

Blackford-Wells Tracer

Volume 6 Issue 2

March 10, 2001

Uniondale Grocery Stores cont.

By Amanda Brubaker 1993

- Don't forget you can still order Pioneer/First Family Certificates until July 2001.
- They look great framed and on your wall proudly displaying your Wells or Blackford heritage! All this for only \$10 per certificate.
- Make checks payable to BWGS.

Memories of the "Cupp store for everything" by Mary Cupp Harris, daughter of Ray Cupp, born in 1910. Mary worked in the store for everyone who owned it.

"Dad opened the store at 5 am so he could catch the Fort Wayne traffic." People who worked at places like G.E. would stop and buy tobacco, gasoline, or cold meat for their lunches. He closed up at 10 or 11 in the evening. On Saturday he usually stayed open until midnight.

When a customer came in carrying his basket of eggs, butter, etc. he saw a long room with different counters for each department along the 2 sides of the room. There were counters for groceries, meats, dry goods, hardware, and drugs.

The eggs and butter were traded, and an order was given to the clerk who wrote it down, and then went to fill it. The purchased items were then placed in the farmer's baskets; this was before paper bags.

The eggs, cream, butter, and chickens brought in by the farmers were re-sold to the townspeople. The store made a profit of 2 cents a dozen on the eggs. People also brought beef hides, which the store bought at 2 cents a pound. The first head of lettuce appeared at the store in 1927.

Inside this issue:

Uniondale Grocery Stores

1

The elevator and the store bought a trainload of salt together. It was done about twice a year. Flour and sugar were bought in 100 pound bags and re-sacked by hand. Crackers were bought in barrels. Often cheese, crackers, and bologna were bought and taken home for the family to eat as a treat.

Queries

2

Candy treats were made up for the schools. Mr. Cupp made up sample bags and showed them to the teachers and bus drivers, who ordered them as Christmas treats for their children. Churches also gave sacks of candy and oranges at Christmas time. Hundreds were made up at the store.

A Short History of Montpelier

3

Family Recipes

4

Everything was sacked by the clerks on Friday. The clerks sacked soup beans, sugar, brown sugar, and flour. There was a special flour room that was screened in so the mice couldn't get in!

Better Late Than Never—Happy Birthday

5

Surname Form and Query Form

6

Sheesh! I've run out of space AGAIN...you'll just have to wait for the conclusion of the story until next time! The rest of the story will appear in the May newsletter.

January Meeting's Minutes

7

Queries, Queries, Queries!!!

I'm going to try something different this time...please let me know what you think and if it's easier to understand. Thanks to Connie Brubaker for the idea.

PIFER Bert (George Elburtus) Pifer m. Bessie STICKNEY children: Leone Gertrude b. 9 October 1908, Paul Frederick b. 9 November 1909

Please send information to:
Jean Neering
3542 Brookdale Dr.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

DUFFORT Henry Duffort d. 30 June 1870 son William d. 9 Nov 1873

MILLER Margaret b. 23 Jan 1776 d. 24 Oct 1870 Blackford County, IN

Please send information to:
Darlene Shawn
Djshawn636@aol.com

SHIMP Orth O.V. b. 1 Sept 1887 Wells County m. Nellie Jane MYERS

Please send information to:
Wendy Rac Askin
640 Terrace View Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45255

PARKS Lydia J. b. 1845 Isaac J b. 8 Dec 1849 d. Danbury, IA. Elizabeth Jane b. 19 Feb 1809 d. OH

Please send information to:
Marilyn A. Whitt
7011 Mickwayne Ct.
Houston, TX 77069-1118

SECHLER Lulu Mae d. April 1907 Blackford County, IN m. Jacob Franklin DITZLER 1885

Please send information to:
Virginia Ditzler Neel
105 Lake Sebring Dr
Sebring, FL 33870-1572

MOWERY David Carl and Marshall (brothers) settled Wells County after 1880

Please send information to:
Connie Cherry
cherryc50@aol.com

A Short History of Montpelier, IN

Montpelier was born in a time shortly after the Indians were run out of the Indian territories. The year was 1836.

The city was platted in as a part of Jay County until 1839. In 1839, Blackford County was organized. It was named for Judge Isaac Blackford. From 1824 until 1836, this area was part of Delaware County, and from 1836 until 1839 it was a part of Jay County.

When Able Baldwin and his son-in-law, John J. Cook, founded the city in 1836, they named it for the capital of their home state— Montpelier, Vermont.

Montpelier was located on the Salamonie River and the L.E. & Western Railroad, which made it an ideal location. The city was platted so that on each corner of the main street in the business district there would be a city park. These parks remain today and are maintained in joint effort by the city government and various organizations to help beautify the city.

The city was incorporated in 1871 with a population of 231. Oil was discovered in 1837 and the population grew from 900 people in 1895 to 5,000 in 1896. The people poured into the town known as "Oil City."

These new people were a rough breed: drillers from the gas and oil mines, factory workers from the new industries spouting up on the outskirts of town, and laborers from the newly opened limestone quarries east of town. They weaved drunkenly through the streets at night singing songs. These were the same streets the ladies of the Temperance League had walked only a decade before singing different songs. Now the streets were paved with tar and macadam, the sidewalks with stone and cement. Montpelier became a full fledged city when it was chartered in 1895. The new city recorded more killings per population than any other city in the state. Money and whiskey flowed freely, street fighting was common, and saloons and other recreational activities that would please a tired laborer were numerous.

When Able Baldwin and his son-in-law, John J. Cook found the city in 1836, they named it for the capital of their home state— Montpelier,

VT

During this period the Ohio Oil Company (now Marathon Oil Company) was taking many barrels of oil a week from their wells, and a million dollars a day was passing through their new office building. The building is now the Community Building, housing the office of the Historical Society (and where the BWGS has it's meetings 3 times a year). The Ohio Oil Company was just one of many oil companies located in the area at that time—many of the city's subdivisions were platted by the Standard Oil Company.

In 1896, Montpelier had 2 hotels, 3 banks, many general stores, 7 doctors, 3 dentists, 6 industries, and an opera house with a seating capacity of 600. The opera house is still in existence as are many of the other establishments of that era. Montpelier also had an infamous reputation of having 15 saloons and 13 houses of prostitution. The most popular gaming house being a 2 story brick building built for the sole purpose of prostitution—the "Blue Front Hotel." The Blue Front Hotel was owned and operated by a madam referred to as "Black Bess."

On that note, I'll leave you in suspense until next issue for the exciting conclusion!!

Family Recipes: Yummies From the Past!

Grandma Mowery's Beef and Noodles

Docia Ann Brittenham Mowey 1871-1942

Contributed by Connie Courtney Cherry

I learned to make these noodles as a young girl of 6 from my Aunt Macie Mowery Smithson, 1894-1977. My grandma Gondola Mowery Courtney 1900-1992 made them also. Both were daughters of Docia Ann Brittenham Mowery. This family recipe is believed to have been passed down from mother to daughter for many generations.

To make the egg noodles, mix 2 eggs with enough flour to make a very stiff dough. you will have to work it with your hands, roll out very thin on a floured surface. allow this to dry. After dried, cut the dough into narrow strips and allow them to dry again. These egg noodles can be made up ahead of time and frozen.

Boil about 2 pounds of beef, remove beef from pot, pull apart of slice into thin strips and set aside. Drop noodles, a few at a time into the beef stock, stirring them so they don't stick. After all of the noodles have been added, bring to a boil again and reduce heat, cover and simmer until noodles are done. But beef back in noodles and cook about 10 minutes more.

Great over mashed potatoes or alone!

Cake Doughnuts

Evelyn Turpin

Contributed by Lucy Turpin Hill

Rowlett, TX

2 eggs	1/2 cup shortening
1 1/2 cups sugar	1 pint buttermilk
1 tsp baking soda	pinch of salt
2 tsp vanilla	flour (enough to make a dough...about 6 cups)

Roll dough, cut, and fry in deep fat. Drain on paper towels. Roll in granulated sugar. Store in airtight containers.

This family recipe is from Evelyn Turpin who was born in Liberty Center, IN as were her parents, brothers and sisters.

Better Late Than Never! Happy Birthday Lucile!

Our own Lucile Henley turned 100 years old last year on October 8. She is the oldest living graduate of Bluffton High School, having graduated in 1918. Lucile was still in high school when she took her teacher's exam and after taking 12 weeks of training at Indiana Normal, which is now Ball State University, she was qualified to teach.

Her first school was Frog Pond which was just south and east of Poneto and she walked 2 miles to and from school. She had a full day, to say the least, which included planning for and teaching all 8 grades, making the fire (unless it got too cold and then an 8th grade boy was paid 10 cents to start it), ringing the bell, and playing ball with the boys at recess. She taught only one year at Frog Pond, after which she moved on to Poneto where she taught for 4 more years (and taught my grandmother Florence Kimmel Worster and my great aunt Carrie Kimmel Farlow). Her most exciting event while at Poneto was when her grandfather paid \$5 for her to go up in a plane flown by Art Smith. Lucile took time off from teaching after she got married and had her 2 older children. She went back only after they were in school. Lucile told me, on a recent visit to her home, that one of the things she enjoys most is going to school, so that is where many of her memories come from. I find it truly amazing that she can remember what my grandmother (who would be 93 years old this year) looked like when she had her in school—I have trouble remember students I had LAST year for heaven's sake!

When she heard in 1954 that Montpelier School was looking for a teacher to keep students in their seats and to teach them reading, Lucile jumped at the chance and remained there for 14 years. It wasn't until she turned 65 years old that she moved into Montpelier, which is where she lives today.

Lucile remains active today. She belongs to the DAR, as well as our BWGS. The day my mother and cousin went to visit her, she had gotten up at 5am to watch the inauguration of George W. Bush. While we were there, she showed us photographs of her former students, which was when my mother noticed her organ, and Mom asked if she still played and she responded with a definite yes!

She also remains close with her 3 children (a daughter and 2 sons) as well as her 10 grandchildren and her 12 great grandchildren.

Lucile is an amazing woman and we are all happy that she is a part of our lives. She has touched and continues to touch many lives and remains completely humble and totally friendly to anyone who crosses her path.

Please join me in wishing Lucile a VERY belated birthday and many more to come!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Surnames I Am Researching

<u>Surname</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Country</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I authorize the Blackford-Wells Genealogy Society to forward my name and address to other researchers who are researching common surnames.

Yes No

I would prefer that the Blackford-Wells Genealogy Society forward the name and address of other researchers working on common surnames to me so that I may personally contact them.

Yes No

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Newsletter Query Form

Please print clearly in capital letters, the last name of the person to be queried. Please use maiden names for women. Please keep queries to a maximum of 25 words. Thank you for your cooperation.

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Death Date</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Children</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

January 2001 BWGS Meeting at Montpelier's Community Center

Members Present: Molly Kendall, Martha Quinn, Kathy Davis, Nona Volz, Marylou Bumgarner, Emma Fay DeArmand, Sedonna Roush, Lela Herndon, Ruth Potts, Barbara McKuras, Jerry Crandall, Margaret Crandall, Nellie Sleppy, Blanch Bennett, Irene Shrock, Norma Smith, Jack Wilson, Ken and Dorothy Manning, Connie Brubaker, Estalene Suman, and Brice Ward

****Editor's Note**** My apologies for any misspelled names of those present...you may flog me later.

The Minutes

January 20, 2001

Connie called the meeting to order and said the Pledge. Since the minutes of the last meeting were published in the newsletter, Connie asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Nona Volz made the motion and Molly Kendall seconded. Treasurer's report was read and at that time there was \$1,117.51 in the account. Connie asked for a volunteer for a corresponding secretary and discussed queries. She also discussed grants from the Indiana Historical Society, a \$500 grant for cemetery restoration and a Chapter Resource Grant in the amount of \$500 and also a grant for resource development in the amount of \$500.

Connie announced offers from the Econo Lodge in Salt Lake City. Their special rates for genealogists which is a package deal of transportation to and from the library, and a \$10 gift certificate. She also announced that she had received newsletters from Logan, Ohio and Huntington, IN.

Estalene Suman is the new treasurer for the Society and committee members of the Society are: Program: Kathy Davis, Publicity: Nona Volz (Blackford County) and Dorothy Manning (Wells County), Membership: Estalene Suman, Historian: Joan Pearson, and Editor: Molly Kendall, Queries: Rita Morgan (Blackford County) and Lynn Elliott (Wells County), Cemetery: Dawn Montgomery, Nominating: Mary Jane Parks, Sedonna Roush, June Shrock, Auditing: Barbara Elliott, Special Planning: Ken Manning, Jerry Crandall, Mary Jane Parks, and Connie Brubaker, Faye DeArmand. June Shrock, and Mary Bumgarner will furnish the refreshments for the March 17 meeting. Connie along with Ken Manning and Mary Jane Parks will inspect the contents of wills in Wells County. Connie thinks she can get extra help to index the wills from 1837 to the present time. Connie went to the Fairview Monument Center and discussed a cemetery walk in September or October with Tim Steffen and he wants to be involved. She has a script from the Historical Society and the walking tour would be in the evening with 8-10 people being portrayed. The March 17 meeting will be at the Bluffton Library, Vi Tester will walk us through the Indiana room. We will go to the Huntington Library in May by carpool. Joanne Keefer is the librarian and before going members will fill out an ancestor chart. New handbooks will be distributed at the March 17 meeting. Please give email address if you have one and surnames of the families you are researching. Wells County History books are available for \$75 plus \$6 shipping and handling if you call in the order in.

The speaker for the meeting was Rev Bill Smith a Civil War buff and he talked about the battle of Gettysburg. After the program, the meeting was adjourned.

BLACKFORD-WELLS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Blackford-Wells Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 54
Bluffton, IN 46714

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



Membership Dues
\$10 Individual
\$15 Family
Per Calendar Year

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Surnames Researching: _____