for sale near Derby. They asked Grandpa Hall and Ollie's brother Rob and her brothers-in-law Bert and Clark to keep an eye out for a farm for sale. They heard that George Wheeler had his farm up for sale, and they arranged to go ahead and buy it. Delmar and Ollie purchased 249 acres for less than \$10,000. They put down \$4,000 and owed \$6,000 in debt. Clark and Bert lived nearby so they put out crops that first year. How happy Ollie must have been to hear that their new farm on Bear Creek was so close to her family. Her brother Rob lived one mile east of the farm. Grandpa Hall was up near Derby. And her sister Orba and Clark lived where Dick Bryant lives.

Back in Mount Pleasant, Ollie and Delmar put their home on East Street up for sale. They sold it to a dairyman who lived a block away. So ended the Mt. Pleasant chapter of their lives, and thus began the next. For the rest of his life, Kenneth would live in Bear Creek.

Note on Sources

I have relied on several sources to compile this family history. I have made every attempt to 'stick to the facts' although in order to add a more personal dimension to this story, I have occasionally hypothesized about our ancestor's inner lives. These forays into unknown emotional states have been indicated by use of suppositions, such as "must have," "possibly," "would have," etc. In most instances, of course, I have no possible way of knowing for certain what these people were thinking, but given the facts, I thought it not far-fetched to attempt to empathize.

Fortunately, it was sometimes very easy to offer insight into the emotional lives of our family because they left such wonderful records. In particular, I based this history on the following sources:

- 1) Kenneth's oral history that was recorded on video at Thanksgiving 1987
- 2) Ollie's oral history recorded by her granddaughter, Peggy Fiedler Jones, in 1960
- 3) Ollie's collection of penny postcards
- 4) Ollie's journals (especially regarding Ralph's death)

All photos are from our family albums and Ollie's postcard collection, except for the following: women's ward dormitory at the Mt. Pleasant Mental Hospital, the canning factory and train station in Mt. Pleasant, and the horse-drawn ice and water wagons. These were all found on various internet websites, as was the quote about Iowa Wesleyan College.

In particular, I found these web sites helpful in compiling information for this history:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iahenry> -- a great resource for history of Henry County, Iowa; source for photos of canning factory and train station

<http://iagenweb.org/history/index.htm> -- website of Iowa History Project

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iahenry/1909asylumphotos.htm> -- multiple images of Mt. Pleasant Mental Hospital, including photo of women's ward

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iahenry/hair1865.htm> -- 1865 business directory of Mt. Pleasant, including comparison with Athens

<http://www.beforetime.net/iowagenealogy/henry/HistoryOfHenryCounty1879/HistoryIndex.html> -- history of Henry County, Iowa, with specific pages devoted to Mt. Pleasant. ♦

First Things in New Albany

Found in the Indiana Magazine of History, September 1921, Vol. XVII #3, pg. 241

First tree cut down, March 2, 1813.

First log cabin built by Scribner, 1813.

First frame house, Joel Scribner, 1814.

First sale of lots, November, 1813.

First child born, Harriett Scribner, 1815.

First church, Wesley Chapel (Methodist), 1817.

First preacher, John Shrader.

First school, opposite courthouse, 1817.

First teacher, Stephen Beers.

First physician, Asabell [Asahel] Clapp.

First hatter, Isaac Brooks, 1818.

First tavern, Cliha Marsh kept the first tavern in the town, in a little log cabin on High street (Main), 1814.

First jail, log, built by Seth Woodruff, 1819.

First steamboat, the "Ohio", built 1818.

First circuit judge, Davis Floyd, 1823.

First sheriff, James Besse, 1824.

First post master, Joel Scribner, succeeded by his son Harvey in 1823.

First surveyor, John K. Graham, 1813.

First county clerk, Joel Scribner, succeeded at his death by his oldest son, Harvey.

First merchants were Paxson and Eastman.

First courthouse built in 1823.

First recorder, Aaron Armstrong, 1833.

First bank, New Albany Insurance Co., 1832, established by Elias Ayres and Harvey Scribner.

First newspaper, by Ebenezer Patrick, 1820.

Incorporated as a city, 1839.

First treasurer, William Speake, 1846.

First County Auditor, Augustus Bradley, 1846.

SIGS Publications For Sale

See page 21 for information about how to purchase any of these items.

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER
New Titles			
<i>New Albany & Floyd County, Indiana First Families—A Guidebook Listing Early Pioneers & Many of their Descendants</i> (2013)	260 pages, fully indexed and comb-bound	\$40	\$35
Fairview Cemetery Records			
<i>Fairview Cemetery Volume I, 1 Sep 1852 – 18 Nov 1865, New Albany, Indiana</i>	70 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$15	\$10
<i>Fairview Cemetery Volume II, 7 Jan 1866 – 31 Dec 1880, New Albany, Indiana</i>	104 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$15	\$10
<i>Fairview Cemetery Volume III, 1 Jan 1881 – 31 Dec 1890, New Albany, Indiana</i>	97 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$15	\$10
<i>Fairview Cemetery Volume IV, 1 Jan 1891 – 31 Dec 1899, New Albany, Indiana</i>	94 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$15	\$10
<i>Fairview Cemetery Volume V, 1 Jan 1900 – 31 Dec 1909, New Albany, Indiana</i>	119 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$15	\$10
<i>Fairview Cemetery Volume VI, 1 Jan 1910 – 31 Dec 1909, New Albany, Indiana</i>	130 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$20	\$15
<i>Fairview Cemetery Volume VII, 1 Jan 1920 – 31 Dec 1929, New Albany, Indiana</i>	130 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$25	\$20
<i>Fairview Cemetery Volume VIII, 1 Jan 1930 – 31 Dec 1934, New Albany, Indiana</i>	most entries with obits, 204 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$25	\$20
<i>Fairview Cemetery Volume IX, 1 Jan 1935 – 31 Dec 1939, New Albany, Indiana</i>	most entries with obits, 188 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$25	\$20
Miscellaneous Cemetery Records			
<i>Floyd County, Persons Buried in Ground Owned by City of New Albany, 1841-1852</i> by Anna McKim Frederick (1986)	63 pages, indexed, soft bound	\$15	\$10
<i>Clark County Cemetery and Church Records 1982, Selected Cemeteries and Records of Pisgah Presbyterian Church</i>	70 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$15	\$10
<i>Floyd County Cemeteries 1982</i>	(selected cemeteries), 56 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$20	\$15
<i>Floyd County Cemeteries Vol. II</i>	(selected cemeteries), 83 pages, indexed, soft bound	\$15	\$10
<i>Wolfe Cemetery, Floyd County, Revised 1998</i> by Anna McKim Frederick	99 pgs., indexed, softbound	\$15	\$10
<i>Wolfe Cemetery, Revised Edition, with obituaries and index of 6000+ names, 1820-2009</i> by Anna McKim Frederick	278 pages, indexed, softbound	\$35	\$30
<i>West Haven Cemetery, (Floyd County), Carpenter & Atchley</i>	224 pages, indexed, soft bound	\$30	\$25

<i>Galena Gleanings, Plus an Update to Galena Cemetery, Floyd County, Indiana, Atchley & Carpenter (2003)</i>	350 pages, stone transcriptions, obituaries, death records, newspaper abstracts, etc., indexed, spiral bound	\$35	\$30
Abstracted Records			
<i>Abstracts of Entries in Government Lands, Floyd County, Indiana 1841-1852, by Mrs. M. Arthur Payne (1965)</i>	146 pages, indexed, softbound	\$20	\$15
<i>First Marriage Records of Floyd County, Indiana 1819-1837, by Mrs. M. Arthur Payne (1964)</i>	132 pages, indexed, softbound	\$20	\$15
<i>Marriage Records 1837-1845, Floyd County, Indiana, by Mrs. M. Arthur Payne (1972)</i>	180 pages, indexed, softbound	\$25	\$20
<i>Will Book A 1819-1830, Floyd County, Indiana, by Mrs. M. Arthur Payne (1973)</i>	134 pages, indexed, softbound	\$15	\$10
<i>Will & Bond Record B, March 1853-September 1864, Floyd County, Indiana, by Mrs. M. Arthur Payne (1964)</i>	134 pages, indexed, softbound	\$20	\$15
<i>Harrison Co., Indiana, The German Evangelical Reformed Peace Church, by Larrine Warmoth & Joanne P. Schneider (1982)</i>	44 pages, indexed, softbound	\$10	\$5
<i>Register of the German Reformed Peach Church, Floyd County, Indiana, by Joanne P. Howard</i>	indexed, softbound	\$10	\$5
<i>Selected Floyd County Birth Records, Announcements, and Decrees, abstracted from microfilms by Margaret Atchley, Sharon Bundy, and Patricia Foster</i>	Selected Records from 25 Dec 1920 - 27 Aug 1926 from microfilm; Birth Decrees Oct 1941-Mar 1966; Georgetown Births from Floyd Co. Birth Records Bk. H-10; Plus Newspaper Index of Selected Births; indexed, softbound	\$15	\$10
Indexes			
<i>Index to 1870 Census, Floyd County, Indiana, by Shirley Wolf (1989)</i>	40 pages, softbound	\$10	\$5
<i>Index of Harrison County Cemetery Listings, by Carpenter & Atchley, 2000</i>	Name Index only to volumes by Mr. Fred Griffin; 352 pages, indexed, spiral bound	\$35	\$30
<i>Index to 1870 Census, Floyd County, Indiana</i>	1870 Census Population Schedule, indexed, hardbound, 644 pages.	\$35	\$30
<i>Index to Biographies in Baird's History of Clark County, Indiana, by Diane Henley (1985)</i>	32 pages, softbound	\$10	\$5

<i>Quarterly Table of Contents 1980-2007</i> by Donna Foster	Updated 2007, soft-bound	\$10	\$5
<i>G. W. Hawes New Albany City Directory</i> for 1859	transcribed, with scans of actual ads; 160 pages, soft-bound, indexed	\$25	\$20

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