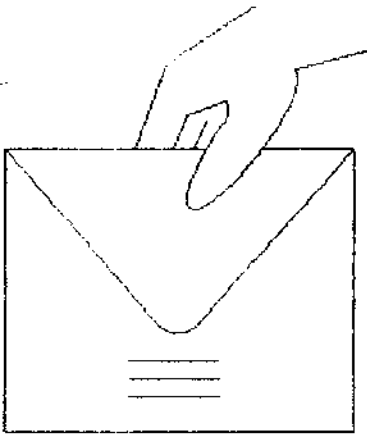


July 15, 2000



Queries sent to us via E-mail  
or via our P.O. Box  
Can you help solve these puzzles?

**Q. ATKINSON**-Looking for G-G-Grandfather George Washington Atkinson, 1846-1920, later married Lucinda Stevens. Son Oscar E. Atkinson 1881-1937, married Lizzie Furguson. Hartford City-Upland area. Any help on this line would be greatly appreciated.

Mark Atkinson

Manhattan Beach, California [MArki93847@aol.com](mailto:MArki93847@aol.com)

**Q. MARSH**-Nathan Marsh's second wife Polly mortgaged their property in the village of Pagetown, Morrow County, Ohio on August 17, 1854. They brought goods and traveled to the village of Nottingham County, Indiana. 1850 census lists Nathan as a clothier. He may have also been a peddler and came to Nottingham to sell their wares. Nathan died and may have been buried near the village of Nottingham. Did he own property? Where is he buried? Is there more information about him?

Gordon Marsh

60 Huth Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14225-1517

**Q. RAPP, ANDERSON**-Looking for information about Lena (Anderson) and George Rapp's family. Lena's mother was Marie Robinson Anderson Turpin. George and Lena's children: Stella m Jason Funk; George Jr. m Marjorie, Charlotte m Eric Holm, Bob m Betty, Marjorie Florance m Ralph Grun (?), Raymond m Pink Blake, Vivian m Lester Cale, Margaret Jane m ? Lee; Velma m Marion Bart Wilhelms; Helen m Tim Reidy, Barbara Sue, George, Richard, Patrick.. Any information on this family?

Linda Myers

812 E. National Highway, Washington, Indiana 47501

# Levi Kimmel

by Molly Kendall

My great grandfather, Levi Wesley Kimmel, spent most of his life in Wells County, Indiana. He was born in 1876, in Randolph County, Indiana. His mother was 21 years his father's junior. His mother's name was Catherine Bartow and his father's name was Jacob Kimmel, both of whom were born in Ohio. Jacob fought in the civil War for the state of Ohio. Levi had 6 siblings, 4 brothers (William, Benjamin, Isaac and Jesse) and 2 sisters (Indiana and Alpharetta). Indiana supposedly was a rumrunner during Prohibition. Levi was married twice; first to Mary Tewell who was 8 years his senior. They had 2 daughters, Carrie and Florence (who was my grandmother). His second wife was Mable Perry and it was her 3rd marriage. Levi's claim to fame was being a very good contractor in Wells county. He made his own bricks in a workshop in the back of his property in Poneto.

He built the house that the family lived in, in Poneto. He also built the school at Chester Center. It is said that when he finished building the 2-story structure that he had less than one wheelbarrow full of bricks left.

Levi was a fairly wealthy man until one of two things happened. My mother told me that he lost his money in the "Crash of 29", but someone else told me that he was very trusting and never had time to go to the bank, so when he would see the banker on the street he would give the money to him and ask him to deposit it into his account. Ultimately, the money disappeared and Levi lost faith in banks and started burying his money in the back yard. Levi also helped raise one of his granddaughters. He lived to be 86 years old and died in Bluffton in 1960. Unfortunately, I was born in 1961 and was unable to meet this (as he is recounted to me) very colorful man who spoke with a heavy German accent. Auf Wiedersehn Levi!

# Blackford County Courthouses

The present courthouse was erected in 1893, it is the second of two courthouses for Blackford County built since the legislation ordered the creation of Blackford County in 1838. Some sources say that a portion of Delaware County was included in Blackford County, but by comparison of maps and other documents, it appears that Blackford was taken entirely from Jay County. (Editors note: a census map of 1830 shows Blackford as being 90% Delaware County and about 10% Randolph County). The latter relinquished it readily enough because, as a resident of Jay County remarked, "It was nothing but a swamp anyhow". However, with the initiation of an excellent drainage system Blackford County now has hundreds of acres of good farm land. The legislature had to order a county seat location four times, although it appears that the second set of commissioners selected the site.

In early days, Blackford County was not interested in establishing a system of Courts.

The first session of Blackford County Court was held at the home of Andrew Boggs, the present site of the AmVets home, under a large oak tree within growth of briars and plum thickets. The bailiff, Frederick Beal, stood guard with a pocket full of rocks to ward off any intruders. The County Offices were first kept at residences and places of business of the incumbants, and at a log building originally built as a residence.



In honor of our Nations Independence the next couple of pages are donated to the United State of Indiana and how it came into Statehood.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!**

# Markle

Wells Co. history 1837-1992

Markle, according to history, was first platted in 1836 and was known as Tracy, being named for a man who owned land where the town was first laid out. The town did not grow very fast until 1850, when Dr. Joseph Scott erected the first permanent residence. It was at that time, although no authentic statement in history is available, that the name of the town was changed to Markle. the name of Markle it was reported, was obtained from the name of a man named Markle, who also owned land which was used for part of the town site. Madduxville was a small town next to Markle on the east side and located in Wells County. Most if not all of the Tracy portion of Markle was in Huntington County. Madduxville became a part of the town of Markle. The Tracy Post Office established in May of 1849 was renamed Markle in June of 1852 and George F. Miller served as the first Postmaster.

# USS Blackford

Blackford County history

The Blackford, a self-propelled barracks ship, built in Evansville, was named for Blackford County. Her keel was laid out in January, 1945, and she was launched April, 1945. The overall length was 328 feet and the crew compartment was 12 officers and 125 crewmen.

The ship arrived at Pearl Harbor in August after being fitted out at the Naval Supply Depot in New Orleans, and joined the Third Amphibious force. During the next eight months she served at Eniwetok, Ulithi, Leyte, and Tokoyo Bay as a floating barracks with a troop capacity of 300 men. In 1947 the ship was placed in the reserve and sold as Navy surplus in 1960.



# Liberty Center

Wells Co. History 1837-1992

Liberty Center was named for its

geographical center of Liberty

Township. History notes that Liberty

Township was first settled in 1836 and

1837 by James Jackson and Henry

Mossburg. G.H. King and Johnson

King were the next to arrive. The

township was organized and the first

election held at the home of John

Kings, the inspector, on the first

Monday in April, 1842. There were

only nine voters at this election. They

were: James Jackson, Henry Mossburg,

G.H. and Johnson King, Jacob First,

John McFerren, David Goings, John

Mounsey and John Hupp.

The first road opened through Liberty

Township ran from Bluffton to Jackson

Township, leaving the center of Liberty

Township to the right (west). It was

surveyed with a pocket compass about

1839 or 1840. It has long since been

obliterated by farms. The next Road

was the present north and south road

running through Liberty Center.

History further says that if any one

man may claim the fatherhood of

Liberty Center it is the late John W.

Rinear. He came to Liberty Township

in 1854. He helped clear the land at

Liberty Center and part of his farm was

the site for the town. In 1863, after

returning from the war, he married

Sarah C. First, a native of Liberty

Township. On December 28, 1866, a

daughter Hannah S. Rinear was born,

the first native child of Liberty Center.

She married John B. Funk of Liberty

Center.

Actually Liberty Center was laid out

November 12, 1878, by John Ernst and

John Rinear.

In 1881 it had a Post Office, three

general stores, a blacksmith and wagon

shop, two sawmills, a tile factory, two

physicians and a population of 125.

The Liberty Center Post Office was

established by Joseph R. Walker,

postmaster, on November 18, 1857.

# Kingsland

Wells Co. history 1837-1992

Kingsland was another town that came into existence when the Chicago and Erie railroad was built. The town was first established about the year 1886 when a Presbyterian church was erected there. The early residents of Kingsland were: Daniel K. Hanna, Donaldson Wilson, David T. Wasson, and Evan L. Chalfant. In the early days Kingsland was a rival of other nearby trading communities. While history does not reveal any facts, old settlers say the name Kingsland was chosen from the fact that the land in the vicinity was productive. In reference to the name Kingsland, it is supposed that there was a desire to indicate that the land was "fit for a King."

Al Forst furnished at one time the information that Kingsland was named after a Civil Engineer named Kingsland, who aided in surveying the Chicago and Erie Railroad.

The Post Office at this location was established as Parkinson on June 9,

1882, by Postmaster Ebenezer

Parkinson, but the name was changed to Kingsland on April 21, 1884.

The most notable event in the history of Kingsland occurred on September 21, 1910, when two traction cars collided there, killing thirty-four people and injuring many others.

## Did you know?

Orville L. Whitacre was the first Blackford County soldier to die from wounds in World War I?

He died August 9, 1918.

