THE BLACKFORD-WELLS TRACER

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Blackford-Wells Genealogy Society

INSIDE

**DON'T FORGET –
PAY YOUR 1997
DUES TODAY!**

NEWS BRIEFS

<u>EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 1996 MEETING:</u> President Lynn Elliott opened the meeting by leading members in the Pledge of Allegiance. She announced the Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 18, 1997 at the Brass Latch in Montpelier, Indiana, 10:00 a.m.

Ken Manning presented the Treasurer's Report. Total receipts for the year were $1,635 including the $500 loan and an anonymous gift of $100. Total expenses for the year were $1,075.83. The balance to date is $559.17. Anticipated expenses include $100 for organizatinal expense (non-profit tax status) and $100.00 for operational expense. Dues for 1997 were not requested at this time as the treasurer wishes to clear up all current expenses for a true year end balance, but certainly will be accepted.

The minutes of the July 20, 1996 meeting were read by Diana Busche.

There were no other officer reports presented.

The Nominating Committee reported that the current officers have agreed to serve for one more year. The slate was thus:

President	Lynn Elliott
V. President	Lucille Reidy
Treasurer	Ken Manning
Secretary	Barbara Elliott

Balloting and installation will be conducted at the next meeting.

Dues for 1997 are $10 for individual membership and $15 for family membership.

Volunteers are needed to read the 1870 Census microfilm.

Virginia Wittwer will replace Tricia Dirig as Program Chairman for 1997.

Marge Graham presented an interesting and informative program on "Landscaping Your Family Tree".

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Elliott, Secretary

Vice President, Lucille Reidy is recovering from her recent surgery at home. You can drop her a card at: 5750 N 200 E
Hartford City, IN 47348

NOTICE:

Due to the extreme weather and road conditions, the January meeting was cancelled. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 19, 1997 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Brass Latch in Montpelier.

MAKING THE MOST OF MAPS

by: Diana Craig Busche

Want to make your genealogy come to life? Turn all the facts and figures into a short story so that future generations will come to know your family as the people that they were, instead of a jumble of dates and names. Granted, in most cases, you won't be able to give an account of exactly what happened and why, but using a combination of locations, dates, and history you can give future researchers and readers a pretty good idea of your family's own story.

A map showing the entire country is useful for tracing the possible route your ancestors may have taken to a given location. Using topographical map can be useful as well. Pioneers generally can be counted on to follow the "path of least resistance" when making the trek westward. Instead of going over the mountain, they will go around it – or through a gap, such as the Cumberland Gap.

Following the path your family took, may give you new ideas of places to look for information. For instance, I know that "my" Craig family was in Abingdon, Virginia in 1800. I know that a son married a woman in eastern Tennessee. I know that in 1850, "my" Craigs were in Knox Co., Kentucky. I know that by 1880, they were in Pike Co., Indiana. Family legend says that they lived along the Cumberland Gap. Looking at a map of the country, I can get a general idea of the route the family took to Indiana. Now, I can refer to local history books covering Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana to see what events may have occurred that caused my family to move from place to place. Perhaps, I will even run across *more* references to my family!

The easiest map to find and use, of course, is a current map of the area where your ancestor lived. Try to obtain a copy of a map from the time period your ancestor lived there. Then, compare the two. Chances are, there are quite a few differences between the two maps! County lines change, township lines change ... even state lines change! One particular book that shows the changing county and state boundary lines is "Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920" by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide (1987). This 445-page book shows all U.S. county boundaries from 1790 t0 1920. On each of nearly 400 maps, old county lines are superimposed over modern ones to highlight boundary changes at 10 year intervals.

Comparing new and old maps can reveal changing place names as well. As an example, you have an old letter referring to a cousin living in Worthington, Indiana. Look up Worthington on a map of Indiana and you will see that it is in Greene county. After checking every available record in Greene county and Worthington with no success, you find an old map that shows that there was a town called Worthington in Wells county ... compare the maps and you have Poneto AND your ancestors' records!

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is the Nation's official data base for place names. GNIS is maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey and can often provide information on name changes. This data base contains two million entries. They include the names of places that no longer exist as well as other or secondary names for existing places.

This automated system also contains the names of every type of feature except roads and highways. It is especially useful for genealogical research because it contains entries for very small and scattered communities as well as churches and cemeteries, including entries for those that no longer exist. (GNIS can be found at http://www-nmd.usgs.gov/www/gnis/ if you have Internet access.)

But, let's face it ... Some places are just hard to find. Some have changed names one or *more* times. Some are too small to be shown on a map or noted in a gazetteer. Some are now ghost towns. Some of these places may be noted on an old map. The location of some others may be found in such sources as lists of abandoned post offices, local histories, government records, microfilm records or clippings from old newspapers, old city directories, or old county atlases kept in the library or archives of a town, city, or county in the region. If you know the ward, district, neighborhood, or street of a city where an ancestor lived, an old map used in conjunction with a new map of the city may expedite your search for needed facts.

Some map resources: **The Map Catalog:** Vantage Press, a division of Random House, New York, 1990. This handbook describes features and sources of a worldwide range of new and old maps, atlases, and related products. Has sections on researching old maps, history maps, maps of the United States and of foreign countries, State and provincial maps, county maps, urban maps and city plans, boundary maps, census maps, railroad maps, topographic maps, and many other kinds of maps: **World Mapping Today:** Butterworths, London, 1987. A large, 583-page book that describes the mapping programs of each country in the world and gives the names and addresses of each county's principal mapping agencies. Section 4 on Map Evaluation provides information on how to interpret and use maps; **Map Collection in the United States and Canada: A Directory:** Special Libraries Association, New York, 1984, 4th ed.; **Guide to U.S. Map Resources, 2nd Edition:** American Library Association, Chicago, 1990; **World Directory of Map Collections** compiled by the Section of Geography and Map Libraries, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions: K.G. Saur. Munich, 1986.

SOURCE CHECKLIST

Family Name _____ Residence _____

Check ✓each item as you search it. Although these sources have American titles, most countries keep similar records.

1. FAMILY RECORDS

Personal/family records
- _____ Family Bibles
- _____ Oral traditions
- _____ Journals, diaries
- _____ Letters
- _____ Memorial cards
- _____ Scrapbooks
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Heirlooms
- _____ Farm records
- _____ Health/Medical records
- _____ Military files
- _____ Citizenship papers
- _____ Social Security card
- _____ Account books

Certificates
- _____ Birth
- _____ Marriage
- _____ Death
- _____ Adoption
- _____ Baptism
- _____ Confirmation
- _____ Blessing
- _____ Graduation
- _____ Fraktur
- _____ Anentafel
- _____ Manumission
- _____ Divorce

School Records
- _____ Elementary
- _____ Secondary
- _____ Vocational
- _____ Trade
- _____ College
- _____ University
- _____ Private
- _____ Ladies Finishing
- _____ Arts

Insurance
- _____ Life
- _____ Marine
- _____ Fire
- _____ Automobile
- _____ Accident
- _____ Health

2. VITAL STATISTICS

Vital records
- _____ Births
- _____ Deaths
- _____ Marriages
- _____ Adoptions

Marriage records
- _____ Indexes
- _____ Banns
- _____ Bonds/Applications
- _____ Licenses
- _____ Contracts
- _____ Returns

3. COMPILED SOURCES

Genealogical Society of Utah Indexes
- _____ Family Group _____ Records Archives (FGRA)
- _____ Temple Index Bureau (TIB)
- _____ International Genealogical Index (IGI)
- _____ Ancestral File
- _____ Family Register

Printed Sources
- _____ Family histories
- _____ Genealogies
- _____ Biographies
- _____ Pedigrees
- _____ County/local history
- _____ City directories

Genealogical periodicals
- _____ Indexes
- _____ Queries
- _____ Genealogies
- _____ Source extracts
- _____ Historical articles

Genealogical directories
- _____
- _____

4. PUBLIC SOURCES

U.S. Federal Censuses
- _____ Indexes
- _____ 1790
- _____ 1800
- _____ 1810
- _____ 1820
- _____ 1830
- _____ 1840
- _____ 1850
- _____ 1860
- _____ 1870
- _____ 1880
- _____ 1900
- _____ 1910
- _____ 1920
- _____ Mortality
- _____ Agriculture
- _____ Rev. War
- _____ Union Army Survivors

State/Local censuses
- _____
- _____

Land Records
- _____ Grantee index
- _____ Grantor Index
- _____ Deeds
- _____ Mortgages
- _____ Surveys
- _____ Patents/grants

Probate records

- _____ Indexes
- _____ Wills
- _____ Administrations
- _____ Inventories
- _____ Bonds
- _____ Settlements
- _____ Packets
- _____ Guardianships

Court records
- _____ Dockets
- _____ Minutes
- _____ Orders/decrees
- _____ Judgments
- _____ Case Files
- _____ Indexes

Court related records
- _____ Sheriff
- _____ Police
- _____ Jail
- _____ Jury
- _____ Lawyers Briefs
- _____ Justice of Peace

Tax records
- _____ Poll tax
- _____ Personal property
- _____ Real estate
- _____ School
- _____ Poor rate
- _____ Tax exemptions

Military records
- _____ Service files
- _____ Pensions
- _____ Bounty Awards
- _____ Discharges
- _____ Muster Rolls

Immigrant records
- _____ Passenger lists
- _____ Passports
- _____ Vaccination certificates
- _____ Alien registration cards
- _____ Change of name
- _____ Oaths of allegiance
- _____ Register of voters
- _____ Logbooks
- _____ Naturalization
- _____ Citizenship papers
- _____ Customs records
- _____ Immigrant Aid Societies

Cemetery records
- _____ Sextons
- _____ Monuments
- _____ Plats
- _____ Deeds
- _____ Perpetual Care Fund
- _____ Tombstones
- _____ Memorials
- _____ Gifts

5. PRIVATE SOURCES

Church Records
- _____ Birth
- _____ Christening
- _____ Baptism
- _____ Confirmation
- _____ Ordination
- _____ Marriage
- _____ Banns
- _____ Divorce
- _____ Annulment
- _____ Death
- _____ Burial
- _____ Circumcision
- _____ Admissions
- _____ Removals
- _____ Disciplinary proceedings
- _____ Subscription lists
- _____ Membership lists
- _____ Ministers' records
- _____ Minutes

Newspapers
- _____ Indexes
- _____ Births
- _____ Deaths
- _____ Marriages
- _____ Anniversaries
- _____ Obituaries
- _____ Advertisements
- _____ Local news
- _____ Unclaimed mail

Legal notices
- _____ Probates
- _____ Auctions
- _____ Forced sales
- _____ Divorces
- _____ Bankruptcies
- _____ Court claims
- _____ Convictions

Employment records
- _____ Indentures
- _____ Apprenticeships
- _____ Licenses
- _____ Pensions
- _____ Service awards
- _____ Personnel files
- _____ Account books

Institutional records
- _____ Charities
- _____ Hospitals
- _____ Convents
- _____ Seminaries

Collections
- _____ Libraries
- _____ Historical societies
- _____ Genealogical societies
- _____ Surname files
- _____ Orphan agencies
- _____ Reunion registries
- _____ DAR
- _____ Business records
- _____ Oral Histories
- _____ WPA projects

PRAIRIE VIEW CEMETERY

Prairie View Cemetery is located 1 and 1/4 mile north of Tocsin, Indiana (Wells County) on the west side of County Road 600 East. The entrance to the cemetery is in the center and the rows start in the northeast corner and continue west through the wooded area and then count from the west back to the east, weaving back and forth through the cemetery to the south side. There are no burials in the wooded area but it is laid out in lots for future use.

The information was abstracted from the original cemetery plot book by Margorie Myers and submitted by Joyce Bauermeister. This is the second part of the abstraction. The North Side was printed in Vol. 1, No. 4.

Prairie View Cemetery
South Side

Lot	Name	Space	Birth	Death
133	Bertha Yarger	4	1887	1917
133	Samuel Yarger	5	1834	1916
133	Catherine Yarger	6	1840	1805
134	Ardola Burnett	1		1918
134	Infant of John Stewart	5	1941	1941
134	Effie Stewart	6		1898
135	Robert Stewart	1	1864	1937
135	Ella Stewart	2	1869	1948
135	Oscar Stewart	3	1889	1969
135	Naomi Stewart	4	1895	1990
135	Robert A. Stewart	5	1917	1918
136	Sirena Kleinknight	5	1862	1919
136	Evan Kleinknight	6	1858	1956
137	Lloyd Wolf	1	1909	1935
137	Rachel Ashcraft	2	1836	1936
137	Oliver Hall	3	1863	1946
137	Sidney Hall	4	1874	1946
137	Gertrude Parsons	5	1890	1955
137	Oma Hall	6	1899	1976
138	Eliza Bowman	5	1867	1925
138	John Bowman	6	1850	1944
139	Joan Myers	3	1955	1972
139	Jane Myers	4	1948	1957
140	Odis Munsey	5	1882	1962
140	Elizabeth Munsey	6	1911	1977
141	Sadie Watrous	2	1895	1984
141	Wayne Hunt	4	1923	1989
141	Theodore Hunt	5	1884	1961
141	Eva Hunt	6	1899	1966
142	Sam Counterman	1	1904	1962
142	Esther Counterman	2	1904	1962
143	Norval Johnson	1	1906	1908
143	Otto Johnson	2	1882	1957
143	Mary Johnson	3	1884	1965
143	Clarence Cochran	6	1887	1956

Lot	Name	Space	Birth	Death
144-165	vacant			
166	John Johnson	5	1847	1916
166	Elizabeth Johnson	6	1849	1922
167	vacant			
168	John Kunkel	5	1921	1982
169	Norman Kunkel	4	1919	1981
169	Patsy Kunkel	6	1959	1966
170	Arden Kunkel	4	1923	1990
170	Infant of Arden Kunkel	6	1955	1955
171	Marion McCague	1	1868	1946
171	Sadie McCague	2	1884	1975
171	Wilson McCague	3	1913	1970
171	Andrew McCague	5	1852	1925
171	Lorena McCague	6	1856	1940
172	Faith Kunkel	1	1918	1918
172	Reuben Kunkel	3	1887	1952
172	Blanch Kunkel	4	1882	1952
172	Isaac Wolf	5	1856	1944
172	Zelda Wolf	6	1854	1919
173	Infant of Robert Bowman	6	1920	1920
174	Edward Jones	6	1849	1920
175	Infant of Elton Rupright	1	1920	1920
175	Louis Rupright	2	1924	1925
175	Elton Rupright	3	1884	1972
175	Miriam Rupright	4	1881	1968
175	Myrtle Myers	5	1916	1993
176	Michael K. Ramsey	1	1933	1933
176	Frank Garton	2	1871	1913
176	Margaret Garton	3	1912	1960
177	Frank Trenary	1	1866	1949
177	Barbara Trenary	2	1866	1912
177	William Trenary	3	1890	1971
177	Hilda Souders	6	1894	1941
178	Infant of J. Rupright	1	1914	1914
178	Infant of O.C. Munsey	1	1940	1940
178	William J. Rupright	2	1873	1940
178	Sue Rupright	3	1871	1955
178	John Nash	5	1895	1926
178	Genevieve Nash	6	1894	1972
179	Rosetta Higley	2	1891	1912
180	Janice Gryzch	3	1946	1986
180	Seth Sowards	4	1886	1970
180	McKinney Sowards	5	1856	1911
180	Sarah Sowards	6	1863	1931
181	Homer Dailey	1	1912	1978
181	Ray Wolf	3	1879	1992
181	Nettie Wolf	4	1899	1991
181	Charles Wolf	5	1864	1943
181	Rosie Wolf	6	1865	1915

Lot	Name	Space	Birth	Death
182	Clarence Church	1	1887	1918
182	Marion H. McCague	4	1883	1950
182	Katherine McCague	5	1876	1938
183	Infant of Elmer Davison	1	1918	1918
183	Maude Davison	2	1889	1918
183	Elmer Davison	3	1882	1954
183	Samuel Ramsey	4	1867	1951
183	Victoria Ramsey	5	1867	1955
183	Seal Ramsey	6	1895	1967
184	Virgil King	3	1921	1980
184	Steven King	4	1946	1988
184	Henry Mills	5	1878	1955
184	Phoebe Mills	6	1860	1918
185	Delsie Bender	1	1909	1910
185	Fred Bender	5	1878	1916
185	Clara Bender	6	1877	1965
186	George Single	5	NO DATE	
186	Emma Jane Single	6	1836	1911
187	Phoebe Myers	1	1839	1910
187	Jonathan Myers	2	1840	1924
187	Kay Don Myers	6	1934	1937
188-209	vacant			
210	Josiah Beck	1	1852	1925
210	Lydia Beck	2	1855	1938
211	John Heckley	1	1865	1942
211	Clara Heckley	2	1865	1948
211	Roger Heckley	6	1926	1926
212	Daniel Bender	1	1850	1906
212	Harriet Bender	2	1859	1911
212	Ethel Bender	3	1890	1913
213	Andrew Bertsch	2	1903	1941
213	Mildred Graft	3	1916	1988
214	Eva Davison Blair	1	1908	1937
214	Lee Davison	2	1897	1964
214	Edna Davison	3	1907	1977
214	Virgie Davison	4	1900	
214	George Davison	5	1868	1948
214	Mary Davison	6	1876	1943
215	vacant			
216	Beulah Dailey	4	1920	1993
216	Nelson Johnson	5	1870	1923
216	Hester Johnson	6	1873	1968
217	Norval Rupright	1	1915	1920
217	George Rupright	2	1889	1964
217	Estella Rupright	3	1887	1976
218	Mary Myers	4	1904	1993
218	Dora Myers	5	1889	1955
218	George Trenary	6	1840	1921

Lot	Name	Space	Birth	Death
219	Ilow Gossard	4	1910	1915
219	F.M. Gossard	5	1876	1950
219	Nellie Gossard	6	1879	1861
220	Kenneth Hanni	1	1928	1985
220	Donald Nash	3	1903	1988
220	Reuben Nash	4	1870	1952
220	Dessie Nash	5	1875	1915
221	James Preshun	2	1918	1920
221	Mazie Preshun	3	1881	1921
221	William Bollinger	4	1878	1915
222	Martha Shimer	1	1861	1919
222	Walter Shimer	2	1891	1911
222	Obediah Shimer	3	1843	1923
222	Susanna Shimer	4	1848	1913
223	MyrtleSnider	1	1883	1912
223	James Snider	5	1852	1931
223	Sarah Snider	6	1852	1918
224	Infant of Willet Sweeny	3	1911	1911
225	James Hunt	1	1874	1948
225	Lida Hunt	2	1890	1931
225	Ralph Hunt	4	1901	1985
225	Violet Hunt	5	1906	1986
225	Iven Richey	6	1837	1940
226	Catherine Breiner	3	1889	1972
226	Arba Breiner	4	1894	1993
226	James Breiner	5	1868	1947
226	Elizabeth Breiner	6	1867	1941
227	Dora Murray	3	1910	1991
227	Charlott Murray	4	1917	1976
227	Leonard Miller	5	1893	1974
227	Icy Miller	6	1893	1974
228-229	vacant			
230	Elmore Plummer	4	1874	1939
230	George Plummer	5	1909	1909
231	Lewis Johnson	1	1832	1901
231	Leah Johnson	2	1853	1924
231	Maude (Beck) Johnson	4	1883	1910
231	Walter Johnson	5	1878	1961
231	Byrel Johnson	6	1889	1957
232-253	vacant			
254	Donald Wolf	1	1925	1925
254	Moody Wolf	2	1899	1955
254.	Vera Wolf	3	1901	1985
255	David Thompson	1	1936	1936
255	Angela Ramsey	2	1981	1981
256-264	vacant			

NEWSLETTER QUERY FORM

Please print plainly. Capitalize surnames. Give maiden name of women. Be brief.
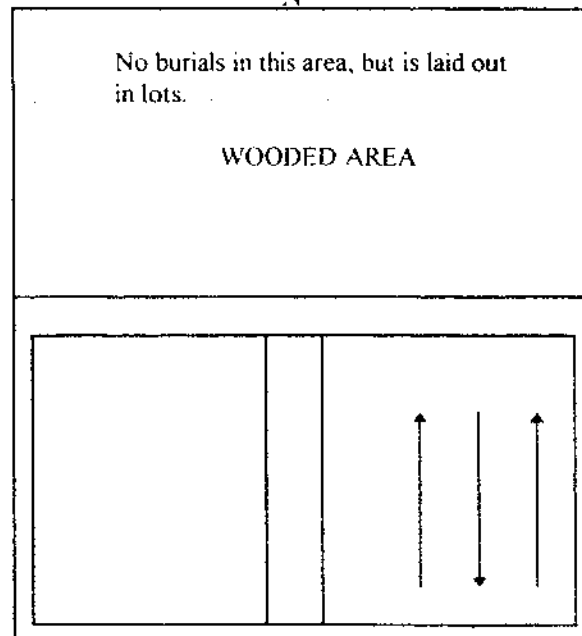
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Your Name _____

Address_____

City, State, Zip _____

When you fill out and return your membership renewal form (on the back of this page) would you please take a moment and fill out a query form? Remember, our newsletter is not only sent out to our own members, but copies are sent to the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne where potentially thousands of people will see it! And the more people who see your query, the more chances you have of locating missing information for your family tree!

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Map of
PRAIRIE VIEW CEMETERY

N

No burials in this area, but is laid out in lots.

WOODED AREA

Wells county – 600 E (between 700N and 800N)