



The Blackford-Wells Tracer

A Newsletter of the Blackford-Wells Genealogy Society

Volume 1

March 1998

Number 1

President's Corner

For those of you who have taken the time to renew your memberships, thank you. For those of you who are joining for the first time, welcome to BWGS. We hope to provide our members with opportunities to do some research, receive assistance in research, and provide programs to make our research more productive.

We are going to try meeting a little more frequently in 1998. A calendar with the meeting dates and places will be found in the Minutes of the January meeting. The next meeting will be March 21, 1998, at the Library in Bluffton. After the meeting, we will be free to do some research at the Library, and some members have volunteered to help with any questions you may have about locating information.

Thank you again to Lucille Reidy, Barbara Elliott, and Jack Wilson for serving as officers for BWGS 1998. The Society will continue to maintain a post office box at Bluffton. The official address is Blackford Wells Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 54, Bluffton, IN 46714.

Lynn Elliott

Minutes from our January Meeting

The January 17, 1998, meeting of the Blackford/Wells Genealogy Society was opened in the regular form at 10:00 a.m. at the Brass Latch in Montpelier, IN, with 13 members in attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available for reading or approval. Treasurer's report was given with an ending balance as of December 31, 1997, \$931.63.

Bills were presented by Lillie Harris for \$41.15 for postage for the Newsletter and Lucille Reidy for \$27.50 for postage for the By-laws-Standing Rules mailing. Virginia Wittwer moved these bills be paid, Mildred Garrison seconded, bills were approved.

Nominations for Officers for 1998 were opened. There were no additional nominations. Officers nominated for 1998 year were: Lynn Elliott, President; Lucille Reidy, Vice President; Barbara Elliott, Secretary; Jack Wilson, Treasurer. This slate of officers was elected for the 1998 term. Installation of Officers was conducted by Virginia Wittwer.
(Continued on Page 69)

The Life and Times of Dr. George W. Cassell & Arabelle Johnson Moorman

The great grandparents of Virginia Farlow Wittwer were George W. & Arabelle Johnson Moorman Cassell.

George W. Cassell, s/o Abraham Cassell, a native of German, & Sophia Ervin, was born 23 Oct 1846 on the old "Cassell Homestead" which is known today as the "Cassell Addition" in Hartford City, IN. Abraham Cassell was the 1st Surveyor of Blackford Co., IN. He named Kickapoo Street in Hartford City after the Kickapoo Indians.

George at the age of 16 years volunteered for duty in the Civil War as a Private of Co. I, 130th Reg. IN Vol. at Hartford City on the 26th day of Nov 1863. He was mustered out at Charlotte, NC, the 2nd of Dec 1865.

Upon his return to Hartford City, he "read" medicine with Dr. Nelson Clouser. He graduated from the Fort Wayn, IN college of Medicine. He later attended Chicago Rush College, as a post graduate course, after which he located at Dundee, now known as Roll, IN. (Continued on Page 68)

What you'll find in this issue...

- President's Corner
- Minutes from our January Meeting
- Feature Article: The Life & Times of Dr. George W. Cassell & Arabelle Johnson Moorman
- From the Editor's Desk
- History is all around us: Recalling Blackford's Interurban system
- Members and the Names they are Researching and QUERIES
- New from Technical Services
- Coming Events
- Poll Tax Records from Nottingham Township, 1889
- Research Request Workshop
- Surfing the Net the Easy Way: A Novice's View of the Internet
- And...much more

He married at Roll 16 Nov 1869 Arabelle Johnson Moorman, d/o Eli Watson Moorman & Lavina Arnold. After their marriage they left Roll and for a short time Dr. Cassell practiced medicine in Grandville, Delaware Co., IN. From there they moved to Poneto, IN, where he had a successful general practice as well as an obstetrical practice, and stayed there until 1889 at which time he retired. They then purchased a farm north of Hartford City where the Marsh Supermarket stands today.

George Cassell died on the farm at Hartford City 1 July 1906, and is buried in the IOOF Cemetery east of Hartford City. His medicien bag, mortar and pestle, and record book of births were donated by his great granddaughter,

Virginia Farlow Wittwer, to the Veterans Home at Lafayette, IN.

George's wife, Arabelle Johnson Moorman was born in White Co., near Lafayette, IN 31 July 1850 and died 5 July 1940. She is buried beside her husband in the IOOF Cemetery at Hartford City, IN. She was one of the oldest and most prominently known of the pioneer residents of Blackford Co., IN. Despite her advanced years, Mrs. Cassell's keen intellect was undimmed till the end. She took great delight in her home and flowers and having been a resident of Blackford County since before the days of the Civil War her memories of bygone days were of great interst to those who were privileged to hear her tell them.

One of the people who was privileged to know her and listen to her stories was her great granddaughter, Virginia. One of the most interesting stories she told was the time her sister-in-law was visiting in Ohio and rode back to her home in Hartford City on horeback. Before leaving Ohio, she cut a small pear branch to use as a whip. Arriving home she stuck the cutting into the ground. It grew and produced a pear tree that was still standing (1940) in the Cassell addition.

Dr. and Mrs. Cassell were the parents of six children: Clara May; Minnie Belle; Lela Ethel; Edgar Night, m. Blanche Starr; Ida, m. Guy Mahorney, Sr., and Lovinia (who was known as Bonnie) m. Jess Craft. Clara, Minnie, and Lela all died young.



Dr. George W. Cassell



**Arabelle Johnson
Moorman Cassell**

Minutes from our January Meeting (Continued from Page 67)

The By-laws and Standing Rules for The Society was then presented and discussion followed, with questions being answered by Lucille Reidy. A motion to accept the By-Laws and Standing Rules was made by Sara Gartin, seconded by Nona Voiz, and approved.

The results of the survey concerning meeting dates were then discussed. According to the survey 10 people preferred to meet as we do not or 4 times per year, 8 people preferred to meet every other month or 6 times per year, and 7 people preferred to meet every month or 12 times per year. The Executive Committee asked that the membership try the 6 times per year schedule for one year, with another vote being taken January, 1999. The meeting dates for 1998 are as follows:

<i>Bluffton Library</i> March 21 Brass Latch Montpelier	May 16 <i>yes</i> Brass Latch Montpelier <i>Bluffton Library</i>
July 18 Library Bluffton (Will be held at the Wells Co. Court House Annex at 200 W. Washington Street)	
September 19 Brass Latch Montpelier	November 21 Library Bluffton

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Elliott, President

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

With the help of my committee: Ann Wheeler, Virginia Wittwer, and Mary Uptgraft, we have put together our first newsletter for 1998. We hope to get the four editions out on time this year, following the schedule of publication and delivery between the 1st and 10th of March, June, September, and December.

Again, everything except the postage was donated for this newsletter. My thanks to Lynn Elliott for the printing, Virginia for the donation of the paper, and my committee for all their work. I also want to thank Lucille Reidy for the \$10.00 she gave to buy paper. We now have enough paper to print the newsletter for the rest of the year.

We would like to know what the members would like to see in the newsletters. For instance, how many members have computers? How many of you are on the Internet? Do you want more computer articles?

Sara Gartin tells us that all of the books in the Indiana Room at the Wells County Library are now catalogued.

Last November 27 cards were sent to members telling them that our records indicated they had not paid their 1997 dues; and if they wished to be reinstated for membership in 1998 to please pay their dues by January 1, 1998. Several people responded by paying their dues.

The final issue of the 1997 newsletter was mailed on 22 November 1998 to 52 members, plus the Montpelier, Hartford City, Allen, Huntington and Wells County Libraries, the Logan County, OH, Genealogical Society and the Historical Society of Randolph, Co., IN.

We would like for all members, if you have not already done so, to fill out their membership form and also the "Surnames I am Researching form" that appears on the back page of this issue. Return both forms to Jack Wilson, P.O. Box 54, Bluffton, IN 46714. The information you send regarding the surnames will be published in the next newsletter, and as our newsletter goes all over the United States I feel that it would benefit anyone researching to have it seen in as many localities as possible. Sometimes you obtain a bit of vital information from where you least expect it!

Lillie Harris

NOTICE

If a red dot appears on your mailing label please contact Treasurer, Jack Wilson at P.O. Box 54, Bluffton, IN 46714 to check if you have received credit for your 1998 dues.

CIVIL WAR INMATES

Relatives searching for clues to Civil War ancestors should be aware of the records of Confederate prisoners at Fort Delaware Prison on Pea Patch Island, Delaware. There are records for 2,436 Confederate soldiers who died in that prison during the Civil War. The prison held up to 12,595 inmates at a time and a total of 33,565 were held there during the war. When prisoners died, the bodies were transported by boat to the New Jersey side of the Delaware river and buried in trenches at Inn's Point. The place is marked with a towering obelisk and at its base there are plaques with names of the soldiers in the common grave. (Newsletter Chicago G.S. Nov. 1995)

History is all around us: Recalling Blackford's interurban system

by Kristy Stultz
The News-Times

Saturday, April 26, 1997 (reprinted)

There's a lot of history in Blackford County and no one knows that quite as well as the Blackford County Historical Society. What's even more important is how much they love to share it with everyone else.

Back in the coldest days of January (1997,) the society invited Bill Shantz to share his video, "The Singing Wire" with members.

"The Singing Wire" was about the interurban electric trains that connected the communities of Indiana with one another. The purpose of the miles of electric track was, "That the interurban lines help to establish a neighborly feeling between residents of different towns is shown by the business done between the cities along the lines of the Union Traction Company." said J.P. McGeath in the December 31, 1902, issue of the Evening News.

Hartford City's first interurban station was opened in 1903 on Jefferson and Washington Streets. The first cars ran from Hartford City to Muncie on Sunday, February 9, 1903. At first routes were sporadic but as interest and demand grew the frequency of the routes grew. In the February 3, 1903, Evening News, E.A. Merkle, an engineer employed by F.P. Roberts and Company, said the train would make the 18-mile trip to Muncie in about an hour.

According to a timetable found in a 1927 Montpelier Yearbook, there were no less than 24 trains leaving the station...12 North to Bluffton, Fort Wayne, Lima, Detroit, and "hundreds of other points" and 12 South to Hartford City, Muncie, Anderson and Indianapolis.

According to newspaper reports, Oil Belt Traction Company built the interurban roads while the actual franchise was owned by Union Traction Company.

The interurban wasn't all peaches and cream though. The Historical Society found several accounts of accidents and one murder.

Daniel Linder, a motorman for the interurban, was murdered by Dr. Nelson Ross, Muncie, over a 10-cent fare. According to a Hartford City Daily Times Gazette, on August 6, 1909, Dr. Ross was asked for a 10-cent fare. When he refused to pay, Linder and others forcibly removed Ross from the train whereupon Ross drew a revolver and shot Linder several times.

That's just one sensational event in the very long and prosperous history of the interurban railway. The railway was finally forced to close down on January 18, 1941.

There were several reasons for the end of this era. Progress was one factor. Many had their own automobiles. Why ride a crowded train when you could drive yourself on the open highway with the wind in your hair?

There are still many residents who remember taking the trains down to Indianapolis to shop, or playing on the same streets that the interurban ran down.

The interurban is a rich part of not only Indiana's history, but of Blackford County's.

Chronicle-Tribune
Marion, IN
Sunday,
January 18,
1998

Will the
granddaughters
of Viola D.
Johnson, de-
ceased, please
contact me.
Robert Milford
Attorney
765-662-8804

Complementary Issue

We are sending complementary copies of this newsletter to former members who for one reason or another have let their membership lapse. Please enjoy reading this edition and do think about rejoining and paying your dues for 1998. We would be glad to have you back!

HAVING TROUBLE FINDING YOUR ANCESTOR? FILL OUT THE RESEARCH REQUEST WORKSHEET FORM ON PAGE 80 OF THE NEWSLETTER AND BRING IT TO THE NEXT MEETING. PERHAPS ONE OF OUR MEMBERS CAN HELP YOU FIND NEAR OR FAR IN LOOK NEXT!

It was reported by Sara Gartin at our last meeting that the Wells County Library has a Website address:
<http://www.wellscolibrary.org>
All the books in the Indiana Room are cataloged.

Old Naming Pattern for Children

- The 1st son was usually named after the father's father
- The 2nd son was usually named after the mother's father.
- The 3rd son was usually named after the father.
- The 4th son was usually named after the father's eldest brother.
- The 5th son was usually named after the mother's eldest brother.
- The 1st daughter was usually named after the mother's mother.
- The 2nd daughter was usually named after the father's mother
- The 3rd daughter was usually named after the mother.
- The 4th daughter was usually named after the mother's eldest sister.
- The 5th daughter was usually named after the father's eldest sister.

■ This pattern was not always followed exactly but most would usually keep the pattern for the first three children. If there was a name that was found in every generation, (example: John, William, Edward, Charles, etc.) then somewhere in their children you will surely find these names. If one is stuck on finding parents for an ancestor, try this pattern to give one a suggestion as to a name to search for.

Members and the names they are researching

- J. K. & M. H. Antrim, 2511 N St Rd # 1, Bluffton, IN 46714
PH: 219-824-4359
Researching: **Antrim** (Antram) **John & James**, left Kent England about 1678; **Dalzell**, John Berks Co. PA; **Teas** (Tease), **Edward**, Derl Island, MD; **Hudson**, Virgil, Philadelphia, PA.
- Jerry & Margaret Crandall, 1513 Ridgewood, Bluffton, IN 46714
PH: 219-824-1864
Researching: **Toms**, Frederick Co., MD; **Gallivan**, Wayne Co., IN
Hollister, MA; **Slayman**, PA; **Quill**, Wayne Co., IN.
- Frank & Mildred Garrison, P. O. Box 95, Montpelier, IN 47359-0095
PH: 765-728-5955
Researching: **Fear**, **Newton Wayne**, Blackford Co., IN
- Ruth Nadine Williams, 699 W. Windsor #11, Montpelier, IN 47359-0095
PH: 765-728-2376
Researching: **Williams**, **Oliver**, B. 1835 OH, M. 1sep 1858 in Wells Co., IN **Elizabeth Cloud**
- Wanda Ketelhut, 377 W Lemon Creek RD. Baroda, MI 49101
Researching: **Gouge**, Troy Co., OH, **Taylor**, **Riggs & Coleman** of Decatur Co., TN, **Shipman**, Stoddard Co., MO.
- Lillie L. Harris, 1286E 1000 S., Keystone, IN 46759
PH: 219-346-2635
Researching: **Alberson & Harris**, Rndolph, Jay & Wells Co., IN; **Brown**, Jay & Wells Co., IN; **John Carter & Nancy Ann Murray**, Fayette Co., OH & Caroline Co., VA.
- Mary Uptgraft, 9491 S 600 E, Keystone, IN 46759
PH: 219-346-2384
Researching: **Tate**, **Jarrett**, **Fuller**, **Godfroy** (**Godfrey**), **Bulger & Uptgraft**. All of Wells, Blackford & Randolph Co., IN.
- Ann E. Wheeler, 10197 S 100 E., Keystone, IN 46759
PH: 219-346-2218
Researching: **Sawyer**, Saline Co., NB & Western, NB, also Bird City KS
- Virginia Wittwer, 304 E. South St., Bluffton, IN 46714
PH: 219 824 3027
Researching: **Farlow & Spray**, Randolph Co., IN; **Cassell**, Blackford Co., IN & Belmont Co., OH; **King**, Corning, OH; & **Moorman**
- Jack Wilson & wife Arleen, P.O. Box 171 Petroleum, IN 46778-00171
PH: 219-346-2402
Researching: **Wilson**, Jay & Wells Co., IN; **Reed**, Wells Co., IN

Lewis Ellingham, P.O. Box 426691, San Francisco, CA 94142-6691

PH: 415-863-7103

Researching: **Ellingham & Scotton** Wells Co. & England; **Herran, Branner, Pease, Boyle, Temple & McDermott** all Wells Co., IN

Rose Cattanach, 10614 Settlewood Dr., Lowell MI 49331-9435

PH: 616-897-5353

Researching: **Gardenour**, Washington Co., MD/Wells Co., IN; **Cotton**, Trumbull/Mahoning Co, OH/ Wells Co., IN; **Sowle**, Trumbull Co, OH/Wells Co., IN; **Sowards**, Seneca Co., OH/Wells Co., IN; **Shady**, Adams/Wells Co., IN; **Wolfcale**, Trumbull/Mahoning Co., OH/Wells Co., IN

Karen Belkin, 1527 Calle Ryan, Encinitas, CA. 92024

PH: 760-436-0475

Researching: **Meyers**, Wells & Blackford Co., IN; **Moore & Jones** Randolph Co., IN.

Queries

Lewis Ellingham, P. O. Box 426691, San Francisco, CA. 94142-6691

Wanted: Wells Co. (Rockcreek & Liberty Twps)/Bluffton 19th century to present links with descendants of **William Ellingham** Pioneer Farmer/Shoemaker. Researching Wells Co. IN names: **Ellingham, Scotton, Herran, Branner, Pease, Boyle, Temple & McDermott**.

Rose Cattanach, 10614 Settlewood Dr., Lowell, MI 49331-9435

Wanted: **James Wolfcale**, b. @ 1832, m. **Mary Ann Sowle/Soul**, b. 1839 on Dec. 1859 Wells Co., IN. For their Ch. I have: Rufus, Isaac J., Clark Eucurtis, Victory Eliza & Della. The 1910 census, however, says there were 6 children. Would love to correspond with anyone having knowledge of any of the above.

Karen Belkin, 1527 Calle Ryan, Encinitas, CA 92024

Wanted: Searching for parents of **Michael Jones**, b. 1804 Va, d. 1877 Randolph Co., IN. Married **Nancy Abshire** 1827 Randolph Co., IN. Will exchange information.