



Special points of interest:

- 2004
- Next meeting
- Workshop at Library
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Blackford Wells Tracer

HAPPY NEW YEAR WELCOME 2004

Here it is already 2004. My how time flies when your having fun. Or is it the older you get the faster time seems to fly? Perhaps it takes me longer to do things so the time goes quicker. I don't know but each day seems to be filled with great things to do and not enough time to do them...As usual I have put off until the last hour of the last day to put together this news letter. I received a phone call last week that really set me rolling for this letter... see page three. Ok, I will stop the blah, blah, blah and get this ready for the mail.

Early Settlers of Blackford and Wells Counties book has been a fast seller. We have about 30 left so get your order in fast before they are all gone. The price of the book is \$40.00 plus \$5.00 shipping (\$45.00 + shipping for non mem-

Workshops at Wells County Library

BLACKFORD WELLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY has been ask to again present workshops for the Wells County Library in the month of March, no dates have been set.

Those who served before are most welcome to volunteer again. A short discussion will be held at the meeting in January to decide date and time.

If you would like to help in March please contact Connie Brubaker (260-543-2423 or cbrubaker@onlyinternet.net) We will

bers) We still have Will books to sell at \$15.00 each plus \$5.00 shipping if you order both the cost of shipping is only \$6.00 Order now, shipping takes about 2 weeks. Support your Society by purchasing this valuable book. There are many more pieces of data that need to be printed.

Next Meeting:
At Wells County Library
on January 17
at 10AM.

Vi Tester will be the speaker. Vi is the Indiana Room Supervisor and will be speaking on what is available in the Indiana

room and what is in the works for the coming year. Plan to attend.

The election of officers was held at the November meeting as per our constitution and by-laws. The offices of President and Vice President were not voted on this year. This is due to the change in our Constitution and By-Laws which allows them to serve two year terms. The offices of Secretary and Treasure were elected with Mickey Jones, Treasurer and Kathy Davis, Secretary. Our deepest gratitude goes to Estelline and Blanche for their years of service.

use some of the same material in March that we used in the fall sessions for the basic workshop.

Vi has asked for a more advanced workshop. Perhaps a whole session on the Census or a hands on session actually helping those attending with research. These are just ideas being tossed around. If you have any suggestions please let me know.

THE SHOOTING AFFRAY AT MONTPELIER

(SOURCE UNKNOWN) submitted by June A Shrock

Date: ca January 1878

Typed as written.

Perhaps no little town of its size, in the State furnishes as many sensations as Montpelier, Ind. There seems to be a band of rowdies and cut-throats there, living in the vicinity whose business it is to steal, get drunk and raise "Kain" generally. It is the desire of the majority of the citizens to rid the community of these desperate characters, but it seems they have managed everything so adroitly that they have not been seen in anything they could be convicted for, although the citizens are as much convinced that certain parties was connected in the McGrew burglary of last summer, as if they had seen it with their own eyes. One of the parties who was suspected of being connected with the theft was taken out by some of the citizens of Montpelier, one night last summer and hung several times to extort confession. So much care was taken by the Vigilance Committee not to hurt the fellow, that he failed to scare him, as he afterwards remarked in a boastful way that he "did not blow on anybody." as much as admit that if he had chosen he could a "tale unfold".

Mr. Kreutzer, a desperate character of that place, was one of the suspected parties, and some of the citizens did not seem afraid to say that they believed he was one of the thieves. We are told that Mr. McGrew, the owner of the store that was burglarized, was one of the men who did he believed Kreutzer was guilty. Kreutzer, upon hearing of this, became greatly exasperated, and with revolver and bowle knife, paced the streets, swearing eternal vengeance on McGrew.

Not long since McGrew purchased a large dog to watch and give the alarm to those who slept in the store, if anyone should attempt to break in after night. This dog was killed by some parties in front of the

store, last week, and before the owner could get to the door to see who did it, the person disappeared. A night or two afterward Mr. McGrew, who was sleeping in his store, heard a noise about 11 o'clock in front of the building. Upon getting up and looking out of the window he saw two men trying to put the dead dog on top of the store room. Thinking that it might be some boys who were attempting to practical joke... (the paper is torn at this point and the rest of the sentence is not readable).

(The next several paragraphs describe in detail the medical examiners finding in regards to the entry and damage done by the bullet, its rather graphic and I think the story will read just fine without it. If you care to read it I will send you a copy.)

The Inquest owing to the general excitement was not so searching as it might have otherwise been. The testimony elicited only shows the manner in which Kreutzer came to his death, establishing the fact that he was shot by Mr. McGrew, and is silent as to the causes which led to shooting. Had the investigation been more thorough the evidence would have clearly shown that the killing was done in self-defence.

A feeling of relief pervades the community, and this feeling is shared in most heartily by McGrew. For months he felt that his life was in danger and for months he has not dared to appear on the streets at night, for fear of being waylaid by some skulking assassin. Repeated threats against his life had been brought to him at times, until finally McGrew felt that he or Kreutzer must die. A man may stand in line of battle and face death with comparative composure, but he will tremble when he is not certain but that along the road from his place of business to his home there lurks a cowardly assassin ready to strike the fatal blow in an unlooked for moment. This was the suspense

to which McGrew was subjected—calculated to unnerve the stoutest heart. Now that the danger which threatened him is removed Mr. McGrew can breathe freely and walk the streets like any other citizen.

The tragic event had led curious individuals to inquire into the antecedents of the principal participants.

Mr. McGrew had been for many years in the dry goods business in Montpelier. He has always been regarded as an honorable man, upright in his dealings, and an enterprising citizen. While he has avoided a quarrel, he has been looked upon as one who would fearlessly stand up for his rights in any event. Pursuing such a course, he could not help but gain the respect of all with whom he came in contact.

Of Kitten Kreutzer's history previous to his coming to Montpelier little is known beyond the fact that he was of German origin and that he was living in Winchester for several years, where he had the reputation of a citizen against whom nothing could be said. From Winchester he moved to Montpelier and engaged in the hotel business, and after a time in the liquor business. Soon after this he began manifesting himself in a manner which in the course of time caused him to be considered as a terror in the community. When the numerous robberies in the locality began to attract attention suspicion was at once directed to Kreutzer as the leader of the perpetrators. As the robberies became bolder people openly asserted that such was the case. But if the boldest of the gang, he was also the most cunning, for while others were detected it was impossible to implicate him to the extent of making a case against him in court. When drunk he was dangerous and there were not a few that would not go out of their way to avoid him. He always went armed to the teeth, and he was never squeamish about using his weapons. There are those in Montpelier to-day who can bear testimony of his expert handling of the knife—his favorite weapon. After his death an investigation of his clothing showed that he came prepared for a fight, for there was found on his person two pistols, a murderous-looking dirk, and two skeleton keys, one of which was la-

-eled in German characters" Rhine's Mill." The marking was evidence done by himself, and indicates that he has been in the business of robbing before he came to this county. It is related that a brother of Kreutzer was killed in Dayton some time ago under similar circumstances to the recent killing.

This is the end of the article. Did Mr. McGrew go to trial? Was it self-defence? If you find the rest of the story send it to Connie so we can finish this tale of "Murder in Montpelier"....

CATALOG OF THE PUPILS OF THE INDIANA INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT IN 1843, TO NOVEMBER 1854.

These names are listed for Wells and Blackford counties:

Covert, John D. 1848, age 14, Wells County

Kimball, Nathan 1854, age 11, Blackford County

Watkins, Catharine M., 1851, age 15, born in Indiana, Blackford County

Complete list is found in The Hoosier Genealogist Vol. 37 No. 2 page 107

Articles for the news letters

I am still in need of articles for the news letter. Surely you can find a black sheep in your family to tell us about. Like the one from my husbands family (this happened in Huntington County). Seems Uncle Noah didn't run the Ark instead he ran the Andrews Tavern and when the railroaders went on strike he quickly closed his doors to the drunken mob (guess where they got the liquor to begin with) well to make a long story short he ran out the back door and high tailed it toward Huntington before they tarred and feathered him. Never to be seen again, leaving wife and son, behind he disappeared. Years later he was found in Illinois, re-married and with more children (no, he didn't divorce his first wife either).

Now come on folks surely you can come up with an obituary or news paper article or even a Family tree for the news letter. You have worked so hard on your family why not share some of the neat stuff about them. Send those articles either by email or snail mail to Connie Brubaker, 7077N-100W Uniondale, IN 46791 or cbrubaker@onlyinternet.net or call me at 260-543-2423.



Found in the attic: the Poneto Journal

- Vol 2 Feb 7 1902 No 10
- Vol 2 Feb 28 1902 No 13
- Vol 2 Mar 14 1902 No 15
- Vol 2 Mar 21 1902 No 16
- Vol 2 Mar 28 1902 No 17 + 1 page supplement
- Vol 2 April 4 1902 No 18
- Vol 2 April 11 1902 No 19
- Vol 2 April 18 1902 No 20 + 1 page supplement
- Vol 2 May 2 1902 No 22
- Vol 2 May 9 1902 No 23
- Vol 2 May 16 1902 No 24

Cami Mount has these issues of the paper in her hot little hands and will be sharing them with the Wells County Library, the Wells County Web page, and all of you who are interested in reading them. She found them in a box in the attic of her mother's home tucked back in the safety of a dark corner. Her brother now lives in the house and they were looking for another item when they came across the box. There are also volumes from 1901 not listed here. I personally am looking forward to seeing these papers. It is Cami's understanding that these are probably the only copies of the Poneto Journal currently in existence.

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New Handbooks will be available in March. Anyone willing to help type the information please contact Connie Brubaker. If you want to be listed as a member of the Society please have your dues paid by February 15. Those who pay after that date will not be included. When you pay your dues please send your full mailing address, phone number, email address, and names researching. If you have already paid and did not include this information please send it to us.

Thanks,
Connie and Mickey

Membership dues are due
January 1, 2004
Single membership \$10.00
Family (must live in the same household) \$15.00
Send \$ to Blackford Wells Genealogy Society
P.O. Box 54, Bluffton, IN 46714

1907-08 Family Reunion possibly Brickley and or Allen family...Do you recognize anyone in the picture? Contact Gerri Brown at 8232 Manor Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825 or Kgbj170@aol.com "x" children of Geo. Franklin and Bertha Allen Brown. Bruce Allen Brown age 5 and Laverne Brown Koch sister of Bruce.



BLACKFORD WELLS RE- SEARCH

Please welcome our new researcher
for Blackford and Wells Counties:

Esther (Esse) Frye

524 W. Wiley Ave.

Bluffton, IN 46714

Email: esse@onlyinternet.net

Esse is a member of the Society and
a very willing researcher for both
Blackford and Wells Counties.

Rosalie (Rosie) Adkins

1301 N. Cherry

Hartford City, IN 47348

Phone: 1-765-348-4226

Email: cherokeerose70@hotmail.
com

Rosie has lived in Hartford City for
most of her life and is willing to do
research in Blackford County.

Please welcome these wonderful la-
dies to our group!!!!

A Short History of Montpelier

(Source unknown) article from Norma Smith

Montpelier was born in a time shortly after the Indians were “run out” of Indiana territories. The year was 1836. The state of Indiana had just been formed and admitted to the union 20 years before (1816) as the 19th state. The Indiana Governor was Noah Noble, a Wig, and the President of the United States was second term Andrew Jackson. Martin Van Buren was elected to be President starting in 1837. Santa Anna and 3000 Mexicans had just overrun the Alamo in the newly recognized independent republic of Texas and Samuel Colt patented the pistol with a revolving chamber.

Montpelier 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 to 1835, this area was a part of Delaware County, and from 1836-1839 it was part of Jay County. (Note from Editor: with the above information keep in mind when looking for ancestors you will need to research Jay and Delaware Counties for possible leads to your ancestor.)

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. 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.

The city was incorporated in 1871 with a population of 231. Oil was discovered in 1887 and the population grew from 900 people in 1890 to 3000 in 1895 and to 5000 in 1896. The people poured into the town known as “Oil City”.

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.

In 1896 Montpelier had two hotels, three banks, many general stores, 7 doctors, 3 dentists, 8 industries, and an opera house with a seating capacity of 600. Montpelier also contained as infamous reputation of having 15 saloons and 13 houses of prostitution. The most popular gaming house being a two story brick building for the sole purpose of prostitution, the “Blue Front Hotel”. This Hotel was owned and operated by a madam referred to as “Black Bess”.

More about “Black Bess” next time....

Do you know why the Big Indian sits on the corner of the Community Building??? Please send the story for the next news letter.

Early Settlers of Blackford and Wells Counties

Wills of Wells County

Number of books _____

Number of books _____

Price of books plus shipping

Members \$40.00+ \$5.00

Members: \$15.00 + \$5.00

Non Members \$45.00 + \$5.00 shipping

Non Members \$20.00 + \$5.00

Both Books : Members \$55.00 + \$6.00 shipping

Non –Members \$65.00 + \$6.00 shipping

Name: _____

Address _____

Send to : Blackford Wells Genealogy Society, P.O. box 54, Bluffton, IN 46714

Or pick up at Pages from the Attic, one mile north of Uniondale on Co RD 100 W

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