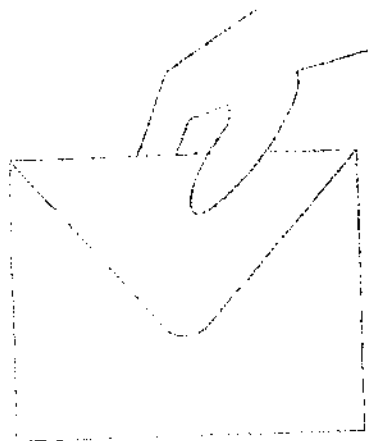


Nov. 18, 2000



Queries sent to us via E-mail

or via our P.O. Box

Can you help solve these puzzles?

Q. MORGAN, GARY, DeHAVEN, RILEY, PHILLIPS, HOPKINS, MEYERS

- Seeking information about the descendants of Isaac and Sarah (GARY)

MORGAN, children: Sarah b.c. 1822-3 m: ? DeHaven;

Mary Jane m: Davis Riley;

Almira b: Feb 27, 1836 m1) Henry Lee Phillips m2) Ambrose Hopkins;

Jacob G. m: Marilda J. Meyers..

Ancestors would be nice to know too!

Helen Fazio 4620 Valerie Street; Bellaire, Texas 77401-5820

hfaz@pdq.net

Q. DAVIS, FUNK, RINEAR, GARRETT, MOSSBURG, RUSSELL,

JOHNSON - Looking for any information on these Wells County families.

Kathy Davis 9114 Goshen Road; Fort Wayne, Indiana 46818-9423

KDavis63@aol.com

Q. Your queries should be printed here, please send them in so we can try to get them answered. Hope you are having good luck in your searching.

Minutes of September Meeting

The Blackford-Wells Genealogy Society met on Saturday September 16, 2000 at the Montpelier Community Building.

President Connie Brubaker opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

The Secretary's report was read and approved. The Treasurers report was also read and approved.

Connie reported that new inquiries had been recieved, most of them for Blackford County. She also reported that she has had several contacts on the internet.

Brochures are still available for memberships. Connie will be in the tent at the Bluffton Street Fair. She also reported that she has had several applications for First Family certification and explained the forms for certification.

A discussion of a publication of cemeteries in Blackford and Wells Counties. Whether a CD, hardbound book or spiral bound should be made.

Libraries or Friends of Libraries to sell the books? Dawn Montgomery and

Kathy Davis volunteered to gather information on this. Is \$30.00 too much for CD's?

A discussion of a meeting place was held.

Jane Sloan Broglin will be the speaker at the Huntington Genealogical Meeting the first Wednesday of October.

Virginia Wittwer spoke about the Genealogical meeting that she attended at the Allen County Library in July and the book that she obtained from that meeting.

Dousing was discussed as an aid to locate graves and was demonstrated by Dawn Montgomery.

Mollie Kendall moved for adjournment and Kathy Davis seconded the motion.

Next meeting will be November 18, 2000 at the Bluffton Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Blanche Bennett, Secretary

Banner City - Waikel

Wells Co. towns and townships

Banner City became a village in 1860. It was along the Chicago and Atlantic Railroad, a mile west of Uniondale on the dividing line between Union and Rockcreek townships. The owner of the *Bluffton Banner*, Mr. Roth, named the village after his newspaper. The first business was started by Levi Waikel. Mr. Waikel built the first home in Banner City and was the first postmaster.

Banner City was platted on May 11, 1882, by John Crum and Andrew Brickley. John E. Beil surveyed and laid out 300 lots in April 1882. The post office was also established in 1882. Mr. Brickley bought and moved a sawmill to Banner City and operated the Millers Brothers Handle and Bat Company.

J.H. Crum, Uriah Rarer, and Henry Folk all lived near Banner City in 1886. Levi Waikel's father, William Waikel, owned the first threshing machine in

Union Township. In 1879, he handled over 42,000 bushels of grain.

Ice pits were located one-fourth mile south of Banner City. There was an ice house on the banks of the gravel pits, which had been used to make roads. Ice was cut during the winter months, packed in sawdust, and stored for summer.

In 1886, Charles Taylor owned a cane mill near Banner City which made molasses. The mill was run by his son, John, and Adam Hey.

By 1937, when the *Bluffton News Banner* published its Centennial Edition, Banner City had become one of Wells County's vanished villages.

Advertisements on page 2

Chas. Turner's Barber Shop
Mrs. Pyle's Beauty Shop..Oil Permanent \$2 and up
W.A. Markley and Son Contractors
Dale D. Nusbaum Cement Contractor-Plastering
Merle Glass Barber shop
The City Barber Shop
Jones Coffee Ranch..Fresh Fish Sandwiches and
FREE Coffee
Guy Pond Assessor of Wells County
Nash and Son..Groceries and Meats

Headlines:

Centennial Coronation Ceremonial
Mayor of Decatur, Arthur Holthouse sends Letter
of Greeting to People of Bluffton
Ft. Wayne Residents to Get Natural Gas
Sheep Tick's Bite Kills Indiana Farmer

Page 3 Headlines:

County Centennial To Be Observed Sept. 22
Bluffton Fair open Tuesday Night
Big Parade to Launch Five-Day Fair
Alpheus J. Cutler Called by Death
Resuscitator will Be Given Hospital
Mrs. Mary Ann Paxson dies Tuesday at Fiat
Mrs. Luella Loeff Seeking Divorce

Page 4 Headlines:

Old Central Building was Erected in 1867
Photo of C.G. Quick Former Mayor of Bluffton
Photo of A.R. Huyette Former County School
Superintendent

Advertisements:

Michael's Shoe Shop
Mort Swigert's Barber Shop
Moser Super Service Station
E.C. Schurr Railway Express Agent
J.S. Stout D.D.S.
Portland Cement Association
Libby Sales Craigville Garage
Bluffton Church of Christ

Page 5 Headlines:

How Pioneer Cabin built by Settlers
Miss Lewis speaks before Rotary Club
Fortune Ready to Die and Expects no Delay

Advertisements:

Wake up your Liver Bile
Alex Gitlin..Dealer in Junk and Coal
Shell Super-Service Station "Pete" Peters Proprietor.
Lawrence Markley Asst.
J.C. Penny's
Funderburg and Allred Home Furnishings
Dr. J.E. Laidlaw Veterinary

Page 6 Headlines:

The "Beef Trust" of the Sinful Sixties

Advertisements:

C.O. Petry Veterinarian Ossian Indiana
Ralph Boltin Liberty Center Electrical Work
Masterson-Tyndall Co. Clothing and Shoes (photos
of Byrl J. Masterson, Curtis O. Ellis, Thomas
Wilson Grove, Earl F. Harvey and Ralph M.
Tyndall)
The Progress..J. Edwin Reynolds

Page 7 Headlines:

Personals

Brent Marriage is Legal, Judge says
Only Once Has Bluffton Ever Had Privilege of
Entertaining President, Harrison here in 1894

Advertisements:

Miller-Jones Shoes
Plessinger Hat Shop
Ruth's Dress Shop..Dresses \$1.00-\$7.95
The Vogue Hat Shop
Hoover's Home Store..Kingsland
John D. Cook Gravel and Sand...Montpelier
Rinsinger Coal and Feed Co..Montpelier

Page 8 Headlines:

Classified

Union Demands Halt Sailing Vessel

Tonsils Removed...Grace Deam

Huntington Hold-up man receives Parole...Jerry
Ross

Advertisements:

Ulmer's Food Market Photo of Interior of store and
5 employees
Grand Theater. "The Good Earth"
W.W. Wile
Public Sale of Mrs. Fred Dick
Lewis Foreman at Sparks Auto Supply
Franklin Security Co. Loans up to \$300

Mrs. Speheger at 105 Is Oldest Resident in Co.--Lives at Craigville

Mrs. Elizabeth Speheger, the oldest resident in Wells county, is also older than the county itself. On July 10 of this year she celebrated her 105th birthday.

Born in Berne, Switzerland in 1832, she first came to this country in 1854. In Wayne county, Ohio, she was married to John Speheger in 1855. In 1862 they came to Wells county and built a cabin on a farm a few miles east of Bluffton, and Mrs. Speheger has spent a total of 75 years of her life in Wells county and now lives with a daughter, Mrs. Mary Baller, aged 73, at Craigville. Her husband died in 1915 at the age of 86.

Mrs. Speheger is quiet and unassuming and her conversation is almost entirely in the German language. Quiet celebrations have been the rule on each natal day since Mrs. Speheger has passed the century mark.

A special effort will be made to have her attend the Centennial celebration, if she feels able to make the trip to the city.



MRS. ELIZABETH SPEHEGER