



**Special points of interest:**

- May 15 Stone Saver Workshop Library 9 A.M.
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- 
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# Blackford Wells Tracer

## Cemetery Restoration Workshop May 15th

By John Carlson  
The Muncie Star Press  
**Hoosier Repairs grave markers**  
A Blackford County resident Mark Davis began researching Civil War veterans' grave sites about nine years ago. What he found bothered him.  
"As I'd go out in these cemeteries," he said, "I'd see all these stones that were broken."  
A cemetery trustee for a graveyard in Hamilton County, Davis began learning stone repair techniques a few years ago. Then to put his training into practice, he went to work in a cemetery. In 2003 he repaired over 1000 stones working for township trustees who, by state law, are charged with caring for old and abandoned burial grounds.

"There's not a lot of people that know how to do this stuff," said Davis, a printing salesman, who now heads his own business *Stone Saver Cemetery Restoration*. "Every stone tells a story about somebody's life," he said, "It's marry and bury. If I see Hannah here, I'm thinking where's John?"  
Without proper care, however, the marble markers are almost transitory. For people who feel a responsibility to keep these old graveyards intact, hiring restorers like Davis just makes sense.  
Davis reputation is spreading. He has done work in 22 counties and countless workshops all over Indiana. For Davis, restoring these cemetery markers has become this passion as well as his job.  
"It's like being in an outdoor museum," He says.

By Connie B  
**In 2002**, Mark restored 5 stones for me in the Mossburg cemetery. This was early in his career of stone saving. I have to tell this funny on him. He was working on my stones using his truck battery to operate the tools he was using. He worked a little too long and ran the battery down so that his truck would not start. He called me and ask if my husband and I would come out and jump start his truck. It's a good thing I like the guy or we could have left him stranded in the Mossburg cemetery for hours while his wife drove up to rescue him. .  
**We have a few openings left for the May 15th workshop.** Rain or shine we will meet at the Wells County Library at 9 A.M. Mark will show slides and give his talk. (If it rains we will still meet but only have the slides and talk. A rain date will then be set for the field work.) If you wish to come please contact Mickey Jones at 824-8685

There will be no regular meeting on May 15th, due to the workshop. See you in July for the trip to the Fort Wayne Library more details on another page.

Those who can, do;  
those who can't, find  
fault

# SPIRIT OF ROCKCREEK

Don't be a leaner, be a  
lifter.

Vol. V.

April 1932

Number 8

## Selections from the Spirit of Rockcreek:

Published each month during  
the school term by the Jun-  
iors of Rockcreek Center  
School, Wells County.

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Helen Elaine Hasler  
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Bernice Raber  
Renette Taber

##### Grade XII

- Alice Barrick Clella  
Gesler  
Gerald Harnish  
Enid Wilburn  
&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

##### Joke

There was an old  
man of Blackheath  
Who sat on a set of  
false teeth  
Said he with a start, “  
O dear ! Bless my  
heart! I've bitten my-  
self underneath!”

## Articles for the news letters

Thanks to all who have sent articles for the news letter. Keep um' comin'. 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.



### “Name Quilt” made by Ladies Aid Society, Montpelier Church of Christ

The quilt was pieced probably before 1932 to raise funds for the church. “Names” were sold at 10 cents per name, which people paid to have their name on the quilt. The names were then embroidered onto pie-shaped pieces of cloth which were eventually quilted together to form a large circle inside a square. There are 20 squares in the handmade quilt and the quilt measures 93 1/2 inches by 98 inches. It must have been a tremendous undertaking for the Ladies Aid Society.

This note was attached to the quilt:

“This name quilt was made 2 years ago by Mrs. Ott Pugh’s committee. It has 600 names on it rec’d 10 cts. Per name and rec’d \$20.00 for the quilt making \$80.00 the Aid received for the Quilt.” The quilt was auctioned off and the purchaser was Otto Pugh.

The following is a partial list, and will be continued until complete, of the names on the quilt. Location on the quilt will not be included. Location of the quilt is not know by this editor.

Mrs. May Shannon, Mr. Claude Proper, Mr. Jesse Carter, Mrs. Mattie Carter, Mrs. Annie Hauk, Mrs. Maggie Runkle, Ella Stevenson, Florence Thornburg, Emma Myer, Clara Arnold, Libbie Gilbert, Dorothy Steward, Margaret Gilbert, Mary McIntire, Bessie Shadle, Tommy Smith, Lulu Smith, Eva Huddleston, Maxine Banter, Sarah Pierson, Claudine Gilbert, Gertruce Gavin, Mr. & Mrs. R. Roy Henderson, Addie Kavanough, Lotta M. Briggs, Ann McDonald, May Turner, Martha Baker, Lucretia Shatto, Emmy F. Baker, Mrs. A.C. Baker, Jenny Showalter, G.W. Hartmann, Mrs. G.W. Hartmann, Evertt C. Pough, Mrs. Everett Pugh, Daisy Earley, Wilber Earley, Grace Anthony, Charles Anthony, Grace Williams, Carrie Brotherton, Maxine Brotherton, Lee Brotherton, Maud Hathaway, Jennie Wagnor, Jennie Ashbaugh, Blaire Miller, Earl Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Sills, Anna Nightingale, Max L. Wysong, Bennie Wysong, George T. Walker, James Dawley, Laura Dawley, Orva Roberts, Clara Roberts, Mary Hall, Mary Harrison, Marion Minnear, Alta Evers, Norman Wood, Mrs. Stroud West, Ida Rinard, Crystal Williams, Roy Futrell, Etta Griffith, Gale Griffith, Merritt Griffith, Gene Ellen Griffith, Ralph Griffith, Osie Mc Geath, Mrs. Will Mc Geath, Kenneth Mc Geath, Ralph Mc Geath, Fred Sills, Louise Sills, Mr. & Mrs. W.W. Warfield, Mrs. Manson Williams, Mrs. Charles Cale, Mrs. Dave Humphery, Elsie Keith, Nellie Gilbert, Ralph Junior Gilbert, Mrs. Ralph Gilbert, Miss Minnie Walsmith, Miss Dorritta Walsmith, Joseph E. Walsmith, Robert Walsmith, George Ely, Nancy E. Ely, A.C. Miller, Marjorie Miller, Mrs. Ads Perry Beinhacker, Mrs. C.B. McGrew, Prof. T.P. Charles, Roxie E. Charles, Laura E. Charles, J. Burdette Charles, Searle F. Charles, Joe Walsmith, Susie Walsmith, Frank Walsmith, Jimmy L. Walsmith, Dortha Walsmith, Dr. & Mrs. E.D. Shaddy, Grace E. Kyle, Jean Lutz, Dan Pittenger, Mrs. Dan Pittenger, Everett C. Pugh, Harriett Pugh, Earl H. Pugh, Charles E. Pugh, Jennie Pugh, Egbert Pugh, Russell Pugh, Miss Mary Murle Pugh, Mort C. Pugh, Georgetta Pugh, Miss Frances Pugh, Troy Pugh, Glenn Pugh, Freddie Pugh, Clem Pugh, Otto A. Pugh, Mrs. Otto A. Pugh, Raymond Francis, Daisy Francis, Margaret Anne Frances, Ralph Edward Frances, George W. Hartman, Edythe Hartman, Norma Hartman, Mrs. & Mrs. George Wort, Ed Jackson, Ida Jackson, Frank Hedges, Alice Hedges, Ada Perry Beinhacker, Frank Hamilton, Mrs. Frank Hamilton, Elsie Irene Shover, Lovella Hubley, Maud Osborn, Clara Burns, Fanny Bryce, Hazel Lockwood, Anna Waterman, Jennie Waterman, Ida Savoye, Walter V. Savoye, Walter T. Savoye Jr., George Walker, William Walker, Mary Sue Tharpe, Roy Kenneth Breyer, Will Reeves, Harry Easton, Sophia Easton, Anna Marie Easton, Mr. & Mrs. H.T. Walker, Gale Snyder, Ralph Snyder, May Morris, Grace Snyder, Sophia Kurtz, Mrs. Isaac Rogers, Mrs. Venia Rogers, Sedonna Sarber, Emerson Sloniker, Leonard Ganty, Meta Ganta, Allen Ganty, Pearl Ganty, B.F. Cromer, Charles Gaunt, Edith Gaunt, Mr. & Mrs Lewis Briggs, Mrs. F.M. Capper Mrs. James Marker, James Marker, Frederick Romine, Mrs. Bowen Markley. To be cont.

## ***Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004*** **BWGS**

President Connie Brubaker opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. in the Indiana Room of the Wells County Library.

The secretary does not have an attendance report.

### ***Minutes:***

The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter and accepted by consensus.

### ***Treasurer's Report:***

Mickey Jones reported a beginning balance of \$4,399.93: receipts of 1,015.00; expenditures of \$3,735.96; leaving a balance of \$1,678.55 as of 3/19/04. The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Tom Stogdill and seconded by Cami Mount. There are 49 members composed of 6 family memberships and 43 single memberships.

### ***Old Business***

**Pioneer books:** There are 46 books left. Cami Mount will send letters to those who did not buy a book but have submitted information, many of whom are not in the area.

### **Advanced Genealogy Workshop,**

April 17 at the Library. Linda Thomas had been appointed Education Chair and will lead this workshop. Twenty people, in two groups of ten each will take part. One group will do hands on census work while the other will work with land and military records. The one portion will run from 9:30 am -10:45 the second portion will run from 10: 50 -noon. Both groups will have opportunity to attend both sessions.

**Cemetery Workshop.** Mark Davis will lead the cemetery restoration workshop to be held May 15, 2004 at the Old Bluffton Cemetery. Participants are to bring a sack lunch and drink. There was discussion regarding

a rain date and backup plan in case of bad weather. Members are to meet at 9 a.m. and carpool to the cemetery. Rest rooms arrangements are being made by Tom Stogdill. The News-banner will be contacted for publicity.

### ***New Business:***

**By-laws and Handbook.** A committee is working on the by-laws and handbook but it will be September before the society again meets as a group at the library. Barbara Elliott moved and Ester Frye seconded the motion to print only the membership list now and to approve and print the by-laws later. Motion carried. The membership list will be distributed by e-mail and snail mail.

**Ancestry.com** Connie warned others that she had ordered on-line a two-week's subscription to Ancestry.com and was billed for a whole year. She noted two useful sites: iarchives.com and negenealogy.com.

**Poneto Journal on CD** Linda Thomas has copied the Poneto Journal from 1901-1902 which were found by Cami Mount onto a CD. The CD will sell for \$5.00 with \$2.00 going to Linda, \$1 for postage and \$2.00 being donated to the BWGS as a memorial in Cami's mothers name.

**Unique books Indexed by Connie.** Some odd books indexed by Connie include:

- (1) Estrays 1837-1903. A listing of stray animals claimed by others.
- (2) Applications for Hunting and Fishing license
- (3) Junk Dealers License
- (4) Ear Marks and Brands

**Historian** Mary Lou Bumgarner is replacing Joan Pearson as historian for Wells County.

**Program:** Ben Jones presented an informative program on preserving and restoring photographs. RC (resin-coated paper) is used for current photos. Photos are processed and printed faster because these papers do not soak up chemicals as fast and the process is computer controlled, which allows for more accuracy in developing and printing. There are two kinds of fading: light fading, caused by exposure to ultraviolet light and dark fading when stored in albums and caused by insufficient chemical and cheap paper. Extremes in temperature and humidity should be avoided when storing prints. Even a small amount of moisture will lift the emulsion off the paper destroying the print. Dustin sprays such as "Endust" or dishwashing soap should never be used on photos. He recommended C-100 available at Sunny Shicks where archival storage boxes and protective sheets can also be obtained.

He advised that the best method of copying photographs is to obtain black and white film and use a single lens reflex camera. The image to be copied is placed flat on the floor and photographed from directly above avoiding sunlight, preferably outside a porch that faces north. The camera flash should not be used and the camera held until the image is in focus. Lenses available from Sunny Shicks can be used to reduce focus

distance. Any glass must be removed before photographing.

He recommended "Picture Perfect" for photo restoration and manipulation. "Picture Perfect" is located at 518 S. Main Street, Bluffton, phone 260-403-37817 and email: pictureperfect@adamswells.com  
Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Elliott, Secretary Pro-tem

**Note:** Due to the death of her mother Kathy Davis was unable to attend and fulfill her duties as Secretary. Our deepest sympathy goes to Kathy and her family.

### Mark your calendar:

May 15: Cemetery Workshop

July: Allen Co. Public Lib.

Sept: Huntington. Family History Center

Nov: Writing personal history with Tom Stogdill

**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

## CENSUS PUBLISHING

For your kind consideration we make the following offer:

We have scanned and placed on 10 compact discs the images of 705 genealogy and local history books including many time honored classics so that you can access these books on your computer. To get this many books on 10 compact disks it was necessary to scan 2,4 and sometimes 6 pages at a time. Because these images can be accessed on your computer, the text can be made larger than the original book. Plus you can manipulate the images in all the marvelous ways your computer allows. To find out what titles are on each CD, visit us at <http://www.stemmonspublishing.com> Windows 95 or greater is required. These images are in tiff format.

Each CD is \$30. Send a check or money order to Stemmons Publishing P.O. Box 612 West Jordan, UT 84084 ( Please include \$5.00 shipping for each CD. And allow 2-4 weeks for delivery.)

I checked this out on the site to see what they are offering and I believe if you only get a small portion of information from these CD's it will be well worth having. I personally am sending for the whole set. The cost per book is little more than \$2.00. Can't buy them or travel very far for that kind of money. As soon as I get my set I will again let you know the benefits of owning them.

Contents of each Compact Disk:

#1 77 books, #2 76 books, #3 73 books, #4 76 books, #5 48 books, #6 58 books, #7 65 books, #8 81 books, #9 89 books, #10 61 books.

I have more information if you would like to read the information we received. Connie Brubaker

## July 17, 2004 Meeting

**July 17, we will be going to the Fort Wayne library for a tour and a research session.** We will meet at the Wells County Public library at 9 am. A car pool may be formed or you may want to just meet the group there at 10 am.

The library in it's new temporary location is much more convenient for research since you can search for the book you want to look at with out having to go thru the process of requests ( this is call open stacks).

Bring your research information and plan to spend as much time as you wish until the library closes at 8 pm ( I think).

You will be on your own for lunch. If it's a nice day we could pack a light lunch and eat at the library (out doors of course) or there are restaurants and fast foods available with in driving distance. More details will be in the July news letter.

### TIP AND PRECAUTIONS

- Always work from the known to the unknown. Do not make generational leaps with out documenting the linkage. Just because Richard Warren came over on the Mayflower, you are not necessarily related because you have that name.
- Family Traditions are leads. They are often embellished, but usually have a grain of truth embedded within them. Try not to burst too many bubbles with your documented research.
- Your pedigree chart is your guide. Some research organizations will permit very little paperwork to accompany you into their facilities. Always travel with a copy of your chart to work to fill in the blanks.
- Do not overlook the obvious. It is quite impossible for five-year-old woman to give birth, as well as those who are dead and buried. Be careful of the parents who name their children after themselves and their aunt and uncles. Two different people can have the same name; cousins with the same name can be born in the same year.
- Check and recheck, Do not copy down and pass on other people's mistakes. Cite your sources; know where your information is coming from to determine its creditability.
- Create a timeline for your ancestors. Placing them in historical context will give clues for finding missing data and will help you understand their lives.
- Do not be ashamed of what you find. If you start digging under the family tree to find your roots, you are going to turn over some dirt.

From the Hoosier Genealogist Vol. 43 number 3 page 153

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### THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

In George Washington's days, there were not cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and arms.

Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted . Arms and legs are "limbs" therefore painting them would cost the buyer more.

Hence the expression.." Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."

I wonder if Ben Jones would charge less if you stood behind a desk with no legs showing and one arm behind your back?????

Submitted by Linda Thomas

You know you are a family historian when.....

By Lanita Sconce Miller

10. You start out each email.... HI COUSIN..
9. You have memorized the email addresses of people you've never met, but continue to have to check your address book for close family members.
8. Upon being introduced to one whose last name is a familiar surname, you ask them... "Are you connected to the \_\_\_\_\_ family who were from \_\_\_\_\_?"
7. You mention ancestors at every family gathering.
6. You think the roll of the eyes from other members at that same family gathering only means that they have a serious hereditary eye disease.
5. The 1890 census continues to be on your yearly Christmas List.
4. A "good" vacation means several stops at different courthouses as well as the cemeteries and finding great-great grandma's answer to a brick wall.
3. A great birthday gift is a subscription to a genealogical website or magazine.
2. You have more pictures of tombstones than living people.

AND THE NUMBER 1 WAY TO KNOW IS.....

1. You find yourself going to other people's family reunions in hopes that you will find SOMEONE who knows SOMETHING about great great-great grandma Matilda.

Searching for a death date for Mary Leticia Marker Smith who died approximately 1898. She was the daughter of Francis Marion and his wife Margaret "Maggie" (Bever) Marker.

Mary's mother and grandmother, Mary Blair Bever Guess Croy are buried in the Stahl Cemetery, where many other relatives and members of the Blair family are buried.

Any information about the death and burial site of Mary Leticia Marker Smith would be appreciated.

Darlene Shawn

## ***One More thing you might not know***

In the late 1700's many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board was folded down from the wall and used for dining. The "head of the household" always sat in the chair while everyone else ate setting on the floor. Once in a while an invited guest would be offered to set in this chair during a meal (who was almost always a man) . To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. Sitting in the chair, one was called the " chair man." Today in business we use the expression/ title..."Chairman or Chair-man of the Board"

## Civil War letter from Private Jacob Harvey of Wells County

As with the other CW letters, this is being typed with all spelling and punctuation as it was in the original. (^ indicates stop and start of insert in space between lines.) These letters are so indicative of the lack of real importance in spelling in these times. Often in the same letter a word is spelled differently each time it is written, there seems to be no such thing as a small "s," capital letters are not necessary in starting a sentence, etc. These are not totally uneducated people, either. Where I think a sentence breaks, I have set it on the next line. [ ]s denote typist's notes.

March the 8th/65  
5 Miles in front of Kingston N.C.

My Dear companion

It is with pleasure that I have the privilage once more to rite you a few lines to let you no that this morning finds me able for my Rations, and hoping that this will find you all injoying the great Blessing of health. We left Newborne on the 3rd marched 12 Miles in 5 hours camped and built fires and [one whole line unreadable as it is in fold area.] on us all day.

Our advance came up with the Rebs on the 6th and opend out on them drove them back. On the 7th we crost the Gum Swamp and cannonading comenced at 11 AM and --- kept up till after dark then ceased till after Breakfast this morning But they have comenced again ^about^ 3 Miles on our rite, from the sound we being on the extreme left in a South east direction from Kingston We are building Breast works in the front of us  
March 11th / 65

My Dear Wife. I once more am permted through the blessing of God to Seat my Self in order to let you no that I am in reasonable health & hoping that this will find you all well

we have been Fighting for 3 days and yesterday the Rebs charged on us. It comenced about 11 AM and lasted little over an hours. It was a despart time. they Charge Several times on our Senter once on our left rite where our Regt was, but ^they^ was they repulsed with heavy loss

Galyean and I was on the Piket line ^about 1/3 of a mile in front^ when they made the charge

Galyean being close to the Researve, and I being at the extreme rite of our Company. they turned the left of our line of Skermishers, and then me in Rear of our company

So me and 8 others had to run through a Swamp and in front of their fire for about 40 rods, we heard plenty of Bulets around us. We had got about halfway when a Reb on horse halted us

I brought my piece down ^to my^ and Face demanded him to Dismount which he did in an instant I gave him over to ^the^ Corporal that was in comand of us, and we marched him to our lines on double quick [Scratched out words] we turned him and horse over to the capt then got behind our breastworks I never expected to hear Such a rore of artilery and Musketry as there was hear they apeared raven mad and as Soon they fell back on our left, our boys jumped on the breast work and Sent up a lusty Cheer, and 150 of them Rebs came to us, gave them Selves up, the Rebs heard us Cheering and thought that it was their men, and charged our center 3 times with con considerable loss. Galyean gave them several rounds while falling back to the works. Him and Weaver is all rite

Firing ceased about 4 PM and all has been quiet up to this it being about 3 PM

our loss I think is lite, our Men has been gathering up the dead & Wounded all Morning

The Rebs has fell back to their works across the River Nuse [?]. We took prisners that Sayed they had just left Richmond this is a beautiful day it being clear and warm

[Letter seems only partial.]

Mary Ellen Wexler, Submitter



## Note from the President

Since we have sold nearly all of the latest publications we have, I believe it is time to get back to work and start a new project.

I would like input from the membership in regards to the next project. What would you like published next?

A few suggestions already expressed are:

Second edition of the Early Settlers Book with certificates for those applying like before.

A pedigree book listing only pedigrees of those who submit them.

Land records

Unusual Records ( re: Estray records, junk dealers, etc)

Tax Records

Church Records

I would like to suggestion the following for the next project:

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Please send your ideas to Blackford Wells Genealogy Society P.O. Box 54 Bluffton ,IN 46714

I would like to get something underway this fall.

\*\*\*\*\*\_\_\_\_\_\*\*\*\*\*\_\_\_\_\_\*\*\*\*\*\_\_\_\_\_

**Oh I nearly forgot, last week I shipped a copy of the Early Settlers Book and a copy of the Will Book to the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution DAR Library in Washington D.C. at the request of Eric G. Grundest, Library Director. Isn't that neat we are in the Dar Library?**

We only have 23 Early settlers and 25 Will books left. There will NOT be a republication of either book.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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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