

# Blackford Wells Tracer

Volume 6 Issue 3

May 2001

## May's BWGS Meeting Site

- *First Family Certificates are still available until July. Don't be left out of the book of first and pioneer families of Wells and Blackford Counties. Order quickly...they make great gifts!*

For those attending the May meeting of the BWGS, don't forget the meeting site has changed. As was mentioned at the March meeting, we are carpooling to Huntington Public Library for the May meeting.

Joan Keefer, the head of the Huntington Library's Indiana Room, will be our guest of honor and will be showing us the resources available for research. Joan is absolutely outstanding at finding information. As an example, she got me 5 generations farther than I was in just one meeting! She generally will start in one place and have you running all over with your head spinning with information!

The best thing to do is to take an ancestor chart with you to the meeting, which Joan will file for future genealogists, so that she has something to work from and she will point you to book after book in which you can search for your family.

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## Editor's Apologies!

My apologies to the members of BWGS for not having the newsletter out in a more timely fashion. Your illustrious editor has had a VERY trying last few weeks with work and home.

I would also like to apologize, because I have no minutes to print in this issue, being that I was the person who took minutes at the last meeting and promptly lost them in my mess at home (or possibly in my mess in my van). Please accept my sincerest apologies and I promise it won't happen again!

# Conclusion of Uniondale's Grocery Stores

## By: Amanda Brubaker

And now the exciting conclusion...

The store didn't start selling milk until about 1918. The town's people bought their milk from people around town who had cows, or from Henry Schwartz who had a dairy route from his farm.

People came to town to socialize. Benches and chairs were in front of the store for people to visit. Some people came in night after night.

The first pop in the early 1920s. Coke, strawberry and Mountain Dew-like were the flavors. Ice cream came later. The clerk had to dip it or pack it into pint or quart containers. There were three flavors: vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry.

There was a cream station where the cream was tested and put into little bottles.

Fresh fruits were mostly bananas and oranges. Many people had apples of their own.

Not many fresh vegetables were carried. Again, most folks raised their own.

The store had one of the few telephones in the town and they never turned anyone down if they wanted to use it.

In the summer a galvanized horse tank was placed in the center of the store and filled with ice and water, and watermelons were chilled to sell.

My father butchered his own beef and had fresh meat in the store.

Customers were like relatives; everyone always knew when they came into town.

Paper tape came in about 1929-30. This made wrapping sacks much easier. Prior to this, bad had to be tied up with string.

The store kept chocolate, marshmallow, and honey cookies. The honey cookies came in a barrel. They were the size of a saucer and sold for 10 cents a dozen.

Dad carried three kinds of cereal. Rolled oats, Post Toasties, and Shredded Wheat. The best seller was the rolled oats, as it was the cheapest. The Post Toasties and Shredded Wheat were 10 cents a box and rolled oats were 3 for 25 cents.

Information was gained through interviews with Mary Cupp Harris, Artie Crum, and Anna Fulhart, all natives of Uniondale and the surrounding area. Also the Biographical and Historical Record of Adams and Wells Counties written in 1887. The picture on the cover of the Wade Store was loaned by Artie Crum. Pictures of the other stores were not available.

Editor's Note: This report was copied as written by Amanda Brubaker with a few grammatical changes with Amanda's permission. —MAK—

## A Short History of Montpelier, IN cont.

Part 2 of 2 on the history of Montpelier. When last we spoke, we had just met "Black Bess" the most notorious madam in Montpelier.

Black Bess was a philanthropist of sorts and contributed quite frequently toward the growth of Montpelier. She is said to have had the prettiest girls in the state of Indiana, and built her business on that reputation. She also had a very fine stable of horses and some very fine surreys. The girls that worked for Black Bess were not allowed to do business on Sunday, but were seen frequently on the streets on a warm Sunday afternoon, dressed in the finest silks and satins, riding in the surreys behind the black velvet horses.

The Blue Front Hotel was razed in 1969 and until that time some names of the girls and patrons remained on the walls where they had been written many years before. All that remains of the infamous hotel now, is the memory, rumors, and the vacant location.

In 1896 the City Hall was built, and the water works and distribution system was laid in 1897. The water works was rebuilt in 1928 and a new building was built in 1994.

The Indiana Union Traction Company, an electric railroad, secured the right of way through Montpelier in 1904, as part of an interurban system carrying passengers and freight between Fort Wayne and Indianapolis. By the time the "Oil City" was also referred to as "Hell" and to purchase a ticket to Montpelier was to buy transportation to "Hell."

After the turn of the century, the gas and oil ran out. The people working in these industries left Montpelier. Industries closed one by one, and the city reverted to an agriculture community once more. Tar and cement roads lessened the need for stone and quarrying also declined. The population dropped sharply and continued to decline until after World War II. Although Montpelier's population today is less than half that of the peak reached during the boom period, the city has endured and has begun to grow again.

## Chocolate, Chocolate Everywhere: Family Recipes.

Growing up in the 1950's and 60's in Grant County, I know this as a recipe of my Grandmother. Hazel IRICK CHAPMAN, a descendant of the Wells and Huntington Counties, IN in the FOULST, IRICK, EWART, AND COLBERT families. Many years later I found out that this recipe, under different names, swept the U.S. in the 1920s. It's very easy, very chocolate, and freezes well. I hope you'll enjoy it as much as my family has for the past 81 years.

——Bobbi Chapman——

### DENVER CHOCOLATE PUDDING

preheat oven to 325 degrees.

1. Butter an 8x8 baking dish
2. Sift together into a bowl: 3/4 c. sugar, 1 c. flour, 2 t baking powder, 1/3 c. cocoa, dash of salt
3. Add to the dry mixture: 3 T melted butter, 1/2 c milk, 1/2 t vanilla
4. Put into baking dish and scatter top with: 1/2 c brown sugar, 1/2 c white sugar, 1/4 c. cocoa
5. Pour carefully over all: 1c plus 2 T cold water

Bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes. If you choose to double the recipe, use a larger dish and bake for 40-45 minutes.

The Brittenham family settled in Wells County when my great great grandmother, Docia Ann was 6, she lived and raised her family there also. She is buried in Stahl Cemetery as are my Grandma Gondola and my Aunt Macie

——Connie Courtney Cherry——

### GRANDMA'S CHOCOLATE PIE

GONDOLA MOWERY COURTNEY 1900-1992

1/3 C flour	2/3 C sugar	2 C milk	3 egg yolks
3 T cocoa	2 T margarine	1/4 t salt	1 t vanilla

Mix flour, sugar, salt, cocoa, add beaten egg yolks, and milk. Cook until thick in a double boiler. Cool, pour into a baked pie shell. Beat egg whites with 4 T of sugar until stiff. Spoon on pie and bake until golden brown.

To make a coconut pie, omit the cocoa and add coconut.

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 Date</u>	<u>Children</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**BLACKFORD-WELLS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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Surnames Researching: \_\_\_\_\_