



- Next Meeting March 15 at 10:00 am ~ Wells County Library, Bluffton
- Special Committees
- Queries and other correspondence
- Answers to Blackford County Trivia
- New series – Walker Murder Trial of 1884, Part 1

March Meeting

March 15th at the Wells County Library

Our speaker at this meeting will be Craig Leonard.



Refreshments will be served.

Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to this meeting.

10:00 am at the Wells County Library in Bluffton, Indiana. See you there.

Officers:

President: Connie Brubaker
Vice President: Tom Stogdill
Treasurer: Esteline Suman
Secretary: Blanche Bennett

Standing Committees:

Programs: Tom Stogdill
Publicity: Blackford - Norma Smith
Wells - Dorothy Manning
Historian: Joan Pearson and Patricia Dyson
Editor: (guest writer)
Membership: Esteline Suman

Special Committees:

Genealogy Research for Queries: all members
Cemetery Restoration: John and Sedonna Roush
Auditing:
Nominating: Nellie Sleppy, Jeri Brown, Martha Hall
Special Projects planning:
Newsletter reporter:



President's Half Acre

Wow what a winter we have had...will it ever end???? I hope you have enjoyed the beautiful snow and sometime thought about our ancestors who drove buggies, rode a horse or walked thru all of this weather to make a better place for us to live today.

The First Family/Pioneer Family books are coming along great. I have two gals typing as fast as their fingers will go and we are closing in on the end. I put a notice on the Wells County list that we were going to accept application only until March first. I received twelve e-mails the next morning, and have received 10-12 applications and please to hold a few more days until they can get their info sent to us. It looks like our book will be at least 200 pages. As we type each one, we are reading all the info sent in and writing a short history about each ancestor. It takes me a while because I have to read the whole page not just what pertains to the ancestor. Some very interesting information in those old papers.

Hope to see you at the March meeting . . . Tom has a great program lined up for that day. Invite your friends to attend.



Wells County Will Index

We have some copies of the Will books left. Our society funds are tied up in these books and we need to sell them all to come out ahead. The price for the book will be \$15.00, plus \$5.00 shipping for Society members. The price for non-members is \$20.00, plus \$5.00 shipping.

To order your book, send your money to: Blackford-Wells Genealogy Society / PO Box 54 / Bluffton, Indiana 46714. You may pick one up at our Society meetings or at *Pages from the Attic* / 7077N – 100W / Uniondale. Books will be shipped as soon as the money is received.

First Family/Pioneer Family Book

If you wish your family to be represented in this fine historical book you should have had your application to Connie Brubaker, 7077N-100W, Uniondale, Indiana 46791 by March 1, 2003. Certificates may still be applied for and received after that date, but your family will not be listed in this book. Your application will be kept on file for a second edition of the book.

Applications can be found on line at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~inwells/society.html>, or contact the society.

Newsletter Query Form

Please print in capital letters, the last name of the person you wish to query. Please include maiden name for women. Keep queries to a maximum of 25 characters. Thank you.

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

Your Name: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

REX WALKER KILLED APR. 3 IN GERMANY

WIFE RESIDING HERE IS NOTIFIED OF DEATH OF NATIVE CHESTER TOWNSHIP

A message from the war department this morning informed Mrs. Mary Walker, 1127 South Main street, that her husband, Tec/5 Rex R. Walker, 23, had been killed in action April 3 in Germany.

Technician Walker had been overseas since Oct. 1, 1944, with an armored division of the seventh army, serving first in France and then in Germany. He drove a half-track in the mechanized cavalry.

Before going into service Tec/5 Walker was employed for the Pan Handle Gas Co. at Jackson, Mich. He left Dec. 8, 1942, from Grant county, as his family at the time resided at Fairmount, and was sent first to Camp Chaffee, Ark., then to camps in Tennessee and Kentucky.

The last letter received from Technician Walker was received by his wife Monday. It had been written March 28.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Walker, and his wife, formerly Miss Mary Howell, of Fairmount, moved to Bluffton two years ago. He was married at Fairmount Aug. 1, 1942.

Tec/5 Walker was born Jan. 20, 1922, in Chester township, a son of Wayne and Nettie Tappy Walker. Surviving besides the wife and parents are the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Walker, of Chester township, and a brother, Pfc. Max Walker, 20, who is stationed in the Philippines.

Killed in Action



Mrs. Mary Walker, 1127 South Main street, received word Saturday morning that her husband, Tec/5 Rex R. Walker, 23, had been killed in action April 3 in Germany. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Walker, South Main street, and a brother, Pfc. Max Walker, 20, is stationed in the Philippines.

*Ramseyer at Fort Dix
-August 1944-*



Pfc. Gerald D. Ramseyer, who entered service Dec. 1, 1942, is located at A. S. N. 35569590, Co. A, 327th Med. Bn., APO 102, Fort Dix, N. J. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ramseyer, of Montpelier, who moved there this spring from Wells county.

Honored at Party Here



This group picture of three brothers and one sister, whose combined ages total 323 years, was taken recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCombs, this city, where they were honored at a dinner party. The sister is Mrs. Lon Patton, this city, whose age is 77 years. Standing beside her is Samuel J. Peck, 81, of Eaton. Seated, and holding the cane, is Wright Peck, 83, father of Mrs. McCombs, while beside him is Elias Davis Peck, 82, of Eaton. None of the children in the family are dead.

PVT. VERNON GROVE IS NAZI PRISONER

April 2, 1946.

Mrs. Vernon Grove, near Albany, has received word from her husband, Pvt. Vernon Grove, that he is a prisoner in Germany.

The letter was written Jan. 2. He entered service in December, 1943, was sent overseas in May, 1944, was wounded in France in June, and was reported missing Nov. 26th in Belgium.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alpha Grove, formerly of Poneto route 1 and is a nephew of Mrs. Russ Carnes, Mrs. Howard Habig and Mrs. Stella Murray, and a grandson of Mrs. Frank Starr, all of Bluffton.



Queries and Other Correspondence

Christlieb, Crismore, Wickliffe Any information will be helpful.

Avon Crismore / Box 96 / Uniondale, IN 46791 Email crismore@ipfw.edu

Hendry, James Would like any information about and or pictures of James Hendry and family. He lived in the Ossian/Yoder area with Yoder was Sheridan.

Connie Brubaker / 7077N-100W / Uniondale, In 46791 Email cbrubaker@coolsky.com

Ritchey (Richey) Adam K. b August 1836-7 Died 1920 Wells County, Buried in Adams County. Spouse: Amanda Crist Would like any information on this family.

Diane William / 7204 Reservation Drive / Springfield, Virginia 22753

Moran, Francis and Augsburger, Elfa Melinda Blackford County, need marriage date some time between 1903-1905 Any other information will be helpful also.

Richard Thomas / 1181 Jacob Lane / Carmichael, CA 95608 / Email: dthomas@winfirst.com

Foreman, Phoebe Ann b Sept 18, 1851 d Feb. 22, 1932 Hartford City m Levi Burgess need death certificate and any other information available.

Paula Payne / 268 Ridgeway Dr. / Howard, Ohio 43028

Bourne, Sylvester F. m Ina May Landon 26 October 1887 Her parents Lewis Cass Landon and Sarah Chance, Blackford County, did he die or did they divorce? What happened to Sylvester?

Laura Scott / 30 Stoneybrook Rd / Hampden, ME 04444

McFerren, Earl b 30 Aug. 1882 Blackford County, d Marion County, married Ina May Landon Bourne Birth cert, marriage license or any other information available.

Laura Scott / 30 Stoneybrook Rd / Hampden, ME 04444

Steed, Zebedee b 1826 VA d unknown, father Thomas Steed. Need: Marriage license, death cert. copy of the will, or any information available.

Sheila Bauer / 225 E. Ellsworth Rd. #89 / Mesa, AZ 85212

GRANDMA'S REVENGE

When my three-year-old son opened the birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. I was not so pleased. I turned to Mom and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?" Mom smiled and then replied, "Oh yes, I remember."☺

----- Original Message -----

From: [Al Balas](#)

To: [Mark Davis](#)

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2003 12:18 AM

Subject: Hadden Cem.

Dear Mark,

Hadden Cemetery is located in Washington Township (Blackford) on 100W between 300N and 400N. William Hadden set aside some of his land for the family cemetery. I also have found a listing for interments at the Marion Public Library, 21 listings in all.

Carver, Infant	son of Bloomer & Agnes,	d. July 1854	
Carver, Infant	son of Bloomer & Agnes,	d. Sept. 19, 1868	
Fuller, George,		d. Nov. 15, 1852,	age 2y
Fuller, Jonas,		d. Mar. 10, 1875,	age 67y
Fuller, Martha,	dau of J & S,	d. May 20, 1861,	age 6y
Hadden, Catherine,	wife of William,	d. April 05, 1849,	age 56y.,10m.,14d.
Hadden, Robert,	son of Wm. & C.,	d. Jan. 20.1851,	age 19y.,10m.,7d.
Hadden, Samuel,	son of " " ,	d. Nov. 29, 1850,	age 21y.,6m.
Hadden, Thomas,	son of " " ,	d. June 12, 1839,	age 21y.,2m.,11d.
Hadden, William,		d. Oct. 21, 1855,	age 70y.,4m.,13d.
Hadden, William,	son of Wm. & C.,	d. Aug. 16, 1839,	age 19y.,2m.,6d.
Lillibridge, Elvinna M.,	dau of T & E.,	d. Aug.08, 1869,	age 8y.,7m.,13d.
Lillibridge,Francis,	dau. of T.& E.,	d. Nov. 03, 1849,	age 19d.
Lillibridge,Mary A.,	dau of " " ,	d.Sept.12, 1849,	age 1y.,2m.
Mills, Anna	wife of Samuel,	d. Mar. 23, 1858,	age 56y.,7m.,20d.
Mills, Bluford,	son of S. & A.,	d. Dec. 16, 1862,	age 29y.,2d.
Mills, Marvel,		d. Jan. 25, 1868,	age 47y.,3m.,3d.
Mills, Nancy M.,	wife of T.G.,	d. Feb. 17, 1872,	age 57.,10m.,5d.
Mills, Samuel,		d. Feb. 28, 1863,	age 71y.,1m.,27d.
Selig, Catharine,	wife of Henry,	d. April 11, 1852,	age 27y.,6m.
Tarr, Leander,		d. July 17, 1867,	age 89y.,10m.,1d.

This is more than I saw left standing or that was visible, some may be overgrown or carried away. What happens in that case, it is pretty expensive to put in all new stones, which could take a lot longer to raise funds.

Barb B.

Our friend and local cemetery restorationist, Mark Davis, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He and his wife went for a pre-surgery consultation the first week in March. His surgery will likely take place the second week in April. Please keep Mark in your prayers.



Can you identify the folks in this photo?



A little Blackford County Trivia

Answers to trivia questions in the last newsletter

Ralph Allen Kessler Farm ~ what is it known for? <i>page 21... A Homestead Farm</i>	Did Montpelier ever have a population over 5,000? When? <i>Population in 1895 was 5000+</i>
George Willman Farm ~ who owns it now? <i>page 21...transferred to George and Mary Willman March 26 , 1960</i>	When was the post office established in Mollie? <i>October 19, 1888</i>
Kathryn P. Young Farm <i>A Homestead Farm</i>	Matamoras ~ can you locate it? <i>On the west side of the Salamonie River, three-quarters of a mile east of Montpelier.</i>
John Markley Shop ~ what was it known as? Did anyone find this one?	Where is the Penrod Cemetery? <i>(see next page)</i> <i>Harrison Township. It is abandoned.</i>
Who was Rae Anderman Krauss? <i>page 61...Crystal Krauss's step mother.</i>	Who was Jackson Township named after? <i>Gen. Andrew Jackson</i>
What was George Steven's secret? <i>page 63...He was really a black man.</i>	If Trenton was the name of the town, why was the post office called Priam? <i>There was another Trenton in the state.</i>
Where is the home of Sam Hughes? <i>Mill grove Rd. southeast of Hartford city (an old district school location)</i>	What was the name given to District 9 school in Washington Township? <i>page 158...Dist. 9 school was Watson</i>
What other name was Montpelier known as in 1890? <i>Zinnia City</i>	

Where is the Penrod Cemetery?

Or what has become of the Penrod Cemetery.
From the road, this is the Penrod. We offer
a closer view of the cemetery.



Penrod Cemetery
Section 19, Harrison, Blackford, Indiana

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Kirkpatrick , John, | son of J. & E. | d. May 6m 1864, | age 12 hours |
| Miller , John | | d. Jan 8, 1853, | age 90y 1m 15d |
| Miller , Elizabeth, | | d. July 12, 1856, | age 55y 1m |
| Miller , Rebecca, | | d. July 15, 1872, | age not legible |
| Perrell , Elizabeth, | wife of Jonas, | d. March 30, 1877, | age 89y 5m |
| <i>Parents of Elizabeth: William and Sarah Penrod Wilson</i> | | | |
| Slater , Sarah, | dau of T. & M.A., | d. Aug 17, 1860, | age either 2 or 20 days |
| Shaner , William Calvin, | son of F. & M., | d. Aug 17, 1870, | age 10m 17d |
| Wilson , infant, | son of W. & S.A., | d. April 2, 1844, | age 1 day |
| Wilson , Sarah J., | dau of H.R. and K.K., | d. July 3, 1869, | age 23 days |
| Wilson , Arthur N. | son of H.R. and K.K., | d. July 30, 1869, | age 6y 3m 1d |

Parents of Sarah and Arthur: Hugh R. and Keziah Kirkpatrick Wilson

Foot stone – states only **R.H.**

The owner of this farm, Mr. William R. Meyer, stated that there are
people buried here by the name of Ruble, as well as Wilson.
-Cecil Beeson, Sept. 8, 1960



Also buried here:

Montgomery, William R. d. 14 Jun 1878 Civil War, 23rd Infantry, Company K

1st spouse Elizabeth B. Tuders, 2nd spouse Minerva A. E. Seybert

Perrell, Jonas d. 26 Mar 1886 *2nd spouse of Elizabeth Wilson Tolliday Perrell*

Cecil Beeson had stones set for those gentlemen.

unknown base



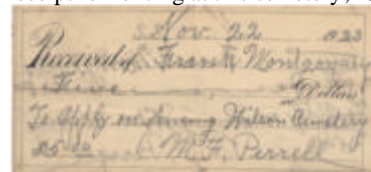
Jonas & Sarah Wilson Perrell



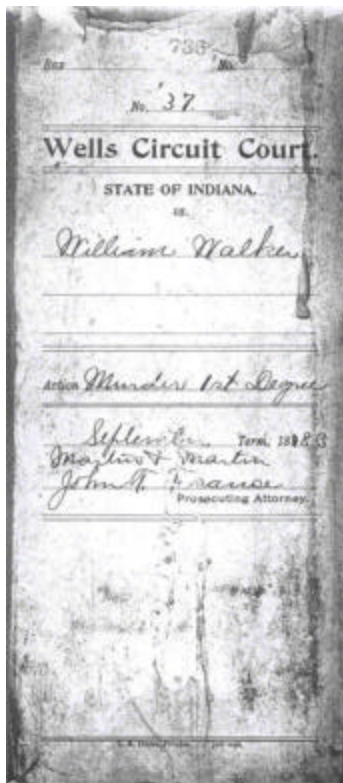
William R. Montgomery



Receipt for fencing at this cemetery, 1923



William Walker The Great Murder Trial Blackford and Wells Counties, Indiana 1883-1884



Transcribed and contributed by:



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montgomery@parlorcity.com

Bluffton Weekly Chronicle
May 17, 1883

More Murder Women and Wine, Game and Deceit, Make the Wealth Small and the Want Great

Another sickening tragedy occurred at Keystone last Sabbath evening about fifteen minutes past three o'clock in which George Shaw was shot through the head by William Walker, trustee of Chester township and postmaster at Keystone. The facts are related to us by a prominent citizen of that place, an eye-witness to the scene. On the fatal day, George Shaw, Henry Bark_____ and another gentleman whose name we did not learn, walked to the drug store and sat down on the porch. Presently Harvey Wilson came along in an intoxicated condition and began to abuse Mr. Bark____. He soon changed his abuse to George Shaw, calling him all the vile names he could think of. Shaw then pitched into him and knocked him down. Elizabeth Darr, a sister of Wilson, appeared on the scene and began to help her brother by striking Shaw who got on and went off. The two pug_____ met shortly after and Wilson again began to call Shaw vile names. Shaw pulled off his coat and said "boys, I can't stand this." He then knocked Wilson and got on him and commenced to give him a sound beating. Wilson's sister again appeared on the scene and accosted William Walker, one of the bystanders, asking him if he was going to stand by and see her poor brother pounded like that. Walker was standing on the left of the men who were fighting. He stepped around to the right side, drew a revolver and shot Shaw through the head, the ball entering at the base of the skull and embedding itself in the brain. The wounded man expired about an hour after he was shot. Walker, who it is said was so much intoxicated he did not know what he was doing, then backed out of the crowd and left for the woods. He was approached by one

of the men when Walker told him he had better not attempt to take him if he valued his life. He remained in the woods for several hours and although the woods were surrounded and had been traversed through by a number, no one seen him, although he says they passed on all sides of him. He returned home and soon became sober enough to realize what he had done when he voluntarily surrendered to the constable. A preliminary trial was held Monday when Walker waved examination and was brought to Bluffton and placed in jail. Isaac Wilson, Harvey Wilson and Elizabeth Darr were also arrested as necessaries and were released on their procuring bail in the sum of \$500 each for their appearance. Walker's remorse on recount of his rash act seems to grow greater each hour. He is a warm hearted, generous fellow if he would leave liquor alone, and his downfall only dates back a period of about eight months when he began to drink heavily and associate with women of doubtful character although he had a wife and six children at home. Chester township is a Democratic township, yet he, a Republican, was elected by a _____ majority about a year ago. Walker bought grain for Warin, Studabaker & Co., he was postmaster, had a good business in his country store and had every prospect to become one of the most useful and respectful citizens of Chester township had he left the accursed liquor alone. Now we dread to think of the future in store for him and his faithful wife and innocent children and the widowed wife of Shaw and his children. We trust we may never again be compelled to chronicle so terrible and disgraceful a disaster in our county.

Bluffton Weekly Chronicle
February 7, 1884

The long looked for murder trial of William Walker will take place this term of court.

The court house will be crowded to utmost capacity as much interest is felt in the case.

Bluffton Weekly Chronicle
May 1, 1884

William Walker Trial



This is court week and the trial of William Walker will not likely be postponed again. About 125 witnesses residing in Chester township will be present much to their disgust as this is their busiest time in the year.

The criminal cases this term in court are exceedingly small in number. The following is the list: State of Indiana vs. Andrew J. B____, State vs. William Walker, State vs. Fred W. Harris, State vs. William Fields.

Bluffton Weekly Chronicle
May 8, 1884

William Walker The Great Murder Trial now in Progress



The trial of William Walker for the murder of George Shawe in May, 1884, has been occupying the attention of the present session of court, so far, and is likely to take up the entire term. Last Wednesday the case was called and the prisoner entered a plea of not guilty, as charged in the indictment, and claims that the act was committed under the impulse of the moment when he was not in his right mind.

Wednesday, Thursday and until half past one o'clock Friday was occupied in the selection of a jury. Besides the regular venire of twelve jurymen, a special venire of sixty jurymen were drawn. These were soon exhausted and two more of twenty-five each and one of fifty were drawn before a jury was selected. A. N. Martin then made a preliminary statement of the case to the jury and by an agreement of the attorneys on both sides of the case, court was adjourned until Monday of this week. The object of

adjournment was to allow jurors to go home and arrange for work on their farms during their absence which may be prolonged this week and next. The jury is one of more than ordinary intelligence and has been selected with great care. They are, as far as we know them, men of integrity and will do what they think is right and weigh everything deliberately and carefully before bringing in a verdict.

A.L. Sharp, one of the attorney's for the defense, has kindly furnished us the following interesting facts concerning the jury: There were 10 jurors summoned in the case from which the following jury was chosen. James Earle, Lancaster township; George W. Lehman, Jefferson; Lewis O. Cotton, Union; John T. Ware, Liberty; George Shaft, Lancaster; Josephus Caston, Jefferson; Jeremiah Soule, Union; Lewis Prilliman, Harrison; Jackson N. Cotton, Union; Cornelius Taylor, Jefferson; Levi Osborne, Union; Phillip Motz, Union. Three of the jurymen drawn were witnesses and were discharged as incompetent to sit as jurors. Twenty-five were discharged by State peremptory challenge and twenty-five by Defense peremptory. Twenty-five had formed and expressed an opinion while two had no opinion on the subject.



Dr. L.E. Maddox

Nearly all day Monday was taken up in the examination of Dr. L.E. Maddox who was an eye witness of the homicide. He gave a graphic description of the fighting and showed how Walker stepped around the crowd, took aim and fired. That Shawe raised up from the position he was in, in holding Wilson down, fell backward and soon expired. He also said he asked Walker after he was arrested, why he had committed the act and Walker replied that he did not know what he was doing and was very sorry the affair occurred but that it could not be helped now.

The defense asked the court to strike out some evidence that was given on Monday evening and the jury retired from the court room while the attorneys argued the question before Judge Bobo. The motion to strike out the evidence was overruled.

The state expected to close the examination of witnesses Wednesday noon.

No new developments are made up to the time of going to press.



To be continued. Watch for your May newsletter for Part 2 in this series.



Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

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Membership: Single - \$10.00 per calendar year for an individual
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