

Blackford Wells Tracer

BWGS

July 2001

Volume 6 Issue 4

President's Corner

Editor's Note: Connie wrote this long before I got the newsletter ready!

It's hard to believe that July is here already. When do we get to have the hot summer weather? Just a few reminders. Ken and company are still working on the extractions of the wills, the committee for the Cemetery Walk will be meeting after July 10th to set a date and finalize plans, next meeting will be July 21st. The First Family and Pioneer Family Certificates' program is ending July 1. I will honor any applications I receive before July 15 since I

will be gone on vacation for 2 weeks.

Please answer the queries you received at the last meeting. I have received questions from some of the people as to where the money went and why they have not received any information. It is important that we keep our reputation as a reliable research group.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and am looking forward to seeing all of you again at the July meeting in Bluffton.

Connie

May Meeting is a Resounding Success!!

The May meeting, held at the Huntington Library was very successful. About 20 people attended and most were given new leads for research of their families. Joan gave a very good talk on the use of the library and helped us all understand the different

files etc. available in the Huntington Library.

Joan commented to me (Connie) what a good group we were and so attentive to her lecture. She has given us a special invitation to come back anytime.

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Special points of interest:

- Don't forget the July Meeting of the BWGS at the Bluffton Library on July 21st at 10:00 am.

Cemetery Desecration Dwindling But Help is Still Needed!

It has been awhile since we have heard of any cemeteries in the area being vandalized, and for this I am thankful. But there has been some infringement on at least one cemetery that I have been aware of. I received an email from a lady in Spencer-ville who came to Ossian to visit her relatives' graves, Old Ossian Cemetery, and she sent me a picture of what she found and I too was very upset. The picture

showed a large trailer with a large truck in front of it parked in the cemetery entrance, only 4 feet from the stones and graves near the entrance. I called the township trustee, who knew it was there and just waiting for someone to complain, about getting it removed. Needless to say, he got his complaint!

I walked the perimeter of the cemetery and found it to be in dreadful shape. Brambles and

wild cherry bushes surround many of the stones. It is a deplorable mess.

Our ancestors are slipping away and will continue as long as we sit back and let it happen. If you are aware of a cemetery that is being misused, please stand up and fight for it. As genealogists it is our job to preserve history and protect those who have gone before.

Connie

HELP! Can You Find Me? I'm Your Lost Relatives!!

TATMAN

Susannah. Has a post mark of 20 Oct 1946. Has bible believed to be Susannah's because of penmanship. B. 25 Feb 1820, d. 26 Aug 1892 in Montpelier, IN. Searching for parents.

MILLS

Lairwood. Looking for information on both Sr and Jr. Sr. b. 31 Mar 1813 in KY and d. 17 Sept 1864. Jr. (# 9 child) b. 1858 and d. 1929.

Please send information to:

Caryl Jobe
1124 N. Lincoln
Stillwater, OK 74075

RICHARDSON

Arsemos/Archie/Arsemous. B. July 1852, d. Oct 1894 Looking for parents

Please send information to:

Janice Trumbell
starr@cybertrails.com

The Booming Metropolis of Rockford, IN

This beautiful village, once holding over 90 inhabitants, is appropriately named, as it is situated at a ford where Rock Creek ripples poetically along over a fine rocky bed, and is in the southwest corner of Rock Creek Township.

This is about seven miles west of Bluffton. The town was laid out in 1849.

The post office, named Barber Mills, was established August 4, 1852, by Postmaster Emerson Barber (also a local mill owner). The post office was discontinued February 15, 1905.

Rockford was laid out September 21, 1849, by Solomon

Johnson and Matthew Davis. A general store was operated into more modern times under the ownership of Mark Swank. Later for a time a shop was continued by his daughter and son-in-law, Earl L. and Julie Beitenhouse.

Stone was quarried out of Rockford for many years.

One of the two local churches still survives. The Friends Church Cemetery is located east of the creek and east of the edge of town.

"Rockford was laid out on September 21, 1849 by Solomon Johnson and Matthew Davis."

Editor's Note: This article was copied from the book "The History of Wells County" and any errors were left alone.

The Truth About Betsy Ross

THE MYTH: Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress designed and sewed the first American flag.

The story first surfaced in 1870, when Betsy Ross's grandson told a meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Society that his grand-

mother had been asked to make a flag for the new nation. This statement soon became regarded as the truth and the rest is history!

THE TRUTH: Betsy Ross did sew flags for the Pennsylvania

Navy, but there is no proof to back up her grandson's statement. No one is sure who designed the first flag. The best guess is that it is derived from a military banner carried during the American Revolution. - "The Bathroom Reader...Myth America" -

Let's Gain Weight Together—Family Desert Recipes

Jelly Roll

Submitted by Lucy Turpin Hill, Rowlett, TX

“This recipe is a family favorite and was passed down to me by my father’s sister.

Evelyn Blanch Turpin, who was born in Liberty Center, IN. When my sister and I visited her in Greenwood, MS during the 1950s she always made it. When she visited us in Sherman, TX during the 50s, she stepped off the plane with a box containing a jelly roll.”

3 eggs	1 cup sifted cake flour	1/4 tsp salt
1 cup sugar	2 Tablespoons melted butter	1 tsp vanilla
5 Tablespoons water	1 tsp baking powder	1 cup jelly

Beat eggs very light, add sugar beating all the while. Add water and beat well.

Sift flour, baking powder, salt, and add to egg mixture. Add vanilla and pour into oiled pan.

Bake 15 minutes at 375 degrees.

Turn out on dampened dishtowel. Trim crusty edges so it will roll well.

Spread with jelly and roll up. As you roll it, pull towel away, but wrap the roll in the towel until cool

Use a 11x16 pan to ensure proper thickness.

Dust with powdered sugar.

Grandma's Custard Pie

Gondola Mowery Courtney 1900-1992

Submitted by Connie Courtney Cherry

2 eggs	1 Tablespoon flour	1/2 cup sugar
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Beat together—add 2 cups milk, pour into pie shell, bake at 350-375 until set.

Town of Mollie in Blackford County, IN

Mollie was not always populated by only 4. The post office was established October 19, 1888 with Henry H. Dean being the first postmaster. It was discontinued on October 16, 1889, then re-established February 6, 1890, with Anderson Hatfield being the postmaster. On February 28, 1907, it was again discontinued. The post office was housed in the front of the grocery, operated by Jacob Burnworth. This store was located on the south side of the present residence of David Schwartzkopf. According to Nova McCammon, you could buy 25 pounds of flour for 45 cents. The store also had a small waiting room for passengers using the Indiana Union Traction, the trolley system which extended from Hartford City to Mollie and from there to Montpelier and Bluffton. The grocery burned to the ground in 1891 and was rebuilt and burned again in 1914.

Across the road, south of the railroad tracks was a stockyard unlike what is seen today. The farmers would drive their hogs and cattle down the road with people walking and riding horseback to keep them headed to the stockyard. The cattle were shipped to Buffalo, NY and the hogs were sent to Chicago. Francis Reidy remembers his father selling timothy hay for horse feed to a company in Cincinnati and hauling this hay to Mollie on a flat bottom wagon bed mounted on a turn bull gear and loading the hay into the boxcar from the wagon. The hay was very large, wire-tied bales. Not only did livestock and hay leave Mollie, but much livestock came into Mollie. Nova McCammon remembers her father getting lambs from the west. When they arrived on the train, steps were made of straw so the lambs would not get hurt getting off the train.

South of the stockyard, was a tile mill owned by Jacob Burnworth. When there was no more of the right kind of clay to make tile, the mill moved to Hartford City. The house David and Geneva Schwartzkopf occupy in Mollie today, was built with bricks from the local kiln. According to David, the house was framed with narrow cement blocks made into four sections with circles in each section. The foundation is more than 40 inches below the ground and these cement blocks go from the foundation to the top of the house. The house was then bricked. The house was built by Jacob Burnworth and today stands solid with straight walls.

John Adams operated a grain elevator located on the west side of the road and east of the railroad tracks. There was also a cider mill there and a blacksmith shop. There may also have been a doctor in Mollie, as David Schwartzkopf recalls a Dr. Gooden who one time cared for his father.

According to a newspaper article of December 28, 1972, the population peaked to 25 prior to the 1920's. Every town has its day, and Mollie had hers. About the time of WW I, an army biplane was forced down due to engine failure. Cecil Beeson, Blackford County historian, was one of the many Hartford City people who rode the trolley to Mollie to see what was then quite a novelty. Beeson said the landing of this plane may have been the first plane landing in Blackford County.

Editor's Note: This article was typed word for word from the book "A History of Blackford County, IN" and any grammatical mistakes were left alone.

The Grave No One Tended

The day was lovely as I strolled along peering at stones on the way
And that's when I saw it, that pitiful cross that looked splintered and faded away.

With flowers in hand to tend Father's grave, I knew I must hurry along.
But I couldn't help but linger while at that cross that just didn't belong.

The date on the front confirmed my suspicions of what I already knew.
A child lay beneath that horrible cross and its faded color of blue.

What selfish parents they must have been to bury their child all alone.
Without flowers or candles to light the night and not even a simple headstone.

I looked even closer at that awful cross that was nearly splintered away.
And there on the back, I read the words that changed me forever that day.

"This cross isn't grand, but it was carved by my hands so you'll know, son, how much I care
It's the color of blue to remind me of you and how painful it is I'm not there.

That it's you who is gone and it's me living on while your young life has come to an end.
And I'm left alone, never again with a home and a grave that's too painful to tend."

Tears stung my eyes as I looked all around at the monuments that ragged cross put to shame
And I shared with those parents their horrible loss that brought them such terrible pain.

And all the tombstones some even taller than me suddenly seemed small in a way.
Next to that little handmade cross, carved with such love and the flowers I planted that day.

By Cheryl L. Costello-Forshey

4th Course of Chicken Soup for the Soul

Amazing what headstones can tell us and move within us isn't it? I hope you enjoyed it. ---MAK---

Surnames I Am Researching

Surname County State Country

I authorize the BWGS to forward my name and address to other researchers, researching common names.

_____ Yes _____ No

I would prefer BWGS forward that name and address of other researchers to me, so I may contact them.

_____ Yes _____ No

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Newsletter Query Form

Please print in capital letters, the last name of the person you wish to query. Please use maiden name for women. Please keep queries to a maximum of 25 characters. Thank you for your cooperation!

Last Name First Name Birthdate Death Date Marriage Date Children



BWGS

Blackford-Wells
Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 54

Bluffton, IN 46714

The Editor needs your help again! I have run out of family recipes, so unless you want to see all of my grandmother's recipes I'd send some in!! I realize she was an amazing cook, but variety is the spice of life. I will also be forced to put Connie's recipe for turkey dressing in if I don't get anymore recipes in...trust me... you don't want me to do that! Also, thanks to those who did send recipes and the clarity with which they were written!

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

**Neva Williams
P.O. 101
Gas City, IN 46933**

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Surnames Researched: _____